

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

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Parish Priest: Fr Paddy Mugavin

Principal: Jo-Anne Bond

SAC Chair: Jonathan Rowe

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 2018

ISSUE 36

We cannot
accomplish all
that we need to
do without
working
together!



IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

Wed 21st Prep transition 9.00 – 12.30
Thurs 22nd Prep class mass @ Monivae Chapel 10am
Combined Schools Carols @ Church
Expo meeting @ 6.00pm
Fri 23rd P/1/2 Excursion
Wed 28th School Council @ 7.00pm

DECEMBER

Sat 1st **CHRISTMAS EXPO!**
Fri 7th Grade 6 Graduation dinner – RSVP 30th Nov
Tues 11th Transition Day
Fri 14th Dec Swimming Carnival Gr 3 – 6
Student reports sent home
Sat 15th School Mass @ 10.00am
Wed 19th Last day for students
Journals home

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

It's the middle of November! A sense of the Christmas spirit is beginning to creep in!

This also means that our 2018 Christmas Expo is fast approaching. We are so fortunate to have an amazing group of volunteers who are steering us towards another great event. For those families who are new to our school this year or wondering about Expo I have included the goals which were determined some years ago and to which our hardworking parents and staff strive to achieve. Our Expo is held annually to achieve the following goals:

- To engage parents in promoting and supporting their school in a positive manner
- To involve parents in a school event with a social context!

- To provide an event for the local community that reflects the values of St Mary's
- To raise funds for our school
- To celebrate our great school community!

With these goals in mind please consider how you can contribute to this year's Expo and support your school in reaching its goals:

- Completing and returning your volunteer form
- Baking for the Gourmet Gifts stall
- Returning your filled gift basket/box
- Selling and returning your raffle tickets
- Promoting the event to friends and families

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺

Jo-Anne

Attachments

- CECV Election/Funding brochure
- St Mary's Christmas Expo Volunteer form (only for families who have not returned already)

Numeracy Testing

If your child is not going to be at school in the week beginning Monday 11th December please let their classroom teacher know as soon as possible so that we have the opportunity to complete their numeracy 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.
- This week we met with Prep parents for next year. With 21 little people joining us we are planning for one Prep class who will work closely with the other teachers in the junior area.
- **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. The approach to learning we use at St Mary's actually means that homeroom groupings do not have as much

bearing as they have in the past. Our students, no matter which homeroom they are in, engage in learning with many teachers during the day.

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 Thursday 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.

- **Transition:** On Tuesday 11th December all students will experience a taste of 2019 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 2019 will be sent home on Monday 10th December.

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2017

Hamilton:	Saturday 6pm Sunday 10.30am
Dunkeld:	Sunday 8.30am
Glenhompson:	Sunday 8.30am
Penshurst:	Sunday 8.30am
Macarthur:	Sunday 8.30am

Canteen Roster

21/11/2018	Sarah Tarrant
28/11/2018	Cass Young

Assembly

Assemblies are held every second Friday
in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.

Our next assembly will be Friday 30th November
All welcome!



Tuesdays and Thursdays Grace, Ava and Phoebe will be selling the icy poles in the 5/6 eating area. \$1



We had a fantastic turn out last night for our safety briefing, thank you to all who attended.

Two weeks to go 'til Expo

A compulsory Coordinator meeting will be held Thursday 22nd November @ 6pm. Coordinators must attend please.

Another **Volunteer form** is being sent home today to families, (except to those who have thankfully returned theirs). This is due back Monday 19th November, as we will then collate and send home the completed Volunteer roster early next week.

Raffle Books. Thank you to those 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 are getting priced next week – please return all gift baskets ASAP. Thankyou you to those who have returned theirs ☺.

Gourmet Gifts are holding two cake and baked goods wrapping days to complete their gourmet gift creations. These days will be

- Fri 23rd November @ 1pm &
- Thursday 28th November @1pm.

PASTORAL CARE

Hello again. This week we continue looking at "Families come in different shapes, sizes and numbers" taken from the KidsMatter website, the link is given here :

(https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/sites/default/files/public/KMECC3-20120*Building%20blocks%20healthy%20family%20relationships.pdf)

Blended and step-families

When separate families come together and form a new family, they are referred to as blended or step-families. Family members may or may not be biologically related to each other. Blended families may have more complex relationship needs to take into account when trying to build healthy family relationships. Children may feel their prior relationships with parents or carers have changed because of the new couple relationship and parents' and carers' relationships with step-children. Family members, especially children, may still be grieving the loss of their original family. Families may have to discuss how new and existing relationships between children and parents or carers are going to work. Children may spend time with two families who have different expectations of them. These changes can cause a lot of stress to children as well as parents and new partners.

Having realistic expectations and making house rules clear and predictable to all family members is very important. It is helpful to reassure children that they will still have the love and support of both parents. It is also useful to take as much time as needed for everyone to adjust to the new family. Help all family members recognise the importance of treating everyone with respect.

Foster families

For various reasons, children sometimes live in out-of-home care or foster care with people they may or may not be related to. The adults who take on this caring role are known as foster parents and they provide a safe and caring place for children.

The children being cared for may have complex needs and this can be challenging for foster parents. In many cases, the end goal is to reunite children with their families of origin. Hence, foster parents have the difficult task of opening their hearts and homes to their foster children and one day having to say goodbye. Still, foster parents play an important role as they can help children to feel safe, secure and cared for and also show children what positive relationships can look like.

Grandparents as carers

Depending on family circumstances, grandparents may either care for children for some, most or all of the time. Whatever their time involvement, grandparents play a significant role in building healthy family relationships. Grandparents can model what healthy family relationships look like but their involvement also helps children see family relationships in the wider, extended family context.

When grandparents take on the main caregiving role, they become responsible for providing safety, security and care for children so they feel a sense of belonging within the family. If grandparents share this role with the child's main caregivers, other grandparents, members of the family or caregivers outside the family, it is helpful to discuss how all the different family relationships may work so that the child knows what to expect when they are with their various caregivers

and continue to feel safe and secure in all their relationships.\

Next week: Dealing with Conflict

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

THE SPORT CATCH UP

Walk to School

What an amazing month October was! It was our third year participating in this wonderful initiative and yet again it was great to see so many students and their families getting involved by walking, riding and scooting to school, each making a huge difference to their health. So, whether you walked once, twice or twenty times, you should be very proud of your achievements. Every walk, ride or scoot matters!

It doesn't have to stop now though!! A lot of effort has been put in to increase the number of children actively commuting to school, and we don't want this to stop here. You can continue utilising our drop off point and encouraging your children to walk the remainder of the way, we really hope this trend can continue to build healthy habits for life.

Thank you to all the amazing teachers who supported Walk To School; Mrs Lisa Schurmann, Miss Kerry Stevens, Mrs Lauren Haeusler and Mrs Terrielynn Groves, we truly appreciate your time and energy!

Thank you also to Ebony Jenkins and Brianna Picken at Southern Grampians Glenelg Primary Care Partnership and VicHealth who support the Walk to School program and organise the rewards and a \$100 Sports Voucher to all participating schools.

Thank you to everyone who displayed enthusiasm and a behaviour change towards ongoing walking habits throughout the month of October, we were especially proud of Isabelle Gilles and awarded her the activity tracker. We were also impressed with Blake Lan, Malakai Holyoak, the Holmes, Uebergang and Murphy families. We also wanted to thank Isabelle Schaap for her support with our junior students every morning.

HoopTime Basketball - Regional Finals

The Grade 5/6 All Star Girls represented St Mary's at Regional Hoop Time in Hamilton on Tuesday. They had a few extremely close games up against well experienced and tall competition. Well done on qualifying for this event girls and thank you to all the parents who supported them on the day. A special thank you to Jo Bowie for coaching the team and helping with administration on the day.

Cricket

Last Friday all the interested Grade 5/6 students got the opportunity to participate in the Woolworths Cricket Blast competition. It was great to fill four teams and see so many students having a go in such a great format! It was a fun filled day, which saw some epic hits (some scoring 12 runs!), terrific fielding, classic

catches and direct bowling! We certainly had four teams of champions, but no champion team on the day. Thank you to Mrs Pickford, Marie McDonald, Matt Dunn, Jo Sobey and Deb Fitzgerald for their support, coaching and scoring on the day. We truly do appreciate your precious time!

Swimming Carnival

Our School Swimming Carnival for the Grade 3-6 students is being held at the Monivae Pool on Friday 14th December and we cannot wait! The swimming sports will commence at 11.30am and will be finished by approx. 2.45pm. We hope to have a great community vibe surrounding this event, so feel free to bring your picnic rug and come and support the swimming! If you are interested in helping to make the event go swimmingly please return the slip to Miss Couchman or send her an email at ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

A detailed information note will be going home next week.

Swimming Carnival Helper Form

I am able to help make our School Swimming Carnival go swimmingly on Friday, December 14th.
 (Thank you very much!)

I can help: (Please indicate)

All afternoon 11.30am-2.45pm or from: _____

I would prefer to help with the: (please circle)

Time Keeping Recording Ribbons/Place Judging

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COLERAINE

Twilight Fair

FOOD FAMILY FUN

FRI 23rd NOV 2018 5pm-8pm

NIGHT MARKET * HOT COFFEE * LIVE MUSIC * CAKE STALLS
 DESSERT BAR * PLANTS * CRAFT * PRODUCE * SHOWBAGS

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