

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

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WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER, 2018

ISSUE 41

A Christmas Blessing!

During this Christmas Season
May you be blessed
With the spirit of the season
which is peace,
The gladness of the season
which is hope,
And the heart of the season
which is love!



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Students and Friends,

I actually don't know how to start writing this newsletter – I have been looking at the page for most of the afternoon and (for a change) the words escape me.

With many 'lasts' over the past week, this is the last newsletter for the year! And the last one from me!

The past year has been a whirlwind at times but has also been one where we have seen amazing growth all around us. As a school community, we can be proud of the improvements we have seen in every single student! Our expectation is not that every student is the same but that each one is given every opportunity to develop attitudes, skills and knowledge that will support them to be the best learner and best person they can possibly be.

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Wed 19th Normal finish time @ 3.15pm
Office closes @ 4.00pm
Thurs 20th Pupil free day
Last day for staff

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2019

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

In our profession as educators we are blessed to be given the task of working with amazing kids each day! and their amazing parents/carers give us just as much joy.

I think in a nutshell what I would like and need to say is a huge thanks. Thank you for welcoming me into this community eleven years ago. Thanks for trusting me to lead you on a learning journey. Thanks for working with me to shape and mould your school. I have been so fortunate to have had the opportunities afforded to me at St Mary's and will take all that I have learned to my next role.

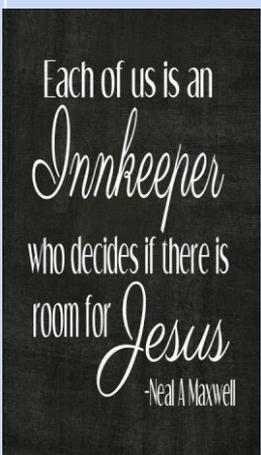
Please always remember how wonderful your school is and how each and every staff member cares deeply for your kids and works so hard each and every day to give them the very best they can – the best care, the best lessons, the best support, the best...

Every blessing and best wish to Terrielynn who is taking on an amazing role amongst you next year. People often see the hard work and the stress of the principal role. I wish you could also see the joy and the satisfaction it brings! She is very lucky!

Please also remember that our school is part of a very special faith community. Fr Paddy is an exceptional shepherd and has a deep and genuine concern for every single member of the community. You are very fortunate to have him amongst you and I treasure the chance I have had to sit by his side and learn more about myself.

Farewell to our Grade 6 students as they head off into the exciting world of secondary education. I hope that the spirit of St Mary's is carried with you and inspires you. Best wishes for all that you commit your effort and enthusiasm to in life!

It is also fitting to farewell families who conclude their time with us. To these parents – thank you for your valuable contributions to St Mary's.



Finally, I would like to wish all of our St Mary's staff, students, parents, families and friends a very holy and peaceful Christmas. Please take the time to enjoy being in each other's presence and celebrating the real meaning of this beautiful liturgical season. It is a time of year that should bring us new strength and hope in ourselves, each other and all that we hold close – especially our faith.

In the busy schedules of your lives please take the time at Christmas to reflect on the story of Jesus' birth and the gift that his life and teachings provide for us. Mass times in our Parish for Christmas are included in this newsletter. Your presence would be warmly received! If you are going away for Christmas check out the local church – their celebration times are bound to be displayed.

**Thanks for a great 11 years!
God bless you! ☺**

Jo-Anne

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 |

- John Healy will continue to provide learning opportunities in the curriculum areas of Indonesian, Digital Technologies (Semester 1) and Music and Drama (Semester 2)
- Shelley Waters will work with students in their learning relating to the Visual Arts
- Kerry Stevens will provide students with access to the world of the library and support them in using the resources available.
- Catherine Egan will join our teaching team, working in the Grade 1/2 and 5/6 areas.

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 today 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.

End of Year Mass

Thank you so much for your attendance and participation in our mass to celebrate the wonderful school year we have enjoyed. It was a very special way to give thanks for the opportunities provided to us and the people who make up our community.

Swimming Carnival

What an amazing time we had at our Swimming Carnival last Friday. Elise Couchman did an outstanding job of organising a great day and a program that allowed everyone to have a go! Congratulations to all students who participated – I was very impressed with your enthusiasm, sportsmanship and have-a-go attitude. Thank you so much to the large number of parents who came along to help and to cheer. Well done to Rosaria for winning the shield! (Next year Loreto!)

Reports and Journals

- Reports were sent home last week 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 are coming home with students today. 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 |

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 Meckillop, St Patricks, St Joseph's, St Thomas'
 Hamilton Dunkeld Penshurst Glenthompson

Assembly

Our first 2019 assembly will be Friday 15th February, 2019
 in our Learning Street @ 2.40pm.
 All welcome!

THE SPORT CATCH UP

Swimming Carnival

We had a fabulous Swimming Carnival on Friday. Everyone gave their events 110% and there were terrific displays of sportsmanship across the day. It was certainly a wonderful day to be a part of! Thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and other family members who came on the day, it was fantastic to have so many supporters! Thank you to all the staff who made sure the day went swimmingly. We were overwhelmed with parent helpers on the day. A special thank you to Cass Young, Matt Dunn, Monique Sobey, Jodie Nicholson, Mel Gardner, Tam Milne, Jessica Beattie, Corrine Raymond, Jonathan Rowe, Rachael Rowe, Casey Rook, Kylie Tonissen, Rhett Beattie and Alisa Houlihan for all their help, support and expertise on the day! Thank you to Sarah Byron for being our lifeguard on the day, but also for all the organisation and extra hours she did behind the scenes setting up the pool. We also thank Monivae for the use of their facilities, we are very grateful to have such a wonderful relationship with Monivae.

Rosaria for the third year in a row won the Swimming Carnival Shield on 233 points, followed by Lourdes on 195, Fatima were 3rd with 153 points and Loreto came in at 4th with 106 points!

Our Swimming Age Champions for 2018 were:

| 9 Year Boys | 9 Year Girls |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1st Seamus Bryon | 1st Holly Rook |
| 2 nd Hamish Button | 2 nd Lily Raymond |
| 3 rd Austin Sobey | 3 rd Charlie Young |

| 10 Year Boys | 10 Year Girls |
|--|--|
| 1st Jack Sobey | 1st Griet Rowe |
| 2 nd Will Baker | 2 nd Olivia Houlihan |
| 3 rd Zane Piper & Fergus McDonald | 3 rd Kellies San Ba & Claire Pearce |

| 11 Year Boys | 11 Year Girls |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Hugh Fitzgerald | 1st Grace Cleaver |
| 2 nd Alex Gunning & Josh Gardner | 2 nd Amy Shelly |
| 3 rd Jack Roberts | 3 rd Bridget Mailes |

| 12 Year Boys | 12 Year Girls |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st Clay Fitzgerald | 1st Stella Raymond |
| 2 nd Chris Wormald | 2 nd Macey Bowie |
| 3 rd Nick Trotter | 3 rd Felicity Watson |



Ruby Fitzpatrick and Charlie Young. We are especially thankful for Will Bester and Ryan Hilsdon from Tarrington who joined us this year. These two boys were incredible athletes and provided terrific leadership to the younger players. Thank you to all the parents for the support and encouragement they gave to the team.



We had three amazing players in the Under 13s competition: Isabelle Schaap, Ava Nicholson and Bella Holmes. Each week they played, these girls had a huge smile on their face. You did a remarkable job girls and I hope you enjoyed playing against some older and stronger competition which helps to improve and strengthen your netball skills. Thank you to College Lightning and Jody Ogle for allowing the girls to join their team. Thank you to their wonderful parents for all the support they provided this season.

Rosaria



Rosaria

Junior Athletics Morning

What an amazing morning had by everyone at the Junior Athletics Day on Monday! The Preps absolutely loved having their Grade 1/2 role models inspiring them during the day, as well as their Grade Five and Six Buddies organising each of the exciting events. The Senior students displayed remarkable leadership throughout the morning. A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers that came to support the children - there were a lot of happy little athletic superstars thrilled to perform in front of a large crowd!

Saturday Netball

It was a joy to be involved with the Saturday Morning netball this term!

It was fantastic to see the Under 11s improve their skills each week and gain a stronger grasp of the rules and game play. Thank you to Shauna Beattie and Hayley Wilson who volunteered their time and efforts to be umpires this season. The fabulous Saintly Tarros, who had a very successful season, were: Sophie Kulboer, Kia Willis, Ally Holmes, Hazel Clarkson and Emily Beattie. We also had many wonderful fill-in players over the season: Imogen Fitzgerald, Shannon Mhasho,



Thank you for a remarkable year of sport everyone! I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Try your best to have an active lifestyle over the summer. I can't wait to see what sporting adventures 2019 will bring!

Miss Couchman ©