

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

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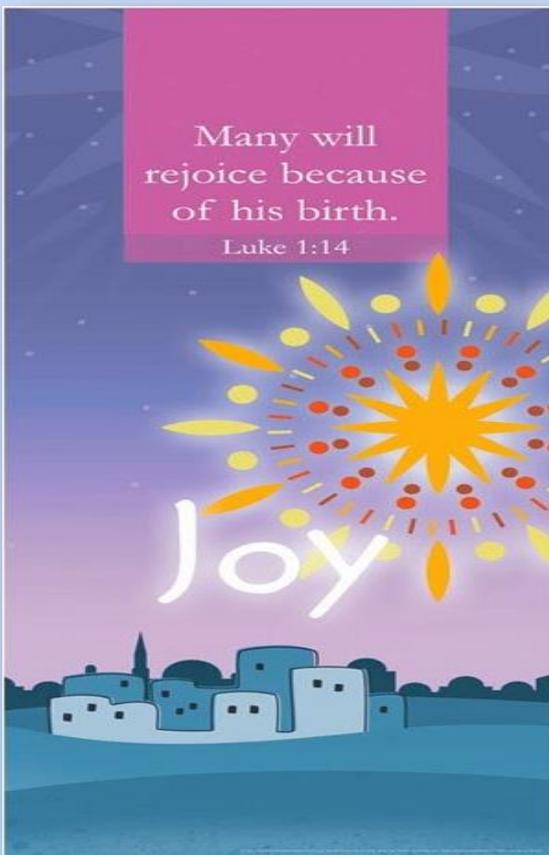
FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER, 2018

ISSUE 40

Third Sunday of Advent

Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. We prepare this week by feeling the joy. We move through this week feeling a part of the waiting world that rejoices because our longing has prepared us to believe the reign of God is close at hand.

Is it that I haven't seen you, God?
Have I been looking someplace else for you?
Or have my eyes been covered
by the distractions in my life?
And yet you are so faithful in your love for me.
I see now with a new vision and great hope,
because my heart is enraptured by your love.
I pray to you and feel the power of your coming,
like a light on the path before me
guiding me to return your love even more.
Let me raise my voice
with new courage and deep joy
to give you praise with my life.



Many will
rejoice because
of his birth.
Luke 1:14

*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)

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 15 th	<u>School Mass @ 6.00pm</u>
Tues 18 th	Gr 5/6 excursion
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

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2019

Tues 29 th Jan	Staff day
Wed 30 th Jan	Literacy assessments
Thurs 31 st Jan	Literacy assessments
Fri 1 st Feb	Pupil free day – staff professional learning
Mon 4 th Feb	First day of classes

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

Can you believe there is less than a week to go?! Today we are enjoying our swimming carnival over at the Monivae pool – Go Loreto!!

Please note that the final newsletter for the year will be sent home with students next Wednesday.

Thanks for a great week!
God bless you! ☺

To-Anne

End of Year Mass

Our mass to celebrate the end of the school year is **next 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 are to meet their classroom teachers in the Gathering Space no later than 5.45pm. They will sit with their class in the church.
- All parents and friends and families are invited to join us.
- Our Grade 6 students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates after the mass.
- As part of our community work at this special time of the year, each student is asked to bring along an item of food to place in the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal baskets.

Immediately following the mass:

- Our Grade 6 students will be farewelled and presented with their graduation certificates.
- Those parents who are leaving St Mary's will be presented with a certificate of appreciation. Parents will be asked to come forward to receive these certificates – please do not send children up for this important recognition of your contribution to our school.

- All students are required to remain for this part of our celebration.
- A cuppa will be provided at the conclusion – could all Gr 5 families please bring a plate to share? An open invitation is extended to all families and friends.

See you there!

Transition

Staff and students had an amazing day on Tuesday for their taste of learning for 2019! Thanks to the teachers for their careful preparation for this day and also to the students who were wonderful peer learners in their areas of the school.

2019 Planning

- Classroom teachers for 2019 are:

Grade	Teacher
Prep	Mrs Erin Wolfe
1/2	Mrs Lindy Cullinane & Miss Kerry Stevens
	Miss Ashleigh Watts
	Mrs Lisa Schurmann
3/4	Ms Tania Stevens
	Mrs Shelley Waters & Mrs Lauren Haeusler
5/6	Miss Elise Couchman
	Mrs Kim Pickford

Literacy Testing

Literacy testing appointments will be scheduled for the start of the 2019 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.

Thank you to those parents who indicated their preferred time. Appointment slips will be sent home with students next week and a reminder will be posted in mid-January.

Office hours

Please note our office will be closed 4pm Wednesday 19th December, 2018 and re-opening 8:30am Wednesday 30th January, 2019.

Wednesday 19th December – last day of school

- Students will participate in some fun whole school and area activities on this day as well as make sure that their learning space is clean and tidy for the end of the year.
- Students may wear casual clothes for a gold coin donation to support the parish Christmas lunch.
- Parents and friends are invited to join us for our final assembly at 2.20pm which will include the Grade 6 students presenting the Grade 5s with their leadership badges. We will also have a special farewell to our Grade 6s.
- Classes finish for students at the normal time of 3.15pm

Reports and Journals

- Reports are being sent home today with students. Reports are a formal way of communicating with you about your children's learning. They indicate progress and effort made over the last semester in all areas of the curriculum.
- Student journals will be sent home next Wednesday. These documents are a wonderful keepsake of the learning achieved by your children throughout the year.

Parish News**MASS TIMES – 2018**

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



Christmas MASS TIMES 2018

Monday 24th December
Hamilton - 6pm (family focus) & 8pm Vigil
 *Carols -1/2 hr before Christmas Eve Masses.

Dunkeld - 6pm Vigil
Penshurst - 7.30pm Vigil
Glenthompson - 7.30pm Vigil
Macarthur - No Service

Christmas Day - Tuesday 25th December
Hamilton - 9am

St Mary Mackillop, St Patricks, St Joseph's, St Thomas'
Hamilton Dunkeld Penshurst Glenthompson

Vinnies Christmas Appeal**Mini Vinnies**

A generous thankyou to all the families who have donated a gift/s to help brighten someone else's Christmas day who is less fortunate than us. Please remember to return your gift by today or bring to Mass on Saturday 15th December. Please gift wrap and attach the tag.

From the Mini Vinnies committee.

Tayla, Olivia, Grace, Bella, Liam, Isabelle, Claire, Felicity, Amy, Jack, Hugh, Koby, Josh and Miss Bond

Assembly

Our last assembly will be Wednesday 19th December
in our Learning Street @ 2.20pm.
All welcome!

Library News

Next week, Miss Stevens will be working with our Library Monitors to put all our Library books back on the Library shelves ready for next year, 2019.

All books borrowed from our Library Resource Centre this year are now due to be returned.

All students and families (especially the Grade 6 students) are asked to

- look around their homes for library books that may have been borrowed and forgotten about and to return them to school.
 - Place these books in the blue tub in the Library Resource Centre as soon as possible.
 - No questions will be asked.
 - Unfortunately, there are many books missing from our collection and several students have more than one outstanding loan.
 - If you are concerned about returning them because they are long overdue or because they have been damaged, please don't worry.
 - Bring them back.
 - Returns are always welcome despite what state they are in.
 - Damaged books can often be mended.
 - Miss Stevens has the correct mending supplies to repair the damaged books.
 - So, please look through your own book collection.
 - If you find any books with the St. Mary's barcode on the back, bring those books back to school straight away.
 - It is hoped that all students will start next year without any overdue loans.
 - Thank you to those of you who have already returned the books you have borrowed.
- Many Thanks in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

**Yours sincerely,
Library Miss Stevens**

THE SPORT CATCH UP**Junior School Athletics Morning**

On Monday 17th December the Prep – Grade Two children will be having their Athletics Day. 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!

Grade 6 Graduation dinner

Last Friday it was hot but it didn't take away the excitement to enjoy the Graduation Dinner for the Year 6's, have a dance and of course takes lots of photos using the photo booth. A special thank you must go to Bek Hill who organised the photo booth and made that wonderful frame. Also I would like to thank Corinne Raymond who helped with the decorations along with Bek Hill.

All the best for the Year 6's as their education journey continues into secondary and I hope you all enjoyed your night. Merry Christmas  **Kylie Tonissen**



PASTORAL CARE

Hello this is the final week of term 4 and we will conclude the "Ways to build healthy family relationships" article taken from the Kids Matter website.

3. Working together as a family

Discussing things as a family is often very helpful for dealing with concerns and finding solutions to problems that come up. It is also helpful to have family discussions when planning something fun for the whole family to do. Working together as a family helps everyone feel that they have something important to offer. This helps create a sense of belonging in the family and strengthens family bonds.

These strategies may help families work together:

Communicate clear expectations:

Talk together so there is an opportunity to explain roles and expectations. Clear boundaries for children's behaviour helps them understand what they need to do and what will happen if they do not follow these boundaries.

Talk about the good stuff:

It is helpful to talk about what is working well in family relationships.

Have family discussions:

This gives the family a chance to talk about both the little things and the big things. Discussions can be very short or long, spontaneous or planned, depending on what needs to be talked about and how long very young children can focus for. It can be used to decide on family chores, house rules or plan family activities and outings. Trust can be built during family

discussions by respecting and listening to everyone's views without judging or putting them down. For children who are able to talk, let them also have a say. Encourage children as well as adults to hear and understand each other's views and needs.

Include children in decisions:

Even very young children can be included in decision making. Provide a couple of options and say 'Which one?', to help them pick. This decision making helps the children feel valued and important.

Some ideas on how to use family discussions:

- Setting up a chores roster.
- Saying things you would like to happen (e.g., Tina wants more time to play with mum or dad wants more hellos and hugs).
- Setting up the house rules.
- Planning a zoo outing and which exhibits to look at.
- Having everyday family fun (e.g., card games or making pizza (together)).
- Resolving a conflict that has occurred between all siblings.

Discussing things as a family can encourage children as well as adults to solve problems creatively. Addressing and solving problems supportively helps to strengthen family relationships. For example, once mum understands that Tina just wants to play with her and is not just resisting bedtime, they can talk together about planning special time each day. Having a chance to express needs in positive ways encourages healthy communication, support and cooperation.

Using a family problem-solving approach helps to avoid blaming, is supportive of family members and builds togetherness. It is also a very effective way of helping children learn skills for managing conflict, solving tricky situations and decision making that can be used in many different situations.

Problem solving

The problem-solving process involves:

- Identifying the problem that needs to be solved, rather than judging the person
- Making sure that everyone's concerns are listened to
- Coming up with a range of options or alternatives and thinking them through together
- Choosing and reaching a family agreement for a solution or action plan
- Trying out the action plan and checking how it has gone.

Once again I hope this has been of interest.

I will be taking some time off work but expect to be in the Hamilton office at the Mary Knoll centre from mid-January. If you should wish to make an appointment please call the number below.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe Christmas season.

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