



Term 4 Week 8

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



23rd November 2020

Welcome to Week 8

Dear School Families and Friends

This week marks the beginning of Advent, a sure sign that Christmas is indeed just around the corner! This year our Advent liturgy has been organised by the Foundation children and will be shared with our school community on Friday December 4th as part of our Christmas Carols day.

Welcome to Zara and Leo Tomasevic who are joining 3H and 1 E respectively this week-we are really looking forward to you joining our school community.

This week we look forward to some further easing of school restrictions after the premiers announcements yesterday. These will be communicated with families once they are officially sanctioned. Lastly, please keep Emma and the Brown family in your prayers with the passing of Emma's mum over the weekend.



Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Miss Dilpreet Sandha is joining the St Mary's team in 2021. Dilpreet will be working as a bilingual aide supporting children across the school. We also welcome Mrs Bre McLean who will be joining our student support services each Monday and Tuesday next year. Sadly, we will be farewelling Kim Mai Dung who has worked as a bilingual aide at St Mary's since 2019. Kim has been a wonderful aide and under her care our Vietnamese students have not only quickly transitioned into life in Australia but are thriving at school. Kim is focussing on completing study next year but will remain on our casual bank, so we will still see her from time to time.

Foundation Information Evening

Tomorrow, Tuesday 24th November, we will hold our Foundation Information Evening for the parents of our 2021 Foundation children at 7pm. 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 have been emailed to families. If you have any questions about the evening please contact our office.

Staffing Allocation for 2021

Please find below the classroom teachers for 2021. Specialist teachers and support staff will be in the next newsletter.

Classroom Teachers 2021		Year 3	Miss Annalie Gilmour/Mrs Jessi Gleeson Miss Nicola Rintoule Mr Leighton Dullard Mr Mark Bonney
Year 6	Mr Daniel Cruickshank Mrs Belinda Davies/ Miss Brooke Taylor Mr Scott Anderson Mrs Lauren Martin/Mrs Megan Bett	Year 2	Mr Wes Harrison Miss Olivia Scarce Mrs Rachael Smith/ Mrs Sarah Skinner Mr Brady Davidson
Year 5	Mr Corey Daniels Mrs Deanne Dacey Miss Caddie Palmer Miss Teagan Devereux	Year 1	Mr Jacob Cleeland Miss Belinda Angus Mrs Gemma Stewart
Year 4	Mr Kyle Doran Mrs Archana Patney Mr Arren Smith Mrs Codie Brown	Foundation	Mrs Beth Caruso Miss Jacqui Forster Miss Stacey Pearse Miss Ashlee Polinelli

Casual Dress

This Friday, 27th November is our next casual dress day with gold coin donations going towards the SRC purchasing presents for local families in need this Christmas. These gifts are purchased and wrapped by the SRC students and placed under the parish Christmas tree at the end of the year.

Tutor Program Funding

It was exciting to learn that we will receive Tutor Program funding from the Victorian Government in 2021. This is to support students who despite staff and parents' combined best efforts may have fallen behind in their learning as a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19. This money will be used to employ additional staff to provide intensive literacy or numeracy support to identified students for the 2021 year.

Diocese Of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)

This 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, Belinda Davies, 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 Event

Like many school events throughout term 4 our it has been necessary to revamp our 'Carols Evening' a virtual affair! While not quite the same, it is sure to still be a special day for the staff and students. Running next 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! Thanks to Mrs Dunstan and Mrs Bowd, Students are preparing 'Carols' which will be uploaded as a video link and made available to families via our Facebook page. Thank you to the many families that have already sent in items for the P & F Christmas hamper raffle.



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.

Summer Uniform

It is very important to protect our children against the harmful effects of the sun's UV rays. St Mary's is proud to be a "Sunsmart School". This means that hats are worn in Term 1 and Term 4. Please ensure your child has a named hat for Term 4 as all students at St Mary's are required to wear their school hat during play breaks and outdoor school activities such as sport. Children are also encouraged during hot weather to apply sunscreen before going out to play

We hope you all enjoy the week ahead and look forward to you joining us when 4W take centre stage during our remote assembly on Friday.

Kate



Making a smooth transition to Secondary School

Going to Secondary School is both exciting and scary for many kids. There's excitement about new friends, teachers and ventures, but this can be overshadowed by anxiety and stress. The sheer size of a high school building can be overwhelming to the uninitiated. The potential loss of status when moving from big fish in a small pond to tiny minnow in a large ocean can be hard to swallow for some. Add the increased number of teachers and the hormonal changes that accompany puberty and drive emotional and cognitive development and it is little wonder the first year of secondary school often sees a plateauing in learning. Most kids are flat out making new friends and getting used to how secondary school works, so learning takes a back seat for a time. While it's easier for those who have a brother or sister already there who can pass on some tips about how to survive secondary school, many don't have that luxury. Fortunately, there are a number of strategies parents can use to make the transition to secondary school easier.

Know the school space

Familiarity helps reduce anxiety. Most secondary schools have familiarisation programs for incoming students but it helps to reinforce with your young person where the key spaces are – such as administration, toilets, the tuck shop and drinking taps.

Make the leap with friends

Negotiating new friendships can be stressful so it helps to identify some friends from primary school or outside school that your child can travel with or meet up before school, at lunch breaks and during times when classes aren't scheduled. This will give them the opportunity to share and compare experiences, which is therapeutic for kids who are experiencing change.

Help with planning and organisation

Some students can be overwhelmed by the organisational demands of secondary school. If your child fits this category, be prepared to be on hand to coach your young person in the finer arts of being on time to class, organising work in folders, planning homework time, handing in multiple assignments and filling out forms.

Set up a designated study space in the home

Now that your young person has hit the big time it's important that they have a study space to call their own. Keep this outside the bedroom if possible – the bedroom is a space for sleeping and relaxing. Use any area that is reasonably quiet and well lit. Set up a desk with a computer, if possible, along with stationery items.

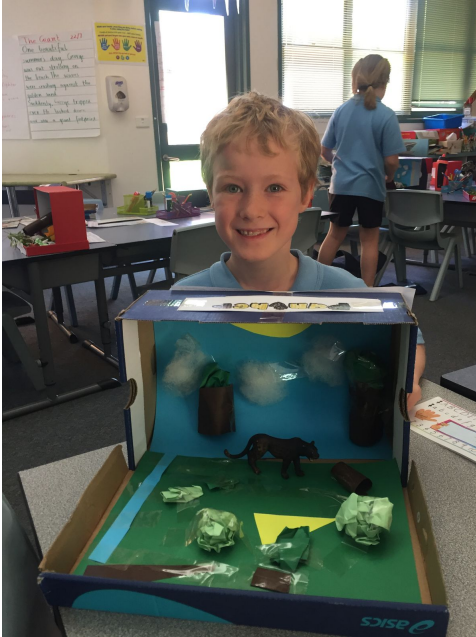
Establish a work schedule

If your child's primary school homework was given inconsistently then be prepared for a change. Most secondary schools try to coordinate homework between different teachers but there will be more times than not when your child will come home with multiple homework assignments to complete. Build the homework habit early and choose a regular time that allows for breaks. Encourage them to work quickly so that work does not drag on and become demotivating

Curriculum News - Mrs Hall

Inquiry at St. Mary's

At St Mary's our innovative Explicit Teaching Model of I Do, We Do and You Do ensures that our are students engaged and focuses on retaining what they are learning. Throughout our Inquiry based units (History and Science) our teachers work with students to construct their own understandings, moving from the known to the unknown. Inquiry based learning is driven by the search for deep understanding with all units including rich assessment tasks that provide opportunities for regular self-assessment and teacher feedback. This term our Year 1 students have thoroughly enjoyed researching and constructing dioramas to showcase their new learning of an animal's habitat.



RE News - Mrs Davies

Advent 2020

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent season for 2020. Advent is a very special time being the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world.

Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. It is a very special time of waiting in anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Next Friday we are really looking forward to watching our Advent Liturgy organised by the Foundation teachers and students.



PE News - Miss Clark

Last week Mrs Quin and myself conducted interviews for the House Captains for 2021. We are so proud of all the 41 students that applied and are very much looking forward to next year's Year 6 cohort with so many students wanting to be school leaders. Mrs Quin and myself had a very tough time narrowing down the successful candidates as we were very impressed with the standard of applications and interviews conducted.

Congratulations to the successful students; they are as follows:

Bandicoots - Scarlet G, Lily S, Ryan F, Max C

Wombats - Miley S, Reese P, Ryder C, Charlie F

Dingoes - Harper F, Sarah V, Nirvana J-J, Blake M

Bunyips - Tara F, Carly S, Jules M, Nate K

KEY DATES

Tuesday November 24th

Foundation 2021
Parent Information Meeting
7pm - Zoom

Friday November 27th

Casual Dress Day

Friday December 4th

Virtual Christmas Carols

December 9th

Year 6 Graduation (virtual)

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 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

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 tomorrow 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 7

6O	Max P	Bailey B
6P	Connor H	Myles H
6Q	All of 6Q	
5R	Vin M	Tara F
5S	Milla P	Eliza K
5T	Luciana S	Charlie F
5U	Ryan A	Patrick E
4A	Zara P	Callum M
4B	Kevin H Ryan H	Jack H
4W	Arna C	Oliver M
4Y	Jack K	Jimmy K
3G	Indigo P	Aiden K
3H	Hugh A	Kaitlyn S
3I	All of 3I	
3J	Charlee W	Ayden A
2K	Gemma N Willow V	Pearl D
2L	Emily S	Sadie M
2M	Peyton G	Tarkin B
2N	Zach R	Tahlia G
1C	Gracie Z Will P	Cleo M
1D	All of 1D	
1E	Patrick K	Sophia N
1F	Harry B	Katie A
F Blue	Kaleila O Nate P	Delilah B
F Green	Sonny M	Jaxon N
F Yellow	Dustin M	Frankie M
F Purple	Tom L	Kalena G
Art	Kevin H, Tyler M, Isla G, Hannah D	
Music	Audrey D, Sarah V, Sarah L, Milla M	
Italian	Whole school for Italian Week	
PE	Mitch K, Bonnie W, Logan K, Morrissey M	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV 23 - OLIVER C, MELIA R,
LIZZIE T, MARGIE T

NOV 24 - NIKOLAS G, JOVI P

NOV 25 - BANU E

NOV 26 - ISLA G, WILLIAM MC,
HERA P

NOV 27 - DASHIEL W



ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!!

ART CLASS TERM 1 2021

Enrolments are now open for new 8 week art classes!

Primary classes for prep - grade 3 & grades 4

Highschool for grades 7-12

TERM ONE CURRICULUM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASSES:

Week 1: Introduction and journal set up

Week 2: Fundamentals of drawing

Week 3: Tonal drawing

Week 4: Pen and ink illustration

Week 5: Soft pastels

Week 6: Mixed media

Week 7: Oil pastels

Week 8: Passion project

TERM ONE CURRICULUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES

Week 1: Introduction and reference journal set up

Week 2: Fundamentals of drawing / how to set up artworks

Week 3: Grey lead illustration

Tonal drawing

Week 4: Tonal drawing

Week 5: Pen illustration

Week 6: Soft pastels

Week 7: Mixed media

Week 8: Art piece of choice

ABOUT THE TEACHER

Hi there! My name is Bethany McKay, I am a local artist and teacher who has recently returned to Swan Hill after working as a freelance artist and art teacher in Melbourne for the past 3 years. I was lucky enough to grow up attending art classes in Echuca for over 9 years and fell in love with all things creative. I have structured the first term's curriculum to encourage the development of fundamental art skills and practices. These will serve as the perfect building blocks to set them up in whatever artistic endeavours they hope for!

TUITION

Both High School and Primary School classes: \$320 per 8 week term (to be paid at time of enrolment.)

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- 1.5 Hour class each week
- All materials needed, including personal sketch book for each student
- Invitations to the end of term exhibition in studio space.

PLEASE NOTE:

Each class will only offer 8 spots so be sure to lock yours in!

Enrolments are now open and able to be made via
EMAIL: bethanymckayart@gmail.com or PHONE: 0419 241 785

Italian Week in 5R



We made Italian biscuits



We completed mini projects



We watched a riveting Italian performance



And we played Boccé

