

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 1359) 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 - March 2nd 2023 No.3

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Last week, we came together as a school and parish community to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Mass. On Tuesday, the Grade 6's assisted staff with providing the school community with pancakes. As discussed in my previous address, Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Christian season of Lent. It is a time of prayer, fasting and giving to others (almsgiving). Through prayer, we come closer to God so that we are better able to realise our baptismal promise to live justly as Jesus teaches us. Fasting joins us in solidarity with the poor who often have no choice but to go without basic needs. Almsgiving is a sign of our commitment to justice and to follow Christ's mission. As we enter into our second week of Lent, we are reminded to place our thoughts with others and to serve those in need.

This week's Gospel from Matthew 17:1-9, refers to the transfiguration when Jesus took his disciples to the mountain where Moses and Elijah appeared. We are reminded here how Jesus is showing his disciples that he is the divine prophet and the Son of God, in order to strengthen their faith for what is to come.

On Thursday 9th March St Mary's will hold our first school closure day. All staff will be attending a professional development day including a combination of faith formation and professional learning. Teachers will be enriched by unpacking the Gospel of Matthew along with developing units of work using best practice pedagogy.

Years 3 and 5 students will be taking part in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) from March 15th. Participating students will complete assessments for Writing, Reading, Language Conventions and Numeracy. Although we do not teach to the tests, we do prepare students to allow for greater success on the day.

Personally, I would like to thank the McLean-Hecker and Ngo families for their time here at St Mary's as they relocate from Inglewood. We pray Ciara, Suzie and Huy enjoy their settings and welcome them back next time they visit Inglewood.

Stephen O'Shannessy

Principal

CALENDAR

TERM 1, 2023	
Friday 3rd March	Gym & Swimming P-6
Monday 6th March	Awards Assembly 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday 8th March	Confirmation Preparation Meeting 3.30 pm - 4.15 pm
Thursday 9th March	PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff Religious Development Day)
Friday 10th March	Gym & Swimming P-6
Monday 13th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 15th -20th March	NAPLAN Testing
Friday 17th March	Gym & Swimming P-6
Sunday 19th March	Sacrament of Confirmation 9:15 a.m.
Monday 20th March	Harmony Day Assembly 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th March	Grade 5-6 Camp - Cave Hill Creek
Friday 31st March	Cross Country/Junior Fun Day
Tuesday 4th April	Caritas Casual Clothes Day
Thursday 6th April	Wedderburn College Fete Last Day of Term 1 - 2.20 pm finish
Friday 7th April	Good Friday
Sunday 9th April	Easter Sunday
TERM 2, 2023	
Monday 24th April	First Day of Term 2
Tuesday 25th April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday 11:00 ANZAC Service
Monday 1st May	Grade 5-6 Leadership Day - Echuca
Monday 1st - Friday 5th May	Catholic Education Week
Sunday 7th May	Run for Resilience - Bridgewater

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
Wednesdays, 9.15am



The theme of Project Compassion 2023 is 'For All Future Generations'. It is an expression of hope and reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. This year, the theme asks us to think about the great 'yes' that Mary spoke when the angel told her she was to become the mother of Jesus. She freely accepted God's invitation to take up a unique place in the history of the human family.



For the remainder of the term, St Mary's Catholic Primary will be taking up fundraising initiatives to help raise funds which go towards communities in Australia, Nepal, Zimbabwe and Vietnam. Students will also become involved in acts of service.

How your money can help?

IN NEPAL...

\$25

can allow students access to supplies for drawing and art in Nepal.

\$50

can help support training for child's club management in Nepal.

\$500

can provide tree planting and gardening around school premises in Nepal.

\$3,000

can provide materials to establish a school library for students in Nepal.

IN VIETNAM...

\$25

can support ongoing sharing and support meetings for five people with disabilities clubs (around 410 participants) in Vietnam.

\$50

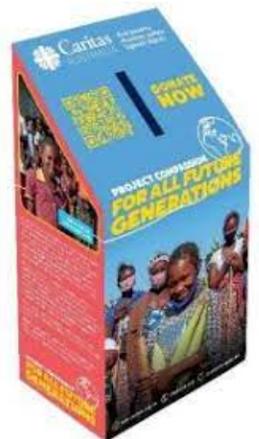
can provide specialised rehabilitation devices for people living with disabilities in Vietnam.

\$2,000

can support households with the costs of early intervention disability screenings in Vietnam.

\$5,000

can provide multiple households with home-based medical visits 2-3 days a month for 12 months in Vietnam.



STUDENT AWARDS



Year F-3 Fenwick:
Year 4-6 Ibu Cath:

Nakodah McEwan
Jenson Birthisel

Nano Nagel:

Abby Wilson



SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 5/6 Camp

The Grade 5/6 Camp will again be shared with students and teachers from St Liborius, Eaglehawk. Students will be travelling by bus, leaving from St Liborius Primary School at 8.30am on Wednesday 22nd March and returning to St Liborius by 2.30pm on Friday 24th March. Students will need to arrange their own transport to and from St Liborius on these days.



Wonder White Recycle

St Mary's Primary school is getting involved with the Wonder White Recycle, Earn and Play program. The program is an initiative that teaches children all about recycling. Our school community will collect bread bags and drop them off in collection boxes which we will place within the community (locations will be announced at a later date). For every bin our school returns, we are rewarded with points which we can exchange for new sports equipment at the end of the program. The program does not begin until term 2 but it would be amazing if our school could start collecting bread bags now to get prepared for the collection bins.

We are so excited to be a part of this initiative this year and we cannot wait to begin. More information will be sent home towards the end of term 1.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Name: Adele George

Position at School: Learning Support Officer/ ICT Support

Hobbies: Reading, listening to music, spending time with my family, livestock husbandry (I care for and breed goats, alpacas, chickens, ducks and quails). Baking and building Lego Architecture sets.

What do you like about St Mary's?: St Mary's is a wonderful community of people committed to building strong and resilient learners that will become considerate and respectful citizens of the world. I love that all of the staff and students genuinely care about each other and their community.

Favourite Book/Music: I have very eclectic tastes in both music and literature. I tend to listen to 90's and early 2000's music from all genres. My current favourite books are alternative Disney stories, and I am reading *The Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone* By Jaclyn Moriarty to my children at the moment which we all love.

What are you looking forward to in 2023: Getting to know our new students and staff, buying our house and learning more about teaching when I go on placement throughout the year.

Something interesting about me: I am currently studying to become an Early Childhood and Primary teacher but before that, I studied and worked as a Division 2 Nurse in an Aged Care facility and also as a Ward Clerk in the Emergency Department in the Royal Melbourne Hospital.



Child Safety

New Child Safe standards now apply in Victoria to better protect our children and young people. Throughout the year I will be introducing and explaining what these standards mean in regard to our school procedures which we implement to keep our students safe.

Child Safe Standard 9 - Child safety in physical and online environments.

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

—Student Pick-Up Arrangements—

A reminder of the importance of communicating **with the school directly**, about who your child is to be picked up by at the end of the school day. If your usual arrangements are changing, we ask you to inform the office of the new plan, rather than letting your child or another parent inform us. We have had situations where students have thought they were being picked up by someone else, but plans had changed during the day. With our swimming and gym program, we also need you to **ring the school** if you are collecting your child early from these locations, as they need to be marked off on the electronic attendance roll.

Cyber Safety Evening

A big thanks to those families who attended our Cyber Safety evening conducted by Grant Fitzgerald from Catholic Education Sandhurst. As stated in Child Safe Standard 9 it is all of our duty of care to promote safe online practices, and your attendance at these evenings reinforces for the children the importance of these messages in both the school and home environment.

Some key takeaways from the evening:

"Stuff you do online can affect your reputation and even affect if you get a job or not" - James

"Don't give out a lot of personal information or else people can find you wherever you are" - Abby

"If you post something it's there forever" - Ryan

"Do not send inappropriate photos or messages" - Jenson

"Your digital footprint starts when you have an ultrasound" - Ruby

We thank you for your continued cooperation in working with us to keep your children safe in our care.

For more information please see <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Cath Williams

Pastoral Wellbeing Leader

STUDENT NEWS

Gym and Swimming

We have been having so much fun at gymnastics and swimming over the last 3 weeks! We have been learning a lot about balance, swimming strokes and our own core strength. We have only 3 more weeks remaining with so much more to learn and enjoy. Remember that if you are going to be picking up your child from either swimming or gymnastics you are required to ring the school so we can mark your child as them leaving school early.



Easter Raffle

Easter Raffle information and tickets will be sent home in the near future. We would appreciate each student donating an Easter Egg towards the prize baskets. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of Term 1.

Footy Tipping

We're excited to announce that Footy Tipping is back for Season 2023!

If you are a returning tipper, your entry will carry over from the 2022 season. If you're joining the competition for the first time in 2023, click here to join:

<https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SMPS2023?p=SMPS2023>.

The password to enter the competition is SMPS2023

Catering Event

We recently had the opportunity to cater for an event for the LEAD Loddon Murray Community Leadership program. Feedback was excellent from organisers and conference participants. A big thank you to Elissa Wilson, Ebony Leahy, Illona Wilson, Tania Rollinson, Bev Taig and Suzi Birthisel for their contributions.

Catering is a great fundraising opportunity for our school and we are pleased to advise this will be the first of several catering opportunities throughout the year for this group.



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
2023 FOOTY TIPPING
COMPETITION

\$25 **Tip online**
Season starts 16/3

Join and pay before Round 2
to go in the Early Bird Prize Draw

Win a gift basket valued at \$75 from
The Australian Eucalyptus Oil Company

To register online go to:
<https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/SMPS2023>
Password: SMPS2023

Payment due by Round 4
Direct Credit - BSB: 083543
Account: 457829572 (St Mary's Parish School)

More info: contact Suzi 0408 103 518



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

The CSEF program for 2023 closes on the 23rd June 2023

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

if you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



DISCOVER MORE IN 2024



Expand your Horizon



OPEN DAY

Register online now

Wednesday 29 March, 4.30-7pm | Coolock Campus, Mclvor Hwy, Junortoun

COLLEGE TOURS: Coolock Campus during April & May. Book online now!	ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR YEAR 7, 2024: Wednesday 29 March 2023. Apply online!	ENROLMENTS CLOSE FOR YEAR 7, 2024: Friday 12 May 2023.
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ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES: Audra Petri College Registrar | 5445 9100 | enrolment@cmc.vic.edu.au
Catherine McAuley College | A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd | ABN 69 154 531 870

CMC.VIC.EDU.AU

