



Term 4 Week 11

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



14th December 2020

Welcome to Week 11

Dear School Families and Friends,

The children had a great day on Friday and everyone enjoyed the step up to their 2021 class and spending time with their new teacher and classmates. Thanks to our teachers for their careful preparation for this day and also to the students who all suddenly seemed much older and wiser in their new classroom. While it is hard to believe we have only a few days of school left there is plenty on the calendar to keep us all well and truly occupied this week.

Farewell

Annalie Gilmour has accepted a teaching position at Glenvale school for 2021. We wish Annalie all the best with her move and thank her for the care and commitment she has shown to the students in her time here. We also say farewell to Brady Clayton, Panav Khehra, Hannah and Colby Downs who are moving to Horsham and Adrian Timwez and Shelma and Shantal Lagat who are relocating to Bendigo. We have loved having you at St Mary's and wish you all the best as you settle into your new schools in 2021.



End of Year Mass- Monday 14th December

This morning Monday 14th December, we will celebrate our school year with our end of year Mass. This Mass is our way to formally reflect upon and celebrate all we have achieved this year and to say farewell to our Year 6 students and any departing staff. As we are not yet able to gather as a school community due to COVID restrictions, a link to attend virtually has been sent to all families. We hope many families can attend as it is such a special occasion for our school community. A special thank you to Mrs Davies and Burton for their organisation of this event.

Break Up Day-Tuesday 15th December

Tomorrow promises to be an action packed day with all year levels enjoying an array of break up parties and celebrations. Please refer to the various notes sent home by each year level with information about what to wear and bring.

End of Year Reports

Reports have been posted and should arrive early this week. They are a formal way of communicating with you about your children's learning and indicate progress and effort made over the last semester in all areas of the curriculum.

End of Year Literacy Interviews 16th -18th December

A letter which provides codes and instructions for each interview was sent home with your child last week. **They are also included in the Administration section of this newsletter.** It has been fantastic to see so many families have already logged in and secured a time to bring their children in later this week. If you haven't done so please make sure you book your interview time and please don't hesitate to ring the office if you need assistance to complete this.

And finally.....

There is no doubt that this year has presented some ups and downs. Throughout the year we have focussed on creating an environment within our school that is safe for all staff and students, looks after the wellbeing of all staff and students, is aware and supportive of individual family situations and provides a rich educational program where learning is relevant and ensures every child achieves to their full potential.

I have always known that our staff are adaptive, caring and professional, but I really think the COVID crisis accentuated these qualities in a big way. The swiftness with which our staff adapted to remote learning, the long hours spent preparing material for online classes, their willingness to rapidly learn new digital delivery techniques, their ingenuity and creativity in keeping students engaged and their ongoing care for individual students and their families have rightly been recognised and applauded during recent months. I'm confident that all parents would join me in commending and thanking them for the outstanding work they do in education and for the very many ways in which they go "above and beyond" in the service of the school.

So too I wish to acknowledge and thank our parents for the amazing partnerships formed this year with staff, particularly during COVID - teaching your children remotely often while juggling your own work and young families at home was a huge challenge that you all rose to, and I am incredibly appreciative of your patience, belief in the school and commitment to keeping your child's learning journey on track despite the speed humps we encountered in 2020.

Finally on behalf of Fr James and the Staff of St Mary's, I wish you and your loved ones the Peace, Joy and Loving Spirit that is Christmas. For those of you that are travelling to loved ones I hope that you arrive and return safely. I look forward to sharing in the responsibility, the privilege and the honour of supporting your children next year.

Happy Christmas and take care over the holiday season!



Kate

RE News - Mrs Davies

Christmas Eve Mass - Nativity Play

We are very excited and looking forward to our parish Christmas Eve Mass this year. Due to number restrictions indoors we are holding our special Mass here at St Mary's in our lovely school grounds. It will begin at 7pm on Thursday 24th December. We have had quite a few children volunteer to be involved in the play and we are really looking forward to seeing them show off their acting skills! We are having a practise at school today and we will contact parents of the children involved to organise another practise next week after school is finished.



SRC Christmas Shopping - Supporting local families in need

A few weeks ago we held our last casual dress day for 2020. The money raised from this day was used by the SRC members to go and buy christmas presents for local children in need. Last week they headed down after school, visiting numerous shops to purchase their gifts. Today the SRC have been busily wrapping these presents ready to place under the Church tree where they will be passed on to families doing it tough during the festive season. We thank everyone for their donations and support of this very worthy cause.



KEY DATES

Tuesday 15th December

Break Up Day
Last day for students
Normal finishing time

Wednesday 16th - Friday 18th December

Literacy Testing &
Staff First Aid Training

Friday January 29th 2021

Start of Term 1 for all students

Tuesday February 2nd 2021

School Photo Day - information will be sent to families via PAM

Administration News

Literacy Interviews December 2020



Book School Interviews Online

A reminder that all parents need to book their child into the End of Year Literacy Interviews.

All parents/guardians who are remaining on the school grounds during their child's literacy interview will need to sign in at the table provided at the main entrance to the school. Please maintain social distancing.

St. Mary's End of Year Literacy Interviews will be held:

8.00am – 3.30pm on Wednesday 16th December 2020

8.00am – 3.30pm on Thursday 17th December 2020

8.00am – 10.30am on Friday 18th December 2020

WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

LOG IN CODE: 66p54

Important dates for 2021

Wednesday 27th January	Staff day- staff professional learning and team planning
Thursday 28th January	Staff professional learning - Teacher Wellbeing and Resilience
Friday 29th January	All students begin
Tuesday 2nd February	School photos - information will be emailed to families via PAM during the holidays



Lost Property

All named lost property will be returned to your child by tomorrow. Please take some time over the holidays to clearly name all of your child's school items so they can be returned.

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.**

Wishing you all a
very Happy Birthday

DEC 15 - Sam S

DEC 16 - Lana R

DEC 18 - Upkeerat S, Koa W

DEC 19 - Oliver K, Milli L, Mackenzie S

DEC 20 - Elli S, Charli W

DEC 22 - Sienna C, Maggie M,

Andi M, Frankie M, Natalia B

DEC 23 - Dustin M

DEC 24 - Lowan G

DEC 25 - Joshua K, Max P

DEC 26 - Molly D, Violet G

DEC 27 - Sonny T, Maddox W, Ryder W

DEC 28 - Elektra H, Rory P

DEC 30 - Mitchell B, Luca B, Xavier F

DEC 31 - Charlie E, Georgie M, Vin M

Have a wonderful day!

No Interest Loans for back-to-school costs



Borrow up to \$1500 Pay back \$1500
No Fees. No Charges. Ever.

Talk to the people you know and trust



Swan Hill Neighbourhood House
98-100 Gray Street Swan Hill
Ph 03 50 321549 / email shnh98@live.com.au

For people on low incomes, see eligibility criteria at nils.com.au
NILS loans are supported by Good Shepherd Microfinance ABN 36 151 124 408

In partnership:

