



Term 3 Week 7

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



24th August 2020

Welcome to Week 7

Dear Parents and Families,

Talking to students and families it is lovely to hear how excited the children are to be seeing their teachers and friends in their Google Meet sessions. It has also been truly impressive to see the way both students and staff have swung back into learning online. Our staff have worked on refining their online delivery and their aim continues to be providing learning experiences that are engaging, open ended and focused on key curriculum areas and priorities. A great example of this was the Year 6 team creating a virtual school camp in Melbourne for our students as they could not attend this camp in person. We are also mindful of the juggling act home learning is for families and thank you sincerely for working with us.

Virtual pet parade

The school captains did a great job advertising this whole school event on our Facebook page and the pet photos and videos are rolling in It's a great way for our staff and students to learn more about each other as they post photos of their animals at home.... and I have to say there are seriously some very cute pets out there !



Remote Flying Start

We have been busy last week filming sessions and making up some exciting showbags of resources for children enrolled in Flying Start. The Flying start team have shown they are absolute naturals on the screen and the videos produced are terrific! We will launch Remote Flying Start later this week and can't wait to see what our preschoolers and families think of this aspect of our transition program

Riding the Corona Coaster

Following on from the very positive response we had from families and a number of staff, I'd like to draw your attention to a special report, Riding the Corona Coaster, featuring well known children's psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg. More information in our wellbeing section of the newsletter.

Facebook, Instagram & 2021 Enrolments

Our school 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 5T's assembly prayer

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/331112344914356/> and Students of the

Week <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/940008713161139/>



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 1C on Facebook.

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.



Family Fee Assistance

We are very conscious and respectful of the economic times we find ourselves in. Covid is having an impact on many people's livelihoods and if you are at all concerned about school fees, please contact me or Maree in the school office. We are here to listen and assist in any way possible. Please refer to the information accompanying this newsletter regarding the Family Fee Assistance Scheme.

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. [#stmarysswanhill...](#) follow us now to learn more about the virtual pet parade and remote Flying Start sessions happening later this week.

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 families through this time.

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

Kate



School TV SPECIAL REPORT: Riding the Corona Coaster

Across Victoria, students and their families are experiencing challenging times with the state being in various stages of lockdown yet again.

However, this second wave of the pandemic is now also beginning to impact other areas of Australia and New Zealand. Riding this corona coaster and navigating the ups and downs of the current reality is proving to be confronting for many people.

The coronavirus has turned our lives upside down with some students returning to remote learning and parents continuing to juggle the home environment.

The uncertainty of not knowing what will happen next may have an impact on many students and their families. There is a concern that mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and substance abuse, will increase, especially amongst young people. In the coming weeks, it will be vital for adult carers to reduce the stress levels at home and make life seem more manageable.

This Report encourages families to embrace the guidance offered to help minimise the impact of this corona coaster.

https://brisbanesde.eq.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-riding-corona-coaster



Curriculum News with Mrs Hall

This year again as a school we are proud to be participating in the Young Writers Award which is kindly organised by our local library. The competition is devised to inspire students to write a narrative piece of no more than 500 words. This year's theme is 'Eat'. Last year we proudly had 4 finalists make it to the final round of judging.

The competition consists of 7 categories; Grade Prep, Grade 1/2, Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6, Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Multi-class.

The following students have made the shortlisted entries on behalf of St. Mary's and have had their entry submitted to the library.

We congratulate:

Foundation: Kaleila Ocampo, Wilhem Foott

Year 1/2: Oliver Sparks, Ellie Woodburn, Caleb Mitchell, Maggie O'Connor

Year 3/4 : Sam Brown, Jobe Crow, Lilian Hucker, Thomas Kennedy

Year 5/6: Ryley Fogarty, Marion Doherty, Kyra Croft, Anna Fazzalori, Maggie Meney, Mitchell Anderson, Ava Crow



Digital Technology with Mr Perry

Technology tips for parents

Warn children about the importance of privacy

Children need to know that once content is shared online with others, they will not be able to delete or remove it completely. They may also not know about or choose not to use privacy settings. Encourage them to learn about the privacy settings of the apps or websites they use to ensure they only share information with people they know and can trust.

Remember: Kids will be kids. Kids will make mistakes using digital media.

Try to handle errors with empathy and turn a mistake into a teachable moment. Parents must observe their children's use of digital media carefully. Take an interest in what your children are accessing online and encourage them to ask you questions or advice if they are unsure about anything. When you encounter something that you are unsure about, seek further help.



RE News with Mrs Davies

Living in the Present Moment

You've heard it said before—probably many times—that it's important to live in the present moment. You also might have heard similar pieces of advice like:

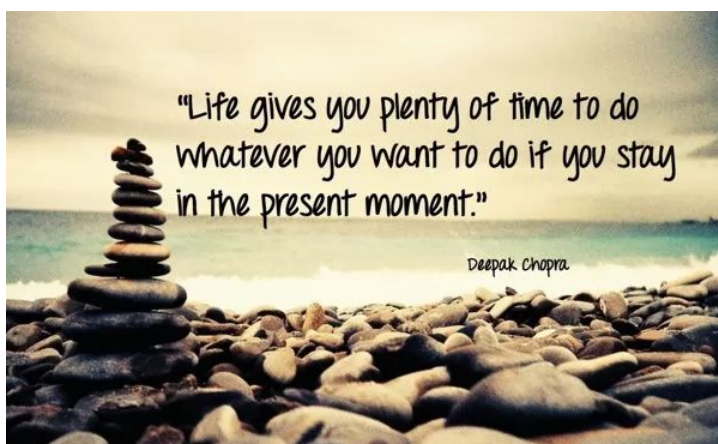
- “Don't get caught up in thinking about the past or the future—live in the now!”
- “Be present in your own life.”
- “All you have is this moment. Don't let it slip away.”



All of these sayings boil down to the same basic message: it's vital to live in the present moment.

Being in the present moment, or the “here and now,” means that we are aware and mindful of what is happening at this very moment. We are not distracted by what has happened in the past or worries about the future, but centered in the here and now. All of our attention is focused on the present moment

During this time it is important to take some time out and be present with your children each day. Whilst work is important, never forget that your children are more important and they grow up so quickly. Right now think of this unprecedented time in your children's life as being a special gift for you all and take the opportunity to be with them each day. There has been such joy over the past few months of children and families laughing and spending time together during lockdown. The opportunities to share their learning and their interests has been a truly valuable experience that they are sure never to forget.



KEY DATES

Friday 28th August

Casual Dress Day

Daffodil Day

Wear something yellow

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.

August 24th - Jayla P

**August 26th - Chloe L,
Mason M, Reve O**

August 28th - Lily S

**August 29th- Mary D, Estelle
H, Panav K**

**August 30th- Izzy A, Rory B,
Maddison B, Jedd M & Charlotte O**

**h a p p y
b i r t h d a y**

Student of the Week - Term 3 Week 6

6O	Jack B	Ava C
6P	Myles H	Kiah P
6Q	Issy C	Mitch B
5R	Carly S	Scarlett B
5S	Ryley F	Angus T
5T	Laura D	Ruby M
5U	Amaya H	Charlotte S
4A	Paige R	Knox T
4B	Zoe D	Gracie H
4W	Violet C	Jake O
4Y	Anton M	Rayne E
3G	Wajiha E Aiden K	William M
3H	Ryley Q	Addison M
3I	Tommy N	Dane R
3J	Mayla C	Gurjot S
2K	Daisy M April T	Landon M
2L	Grace L	Sadie M
2M	Bella S Ella F	Milly H
2N	Zavier F	Shantel L
1C	Gracie Z	Louis R Xavier L
1D	Souhayla J	Caleb M
1E	Sebastian C	Austin F Yazmin R
1F	Sarah T	Katie A Brodey C
F Blue	Dakota P	Zed H
F Green	Tawney M	Leni W
F Yellow	Harrison B	Willow C
F Purple	Leo W	Lachlan L

What are you doing better in Remote Learning Round 2.0?



Zaidee- I have improved in my Mental Maths.

Zyma- I'm getting things done quicker now.

Bayden- I'm getting better at staying focused.

Sam- I'm focusing better and enjoying my Maths and Kahoot Games.

Saxcen- I'm getting better at my handwriting and narratives.

Sara- I'm better organized and I now complete my tasks on time. In my last story I wrote 600 words as compared to my usual of about 400 words.

Mary- I am better organized and do my Stepping Stones every day now.

Zoe- I have a better routine and I'm getting to the meetings on time.

Ryan- I am more comfortable at using the Google Classroom.

Stella- It is easier because I have done it before and I'm more confident in round 2.

Gracie- I'm enjoying the creative tasks and free choice.

Jack- I am doing my Maths better this time.

Kevin- I'm getting better at my writing.

Saly- I've improved my times tables and I have become the class Kahoot Star!

Jasmeen- I'm enjoying my learning and I like the challenges!

Levi- I'm getting most things done and in my CARS and Stars Review, I only got one question wrong.

Thomas- I'm more organized and regular with my work this time.

Lenny- I'm getting my work done quicker now.

Upkeerat- I enjoy my stepping Stones and I'm getting better at it.

Bodhi- I'm enjoying learning my Maths.

Owen- I'm getting better at organization and getting my work done faster this time.

Ramel- I'm the same as last time.

LEGO STEM CHALLENGES

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO ENCOURAGE KIDS AND TEENS TO PURSUE EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM).

ARE YOU A LEGO FAN? THEN THIS IS THE CONTEST FOR YOU! YOU'LL USE BRICKS TO DESIGN AND BUILD....

robot

- USE YOUR ENGINEER SKILLS AND DESIGN A ROBOT!
- 1X ENTRY PER PERSON
- ALSO ANSWER THIS FOR US; **WHAT DOES AN ENGINEER DO?** SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER ALONG WITH YOUR CREATION

house

- USE YOUR ARCHITECT SKILLS TO DESIGN YOUR DREAM HOUSE!
- 1X ENTRY PER PERSON
- ALSO ANSWER THIS FOR US; **WHAT DOES AN ARCHITECT DO?** SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER ALONG WITH YOUR CREATION

bonus

- BUILD THE TALLEST TOWER OUT OF LEGO YOU CAN!
- TAKE A PHOTO OF YOUR TOWER WITH MEASURING TAPE TO SHOW THE HEIGHT WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$50 SWAN HILL GIFT CARD

PRIZES

OUR LOCAL JUDGES WILL BE LOOKING FOR:

- MOST CREATIVE DESIGN (STORYTELLING ABILITY)
- BEST DESIGN (TECHNICAL ABILITY)
- MOST COLOURFUL DESIGN
- \$100 SWAN HILL GIFT CARD WILL BE AWARDED TO THE BEST CREATION FOR EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES

HOW TO ENTER

SEND US A PHOTO OR VIDEO OF YOUR CREATION AND THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION RELATING TO THE CHALLENGE YOU ARE ENTERING ALONG WITH YOUR NAME, AGE AND SCHOOL TO ANY OF OUR SOCIALS OR EMAIL TO projects@mmlen.com

1X ENTRY PER CHALLENGE SO ENTER ALL 3 CHALLENGES FOR MORE CHANCES TO WIN!

ENTRIES CLOSE
3RD SEP MIDNIGHT



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