Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

A huge week this week! I think everyone is looking forward to a restful weekend in order to recharge the batteries.

A big thanks to parents for the great turn out for our Parent Information Night on Wednesday! Teachers were very excited to be able to share their planning with you and we appreciated your support. Thanks to staff for their time in preparing and sharing on the night.

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

Attachments to this week’s Newsletter:
1. Lent cards – week 2
2. Learning Conversation dates/times
3. Pastoral Care Information/Consent form
4. Australian Catholics Newsletter

God of mercy, you ask us to listen to your Son, Jesus. Open our ears to hear your Word and fill our hearts with your love so that we may change our lives and so change the lives of others. Amen.

Important Dates

**FEBRUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun 25th</td>
<td>Sacramental Parent meeting @ 9.30am at St Mary’s Church</td>
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**MARCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 1st</td>
<td>Gr 3/4 Class mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 2nd</td>
<td>Athletics Day @ Pedrina Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 5th &amp; Tues 6th</td>
<td>Learning Conversations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 8th</td>
<td>Gr 1/2 Class mass @ 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 9th</td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 12th</td>
<td>Public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14th</td>
<td>Expo Committee meeting @ 5.30pm</td>
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<td>Thurs 15th</td>
<td>District aths</td>
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<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>Learning Walk 9.30 – 11.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 21st, Thurs 22nd, Fri 23rd</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 29th</td>
<td>Holy Week Liturgy @ 11.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Advance notice:
- Fri 11th May  Mother’s Day High Tea
- Mon 21st May  Pupil free day
- Wed 23rd May  Open Morning
- Mon 4th June  Step into Prep
- Fri 27th July  Grandparents’ Day
- Fri 31st August  Fathers & Footy Day

Medication
- Parents must advise staff if a child is taking medication that needs to be administered at school.
- To assist staff, parents must complete a medication form at the office with information containing correct dosages, times, etc. Medication must be provided in the original packaging with the child’s name and dosage included.
- Medication must be handed to the office staff and not kept in a student’s school bag.
- Parents are requested to let the classroom teacher know if their child is receiving medication that may affect the child’s progress or behaviour at school.
- Students who have been diagnosed with Asthma, Anaphylaxis or Diabetes must have a management plan, which is developed in conjunction with their doctor and health care team. This plan must be provided to the school.
- Parents of these students are required to provide their own medication (e.g. Ventolin, Epipen, Insulin) and equipment (e.g. Spacer, blood glucose meter) to the office for students to have access to at school at all times.

Prayers please
Our thoughts and prayers are with Greta Farley and her family following the death of Claire’s mum, Margaret Nallop. Please know you are in our thoughts at this very difficult time.

Yesterday at school, staff and students in Grades 1 – 6 had a short remembrance prayer with Tily and Zeehen on the first anniversary of Danielle’s death. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Stevie and his family.

Emergency Management
Each term we practice our emergency management procedure to ensure that staff and students know what to do if the need arises. We make sure that we vary the ‘incident’ so that we are well prepared. On Wednesday we had an evacuation drill with everyone following the instructions extremely well.

Student attendance
Thanks for your support in contacting the school if your child is away for the day. Please contact the school by phone (leave a message if required), e-mail office@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au or submit an absent note via the Skoolbag app before 9.00am on the day of absence or beforehand if known. Staff are required to make contact if we have not heard from you by 9.30am.

Athletics Day
Next Friday we head to Pedrina Park for our Athletic Sports day for students in Grades 1 – 6. A very detailed note was sent home with students recently containing all of the information you will need.

A huge thanks to the many parents who have volunteered their time to support our students. If you are able to help and haven’t let Elise Couchman know please contact the office by Monday afternoon.

We are very excited to host an Ace Radio outdoor broadcast as part of our sports day! This will be a great opportunity to promote our school, share the spirit of the day and add another sense of fun! Tune in between 10.00am and 1.00pm to hear students and parents talking about the day.

We are extremely grateful to Darren Groves at Landmark Harcourts for sponsoring the broadcast for the day and supporting our school community. Call in and see his wonderful team if you have any real estate needs.

Link Up!
Link Up assists families who have experienced loss, illness, sadness and celebration. A gentle knock on the door, friendly face and care package mean a great deal to those who have received assistance.

We solely rely on the generosity and compassion of parents, staff and friends of our school in order to provide this kind of support. Those families who have received Link Up parcels are so grateful – not just for the food but more for the fact that people care about them.

Thank you to those parents who have already generously provided food for our freezer:
- lasagne, quiche, cakes, slices, cupcakes,
- sausage rolls, soup, casseroles …

Food needs to be clearly labelled and dated in disposable containers.

Today at assembly we distributed foil baking pans and recipe bases and asked people to contribute. Please return your prepared goodies to school as soon as you can.

Learning Conversations
Our Learning Conversations (Parent/Teacher Interviews) are scheduled for Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th March. Appointment times are being sent home to all families today.

- This is an opportunity to have a discussion between parents, teachers and students relating to your child’s learning so far this year. It will also be a time to share learning directions and the results of Literacy and Numeracy testing conducted so far.

Landmark Harcourts
**Parish News**

**MASS TIMES – 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Saturday 6pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday 10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dunkeld</td>
<td>Sunday 8.30am</td>
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<td>Glen Thompson</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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**ST MARY’S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2018**

- Interested in being Baptised into God’s family in the Catholic Church? Please contact the Parish Office to have a conversation about how this can happen for you or your child – no matter what age!
- Reconciliation will be celebrated the evenings of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd March, the week before Holy Week.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place between Sunday the 25th Feb and Sunday 23rd March.
- Meeting for parents this Sunday 25th Feb at 9.30am (prior to 10.30am mass) at the Church
- Each Sunday at the 10:30am Mass, the children will look at the Gospels appropriate to Reconciliation during Children’s Liturgy of the Word.
- Thanks for returning your sacrament enrolment forms. We look forward to supporting your child’s journey throughout the year.

**Assembly**

Assemblies are held every second Friday
In our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.
Our next assembly will be Friday 9th March.
All welcome!

**Canteen Roster**

- 28/02/2018  Cass Young/Jodie Nicholson
- 07/03/2018  Volunteer needed
- 14/03/2018  Volunteer needed

- Can you help with our Canteen Roster?
- Please note that if there are no parent volunteers there will be no lunch orders available on that day.
- If you are interested in finding out what is involved, please contact the office.

**LIBRARY MONITORS - 2018**

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that Grace Cleaver, Mason Sheldrake, Isabella Holmes and Claire Pearce have applied for and accepted the position of Library Monitor for the year 2018. These students received their badges at assembly, today Friday, 23rd February, 2018. The families and friends of these children were invited and attended this assembly to witness the presentation of their badges and we thank them for supporting their children in this role.

I look forward to working with these students, to make our Library Resource Centre Learning Space, a vibrant and vital part of our wonderful school, St. Mary’s and I extend a heartfelt, congratulations to them all.

**Miss Kerry Stevens.**

**PASTORAL CARE**

Hello, I hope you are all settled back into your routines. Over the next few weeks I am going to share an article from Dr Justin Coulson, who is one of Australia’s leading experts in the areas of parenting, relationships and wellbeing. This first week is his introduction to his 7 Steps to Stressing Less in Parenting. If you would like to view on line the website is: www.happyfamilies.com.au/blog/7-steps-stressing-less-parenting/, I hope it will be of interest to you.

**7 Steps to Stressing Less in Parenting**

Of all the jobs in the world, parenting must be one of the toughest, most challenging, and most confronting things we can do. Children are hard to understand, and sometimes they feel impossible to control. We regularly feel overwhelmed and incapable of getting it right – especially on those bad days.

Just last week I was solo-parenting. My wife was away for a few days with a friend who was grieving the loss of her husband. I had the six kids and was feeling ok until... Sunday morning my three-year-old fed all the fish food to the fish. We had a big container with about a two-year supply. And apparently overfeeding fish can kill them! We have an outside pond and I spent twenty minutes with a kitchen strainer, fishing the food out of the pond in the cold.

I walked back into the house and discovered that she had opened the fireplace. I had removed the safety screen to get the fire started when I discovered the fish food issue and forgotten to place the screen back where it belonged. The fire was out and the fireplace was cold. The toddler saw this as a wonderful opportunity to cover the floor with ash, step in it, and run footprints all through the carpet!

At the same time, someone told me we were out of milk for breakfast, and I was now running late for a commitment. It was like something out of The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.

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At the same time, someone told me we were out of milk for breakfast, and I was now running late for a commitment. It was like something out of Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. (to be continued next week)

I wish you all a great week, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0400 994 032 if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards, Lisa Gonnet
Schools Pastoral care worker
THE SPORT CATCH UP

Coles Sport for Schools Program
Thank you for your overwhelming support! Our weekly tally is up to 2,780. Thank you to Kristi Lewis and her family who have been counting and updating the tally sheet in the Student Entry. There is a double ticket promotion over the weekend, if you need to stock the pantry.

Saturday Netball
The young Saintly Shepherds came up against a strong Hamilton North team last weekend. We were very impressed with growth and court position knowledge of last year’s players Chloe, Bella, Jayde and Emily. Ally Holmes impressed by playing terrifically in defence for her first ever game, taking lots of rebounds off the ring! It didn’t take Joseph Wormald long to pick up the game, taking lots of intercepts through the centre court. We have many Grade Two’s playing with us this year and we look forward to seeing their skills improve as each week progresses.

School Athletics Grade One to Six – Friday 2nd March
We cannot wait for this time next week!! Thank you for all the support you are giving your children and the school in preparation for a wonderful day! Please ensure that all Grade 1-6 students wear sports uniform on Friday, have sunscreen on and plenty of water and snacks are packed. The forecast is for a cloudy 24 degrees, which should be terrific!

We are very fortunate to have two AFL Western Bulldog players to help out at our school sports between 1pm – 2:30pm.

Little Athletics
Hugh and Imogen Fitzgerald spent last weekend representing Hamilton Little Athletics at Warrnambool in the Western Regions Track and Fields. They both had plenty of fun and performed very well with each gaining Personal Bests with each event. Imogen’s results were 3 Bronze Medals for Long Jump, Discus and 60m Hurdles. Hugh also came 5th in the 100m Final. Hugh’s results are Gold Medal for Shot Put, 4th in Triple Jump, 5th in 100m Final and 7th in the 60m Hurdles. Hugh now has qualified to represent Western Region in the State Track and Fields in Melbourne next month for Shot Put.

Hockey
Hookin2Hockey is the introductory program for new participants, giving them a fun safe environment to develop and learn the fundamentals of hockey. There will be 5 x 1 hour sessions provided in the program.

They will be each Thursday for the rest of this term at Pedrina Park from 4-5 pm. This will enable children to be ready to start the 2018 hockey season next term.

Centre: Glenelg Regional Hockey Association
Contact Name: Sofia Vearing
Contact Number: 0408849917
Email: svearing@monivae.vic.edu.au
Location: Pedrina Park, North Boundary Rd, Hamilton, VIC 3300
Start Date: Thursday, March 01, 2018
Time: 4:00pm
Web: www.glenelghockey.com
Additional Information: Register via www.hookin2hockey.com and enter 3300 into the finder. Then follow the links to register to our program.

We are thoroughly looking forward to a wonderful year of sport at St Mary’s. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any sport related queries or news at ecouchman@smhamilton.catholic.edu.au

Thank you in advance for your terrific support this year!

Miss Couchman 