

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 4 - December 7th 2023 No.19**

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Last Sunday we began the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and reflection, where we are called to prepare our hearts and minds for the profound significance of the coming of Jesus. This liturgical season invites us to reflect on the spirit of hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives. May the season of Advent illuminate our path, guiding us towards the true essence of Christmas.



Over the next two weeks, the school is preparing to carry out important celebrations to conclude the school year. It is a time to celebrate the wonderful successes and memories that have occurred in 2023. For some, it is a time to thank you and goodbye as we see off the Year 6 students and departing families. Please join us for our End of Year Mass and Graduation on Thursday, 14th December, from 6:00 pm.

Students will finish the school year on Monday, December 18th. We have partnered up with the Inglewood Lions Club, which has offered their time and services to bring a special, jolly old fella from the North Pole. This visitor has gifts for each child who attends on the day. A full BBQ meal will also be provided. The school wishes to thank our wonderful friends at the Lions Club.

Upon reflection on my first year as Principal at St Mary's, it is obvious our school is not just a place of learning; it's an environment where knowledge, faith, compassion, and growth intertwine. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our students, the support of parents, the commitment of our wonderful educators, and the collective efforts of our staff members. Each one of you plays an invaluable role in shaping the vibrancy of St Mary's. Thank you to the School Advisory Council and Parents & Friends Committee, under the leadership of Suzi Birthisel. Throughout the year, Fr Stephen has provided our school community with great support. We look forward to the continuation of our shared mission between school, parish and home.

On behalf of all staff at St Mary's, we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to your return for another exciting and in-depth year of education.

*Stephen O'Shannessy*

Principal

# CALENDAR

## TERM 4, 2023

Sunday 10th December	Lions Christmas Carols at the Town Hall @ 5pm
Thursday 14th December	6:00 End of Year Mass 6:40 Graduation awards and family departures 6:50 Dinner 7:15 Carols 7:30 Dismissal
Friday 15th December	Grade 6 Big Day Out Playgoup Santa Visit
Monday 18th December	STUDENTS LAST DAY <b>Lions Club catering a BBQ Lunch</b> <b>3.20pm finish</b>
Tuesday 19th December	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b> - 2024 Staff Planning Day
Wednesday 20th December	<b>PUPIL FREE DAY</b> - Staff Last Day

## TERM 1, 2024

Monday 29th January	First Day Term 1 for Staff
Tuesday 30th January	First Day Term 1 for Students
Wednesday 31st January	Foundation Rest Day 1
Wednesday 7th February	Foundation Rest Day 2
Friday 9th February	Gym & Swimming



# 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

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th 8:00am  
Monday 25th 8:00am



## Social Justice - Leadership Day

Our Year 5 students attended the Caritas Social Justice Leadership Day at St Kilian's Primary last Friday. We are looking forward to the students creating awareness of Caritas next year and developing ideas to show solidarity with those who live in less fortunate communities.



## End of Year Mass, Graduation and Carols

On Thursday, 14th December at 6 pm, we will be celebrating the school year and farewelling our Grade 6 students. I invite everyone to come along to this event, as it also serves as an 'end-of-year' Mass for all our students. To have many members of our school community present would be a very fitting and a heart-warming end to both our school year and, for some students, an end to their primary schooling. Everyone is welcome to bring a picnic tea on the school grounds after Mass. A sausage sizzle will also be available, followed by Christmas Carols. What a way to say goodbye for the year!



COME AND JOIN US

For our end of year celebration of the Eucharist

**6:00** End of Year Mass

**6:40** Graduation awards and family  
departures

**6:50** Dinner

**7:15** Carols

**7:30** Pack up

Thursday, 14th of December 2023

6:00PM

St Mary's Parish Church  
85-87 Southey Street, Inglewood



# SCHOOL NEWS

## **2024 Class Structures & Staff Roles**

In order to cater to the needs of all individual students and deliver a high quality and evidence-based teaching & learning program, St Mary's will be running a combined F-6 classroom in 2024. The combined classroom will have the benefit of three and four adults working with the students at any given time, creating a ratio of 1:4 and 1:5 for Literacy and Mathematics. Staff have attended schools with combined classes and continue to embrace this positive news. All educators will continue to be involved in regular professional development to aid their ability to differentiate to each child's learning needs.

### **2024 Classes:**

- Miss Tayla Fenwick and Ibu Cath Williams (F-6)

### **2024 Staff:**

- Mr Stephen O'Shannessy: Principal, Learner Diversity, Religious Education Leader and Curriculum Leader
- Ibu Cath Williams: Grade F-6 Classroom & Indonesian Teacher and Pastoral Wellbeing Leader
- Miss Tayla Fenwick: Foundation - Grade F-6 Classroom & Sports Coordinator
- Mrs Carly Bannan: Performing and Visual Arts Teacher and Leadership Release Teacher
- Mrs Franceen Innes: Learning Support Officer and Pastoral & Wellbeing Support (Chaplain)
- Mrs Adele George: Learning Support Officer
- Mrs Sandra Coffey: Office Administrator

## **Office Hours**

Our Office will be open from Thursday 25th January for any parents who would like to purchase any last minute uniform items before school commences for students on Tuesday 30th January.

## **SCHOOL HOURS and Community Reading**

Next year, Community Reading will no longer take place before school. Community Reading has been a successful initiative ensuring every student is reading, every day, and building parent partnerships. Now that this goal has been achieved, we look forward to new initiatives that are in line with our School Improvement Plan 2024-2027. As an administrator, I aim to ensure a balanced workload for staff, as the new New Enterprise Agreement has placed guidelines on the teacher's 38-hour working week, also making this decision a practical one in terms of staff operations.

Students can still be dropped off at school after 8:30 am, where they will be supervised. We kindly request that students refrain from arriving on the premises before this time.

## **Mrs Innes**

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that our esteemed Learning Support Officer and Chaplain, Franceen Innes, will be embarking on a well-deserved long service leave for Term 1 2024. Franceen has been an integral part of our St Mary's family for over 20 years, contributing her passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to the growth and success of our school community. Her dedication to working with children and their families has not only enriched the experiences of our students but has also been an inspiration to her colleagues.

As Franceen takes this opportunity to recharge and spend quality time with her loved ones, we want to express our deepest gratitude for her years of service and commendable contributions. We look forward to welcoming Franceen back to St Mary's in Term 2, eager to continue our shared journey of growth and excellence.

Wishing you a rejuvenating and fulfilling break, Franceen!

## **PAM Updates**

Please keep a lookout in the new year if there is anything that needs to be done on your end to get PAM up and running again in 2024. There will be school notifications sent out over January.

## **Student Reports & Learning Portfolios**

Our student academic Semester Two reports will be sent home and released on PAM on Wednesday, 13th December. Please take the time to read your child's report.

The Learning Portfolio forms a part of St Mary's overall reporting process, which also includes work samples directly linked to the Victorian Curriculum completed throughout the year. These should be viewed in conjunction with the academic reports. Each learning task in the portfolio is assessed using a rubric that indicates the achievement of your child.

Parents should be familiar with their child's academic progress prior to receiving their reports. Teacher Learning Conversations occur each term and provide families with the opportunity to examine and discuss school-based testing and work samples. These meetings allow for the co-creation and monitoring of individual learning goals.

## **Key Dates for 2024**

2024 TERM DATES	2024 PUPIL FREE DAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Term 1: 29th January - 28th March<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ First Day Staff: 29th January</li><li>○ First Day Students: 30th January</li></ul></li><li>● Term 2: 15th April - 28th June</li><li>● Term 3: 15th July - 20th September</li><li>● Term 4: 7th October - 20th December<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Last Day Students: 18th December</li><li>○ Last Day Staff: 20th December</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Monday 29th January - Staff Planning</li><li>● Friday 8th March - Staff Spirituality</li><li>● Friday May 3rd - Multi-Age Teaching and Learning</li><li>● Wednesday May 24th - Learner Diversity</li><li>● Wednesday August 23rd - Data</li><li>● Term 4 Monday 4th November - Report Writing</li><li>● Term 4 Thursday 19th Dec 2025 - Staff Planning</li><li>● Term 4 Friday 20th Dec 2025 - Staff Planning</li></ul>

## **KK Gifts**

Staff and Students have received their KK. This is an exercise to allow us to show acts of kindness to our KK and make them feel special.

During this time, there will be a letterbox in the office where you can post letters that will be delivered to you KK. The letters need to be addressed to your KK.

By Thursday 14th December students will need to bring a \$5 wrapped gift to school for your KK. Gifts will be given on the last day of school Monday 18th December.



***On the Gift Tag it should read: To: KK  
From: (your child's name)***

## BIRTHDAYS



## STUDENT NEWS

### Cricket

On Friday the 1st of December the St Mary's Primary School Grade 4 and 6 students embraced our annual Cricket blast competition at Malone Park in Marong. This year, we decided to work collaboratively as a team with Inglewood Primary School and Bridgewater Primary School as St Inglebridge. The students had a wonderful day playing cricket and learning the rules with new friends that they wouldn't usually. The children were super resilient and continued to play on as the rain began to sprinkle down throughout their first game. St Inglebridge Team 1 walked away with winning two out of three games! Congratulations to all students who participated, we cannot wait for next year's competition.

Miss Fenwick



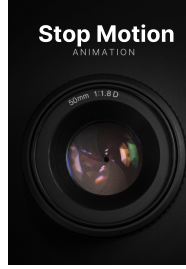
### Dreamseeds Leadership

Last Tuesday, the Year 5/6 students joined with IPS to take part in the Dreamseeds Leadership workshop. During this workshop the students engaged in interactive tasks involving cooperation and teamwork. They also had the opportunity to identify their own strengths, and set some short and long term goals.



## The Arts

Students have been busily working on creating their own stop-motion animation videos during Media Arts this term. They worked in pairs to write their own scripts, storyboards and then film and edit their animations. They also created their own musical compositions using the GarageBand app and incorporated their own music into their animations. We have really enjoyed learning about the art of stop-motion animation and look forward to expanding on our media arts skills in the future at St Mary's.



In Term 4, students from Grades 3-6 began learning some basic chords on the guitar. They have been learning about how to tune the guitars, chord progression and strumming patterns. Students have found that learning the guitar requires lots of practice and resilience as our fingers were getting very sore pressing down on the strings!



## Energy Breakthrough

Wow, what an awesome experience Energy Breakthrough was! All those months of preparation and training came together successfully as team 'Sminglewood'! The team did a fantastic job in presenting their information on renewable energy, explaining the Design and Construction of the vehicle, and ensuring we passed Scrutineering, ready for the big race. Throughout the race we saw the team come together to show speed, resilience, courage, self belief, encouragement, support and teamwork.

We survived the four seasons over three days to come 11th in our category travelling a distance of over 250 km! Huge thanks to the parents who supported us with transportation, food preparation, cleaning, packing up, photos and cheerleading. It was a wonderful opportunity to see our community come together to provide this experience. Energy Breakthrough takes a lot of work, commitment and financial support to participate in and we again thank our generous sponsors for helping us make it possible.

EBT in 3 words... "Funny, wet, cold feet!" - Tyler

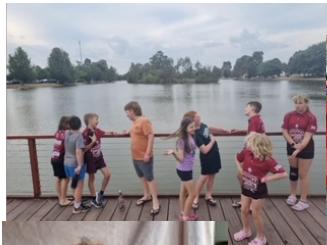


"FUN, SCARY, COOPERATIVE" - ABBY



"Amazing, Eventful, Encouraging" - Olivia

"Encouragement and Teamwork" - Ruby



## P&F NEWS



During November the P&F team has been busy with catering for events in Inglewood.

The LEAD Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program retreat was held in Inglewood on 17/18 November. We had great feedback from the delegates who attended this event, with the home cooked fare very well received. Thank you to Elissa Wilson, Illona McEwan, Tania Rollinson, Julie Anderson, Bev Taig and Suzi Birthisel for their catering contributions. Special thanks to Tim Birthisel for setting up the venue for the event, and cleaning up afterwards.

The Inglewood Town Hall was packed to the rafters on Sunday 26th November for the performance of Handel's Messiah. The P&F catered for the orchestra and performers for lunch, then served a delicious afternoon tea for patrons. Thank you to Tania Rollinson, Bev Taig and Suzi Birthisel for preparing and serving the catering.

We look forward to planning a range of engaging events in 2024 for the school community. A meeting to kick off the planning will be held early in Term 1. Everyone is welcome to contribute in what will be a great social and fundraising year for the school.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**LAST DAY OF PLAYGROUP FOR 2023 - FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER**  
**A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE NORTH POLE IS COMING!**



### INGLEWOOD - ST MARY'S Community Playgroup




 FRIDAY | Term 4, 2023

 10:00 AM

 St Mary's Convent  
87 Southey Street, Inglewood

Small, friendly and FREE playgroup, where everyone is welcome and invited to play.

#### CONTACTS FOR COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

 0438 630 101 Email: [ebonyalder@hotmail.com](mailto:ebonyalder@hotmail.com)  
[principal@sminglewood.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sminglewood.catholic.edu.au)

Inglewood Lions Club  
**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**  
*and Carols*

Please join us for  
 a Free Christmas Festival  
**10TH DECEMBER**

Inglewood Town Hall Garden area  
 5.00-9.00pm

BBQ/ Christmas Carols/  
 Music / Children's Games /  
 Santa visit

**ELF ACADEMY**  
 CLASS IN SESSION: 16-23 DECEMBER 2023

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT REALLY TAKES  
 TO BE ONE OF SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS?**

Central Deborah Gold Mine will transform into  
 a Christmas wonderland from 16-23 December.

Through a series of craft activities, games and challenges,  
 gain your Certificate IV in Elf Training and be elf-ficially  
 inducted into Santa's renowned team!

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!**  
 5443 8322 | central-deborah.com |

**2024 JUNIOR NETBALL  
 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Join the Woodies! Make new friends.  
 Have fun. Love netball.

We welcome new players in Minis, 13&U, 15&U, 17&U

Register your interest via the link and we'll be in touch.  
 For more information contact: Suzi Birthisel 0408 103 518

**Calling all Junior Netballers  
 Join the Woodies!**

**Register to play for the 2024  
 season here:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/50B7F38srG>

# ABOUT US...

SportzRulz Australia launched Loddon Inclusive Precinct (LIP) in 2021 within the region of Loddon Shire. Located at Platform 1 Community Centre at Bridgewater, we provide local community initiatives to support inclusion for people with a disability, their families, carers & local community members. LIP provide *mental health wellbeing with a focus on disability support* to clients.



*Ulle*

ABN: 72 318 825 901



## CONTACT US

☎ (03) 4448 2020

📍 Platform 1 Community Centre, 12 Erskine Street Bridgewater on Loddon VIC 3516

✉ admin@sportzrulz.com.au



LIP is open to the local community to drop in for a chat & coffee, expressions of interest for local groups, activities & events.

**SportzRulz Australia**  
welcome to

# LODDON INCLUSIVE PRECINCT

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE  
*we dont just give lip service*



Join us for a cuppa, chat, local community based activities & programs!

## INGLEWOOD COMMUNITY BUS



SportzRulz Australia is pleased to announce that the Inglewood Community Bus is available for hire.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

**Contact:**  
Enzo Scafati  
0457 980 243

or  
admin: 4448 2020  
admin@sportzrulz.com.au



## SportzRulz Australia Loddon Inclusive Precinct (LIP)

### LIP Community Partnerships

Loddon Plains Landcare Group  
Kooyoora Women's Network  
Bridgewater on Loddon Recreation Reserve  
Loddon Shire Council  
Tarnagulla Community Centre Committee  
Bridgewater on Loddon Foodshare

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE  
*we dont just give lip service*



## LIP

### Current Projects

**The Garden Tap** – Linking with Bridgewater and Loddon Foodshare Program, Healthy and Wellbeing Program at Tarnagulla

**The Think Tank Art Program**- Avenues to promote growth for artistic pursuits, a range of activities that are affordable. Be good to tap in the Make Noise your own way MH for youth federal program- Youth Art Trail.

**Sports on the Go- Wheels on the Motion Program** & Holiday Sport Program,

**Men's Group**- Shed space to bring the men together.

*"growing community connections locally"*

