



Term 4 Week 3

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



18th October, 2021

Welcome to Week 3

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to have our Year 3-6 students back onsite last week to spend time together face to face and continue their learning and enjoy each other's company and even better news announced yesterday with **all year levels returning to school this Friday**. Families and staff alike will be very excited to see the end in sight and we can't wait to have our school community back together at last. Not long to go!!



This week we have :

- Foundation - Year 2 onsite learning from Monday - Friday
- Year 3/4 students back onsite on Tuesday & Wednesday
- Year 5/6 students back onsite on Thursday
- **All students will return to onsite learning Friday, October 22nd**
- Students in Years 3 - 6 wearing masks whilst indoors at school (unless an exception applies). All details about this direction from the Chief Medical officer were emailed to families with students in Yr 3-6 last week

As we implement the new mask requirement, please understand that, as a school, we are required to ensure that we are following the COVID safe requirements as directed. This is not a school rule and, as such, I am not able to either change it or the exceptions associated with it. Staff have been positive role models with mask wearing and very supportive, as the children adjust to this expectation. If your child has a medical exemption to go without a mask, I ask that you please send this through to the school office.

Can adults come onsite?

Current restrictions mean that parents and visitors are not able to come onsite at the moment. We would respectfully ask that wherever possible communication with the school should be conducted through phone or email and if it is necessary to come onsite eg. to pick up your child for an appointment please phone the school office ahead of time and the office staff will assist you. Your child's teacher is always happy to chat by phone or email or may walk out to the car park after school if it is a matter you would prefer to discuss in person.

Planning for 2022

We are well into our planning for next year and are quite excited about the opportunities for staff and students ahead.

We will commence constructing class groups for 2022 quite soon and many hours are spent on this task. Please be assured that teachers use their professional knowledge of students and their judgement of what is best for

each individual child when considering groupings. Any parental considerations of a serious nature regarding your child's 2022 placement must be emailed to kquin@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au or delivered to the office in an envelope marked Att: Principal by this **Friday October 22nd**. Please do not assume previous requests are ongoing as we begin each year afresh at St Mary's and only written considerations to the principal by 22/10/21 can be factored into class decisions for 2022.



With planning for the 2022 school year now gathering momentum, I would ask families that are aware that they will not be returning to St Mary's next year, to promptly inform the school.

Vaccinations

Mandatory vaccinations have been a talking point in the community since they were introduced, and it seems that double vaccination will be a necessity in many industries going forward. In schools, this ruling applies to all staff, visitors to the school and anyone who works with children on site in any capacity. Information about how this is monitored and recorded in schools is still coming through from the Catholic Education Office and government departments. I will keep families informed on any developments in this area. The vaccination of children attending Primary School is not mandatory.

Summer Uniform & Sports Uniform

The first two weeks of Term 4 are a transition to full, correct Summer Uniform. We should see all students in full summer uniform this week. Please ensure all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Just a reminder, students only wear their PE uniform on their designated classroom sports day and the day they have PE specialists.

Sunsmart School

It is very important to protect our children against the harmful effects of the sun's UV rays. St Mary's is proud to be a 'Sunsmart' school. This means that hats are worn during Term 1 and Term 4. Please ensure that your child has a school hat for Term 4 as all students at St Mary's are required to wear their school hat during playtime breaks and outdoor school activities such as sport.

Enrolments for 2022

We are still taking enrolments for Foundation and other year levels for 2022. If you know of anyone who is considering St Mary's next year could you please let them know that enrolments are open and to make contact with the school for further information.



Closure Dates – Term 4 2021

Just a reminder that Monday 1st November is a scheduled Pupil Free Day - Staff Assessment and Reporting day.

Please take care of each other over the coming week and keep reading any information that comes out from the school carefully. Foundation green shared a lovely Assembly prayer last week about Mary MacKillop and we are looking forward to 3B sharing their prayers with us this Friday.

Kate



Wellbeing

School Wide Positive Behaviour and Teaching Kindness

Extensive worldwide research indicates strongly that schools who implement Positive Behaviour Management programs and the teaching of 'Kindness' in their Social and Emotional Learning programs significantly reduce the incidences of bullying. The programs allow children to operate in a safe and secure environment while having a significant impact on improved academic achievement and the building and maintaining of positive peer relationships.



At St Mary's we are proud of our **St Mary's Way** as it has been developed by both staff and students. The 4 Norms-**Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be your Best** provide a consistent language that is understood by all. Each norm has behaviour expectations that are explicitly taught and positively reinforced.

We also know and appreciate the benefits of teaching 'Kindness' at St Mary's. There are 10 very positive outcomes from teaching kindness not only at school but at home as well. I will share three outcomes each week.

1. Happy, caring children

The good feelings that we experience when being kind are produced by endorphins. They activate areas of the brain that are associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust. These feelings of joyfulness are proven to be contagious, encouraging more kind behaviour (also known as altruism) by the giver and recipient

2. Enhanced feelings of gratitude

When children are part of activities that help others less fortunate than themselves, it provides them with a real sense of perspective, highlighting their own good fortune. Being generous helps them appreciate what they have, makes them feel useful, and fosters empathy towards others.

3. Greater self-esteem

Studies show that people experience a "helper's high" when they do a good deed. This rush of endorphins creates a lasting sense of pride, well-being, and an enriched sense of belonging. Even small acts of kindness are reported to heighten happiness, increase energy, and give a wonderful feeling of optimism and self-worth



Curriculum News - Mrs Hall

Young Writers Awards

A big congratulations to the following students from our school who have had their stories shortlisted:

Lola V - Foundation

Eva R - Foundation

Tilly S - Year 1/2

Isabel F - Year 1/2

Jasnoor K - Year 3/4

Kathleen K - Year 3/4

Belle L - Year 3/4

Ella W - Year 5/6

The Young Writers Award Winners Presentation via Zoom will be held on **Wednesday, 27 October at 2 pm**. The zoom link will be sent out to our above families this week. The children will be able to zoom from school for the presentations.

LITTLELIGHT - The story of a little town that needed a whole lot of enlightening.

From all reports our children enjoyed participating in the very entertaining **Littlelight** show by Tony Bones. **Littlelight** shines a neon spotlight on the importance of breaking down barriers and promotes the understanding to celebrate our differences. The children enjoyed puppetry, drama, musical beat and rhythm, theatrical role playing, a literature quiz, laughing, fun and much more!!



RE News - Mrs Davies

Sacraments

It seems that the updated road map announcement yesterday provided a clearer way forward around restrictions within religious celebrations. With the easing as of the 22nd October there are still only 30 fully vaccinated people in church. With the 80 % easing of restrictions at the beginning of November this will allow for 150 people to attend celebrations. This is exciting for us as it will allow for small family gatherings to celebrate their child's sacraments. We will keep you updated with any news on when you will be able to schedule your child's Confirmation or Eucharist celebration - Fr James will share a new Sacrament Booking Doc where families will be able to schedule in on a weekend that suits them. This will be shared when restrictions ease to a point where we can hold these - most likely early November. I know many are looking forward to this special occasion!



Physical Education News - Miss Clark

Cricket Australia initiative

Our Foundation, Year One and Year Two students have been lucky to receive a free soft cricket ball from Cricket Australia! This is an initiative to increase student participation in physical activity and improve motor skills as the students participate in individual and pair challenges. Classroom teachers can run brain breaks using the cricket balls to practice student's throwing, catching and bouncing skills. The juniors can take their cricket ball home to practice improving their skills with family members and also get excited about the Cricket season coming up.

2022 House Captains

It is that time of year where any Year 5 students who are keen to take on a House Captain leadership role should begin writing their application letter. Interested students should seek help from their classroom teachers about a template and submit their letter to Miss Clark via email. The students have until Friday, the 19th of November, to submit their letters. Shortly after, each student will be interviewed by myself and Mrs. Quin. Each House will have 4 House Captains in 2022. I wish all applicants the best of luck!



eSafety's Parent Guide to Digital Technologies and Mental Health

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with strategies to help young people and their mental health when they are online. It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 10–18.

It will cover:

What do to about accidental exposure to content about suicide, self-harm or eating disorders using games, apps and social media to support mental wellbeing the pros and cons of digital mental health platforms strategies for young people to support friends online.

Register now at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8245460212320493072>

Dates: Tuesday 19 October 7.30 to 8.30 pm, Wednesday 20 October 12.30 to 1.30 pm

Thursday 21 October 12.30 to 1.30 pm, Tuesday 26 October 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Tuesday 9 November 7.30 to 8.30 pm, Thursday 18 November 12.30 to 1.30 pm

eSafety's Parent Guide to Online Gaming

This Term 4 webinar will provide parents and carers with an understanding of the benefits and risks of online gaming.

It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 8–13. It will cover:

eSafety's State of play research the games young people are using and how they are engaging with them the benefits of gaming and how to mitigate risks practical strategies to use at home and where to find help and support if things go wrong.

Register now at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/224257905834791949>

Dates : 15 November 12.30 to 1.30 pm & 24 November 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Key Dates

Tuesday October 19th & Wednesday October 20th

All Year 3 & 4 students at school

Thursday October 21th

All Year 5 & 6 students at school

Friday October 22nd

All students return onsite

News from the Office.....

OSHC @ 2 Murlong

The Out of School Hours Care program, @ 2 Murlong, is operating out of the gym hub and provides before and after school care for school age children in the Swan Hill area. Please express your interest via the following link;

<https://prodadmin.myxplor.com/enrollment/index/dHdBOThsSW9JeHUxYTEwaHNxZIMrdz0>



Bus Schedules

With so many changes to after school activities this year, please take the time to confirm your child's/children's bus schedule with the office. A reminder that day to day bus changes can be done on PAM, however if you require a permanent change, you will need to contact the office.



Book Club - Issue 7

Scholastic Book Club Issue 7 will be sent home this week. We will not be accepting cash payments for orders. Please order online following the instructions below.

Issue 7 orders are due by Monday October 25th.

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



How to add your child's absence on PAM

PAM is our preferred notification method for absences. Absences must be entered prior to 9.25am on the day your child will be absent. Absences can also be entered in advance.

On PAM, you can add an absence if:

- Your child is going to be absent for the day (All Day)
- Your child is going to be late to school (Arriving Late)
- Your child is going to be leaving early from school (Leaving Early)
- Your child will be leaving school and returning eg. for an appointment (Partial)
- Your child is going to be absent for more than one day (Multi-day max of 7 days)

To add an absence:

- Log in to your PAM account
- Select "Parent Notified Absences" listed under "Students". This can also be accessed by selecting the 3 line menu bar on the top right hand corner of the screen and selecting "Parent Notified Absence".
- Select "Add Absence"
- Select the child who will be absent
- Select the reason for your child's absence
- Select the appropriate absence period
- Select the absence date
- Notes can be added if required
- You can edit or delete current and future absences, by clicking on your child and amending it if required

Foundation Health Assessments

Kerrie McCosh, Primary School Nursing Program, commenced the Foundation Health Assessments last week and will be visiting our school in October and November to continue these checks.

Student of the Week - Term 4, Week 2

6O	Ruby M	Isaiah B
6P	Ryan A	Jasmine H
6Q	Lucius S	Milli L
6R	Scarlett B	Isabel B Holly L
5S	Jasmeen B	Levi P
5T	Jasmine H	Mason M
5U	Travis B-B	Isla G
5F	David T	Ryan D
4G	Sienna C	Tommy N
4H	Willow S	Kell P
4I	Ekamroop K	Dilsheen B
4J	Morrissey M	Henry D
3A	Indi M	Keira M
3B	Charlotte T	Bella S
3W	Laine Mck Miah H	Willow V
3Y	Jobe S	Kathleen K
2K	Oscar R Leo E	Chloe J J L
2L	Eva D	Haydon M
2M	Patrick K	Madison McM
2N	Aarav B	Cherry N
1C	Johannes O	Leni W Lana R
1D	Willow C Jayla P	Charlie R
1E	Mark H	Aiden C
F Blue	Evie S	Isaac D
F Green	Ezra N	Florence T
F Yellow	Jimmy W	Rosie A
F Orange	Lenny H	Matilda M
Art	Eva R, Braith C, Lochlan C	
Music	Steele W, Stella W, Judd O'S, Louis R	
Italian	Sophie K, Jasper B, Johannes O, Jack L	
PE	Grace McC, Harrison G, Nate P, Isabel I	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

OCTOBER 18TH - TIA P, HARLOW R

OCTOBER 20TH - AMAHLIA M, ISAAC R, LEO T

OCTOBER 21ST - ROSIE A, ELLE T

OCTOBER 22ND - BENJAMIN C





"The man was so funny and told lots of jokes"

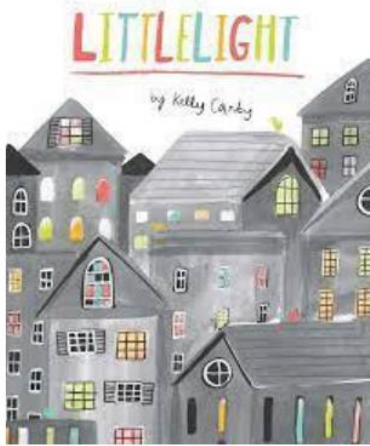


"We Love jumping around playing with the bird balloons"



"We danced so much and copied all his funny actions"

Tony Bones Virtual Performance



This week we participated in a Virtual Show Performed by Tony Bones. We were so excited to sing, dance and read along with Tony as his book "Little light" was brought to life.



"All of his costumes made me laugh!"



"The book was so interesting I wanted to watch it again!"

