The Lord has told us what is good. and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

The focus of World Mission Month for 2016 is the Church’s outreach to the children of Cambodia, providing for their physical and spiritual needs.

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome to Term 4 – the home stretch! By the look of the calendar we are in for a busy twelve weeks to get us to the end of the year. In speaking with the students on Monday we reminded ourselves of the importance of making the most of every opportunity that comes our way so that we can get to the end of the year comfortable with knowing we have done the very best we can. Here we go!

While writing this week’s newsletter I am very much looking forward to our Mission Day liturgy and activities today. This occasion gives us the chance to be thankful for all that we have in our lives and to spend some time and a few coins showing love and compassion for those in our world who require support. Our students are often appalled by the young people in our community and across our world who endure poverty, disease and violence and those who go without food, water, shelter, education… Today is a great chance for our school community to make a difference – not only to those whose life is hard but also to ourselves. In raising our awareness, understanding and a few dollars we hopefully make our world a better place.

Many, many thanks to all families for your support of our efforts, your generosity in providing items and materials for the activities and for supporting the students’ fundraising efforts. You are marvellous!

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺

Jo-Anne
Attachments to this week’s Newsletter –

- None

Advance Notice:

- Tues 1st Nov – Public holiday

Change Over of Uniform

This week has been the perfect example for our gradual changeover to summer uniforms. At this stage we are still happy for you to determine whether your child/ren wear winter or summer. Once the weather sorts itself out we will make a date by which all students need to be in correct, full summer uniforms. Please also note that school hats must be worn during Term 4 so students must have theirs at school for the first day. The rule is – no hat, no play.

Pupil Free Day

Please note that Monday 31st October (day before Melbourne Cup public holiday) is a pupil free day for the purpose of staff professional development. On Monday of this week staff participated in some work looking at Hermann’s Whole Brain Thinking model which provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we work as individuals and how our patterns effect how we work with each other. Teachers also spent time building understanding around the Victorian Curriculum and working on our whole school scope and sequence for our integrated approach to learning areas and capabilities.

Grade 3/4 Camp

Our grade 3/4 students and staff will spend their weekend excitedly packing for their camp to Grampians Retreat next Monday and Tuesday. We hope you have an amazing time – some students having their first overnight camp experience!

Swimming Program

Our swimming program begins next Monday with Grade 5/6 students participating first. A reminder to students and parents that it is important to be organised for the day’s activities and bring the items required for swimming to school. If students do not have their swimming gear at school they will not participate on that day.

Link Up

Our Link Up freezer is again looking a bit bare so time to stock up! If you can manage to provide a casserole, lasagne, quiche, cake, slice, sausage rolls, soup… to support our school families in times of sadness, joy and difficulty your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers. You can place it in the freezer in the multi-purpose room yourself, leave at the office or with Terrielynn or Jo-Anne.

We aim to be a community who demonstrates the values of compassion and hope. This is an important and practical way you can actively and positively contribute.

For more information, offers of assistance or to let us know of families who need assistance please call the office.

SCHOOL FEES:

Statements were sent out in the mail during the school holidays. The swimming program is now shown on your account. If you have a HILAC membership and have sent your membership number into the office, your attendance fee of $2.50 per day of swimming will be credited off your school fees once we receive the invoice from HILAC. The credit will also apply to any days that your son/daughter does not attend swimming i.e. due to illness, appointments etc. No late memberships will be accepted. If you have any queries please contact the office. Thank you.

EFTPOS

We now have an EFTPOS machine in the front office for the payment of school fees and uniform shop accounts.

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2016

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Assembly

Please note that our next assembly will on Friday 14th October at 2.40pm

All welcome!

Parents and Friends

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening time – Wednesday 3.20 – 4.00pm

Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop on Wednesday afternoon or by placing an order with payment at the front office.

Please note – from Wednesday 2nd November the Uniform Shop will be open fortnightly.
Canteen Roster

12/10  Jen Taylor
19/10 Jen Taylor
Are you able to help out?
- Our canteen ladies perform a wonderful and generous service to our school families on a very regular basis.
- Can you spare a few hours once a term to help our canteen team?
- If we can’t recruit some more helpers we many need to consider whether we can continue to provide lunch orders for students each week.
- If you would like to find out more or put your name on the roster for next term please feel free to contact the office.
- Our experienced helpers are more than happy to do a duty with you to show you the ropes.

ST. MARY’S CHRISTMAS EXPO

Are You Ready? The excitement is building!
Our major fundraising event of the year is fast approaching. (8 weeks, tomorrow!)
Our next Christmas Expo Meeting will take place in the Meeting Room, next Wednesday evening, 12th October, 2016, 6.30p.m.-8p.m.
Committee Members and all Team Leaders are asked to attend to share our progress and plans, to ensure its success.
(If you are unable to attend and wish to inform the group of your progress, or if you require more information, please feel free to contact one of the committee members.)
We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday evening!

Pastoral Care

Hello and here we are at term 4! As I was away at the end of term 3 I will today complete the Andrew Fuller information I had been sharing.
Firstly though I would like to let you know that I will only be working until the 11th November and then taking extended leave, however there will be a replacement for me during that time so you and your child will still be supported by Centacare and the Pastoral program. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call or make an appointment to see me at school.

Be exuberant
If you become the proud parent, kids will tell you that you are embarrassing them. Don’t believe them. Maybe don’t do it in front of other people but when you get them in private, let them know that you love them and think they are fantastic. They may pretend to you that they hate it but they all secretly lap it up.
Be the antidote to the drip feed of despair.
Your kids will become upset at setbacks, will label the group of your progress, or if you require more information, please feel free to contact one of the committee members.
We look forward to seeing you next Wednesday evening!
Mr. Ferguson’s “Walking Group” meets at the Ballarat Road school crossing from 8:20am, and will depart for school from there at 8:40am each morning during October.

***If you are unable to walk to/from school each day for any reason (E.g. bus travellers) but would still like to join in the fun, Mr. Ferguson is offering an oval walk/run at lunchtime, starting from Week 2. You can walk/run 3 laps to get “to school” and 6 laps “to AND from school”. Meet Mr. Ferguson at the oval at lunchtime on Monday to have some fun!

Miss Couchman & Mr Ferguson

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**The Sports Catch Up**

**Swimming Program & Swimming Carnival**

Our swimming program commences next week! The Grade 5/6s will have their swimming program in Week Two 10th-14th October, the Grade 3/4s have their swimming program in Week Three 17th-21st October and the Prep/Grade 1/2s will have their swimming program in Week Four 24th-28th October. Thank you to all our Prep/One/Two parent helpers, a timetable has been sent home to all parents who were able to kindly offer their support. Please remember that during your child’s swimming week they are able to wear sports uniform every day to allow easier changing. Please note that we will not be making phone calls if children forget their bathers this year.

Our swimming carnival for the Grades 3-6 students will be held on Friday 11th November commencing from 12.00pm. Further information and a helper note will be sent out in the coming weeks.

**Saturday Morning Netball**

The St Mary’s Superstars commence their netball season this Saturday 8th October at Pedrina Park. We have been given the 8.30am time slot each week. A note was sent home yesterday with the draw and additional details. Thank you in advance to all the parents involved for a wonderful season of netball this term.

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**Walk to School!**

This year we are participating in the VicHealth’s Walk to School month, which encourages primary school children to walk, ride or scoot to and from school throughout October, to help them get the 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day. We have had an outstanding start to Walk to School so far this week with about 30 students walking each morning with Mr. Ferguson from the Ballarat Road school crossing. With the weather starting to warm up, there’s never been a better time to start walking! There are some great prizes to be won including a bike and helmet to give away to the student at EACH school that records the most days walked during the month! St. Mary’s could also win a $1000 sporting equipment voucher as well!!

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**Boundless Plains**

The Spoken Word

A high octane poetry recital for those who’ve come across the seas

Hamilton: Tuesday Oct 25 2016 @ 7pm St Mary’s Church
Warrnambool: Sunday October 30 @ 4.30pm St Joseph’s Church
Wendouree: Thursday November 3 @ 7pm Our Lady Help of Christians Church
Ararat: Sunday November 6 @ 4.30pm St Mary’s Church

Donations at the door $10 and beyond. Primary children free
Every dollar for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
Arrive early for pre-show drinks
　
Let me know you’re coming:
Add your name to the list in the church foyer
Or email frandrewb@boundlessplains@gmail.com

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**MILO in2CRICKET Register Now!**

Hamilton Cricket Club is once again running a MILO in2CRICKET program. MILO in2CRICKET is an introductory Cricket program for 5-10 year old girls and boys. Kids learn the basics of the game through fun, skill based game activities. The program is a great way for children to get active, make friends and learn about Australia’s National Sport.

The program will run for 8 weeks, beginning Sunday October 23rd at 11am – 12.15pm. This will be for the first five weeks, then it will be held on Friday nights 5-6pm, starting from Nov 25th & finishing Friday 9th Dec.

Participants will have lots of fun playing cricket with their friends and also receive a MILO in2CRICKET participant pack, all this for $50.

Hamilton Cricket Club – 23 Palmer Street, Hamilton

Registration & payment is ONLINE – Google PLAYCRICKET type in postcode.

Contact: Colin Millard 0408 521 596