

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

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FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2018

ISSUE 38



First Sunday of Advent

The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it was a season that focused on waiting. Through prayer, we can enter into God's world and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. Ask God for the ability to use this time during Advent to cut away the distractions and make your life a place of warmth and openness – in all that you do!

God of light and life,
Give us hope
as we wait for your coming again.
When we are tempted to be grateful to have
found you while others are lost,
Send us out into the darkness in search of
those who need you most.
Amen

Mass to celebrate the end of the school year

Saturday 15th December @ 6.00pm

St Mary's Church

Gr 6 Graduation to follow mass



IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Sat 1 st	CHRISTMAS EXPO!
Wed 5 th	SAC meeting (rescheduled) @ 5.30
Fri 7 th	Grade 6 Graduation dinner – RSVP 30 th Nov
Tues 11 th	Transition Day
Thurs 13 th	Nativity scene @ St Mary's Parish Gr 3/4 @9:45am – 11am Gr 5/6 11:45am – 1:30pm
Fri 14 th Dec	Swimming Carnival Gr 3 – 6 Nativity scene @ St Mary's Parish Prep – Gr 2 @9:45am – 11am Student reports sent home
Sat 15 th	<u>School Mass @ 6.00pm</u>
Wed 19 th	Last day for students Journals home Normal finish time @ 3.15pm Office closes @ 4.00pm
Thurs 20 th	Pupil free day Last day for staff

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,



At this stage, I say a big thanks to all of the amazing people in our school community who have worked so hard to get us to the eve of this year's Expo! Months of planning and organisation will most certainly result in a great day – with a glorious weather forecast! I look forward to seeing you all at Expo tomorrow spreading the spirit of Christmas as we work together to provide a wonderful experience for our wider community.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺

Jo-Anne

End of Year Mass

Our mass to celebrate the end of the school year is

**Saturday 15th December starting at 6.00pm
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 following 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 supper?

2019 Planning

We have already begun our planning for next year and are quite excited about the opportunities for staff and students ahead.

- 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.
- Classroom teachers for 2019 are:

GRADE	TEACHER
Prep	Mrs Erin Wolfe
1/2	Mrs Lindy Cullinane & teacher to be determined
	Miss Ashleigh Watts
	Mrs Lisa Schurmann
3/4	Ms Tania Stevens
	Mrs Shelley Waters & Mrs Lauren Haeusler
	Miss Elise Couchman
5/6	Mrs Kim Pickford

- Transition:** On Tuesday 11th December all students will experience a taste of 2019 when they work in their learning groups for next year. Slips indicating grades and teachers for 2019 will be sent home on Monday 10th December.

MAI Week

Next week students will participate in Numeracy testing with teachers. We have planned a great week of alternative activities mixed in with the normal learning time. Students will need to wear their sports uniform each day next week as they will be involved in activities including cricket clinic, fire safe session for kids, electrical safety, outdoor art and Footy 9s clinic.

Assembly

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

Our next assembly will be Friday 14th December
All welcome!



- Students should arrive and meet their classroom teachers in the grounds of Gray St Primary School between 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.
- Remember to enjoy a **ROXBURGH COFFEE** and a **Sweet Tooth ice cream** @ the PAC, as they are some of our many fantastic sponsors for the day ☺

Year 6 Graduation Dinner 🍷 Friday 7 December 2018

RSVP to the Grade 6 Dinner is today. Can you please let me know ASAP for catering purposes? Please make sure a parent/guardian is also attending with their child. Thank you to the families that have already RSVP'd.

Kylie 0418 998 633

Fire Safe Sessions

During our Numeracy testing week commencing on December 3 all of our students will be involved in Fire Safe Sessions conducted by presenters from the Hamilton Fire Brigade.

If your child may have had any experiences in the past that may trigger any anxiety about these sessions, please make their classroom teacher aware of this by Monday December 3rd. The presenters will then be made aware of this and can prepare the sessions with this prior knowledge.

Chris Minney

Parish News

MASS TIMES – 2017

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

Canteen Roster

A big thank you to the parents and grandparents who have supported our canteen roster this year and ensured that students and staff can enjoy a lunch order each week. This service relies solely on volunteers and we are most grateful for your time and commitment.

PASTORAL CARE

Hello again. This week we are looking at "Ways to build healthy family relationships" taken from the Kids Matter website, the link is given here : <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/sites/default/files/public/KMECC3-201208-Building%20blocks%20healthy%20family%20relationships.pdf>

1. Making relationships a priority

Our responsibilities outside the home are important. Likewise, putting aside some time to look after our relationships at home is important. By making family relationships a priority, we are highlighting that they are important to us.

Here are a few ways to show your family that they are important:

Spend time with children and other family members:

Many of us lead very busy lives with lots of responsibilities. When you are together, it may be helpful to set aside a few minutes each day to spend with your family and children doing simple things like talking to them, singing songs, playing a game, reading a story or the newspapers, or even making dinner together. Make the activity fun or do something that your child wants to do. Let your child show you how to do something so that they feel special. Seizing opportunities to spend time with family members as they arise can be helpful as well.

Be affectionate:

Everyone has different ways of showing love and care. Some people give lots of hugs and kisses, others give a high-five, pat on the back, nod, wink or show a thumbs-up. Some others may say 'I love you' or 'You're special'. Any positive sign of affection shows that you care and may help develop trust and closeness in the relationship. Being warm and caring also means giving your family and children attention both when they are happy and engaged in their activities and when they are upset and need some comforting.

Celebrate little achievements:

While it is fun to celebrate birthdays and important milestones like walking, using a spoon or riding a tricycle, we can also make happy occasions out of everyday positive things that your child does. Some examples are: a child sharing a toy, siblings playing together with their toys, speaking courteously, following routines independently, asking for help politely and children showing you a game they have completed.

Separate work and family life:

Work can take many forms, including household chores, working in the garden, working in an office or organisation, caring for family members or running errands. This can take up a large part of the day. Sometimes we may forget to switch off from work and end up thinking about it even when we are not working. It may be helpful to remind ourselves to try to give our full attention to our family and children when we are with them. If we do remember something work-related, it may be helpful to write it down for later. This can help with being fully present with our family. When children see you making relationships a priority in the ways described above, they learn that they are important to you and feel loved. Children will then understand these are important things to do to build strong relationships.

Next week we continue with: Communicating effectively.

Once again I hope this has been of interest, have a wonderful week.

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

THE SPORT CATCH UP

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! A detailed information note, blue permission form and a helper slip is coming home today. Thank you to Casey, Tam and Kylie for their support, we would love to have a few extra helpers though, so please consider sending back the helper slip.

Junior School Athletics Morning

On Thursday 13th December the Prep – Grade Two 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. The Grade 6 students will run each of the events and the Prep-Grade Two children will move around the events – modified javelin, hurdles, high jump, discus, shotput, sprints, long jump and long distance running.

All students attending will be required to **wear their full sports uniform**. They must also have plenty of water to drink and their hat.

The Athletics Day will commence at 9:15am and will conclude around 11.00am with a morning tea for everyone involved.

Parents, grandparents and other family members are invited to come along to watch the fun!

We are looking forward to a wonderful morning of activity and fun!

Support our fantastic friend and St Mary's mother Jasmine Mansbridge.

'When I heard of the opportunity to fundraise and travel to Ethiopia to paint in the community there, it was an instant YES!'

By going on this trip, Jasmine Mansbridge will be supporting the 'School's A Gift mission' to help children living in deprived areas of Ethiopia access school and expand their life opportunities.

Donations made through this platform are secure and will be remitted directly through to Schools a Gift.

'My goal is to raise well beyond the required amount of \$4000 and would love your help to do so. Every cent there goes a long way. Make sure you leave me a message, so I can thank you personally.'

Love & gratitude, thank you for joining me on this journey!'

Please follow the link to donate:

https://createimpactchallenge2019.gofundraise.com.au/page/JasmineMansbridge?fbclid=IwAR1S9S1qWdrYZR_aD4f2RO-gKNGzNRzLen4wsgm5uuAsqK

Jasmine X

making a scene at Christmas

Experience the spirit of Christmas
by exploring over 400 nativity scenes
from across the world and across the centuries.

ST MARY'S HALL
LONSDALE ST, HAMILTON

THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER 9AM - 6PM
FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER 9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER 11AM - 8PM
(CLOSED DURING 6PM MASS)
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 9AM - 2PM
(CLOSED DURING 10.30AM MASS)