



Term 2 Week 8

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



7th of June, 2021

Welcome to Week 8

Dear Parents and Families,

Surreal as it may seem, life can change quickly in Victoria which is why 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 speedy move to home learning. A huge thank you to our staff who quickly organised work and then spent time planning how to best deliver information through videos, emails and Google Meets. Thank you also to our students and families for the positive way you again responded to home learning. While we are all becoming experts at remote delivery, it doesn't make it any easier each time we have to work our way through it. Each time we are always looking at ways to improve the process, while ensuring we are mindful of the emotional toll it can take on all.

However, schools are meant to be full of staff and students, and it was wonderful to see everyone back at school on Friday morning happy to be here and ready for learning. It was a sea of blue beanies and excited kids as we combined back to school with a casual dress fundraiser day for Fight MND. This raised almost \$600 which was a fantastic effort by all.

**It's great to
be back!**
... We've missed you ...

Onsite Information

Back to school brings with it the return to some of the previous restrictions put in place to keep us COVID-safe. At this stage they are in place until further notice;

- No incursions or excursions for students
- No community groups using the gym
- Non essential visitors-not allowed onsite
- Parents not allowed onsite (some exemptions apply)
- Assemblies restricted to the staff and students.
- No food sharing between students
- No canteen or breakfast club volunteers

Reports

Our teachers are currently working hard at writing Semester 1 student reports. This is a great time of the year as we celebrate our student growth and learning and we look forward to sharing this with families when reports are mailed out during the last week of June.



2022 Enrolments and Flying Start

You will have heard it on 3SH and seen it in the Guardian or on our Facebook page... it's that time of year when we are open for enrolments and take names for Flying Start. Our parent community is one of our best

forms of advertising so please let your friends and family know about the great teaching and learning programs and wonderful pastoral support that exists at St Mary's, when they are considering 2022 school options for their children.

Places are filling steadily, especially in the 9.30am session, so don't forget to contact the school to confirm a place for your preschooler. Flying Start runs in Term 3 on Friday mornings from (1) 9:00 to 10:30 and (2) 11:30 – 1:00 for all interested families. Our local preschools, including [Shamrock Park](#) are also open for 2022 enrolments for both 3 & 4 year old preschool with more information available on the Shine Bright webpage.

Italian Day - Wednesday, 16th June.

Not long until Italian Day!! Every second year we hold a whole school Italian Day to celebrate the Italian language and culture. **Students are invited to come to school dressed in an Italian costume or the colours of the flag.**



While we have had to modify some events it remains a fun filled day of Italian themed activities. Gelato and cannoli will be available at recess and lunch and there will be Italian food available to order through CDF Pay for lunch. A flyer is attached with more details. We will be sure to upload highlights of the day on our Facebook page.

NCCD - National Consistent Collection of Data

Today you will find attached information for all parents about the funding changes for children who require extra support to achieve learning outcomes at school. This is a National Government initiative and affects all schools in Australia. Please take the time to read the information provided and feel free to ring for further clarification.

Long Weekend

Please note that there is **no school next Monday** June 14th due to the Queen's Birthday Holiday. The school newsletter will be published on Tuesday.



Kate



Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents. The following are some insights he has on helping parents understand and manage their child's anxiety

Managing anxiety before it becomes a problem

The president of Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA) recently highlighted the enormity of the anxiety problem that children are facing. A survey of primary schools across Australia conducted by the APPA showed that 80% of school leaders regard anxiety as a significant issue for children. Research shows that childhood anxiety left unmanaged will almost certainly re emerge, highlighting the importance of early detection and management of anxiety. Parents, as first responders, play an important role by minimising the impact of stressful moments before they lead to full-blown anxiety. Here's how they can help.

Recognise anxiety triggers

Recognising the events that trigger anxiety is the first step in helping a child to manage their stress. Rapid or unpredictable change, new social situations, unfamiliar events and difficult experiences are the most common anxiety stressors for kids.

Know how it shows

Stress and anxiety show in many ways however most children display anxiety behaviours that are unique to them. Typically, anxiety shows through physical signs such as chest pains, nausea and headaches. Anxiety can be observed through behavioural clues such as avoidance of activities, aggression, concentration difficulties and constant fiddling and movement. Worrying, overthinking and catastrophising are also common in children who experience anxiety. Knowing how anxiety shows in your child will alert you to respond appropriately with support and understanding.

Give kids tools to manage their states

Once anxiety is experienced it never truly disappears. It's always there in the background. Anxiety needs managing so kids can get on with their lives rather than become overwhelmed by stress and worry. Providing children with tools to manage their thinking, emotional and physical states prevents anxiety from becoming debilitating. Management tools such as deep breathing, mindfulness and exercise as well as techniques to help kids distance themselves from their anxiety-inducing thoughts help them minimise the impact of stress.

Help them understand how anxiety works

Children who understand what happens in their brains and bodies when they are stressed are better able to manage their anxious states. Providing children with a thorough knowledge of how anxiety works and how it shows empowers them to push their worries into the background while they get on with their lives. Managing anxiety takes practice, but it's absolutely essential if children are to flourish rather than become overwhelmed by stress and worry.

In closing

Stress and anxiety have accelerated with the impact of the pandemic. The growing rate of anxiety is no one's fault, however it does mean that parents need to become more knowledgeable about how anxiety works, how it shows and how you can help your children.

Digital Technology - Mr Perry

iPad return

If your family borrowed an iPad during the Remote Learning period last week, they now need to be returned to school. Please ensure you remove your itunes account and 'erase & reset' the device so it can be set up ready to be used in the classrooms again.



Key Dates

Monday June 14th

Public Holiday

Wednesday June 16th

Italian Day

More information attached

Thursday June 17th

School in Action Tour

9.30am-11am

For prospective families

Friday June 18th

Regional Cross Country

St Arnaud (change of date)

Wednesday June 23rd

Year 5 and 6 Division Winter

Sports

Information will be sent
via PAM

News from the Office

[Flying Start - A school familiarisation program for Preschool Children](#)

Come and experience life at St. Mary's enjoying our Phonics, Music, Italian, Physical Education, Art and Technology Programs for children. This **FREE** program will start on Friday July 23 and continue on Friday July 30, Friday August 6 and Friday August 13 with two session times (1) 9:00 to 10:30 and (2) 11:30 – 1:00 for all interested families.

Since opening 2022 Foundation enrolments and running our first Open Day, enrolments are steadily coming in for our Flying Start Program. For those of you with a preschooler please contact the school office to confirm a place or for further enquiries phone Kate or Ebony on 03 50332541 or email principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au.

[Canteen](#)

Our canteen will remain operational although we are unable to have parents onsite. If you would like to be added to our Term 3 roster, please contact the office with the days or dates you are able to assist.



[Book Club Issue 4](#)

Scholastic Book Club Issue 4 is now available. We will not be accepting cash payments for orders. Please order online following the instructions below.

Issue 3 orders are due by this Wednesday, 9th of June 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

[Lost Property](#)

Our lost property cupboard is overflowing with jumpers. Please remember to **clearly name all school items** so they can be easily returned. Second hand jumpers can be purchased for a gold coin donation.



[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

[Loddon Mallee Preschool Association - Online Q&A session](#)

Kindergarten Central Enrolments are now open for 2022. Families are invited to attend an online Q&A session on Wednesday June 9th at 5.30pm. Contact 54431229 for more details.

A decorative banner at the top of the page features colorful triangular bunting in shades of yellow, orange, purple, and blue with polka dots. Below the banner, colorful confetti in red, blue, yellow, and orange is scattered across the page.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

JUNE 7 - RUBI K

JUNE 8 - NOAH O'S

JUNE 9 - LANDON M

JUNE 10 - LAURA D, ARCHER M

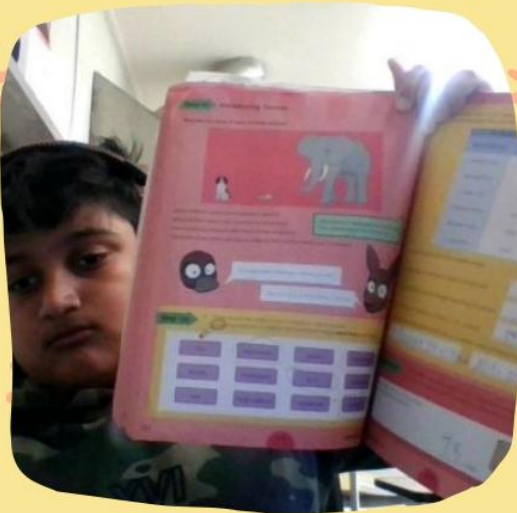
JUNE 11 - AIDEE B, KNOX J, YAZMIN R, MILLIE S

JUNE 12 - CHARLOTTE S

JUNE 13 - MAX C, PRUE O'S



Remote Learning Highlights



Stepping Stones
Mod 7.3

A young girl with glasses is holding up a large educational book. The book has a grid of colored squares and some text. There are two smaller images of the same girl holding the book, one on the left and one on the right.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a

student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

What sort of help does the school give students?

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

How will the NCCD be different this year?

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

Where can I find out more?

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).