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 and students from Gr 5/6 attended a Remembrance Ceremony at the community service at the cenotaph at Melville Oval, while our own ceremony was held at school for the rest of the staff and students. Our Gr 5/6s represented our school beautifully, again showing great respect and reverence for the occasion. We were incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

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

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
- bus information from PTV
- Expo News

Advance Notice:
- Sun 11th December – end of year school mass, all students are expected to attend
- Mon 19th December – last day for students
- Tues 20th December – last day for staff

Student testing
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.

**Arrangements for the beginning of 2017**
Please note the changes to the dates that were previously published in the newsletter. We have received notification only this week that all teachers are to attend a professional learning day on Tuesday 31st January as part of our major improvement strategy, Professional Learning Communities. As this day is a diocesan wide arrangement we must change the way our first week looks.

Our Literacy Testing arrangements for the start of the 2017 year will be:

- **Mon 30th Jan** First day for staff
- **Tues 31st Jan** Staff professional learning
- **Wed 1st Feb** Literacy testing
- **Thurs 2nd Feb** Literacy testing
- **Friday 3rd Feb** First day of classes

**Planning 2017**

- **Class groupings:** The table below shows the class groupings for 2017. Each year the class groupings are considered in relation to the numbers of students and how we can organise them in a practical way. There are many discussions held around this decision each year and we support the work of the teachers in this area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Gr 3/4</th>
<th>Gr 5/6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gr 1/2</td>
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- **Class Lists:** Teachers are currently working on class lists for next year and many hours are spent on this task. Please be assured that teachers use their professional knowledge of students and their judgement of what is best for each individual child when considering groupings.

In assigning students to classes, teachers are asked to consider the following criteria to ensure an even spread of:

- learning abilities
- boys and girls
- even grade levels
- learning friends - these are not necessarily playground friends but students they enjoy and work well with. In many instances students are asked for their input in this area.
- friendship groups - it is uncommon for students not to be with at least one of their chosen friends

A great deal of consultation occurs between teachers and Jo-Anne before lists are finalised.

If you have thoughts regarding your child’s learning needs and placement for next year please share these in writing on a Request Slip that is available from the office and have them to Jo-Anne no later than Monday 21st November. This is not a guarantee that the lists will reflect your suggestion as we also have faith in the judgement and decisions made by the teachers who best know these children in the learning environment. Your input can sometimes give us a different perspective when considering class groupings. Please do not make requests based on teachers.

- **Staff planning:** Teachers will be working on planning for 2017 and preparing end of year reports over the next few weeks. This means that your child will work with one of our valued CRTs on these days.

**Bus travelers**
Please take note of the letter attached to today’s newsletter from Public Transport Victoria (PTV) regarding bus travel changes. Please contact the school office if you have any queries or need assistance with the new arrangements. This information does not relate to the town bus system.

**School Fees**
At our School Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday 19th October, 2016 an increase in school fees for 2017 was approved. In order to meet our increasing costs and provide the learning programs that we do it was agreed to raise the fees by 2.7%. This increase is less than the Educational CPI of 3.3%. This calculates to the following:

- **Family fee** $1105 (increase of $29)
- **Capital fee** $175 (increase of $4)
- **Student fee** $246 (increase of $6)

Please note that our fees only make up the difference between the Government (Federal and State) funding we receive and the amount the Government determines as the cost of educating a Primary student. Fees do not mean that we have extra money in our budget to expend on additional resources.

If you have any queries regarding school fees or funding please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Ivy’s Army**
Our Grade 5/6 students have swung into action and organised the following activities to raise money for Ivy Steel’s treatment. Please choose to contribute where you can.

- 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.
WANTED!

We have been reading research related to learning spaces for senior primary students and would like to set up a ‘couch zone’ in our area. If you have a second hand couch that you would be happy to provide please contact either of us at school and we can check it out to see if it would be suitable.

Elise Couchman & Jamie Ferguson😊

We are in need of 4 litre ice-cream containers in 3 / 4 for the Expo parade. If you have any we would really appreciate them as soon as possible.

Lisa Schurmann, Shelley Waters & Sherree Gallagher

Hello! We are looking for donations of wire coat hangers for a special activity. If you have any of these at home that you are no longer using, we would gratefully accept any donations! Thank you!

Tania Stevens

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Times</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm, Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents and Friends

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening times – 3.20 – 4.00pm
Monday 14th November

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

Canteen Roster

16/11 Marie McDonald
23/11 Marie McDonald
30/11 Jen Taylor (last day for lunch orders 2016)

Next meeting
Monday 14th November @ 7.00pm.

FAMILY VOLUNTEER FORM

Thanks to the many families who have already returned their volunteer forms – gold stars for you!!

Please return your completed form ASAP.
Looking forward to working alongside you to contribute to our school and local community!

FRIDAY BOOK SWAP

If you’re like me and keep forgetting which week is assembly week, fear not! For the remainder of Term 2, we will run a cuppa and book swap in the Multipurpose Room on the ‘in-between’ Fridays, starting from 2.30pm. If you have any books that you’re happy to pass on, (grown-up or kids), please bring them along to share with another parent. Or just sit and have a cuppa and chat while we wait for the bell. Don’t forget the St Mary’s Expo second hand book sale is still in need of your quality unwanted book donations as well!

Naomi Turner

Facebook page is now up and running! Search for St Mary’s Primary School Hamilton 3300 and share news with your family and friends!

Assembly

Please note that there will not be an assembly on Friday 11th November due to the swimming carnival.

Our next assembly will be on Friday 25th November at 2.40pm
All welcome!

Pastoral Care

Hello again, this week is my last week before I leave for an extended holiday to visit family in England. Whist I am not looking forward to the cold it does look set to be a white Christmas!

I will be back at school next year, in the meantime I will have a replacement who will introduce themselves via next newsletter including their work hours and contact details.

I would just like to thank you for your support and look forward to continuing working with your family in 2017.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a safe and happy new year.

Kind regards Lisa Gonnet
The Sports Catch Up

Swimming Carnival – Hamilton Olympic Swimming Pool
Thank you so much for the tremendous amount of sportsmanship, support and fun that was displayed at the swimming carnival! It has been a fantastic day that showcased our wonderful school community! Thank you to everyone who helped make the carnival run so swimmingly, your support is truly appreciated. We will have a full wrap up and a list of age group champions in next week’s newsletter so stay tuned!

Saturday Morning Netball
The Superstars took on the North Hamilton Dragons last Saturday. The Superstars worked terrifically as a team, with many brilliant passages of play up and down the court in the first half of the game. At the half time break we were only 3 goals down. Caitlin Urquhart starred with intercept after intercept! Klay and Chloe were tight in defence and applied a lot of pressure. Chloe made a lot of turn overs and displayed a fabulous fighting spirit all game. Ellen, once again, moved sensational in the goal circle and shot beautifully all game. Eliza continued to be a wonderful leader on the court, Sophie displayed terrific support in the mid court and Saskia used good defensive arms.
We got a little tired after half time, with just 7 players able to play. North Hamilton took control of the game at this point and had a brilliant third quarter. We rallied back together in the last quarter and matched their scoring, but unfortunately we couldn’t make up the lead they created in the third quarter, going down 21-9. This week we take on the College Firebirds, Court 4.

Taekwondo Black Belt!
Make sure you grab a copy of Thursday’s Hamilton Spectator to read all about our St. Mary’s Taekwondo superstar Libby Fox! This is an amazing achievement by Libby and she is to be congratulated on her supreme effort, dedication and leadership.

Miss Couchman & Mr Ferguson ☺