



Term 4 Week 8

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)



30th November 2020

## Welcome to Week 9

### Dear School Families and Friends

This week brings the start of summer and for us as a faith community the second week of Advent! This week it will be wonderful to focus on the coming of Christmas at the Advent liturgy organised by the Foundation children. This will be shared with our school community on Friday, December 4th as part of our Christmas Carols day.

Our thanks to the Foundation unit who prepared this liturgy to mark such a special and joyous occasion.

This week we welcome Natalia Barnes and her family to our school community. Natalia is joining Mr Cruickshank and his class in 3I.

### Easing of COVID-19 Restrictions

It was wonderful to receive an update that outlined the easing of school restrictions late last week. I have included a summary of the most pertinent information in the Administration section of this newsletter.

### Building Announcement

Exciting times ahead indeed! Last week our local member for Mallee Anne Webster, announced that St Mary's will receive 1.2 million dollars through the schools capital grants program to upgrade our existing infrastructure. This money will allow us to complete the next stage of our master plan. Essentially, our current Year 1 classrooms (Rms C, D, E & F) will be refurbished and incorporated into an 8 classroom contemporary learning space, complete with internal learning streets and toilets. This hub will house 2 junior year levels and will be a fantastic addition to our current school facilities.

### Carols Event

Like many school events throughout Term 4, it has been necessary to revamp our 'Carols Evening' into a virtual affair! While not quite the same, it is sure to still be a special day for the staff and students. Running this **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, everyone has been 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. We are making these up Friday morning so still plenty of time still to get your raffle tickets back or to send in something for a hamper.

### Reports

Our teachers are currently writing their reports for this semester - This semester will again see a report that is different as determined by the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority), the Victorian Department of Education and the CECV (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria). These directions are a result of the extraordinary circumstances during the semester. Reports will be mailed home on Friday, December 11th.

### St Mary's Got Talent

Now that children no longer have to play in zoned areas we can enjoy some of our traditional end of year activities including a firm favourite on the calendar....the St Mary's Got Talent acts! Running for three days (starting Monday 7th December), only this highly anticipated annual event showcases the many gifts and talents amongst our students and provides a great source of entertainment for all at lunchtimes.

### 2021 Planning Day

Just a reminder to all families that Thursday, 10th of December is our final school closure day. This time is used by staff to work with their new team and begin preparation of curriculum to be taught in the 2021 year and to complete some PD that was rescheduled due to COVID.



### **SRC Christmas Casual Dress Fundraiser**

Thanks everyone for your support of our Casual Clothes day, with \$524.10 raised through gold coin donations. The children involved in the SRC will go 'shopping' to purchase Christmas presents for families in need. These gifts are wrapped and labelled according to the gender and age group they are best suited to and placed under the Christmas tree in the church. Along with other gifts donated by parishioners, these are distributed to families prior to Christmas Day. This Friday 4th December is our last casual dress day where children can come dressed in their Christmas themed clothes.

### **Year 6 Graduation Evening**

Now that restrictions have eased we are delighted we can have an onsite Yr 6 graduation ceremony. This will take place outdoors on Tuesday the 8th December at 6:30pm. It is a lovely time to celebrate all of our Year 6 students contributions to our school and to acknowledge the achievements of our award winner recipients. Please note that due to caps on outdoor gatherings, only Yr 6 students and their parents can attend but we will be videoing the evening and taking lots of photos to be shared with siblings and extended family members.

### **St Mary's Orientation Day 2020 & Year 6 Transition Day**

On Friday, 11th December we will hold our Orientation Day when our new Foundation children come to our school and our Year 6's move on to their new school. Orientation Day is the day when all the children move up into their new classroom, meet their new teacher and begin to form relationships with their 2021 classmates. This day runs until 12:30 and provides a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with their new classmates and teacher. At 12:30 our preschoolers go home and all other children return to their 2020 classrooms for the remainder of the day.

### **St Mary's End of Year Mass**

On Monday, 15th December we will celebrate our school year. This year the children will attend Mass in their classrooms and the video link shared with all families. 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. We hope many families can watch this Mass virtually as it is such a special occasion for our school community.

### **Staffing Allocation for 2021**

Please find below the specialist and support staff teachers for 2021.

<b>Music</b>	Kate Dunstan & Naomi Bowd	<b>LOTE</b>	Sonia Kelly & Renita Holyoak
<b>Art</b>	Janine Dow & Annemaree Stacey	<b>PE</b>	Sarah Clark

We also welcome back Mrs Bern Mahon, Mrs Andrea Woodburn, Mrs Deb Parsons, Mrs Karen Jobling, Mrs Jessi Gleeson, Mrs Teagan Lawry, and Mrs Denise Jordan who are undertaking varied roles within the school.

### **Diocese Of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)**

Last Wednesday November 25th, Fr James signed the official 'School Transfer Agreement' of our school to DOBCEL. 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.



### **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.

I hope you all enjoy the week ahead and look forward to seeing many of you onsite this week.

**Kate**



## **Goodbye primary school, hello secondary school**

The end of primary school is a significant milestone in children's lives. They've spent half their lives in primary school, in many cases in the same school, which is significant. Developmentally they've come a long way from those skinny little kids who lined up for class on the first day holding a parent's or carer's hand. Now entering puberty, most are taller than their mothers and the only people they'll hold hands with are 'special friends', but not in public. Those displays of affection will come later in the secondary school years. Changing from primary to secondary brings a mixture of emotions in kids such as excitement, apprehension, pride and, in many cases, sadness about leaving friends and familiar surroundings behind. Parents often go through the same range of emotions as children at this time so we need to acknowledge those feelings in ourselves, just as we should in our children.

### **Looking back**

This is a time for kids to celebrate their achievements; show appreciation to their teachers and enjoy the friendships that they've formed. Here are three ideas:

#### **1. Let's celebrate**

Primary school graduation ceremonies play an important part in the primary school life, as they mark the end of an era and the start of a new part of their lives. We need to be careful that the meaning doesn't become lost as graduations become increasingly lavish, even to the point where some students are transported to their graduation in a stretch limo. Keep them simple and keep them close to the school's values.

#### **2. Show gratitude**

As a former teacher I know how much a simple thank you can mean from students at the end of the year. So make sure your kids take the time to thank their final year teacher and as well as seek out to thank other teachers who contributed to their education over their primary school journey. Gratitude costs nothing but has a great impact.

#### **3. Enjoy friendships**

Encourage your kids to be open and friendly at this time of the year, and steer clear of cliques and fellow students who want to exclude others from their groups. The end of primary school can be tricky to navigate, particularly when early maturers stick together and ostracise certain classmates. This is the time for friendly behaviour and inclusiveness.

## Curriculum News - Mrs Hall

### Summer Reading Competition

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Reading Club is once again taking place at Swan Hill Regional Library these summer holidays. The Summer Reading Club continues to be a huge success with ever increasing numbers of children reading books throughout the summer holidays! This year, the Summer Reading Club will launch an exciting new website, purpose built for children and families to use in a fun and safe way. Responding to this year's theme of Myths, Legends and Fairy tales, the new website will encourage the discovery of Tales of Wonder; we are certain kids will be attracted to the candid and clever illustrations and animated characters, and the ability to choose their own avatar upon registration! A host of interactive challenges will not only keep summer reading fun, but also encourage and guide children to participate with their local libraries.

The **Summer Reading Club runs from 1 December 2020 until 31 January 2021**. Registration is **FREE!** When participants register at the library they will receive a Summer Reading Club kit. They have 100 to give away!



## RE News - Mrs Davies

### **Advent Liturgy - Friday 4th December**

With Advent beginning yesterday we are really looking forward to the Foundation level sharing their Advent liturgy this Friday morning via an online video. Children across the whole school will be watching the liturgy as a part of our Christmas Carols day. A big thank you to the Foundation children and their teachers for the production of this special video.

### **Sacramental Dates for 2021**

As you are all probably aware, sacramental dates for children participating in their Confirmation, First Eucharist or Reconciliation this year have all had to be postponed until 2021. We are in the process of finalising dates for next year and how this is going to look going forward. We will keep you informed of how this will be structured for children and their families.



## KEY DATES

### **Friday December 4th**

Virtual Christmas Carols  
Casual Dress  
Theme: Christmas

### **December 8th**

Year 6 Graduation  
6.30pm Assembly Area

### **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.**



### **COVID Guidelines Update**

The following provides an overview of the key changes;

- Drinking fountains and taps should be reopened for normal use
- Schools can conduct onsite tours for prospective students and their families
- Schools are no longer required to reduce mixing amongst staff or different year levels
- Public events on school premises are now permitted-still has limits and many restrictions
- Liturgies are permitted subject to public gathering limits
- Kinder to School and Year 7 Transitions - can now have groups of up to 20 indoors
- Orientation events can go ahead subject to adaptation
- Indoor contact and non-contact sport can resume
- Interschool activities can now resume

### **PAM - Parent Access Module**

<http://pam.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au>

PAM is St Mary's main communication platform. All school related information is sent through PAM, so it is important to check your emails regularly. All communication via PAM will be sent to the email address linked to your PAM account. This includes the weekly newsletter, whole school information, letters/information directly related to your child and excursion/school activity permissions.

**We kindly ask that all Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 parents log in to their PAM account to give permission for your child to attend their break up day activity. Without consent via PAM, unfortunately your child will be unable to attend.**

**Could all families please check their PAM accounts for any unread notifications.**

Please contact the office on 50332541 or via email [office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au) if you require assistance with PAM.



### **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.**

## 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 8**

<b>6O</b>	Jack B	Ben F
<b>6P</b>	Judd T Dash W	Kiah P
<b>6Q</b>	Maggie M	Indi G
<b>5R</b>	Louis S	Jasper R
<b>5S</b>	Willow A	Angus T
<b>5T</b>	Anna H	Alahni E Laura D
<b>5U</b>	Monique P	Lily S
<b>4A</b>	Isla B	Brock J
<b>4B</b>	Jasmeen B	Mary C
<b>4W</b>	Jake O	Violet C
<b>4Y</b>	Rory D	Jobe C
<b>3G</b>	Evie K Wajiha E	Tyler P
<b>3H</b>	Cooper G	Zara T
<b>3I</b>	Eliza L	Rory M
<b>3J</b>	Jasnoor K	Flynn O
<b>2K</b>	Ella O	Ava M
<b>2L</b>	Dunia K	Sarah L
<b>2M</b>	Charlotte T Milly H	Nhan P
<b>2N</b>	Mac B	Domi C
<b>1C</b>	Braith C	Madison M
<b>1D</b>	Haydon M	Chloe J
<b>1E</b>	Leo T Cody G	Yazmin R
<b>1F</b>	Charlie H	Mia H
<b>F Blue</b>	Beau F	Nikolas G
<b>F Green</b>	Lana R	Sophie K
<b>F Yellow</b>	Maya S	George M
<b>F Purple</b>	Lachlan L	Hera P
<b>Art</b>	Katie A, All of 6Q, Arlene P, Hayley K	
<b>Music</b>	Hannah D, All of 6P, All of 3G, Nate P, Jagger F	
<b>Italian</b>	Beau F, Lowan G, Olivia C, All of 2N	
<b>PE</b>	Leni W, Sonny M, Vincent C, Scarlett F, Luca Z	



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOV 30 - Ana D, Lil H

DEC 1 - Bella S

DEC 2 - Sascha W

DEC 4 - Max F, Cruz O

DEC 5 - Dustyn J, Daisy M

HAVE A MAGICAL DAY!!!







Children who register at any one of the Swan Hill Regional Library branches and return a completed reading log before Monday, 1 February 2021, will go into the major prize draw for a chance to win some fantastic prizes! To enter, simply read 10 books or for 10 hours, complete a Summer Reading Club reading log and return it to the library. The more reading logs you return, the more entries into the draw you will have! There are lots of incentives to reward your enthusiasm along the way.

The Major Prize Draw will be held at 4pm on 5 February 2021.

Read for your chance to win these fantastic prizes!

- + An Apple iPad 32 GB
- + A Mini Sphero kit
- + One of four \$50 Toyworld gift vouchers
- + One of four \$50 EB Games vouchers
- + One of four \$50 Showbiz Cinema gift cards
- + ...and lots more!



With thanks to our generous sponsors:



For that of the Party



For children 5 - 18 years of age.



# Christmas is coming.

Advent is a time of waiting. In 3G we are waiting to.....

<p><b><u>Charlize:</u></b>   I am looking forward to my elf coming and getting to spend lots of time with my family and my dogs.</p>	<p><b><u>Bohden:</u></b>   I am waiting for Christmas so that I can be with my big family of grandparents and cousins and we can give and share.</p>		<p><b><u>Jett:</u></b>   Spending time with my Dad and the rest of my family.</p>	<p><b><u>Henry:</u></b> I am waiting to open presents with my mum, dad and my sisters.</p> 
<p><b><u>Elli:</u></b>   I am looking forward to having lunch and dinner with my family.</p>	<p><b><u>Noa Bella:</u></b> I am waiting for my whole family coming over together celebrating.</p> 	<p><b><u>Tyler</u></b>   For Christmas I am going to my Aunties house with Remi so she can play with 3 other dogs.</p>		<p><b><u>Hugh:</u></b>   I am waiting to see the rest of my family for Christmas.</p>
<p><b><u>Kelland:</u></b>   Spending time doing a lot of things with my cousins like playing catch, football, bocce in the back yard and going to the beach.</p>	<p><b><u>Aiden:</u></b>   I am waiting for the harvest to be done and Dad being able to spend Christmas with everyone.</p>	<p><b>Advent</b>  <b>A time of waiting.</b>  <b>A time of celebrating</b></p>	<p><b><u>Indigo:</u></b>   I am waiting to see my family from Bendigo and spending time with them playing games</p>	<p><b><u>Waiha:</u></b>   I am waiting to spend time with my family and cousins.</p>
<p><b><u>Charlotte:</u></b>   I love Christmas because I get to spend time with my family. I am really excited because this year we are going to the beach.</p>		<p><b><u>Brody:</u></b>   To spend time with my family and friends and also to have lots of laughs with my family</p>	<p><b><u>Kayla</u></b>   I am waiting to go on holidays with my family to different places on Boxing Day.</p>	<p><b><u>William:</u></b>   I am looking forward to giving presents and spending time with my family</p>
<p><b><u>Mrs Jobling and Ms Gilmour</u></b> are looking forward to spending time with their family.</p>	<p><b><u>Sienna</u></b>   I am looking forward to spending special times with my family.</p>	<p><b><u>Evie:</u></b> I am looking forward to a quiet family Christmas and then spending fun times with my family in Queensland.</p> 	<p>Advent is a word that means "coming." It is preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus. Advent officially begins four Sundays before Christmas.</p>	<p><b><u>Prue</u></b>   I am waiting to have lunch and tea at my Nan and Pops. We will also be going to Euston and Gol Gol with my family.</p>