



Term 3 Week 4

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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



2nd August, 2021

## Welcome to Week 4

Dear Parents and Families,

It was wonderful to see everybody back at school on Wednesday and to have a school full of happy children who were excited to see each other and their teachers. The Olympic Games were a huge talking point and provided so many wonderful learning opportunities both in lockdown and since we returned to school.

This week we farewell Miss Teagan Devereux and thank her for her work and all she has done for our students both as an LSO and then a teacher at St Mary's. We will miss the strengths and gifts Teagan has brought to our school and wish her all the best as she embarks on the next stage of her teaching career. We also celebrated the safe arrival of Renita and Mick Holyoaks' new baby Zachary. A much loved little brother for Ava and Macey.

### 100 Days of Life in Foundation -Monday August 2nd

It seems hard to believe that it is 100 days since our Foundation students first walked through the gates back in February. *..time certainly flies.* There was certainly a lot of fun being had in Foundation rooms this morning, as the children celebrated 100 days of school with a special day of activities planned by Miss Forster and the Foundation team.



### Year 5 & 6 Parent Cyber Safety Information Night

On Tuesday evening at 7:00pm we have Leading Senior Constable Andrew Downes presenting an information session for our Year 5 & 6 parents and their children outlining the legalities around Internet Use and Cyber Safety. We have sourced Andrew in response to parental concerns about their children's use of social media and devices outside school hours and to clarify the schools position in regard to this. Please check your emails for further information regarding this night and for the Zoom link to join.

### School Improvement Survey

Every 2 years our school community is required to complete a survey which provides us with data concerning our organisational health. This data is used in the process of assessing growth, setting goals and working towards school improvement. As we have a school review next year, 2021 is a survey year. A selection of parents have been chosen randomly from our family list, and will receive a survey for completion between Monday 26th July and Friday 6th August. If you receive an invitation to participate it would be fantastic if you could take the time to complete the survey. Staff and senior students are also involved in completing surveys and providing important feedback for our school.

### Flying Start Goes Remote!

As the latest COVID-19 restrictions do not allow us to run transition programs onsite - Flying Start has gone remote! Our wonderful Flying Start team, with the help of some of our students, have put together some fun filled remote sessions which we know our 2022 Preps will love until we can hold onsite Flying Start sessions back at school.

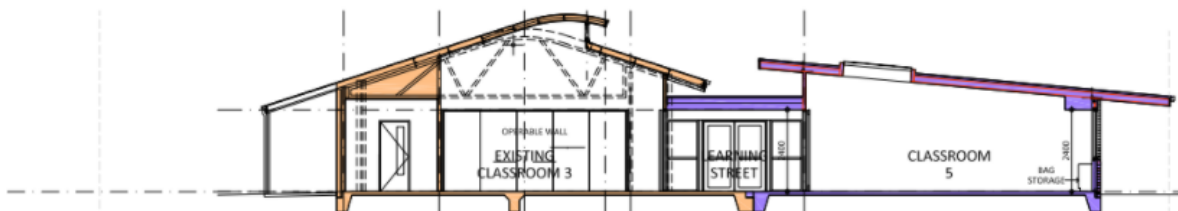
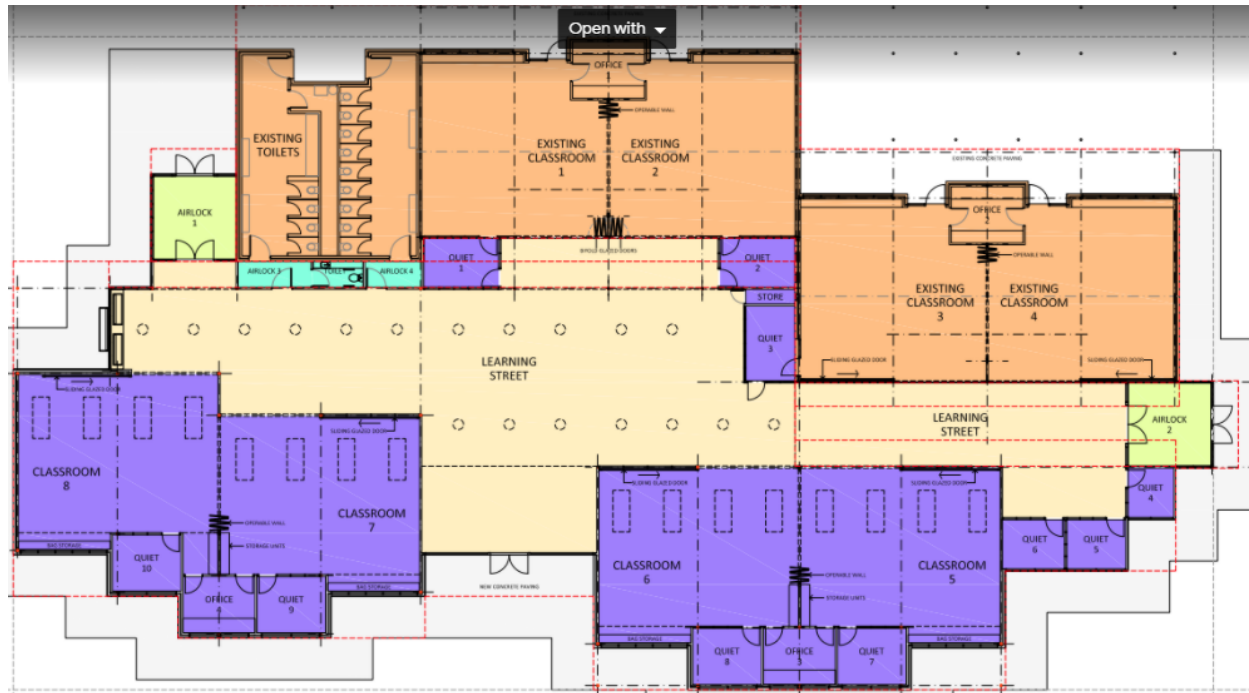


## New Junior Hub on the way!

Exciting times ahead indeed! Last November our local member for Mallee Anne Webster, announced that St Mary's would 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 Foundation Classrooms classrooms (Rooms Orange, Yellow, Green and Blue ) 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.

The plans will go out to tender soon and we hope to commence this project by the end of the school year.

Large copies of the new junior hub are on display in the front office for parents and visitors to view once allowed onsite, but in the meantime a sneak peak will give all families an insight into what the new building will look like.



SECTION B3



Hope you all have a great week and enjoy the chance to get out and about now restrictions have eased.

**Kate**



## Establishing digital boundaries for a good night's sleep.

Following on from last week's video on 'The Importance of Sleep' we would like to share some thoughts from Dr Kristy Goodwin who is a digital wellbeing performance speaker, author and researcher (and mum who also deals with her kids' techno tantrums).

### Strategies to stop screens from sabotaging your child's sleep

Parents can have a positive influence on their child and teens' digital habits and doing so will yield positive results for their child's sleep and subsequent learning and wellbeing.

### Establish a digital bedtime

Kids should switch off digital devices 60 minutes prior to falling asleep. Reinforce this habit by establishing a 'landing zone' such as a kitchen bench, or desk in a study or sideboard where digital devices go for charging and storage. Many students report that they 'need' to complete homework or submit assignments late at night. Verify the validity of such statements and work in partnership with your child's school to limit this type of required screen activity at night. Parents need to also be good role models by switching off before bed too.

### Tech-free zones

Bedrooms should be tech-free zones so consider buying an alarm clock if your child uses a mobile phone to wake themselves up. Keeping devices out of bedrooms removes the tech-temptation to use them throughout the night, reduces the likelihood that they'll reach for them upon waking and lessens the chance of cyberbullying incidents. Ensure any devices left in bedrooms are on airplane mode and that the device is away from their line of sight.

Stay tuned for more tips next week.



# News from the Office.....

## Key Dates

### Monday August 2nd

100 days of school  
for Foundation students

### Tuesday August 3rd

Responsible Internet Use  
and Cyber Safety  
Presentation  
via Zoom for Year 5 & 6  
families  
Information sent via PAM

### Friday August 6th

Year 5 & 6 Winter Sports  
Information sent via PAM

## Staff Update

We now have 2 Emma's working in the office.....although this might be confusing to start with, Emma Brown and Emma Bolger have different roles within the office. If you call, just a brief explanation of what you are calling in regards to, will allow your call to be transferred to the right Emma.

## Canteen

Our current COVID 19 guidelines don't allow parents onsite so at this time, this means we can't have our wonderful parent helpers in the canteen. **Also a reminder that there is currently no over the counter sales at recess or lunch time.** Our canteen is a very busy place each lunchtime. Unfortunately, this means we are unable to heat up lunches for students, provide boiling water for noodles/thermos' or toast students sandwiches in the canteen. If you would like your child to have a hot lunch, please select from the many options available through CDF Pay.

## PAM Tip of the Week

*Is your child going on a camp, sporting event or excursion and you can't remember the details, need to give consent or what they need to bring?*

-Simply log into your PAM account

-Select the child who is going on the camp, excursion etc

-From the Profile Menu, select "School Activities"

-Click "View" on the appropriate camp or excursion

-You will be able to see all details, attachments etc in relation to the camp or activity

\*\*\*The consent permission will appear as a "bell notification" until after the consent due date. You can still give consent after this time, you will need to just follow the steps listed above\*\*\*

## CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

### Applications for CSEF close on Friday 13th August.

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](http://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.





# Happy Birthday

**August 2nd - Evie K, Dunia K,  
Ezra N, Blake S**

**August 3rd - Jasmine H**

**August 4th - Rubi S**

**August 5th - Jasmine H, George M,  
Van N, Will P, Tyler P, Louis S**

**August 6th - Ruby Mcd**

**August 7th - Rylan G**

**We hope you have a lovely day!!!!**



# 2021 GIRLS PROGRAM

**AGES 8-14**

**ALL PLAYERS WELCOME**

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**5.30 PM START**

**SWAN HILL RECREATION RESERVE – SWAN HILL**

PLAYERS WILL BE PUT INTO TEAMS OF 12 AND PLAY A ROUND ROBIN COMPETITION.  
ITS ALL ABOUT HAVING SOME FUN AND FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

**REGISTER BY USING THE LINK BELOW  
OR SCANNING THE QR CODE!**

<https://forms.office.com/r/Pn5KZBEYn4>

