



Term 3 Week 3

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



27th July 2020

Welcome to Week 3

Dear Parents and Families,

On Friday, our Flying Start classes proved to be a huge hit with 4 groups of happy preschoolers enjoying their first try at a big school and we look forward to getting to know them and their families over the next few weeks.

2021 Enrolments

Due to the social restrictions that we have faced throughout Term 2 & 3, we have had to change the way we approach our enrolment process. While we wait for the green light to run school tours later in the year 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. We are always adding to our videos on Facebook, the most recent is one about our Pre School Transition program - Flying Start.

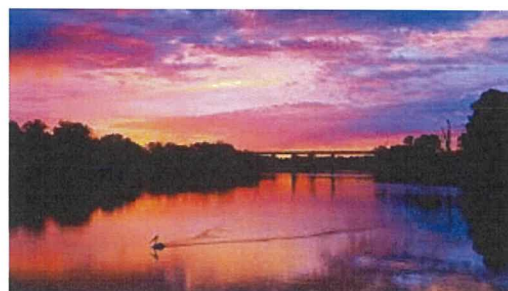
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/1187195548325376>

There are many families in the wider community still undecided on a school for 2021. I encourage everyone to spread the word about our wonderful school and why you have chosen this school for your family.

COVID -19 update

In these days of COVID-19 we can become overwhelmed by the negative media saturation. It is important that our children hear us being positive and hope-filled. With this in mind I share the following reflection:

*"I've always been delighted at the prospect of a new day,
a fresh try, one more start,
with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere
behind the morning." JB Priestly*



There have been no changes to the current measures we have in place to look after the health and safety of staff, students and the wider community. Thank you to the parents and carers who are keeping students at home if they are feeling unwell. Please note that it is not compulsory for children to be temperature checked each day on entering school or for staff and students to wear a mask as it is in Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire.

Parent Information Night - Personal Development

The Year 5/6 team are running an information night via Google Meet tonight Monday 27th July, starting at 7 pm. The letter was sent last week via email 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.

Come and Try Mornings

There is a virtual tour of our school on Facebook. It highlights what happens on our very popular "Come and Try" mornings. Running throughout July and August, Come and Try allows preschoolers to try out school in real time in a Foundation class. This week we welcome preschoolers on Wednesday and judging from last week's groups they are in for a great time! Check out Come and Try on our Facebook page today!

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/580617466151738/>

Casual Dress - Comfy Clothes & Coins 4 COVID

This Friday marks our next casual dress day- with input from the SRC the theme this month is Comfy Clothes & Coins for COVID. Essentially staff and students have the chance to wear something comfy, the option to bring along some spare change and donate to support those most affected by COVID -19 in our state. Each class will make a coin line apart from having fun doing this, the proceeds will be donated to Foodbank who have been assisting groups of people in Victoria including the North Melbourne Towers during the recent health crisis.



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 would welcome more parental representation on this team and warmly invite anyone who is interested to make contact with Kate.**

Assembly Prayer & SOW

Assembly led by year 6O last week provided us with the opportunity to reflect on sustainability and our own practices. This week's assembly is hosted by **4A** and we will also include a digital version of SOW for parents and family to watch which is filmed by our Yr 6 School Captains and Media leaders.

Have a great week and stay well and safe

Kate



Get ready for school with Flying Start

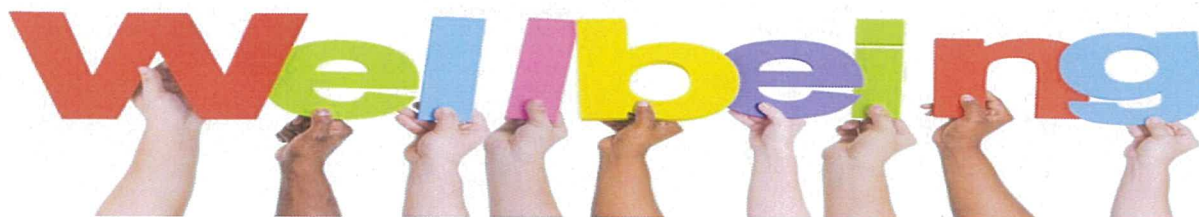
Our 2020 Flying Start program began on Friday July 24th. It is a wonderful way for preschoolers to learn more about school life and for us to get to know many of our 2021 students before they commence school next year. We have some spaces left in some of the 9:00 am sessions and in the 11:30 group. If 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.



COVID-19 assessment tools

The following online assessment tool is available on the DHHS website to help people determine if they should get tested for COVID-19, along with clinic details, an FAQ which includes a definition of a close contact and isolation/quarantine as well as a range of other information:

Getting tested for Coronavirus <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>



Five forgotten skill sets that contribute to student success. Continuing on from last week.

by Michael Grose

2. Organisational skills

The ability to organise your time, your space, your items and other aspects of your life is a massive plus for any student. The best way to help children who

are organisationally challenged is to introduce them to systems and processes to help them organise themselves. These processes include the use of visual reminders, anchoring (i.e. linking new behaviours to habitual behaviours) and the mapping out of activities.

3. Optimism skills

It may seem strange to see optimism as a skill set, but as leading psychologist Professor Martin Seligman discovered through his research, optimism can be taught. Seligman found that while some children are more inclined by nature to see a glass as half empty than half full, all children are capable of developing an optimistic explanatory style through exposure and direct teaching. The skills of optimism include being aware of self-talk, reframing negative events into positive events and the practice of perspective-taking.

Curriculum News with Mrs Hall

The importance of technology within the classroom and school curriculum has certainly flourished this year. From our remote home learning experiences, teachers this term are continually revisiting the ways in which digital resources can be used in a variety of ways to support our current teaching and learning approaches. Technology has the ability to enhance relationships between teachers, students and parents. Students are also able to collaborate with their peers, receive feedback, experience a variety of virtual learning experiences and access many learning educational opportunities tailored to their individual needs. Technology makes learning meaningful and fun as well as preparing our students for the digital world they are growing up in.



We have recently purchased an extensive range of devices to enhance our Digital Technologies curriculum and STEM program such as Spheros, Bee Bots, Makey Makeys Kits and Lego Spike coding sets. Our Bee Bot program begins in the junior rooms. These hands-on robots are multi-sensory and stimulate the students' imagination and creativity thinking through exploration and discovery and support teaching programs, particularly literacy and mathematics.

The senior students will use the Lego, Make Makey and Sphero robots to learn how to code and they also make use of programs such as Scratch. They absolutely love utilising these devices to problem solve, work collaboratively and at the same time engage in practical opportunities to use design thinking and to be innovative developers of digital solutions and knowledge.



Digital Technology with Mr Perry



Technology tips for parents

Create tech-free zones.

Keep family mealtimes, other family and social gatherings, and children's bedrooms screen free. Turn off televisions that you aren't watching, because background TV can get in the way of face-to-face time with kids.

Recharge devices overnight—outside your child's bedroom to help him or her avoid the temptation to use them when they should be sleeping. These changes encourage more family time, healthier eating habits, and better sleep.

Know the value of face-to-face communication.

Very young children learn best through two-way communication. Engaging in back-and-forth "talk time" is critical for language development. Conversations can be face-to-face or, if necessary, by video chat with a traveling parent or far-away grandparent. Research has shown that it's that "back-and-forth conversation" that improves language skills—much more so than "passive" listening or one-way interaction with a screen.

Don't use technology as an emotional pacifier.

Media can be very effective in keeping kids calm and quiet, but it should not be the only way they learn to calm down. Children need to be taught how to identify and handle strong emotions, come up with activities to manage boredom, or calm down through breathing, talking about ways to solve the problem, and finding other strategies for channelling emotions.

Casual Dress - Friday 31st July - Comfy Clothes & Coins for COVID

The SRC had a meeting last week to decide on our fundraising focus for our casual dress this Friday 31st July. There was an overwhelming majority that we would like to raise money for people most affected by the COVID Crisis. We have decided to donate the total amount of our money to the organisation Foodbank Victoria - an organisation helping those in need to access food each day - especially those affected by the COVID-19 Crisis.



We have decided that we are going to hold a 'Comfy Clothes & Coins for COVID' theme day.

Throughout the whole of this week we are running a competition for each class to bring in as many coins as they can to contribute to their class's total. On Friday we will be creating 'coin lines' in the outside assembly area between recess and lunch to judge who has the longest line. The winning class will receive a prize. We will all wear our 'Comfy Clothes' as our theme. Time to gather up and send in all those spare coins we have lying around the house that can help support a very worthy cause!

PE News with Miss Clark

This term during our PE lessons the focus is on Athletics. With uncertain times at the moment and some restrictions on events, please stay tuned for what the Athletics days will look like this term. Both Junior and Senior Athletics are likely to be run at school with restrictions around the use of parent helpers so we will instead heavily rely on staff helpers. More information about these events will be sent out later in the term.





Monday 27th July
Year 5/6 Personal
Development **Online**
Meeting 7 pm

Tuesday 28th July

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

St Mary's Skoolbag App

We are aware that some families are having issues login into the Skoolbag app. Skoolbag have recently completed a security update to their app and some users were affected.

If you are unable to login to the app you will need to have your password reset. Please contact the office and we can reset your password for you.

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.

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 to 10:30 or 11:30 –1:00 for all interested families.



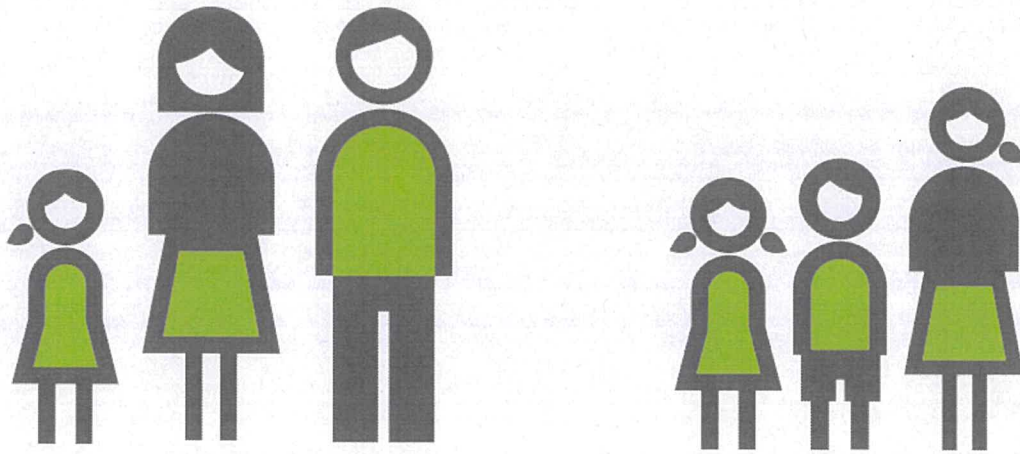
Secondary Transition Days for Year 6 students

St Mary Mackillop are holding their Yr 6 transition day on August 26th with information available from their front office.

The Swan Hill Secondary College have made the decision to cancel their upcoming Term 3 Transition Days and 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.



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 - Term 3 Week 2

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6O | Ben F | Vaughan O |
| 6P | Sonny T | Indi O |
| 6Q | Willow C | Cody M |
| 5R | Emily P | Max C |
| 5S | Willow A | Joel S |
| 5T | Anna H | Jack C |
| 5U | Ben R | Ben N Patrick E |
| 4A | Pippa W | Brock J |
| 4B | Ramel Alvear | Stella E |
| 4W | Isla G | Oliver M |
| 4Y | Chloe M | Hannah D |
| 3G | Elli S Noa BW | Sienna C |
| 3H | Lola P | Hugh A |
| 3I | Madison B | Taj K |
| 3J | Sophie W | Hamy H |
| 2K | Willow V | Gemma N |
| 2L | Belle L | Sampson B |
| 2M | Indi L | Braxton W |
| 2N | Domi C | Jagger M |
| 1C | Tyler B | Steele W |
| 1D | Chloe JL | Brady C |
| 1E | Isabel F | Isaac R |
| 1F | Charlie H Indy C | Mary D |
| F Blue | Beau F | Ruby McDougall |
| F Green | Xavier M | Jaxon Nguyen |
| F Yellow | Jayla P Mark H | All of Foundation Yellow |
| F Purple | Ekamdeep K | Charlie R |
| Music | Anna H All of 1C | Malakai M All of 4B |
| Italian | All of 4A Oscar R | Emma W Ellery M |
| PE | All of 2K Leo W | All of 4A Rayne E |
| Art | Hugo B All of 5S Aarav B Emme H | Maddie H & Jagger M (from Wk 1) |



Happy Birthday

July 27th - Taeissa T

July 28th - Ella F, Reesha K

July 29th - Alisha K, Ellah RB,
Sarah T

July 30th - Xavier M

July 31st - Amelie R

August 1st - Jook M, Ryley Q

August 2nd - Evie K, Dunia K,
Blake S

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.



DURING TERM 3 WE WELCOME PRESCHOOLERS INTO OUR FOUNDATION CLASSES TO TRY OUT A MORNING AT 'BIG SCHOOL'...WE HAD A NUMBER OF PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES SEND THEIR CHILD ALONG LAST WEEK AND THEY HAD A LOT OF FUN! CHECK OUT COME AND TRY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TODAY!

