Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Each of us is unique, and each has different talents. As well as being grateful for the blessings that God has given us we must also, in equal measure, use those blessings to help build God’s kingdom. All that God expects is that we make the most of them and that we use them for good. We are God’s creation and God knows that we are not perfect. All God expects is that we try to be the best we can be and to treat each other with kindness and love. LiturgyHelp

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Expo is fast approaching with lots of work still to be done. Many people are working very hard to ensure a great event. Please make sure you check out the notes contained in this newsletter from Kerry.

I had the pleasure of accompanying Grade 5/6C to mass yesterday at the Church. I was extremely impressed and proud of how our students participated and interacted with the other parishioners! Well done!

Lots of high fives this week – getting to ‘outstanding’ on the wall chart, showing amazing improvement in reading assessments, being compassionate to class mates to name a few.

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

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER**
- Mon 20th: Expo meeting @ 6.30pm
- Tues 21st: Prep 2018 Transition 9.00 – 12.30
- Thurs 23rd: Prep mass @ 10.00am
- Fri 24th: Gr 3/4S mass @ 10.00am
- Mon 27th – Fri 8th: Gr 5/6 Swimming @ Monivae pool
- Mon 27th: Expo meeting @ 6.30pm
- Wed 29th: SAC meeting @ 7.00pm

**DECEMBER**
- Fri 1st: Mixx FM broadcast from school 10.00am – 1.00pm
- Sat 2nd: Expo debrief meeting @ 6.00pm
- Mon 11th – Thurs 14th: Numeracy testing week
- Tues 12th: Whole school transition day
- Thurs 14th: Reports home
**Advance notice:**
- Fri 15th Dec Swimming Carnival
- Sun 17th Dec End of year mass @ 10.30am

**Attachments:**
- School Swimming Carnival (Grade 3-6 only)
- A Sparkling Christmas Expo information

**Arrangements for the end of the 2017 school year:**
**Monday 11th December to Thursday 14th December**
MAI testing during class time
**Thursday 21st December**
- Last day of classes
- Last day for staff

**Arrangements for the beginning of 2018:**
**Monday 29th January**
- Staff day
**Tuesday 30th January**
- Literacy assessments
**Wednesday 31st January**
- Literacy assessments
**Thursday 1st February**
- First day of classes

**Staff professional learning**
Teachers had a productive day on Monday, continuing our work on delivering a quality curriculum for all students. We spent the day looking at the essential learnings in the area of Mathematics and our teaching teams worked together to create a scope and sequence that is consistent across all levels. The increase in all teachers’ understanding of the curriculum from Prep to Grade 6 means that we are more focused on the learning required by all students and the importance of working closely together to support all students at all levels.

**Best wishes**
This week we share best wishes with Shelley Waters who begins some long service leave until the end of the year. May your time with your family be exciting, relaxing and safe!

**2018 Planning**
A few bits of information for you to be aware of as we continue planning for next year!
- This week we met with Prep parents for next year. With 33 little people joining us we are planning for two Prep classes who will work closely together. Erin Wolfe and Tania Stevens will have the pleasure of working with these children.
- **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 Wednesday 22nd 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 continue to work on planning for 2018 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.
- **Transition:** On Tuesday 12th December all students will experience a taste of 2018 when they work in their learning groups for next year. Our new Prep students will be with us on this day and everyone else moves up a grade for the day. Grade 6 students spend the day at Monivae or their respective secondary college. Slips indicating grades and teachers for 2018 will be sent home on Monday 11th December.
- **Grade 5/6 Transition Experience:** On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th December, grade 5 and 6 students from St Joseph’s Coleraine, St Mary’s Hamilton and St Joseph’s Penhurst will spend two days learning at Monivae College. ‘Transition’ into secondary school is a major wellbeing concern for many students, so these days provide an excellent opportunity for our senior students to experience two days of learning in a secondary school environment. Our senior teachers have spent a considerable amount of time planning in collaboration with our neighbouring schools to ensure a positive experience for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.
St Mary’s Primary School Newsletter

**Parish News**

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<tr>
<th>MASS TIMES – 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
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**Assembly**

Assemblies are held every second Friday starting at 2.40pm.
Our next assembly will be Friday 1st December
All welcome!

**Canteen Roster**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22/11/2017</td>
<td>Cass Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/11/2017</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/12/2017</td>
<td>Jen Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/12/2017</td>
<td>NO CANTEEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>20/12/2017</td>
<td>NO CANTEEN</td>
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The last day for lunch orders is Wednesday 6th December as Monivae finishes school on the 8th.

**Uniform Shop**

Opening times: Every Monday 3.15 – 3.45pm
Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop or by placing an order with payment at the front office. EFTPOS available.

**Pastoral Care**

Hello again, we continue this week with the mindfulness article. Thank you to those who contacted me to let me know they found last week’s article interesting and relevant.

**What is mindfulness?**

Mindfulness and childhood mental health
- Mindfulness training has been shown to reduce the severity of depression, anxiety and ADHD in children.
- Mindfulness builds resilience by giving children skills to help them cope better with stress, as well as engage more fully with themselves and the world.

**Mindfulness for parents**

The best thing parents can do to help their children become more mindful is to commit to some regular mindfulness practises themselves! The more present and mindful you are with your children, the more happy, mindful and resilient they will be. Mindfulness training can assist parents to remain in the present moment and engage more fully when interacting with their children. Research shows that parents and carers who practice being mindful around their children contribute to improving their child’s sense of self-worth and self-esteem.

We will finish next week and I will give you some links to websites etc. in the meantime if you would like to chat or get more information please don’t hesitate to contact me!

Kind regards Lisa Gonnet
Schools pastoral care worker

**End of Year Mass**

If possible could families please bring a plate of Morning tea to share after the end of year mass on Sunday 17th Dec at 10.30am.

Kymhan Watson
St Mary’s Church Presbytery

**Joke of the Week**

Q: Why did the fly fly?
A: Because the spider spied on her!

Q: Why kind of puzzle makes people angry?
A: A cross word!

Q: What do two oceans say when they meet?
A: Nothing, they just wave!

Chase Turnbull & Sam Handreck

An incredible achievement girls! Well done!

**Regional Golf**

On Monday Lauren and I went down to Warrnambool to participate in a golf tournament. It wasn’t a great start when we couldn’t find the first tee but eventually we found it. Lauren finished on a score of 76 and I finished on a winning score of 60. Lauren was so close to winning closest to pin, Lauren finished tied 5th and I finished 1st. It was a great day and we all went inside to have a drink and tallied up the scores. I won a driver cover and a medal. Thanks to those who helped on the day and leading up to it.

Molly O’Brien
Regional Hoop Time
The Grade 5/6 All Star Girls has a great day at Regional Hoop Tim. They won 3 of their 4 pool games, which put them through to the semi-final! Unfortunately they went down in the final, but were very impressed with their efforts throughout the day! Well done girls and thank you to all the parents who supported them on the day.

Gymnastics
On the 21st October Hazel Clarkson & Shannon Mhasho competed in the Hamilton & District Gymnastics Club Annual Invitational competition. This was an invite for all gymnastic clubs in the Western District, both competing at Level 1. Hazel came away with individual ribbons of 3 silver & 2 bronze. Shannon was awarded 2 silver and 2 bronze and a bronze for her team event. Well done girls.

St Mary’s Basketball
St Mary’s Basketball Club is looking for new players to join their club in 2018. If your child is born in 2010 they are now eligible to play. Also a call out to fill a few age groups in 2008/2007 girls.

Please contact Cheryl Casey
Secretary
0458 567 508 or email jemnoc@hotmail.com