



Term 4 Week 5

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



4th November 2020

Welcome to Week 5

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope you made the most of the extra long weekend. It was a great chance for families to recharge the batteries and spend time with family and friends and perhaps even to back a winner in the Melbourne Cup!



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. **We have had 60 families respond so far and would welcome more input.**

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

Sustainability

Under Miss Palmers guidance the Sustainability leaders have our eco bin systems working a treat. All organic waste is binned separately and recycled daily. Some is fed to the chooks with most being turned into compost using a series of composting bins. We have also planted up some of the 27 vegetable garden beds we have on the senior oval with tomatoes, corn, capsicums, spinach and lettuce growing nicely after the rain. This produce will be used in the canteen.



Young Writers Award

As a school we are delighted and proud to announce that 7 of our students 'Eat Stories' have been shortlisted as finalists in the Swan Hill Regional Library 'Young Writers Award'. As a school community we congratulate

Foundation: Kaleila Ocampo & Wilhem Foott

Year 1/2: Oliver Sparks & Ellie Woodburn

Year 3 /4: Sam Brown

Year 5/6: Maggie Meney & Ava Crow

We are still waiting on further details in regards to the presentation proceedings in which shortlisted students and their families will be invited to for a virtual winner's presentation on Friday, 13th November.

Transition Information

Information packs produced by the MMLLEN have been sent home to all school families of Yr 6 students.

Recently, the Secondary College ran a virtual question/answer session for students and this week Mackillop staff

will present key information via Google Meet on Friday November 6th.

Class Groupings 2021

Over the next few weeks our teachers are putting the final touches to class groupings for 2021. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations are taken into account to inform decisions. We are fortunate that St. Mary's teachers plan learning activities that often allow our children to mix across the year group where they are working alongside all the children within their age and class grouping. School is a place where children learn how to relate to other children. It is important that children learn to mix with lots of children. In doing this, they learn about themselves in relationships and identify qualities within others that they find positive and assuring for themselves.

We are also finalising staffing needs and will publish teachers and levels by the end of November.

We would ask any family who believes that they will not be here at St Mary's in 2020 to let me know as we are working on class structures for next year. Thank you for your consideration

Hats, sunscreen and water!

As the weather begins to heat up, 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.

Have a great week and stay safe

Kate

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



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 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

8 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know--from Michael Grose who is one of Australia's leading parent experts.

Instilling confidence takes more than heaping praise on kids. Here are the **first two** practical confidence-building strategies for parents and teachers of children and young people.

Children with healthy self-esteem and self-confidence learn more, achieve more and are generally happier than those with low confidence levels. Building children's and young people's confidence is complex. It's more than being a praise robot and heaping positive comments on a child at the first sign of them doing something well. Confidence building requires a number of approaches that impact on how they think, how they feel and what they can do.

1. Model confident thinking

Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers, play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour particularly when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like, "I'll have a go at this. If I don't do so well then I can try again tomorrow." This is far more effective than "I'm no good at this. I'll probably stuff it up."

2. Focus on effort & improvement

Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better in school, work, and life over time. One way to develop a growth mindset is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what they do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than purely their ability, talents or smarts.

Andrew Fuller- A Pledge to my Child



It's only a short 2 min video but worth a watch. From Andrew Fuller's recently update Tricky Behaviours book

<https://youtu.be/ZZTWZlCmJ04>

KEY DATES

Music Count Us In

Thursday November 5th

Year 2 Swimming Program Commences

November 10th & 11th

2021 Foundation Parent Information Evening

Tuesday November 24th
Venue TBA

Casual Dress Day

Friday November 27th

Pupil Free Day

Thursday December 10th
2021 Planning Day

2021 Orientation Day

Friday December 11th

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.

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.



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.**



PAM (Parent Access Module)

How can I notify the school of my child's absence via PAM?

By now you will have verified your email address and set up your child's medical profile. You can now begin to use PAM (Parent Access Module) as part of your communication with our school office. PAM is our preferred notification method for absences.

On PAM, you can add an absence if;

- Your child is going to be absent for the day (All Day)
- Your child is going to be late to school (Arriving Late)
- Your child is going to be leaving early from school (Leaving Early)
- Your child will be leaving school and returning eg. for an appointment (Partial)
- Your child is going to be absent for more than one day (Multi-day max of 7 days)

Absences must be entered prior to 9.25am on the day your child will be absent. Absences can also be entered in advance.

To add an absence;

- Log in to your PAM account <http://pam.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au>

Save this link to your home screen for quick access

- Select "Parent Notified Absences" listed under "Students". This can also be accessed by selecting the 3 line menu bar on the top right hand corner of the screen and selecting "Parent Notified Absence".
- Select "Add Absence"
- Select the child who will be absent
- Select the reason for your child's absence
- Select the appropriate absence period
- Select the absence date
- Notes can be added if required
- You can edit or delete current and future absences, by clicking on your child and amending it if required.

As always, please contact the office on 03 50332541 if you need any assistance with PAM.

Student of the Week - Term 4 Week 4

6O	Rory B	Holly T
6P	Sonny T	Sascha W
6Q	Mustafa A	Jake S
5R	Reese P	Jake F
5S	Daneaka N	Benji D Nirvana J
5T	Kyra C	Angus W
5U	Scarlet G	Sebastian M
4A	Gypsi O'B	Blake D
4B	Sara C	Jasmeet B
4W	Indi H	Zoe B
4Y	Ruby T	Charlie B
3G	Charlotte O'C Charlize B	Jett G D
3H	Ryley Q	Leila K
3I	Emett W	Dilsheen B
3J	Lincoln C	Hamy H
2K	April T	Minh N
2L	Luke P	Sampson B
2M	Ayak D	Ella F
2N	Ana D	Jagger M
1C	Stella W	Xavier L
1D	Oscar R	Emme B
1E	Isaac R, Henley M	Steffany S
1F	Angela W	Tilly S, Ellie W
F Blue	Kaylynn F	Zed H
F Green	Jagger F	Aiden C
F Yellow	Willow C	Mark H
F Purple	Thea T	Dhruv D
Art	All of 4A, Charlie G, Patrick E, Novak D	
Music	Chelsea T, All of 5T, Gypsi O'B, Sam B	
Italian	Chol D, Tommy N, Isabella C, Charlee W	
PE	Belle L, Sienna A, Archie B, Indi M	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV 3 - MAX G

NOV 4 - EMMY B, HARRY B,
DHRUV D, DANE R

NOV 6 - ISABEL B, ELLA O'B, TIGER
V, SARAH V

NOV 7 - JESSICA L, STEFFANY S

NOV 8 - JULIAN P



HAVE A GREAT ONE!

The Victorian Government is developing a new state-wide youth strategy to make our state the best place to be for young people.

A new youth strategy for Victoria will give young people, organisations and the broader community opportunities to direct Government's work in the youth space now and into the future. The consultations, led by Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) aim to engage with young people and communities right across Victoria to build a strategy that will create real, meaningful change. Think broadly about what matters most to you and to all young Victorians. Your feedback will play an important and influential role in the development of the strategy.



Mallee Youth Forum

- **Date:** 4th November 2020
- **Time:** 4-6:30pm via Zoom
- **Confirm attendance here:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwoc-Cupz0pE9zyJl-Dn7ZdHnHrhxGZAQLI>

Swan Hill Community Forum

- **Date:** 5th November 2020
- **Time:** 1-3:30pm via Zoom
- **Confirm attendance here:** <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scuGqqj0oGNEawHoe9raO9x6jXXDrbYNY>

Forum Details

The Forums are structured into 3 main parts - the first two include Breakout Room activities where attendees are asked to reflect on and discuss their ideas and responses to the following two questions:

- What is your vision for young people in Victoria?
- What does the government need to do over the next 10 years to make this a reality?

We will also run a few online polls throughout the Forum for participants to contribute their ideas. The final part of the forum will include a Q&A with Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Josh Bull. This section usually runs for about half an hour.



Help Us to Promote the Forum

We are also trying to invite as many other people as possible so please feel free to forward on this information to your colleagues and any young people in the area and encourage them to join in! You can also share the forum on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. We've attached some images you can use to post — as well as some text you can use to share the event:

'Do you want to have your say about the future of Victoria? YACVic is hosting a forum Wednesday 4th Nov, 4-6:30pm to talk about your ideas, hopes and vision for Victoria! If you live or work in Mallee you can register here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwoc-Cupz0pE9zyJl-Dn7ZdHnHrhxGZAQLI>

For organisations that provide services across other areas of Victoria, we encourage you, and the young people you work with and for, to get involved. Further information regarding forum opportunities can be found on the YACVic website!



BEN WOOD

• ILLUSTRATOR INCURSION •

