

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 16th 2023 No.2

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As mentioned in my previous address, at St Mary's, we value and encourage parent engagement and partnerships built on our students' academic, social and spiritual growth. This past fortnight has been witness to this value. It was wonderful to see so many people from the Inglewood community (40+) attend the BBQ on Thursday evening. A big thank you to Franceen for assisting Suzi in preparing the evening and Mal who was on BBQ all night.

Earlier in the day, we had the pleasure of celebrating our Opening Mass. I wish to congratulate the students and staff as I was proud of the children's reverence and participation throughout the Mass. The celebration encouraged a student-oriented focus where the children led in prayer and scripture readings. We celebrated the new leaders of the school as the Year 6's took their Leadership Oath and were blessed by Fr Stephen. Staff also received a special blessing.

Later today, teachers will conduct the last of our Learning Circles where parents and caregivers are able to meet with their child's teacher to discuss their successes and set learning goals for the remainder of the term.

February	
Fri 17th	Gym & Swimming P-6
Mon 20th	School Advisory Council
Tue 21st	<b>Shrove Tuesday Breakfast</b>
Wed 22nd	<b>Ash Wednesday Mass</b> Confirmation Preparation Meeting 3:30-4:15
Fri 24th	Gym & Swimming P-6
Tues 28th	Parent/Child Cyber Safety Night ICT -
March	
Wed 1st	Prep Rest Day 5 Confirmation Preparation Meeting. 3:30-4:15
Fri 3rd	Gym & Swimming P-6
Wed 8th	Confirmation Preparation Meeting 3:30-4:15
Thur 9th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Fri 10th	Gym & Swimming P-6
Mon 13th	Labour Day Holiday
Wed 15th Thurs 16th	NAPLAN
Fri 17th	Gym & Swimming P-6
Mon 20th	NAPLAN
Wed 22nd Fri 24th	Grade 5/6 Camp

As we enter some warm weather, the safety of our students is our main concern. We remind families that students should apply sunscreen, wear hats and take a full water bottle to school.

This Sunday's Gospel is from Matthew 5:38-48 and discusses the importance of forgiveness. Jesus references the Law of Moses to his disciples which referred to vengeance. Jesus challenges his followers to 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'. The need for unconditional forgiveness still challenges us today. During times of national and international challenges, the call to be better from Jesus, comes at a very timely manner.

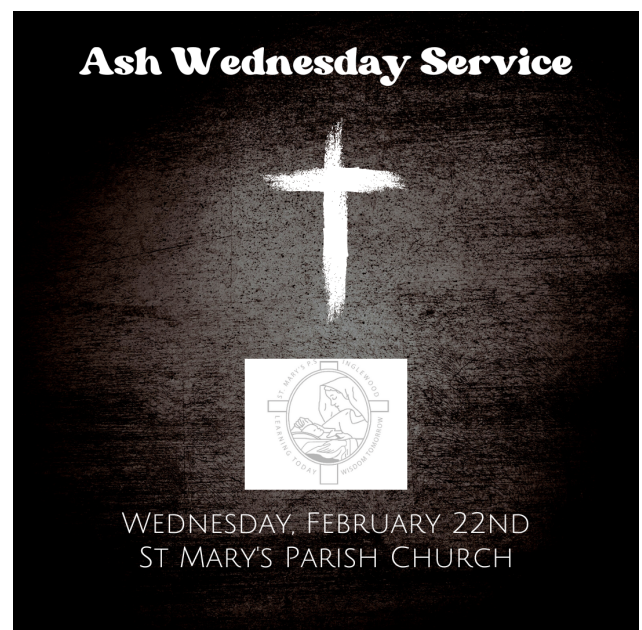
Kind Regards,

*Stephen O'Shannessy*  
Principal

## CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Next week, we invite you to St Mary's Primary for Shrove Tuesday Breakfast and Ash Wednesday Mass. Shrove Tuesday marks the last day before the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday). Traditionally, this day would be a chance to attend confession and consume foods which would go off during the abstinence period of Lent. Many households would consume their eggs, milk, butter, and fat which were turned into pancakes. **St Mary's school will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8:30-9:00am with the assistance of the student leadership group. At 9:15 the school will be hosting our first assembly for the year.** Please support our students whilst they receive class and school awards.

The following day, we invite our community members to join us at Mass in St Mary's Church for Ash Wednesday. Being the first day of the Christian season of Lent, the marking of the Ashes on Ash Wednesday is an expression of our faith and a sign that we are asking God for forgiveness. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. The priest or adult will mark a cross on the forehead of the recipient stating, "Turn away from Sin and be faithful to the Gospel".

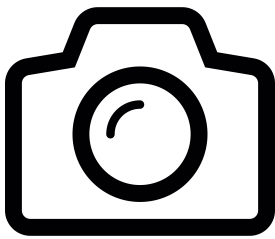


## Sacramental Program - Fr Stephen

We will shortly begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Mary's, which will be celebrated at our parish Sunday Mass on March 19th. This will be mainly for students who completed preparation for their first reconciliation last year, but if you would like to join the sacramental program or have any queries, please contact Fr Stephen Bolling on 54468235 or [stephen.bolling@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:stephen.bolling@sandhurst.catholic.org.au).

Our first Confirmation session will be held on Wednesday 22nd February from 3:30 - 4:15pm.

## PASTORAL WELLBEING



With the beginning of a new school year and many exciting events planned, it is a good time to review our Photography policy. As a part of schools' mandated Child Safety Standards, **photographs may only be taken on nominated school devices, and only of students with written guardian consent.** The school makes every effort to provide consenting parents and students with photographic memories of special occasions, and ask that individual parents refrain from taking their own photographs. Please find below an excerpt from this policy detailing these requirements. A full copy of the policy can be found on our school website, or by following the link below.

<https://www.ceosand.catholic.edu.au/downloads/child-safety/481-6-ces-ltd-child-safety-policy-photographing-filming-and-recording-260522-1/file>

*Policy CES Ltd and schools are committed to maximising the educational and social benefits of photography and video/recording/film while taking all reasonably practicable steps to manage the risks to student safety and wellbeing arising from the inappropriate taking and use of such images (photographs, videos/recordings/films).*

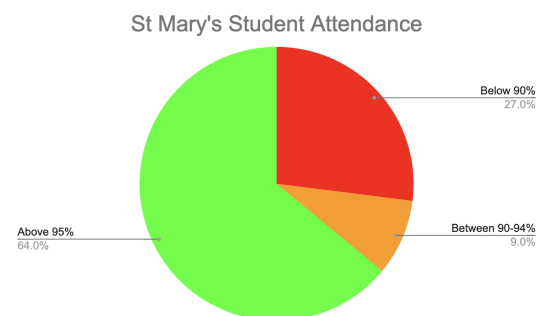
### 3.14 Photography or videos/recordings/films by parents/carers/guardians

*The school acknowledges that parents/carers/guardians will want to take photographs or videos/recordings/films of their children while they are engaged in school-related activities, and that in practical terms, the school may not be able to control when images are taken and how they are used. However, the school will communicate with parents/carers/guardians on an ongoing basis to ensure they understand the risks of publishing the photographs or videos/recordings/films and how to best protect the students' safety and privacy.*



### Attendance in Early Years Matters!

- attendance matters full stop!
- what is your child's attendance at? 95% is the target



**The optimal learning attendance rate is 95%. Let's aim to get all our students in the green this year!**

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF

**Name:** Carly Bannan

**Position at School:** Teacher of The Arts!

**Hobbies:** Fishing, camping, reading, playing and listening to music, spending time with friends and family, netball

**What do you like about St Mary's?:** How friendly and welcoming everyone is. It's such a lovely community!

**Favourite Book/Music:** Ed Sheeran is my favourite musician, followed closely by Taylor Swift and P!nk. And I love to read any Roald Dahl books too, especially to my own kids who always ask me to put funny voices on for the characters.

**What are you looking forward to in 2023:** Getting to know the students, staff and families at St Mary's and finally moving into our new house.

**Something interesting about me:** Like St Mary's, the primary school I attended only had 23 students enrolled. When I was in Grade 4 the teachers took the whole school to the snow at Mount Hotham for a week- it was the best week of school I've ever had! Small schools are the best. Also, I can play "Chopsticks" on the piano with my feet.



## STUDENT NEWS

Welcome to The Arts at St Mary's Primary School in 2023! It's been so lovely getting to know all of the students and seeing them demonstrate their creativity while having some fun in Visual Arts and Dance lessons this term.

### Visual Arts

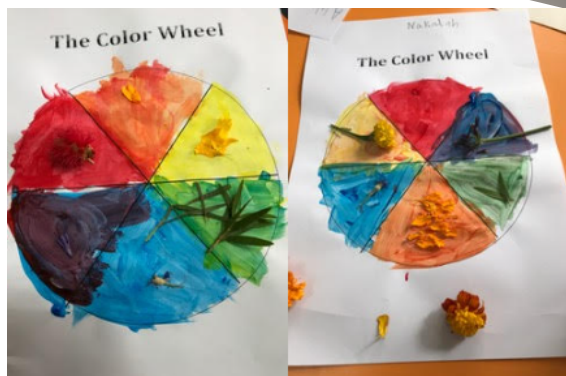
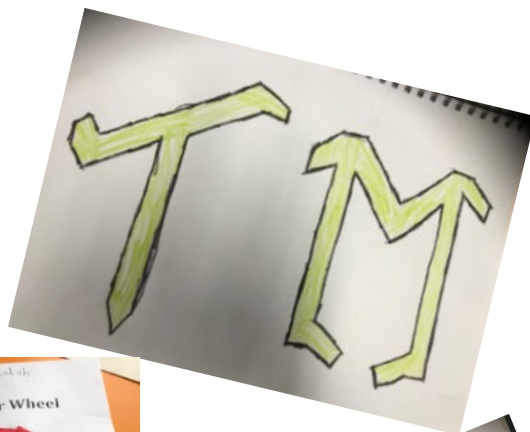
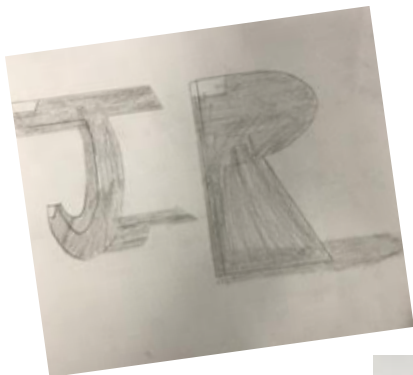
**Prep-Grade 3:** We started off the year in Visual Arts looking at the Elements of Art and learning about the colour wheel. Students created their own colour wheel by mixing primary colours together to make secondary colours and then collected materials from the school yard in the colours on our wheel to add to their work. We have also been looking at colour by studying Joan Miro's "Sun Eater" artwork and students have begun to re-create their own versions of this piece. We will continue to work on our "Sun Eater" pieces over the coming weeks and include some photos of these in upcoming newsletters.

**Grade 4-6:** Students were very enthusiastic to learn about graffiti and street art so we've been studying the history of these art forms and beginning to create our own graffiti pieces on paper with our initials. Students have explored different terms used in street art and graffiti including "tags", "throws" and "pieces" and have learnt about the use of colour and line when forming their work. It's been terrific to see the students so engaged in creating their pieces and demonstrating their understanding of the differences between vandalism and art. As we have learnt while studying this unit, the term "art" is certainly subjective and what appeals to some, may not to others.

### Performing Arts- Dance

Over the past few weeks students have been learning about the evolution of dance through the ages with us learning about some history of the 1920s and 1930s and the popular dances at those times, including "The Charleston" and "Ballin the Jack". Students noticed that most of the dances during this time were all about the movement of the feet, sometimes really fast and energetically! They made connections with dance steps popular 100 years ago which have been adapted into dance moves which are popular today and learnt about how dance is a reflection of important events happening at that time in history. Over the coming weeks we'll continue to look at different decades and the dances which were popular then. We have also had fun singing along to some songs while Mrs Bannan plays the guitar.





## BIRTHDAYS



# SCHOOL NEWS

## School Uniforms

Upon our return back to school we have reminded the students of the expected school uniform that is to be worn at school during term 1. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform on the appropriate day. Below is the list of what is required of each student to wear whilst they are attending St Mary's Primary School.

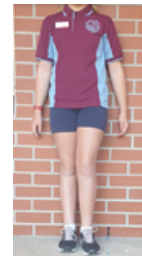
### **Girls: Summer Uniform**

- Maroon, blue and white check dress
- Navy sports briefs
- White socks
- Black shoes (buckle, velcro or lace up (not runners)
- Maroon slouch or bucket hat



### **Girls: Sports Uniform (Wednesday & Friday)**

- Navy shorts/netball skirt
- Navy track pants
- Polo shirt
- White socks
- Runners



### **Boys: Summer Uniform**

- Navy shorts (not sports shorts)
- Polo shirt
- Blue socks
- Black shoes (not runners)
- Maroon slouch or bucket hat



### **Boys: Sports Uniform (Wednesday & Friday)**

- Navy shorts
- Navy Track pants
- Polo shirt
- White socks
- Runners



## CODE RED FIRE DAY PROCEDURES:

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and SMS message. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.



***Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.***

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24- hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

## P&F NEWS

St Mary's Parents and Friends Committee are excited to announce they will be having a refresh in 2023 and will be concentrating on smaller, more localised fundraising and activities that the students can be involved in.

***So, what's on the horizon?*** Our school community can expect to see raffles, Footy Tipping, Mothers & Father's Day stalls and the occasional BBQ at IGA. We're keen to include the students in our activities, so there will be some fun and engaging activities the children can participate in. A colour run is high on the list of activities we're considering.

If you'd like to join the P&F team, we'd love to have you along. Our first informal get-together will be in March. Details will be provided in the near future. We'd love to have you come along for a cuppa and a chat.

Suzi Birthisel 0408 103 518

**Parents & Friends**



## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Do you have a horse crazy 3 - 10 year old? Don't own a pony? Thinking about owning one in the future? Don't want to pay big \$\$\$ for lessons? Want your child to try it before buying all the riding equipment? Want them to learn about ponies and riding in a safe, structured environment with qualified instructors with other children that share their passion? Support a local (Loddon Shire) club?*

If you answered yes then we have the program for you.

Riders Without Horses Ready 2 Ride COME AND TRY DAY Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

If you are interested in finding out more about this day and how to register look up our facebook event – Loddon Pony Club's Riders Without Horses/Ready to Ride Come and Try Day

If your child already has a horse/Pony and would like to learn more about riding etc in a fun, friendly environment please follow the above facebook link above to find out more about our club. Please Call Linda Isaac on 0429 009 578 if you have any questions







**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN**

**Loddon Valley Football Netball League**

are looking for Junior Players for the following age groups  
to play in the

**BJFL for Season 2023**

**UNDER 9  
UNDER 10  
UNDER 12**

Contact Laura Naughton

0400 532 090

[laura.naughton@aflcentralvic.com.au](mailto:laura.naughton@aflcentralvic.com.au)