



Term 1 Week 3

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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



8th February, 2021

## Welcome to Week 3

Dear Parents and Families,



We had a very smooth start last week with all our new students and staff quickly settling into school life at St Mary's. It was wonderful to see our playgrounds full of children playing happily together and equally exciting to get into all the classrooms and see the children bright, fresh and energised ready for the school year.

In the first few weeks of this year we focus on "Learning To Learn" at St Mary's. Time is spent on creating a safe and supportive learning environment, getting to know all students' DNA (Dreams, Needs and Abilities) and on establishing learning routines and expectations. There is also a strong emphasis on developing a culture of understanding and respect for each other in our school, supporting children to build their skills of resilience, have a growth mindset and relish taking on challenges. Across the classes we are discussing the different kinds of learning dispositions that we can develop and how we can live out the St Mary's Way.



### Opening School Mass - Thursday 11th February

As a Catholic school community, we begin our year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together at our Opening School Mass. At this Mass we give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with. Our Mass theme is To Learn and Grow with each class receiving a plant for their prayer table to care for throughout 2021 as stewards for all of God's creation. We will also be presenting our new School Captains and Vice Captains with their badges as they begin this important leadership role. We will celebrate our Opening Year Mass together at 9:15 this Thursday February 11th in the gym. Unfortunately, current COVID limits on indoor gatherings has meant that this year only our staff, students and a very small group of invited guests are able to attend. Please know that we include all members of our school community in our prayers during Mass and we will be sure to share highlights of this school celebration on Facebook and Instagram.

### Parent Teacher Conversations

We have our first Parent Teacher Conversations on Tuesday, 23rd and Wednesday 24th, February. These have been set early in the term to provide an opportunity for all parents to touch base with staff in person, share information about your child and together to set educational goals for the term ahead. It is a great opportunity for all parents to book a time to spend with your child's teacher. We will return to Student Led and 3 Way conferences in following interviews, so you are not required to bring your child to this time.

**School interviews will be booked through PAM and will open later this week for you to book a time for your child's Parent /Teacher Conversation.**

Parent – Teacher  
Learning  
Conversations



### Curriculum Newsletters

Today your child will bring home a copy of their Term 1 curriculum newsletter that outlines the key learning that will take place in their classroom and when they attend specialist classes. This newsletter assists you to know what is happening at school so you can chat more knowledgeably with your child about the many exciting things they are involved with at St Mary's.

### Update on Friday Assembly celebrations

Friday assemblies are held in the gym and are an opportunity to celebrate the week at school. Each Friday assembly is run by a different class who lead us in prayer and we like to enjoy a whole school sing along at these gatherings as well. Many parents, family and friends attend assembly and often stay on and share lunch with their child in our playground. COVID has placed some limits on our normal practices. Our first whole school assembly is Friday 19th February. With new COVID restrictions affecting numbers and indoor gatherings, I'll advise closer to the date if parents, family and friends are able to attend. In the meantime, families are warmly invited to join us for lunch any Friday with our sign in book located outside the office.

### Bus Travel Reminder

Our bus schedules have rolled over from 2020, if you have made any changes to your bus travel arrangements for 2021, please contact the office on 50332541.

Also, a reminder to our Foundation families, if your child will be catching a bus, please advise the office of a start date, even if they have older siblings at school. This helps to ensure our records are up to date and to make sure each child has a buddy to assist them with bus travel.

### Parent Car Parks

We will continue with our system of students with surnames **A-L using the carpark near the office** and **M-Z using the parent gym carpark** at the start and end of the day.

I look forward to this year, working with all families and seeing you back on site.  
My door is always open for conversations or simply for you to say 'Hi'.

**Kate**



# Communication

## Keeping in touch – Our communication with you

We strongly encourage all families to join our school Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria) as it captures many different events occurring at the school while our instagram page [#stmarysswanhill](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysswanhill) gives you lots of insights into what is happening on a day to day basis around the school. In particular, our Facebook page is a handy quick reference if you want to check details about upcoming events as these are always promoted on this platform. Our school website [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au) provides a very comprehensive overview of the school and the snapshot tours are well worth a look. In terms of other communication, please ensure that you have set up your **PAM** account. This platform will keep you up to date with weekly reminders and the newsletter. We showcase key events in The Guardian every fortnight and advertise key events regularly on the local radio station.



As we phase out Skoolbag this year, we encourage families to notify the school of their child's absence via PAM and to call the office on 50332541 or email [office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au) for any bus changes.

# Wellbeing

## School Wide Positive Behaviour Support -St Mary's Way

As part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) both staff and students over the past years have developed the St Mary's Way. The 4 norms of the St Mary's Way guide the students to reach their full potential and promote a positive learning environment for all.

1. Be Responsible
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe
4. Be Your Best

Our Learning to Learn units at the start of the year focus on teaching and modelling 'The St Mary's Way' and set up the classroom so that relationships are developed and learning can take place in a positive way.



## The Resilience Project

This year we are excited to be part of The Resilience Project which will be our Social and Emotional Program. Each week all classrooms have a designated time to deliver the awesome lessons from The Resilience Project. Lessons will cover the following throughout the year.

1. Gratitude
2. Empathy
3. Mindfulness
4. Emotional Literacy



**Stay tuned for more information regarding this wonderful program in next week's newsletter**

## [RE News with Mrs Davies](#)

### [Beginning of Year Mass - To Learn and Grow](#)

As a Catholic community, it is fitting that we begin our school year with the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. We are very excited to be able to come together as a whole school - something we haven't been able to do for the last 12 months! In doing so we are able to give thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy to make the most of all that we have been provided with. Mass to celebrate the start of our school year will be held for students and teachers on **Thursday 11th February at 9.15am in our school Gymnasium.**



### Prayer to Begin the School Year

*God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our being,  
for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.  
Bless them and their teachers and staff.  
Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



## Key Dates

### Wednesday February 10th

Swimming Trials for Yr 3-6

### Thursday February 11th

Start of Year Mass  
9.15am  
School Gym

### Wednesday February 17th

Ash Wednesday Liturgy  
9.15am

### Monday Feb 22nd

Division Swimming Carnival  
Swan Hill

### Tuesday February 23rd

&

### Wednesday February 24th

Parent Teacher Interviews  
Information to follow

### Monday March 8th

Labour Day  
Public Holiday

### Tuesday March 9th

Pupil free day  
Staff PD

## Administration News

### Canteen Roster

Thank-you to those who have volunteered to help in our canteen this year. If you would like to be added to the roster, please contact the office on 50332541.

Mon Feb 15	Tue Feb 16	Wed Feb 17	Thur Feb 18	Fri Feb 19
Bec Anderson	Need someone	Need someone	Megan Bye	Erin Decker
Mon Feb 22	Tue Feb 23	Wed Feb 24	Thur Feb 25	Fri Feb 26
Need someone	Karen Thamm	Stacey Keefe	Leah Merritt	Melissa Robertson
Mon March 1	Tue March 2	Wed March 3	Thur March 4	Fri March 5
Need someone	Need someone	Need someone	Anne-Maree Hazlett	Brugette Nunez

### Book Club - Issue 1

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 is now available. We will not be accepting cash payments for orders. Please order online following the instructions below.

**Issue 1 orders are due by Wednesday 17th February 2021.**

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 via email - [office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

### Lost Property

Our lost property bin is emptied each Friday with named items returned to children via the classroom baskets. **Please ensure all of your child's uniform, lunch boxes and drink bottles are labelled so they can be easily returned.**



### Health Reminder

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.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is up and running for 2021! We kindly ask for donations of vegemite, milo, honey and jam.

# Community News



## Lake Boga Sea Scouts

Joey Scouts 5 years to 8 years

Wednesdays 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Cubs 7 years to 11 years

Tuesdays 5.30pm - 7.00pm

Scouts

Wednesday 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Phone Amber for more details 0439 331 870



## Strike a Pose Dance Studio

Classes for 2021 start on Monday February 1st

For enrolments or enquiries, please contact Miss Natasha 0407 520 263

[natasha@strikeposedancestudio.com](mailto:natasha@strikeposedancestudio.com)

Facebook.com/strikeposedancestudio



## Dance Force Swan Hill

Enrolments for 2021 are still open!!!

For more information, please call or message Jo on 0408 845 920

REGISTER ONLINE [www.riversidetri.com.au](http://www.riversidetri.com.au)



### Student of the Week - Term 1 Week 2

6O	Ben N	Lily S
6P	Sabrina V	Nirvana J
6Q	Tara F	Ryan F
6R	Vin M	Kyra C
5S	Sara C	Ryan H
5T	Brock J	Miela R
5U	Yasmin H	Angus S
5F	Jack K	Gypsi O'B
4G	Tao F	Coco N
4H	Oliver S	Jack B
4I	Lincoln C	Ellah D
4J	Ananya J	Rueben C
3A	Tyler M	Ella F
3B	Sampson B	Lily N
3W	Tristam Y	Pearl N
3Y	Sean C	Sarah L
2K	Oscar R	Skyler M
2L	Harry B	Ellie W
2M	Cody G	Simran K
2N	Steele W	Rubi K
1C	Hayley K	Logan K
1D	Maya S	Dustin M
1E	Wilhem F	Amelie R
F Blue	All of Foundation Blue	
F Green	All of Foundation Green	
F Yellow	All of Foundation Yellow	
F Orange	All of Foundation orange	
Art	Ben R, Angus S, All of 3A, All of 4G	
Music	Coco N, Lawson R, All of 1D, Lily N	
Italian	Angela W, All of 1E, Sampson B, Ben N	
PE	Willow C, Angus S, Quinn L, Freddy P	

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

FEB 8 - LINCOLN C

FEB 9 - RUBY E

FEB 10 - MAVERICK C, PARKS K

FEB 11 - MARION D, HENLEY M

FEB 12 - JULES M, GRACIE Z

FEB 13 - JEMMA T

FEB 14 = CLEO M



ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!!!





# Collection of Student Background Information

## A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

### PURPOSE OF DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF PARENTAL OCCUPATION

In recent years the Australian and State Governments have asked all schools to collect and report on information regarding each student's background.

This information is being used to inform the government and public, especially the education community and parents, about progress towards achieving the two National educational goals for young Australians:

- ✦ Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence; and
- ✦ that all young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The national collection of data is necessary to monitor the effect that student background characteristics have on student outcomes and helps to direct resources to where they are most needed.

When enrolling a child in school all parents are asked which of the following options best describes their occupation, and the school education and non-school education levels they achieved.

### PARENTAL OCCUPATION

A component of this information is Parental Occupation. Occupations are classified according to five categories:

**GROUP A:** Senior Management in large business organisations, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals.

**GROUP B:** Other business managers, arts/media/sportspersons and associate professionals

**GROUP C:** Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff

**GROUP D:** Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers

**GROUP N:** Not been in paid work in the past 12 months

This classification affects how schools are funded, so it is important that the information provided is accurate.

When this information is not provided, the parent occupation is deemed as Group A (which attract a lesser amount of funding). Information provided is confidential and is used and stored according to Privacy Regulations.

### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Student Family Occupation derived from parental occupation data is an increasingly important component of funding. Schools receive a portion of their federal and state government funding based on this information.

### IMPORTANT POINTS FOR PARENTS TO NOTE

No individual student or school will be identifiable through published information.

All information which could identify, or would reasonably identify, students to whom particular background characteristics belong, is removed from national reports so that no personal information is reported publicly.

Data will be collected, stored and reported in accordance with privacy legislation requirements.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Queries regarding the information in this brochure should be directed to the Administrative Office of your child's school. For further information on parental occupation coding, please refer to the State Government Department of Education website.



## Introducing our 2021 School Captains and Vice Captains

We would like to introduce our new School Captains and Vice-Captains for 2021. These Year 6 students were elected by their peers and school staff at the end of last year. They will be presented with their badges by our Principal, Mrs Quin at the School Opening Mass on Thursday. We know they are going to do a great job in leading our students in many roles and representing our school throughout the community.



Left to Right - Emily Pekin (Vice Captain), Scarlett Benham (School Captain), Ben Nelson (School Captain), Oliver Alderuccio (Vice Captain), Sam Scott (Vice Captain), Ryley Fogarty (Vice Captain)