

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 - February 2nd 2023 No.1

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

CALENDAR

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Welcome to St Mary's first newsletter for the year. It has been a great start for students and staff, who are already in learning routines and taking on leadership roles around the school. In only a few days the school has displayed its wonderful value of Caring for Others and displaying our community spirit. New students, staff, and I have felt welcomed by the St Mary's community. I would like to thank everyone for their support and invite parents and friends to our Opening School Mass on Thursday, 9th February. Later in the evening, from 5:00-6:30pm, I would like to extend an invitation to join me at the school for a catered BBQ so I can meet you all and enjoy a catch-up.

We value communication at St Mary's and strive to keep the community updated. Emails will often be sent out along with messages to your PAM account. Please download the SIMON Everywhere app to get quick access to school updates and information. An email from Mrs Carter was sent over the holidays with instructions on updating your account. If you need to discuss an issue or concern, please contact your child's classroom teacher, and an appointment may be made. Less formal reminders will also be published on our school's Facebook page.

If you haven't done so, can you please return the completed information packs and ICT agreements along with approving Swimming and Gymnastic forms ASAP. We are legally required to collect this information, which is vital for the smooth running of the school. Please contact Sandra in the Office if you've misplaced any of these forms.

FEBRUARY	
Mon 6th	Advisory Council 7 pm
Wed 8th	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs 9th	Opening School Mass 9:15 am
Thurs 9th	Meet the Principal BBQ 5-6:30 pm
Fri 10th	Swimming and Gymnastics
Tues 14th	Learning Conversations 3:30-6 pm
Wed 15th	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs 16th	Learning Conversations 3:30-6 pm
Fri 17th	Swimming
Mon 21st	Shrove Tuesday - Pancake 8:30
Wed 22nd	Ash Wednesday Mass
	Confirmation Group 3:30-4:30
	Foundation Rest Day

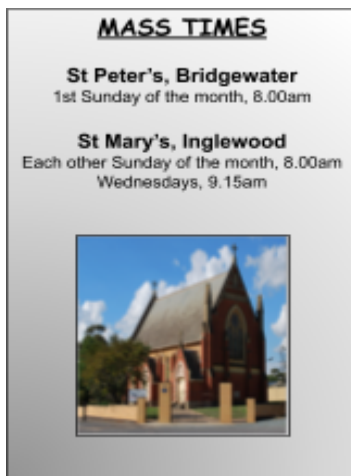
We thank Kim Carter for her service, friendships and professionalism over the past two years and wish her well in her new role at St Therese's. Kim has worked with staff to upskill pedagogy, compliance and digital systems throughout the school. We wish to retain these initiatives and continue to build and implement systems that allow us to achieve a high standard of education for our students and ensure our Graduate Outcomes are being met.

During the course of the year, I look forward to working alongside you and your child's teachers to support and challenge your child. The importance of the role of parents is not lost on Pope John Paul II, who states, "Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents." – John Paul (1994). At St Mary's, we value and encourage parent engagement and partnerships built on our students' academic, social and spiritual growth.

Kind Regards,

Stephen O'Shannessy
Principal

CATHOLIC IDENTITY



SACRAMENTS

The Confirmation Sacrament program is open to Baptised Catholic children who have already made their First Eucharist.. This is a Parish-based program, led by Father Stephen Bolling. A parent/guardian is asked to attend the preparation sessions with their child. Running over four Wednesdays we will commence the first session on Wednesday 22nd February and conclude on Wednesday 15th March. The Confirmation Mass will be held at St Mary's Parish 8:00am Sunday 19th March.

If you would like more information, please speak with Mr O'Shannessy or Father Stephen.

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12a *How Happy are the Poor in Spirit*

This week's Gospel from Matthew refers to Jesus giving a sermon on the Mount, indicating ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. There are eight statements made by Jesus which you may know more commonly as the Beatitudes. You can watch this link with your child for further information. [God's Story: Sermon on the Mount](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE REGARDING INCREASED MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE RISK

Based on updated Public Health Advice issued by the State Government of Victoria, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, in conjunction with Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd, will be implementing procedures to minimise the risk of infection from mosquito-borne diseases. Currently, the school is monitoring the presence of mosquitos and will implement Public Health protocols if these numbers increase. The following information has been taken from the PUBLIC HEALTH ADVICE REGARDING INCREASED MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE RISK document.

*There is an increased risk of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria this mosquito season due to the recent flooding events in northern Victoria and ongoing environmental conditions that support mosquito breeding. Mosquito-borne diseases that can occur in Victoria include **Japanese encephalitis (JE) and Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE)**. JE and MVE are rare but potentially serious infections of the brain that can cause neurological complications and death.*

Murray Valley encephalitis virus, and a similar virus called West Nile/Subtype Kunjin virus, have recently been detected in mosquitoes in the Murray Valley from Mildura to Wodonga, and to Bendigo in the south. Multiple detections have occurred around Mildura, and the presence of other risk factors suggests this is a particularly high-risk location for contracting the disease.

To protect children from mosquito bites and subsequent mosquito-borne diseases, there are several simple things you can include:

- Wear long, loose-fitting clothes if mosquitoes are around.
- Cover up as much as possible.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent on all exposed skin.

Students are permitted to bring their own insect repellent to school. We are not encouraging sharing between students. Please test the repellent before sending this to the school. **All repellents must be in a sealed bag with your child's name clearly labeled.**

Recommendations for selecting insect repellent are stated below:

- All use of mosquito repellent must be in accordance with the instructions on the label. Advice may differ between brands and formulations.
- Picaridin and DEET are safe and effective when used according to the instructions on the label.
- Repellent preference can vary. DEET is sticky, can sting the eyes and can damage plastics such as polyester clothing. Picaridin does not have this effect and is often better preferred and tolerated.
- DEET can have some localised skin reactions. If a child has an allergy, discontinue use immediately. Try another brand on a small area of skin.
- Higher concentrations do not relate to better effectiveness, only the duration of effect. Consider a lower concentration (i.e., 10%) and reapply regularly as required.
- No repellent is water-resistant.

- *Repellent should be applied over sunscreen.*
- *All the formulations are effective, it comes down to which is easier to comply with. All must be rubbed in to ensure no spots are missed. A combination of formulations can be effective too, for example, aerosol or spray for the feet, legs, and possibly the arms (faster to apply) and then a roll-on or spray in areas closer to the face (roll-on for the face or apply spray or aerosol to hands and then apply to the face).*
- *Long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothes are ideal to reduce areas needed for insect repellent.*






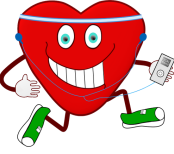
SCHOOL NEWS

2023 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 27th January (Staff Induction & Planning)
- Thursday 9th March (Staff Spirituality)
- Friday 26th May (Learner Diversity - NCCD)
- Friday 11th August (Curriculum Focus)
- Monday 6th November (Report Writing Day)
- Tuesday 19th December (2024 Planning Day)
- Wednesday 20th December (Staff Last Day)

SPECIALIST DAYS:

	Sport 	Library 	Visual Arts 	Performance Arts 	Indonesian 	Health 
Foundation - Grade 3	Wednesday & Friday	Friday	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday
Grades 4 - 6	Wednesday & Friday	Friday	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday

WHOLE SCHOOL SWIMMING & GYMNASTICS PROGRAM:

Our whole school gymnastics and swimming program commences next week. 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.

2023 Gym & Swimming Program Dates

Friday 10th February
Friday 17th February
Friday 24th February
Friday 3rd March
Friday 10th March
Friday 24th March

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS:

Our online Learning Conference for your child is now open for bookings. These conversations allow you to meet with your child's classroom teacher to set important learning goals for the term. Term 1 Learning Conversations will be held in the student's classroom and student attendance is desirable.

Interviews can be made via your PAM app.

LUNCH ORDERS:

School 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.

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.

STUDENT NEWS



Our Foundation, Grade 2/3 students are enjoying being back at school. We have started off the term with welcoming our new prep student Nakodah. We have played many games and have learnt so much already about the year. We also welcomed Mrs Bannan, our new visual and performing arts teacher!



Leadership Team News

Icy Poles

Icy Poles will be available this Friday and each Thursday during Term 1.

Icy Poles are 50 cents. (1 per child)

P&F NEWS

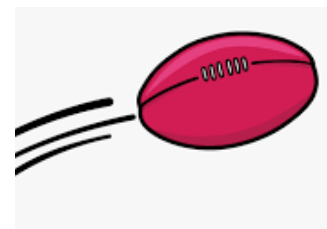
St Mary's has a long and proud history of parental involvement, and it's something that sets us apart and creates such a welcoming and friendly environment at our school.

As we look forward to the 2023 school year, it's the first time since 2020 where we can confidently plan events and activities for our school community, without the threat of Pandemic related cancellations.

We're looking forward to the opportunity to catch up with our school community, brainstorming ideas and opportunities for fun events and activities that will unite our community and raise valuable funds for student resources. If you have ideas and suggestions, we'd love to hear from you! We'll organise an informal catch up for parents and friends to get together and chat in the near future, however if you have any queries or suggestions in the meantime please contact Suzi Birthisel on 0408 103 518.

Footy Tipping Competition

We are pleased to confirm our AFL footy tipping competition will be back again in 2023. Details will be available in the near future.



Save the date: Active Farmers Run for Resilience & Fitty's 5

We are proud to again support the Active Farmer's event in Bridgewater, and in particular Fitty's 5 honouring the life of Lesley Morrison, much loved member of our school community. The event will be held at the Bridgewater Recreation Reserve and we will again be cooking up a storm on the BBQ. We would appreciate volunteers on the day so please save the date – Sunday 7 May (morning).



2023 Season Launch

Sunday 12 February
10.30am to 3pm

GET TO KNOW YOUR CLUB – MEET THE COACHES,
COMMITTEE, PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS



INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

10.45AM - JUNIOR SPORTS CLINICS
ALL AGES - FOOTBALL & NETBALL

12PM - SENIOR FOOTBALL & NETBALL TRAINING
FROM 12.30PM - LUNCH & OFFICIAL SEASON LAUNCH

FOOD TRUCKS! FOOD TRUCKS! FOOD TRUCKS!
CLUB MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
EVERYONE WELCOME!