



Term 3 Week 6

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



17th August 2020

Welcome to Week 6

Dear Parents and Families,

We gear up for a shorter week with a school closure day tomorrow, August 18th, giving everyone a chance to recharge the batteries as we enter our third week of remote learning.

Thank you all very much for the communication, cooperation and understanding you have shown with your child's class teacher. We understand that each family has different circumstances to deal with at home and therefore each child's learning situation is different. Normally, teachers set the tone and work environment and can visibly see, hear and measure progress from within the classroom. While in remote learning, parent-teacher partnerships are more vital than ever. That is why, on behalf of the staff, please accept our gratitude for your support and continuous positive approach to remote learning at St Mary's. You are making a huge effort in the remote learning space, and we are very grateful to you for this.

Facebook and 2021 Enrolments

Our Facebook and Instagram pages are a great way for us to keep families 'in the loop' about what is happening while we are remote learning.

On Friday we posted students of the Week and Highlights from Remote Learning Week 5

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/304088784144657/>

and also highlights from our second Flying Start session held on July 31st

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/2716254951982553/>

Check them out, they showcase some of the creative and interesting learning happening across the levels and you never know as you may see one of your own children starring! This week look out for assembly with 5T on Facebook.

2021

Enrolments 2021

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.

Messages from Melbourne schools

One of the lovely and unexpected ripple effects from sending off cards of support to schools in lockdown have been the amount of schools who have contacted us to thank us for brightening their staff and students day. We have received emails, video messages, photos and/or phone calls from 7 schools to date as well as messages from the Sisters of St Joseph. Please let your children know that a small act of kindness can indeed go a long way.

We are now on Instagram!!!

Corona-19 restrictions have meant that we virtually have no way to personally meet and talk to prospective families. This means social media is more important than ever for us to connect with the wider community and showcase all St Mary's has on offer. Follow our school and encourage others too, as it's a great way to show our wonderful school in action.

Temperature Checks

Last week we were required to start temperature checks for any students onsite. Trained staff check each child's temperature as they come to school. If, as advised in the CECV directives, the student's temperature is 37.5 or above the parent or carer will be required to take the child home.

A final reminder is that no issue is too big or too small. Both Jason and I are onsite at St. Marys and are available each day to answer questions, clarify and help while our teaching teams are highly skilled and committed people. These teams have already demonstrated a high-level of commitment to remote learning and above all are dedicated to supporting you and your family for the remainder of this term.

Please continue to look out for updates from the school via your email and on our Facebook page throughout the week as these tools are our key ways to stay in touch.



Kate

Free webinar: Lightening the Lockdown Load

St. Mary's has registered for a free webinar for parents - Lightening the Lockdown Load on Wednesday, August 19th at 8pm

Lockdown can be hard. It can hurt our kids and it's a drain on parents.

The first time was tricky. There were challenges. For some, it was horrible. But most of us managed ok and got through it.

This time it's different. The pressure is higher. The demands are greater. The children could be more oppositional. The home learning stretch will be longer. There's work stress, family stress, and stress about being stressed!

While we can't click our fingers and make it magically disappear, there are real strategies that parents and children can rely on to not just survive, but thrive - even in a far-too-long lockdown. They're simple ideas that you can start on right away.

Join Dr Justin Coulson, one of Australia's most trusted parenting specialists, as he shares 4 secrets to make it through the pain of the winter COVID-19 Victorian lockdown.

By the end of the FREE webinar, you'll:

- Feel reassured, with less stress and pressure around your kids, their schooling, and life
- Have concrete strategies you can start on immediately to make your family happier
- Know how to be on the same page as your partner
- Be able to develop habits and practices that will ensure your children - and YOU - can get your daily work done, even while everyone is stuck at home.

To register for the webinar on Wednesday, August 19th at 8pm - click on the link below:

[Lightening the Lockdown Load](#)



Key Dates

Tuesday 18th August
School Closure Day - no onsite supervision

Friday 21st August
Casual Dress Day onsite

THEME
TRACKY DACK DAY

Wednesday 9th
September
Pupil Free Day - no onsite supervision
Staff PD day

Administration News

Book Club - Issue 6

Term 3 we will be running Scholastic Book Club digitally, again, so catalogues and orders will all be done online. We will **NOT** be accepting cash payments this term for book orders. **Issue 6 orders are due by Monday 31st August, 2020.**

Please click on this link to access the latest issue

<https://scholastic.com.au/media/5667/bc-620.pdf>

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

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.

Absences during remote learning

Just a reminder that during remote learning, you still need to inform the office via PAM, phone or email if your child will not be in attendance on a particular day. This applies to both onsite students and remote learning students.

PAM User Guides

Keep an eye out on our weekly newsletter for our PAM user guides. These step by step instructions will help you use PAM more effectively. If you are having difficulty with PAM, please call our office on 03 50332541.



PAM – How does the school communicate with me through PAM?

PAM is St Mary's main communication platform. All school related information is sent through PAM, so it is important to check your emails regularly. All communication via PAM will be sent to the email address linked to your PAM account. Please also check your spam/junk mail as sometimes these emails will go to this folder. Just mark the email "not spam/junk" and emails should then begin to appear in your inbox.

Here is an overview of the different types of communication you may receive through PAM;

noreply@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au – General school information/announcements/updates or information we need to communicate to all families or a large percentage of families. Please note that this information may not always be relevant to your family.

Newsletter – emailed via PAM weekly.

Letters – you will receive an email notification advising you have a new letter available to view. These letters could be in regards to additional support programs, appointments, administration matters etc. There will be a link to access this through PAM.

Click on this link, this will take you to PAM, log in and in the top right hand corner on the "bell" will be a red dot with a number inside. These are your notifications. Click on this to view any letters/attachments. The red numbered dot will disappear once the letter has been opened.

You can view past letters by clicking on the student, profile menu, "Letters". This will show all letters sent via PAM since the beginning of 2020.

Excursions & School Activity Permissions - you will receive an email notification advising you have a new "school activity permission" available to view. There will be a link to access this through PAM.

Click on this link, this will take you to PAM, log in and in the top right hand corner on the "bell" will be a red dot with a number inside. These are your notifications. Click to view school activity permission details. Consent is given by scrolling to the bottom of the school activity details. The red numbered dot will disappear once the school activity permission has been opened.

You can view past letters by clicking on the student, profile menu, "School Activities". This will show all school activities sent via PAM since the beginning of 2020.

Please phone the office on 03 50332541 if you require any assistance with PAM and our office staff will be happy to assist you.



Happy Birthday

August 19th

Addie B, Samuel R, Charlie R

August 20th

Emme H

August 21st

Ben N, Sienna S

August 22nd

Willem H, Jagger M, Meg Y

August 23rd

Khang V

Student of the Week - Term 3 Week 5

6O	Max P	Sonny B
6P	Tyler G	Oaklea B
6Q	Maddison B	Mustafa A
5R	Jake F	Maddox W
5S	Emily P	Marty C
5T	Luciana S	Jemma T
5U	Lily S	Monique P
4A	Indie M	Mason F
4B	Saxcen C	Owen U
4W	Carisa D	Max R
4Y	Ava G	Mitch K
3G	Henry D	Charlotte O
3H	Morrissey M	Martin N
3I	Eliza L	Mav B
3J	Maddyn F	Jasnoor K
2K	Pearl D	Olivia R
2L	Josh K	Dunia K
2M	Aidee B	Harlow R
2N	Pacey T	Ruby G
1C	Stella W	Adrian T
1D	Margaret T	Elizabeth T
1E	Shelma L Emme H	Rubi K
1F	Harry B Ellie W	Ben H
F Blue	Johannes O	Logan K
F Green	Spencer S	Kur M Jaxon N
F Yellow	Raf F	Estelle H
F Purple	All of Foundation purple	



4A 'Hats and Caps' Day



Messages from Melbourne schools

One of the lovely and unexpected ripple effects from sending off cards of support to schools in lockdown have been the amount of schools who have contacted us to thank us for brightening their staff and students day. We have received emails, video messages, photos and/or phone class from 7 schools to date as well as messages from the Sisters of St Joseph.

Thank you so much for the letters from your students. Yesterday we included these letters, showing the beautiful illustrations and sharing the messages, in our Assembly, showing the support from St Mary's Swan Hill. We are also keeping your community in our prayers. Our community is a bayside community with 282 students, who enjoy the beachside, currently confined to a 5 Km area to support everyone in our state. Again thank you and keep safe everyone.

Yvan Frederic Principal
Stella Maris Primary School, Beaumauris



I am wishing to send our thanks for the beautiful cards and thoughts which we received this week from your community.

It was a thoughtful gesture and one we were pleased to receive. After the initial shock and disappointment we have settled back into remote learning knowing it is going to be the whole term. Teachers think they are doing things so much better this time around and have settled into a good routine. But on the whole things are quite dreary here in

Melbourne particularly with parents struggling with supervision and working at the same time. Also on a side note, one of our teachers Georgie Hession was a student of your school back a few years ago and her dad is a local doctor and mum works at the hospital. So we already felt connected.

Thanks once again

Lindy Smith Principal Trinity Catholic School, Richmond



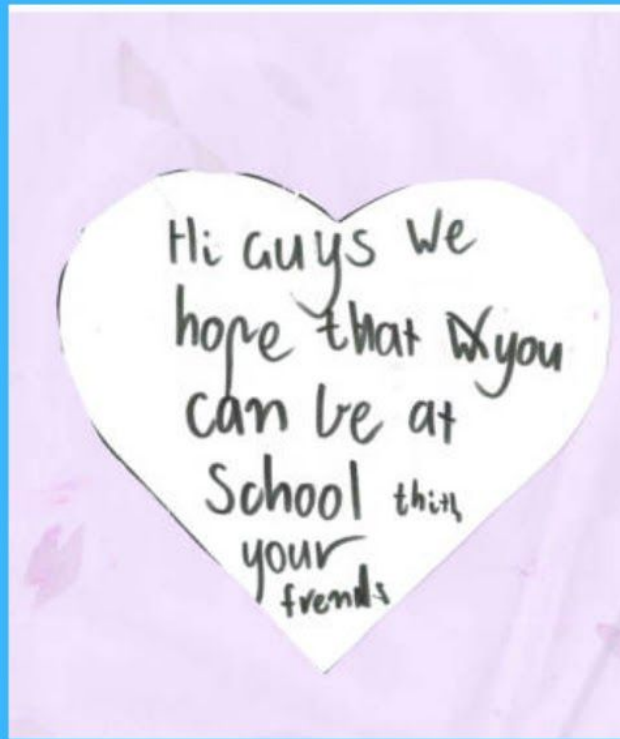
What a lovely surprise to receive such beautiful letters from your school community. This is so warmly received and greatly appreciated. I will share these with our families and staff. Please pass on our thanks to Foundation Yellow. We hope your community is also keeping well during this difficult time. Take care, keep safe and well.
Maree McIntosh Principal
Our Ladies, Brunswick East



Dear Kate, We are beyond delighted to have received the cards from your wonderful school community. They are a real pick-me-up for our kids, some of whom are finding this stint of remote learning and Stage 4 lockdown very challenging. We are right in the middle of a whole school Inquiry Unit that focuses on Community; how we are connected to community, how we contribute and most importantly how we strengthen community so that all may flourish. Incredibly, we planned this way back in Term 4 2019, never imagining what 2020 would give us. To be thought of in this way by your kids means a lot to us. Our theme for 2020 has been Moving forward with Joy and Gratitude, and we are reminded of this through your act of kindness. We have featured the cards throughout our Newsletter and I have provided the link here.
Please pass on our thanks to all the kids and the teachers at St Mary's. Stay Well
Gerard Broadfoot Principal

Kate, Your school has really made our day here at St Gerards. It has been pretty tough being in Stage 4 for staff, families and the kids and your cards and messages of support from St Mary's meant a lot. We have put the cards on display in our front foyer and you will feature on our Monday assembly. A sincere thank you for reaching out.
Paul Cowan Principal St Gerards, Dandenong East
Sr Rita from the Sisters of St Josephs was contacted by the principal and staff at Holy Family in Mt Waverley to send their thanks and appreciation for the cards sent from St Mary's.





Dear students at St Mary's
Today I opened the mail and what a lovely surprise I received, an envelope full of beautiful cards!!! This is a very kind and thoughtful gesture and I know the Annunciation staff and children will be very pleased to see them. We are also a Josephite school and we often talk about Mary Mackillop's motto "never see a need without doing something about it." We are a very small school compared to yours, we only have 62 students!!! At the moment all our children are learning from home with only a very few coming to school because their Mums and dads work. Our teachers are teaching live every day and we have been doing this for a long time. The children don't mind learning from home but we miss each other and I know they would much rather be at school. We are hoping that after the next 4 weeks we can all come back to school. It has been a very tricky year but we have learnt to appreciate our families, our teachers and each other. Thank you once again for thinking of us in Melbourne. This makes us feel so much better that other people are showing the children your beautiful work. We have a whole school assembly this Friday online so I will show the children your beautiful work.

Thank you once again
Robyn Kelly and staff and students at Annunciation!
--Robyn Kelly Principal Annunciation Primary School