



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



16th November 2020

Welcome to Week 7

Dear School Families and Friends,



The term is flying by and it seems hard to believe we are in Week 7 already!

We were fortunate to receive funding to promote our languages program at school, so today marks the beginning of our Italian Week. Signora Kelly, Holyoak and Croft have put together a terrific array of activities. All specialist teachers are teaching their subject with an Italian theme so there's everything from bocce to Da Vinci happening, while classroom teachers are incorporating some Italian culture and history into their lessons throughout the week. We also have biscuit decorating, Italian themed lunchtime activities and a virtual performance "i Tarantanti" which focuses on Italian music, dance and

language for all year levels on Thursday and Friday. Grazie, ladies for your hard work putting this together for us to enjoy.

Congratulations Oliver!

On Friday along with Mr Perry, Mrs Hall and our 7 finalist students, I attended the virtual Young Writers Award Presentation. As a school community we were very proud of all our students being shortlisted for their entries and delighted Oliver Sparks received a commendation for his story ...in the Year 1-2 section. Congratulations Ollie, the judges were extremely impressed with your imaginative writing and attention to detail.



Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Rachael Moloney is joining the St Mary's team in 2020. Rachael will be working each Friday and joining Brenda, Krishell and Jordan in an expansion of our Student Support services. We are also really thrilled for Burton Roberts, one of our LSO's, who has secured a full time position in a local firm. Burton will finish here before the end of the year to take up his new position. This week we are finalising our staffing needs for 2021 and will publish teachers and their 2021 year levels in next week's newsletter.



Foundation Information Evening

Next Tuesday, 24th November we will hold our Foundation Information Evening for the parents of our 2021 Foundation children. The meeting will take place via Zoom and we look forward to seeing the families there and sharing important information about the start of the school year. All relevant information and links will be emailed to families this week.

Diocese Of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)

On Wednesday November 25th, Fr James will sign the official 'School Transfer Agreement' of our school to DOBCEL. This significant occasion will be marked with a short ceremony and prayer service attended by Tom Sexton (New director of Catholic Education-Ballarat), Tracey O'Neill (Chair of the DOBCEL Board), Fr James, Kate Quin, Jason Perry, our school Captains and Laura Crow our SAC chairperson. The agreement is the transfer of governance from the Parish Priest to DOBCEL, effective 1st January 2021. The transfer is at a governance level (policy, employment, system transparency and accountability) and doesn't impact the day to day running of the school; this work will continue to be delegated to the School Principal. All Catholic Primary Schools in the Ballarat Diocese have, and or will continue transitioning to this new arrangement by the end of the year.

Carols Evening

Due to current restrictions, our 'Carols Evening' has been revamped into a virtual affair! While not quite the same, it is sure to still be a special day for the staff and students. Running on Friday December 4th, all students are encouraged to wear a Christmas themed outfit, we will draw the Christmas hamper raffle winners and some special activities will take place in classrooms throughout the day! Students have begun to prepare 'Carols' which will be uploaded as a video link and made available to families via our Facebook page. Look out for our P & F Christmas hamper flyer that was sent home with the oldest family member today.



Thank you for Your feedback

Thank you to the additional 54 families who responded to the Family engagement Survey last week meaning in total we had **116 parents** share their thoughts. This was a great response and gives a really clear picture of what families value about our current Family Engagement strategies and where they could see we could strengthen our current practices. This data will be used by the Family Engagement team to continue to build on and strengthen our partnership between school and home in 2021. The data clearly showed that many parents would like to help more in classrooms and be asked more frequently for their ideas for the school so these will be good starting points when looking to improve on what we currently do.

In summary: the favourite engagement strategies selected by families to be engaged in the learning were

- Receiving seesaw posts (77%)
- Posts on facebook or Instagram (66%)
- Parent teacher Interviews (various formats) (80%)
- School and class newsletters (74%)
- Meet the teacher Chats (72%)
- Positive emails or phone calls about their child from staff (58%)
- Regular notes in the diary (59%)
- School Assemblies (56%)



Hats, sunscreen and water!

We are moving into some hot weather for the remainder of Term 4. This means it is becoming even more important for the children to make sure they are wearing their hat in the playground. We also strongly encourage the children to apply sunscreen before school and before heading out to play. Each classroom has sunscreen available, or the children can use their own. All students also need to bring a clearly labelled water bottle to school to keep them hydrated as bubblers are dsbaled under current Covid guidelines.

Preparation - Families Leaving

I would ask any family who believes that they will not be here at St Mary's in 2021 to let me know as we are working on class structures for next year. Thank you for your support with this.

We hope you all enjoy the week ahead and look forward to you joining us when 31 host our remote assembly on Friday.

Kate

AT ST MARY'S "EVERY CHILD MATTERS EVERY DAY"



Facebook Instagram Check out our weekly videos, virtual tours, remote assemblies, wellbeing tips and student learning highlights www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's is known for its strong family partnerships, commitment to the wellbeing of every child and outstanding academic record

St Mary's Swan Hill - 2021 Enrolments for all year levels now open

Our Facebook page and school website have videos and virtual tours that give new families a chance to meet teachers, explore our amazing grounds and facilities and hear what life is like for students at St Mary's.

www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria #stmarysswanhill

(03) 5033 2541 | www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au | office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

The last three confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know are by Michael Grose who is one of Australia's leading parenting experts.

6. Practise unconditional acceptance

Your ability to accept children and young people's best efforts in any area of endeavour, irrespective of the results, will go a long way toward determining their self-esteem and confidence. If a child makes their bed to the very best of their ability, resist fixing it, even though it may fall short of your adult standards. Instead remind them next time of how to do it well.

7. Expand their horizons

Some kids are confident and capable at home but are fearful and nervous when it comes to new social situations and unfamiliar environments. Children today have less opportunity than those in the past to negotiate and explore unpredictable situations. Wherever possible look for opportunities to expand children's horizons to include unfamiliar places and unfamiliar locations including catching public transport and walking to friends' places unattended when capable.

8. Recognise improvement

Focus your comments on children's effort and improvement rather than on winning the game or getting top marks. Help kids set realistic goals in line with their capabilities and interests. Learning five new spelling words a week may be more realistic than 20 words that his school may require. Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life's challenges and know that they can become more independent.

RE News - Mrs Davies

Operation Christmas Child Appeal

For a number of years, St Mary's have been involved in reaching out and helping others coming into the festive season by being involved in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. This year, Milla Pearson, Scarlet Grey, Chazz Farrell & Ryder Condely decided to fundraise in their neighbourhood by doing odd jobs, washing cars, gardening and selling flowers and fruit with the intention of donating the money to the Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Milla, Scarlet, Chazz & Ryder wanted to put the joy back into Christmas for those children less fortunate. Such a heartfelt and thoughtful gesture, well done!



KEY DATES

Tuesday November 24th

Foundation 2021
Parent Information Meeting
7pm - Zoom

Friday November 27th

Casual Dress Day

Friday December 4th

Virtual Christmas Carols

Thursday December 10th

Pupil Free Day
2021 Planning Day

Friday December 11th

Orientation Day

Monday 14th December

School End of Year Mass
(virtual)

Tuesday 15th December

Break Up Day
Last day for students
Normal finishing time

Wednesday 16th -Friday 18th

Literacy Testing &
Staff First Aid Training

Administration News

2021 Enrolments

With schools returning to normal we have had some prospective families call. **If you know of anyone who is considering St Mary's next year could you please let them know that enrolments are open for Foundation and other year levels for 2021 and they are warmly welcome to make contact with the school for further information.**



School pick up times and locations?

There are additional staff on duty in the afternoons to ensure that children progressively leave the school over a 15 minute period. Our three bell system at the end of the day will remain in place

- 3.15** First bell - dismissal of town bus children and walkers/riders
- 3.20** Second bell – dismissal for country bus travellers
- 3.25** Third bell – dismissal of remaining children and After School Care bus travellers

As per our previous arrangements when we returned to school, families who are picking up their children by car have been allocated a student collection location-based on family surname.

A to L Families - collection from the front of the school (front carpark)

M to Z Families - collection from outside the gym (gym car park)

Please wait in or by your car and the staff on duty will help your child find you and safely cross them over.



Lost Property

Our lost property cupboard is overflowing with jumpers without names. **Please ensure all school uniform items are clearly labelled so they can be returned.**

Town Bus Passes

Unfortunately we are unable to issue bus passes for Town Bus 10 as it is at capacity with regular travellers who are using the bus to travel to and from school from their place of residence.



Health Reminder

COVID-19 Update

It is important that we all continue to monitor our own and the health of our children daily during this time. If you or your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

- Stay at home and do not attend school
- Seek medical advice
- Call the school to let us know of any important outcomes
- If you or your child has a health condition or complex health needs, please discuss this with your medical specialist.
- Information about coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the [DHHS](#) and [CEM](#) websites.

Our school is continuing to promote and implement on a daily basis both Covid-safe behaviours and practices across our school community. Thank you for your support with the guidelines and, as always, I am proud to belong to such a caring and supportive school community. **If your child is celebrating a birthday at school and would like to bring food in to celebrate, please contact the office and we can guide you on ideas in line with current guidelines.**

Book Club

The final Book Club Catalogue for 2020 - Issue 8, has been sent home with the students, with online orders being **due by Tuesday 24th November, 2020**. All orders will need to be placed via LOOP as we will **NOT** be accepting cash payments this term for book orders.

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. Mary's SWAN HILL)

If you have any questions or are having trouble with the LOOP ordering system, please contact the office.

Canteen

Just a reminder that all canteen orders need to be placed through CDFpay, the cut off time for orders is 10am.

<https://smswanhill.cdfpay.org.au>

Please contact the office if you require assistance with CDFpay.



Student of the Week - Term 4 Week 6

6O	Audrey D	Sienna S
6P	Jessica L	Oaklea B
6Q	Willow C	Maddison B
5R	Knox J	Milli L
5S	Jasmine H	Jackson H
5T	Jack C	Jemma T
5U	Ben N	Ellah R
4A	April G	Mason M
4B	Ramel A	Owen U
4W	Matilda T	Jovi P
4Y	Jedd M	Hannah D
3G	Sienna C	Prue O
3H	Vicky D	Hattie M
3I	Max M	Chelsea T
3J	Gurjot S	Larni O
2K	Tyler M	Lily N
2L	Marley B	Archie O
2M	Bella S	Aidee B
2N	All of 2N!	
1C	Louis R	Mattaeus C Lilly W
1D	Cherry N Leo E	Vann N
1E	Rubi K	Oliver S
1F	Indy C Ben H	Sarah T
F Blue	Judd O	Logan K
F Green	Angela W	Max G
F Yellow	Harrison B	Chelsea P
F Purple	Leo W	Eve G
Art	Mason F, Olivia C Ayak D, Georgia M	
Music	Charlie H, Max P, Hugo B, Maya S	
Italian	All of 5U, Vaughan O, Mia H, Charlotte O	
PE	Ramel A, Sophie W, Isla B, Maddie H	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV 17 - Avneet B, Sophie K

NOV 18 - Ryder C

NOV 19 - Anna F, Max M

NOV 21 - Harrison B, Will R

Nov 22 - Kur M, Harper W

HAVE A MAGICAL DAY!!!

We have been focusing on MINDFULNESS in 5S!

