Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Welcome back to school for Term 4! I hope students, staff and parents/carers had a relaxing holiday and are finding renewed energy ready for the home stretch. There is so much happening this term in the way of learning and extra-curricular activities. Strap yourselves in!

Teachers’ Day always falls in the holidays (which is a good reward) but we don’t often get the chance to acknowledge the amazing commitment and dedication of those who teach (in many different ways) our young people. This week’s prayer is for blessings and thanks on all who work to support the development of others.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺
Jo-Anne

Prayer for Teachers

Prayer for Teachers

GIVER OF ALL WISDOM AND GREATEST OF ALL TEACHERS.

Grant them the resolve to nurture our eager minds, and to never give up on us who fall behind.

Bless their hearts for they rejoice when we succeed and encourage us when we fall.

Endow them with gentle patience for the path of learning is never easy.

Kindle a spirit of passion in them. It is the flame that ignites the love of learning in us.

Help them see the potential in each student. Their belief in us means much more than the grade we make.

In This Week’s Prayer

In this week’s prayer

IT SHOWS US NOT TO FEAR NEW KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES.

Inspire them to touch the future. They influence how big a dream we dream for ourselves.

Bless our teachers who have come before for their work endures to this day.

Let the light of Your example shine upon all teachers:

To build up with their words
Jo love with their mind
To share with their heart.

Amen.

Important Dates

OCTOBER
Mon 15th – Tues 16th
Gr 3/4 Camp – Grampians Retreat

Wed 17th – Fri 19th
Gr 5/6 Camp – Camp Bridgewater

Thurs 18th
Spelling Comp @ W'bool

Wed 24th
SAC meeting @ 7pm

Thurs 25th
‘Bread Day’ – more details to come

Fri 26th
Expo meeting @ 6.00pm

NOVEMBER
Mon 5th
Pupil free day

Tues 6th
Public holiday – Melbourne Cup

Wed 7th
Prep transition 9.00 – 11.00am
Kanga 8s

Fri 9th
Prep transition 9.00 – 11.30am

Tues 13th
Prep Parent Info m’ing @ 7.00pm
Advance notice:
- Thurs 20th Dec Pupil free day
- Wed 19th Dec Last day for students
- Thurs 20th Dec Last day for staff

Exciting news!
- Congratulations to Cooper (Gr 1), Nelly, Megan and Adam Kearney on the arrival of Adeline Mary during the holidays. Cooper is a very excited and proud big brother!
- Welcome to Pascale Ferey (Prep) who has joined us at St Mary’s this week to continue her learning journey.
- Welcome also to Latoya Agnew (Gr 3/4S) who has also started at St Mary’s this week in Grade 3 and congratulations on the arrival of a baby sister over the weekend!
- And congratulations to Elise Couchman (Gr 5/6 teacher) and Laurie Gordon who announced their engagement during the holidays! We wish them every blessing in their life together.

School Uniform
With the warmer weather comes our summer uniform! Students are able to wear the correct summer uniform for the start of term. Please note that if the weather is cooler winter uniform may be worn. We will let you know the formal change over date as the weather sorts itself out!
The school uniform items are available from Accurate Clothing in Gray St.

And a reminder that school hats must be worn during term 4. No hat – no play!

Learning Journals
Hopefully you have had an opportunity to celebrate the great record of Term 3 learning contained in Learning Journals. Please take a moment to write an encouraging message on the parent page and return them to school as soon as possible.

End of day pick up
Just a reminder about our end of day pick up. You are welcome to wait outside the classrooms under the shade sails, or if the weather is inclement, please feel free to wait in the foyer area near the office. We are finding that the children are becoming distracted at the end of the day with many people waiting and chatting in the Learning Street before the bell has rung. We thank you for your assistance with this.

School Fees
If you are having difficulties in paying your account, please contact Helen or Jo-Anne. While we are committed to supporting all families in our school, we are also obliged to address outstanding fee payments. Your prompt response to your invoice is appreciated. We will follow up on outstanding accounts this term. Thank you

Mission Day
- Friday 26th October!
- A note containing details of our Mission Day will be sent home with students early next week.
- Mission Day is one of the really special days on our school calendar where we all come together as a community to raise awareness and money for those in need.
- We hope that the students’ understanding of ‘mission’ will be nurtured and that students will be encouraged and supported to live as Christ challenges us:
  “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full” (John 10:10)
- Missionary activity is, fundamentally, a going out of oneself in love, a reaching out to bring God’s love to everyone, especially the outcast and unloved.
- Each grade is involved in running stalls and activities which raise money and provide lots of fun for everyone. The money raised is forwarded to Catholic Missions, who work to assist disadvantaged communities throughout the world.
- This day also helps our school community to become more aware of issues of social injustice in the world and gives us all an opportunity to do something practical in order to help those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Parish News

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LINK UP!
A huge thank you to the families who have been generously supporting our Link Up work to support our school families! We are in desperate need to fill the fridge again as it looks a little bare.
If you would like to add to the freezer, which is quite low, suggestions are:
- lasagne, quiche, cakes, slices, cupcakes, sausage rolls, soup, casseroles ...
Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers.
Canteen Roster

17/10/2018 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
24/10/2018 Katrina Turnbull
31/10/2018 Sarah Tarrant

- Can you help with our Canteen Roster?
- If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact the office.
- Please remember if we do not have volunteers we cannot run the canteen.

Assembly

Assemblies are held every second Friday in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.
Our next assembly will be Friday 19th October
All welcome!

Auction and Spinning Wheel!

Any items that could be auctioned or used as prizes on the spinning wheel at this year’s Expo would be greatly appreciated! If you have ideas or can donate items please contact the Expo Committee expo@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or catch up with Rhys Colliton.

Gourmet gifts

The Gourmet Gifts stall is always a terrific fundraiser at our Christmas Expo and we appreciate our cooks, the donation of ingredients and the monetary donations we receive from our school families which keep our costs down.
Once again, we are calling on our school families to contribute to the Gourmet Gifts stall.
We have received a delivery of mixed fruit to distribute to any interested people who are interested in baking Christmas cakes and puddings.
We would very much appreciate any pledges of yo-yo’s, slices, condiments or homemade biscuits/short breads that we can sell on the day.

The following donations would also be appreciated to take the financial pressure of our cooks:

- Sweet Sherry
- Plain/Self Raising Flour
- Marmalade
- Brown Sugar
- Butter
- Baking Powder
- Mixed Spice
- Nutmeg
- Eggs

Please drop off any contributions to the front office, thankyou

Gift baskets

Gift baskets and boxes were sent home before school holidays.

Thanks to the families who have already filled and returned theirs! The baskets and boxes are steadily arriving at school and look fantastic!

Please return your filled basket (or the empty one along with $15 and we will fill it for you) by Friday 16th November.

Funds raised this year will go towards the covering of our Basketball Courts

THE SPORT CATCH UP

Welcome to Term Four! It’s a busy and exciting term for everyone, with lots of sporting activities and opportunities available!

Regional Athletics
Today Tiago Gaio and Grace Cleaver competed in the Regional Athletic in Ballarat. It is a fantastic achievement to qualify for the Regional Athletics, we are so proud of both of you and cannot wait to hear your results!

Walk to School
Walk to School month is now in full swing! Thank you to everyone who has been involved in Walk to School this week. If your family lives too far from school for your children to walk, remember that walking part way is okay! If you can’t walk the whole way, why not park the car close to school, near the lake for example, and walk, ride or scoot the rest – it all counts! Remember that each morning you can drop your children off at the Monivae crossing so they can walk up with Walk to School group. Thank you for your support with this wonderful initiative.
Saturday Netball

The season kicks off this Saturday 13th October and runs until Saturday 8th December (8 weeks). In the Under 11s we have joined with a small number of Tarrington students and are called the Saintly Tarro’s. The students from our school are: Ally Holmes, Emily Beattie, Hazel Clarkson, Sophie Kuilboer and Kia Willis. Thank you to Shauna Beattie who has offered to be their team umpire. In the Under 13s we have joined with College. Jody Ogle has organised for Isabelle Schaap, Ava Nicholson and Bella Holmes to play with the College Lightning team. I would like to thank the Association for co-ordinating and supporting our interested students into a team, so they could play again this season. Please thank Bianca Crawford if you see her around for her hard work and time in this matter.

Elise Couchman