



Term 3 Week 2

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)



20th July  
2020

Dear Parents and Families,

One week down already! It was lovely to catch up with the children and hear their stories from the holidays. There is some special news around this week with Miss Brady and her fiancée Tom celebrating their wedding on Saturday. We wish Tarsha and Tom every happiness and look forward to Mrs Ward returning to teach 5T next week.

## Random Acts of Kindness

We never know how a simple gesture can make a positive difference to others. Speaking to friends and colleagues in Melbourne since the announcement they would be back to remote learning and their concerns about morale of staff and students, made our staff think about what we, as a Josephite school, could do to make even a little difference. Over the next fortnight many classes are writing a card or drawing a picture and putting a message on it letting teachers or kids in Metro know they are doing a great job, to stay positive and be hopeful.



These will be sent to various schools across Melbourne. Some children have instead chosen to do the same thing, but for our health workers who are experiencing fatigue and anxiety at the moment in Metropolitan hospitals in Victoria. We will also run card making sessions in the art room during some lunchtimes over the next 2 weeks and we hope these small gestures will brighten a stranger's day.

## 2021 enrolments

Due to the social restrictions that we have faced throughout Term 2 & 3, we have had to change the way we approach the enrolment process. While we wait for the green light to run school tours during school time we have created a series of videos that showcase the school and highlight our Flying Start program, Come and Try Mornings and what to expect as a Foundation family at St Mary's. These have proved very popular and are available on our school facebook page. If you know of anyone who is considering St Mary's next year could you please let them know that enrolments are open and to make contact with the school for further information or for a personalised look at our facilities after hours.

## Get ready for school with Flying Start

We are looking forward to the commencement of the 2020 Flying Start program which begins this Friday (July 24th). It is a wonderful way for preschoolers to learn more about school life and for us to get to know many of our 2021 students before they commence school next year. We have some spaces left in some of the 9:00 am sessions and in the 11:30 group. If you know of any families who have a preschooler and may be interested in coming along please let them know to give the office a call for more information as they may like to come along to some or all sessions.

**St Mary's Getting Ready For School Program**  
Our free school familiarisation program for PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Starting Friday July 24th 2020

Sessions times:  
9am - 10.30am  
and  
11.30am - 1pm

Phone: 5033 2541  
for further  
information  
or to book a place

Let your child experience life at St Mary's enjoying our Phonics, Music, PE, Italian, Art and Technology Programs

**2021 ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN**  
School Open Days planned for Term 3 and Individual tours available in June and July

## Come and Try Mornings

We have just posted another virtual tour of our school on Facebook. It highlights what happens on our very popular "Come and Try" mornings. Starting today and running throughout July and August, Come and Try allows preschoolers to try out school in real time in a Foundation class. Today we welcomed preschoolers into Foundation Yellow and they had a lot of fun! Check out Come and Try on our Facebook page today!

### **Family Engagement Team**

Continuing on from our initial work around Learning Walks and the introduction of 3 way Conferences in Years 2-4 we have formed a Parent Engagement Team who will lead the work in this space with our school community. Our Family Engagement team consisting of Arren Smith, Stacey Pearse, Gemma Watts, Renee Hirst, Belinda Davies and Kate Quin and Ginny. We had a productive morning with Tony Dalton on Thursday who facilitated a conversation around our current strengths and deficits and about identifying some of our current practices that just need a slight rework in order to bring about change and have another planned in a few weeks. We would welcome other parental representation on this team and warmly invite anyone who is interested to make contact with Kate.

### **Around the Grounds**

Our new labyrinth area near the Yr 4 classrooms is looking amazing and thanks to instant lawn, a few established trees and Peter Clark's handiwork, it looks as if it has been there for years. The paved areas feature the centenary pavers purchased by families and parishioners to remember many involved in the early days of the school.



### **Curriculum Newsletters**

This week your child will bring home a copy of their Term 3 curriculum newsletter that outlines the key learning that will take place in their classroom and when they attend specialist classes. The curriculum newsletters are produced to assist you to know what is happening at school so you can chat more knowledgeably with your child about the many exciting things they are involved with at St Mary's.

### **Parent Information Night-Personal Development**

The Year 5/6 team are running an information night via Google Meet on Monday 27th July, starting at 7 pm. Watch out for the letter which contains the Google Meet link for parents to use to join the meeting. This information night provides an overview of the personal development program which is taught in the senior area of the school.

### **Assembly Prayer & SOW**

Those bucket fillers in Foundation Yellow were awesome in our recent assembly and a great effort by our Year 6 Media Leaders who hosted the Student of the Weeks at the end. This week's assembly is hosted by **60** and we will also include a digital version of SOW for parents and family to watch as we know how much our families and students enjoy celebrating when they obtain this special award.

Have a great week and stay well and safe

Kate



### Digital Technology with Mr Perry



### **Technology tips for parents**

Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing some **technology tips for parents**. In a world where children are "growing up digital," it's important to help them learn healthy concepts of digital use and citizenship. Parents play an important role in teaching these skills.

#### **Set limits and encourage playtime.**

Media use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits. Unstructured and offline play stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children.



#### **Screen time shouldn't always be alone time.**

Co-view, co-play and co-engage with your children when they are using screens - it encourages social interactions, bonding, and learning. Play a video game with your kids. It's a good way to demonstrate good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette. Watch a show with them; you will have the opportunity to introduce and share your own life experiences and perspectives - and guidance. Don't just monitor them online - interact with them, so you can understand what they are doing and be a part of it.

#### **Be a good role model.**

Teach and model kindness and good manners online. Because children are great mimics, limit your own media use. In fact, you'll be more available for and connected with your children if you're interacting, hugging and playing with them rather than simply staring at a screen.



### **Five forgotten skill sets that contribute to student success**

We found this article from Michael Grose, one of Australia's leading parent experts and thought we would share it with you over the next few weeks.

#### **Michael states the following:**

At a time when we hear a great deal about growth mindsets, good mental health habits and creating

digitally savvy students, we can easily overlook the skill sets that form the building blocks of long-term school success. These are skill sets that are also easily forgotten when we narrow our focus onto numeracy, literacy, performing arts, STEM and other academic areas. While all these other mental skills and academic areas are important, the skills the skills to focus on are ones that can be taught, or at the very least drawn out, alongside every other skill when we as parents and teachers know what to look for.

1. Friendship skills The ability to get along with others is hugely important for children and teenagers. Those students with a strong set of friendship skills are easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with. The skills they possess include knowing how to win and lose well, how to approach others to join in a group and how to lead rather than boss.

**More to follow next week....**

## Key Dates

### **Monday 20th July**

Come and Try Morning

### **Friday 24th July**

Flying Start Session 1

### **Monday 27th July**

Year 5/6 Personal  
Development Online  
Meeting

### **Tuesday 28th July**

St Mary MacKillop  
Transition Day

### **Wednesday 29th July**

Come and Try Morning

### **Friday 31st July**

Flying Start Session 2

### **Friday 7th August**

Flying Start Session 3

### **Monday 10th August**

Come and Try Morning

### **Tuesday 11th August**

School Advisory Council  
Meeting @ 7pm

## Administration News

### **Scholastic Book Club**

Issue 5 orders are due by Friday 27th July, 2020.

Please click on this link to access the latest Issue –

<https://scholastic.com.au/book-club>

This is the link for LOOP, which will allow you to make an online order and payment

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

If you are not registered for LOOP, click on the link above and create a new account. You will need to enter your details, add children and select our school (St. Marys SWAN HILL)

Scholastic will then send the completed book orders to the School, as normal. We will then contact the families that placed the orders to arrange a time to pick up their order. If you have any questions or are having trouble with the LOOP ordering system, please contact the office via email - [office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

### **School In Action Tours**

Personalised tours are available at any time during Term 3. Please contact the office 50332541 to arrange a tour today.

### **Come and Try Mornings**

A chance for your child to come in and join a Foundation class for the morning and see our school in action in real time.

**Monday 20th July 9:30-11:00**

**Wednesday 29th July 9:30-11:00**

**Monday 10th August 9:30-11:00**

### **Flying Start - A school familiarisation program for Preschool Children**

There are still some places available so don't forget to contact the school to confirm a place for your preschooler. They love the chance to experience sessions of Phonics, Music, Italian, Physical Education, Art and Technology and to meet many of our teachers along the way. Flying Start starts next Friday morning with sessions at 9:00 10:30 or 11:30 –1:00 for all interested families.



### **Swan Hill Secondary College Transition Days for Year 6 students**

After advice from the region that they should not be hosting visiting schools, the Swan Hill Secondary College have made the decision to cancel their upcoming Term 3 Transition Days. They will advise all feeder schools of their alternative plans later this term. For families who are enrolling at the college in 2021, please send your application directly to their office.

### **Health**

**reminder**

A reminder that, in order to do our best to protect our community from contracting any virus, it is important to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home. If a child presents to the office expressing that they are unwell, or if their teacher feels that a child is displaying unwell symptoms, parents/carers will be called

to collect them from school. It is important that in this current climate we are vigilant with the health of the community and take measures to make good decisions.





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## **PAM – What is PAM and why is it so important to have an active PAM account**

PAM (Parent Access Module) is St Mary's secure electronic communication system and over the next few weeks, we will explain some of the features of PAM to ensure that you find it to be a useful platform of information regarding your child and a simple form of communication between the school and yourself.

PAM can be accessed using the following link; <http://pam.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au> The link can also be found on our school website under "Current Parents" then select "Communication Apps". Please note that PAM is not an app and it is recommended to save this link to your device.

All families have received their account details and should have verified your email address. If you have not done this, please do this at your earliest convenience to avoid missing important information. If you require assistance with your PAM account, please contact the office on 03 50332541.

**MEDICAL PROFILE** This forms an important part of your child's profile. This needs to be completed as soon as you have verified your email address. You will need to have information in regards to Medicare, Ambulance cover, Private Health cover and Health Care Card to complete the information in one sitting.

It is important to have your child's medical profile current to allow us to care for your child accordingly if your child presents to sickbay. From time to time, you will be asked to check if the information is still current and again prior to an excursion or camp.

To view your child's Medical Profile, log in to your PAM account, select the child, from the Profile Menu select "Medical Profile" and add or edit your child's details.

**SICK BAY** If your child presents to sickbay, you will receive an email advising you that your child has been treated in the sick bay. For your reference, you can view past sick bay visits by selecting the child, from Profile Menu select "Sick Passes". From here, you will be able to view sick bay visits from the time your account was verified and your child's medical profile created.

**Student of the Week**

<b>6O</b>	Jed Y	Vaughan O
<b>6P</b>	Sascha W	Jonah C
<b>6Q</b>	Maggie M	Rydar M
<b>5R</b>	Ryder C	Tyler B
<b>5S</b>	All of 5S	
<b>5T</b>	Charlie F	Ryan F
<b>5U</b>	Ben R	Lily S
<b>4A</b>	Gypsi O	Noah F
<b>4B</b>	Jasmeen B	Ryan H
<b>4W</b>	Arna C	Kevin T
<b>4Y</b>	Jobe C	Rory D
<b>3G</b>	Bohden B	Kayla M
<b>3H</b>	All of 3H	
<b>3I</b>	Tommy N	Dane R
<b>3J</b>	Molly D	Sonic H
<b>2K</b>	Ruby E	Mackenzie S
<b>2L</b>	Emily S	Archie O
<b>2M</b>	Emma W	Nhan P
<b>2N</b>	Evie C	Zavier F
<b>1C</b>	Maggie O	Simran K
<b>1D</b>	Haydon M	Cherry N
<b>1E</b>	Scarlett F    Milan P	Oliver S
<b>1F</b>	Mack H	Vincent C
<b>F Blue</b>	Nate	Ellery M
<b>F Green</b>	Alisha K	Sophie K
<b>F Yellow</b>	Luca B	Titalia C
<b>F Purple</b>	Tom L	Hera P



<b>Music</b>	Scarlett B	Year 6P	Year 4W	Lucas O
<b>Italian</b>	All of 5R	Ruby M	Violet C	William M
<b>PE</b>	Chloe N	All of 2L	Indi L	Amelie R
<b>Art</b>	Milli L	All of 3G		



July 20th - Van N

July 21st - Jobe C, Louis R,  
Archer T

July 22nd - Ramel A, Kaylynn F,  
Connor F, Lola P, Pippa W

July 24th - Flynn O

July 25th - Jorja C

July 26th - Max O

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

# St Mary's Primary School



## Flying Start Program



*Flying Start was a fantastic program and provided Willow with the chance to become familiar with the school grounds, make connections with her teachers and with other children who may be in her class the following year. She loved participating in the specialist subjects and it really assisted her with developing confidence and a sense of belonging.*

*Amy Cadd & Willow*

*The Flying Start Program helped Maya with the transitions from kinder to school. She really enjoyed the different sessions and meeting all the teachers. It really increased her confidence with starting school.*

*Anna Steicke with Maya*



*The Flying Start sessions were great for our son as they helped prepare him for the transition to school. Beau was made to feel very welcome and felt comfortable going into 'big school'. He was able to socialise with different children and got to meet some of the staff. This all helped make the start to Foundation a very smooth one for Beau.*

*Tamika Hogan & Beau*

At St Mary's

## **“Every Child Matters Every Day”**



**Flying Start, St Mary's free school familiarisation program for PRE- SCHOOL CHILDREN starts Friday 24th July 2020. Phone 50332541 for further information or to book a place.**

# 4W



*Since being back at school this term, 4W have been enjoying learning about our new Religion topic, 'Sustainability.' We have been exploring some of the ways that our human footprint impacts on the sustainability of God's creation.*

Here are some ways we are already being sustainable here at St. Mary's and at home...

At school, we have recently installed solar panels. Ella W	We have "eco bins" at school where we put fruit scraps in and feed them to the chooks. Luca Z
My family wash out bottles and jars to make sauces. Isla G	We have vegetable gardens at school. Harrison B
Some people bring 'nude food' to school, instead of plastic packaged food. Brayden M	Sometimes on Friday afternoon we go outside and pick up rubbish. Miela R
At home we save water by having short showers. Matilda T	At home we turn off lights that don't need to be on. Zoe B
My family make sure we turn the tap off properly to save water. Travis BB	We turn off our TV when we aren't watching it. Arna C
My family are going to grow our own fruit and vegetables. Jake O	In my house, we make sure we switch off powerpoints when they are not in use. Indi H
I put my rubbish in the bin. Kevin T	We bring our own bags to the supermarket to avoid plastic. Skye P
I use a reusable drink bottle. Max R	My family sometimes hangs our clothes on the line instead of using the dryer. Angus S
When we finish tea, we sometimes wash our dishes by hand instead of using the dishwasher. Oliver M	Instead of buying bottled water, we use a filter to get clean water. Kit C
My family re-use plastic bottles. Jovi P	I collect seeds and plant them instead of buying plants and trees. Thomas K
My family use stainless steel drink bottles. Lowan G	I try and spend as much time outdoors as I can. Carisa D
I ride my bike lots and walk to friends' houses. Violet C	We love buying plants and spending time outdoors! Jenna and Miss Scarce

