



Term 4 Week 4

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



26th October 2020

Welcome to Week 4

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope you enjoyed the extra long weekend and the 'right' team won on Saturday night!

We had a great day Friday with our annual Book Parade. This year we ran it outside in our assembly area with each year level strutting their stuff and enjoying the chance to dress up and have fun in a Covid safe away. Thank you to all parents for your creativity and getting into the spirit of the day from afar. Highlights from the Book Parade have been collated into a short video so that parents and families can still join in the fun. This can be found on our school facebook page or can be accessed using this link;



<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria/videos/461757861469357>

St Mary's Family Engagement Team

Our Parent Engagement Team met recently and looked at practical and authentic ways we can keep families connected with our school and with their children's learning whilst not physically able to be on the school grounds due to Covid restrictions. Input was also sought at the most recent SAC meeting and staff then used this information to put plans into place. Regular Seesaw posts of work children were proud of, class emails to share learning, combined with a strong presence on our school Facebook and Instagram pages were popular choices by the various groups involved. A short survey has been sent to all families seeking their input on how well they feel connected to the school and offers an opportunity to suggest ways we could strengthen our practice. It takes about 5 minutes to complete and will really help us gather a snapshot of what we are doing well and what we can do even better going forward.

Please follow this link to fill in the survey - <https://forms.gle/7KZUX3cEvdJMNTbv5>

Ben Wood Illustrator - Virtual Incursion

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, Ben Wood will run virtual incursions for all year levels. He will run a workshop with the students demonstrating how he illustrates children's books. It's been great to see levels reading his books and checking out his website in anticipation of his 'visit' <https://benwood.com.au/>



Class Structures 2021

We are constructing class groups for next year this week. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations of all students are taken into account to inform decisions. Any parental considerations regarding your child's 2021 placement must be emailed to principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au or delivered to the office in an envelope marked **Att: Principal by today, Monday October 26th**. Please do not assume previous requests are ongoing as we begin each year afresh at St Mary's. 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 about to commence possible class structures for next year. Thank you for your consideration.

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



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

Find us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram

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

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

Governance

As you may be aware, the Governance of schools in the Diocese of Ballarat is transitioning to DOBCEL (Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited) - a company formed to oversee the legal and compliance requirements of schools in our Diocese. The Bishop is the company and the Board conducts the work. This means that schools will no longer have the Parish Priest as their governing authority. Over time the demands of governing (OH&S, legal obligations and responsibilities, insurance, compliance) have become larger while the number of priests have decreased making it difficult for them to manage schools as well as their parish responsibilities. This term the official signing of documents will take place between DOBCEL and each parish.

I sincerely thank Fr James for his support, and without the formal responsibilities of governance we will continue to enjoy Fr James' friendship and spiritual guidance in the life of our school.

Tutor Support 2021

The Victorian Government announced that tutors will be deployed across Victorian government and non-government schools in 2021 to support students to thrive as they return to the classroom and ensure that students who need extra support in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic get the help they need.

The Executive Director of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) says "Schools will determine how tutoring support is best implemented in their school. \$30m is available for non-government schools and the funding will be distributed by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) with exact allocations made available at a later date. The funding is to support students to accelerate their learning in 2021 to compensate for the disruptions they have experienced this year and as such must be spent within the 2021 calendar year." I will keep you informed as more information comes to hand

As it is the last Friday of the month, it's casual dress this Friday - just wear something comfortable!!
Have a great week and stay safe

Kate



Easing children's anxiety

The following are some thoughts from Michael Grose who is one of Australia's leading parenting experts and well renowned around the world.

Anxiety is normal and part of everyday life. There's no better time than childhood for learning how to cope with anxiety. For those with no personal experience of anxiety it can be hard to understand how debilitating it can be. "Come on, get on with it," seems so obvious. Of course, this response is nowhere near adequate.

Most kids experience some anxious moments or have fearful thoughts and feelings from time to time about certain events. These thoughts and feelings prompt them to proceed with caution. But anxiety and fear can be paralyzing. Some kids simply can't stop their 'bad thoughts and feelings'. They can't silence the voice of fear that whispers to them continually.

Staying calm

Anxiety is a normal part of life and can be managed, but it takes time. It's also contagious so it's the job of parents to stay calm, think clearly and role model confidence when kids get anxious. Calm is created through your words, voice and facial expression.

When children become anxious, help them recognise what's happening. Some kids get angry, some become upset and others withdraw. Work out the pattern for your child and help them recognise when they are anxious. Accept your child's anxious feelings. Your child needs to trust that you are with them, and then they will be more willing to let you help them cope. It's hard sometimes to differentiate between what may be a bad case of negative thinking and true anxiety.

Is a child being negative when she doesn't want to join a new club because she thinks no one will like her, or is there something more going on? Try to confirm whether there is any validity in their fears. If not, point out diplomatically, that they may be catastrophizing. If you feel there is reason for concern, help them to overcome their anxiety.

Challenge the validity of your child's fears and anxiety, using logic and rational thinking. Don't allow kids to wallow in self-pity. Move their thoughts towards the future rather than allow them to mope around

RE News - Mrs Davies

Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to all families who have sent in small gifts to go into our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for this year. I know that there will be some extremely excited children in a number of overseas countries that will be receiving a wonderful gift! It is such a lovely feeling to know that we, as a school community are reaching out to help others in need. Just a reminder that the last day for gifts to come in is Tuesday 27th October.



PE News- Miss Clark-

St Mary's has been successful in obtaining a \$10,000 grant to embed physical literacy into a whole school approach to prioritise kids' physical and mental health and wellbeing. We have chosen to partner with 'Bluearth Foundation' which has opened up exciting new resources for all teachers here at St Mary's to access to build positive mental health and to get kids more active. As well as participating in new Bluearth games in Physical Education classes, classroom teachers will be trying out new games in Sport time as well as brain breaks in the classroom. All staff hope to have a holistic approach to building resilience, team-work skills and increase physical activity in all children to benefit mental health and success in the classroom.

You can check out the website <https://www.bluearth.org/bluearth-at-home/> for helpful tips for families and ways to encourage physical activity at home.

Curriculum - Mrs Hall

Reading continues to be a strong focus in all classrooms this term. In the Junior rooms our children “**Learn to read**” and in the Middle to Senior rooms the focus is on “**Reading to Learn**”. Our students are immersed throughout the day through many explicit reading approaches such as Shared Reading, Modelled Reading, Guided Reading and Independent Reading. This term we have increased our teacher support in classrooms rooms to offer further support in this curriculum area and we continue to offer extra 1:1 reading support through our Fundamental and Boost reading programs.

The importance of regular home reading.

We thank our students and parents for their dedication towards nightly home reading and it is fantastic to hear that many children have recorded over **200 nights of reading** this year!! The importance of home reading cannot be underestimated. Reading with your child at home will help your child in all areas of school. By reading with your child at home, you are supplementing what they learn in the classroom as well as giving them additional one-on-one support. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child’s education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Below are a few prompts we use in the classroom when we hear children read. These prompts help your child when they come to an unfamiliar word or realize they have made a mistake.

The 3P’s - Pause, Prompt, Praise:

Pause - Always allow time for your child to work out an unfamiliar/tricky word themselves, or at least give it a go.

Prompt - Give a helpful prompt, for example:

- Can you get your mouth ready?
- Does this word remind you of another?
- Can you find a part of the word you know?
- Can the picture help you?
- Have another go?
- Why did you stop? Can you go back and try that again?
- What would make sense here?
- Does that sound right?
- Does that look right?
- What could you try?
- What did you notice?
- Can you go back and get a run-up?
- Read to the end of the sentence. Any idea what the word might be?



After two prompts just tell them the word and ask your child to say the word again, start the sentence from the beginning and continue reading.

Praise - Always focus on what the child does well... “I like the way you went back and got a run and was able to work that word out?”

What is PAT?

PAT stands for Progressive Achievement Tests. The PAT tests have been designed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and provide objective information to teachers about their students’ skills and understandings in a range of key areas. During the month of October our Foundation children complete the PAT Early Years Reading and Maths assessments. This year the Year 1-6 students will complete PAT Reading, Maths & Spelling. These tests are completed online using Chromebooks or iPads. This is one form of data teachers use to monitor student progress and inform teachers about their students’ skills and understandings in a range of key areas. The PAT website allows teachers to analyse the data collection in many ways. It helps to inform their current teaching practices as well as assisting with the end of year reporting.

KEY DATES

**Tuesday, 27th &
Wednesday 28th**

Ben Wood - Visiting
Illustrator virtual
incursion

Friday 30th Nov

Casual Dress Day

Monday November 2nd

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday November 3rd

Public Holiday

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

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 carpark)

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

Summer Uniform

Students should now be wearing the full Summer Uniform. **Please ensure all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name.**

Shoes

Black school shoes or totally black runners should be worn with Summer Uniform.

Sports Uniform

Just a reminder students only wear their PE uniform on their designated classroom sports day and the day they have PE specialists.

Hats, Hats, Hats

And finally, our children need to have their school hats from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1 next year!

Poppy Appeal 2020

Poppies are available to purchase from the school office. Prices range from 20 cents to \$5.



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

Issue 7 Book Club catalogues have been sent home with the students, with online orders being **due tomorrow Tuesday 27th October, 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. Marys SWAN HILL). If you have any questions or are having trouble with the LOOP ordering system, please contact the office.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund Extension for 2020

DET has now extended the eligibility to qualify date for the CSEF to the 5th October 2020. If you are a valid means tested concession card holder or a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to apply for the Camp, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF).

If you have recently received a concession card, prior to 5th October 2020, you may now be eligible for the CSEF at a reduced rate.

The allowance of \$62.50 (for eligible primary school students) will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to school charges, books, stationery, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

For more information, or to request an application form please contact the Front Office on 50332541 or go to www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx to download an application form.

Student of the Week - Term 4 Week 3

6O	Andi M	Sonny B
6P	Seamus D	Sienna S
6Q	Jorja C	Tynan P
5R	All of 5R	
5S	All of 5S	
5T	Dakota Z	Matilda M
5U	All of 5U	
4A	Elliott W	Indie Mcl
4B	Chol D	Jack H
4W	Ella W	Max R
4Y	Mitch K	Meg Y
3G	Kayla Mcl	Noa Bella W
3H	Emily L	Addison M
3I	Madison B	Dane R
3J	Reve O	Charli W
2K	Colby D	Milla M
2L	Arie W	Sacha L
2M	Sony H	Emma W
2N	Maddie H	Max M
1C	Charlotte M / Inayat S	Adrian T
1D	Jameson B	Madison D
1E	Jai P	Scarlett F
1F	Will O'B	Jack L
F Blue	Matilda R	Dakota P
F Green	Tawney McN	Leni W
F Yellow	Jayla P	Spencer G
F Purple	Mitchell B	Ekamdeep K
Art	Bonnie W, Ryley F, Amber B, Lincoln C	
Music	Ryder W, Luca B, Harper W, Novak D	
Italian	Cleo M, Ben N, Jake F, Jax S	
PE	Max G, Ruby T, Issy C, Ava M	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCT 26 - Rory M, Indi M, Inayat S

Oct 27 - Brock J

Oct 28 - Brady C

Oct 29 - Emme B, Lenny R, Maya S

Oct 30 - Xavier L, Kiah P, Kayla S

Oct 31 - Hugo B, Charlie G, Emily L,
Ellainie L, Arie W

Nov 1 - Angus S, Thea T, Memphis T

HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY!!

Kindergarten Enrolments Now Open for 2021



For more information visit www.lmpa.org.au



General Inquiries (03) 5443 1229 or enrolments@lmpa.org.au

Key Information

Paperwork required as part of the enrolment process includes: Immunisation Certificate, Health Care Card and Credit Card details

FAQs

How do I enrol my child for Kindergarten or Prekindergarten?
Via the LMPA website www.lmpa.org.au or by calling LMPA on 03 5443 1229

How long are long day sessions?

Long day sessions are typically two days per week, 7.5 hours in length, and mostly run from 8.30 am to 4 pm

How long are short day sessions?

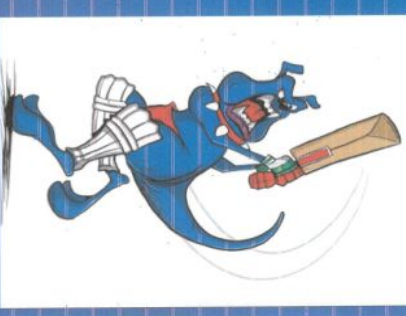
Short day sessions are typically 3 days per week, 5 hours in length, and mostly run from 9 am to 2 pm

About

Loddon Mallee Preschool Association (LMPA) operates a kindergarten Central Enrolment System for the communities of Bendigo and Swan Hill.

LMPA acts as a custodian of the system which is established to meet the needs of the community and to comply with Government guidelines.

ULTIMA TUF
CRICKET CLUB
UNDER 11'S
PLAYERS
WANTED!




We are on the hunt for players born 01/09/2009 and onwards.

- fun for the kids
- great social outing for the whole family
- games played on Friday evenings beginning Nov. 6th.
- great opportunity to be a part of a strong Junior Program

Training begins;
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28th, 4pm
@ Alan Garden Reserve Cricket Nets

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW ULTIMA TUF CRICKET CLUB
ON FACEBOOK OR PHONE CLUB PRESIDENT LEIGH MATTHEWS
ON 0407 848 321



<p>Maverik</p> <p>Since being back at school I have really enjoyed seeing all mates and playing tiggy at recess and lunch time. We also get to sit near our friends in class and earn table points.</p>	<p>Madison</p> <p>Since being back at school I have been really happy to be able to see my friends. This has been really good for not just me but for everybody else because we have been able to talk to someone other than our siblings and parents at lunch and recess.</p>	<p>Ella</p> <p>Since being back at school I have been happy because I got to play with my friends and I was really excited to do specialist activities again and we got to write down 5 friends who we wanted to sit with at our table.</p>	<p>Oscar</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been playing on the oval and the labyrinth area. I like this because I can play with my friends, see them and have fun. I sit next to my friends. We have table points now.</p>
<p>Tao</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been learning about social justice and fairness. We have a fair tin and I am happy to see our beautiful school again.</p>	 <p>Here in 3I we have all been working very hard to get back into the swing of things being back at school. Here are a few things we have been doing since our return to onsite learning.</p>		<p>Sammie</p> <p>Since being back at school I have been happy with my best friends. Also it's so easy to just be at school instead of going on to google meets.</p>
<p>Archer</p> <p>When we got back to school everyone has been working so hard and doing everything we have to on time</p>			<p>Taj</p> <p>Since being back at school we have got to sit next to our friends in class which is more fun. We are learning about morphographs in Spelling Mastery.</p>
<p>Leo</p> <p>Since being back at school I have been spending a lot more time with my friends and have been feeling really happy and having heaps of fun. As for that in my class we have been learning about morphographs.</p>			<p>Eliza</p> <p>Since being back at school I have loved writing down five friends for our classes next year. We had to think of who we work well with. Also we get to do all of the work off screens!!!</p>
<p>Georgia</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been able to see our friends and socialize with other people. In Class I have enjoyed not having internet issues and I don't have to constantly look at a screen!!!!!! It is great to be back.</p>	<p>Rory</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been working pretty hard. I was happy to see my friends. We have been having lots more fun than in remote learning. But I also missed finishing early and playing wherever I wanted to.</p>	<p>Max</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been playing with our friends and learning new things. Home learning was boring because there was no one to play with so I think it is better to be back at school.</p>	<p>Asha</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been seeing friends, teachers and learning new things like in Art and PE. We have been playing out on the back oval with all the other year 3's.</p>
<p>Tommy</p> <p>Since being back at school, I am so excited to play with my friends and learn new things in class. Our class also has new upgrades, such as table points and new spots to sit. We have chosen which friends we can sit next to.</p>	<p>Dane</p> <p>Since being back at school we have been able to see our classmates and have fun with them since home learning and having to learn from google meets. I am really happy to be back at school.</p>	<p>Chelsea</p> <p>Since being back at school. We were able to see our friends and teachers and I was really excited to get back. I am also excited to move tables and sit next to our friends. It's easier now that we don't have to go on our computers all day.</p>	<p>Emett</p> <p>Since back at school we have had different rules because of Covid 19. I have made new friends since we have come back to onsite learning.</p>