Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Can you believe we have nearly reached the end of November?! This week we begin the beautiful season of Advent. Advent means ‘coming’ and is the Church season when we prepare and wait for the birth of Jesus. The light from the candles of the Advent wreath grow stronger each week, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world!

Well done to our Choir members for their wonderful performance at the Combined Schools Carols Festival on Thursday. Students who were involved have been rehearsing with Mr Healy over the past few weeks. We are very grateful to John for his support of this activity.

After many months of planning and hours of extra energy our Christmas Expo is almost here again! The school has been a hive of Christmas activity with gift baskets, gourmet gifts and other goods being delivered daily. Please see information in today’s Expo Newsletter regarding arrangements for the day, including the children’s participation in the Parade.

Thanks for your support of our school!
Enjoy a wonderful weekend with those you love.

Terrielynn

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOPE!**

“Stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matt 24

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

**NOVEMBER**
- Fri 25th: Parish family dinner – Prep
- Mon 28th: Gr 5/6 Transition day @ Monivae
  - Expo meeting @ 6.00pm

**DECEMBER**
- Thurs 1st: Gr 1/2S mass – 10am @ Church
- Fri 2nd: 3HA/MixxFM Outdoor Broadcast @ St Mary’s!
- Sat 3rd: St Mary’s Christmas Expo!
- Tues 6th: Whole school transition day
- Sun 11th: End of year school mass @ 10.30am
- Fri 16th: Reports & Learning Journals home
- Mon 19th: Last day for students
  - Office closes @ 4.00pm
- Tues 20th: Last day for staff

**Arrangements for the beginning of 2017**
- Mon 30th Jan: First day for staff
- Tues 31st Jan: Staff PD – pupil free day
- Wed 1st Feb: Literacy testing
- Thurs 2nd Feb: Literacy testing
- Friday 3rd Feb: First day of classes

**Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:**
- Expo Family Volunteer Forms
- Christmas Expo Newsletter
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 le

Planning 2017
• Class lists for next year are being finalised. Thank you to the parents who supported the work of staff in compiling class lists. I personally appreciated those who respected the process – thank you.
• Transition: On Tuesday 6th December all students will experience a taste of 2017 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. Slips indicating grades and teachers for 2017 will be sent home on Monday 5th December. Usually we would send these slips home the week before but with the busy week leading up to Expo, there will be limited time to complete them.
• At this stage we have confirmed classroom teachers for all grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Ms Tania Stevens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Terrielynn Groves &amp; Mrs Lindy Cullinane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Mrs Sherree Gallagher &amp; Mrs Shelley Waters (one day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Miss Elise Couchman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Miss Annie Forrest</td>
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• 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.

Christmas Expo Street Parade!
• All classes are eagerly preparing for the Expo Parade. Students should arrive and meet their classroom teachers in Gray St between the Post Office and the school crossing (please note change of location from other years) from 10.00 - 10.15am. Please make sure that students come dressed in their costumes ready to parade (or as per the information provided by teachers).
• Following the parade students will remain with their teachers outside the PAC until collected by a parent. Please make sure that you collect your child promptly and notify their teacher before they leave the area.
• If you are rostered on to help at Expo before or during the Parade Miss Bond will meet your children at the front of the PAC just before 10.00am and walk the group down to meet their class group at the start point.

A few reminders
• Please notify class teachers regarding all student absences via a phone call, e-mail, written note, Skoolbag app etc. A reason must be provided when a student is absent from school.
• There are a number of students wearing incorrect uniform items at the moment. This includes the right coloured socks.
• The lost property basket is overflowing with a variety of items. It would be a good idea to check if any of the clothing belongs to you before the end of the school year when it will be washed and sent to St Vincent de Paul.

Grade 5/6 Transition Experience
Monday 28th November, grade 5 and 6 students from St Joseph’s School, Coleraine, St Mary’s School, Hamilton and Sacred Heart School, Casterton will spend their second day 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.

End of Year Mass
Our mass to celebrate the end of the school year is Sunday 11th December starting at 10.30am at St Mary’s Church. All students are expected to attend this special occasion in their correct school uniform. Students will sit with their class in the church and all parents and friends are invited to join us.
Our Grade 6 students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates during the mass. Your support of all that we do in terms of our liturgical
celebrations throughout the year is appreciated and is something you agree to when you sign your enrolment application form.

Mass will be followed by a cuppa in the gathering space to which an open invitation is extended. Could Grade 5 families please bring along a plate to share for morning tea?

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.

Monivae College Open Day dates 2017

Open Days
- 21st Feb at 9.30am – Tuesday
- 2nd March at 7pm - Thursday
- 19th March at 2pm - Sunday

Come Spend the Day at Monivae
- 21/3/17

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</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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Assembly

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

Parents and Friends

UNIFORM SHOP
Opening times – 3.20 – 4.00pm
Purchases can be made by attending the Uniform Shop on Wednesday 30th and December 14th or by placing an order with payment at the front office.

Canteen Roster

30/11 Jen Taylor (last day for lunch orders 2016)
came out of defence to be a strong and handy presence in the centre court. This week the Superstars take on Monivae again, same Bat time, same Bat channel (for those who don’t speak Batman, same time same place!). We would love to see lots of people supporting the amazing Superstars in action!

**P-2 Junior Athletics Day**
Next Wednesday (30-11-16) the P-2 children will be having a fun Athletics Day. This day will expose the Preps to some of the athletic events they will come across at our school athletics day early next year. Some events may be slightly modified for their skill level. The Grade One and Two children will join us as little mentors who will help to show the Preps how to compete in the events. The emphasis of the day is having fun so we will not be keeping score. The children will move around the events – modified javelin, hurdles, high jump, shotput, sprints and long distance running. The Grade 6 buddies will run each of the events.

Parents, grandparents and other family members are invited to come along to watch the fun! The Athletics will commence at 12:00pm and conclude around 1:30pm with a picnic lunch where parents can stay and join the children for a picnic.

**Children will need to wear their house team coloured T-shirt with their sports uniform, have plenty of water to drink and their hat.**

**Western Country Region Athletics**
Four boys from St Mary’s represented Hamilton in the Western Country Region on the weekend. They all did extremely well, especially as they had to cope with the extreme heat all day. Great sportsmanship was shown by all which is always fantastic to hear about St. Mary’s students.

**Results:**
- U9 Hamilton Boys 4X100m Fergus and Lachlan McDonald came 4th,
- U9 Hamilton Mixed Gender 4X200m Fergus and Lachlan came 4th,
- U9 Western Region Boys 4X200m Lachlan came 3rd.
- U10 Hamilton Mixed Gender 4X100m Hugh Fitzgerald came 2nd
- U10 Hamilton Mixed Gender 4X200m Koby came 4th
- U10 Hamilton Boys Medley Koby, Hugh and Fergus (age promoted) came 1st
- U10 Western Region Boys 4X100m Koby and Hugh came 2nd.

**THE WORD ON THE LEARNING STREET!**
Oh my gosh, it is 1 week until we go to Perth. I am very excited because my uncle, aunt and cousins are coming too. We are staying in a very fancy hotel. My poppy is getting married in Perth. I can’t wait because I get to go to Smiggle! I have got $65 to spend. The hotel we are staying at has a big pool and spa. I am looking forward to Perth.

**Jack Sobey, Grade 2**

**Childcare**
Are you looking for someone to care for your kids during the busy Christmas period? My name is Amy Field and I have just completed Year 12 at Monivae College. I’m a friendly, responsible girl who would be more than happy to babysit children of any ages so you can enjoy a stress-free time away from home. I am available every day, can complete all duties, and have my license if any pick ups are required. Feel free to text or call me on 0459703131 for more details - look forward to hearing from you.