Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Each year on 11th November our community takes time to pause, remember and pay respect to those men and women who have fought and died in war protecting and preserving our country and its values.

Staff, students and their families are encouraged to attend the Remembrance Ceremony at the community service at the cenotaph at Melville Oval, this Sunday starting at 10.45am. Nick Trotter and Amy Shelly will represent our school and lay a wreath on our behalf.

100 Year Armistice Anniversary

On 11 November 2018, we mark not only the annual Remembrance Day commemorations but also the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the cessation of hostilities in World War One, bringing to an end a terrible and destructive war.

It is a time to remember not only all those who lost their lives, their health and their well-being during World War One and later conflicts, but to use the commemoration to recommit to the concept of peace.

On this centenary of the end of WWI please make a special effort to respect this national day – hope to see you amongst the crowd.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺

Jo-Anne

Advance notice:

- Tues 11th Dec Transition Day
- Fri 14th Dec Swimming Carnival Gr 3 – 6
- Sat 15th/Sun 16th School Mass TBC
- Wed 19th Dec Last day for students
- Thurs 20th Dec Pupil free day
- Thurs 20th Dec Last day for staff

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**Lest we forget**

**Remembrance Day 2018**

Loving God, Have mercy on your people and open our hearts to peace and love. Reward all who have died and served their country And grant that all nations may continue to work for peace and justice. Bless us in your service and help us to follow Jesus who is our Lord forever and ever.

Amen.
Pupil Free Day
Staff had a very productive day on Tuesday increasing their knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of best practice in Mathematics. As a staff team we are committed to continuous learning in order to provide the best learning experiences we can for all students. Thanks to staff for the way they engaged with the learning and to our school community for valuing these opportunities.

Welcome!
This week we have been very excited to welcome two new families to St Mary’s!
Welcome to John, Maria and Sera Martin and their parents Martin and Bonnie. The children have just arrived from India to join their parents in Hamilton and are quickly adjusting to life in a new place.
Welcome also to Yousif Waleed (cousin to Wael) and his parents Khalid and Rand who have relocated from Geelong.
We are thrilled that these families have chosen to join our school community and we hope that your time with us is life giving and blessed.

Numeracy Testing
The week beginning Monday 3rd December will be used by teachers to conduct numeracy testing with all students while they are at school learning. During the week classes will be supported by our non-classroom teaching staff.
Our program for this 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 getting close to the end of Term!
If your child is not going to be at school during this week please let Chris Minney know as soon as possible so that we have the opportunity to complete their testing at another time.

2019 Planning
We have already begun our planning for next year and are quite excited about the opportunities for staff and students ahead. As enrolment numbers play a major part in this process please let Jo-Anne know as soon as possible if your family is not returning in 2019.
We are still receiving enrolments for all grades so if you know of families wishing to begin at St Mary’s please let Jo-Anne know or ask them to contact the school. Over the next few weeks teachers will be having days to write student reports and plan for next year. On these days classes will be taught by our valued casual teachers.

**Parish News**

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<th>MASS TIMES – 2017</th>
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<td>Hamilton:</td>
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**Canteen Roster**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>14/11/2018</td>
<td>Cass Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/11/2018</td>
<td>Sarah Tarrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/11/2018</td>
<td>Katrina Turnbull</td>
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- 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 16th November

All welcome!

**Icy poles**

Dear students, parents and carers,

On Tuesdays and Thursdays Grace, Ava and Phoebe will be raising money for Blair Allen. Blair is only 3 years old and is sadly suffering from a slow growing tumour on the main stem of his brain {astrocytoma}. Blair has had surgery which has removed 60% of the tumour but sadly it is still growing.

Help us to help Blair by buying an icy pole for only $1!

Grace, Ava and Phoebe will be selling the icy poles in the 5/6 eating area.

The Cleaver family have donated the first 144 icy poles and it would be very much appreciated if anyone would like to donate some more.

If it is possible to give some icy poles please contact Lisa Cleaver on 0429160888 Thanks

Grace, Ava and Phoebe

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**Graduation dinner - year 6**

A meeting has been organised on Monday, 12th November at 2.30 pm in the Meeting Room at St Mary’s to start preparations for the Graduation Dinner - Year 6.

All Year 6 parents are invited to attend to help start arranging this special event for the Year 6 students, who I know are already talking about it.

The meeting should only go for approx. 30 minutes and it would be appreciated if you could let either Kylie Tonissen (0418 998 633) or Pauline Perkins (0428 287 113) know if you are able to attend or not. Thank you

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2018 Christmas Expo. PARADE – IMPORTANT!

Anyone who volunteered to assist with our Christmas Parade, as Marshalls, are asked to attend a Safety Briefing meeting next Thursday evening, 15th November, 2018.

This meeting will start at 7p.m. and conclude at approximately 8 p.m. Shauna Beattie and Shannon Smith, with the support of Jo-Anne Bond, will conduct this meeting.

(It is an O. H. & S. requirement that a representative from each parade entry and all volunteers attend a Safety Briefing meeting.)

**A GENTLE REMINDER!**

Our Christmas Expo, is fast approaching, so please return the following to school as soon as possible.

- your family’s Volunteer Form. We thank those of you who have already done so. A collated Volunteer Roster sheet will be sent home as soon as it is completed.
- Raffle Books. Thank you to those of you who have already sold your book and returned it to school with the money. The prizes are fabulous. Additional books can be collected from our school office.
- Gift Basket/Boxes. There is a wonderful Christmas display in our Meeting Room. It is adorned with all the Gift Baskets and Boxes that have already been returned ready our Christmas Expo. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to this stall. It is a most popular one. to school as soon as possible.
Welcome to week 5 already! I will continue this week with “Families come in different shapes, sizes and numbers” taken from the Kids Matter website, the link is given here:


Families come in different shapes, sizes and numbers

Families with children have different expectations of their children’s behaviour and the roles of parents and carers. This leads to differences in family relationships and communication styles. Many beliefs about what helps create strong family relationships are influenced by the values and experiences that parents and carers were exposed to in their own families while growing up.

Cultural background also influences the values and goals adults have for children’s development. There are also differences within cultures, meaning that no two families will have the same values, even if they come from the same community. For example, it is common in western industrialised societies like Australia for parents and carers to value children’s independence, such as personal responsibility for interactions, whereas parents and carers from non-western cultural backgrounds frequently give more emphasis to joint family responsibilities and togetherness. In some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, for example, family members may be jointly responsible for caring for children and the elderly, as well as sharing food, clothing and housing and acting as a support network for each other.

Differences in the make-up of families with children may also lead to diverse relationship and support needs:

**Two-parent families**

Family relationships are first influenced by the main couple relationship; this partnership has a major impact on interactions among all family members. While parents and carers may sometimes find it a challenge to meet children’s needs as well as their own and their partner’s needs, it is still important to set aside some time to attend to the couple relationship. It is important that parents try to resolve conflict between them. Unresolved conflict between parents may impact directly on children and/or on the effectiveness of their parenting (e.g., by giving inconsistent messages to children). Maintaining effective communication and support for each other as parents enhances the couple relationship and supports positive relationships in the family as a whole.

**Sole parents**

Sole parents may miss the support provided by another parent or carer and feel over-stretched by the responsibility of caring for children alone. Having a support network of friends and relatives can make a big difference. Where possible, separated sole parents can support their children by sharing positive co-parenting arrangements with the other parent. This can be achieved when parents and carers value and respect the importance of children having opportunities to develop their relationships with both parents.

Next week we will continue looking at ‘families’. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me on: 0400 994 032.

Kind regards, Lisa Gonnet
Schools Pastoral Care worker
0400 994 032