Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

We have continued our journey through the season of Advent this week with hope in our hearts. The theme of the second Sunday of Advent is Peace! During this time it is good to reflect and respond to questions such as: How do we live God’s message in our daily lives? How do we bring God to a world where joy and anguish live side by side? How do we recognise and celebrate Jesus present amongst us? The light from the candles of the Advent wreath grow stronger each week, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world!

Are you ready for Expo?!?

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

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**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 3rd</td>
<td>Whole school transition day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 6th</td>
<td>End of year school mass @ 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 11th</td>
<td>Chance to celebrate the year and congratulate our Grade 6s as they graduate from St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14th - Fri 16th</td>
<td>Numeracy testing week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>Reports &amp; Learning Journals home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>Last day for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 20th</td>
<td>Normal finish time 3.15pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Office closes @ 4.00pm</td>
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<td>Last day for staff</td>
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**Living the Gospel**

Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist’s call to “Prepare the way of the Lord” is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

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St Mary’s Christmas Expo!

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Parish Priest: Fr Paddy Mugavin
Principal: Jo-Anne Bond
SAC Chair: Rhys Colliton

Saturday, 2nd December, 2016  Issue 39
At this stage I say a big thanks for 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. 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.

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 Roster (updated)
- Christmas Expo Newsletter – issue 6
- Auction items
- Safety notes for volunteers

Planning 2017
- Transition: Next 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.

Classroom teachers for 2017 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Wolfe</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Ms Tania Stevens</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Terrielynn Groves &amp;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Lindy Cullinane</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Mrs Sherree Gallagher &amp;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>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>Miss Annie Forrest</td>
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Christmas Expo Street Parade!
- All classes are ready to go for the Expo Parade tomorrow. 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.

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?

Literacy Testing
Literacy testing appointments will be scheduled for the start of the 2017 school year. Students will attend at the time allocated and work with their classroom teacher (where possible) to complete individual assessment tasks. This information then allows teachers to plan for the current needs of each student.

A timetable will be placed on the board near the office next Tuesday for you to choose your preferred day and time. Feel free to write your child’s name in or alternatively ring or e-mail the office with your preferences by Tuesday 14th December.

Appointment slips will be sent home with students with their reports and a reminder will be posted in mid-January.

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.
As Advent once again approaches, the children in all grades will participate in Kris Kindle within their own class group.

Each child will be given a Kris Kindle name who he/she will be treating in a special way during the Advent season. It is a fitting way for us all to be preparing for Christmas.

On Friday 16th December each class will have a Kris Kindle time when all the children will bring a small gift and card to give to their Kris Kindle. If you have any queries regarding this tradition please let us know.

We look forward to the Christmas spirit that Kris Kindle creates!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS TIMES – 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton:</td>
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<td>Dunkeld:</td>
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<td>Glenthompson:</td>
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<td>Penshurst:</td>
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<td>Macarthur:</td>
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Assembly
Our next assembly will be on Friday 9th December at 2.40pm
All welcome!

Our final assembly for the year will be on Monday 19th December @ 2.30pm.
This is a special farewell to our Grade 6 students.

Parish News

**Expo Meeting for Committee members & Co-ordinators**

Tuesday 6th December 6.00pm
@ Roxburgh House

**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**

Please note that Canteen lunches are now finished for the year.

A huge thanks to Jen Taylor and Michelle Ferey who have been outstanding volunteers on our canteen roster throughout the year (and for many years!) Thanks also to the new faces we have welcomed to this activity.

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

**The Sports Catch Up**

**Saturday Morning Netball**

The girls went up against a much older Monivae team last Saturday. The final score didn’t truly reflect how well the Superstars played! The team displayed an outstanding display of determination and persistence and finished with 7 goals on the score board, a great effort!! Sophie Button was incredible in GD! Once she had ‘the fire in her eyes’ she held her GA out of the circle on many occasions. Caity and Molly shared the centre court well and were always in front for a pass. The goal scoring trio of Libby, Ellen and Eliza work so beautifully with one another and are wonderful to watch! Amalie and Saskia were solid out in the wings, supporting their team mates. Chloe once again brought her A game to get many rebounds and Klay Collins took some
This week is the Superstars last game of the season. So it’s your last chance to watch the Superstar dynamos!

**P-2 Junior Athletics Day**
What an amazing day had by all at the Prep Athletics Day on Wednesday! The Preps absolutely loved having their Grade 1/2 role models helping them during the day as well as their Grade Six Buddies organising each of the exciting events. A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers that came to support the children during the day - there were a lot of happy little athletic superstars thrilled to perform in front of a large crowd!