

St. Mary's Primary School is committed to the safety and welfare of all children, within a secure environment. All children have a right to be treated with respect and to be protected from abuse and harm. This school supports the Child Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 870) and actively seeks to ensure that all students are kept safe from all forms of harm at all times.



St. Mary's School Newsletter

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Term 1 - February 3rd 2022 No.1

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 school year! It's certainly been an interesting and highly anticipated start given the changing COVID situation and media speculation over the holidays. It was great to see the children's smiling faces coming through the gate, ready to reunite with friends, make new friendships and learn at school. We have welcomed two Foundation children, Harry & Hazel, who have joined our St Mary's community and we look forward to sharing the journey of primary school with them. In addition, we have also welcomed our new staff, Tayla Fenwick & Adele George, to our school and again we look forward to welcoming them and working together. I'm looking forward to seeing our school together at our Beginning of the Year Mass next Thursday.

I have endeavoured to keep the community up to date with COVID information as it comes to hand. Please pay particular attention to the requirements surrounding visitors, checking in, vaccinations, masks and Rapid Antigen testing procedures.

Most importantly, children with any Covid-19 symptoms should be tested for Covid-19 and kept at home, even if they test negative on a rapid antigen test, until their symptoms subside. If your child becomes sick while at school, they will be sent straight to the sickbay and you will be called to come and pick them up.

CALENDAR

February

Wed 9th	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs 10th	Beginning of Year Mass - 10am Sacrament Preparation Meeting #1 - 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Mon 14th	School Council Meeting - 7pm
Wed 16th	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs 17th	Whole School Swimming & Gym Sacrament Preparation Meeting #2 - 3:30pm-4:30pm
Wed 23rd	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs 24th	Whole School Swimming & Gym Sacrament Preparation Meeting #3 - 3:30pm-4:30pm
Fri 25th	P&F Meeting - 2pm Assembly - 3pm

We value communication at St Mary's and strive to keep the community up to date. Emails will often be sent out and messages sent to your PAM account. Please consider downloading the SIMON Everywhere app to get quick access to school updates and information. If you need to discuss an issue or concern please contact your child's classroom teacher and an appointment may be made.

If you haven't done so already, I now put a call out to families to please return completed information packs and ICT agreements ASAP. We are legally required to collect this information and it is vital for the smooth running of the school. If you've misplaced your information pack from the end of last year, please contact Sandra in the Office.

Our School Advisory Council will meet for the first time in 2022 on Monday 14th February.

The Gospel for this weekend focuses on Jesus calling his first disciples. Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse! Let us answer the call this year.

Kim Carter
Principal

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

MASS TIMES

St Peter's, Bridgewater

1st Sunday of the Month, 8:00am

St Mary's, Inglewood

Each other Sunday of the Month, 8:00am

Every Thursday, 9:15am



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Beginning of the Year Mass

Thursday 10th February

10:00am

St Mary's Church

Please remember to use the QR Code to check in and show your vaccination status to the COVID Marshals.

SACRAMENTS

Earlier this week, a letter was sent home to families regarding the Reconciliation Sacrament Program. This program is open to Baptised Catholic children who are in Grade 3 and above, and older children who have not completed the program but wish to do so. This is a Parish-based program, led by Father Stephen Bolling. A parent/guardian is asked to attend the preparation sessions with their child. If you missed the note, or if you would like more information, please speak with Mrs Carter or Father Stephen.

SCHOOL NEWS

2022 SCHOOL TERM DATES:




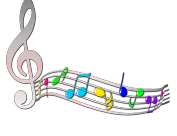

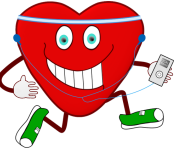
Term 1: Friday 28th January - Friday 8th April * Friday 28th January - Staff First Day * Monday 31st January - All Students Begin	Term 3: Monday 11th July - Friday 16th September
Term 2: Tuesday 26th April - Friday 24th June	Term 4: Monday 3rd October - Friday 16th December * Wednesday 14th December - Students Last Day * Friday 16th December - Staff Last Day

2022 PUPIL FREE DAYS:

Please jot the following Pupil Free Days down on your calendar. Please note that these dates are subject to change based on government, school or Catholic Education Sandhurst requirements:

- Friday 28th January (Staff Induction & Planning)
- Friday 11th March (Staff Spirituality - Indigenous Perspectives)
- Monday 30th May (Level 2 First Aid)
- Friday 19th August (Learner Diversity - NCCD)
- Monday 31st October (Report Writing Day)
- Thursday 15th December (2023 Planning Day)
- Friday 16th December (Staff Last Day)

SPECIALIST DAYS:

	Sport 	Library 	Visual Arts 	Performance Arts 	Indonesian 	Health 
Foundation - Grade 2	Tuesday & Friday	Friday	Monday	Friday	Friday	Tuesday
Grades 3 - 6	Tuesday & Friday	Friday	Monday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday

WHOLE SCHOOL SWIMMING & GYMNASTICS PROGRAM:

We were very excited to get the green light to run our whole school swimming and gymnastics program. Parents are asked to complete the permission forms and update student medical profiles on PAM. Any students without permission or a valid medical profile will be unable to attend the excursions. Please note, due to the gap in dates between the 5th and 6th weeks of the program, there are two excursion forms that need to be completed on PAM.

2022 SWIMMING & GYM PROGRAM DATES

Thursday 17th February
Thursday 24th February
Thursday 3rd March
Thursday 10th March
Thursday 17th March
Thursday 31st March



**THE JUNGLE BOOK IS COMING
TO ST MARY'S THIS YEAR!**

We are delighted to announce that our Whole School Production will take place this year in Term Three! Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks via the Newsletter.

THANK YOU:

A very special thank you goes to community members who have worked hard throughout the holidays to help keep our school looking terrific and the chickens alive! A special mention to the McEwan's who chook-sat the chickens over the holidays, the Birthisel family (Just Trees) for trimming the trees and cleaning the gutters, Shane Maxwell (Central Vic Horticultural and Landscaping Services) for maintaining our gardens and making sure we have the best looking oval in Inglewood, Tony Smith for his ongoing maintenance efforts and Ken Nott for making sure our bins went out each week.

**CONVENT / SPECIALIST LEARNING AREA UPDATE:**

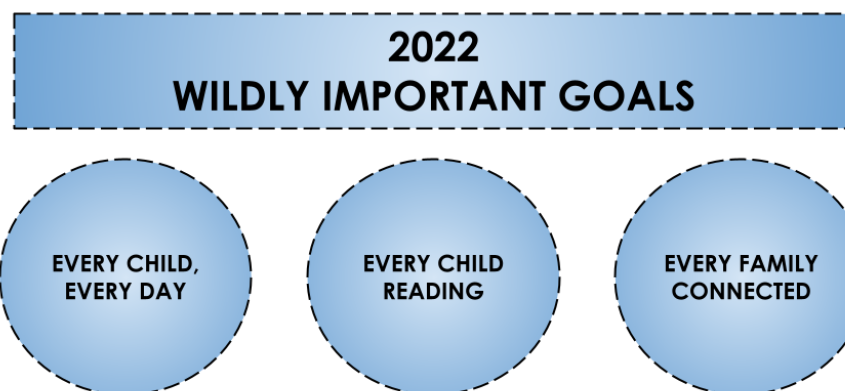
We're on the home straight now with the refurbishment of the new Specialist Learning Area. Painting has been completed and cabinetry installed. The builders have experienced some hold ups in regards to the supply of flooring, etc. but remain hopeful of completing the project by the end of the month. We've penciled in an Official Opening and Blessing ceremony for 10am on Wednesday 1st June. Please add it to your diary.






What's happening this fortnight in PREP - GRADE 2	
Religion	I can talk to God
English	Holiday recounts Identifying similarities between different types of texts
Maths	Place Value
Personal Learning	Personal and Social Capabilities
RRRR	Personal Strengths
Performance Arts	An Introduction to our Whole School Production this year
Visual Arts	The Colour Wheel & Elements of Art
Health	As part of our topic 'This is Me', we are learning about the things that make us special with a focus on celebrating our similarities and differences.
Sport	For the next two weeks we will be participating in an AFL Clinic at school.
Indonesian	Indonesia the country

What's happening this fortnight in GRADE 3 - 6	
Religion	People of Prayer
English	Writing for an intended audience Asking questions to gain further information
Maths	Place Value
Personal Learning	Australia Day
RRRR	Personal Strengths
Performance Arts	An Introduction to our Whole School Production this year
Visual Arts	Personal Area Code Project
Health	My Identity- Character Strengths
Sport	For the next two weeks we will be participating in an AFL Clinic at school.
Indonesian	Indonesia the country

2022 WILDLY IMPORTANT GOALS:










	<p>WHAT WILL THIS INITIALLY LOOK LIKE?</p> <p>Attendance Promotion: Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.</p>
	<p>WHAT WILL THIS INITIALLY LOOK LIKE?</p> <p>Daily Community Reading Time: Each morning, the bell will ring at 8:45am to signal the start of our morning Community Reading time. Whenever possible, parents are asked to join us for our Community Reading sessions and listen to your child read. There will be staff available to listen to children read on days when parents/guardians are unable to come in.</p> <p>Literacy Support: This year, classes will have additional literacy support in the classroom, with most literacy sessions having two adults present supporting children.</p> <p>Professional Learning: Teaching staff will be undertaking a six week professional learning masterclass based on the Science of Learning, Reading and Writing.</p>
	<p>WHAT WILL THIS INITIALLY LOOK LIKE?</p> <p>Community Reading: Families will have the opportunity to connect with each other and the school during our Community Reading Time.</p> <p>Community Room: After reading with your child in the morning, stop by the new Community Kitchen in the Convent for a cuppa and a chat. We're working to set up a free community library and Food Bank which will be housed in the Community Room.</p> <p>Additional Learning Conversations: This year, we will move to termly Learning Conversations (Parent Teacher Interviews). These regular conversations will promote discussion regarding student learning progress and allow for the co-creation and monitoring of individual learning goals.</p>

COVID PREVENTION & INFECTION CONTROL:

We all have a place to play in creating a COVID-Safe space. Many letters have been sent out recently relating to current guidelines and expectations regarding testing requirements, masks and vaccinations, etc. Please double check these letters to ensure you're clear on the requirements. The spaces where staff and students teach, learn and play have an important role in protecting against COVID-19 transmission. It is important that any staff member or student who becomes unwell while at school gets tested and returns home.

We will continue to be guided by Federal, State and Catholic Education guidelines and policies relating to the prevention and response to COVID situations. In addition, the following is a quick reference guide to other illnesses outside of coronavirus related symptoms:

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I have a FEVER	I am VOMITING	I have DIARRHOEA	I have a RASH	I have HEAD LICE	I have an EYE INFECTION	I have been in HOSPITAL
						
Temperature of 38.5 degrees or higher	Within in the past 24 hours	Within the past 24 hours	Body rash with itching or fever	Itchy head, active (live) head lice	Redness, itching and/or 'crusty' discharge from eye	Hospital stay and/or ED visit

I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. e.g. Panadol, Nurofen	Free from vomiting for at least 2 solid meals.	Free from diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Free from rash, itching or fever. Student has been evaluated by a doctor if needed.	Treated with appropriate lice treatment at home.	Exclude until discharge has ceased. Evaluated by a doctor.	Released by medical practitioner to return to school.
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COVID HOME LEARNING MATERIALS:

In the coming days, students will be given a Home Learning Material matrix filled with learning activities that can be completed at times throughout the year when children may need to stay home or isolate due to COVID. If this happens to you, please use the matrix as a guide of school activities that you could do at home. Children are asked to complete the activities that are easily accessible to you and your family. They don't have to complete technology-based activities if you don't already have a device at home. If you have any questions about the activities listed, please contact your classroom teacher.

SUN SMART REMINDERS:

Just a reminder that school hats are to be worn by all students during Terms 1 and 4 (and during Terms 2 and 3 when the UV Rating is 3 or higher). Students without hats are to sit or play quietly in the shade near the bag lockers. Students can supply and apply their own sunscreen if desired.





CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS

In order to prepare for the language & learning demands of the school environment, children need ample time and opportunity to engage in meaningful interactions with their family.

Research suggests that the types of questions we ask and the quality of discussions we have with our children, from a very young age, are linked to school success. As children progress through the grades they must learn to use extended discourse in telling stories, giving explanations, reporting, expressing an opinion or writing an essay. Asking children "if, why and how" type questions allows them to deepen their thinking and prepare longer and more complex responses. It makes sense to build their confidence with extended discourse gradually, beginning with simple oral tasks.



In each fortnightly newsletter this year, our school's Speech Pathologist will provide some "family friendly", fun activities aimed to enhance all students' learning and literacy skills.

We encourage you to set some time aside each week so that you can get the most out of your interactions with your child. In a busy household, sometimes the car is the best place for these focused activities. The key ingredients for a creative interaction are a time, a place, a willing talking partner or audience and an engaging topic or activity.

Positive communication experiences at home help children feel accepted and valued. Growth in spoken language skills will build children's self-confidence and help them learn to negotiate social interactions at school. This often transfers to other aspects of their learning and life.

You will also note that there are many links to recommended websites, apps and other technology resources. Whilst we suggest these technology-based activities, they are not essential to language and literacy learning. So much learning can come from the quality interactions you have with your child around a book, a movie or a simple board game.

Ten activities will be provided each term focusing on key areas of oral language supporting literacy, learning and socialising. Feel free to adjust these activities according to your child's grade level.

The following link is to the most comprehensive website available that provides parents with activities that are free, easily accessible and enjoyable. Each activity has been carefully selected to reflect the highest quality, up-to-date research evidence on early literacy development. There is also advice for parents who are concerned about their child's reading and language development.

<http://www.fivefromfive.org.au/parent-resources/>

If you have any questions you can contact Sheryn Long, Speech Pathologist through the School's Learner Diversity Coordinator, Kim Carter.

Good luck and most importantly, enjoy this very special time with your child.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BRIDGEWATER BAKERY:

The Bridgewater Bakery has contacted us and have increased their prices for this year (the first price rise since 2014). Could you please make the following adjustments to the lunch order envelopes that have already been sent home. We will get some new envelopes printed with the new prices and send them home in the near future.

Lunch orders need to be placed on Wednesday, ready for delivery on Thursday using cash only. The Bakery has requested that parents do not drop any order off directly to the bakery and are unable to process any lunch orders via card as the prices they do for school lunches are well under the bakery prices and cannot be processed through the tills.

BRIDGEWATER BAKEHOUSE LUNCH LIST

Bread and rolls can be either, White, Wholemeal or Multigrain – Please specify what you want on the order form. Thanks

***(Please also note: these are special primary school prices)**

Fresh Sandwiches Or Rolls (specify type of bread otherwise given white)		
\$	3.30	Ham Cheese
\$	4.50	Ham Cheese Tomato Lettuce Carrot Beetroot Mayonnaise
\$	4.50	Chicken Cheese Tomato Lettuce Carrot Beetroot Mayonnaise
\$	3.50	Egg Lettuce
\$	2.50	Vegemite Cheese
Hot Food		
\$	2.70	Hot Dog
\$	2.80	Plain Pie
\$	3.30	Special Pie-Random
\$	2.70	Pastie
\$	2.00	Sausage Roll
\$	1.30	Party Pie or Party Sausage Roll
\$	3.50	Toasted Ham Cheese Sandwich
\$	3.80	Toasted Ham Cheese Croissant
Other Items (not heated)		

\$ 2.20	Vegemite Scroll
\$ 2.50	Ham/Pineapple Pizza
\$ 2.00	Cheese & Bacon Roll
Cakes and Slices	
\$ 2.60	Muffin: Choc Chip, Blueberry, Orange & Poppyseed
\$ 1.50	Donut: Iced or Cinnamon
\$ 2.00	Jam Donut (Hot or Cold)
\$ 3.00	Slice: Vanilla, Hedgehog, Jelly
Drinks	
\$2.50	Nippy's Chocolate, Strawberry, Banana, Iced Coffee
\$2.50	Juice 250ml Orange, Apple, Apple & Blackcurrant

THE TERRIFIC TEAM FOR 2022



Louise Murray, Kim Carter, Franceen Innes, Tayla Fenwick, Cath Williams, Adele George & Sandra Coffey

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Department of Education and Training



Education
and Training

50 Questions To Ask Your Kids Instead Of Asking “How Was Your Day”

1. What made you smile today?
2. Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
3. Was there an example of unkindness? How did you respond?
4. Does everyone have a friend at recess?
5. What was the book about that your teacher read?
6. What's the word of the week?
7. Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?
8. Did anyone cry?
9. What did you do that was creative?
10. What is the most popular game at recess?
11. What was the best thing that happened today?
12. Did you help anyone today?
13. Did you tell anyone “thank you?”
14. Who did you sit with at lunch?
15. What made you laugh?
16. Did you learn something you didn't understand?
17. Who inspired you today?
18. What was the peak and the pit?
19. What was your least favourite part of the day?
20. Was anyone in your class gone today?
21. Did you ever feel unsafe?
22. What is something you heard that surprised you?
23. What is something you saw that made you think?
24. Who did you play with today?
25. Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
26. What is something that challenged you?
27. How did someone fill your bucket today? Whose bucket did you fill?
28. Did you like your lunch?
29. Rate your day on a scale from 1-10.
30. Did anyone get in trouble today?
31. How were you brave today?
32. What questions did you ask at school today?
33. Tell us your top two things from the day (before you can be excused from the dinner table!).
34. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
35. What are you reading?
36. What was the hardest rule to follow today?
37. Teach me something I don't know.
38. If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
39. (For older kids): Do you feel prepared for your history test?” or, “Is there anything on your mind that you'd like to talk about?” (In my opinion, the key is not only the way a question is phrased, but responding in a supportive way.)
40. Who did you share your snacks with at lunch?
41. What made your teacher smile? What made her frown?
42. What kind of person were you today?
43. What made you feel happy?
44. What made you feel proud?
45. What made you feel loved?
46. Did you learn any new words today?
47. What do you hope to do before school is out for the year?
48. If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
49. What is your least favourite part of the school building? And favourite?
50. If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

By [Leslie Means](#)

SIMON EVERYWHERE!

St Mary's now has access to the SIMON Everywhere App! SIMON Everywhere allows parents to access their Parent Access Module (PAM) accounts via an easy to use, single sign-in app.

Through PAM, parents are able to access newsletters, student reports, assessment reports, learning area rubrics, update student medical profiles, make a Parent-Teacher Conversation bookings and create a Parent Notified Absence.

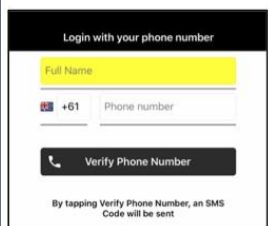
To access SIMON Everywhere on your mobile device, please follow the following steps:



STEP 1: Download the SIMON Everywhere App from your App Store.



STEP 2: Allow SIMON Everywhere to send you Notifications. Potential notifications include requests to update medical information and excursion information.



STEP 3: Login and Verify a new account with your mobile phone number.

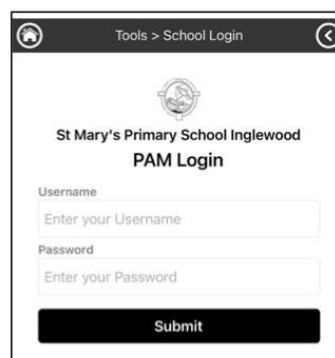


STEP 4: Click on "Add School".



STEP 5: Choose St Mary's from the School List.

STEP 6: Log into PAM using your usual PAM account details.



You can now use the Home button to navigate yourself through your PAM account and to view School Notifications.

Don't forget to update contact and medical details when required.

