



Term 1 Week 5

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



22nd February, 2021

Welcome to Week 5

Dear Parents and Families,

And just like that we found ourselves back to remote learning last week! I am very grateful for the way in which staff, students and families responded to the very quick move to home learning. A huge thank you to our teachers who quickly organised work and then spent time planning how to best deliver information through videos, emails and Google Meets . Thank you to our students and families for the positive and resolute way you responded to home learning and for all your positive feedback about the classroom teachers phone calls to check in on student and family wellbeing and support home learning while in the lockdown. However, schools are meant to be full of children, and it was wonderful to see all our students back at school on Thursday morning happy to be here and ready for learning.

Staff and Student update

Over the past week we have welcomed Paige, Alexia and Max Lee , Navika Sacher, Aria Cottis and Evie Watts to St Mary's. We hope they will all be very happy here and we are looking forward to them being part of our learning community .

We were also very excited to learn that Mrs Morris had a beautiful baby girl Gigi who has settled in beautifully at home with big brother Paddy. Congratulations Zoe and Kris on this precious addition to your family.

Parent – Teacher
Learning
Conversations



Parent Teacher Conversations: Tuesday, 23rd & Wednesday 24th, February.

Our Parent teacher Conversations have been scheduled this week and provide an opportunity for all parents to touch base with staff in person, share information about their child and together to set educational goals for the term ahead. It is a great chance for all parents to book a time to spend with their 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 this time. **School interviews are booked through PAM.** If you need any assistance just ring the office and we will be very happy to help you select a time that suits.

Open Day Sunday February 28th

Have you heard about Open Day on 3SH or seen our ads in the Guardian or on facebook? This Sunday Feb 28th marks the first of our School Open Days. Tours are running at 10 and 11 am for prospective families enrolling children in Foundation for 2022. Our Open Day allows prospective families to meet with the School Leadership Team and Foundation Teachers and participate in some of our specialist subjects in order to familiarise themselves with our wonderful school programs and facilities. We warmly encourage you to tell family and friends with a preschooler to come along and see our wonderful school.

ST MARY'S IS KNOWN FOR ITS STRONG FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS, COMMITMENT TO THE WELLBEING OF EVERY CHILD AND OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RECORD.

**St Mary's
Primary School
OPEN DAY**

ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

We warmly invite prospective families to visit our school to see for themselves what makes us different.
Come chat to our staff as they show you around our school.

**Tours at
10.00am & 11.00am**

Sunday 28th February 2021

History Box Incursion

This term the F-6 children have been learning about events that have shaped our Australian history. To compliment their history units we welcome back Barry and Cynda, who run The History Box Incursions program. The History Box conducts onsite history programs complete with very engaging “hands-on” activities that teach children a great deal about the past as they participate in the program. In 2019, the children had so much fun with Cyn and Baz and we are sure that this will be the case again. The History Box will be here from Tuesday –Thursday with all sessions running in the gym.



School Advisory Council

The SAC met earlier this month and it was terrific to actually finally have a meeting onsite! Time was spent looking at projects that had been completed during remote learning and our capital grants plan. We also discussed how to actively connect to families post COVID. A number of different ideas were suggested and will be taken to the Family Engagement team meeting this week.



Casual Dress

This Friday will be our first casual dress day. This month we are raising money for research into genetic conditions- for new families the children bring a gold coin donation on Casual Dress Day. The theme for the day is to wear Bright Colours.

Seesaw - Important to sign up

All Foundation families and any new families have been sent an invitation to join their child's online Seesaw class. In the event of schools being required to provide an online learning platform at any stage in the future, it is very important those families that have not yet completed the login process for Seesaw do so as quickly as possible.



Please continue to look out for updates from the school via your email and on our Facebook page throughout the week as these tools are our key ways to stay in touch.

Have a wonderful week,

Kate





The Resilience Project--We hope you had a chance to have a look at the parent video introducing the 'The Resilience Project'

Each week in class the children are working through the units from this wonderful program. We have been learning about 'Gratitude' and what it means for both themselves and others. Every child has a Resilience Project Journal which they fill in each week during their lesson.

Gratitude is being thankful and expressing appreciation for what one has – as opposed to focusing on the lack of something.

Research shows that practicing gratitude rewires our brains to overcome the negativity bias (which can lead to anxiety and depression) and see the world what we are thankful for. It is also shown to broaden thinking, and increase physical health through improved sleep and attitude to exercise.

View **Part 2: Gratitude** of the series here:

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/parent-and-carer-hub/>

There are many ways in which you can practise gratitude, including starting a [Wellbeing Journal](#). The following are a few ideas to get started. Many of our staff have started their own Journal since we have begun this program

Gratitude

- ***Write down three things that went well today***
- ***Think or write down something you are looking forward to tomorrow.***
- ***Write down who you are most grateful for and why***

Sacramental Dates 2021

With the postponement of all Sacramental celebrations in 2020 due to Covid - 2021 is sure going to be a big year for our children completing their sacraments! Please find below a schedule of dates to put into your calendar -

Confirmation

Year 4 - Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th May

Year 3 - Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th June

Eucharist

Year 5 - Saturday 31st & Sunday 1st August

Year 4 - Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th August

Reconciliation

Year 3 & 4 - Tuesday 19th October - 7pm

There will be a Parent Sacramental Information Evening to be held in March - we will provide a date and more details about this in the next week or two.

Pancake Tuesday

Well I know that the children are definitely looking forward to this Tuesday as we are holding our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake cooking! Even though it is a week late, I know classes are really excited to still be able to cook and eat pancakes in their classrooms with their friends. Parent letters have been sent home to families with further information.



Key Dates

Tuesday February 23rd

&

Wednesday February 24th

Parent Teacher Interviews
Bookings made through PAM

Friday February 26th

Casual Dress Day
Theme: Bright colours
Gold Coin Donation

Sunday February 28th

School Open Day
Tours at 10am & 11am

Tuesday February 23rd -

Tuesday March 2nd

Book Fair

Monday March 8th

Labour Day
Public Holiday

Tuesday March 9th

Pupil free day
Staff PD

Administration News

News from the Canteen

NEW PRODUCT ALERT!!! - Chicken Tenders available everyday \$1.50 each

Everyone's favourite - **Pizza's are back on the menu**

Our 2021 Canteen Menu had been emailed to families via PAM

	Tue Feb 23	Wed Feb 24	Thur Feb 25	Fri Feb 26
	Karen Thamm	Need someone	Leah Merritt	Melissa Robertson
Mon March 1	Tue March 2	Wed March 3	Thur March 4	Fri March 5
Need someone	Moriah Ierace	Need someone	Anne-Maree Hazlett	Brigette Nunez
Mon March 8	Tues March 9	Wed March 10	Thur March 11	Fri March 12
Public Holiday	Pupil Free Day	Andrea O'Reilly	Need someone	Ursula Sparks
Mon March 15	Tue March 16	Wed March 17	Thur March 18	Fri March 19
Need someone	Heather Evans	Need someone	Need someone	Emma Bolger

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 or office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open from Tuesday 23rd February until Tuesday 2nd March.

The school receives 30% of money raised in book stock for our library. We will have a large range of books displayed in the library, which the children will view during their library class time. The children will make a "Wish List" which will then be sent home with an order form, if you wish to order something. Parents are welcome to come and browse. The order form can be completed and sent back to the office no later than Friday 5th March.

Town Bus 8

Town Bus 8 is at capacity and we are unable to issue bus passes at this time. Our priority is for children who are catching the bus to and from their usual place of residence.



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.



[PAM – Why am I receiving so many emails?](#)

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. Please also check your spam/junk mail as sometimes these emails will go to this folder. Just mark the email "not spam/junk" and emails should then begin to appear in your inbox.

Here is an overview of the different types of communication you may receive through PAM;

noreply@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

General school information/announcements/updates or information we need to communicate to all families or a large percentage of families. Please note that this information may not always be relevant to your family.

Newsletter

Emailed via PAM weekly.

Letters

You will receive an email notification advising that you have a new letter available to view. These letters could be in regards to additional support programs, appointments, administration matters etc. There will be a link to access this through PAM.

Click on this link, this will take you to PAM, log in and in the top right hand corner on the "bell" will be a red dot with a number inside. These are your notifications. Click on this to view any letters/attachments. The red numbered dot will disappear once the letter has been opened.

You can view past letters by clicking on the student, profile menu, "Letters".

Excursions & School Activity Permissions

You will receive an email notification advising you have a new "school activity permission" available to view. There will be a link to access this through PAM.

Click on this link, this will take you to PAM, log in and in the top right hand corner on the "bell" will be a red dot with a number inside. These are your notifications. Click to view school activity permission details. Consent is given by scrolling to the bottom of the school activity details. The red numbered dot will disappear once the school activity permission has been opened. If there is not a notification within the bell, click on your child's photo and from the profile menu, select "School Activities".

Reminders will be sent until the request is actioned.

You can view past letters by clicking on the student, profile menu, "School Activities". This will show all school activities sent via PAM since the beginning of 2020.

Please phone the office on 03 50332541 if you require any assistance with PAM and our office staff will be happy to assist you.



CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for primary school students.

HOW TO APPLY:

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from

www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/CSEF-Application-Form-2020.pdf.

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2020, you do not need to complete an application form in 2021 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2020
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2021.

If you are unsure please contact the school office on 50332541.

If you are eligible for CSEF you are also eligible for the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The FFAS amount for 2021 is \$850.00. This amount is credited against your school fee account once your CSEF application has been validated.



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEB 22 - TYLER B, ARCHER J

FEB 24 - MORRISSEY M, LUCAS O'R

FEB 25 - TITALIA C, ALAHNI E, ELIZA L

**FEB 26 - KATIE A, WILLOW A, LENNY C,
FINN H**

FEB 27 - SOUHAYLA J, CHLOE M

**FEB 28 - TARKIN B, ALIRA C, MADISON D,
TARA F, JAI P**

FEB 29 - SPENCER H

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

GIRLS COME AND TRY

Are you interested in Aussie Rules Football?
Keen to try something new?
Open to ages 8-16 years of age.

Wednesday 10th March 5.00 – 6.00

Kerang Football Oval

Wednesday 17th March 5.00 – 6.00

Swan Hill Recreation Reserve

REGISTER TODAY!

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

