Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Staff of St Mary’s were very surprised and humbled this morning as students ‘hijacked’ our meditation gathering with a presentation to mark World Teachers Day! A very switched on group of Grade 5/6 students secretly organised children from each grade to express their thanks to all staff who support their learning. In the words of the students, ‘the teachers/aides/office staff are always thanking us and telling us how wonderful we are – maybe we can tell them for a change!’

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! 😊

Jo-Anne

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
• None

Advance Notice:
• Mon 19th December – last day for students
• Tues 20th December – last day for staff

A reminder that all students have a four day break this weekend! Monday 31st October is a pupil free day to allow staff to participate in professional learning in the area of Religious Education. Tuesday 1st November is a public holiday in the Southern Grampians Shire for Melbourne Cup. Enjoy the extra time with family and friends.
School Fees
All school accounts for 2016 are now due and payable. Please finalise your account as soon as possible. This does not apply if you have a payment plan in place.
If you are having difficulties in paying your account please contact Helen or Jo-Anne.

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

Uniform
At this stage we are still happy for you to determine whether your child/ren wear winter or summer uniform. 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.

Student testing
Please note the following arrangements for the end of the school year as detailed in last week’s newsletter. If you have any queries please come and have a chat or give me a call at school.
The last full week of classes, Monday 12th – Friday 16th December, will be used by teachers to conduct numeracy testing with all students while they are at school learning. During the week classroom teachers will be supported by our non-classroom teachers. Our program for the week is currently being planned and will provide all students with a range of different learning opportunities and experiences that we hope will result in wonderful engagement, fun and learning. A great deal of emphasis is being placed on the learning to be gained during the week – even though it is the last week of school!

As a result of the above arrangements the last day of classes for students is Monday 19th December, with staff finishing on Tuesday 20th December.

Our Literacy Testing arrangements for the start of the 2017 year will be:
- Mon 30th Jan First day for staff
- Tues 31st Jan Literacy testing
- Wed 1st Feb Literacy testing
- Thurs 2nd Feb First day of classes

Prayers please
Our thoughts and prayers have been with Klay Collins over the last couple of weeks following the death of her dear Pop. Sincere sympathy to Carolyn, Craig and family on their very sad loss.
We were also saddened this week to hear of the death of Maureen Borrodell, a past parent, grandparent and long-time friend of St Mary’s. Our sympathies are extended to her family at this difficult time.
There are a number of people in our school community who are unwell or requiring additional support at the moment. We hope that you are all well again soon.

Congratulations
News this week that Jamie Ferguson (our Gr 5/6 teacher) was successful in a teaching application to St Mary’s Primary School in Echuca for next year. We are very sad to see Jamie leave our school but congratulate him on this appointment. We will thank Jamie for his contributions towards the end of the year. I am currently working on a quality team to work with our Grade 5/6 students in 2017.

Ivy’s Army
Our students have come out in force this week expressing a need to support the fundraising efforts for local girl Ivy Steel. Again our Grade 5/6 students have swung into action and organised the following activities to raise money for Ivy’s treatment. Please choose to contribute where you can.
- Wear RED day – Friday 4th November. Wear something red for a gold coin donations
- Icy pole Fridays – lunch time every Friday for the rest of term. $1 for a Zooper Dooper
- ‘Ivy’s Army’ money line – start collecting your loose change – date to be announced.

Parish News

Mass Times – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenthompson</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penshurst</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/10</td>
<td>Jen Taylor  &amp; Marie McDonald</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/11</td>
<td>Danielle Wilson</td>
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<td>16/11</td>
<td>Marie McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>23/11</td>
<td>Marie McDonald</td>
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<tr>
<td>30/11</td>
<td>Jen Taylor (last day for lunch orders 2016)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FAMILY VOLUNTEER FORM
Thanks to the many families who have already returned their volunteer forms – gold stars for you!!!

Please return your completed form by Friday 4th November.

Looking forward to working alongside you to contribute to our school and local community!

GIFT BASKETS
A reminder to send in your filled gift baskets! There are some amazing looking creations already in the Meeting Room.

GOURMET GIFTS
Lia Mailes, the co-ordinator of this stall, is seeking urgent assistance. She is longing to hear from any cooks who would be willing to bake items to sell on this stall. Contact Lia on mobile – 0427 523 631 or email – liamailes73@gmail.com

St. Mary’s Christmas Expo. Committee

Assembly
Please note that there will not be an assembly on Friday 11th November due to the swimming carnival. Our next assembly will on Friday 25th November at 2.40pm
All welcome!

Pastoral Care
Hello this week I continue with the information about the different types of Anxiety, again if you have any concerns please contact your GP.

Social phobia
This is intense fear of becoming humiliated or embarrassed in social situations. It can start in early adolescence, but also may commence at a younger age. The child experiences an excessive level of shyness, and/or fear that they will do or say something in front of others that will be embarrassing. Other common fears experienced by young people with social phobias are fears about social situations such as parties, talking with authority figures such as teachers or a principal or fear of speaking to others in public. They may also display fear of using public amenities or fear of eating out or talking on the phone. Social phobia differs from shyness in that while people with shyness may be uneasy around others, they don’t actively avoid situations that make them feel uncomfortable.

Obsessive compulsive disorder
This involves the presence of persistent, repeating thoughts, impulses or images (obsessions) that are intrusive and unwanted to the young person. It usually includes repetitive and ritualistic behaviours or mental acts (compulsions) that are used to reduce the discomfort. These behaviours are time consuming and distressing e.g. fears of contamination or harm to self or others may involve excessive hand washing, or showering.

Specific phobia(s)
Children may experience specific phobias, which are intense, irrational fears of certain things or situations, (e.g., dogs, bees, injections, the dark, escalators, tunnels, flying, etc.). Children may not realize that fear of such objects are unreasonable. Typically, children or adolescents will become extremely distressed when confronted with the feared object or situation.

Let your kids know you care and remain approachable.

Next week we will look at some of the physical symptoms of Anxiety. I hope this is of interest.

Kind regards
Lisa Gonnet Pastoral care worker

The Sports Catch Up

Saturday Morning Netball
Stay tuned for a double treat in next week’s newsletter from the Saturday morning Superstars! They have been improving out of sight each week which is fantastic to hear!

Swimming Program
The Prep/One/Twos have had an enjoyable swimming week this week to wrap up our program for another year! Thank you to all the parent helpers who have assisted throughout the past three weeks, we are very grateful for your support.

Swimming Carnival
Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool
Our swimming carnival for the Grades 3-6 students will be held on Friday 11th November commencing from 12.00pm. This year we are having our swimming carnival at the outdoor Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool. The students at swimming Level 3 and above will complete the 25m events across and back the width of the pool and the 50m events will be a straight run down the pool! Students below swimming Level 3 and students who are less confident will complete their events across the shallow T of the pool, these children will be swimming freestyle and backstroke.

In the event of bad weather we will decide the day...
before to use the indoor HILAC facility and will communicate this with all involved students and parents. Hopefully however the sun will be shining on Friday 11th November and we can look forward to a wonderful swimming carnival outdoors! A detailed swimming carnival note with an attached helper form went home this week.

**Walk to School!**

What a fantastic month of Walk to School we have had this October. There has been an amazing level of support during this time with more than 60% of the students walking, riding or scooting to school at least once so far this term! That is an incredible result and you should all be congratulated for your efforts. I will enter the data onto the Walk to School website this weekend, so stay tuned for any prize results at the next assembly. A huge thank you to parents and carers for getting on board with this initiative, especially the drop-offs up at Ballarat Road during the colder mornings!

Just because the official Walk to School month has come to an end, that doesn’t mean you have to stop walking to school! If you loved the scooting to school, the fresh air of riding your bike or just Mr. Ferguson’s bad jokes during walking group, make it a part of your daily routine and keep getting that valuable exercise!!

**Equestrian**

Here is a photo of our gun equine students Drew Garratt, Charlotte, Michaela and Warrick Tonissen from last week!

Miss Couchman & Mr Ferguson 😊