



Term 1 Week 1

# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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



Monday January 31st 2022

## Welcome to Week 1

Dear School Families and Friends,

Welcome to the 2022 school year! I sincerely hope that everyone has had a restful and relaxing summer break. It has been wonderful to catch up with the children as I visited the classrooms this morning and to welcome our new Foundation students to their first day of school. There was a real buzz in the air and it was great to see rooms filled with smiling faces and children happy to be back as we gather to begin another year of learning.

This is a particularly special time for the children who are beginning school in Foundation and those joining us from other schools and their families. I hope that during this transition into our school community that you feel warmly welcomed and trust that through our strong partnerships with families you will feel connected with your children's development as they begin their learning journey at St Mary's.

To all families old or new, please remember that we are always more than happy to assist with any queries, concerns, ideas or just to be a listening ear. You are always welcome to contact us by phone or email at school or call in for a chat.

I would like to acknowledge and welcome our newest staff members:

We are excited that Alexia Mase, Dallas Sloan, Wendy Rodriguez and Janelle Hogan have joined us as classroom teachers and are delighted that Chris Prockter has stepped into a role on our leadership team. We welcome Melanie White, Josh Rodriguez and Brooklan Caruso who have joined our Wellbeing team, congratulate Nola on her move into educational support and look forward to working with Alisha Devereux and Britney James who will join us in the office later in February. Welcome one and all!

We also wish Amy Newman, Jacqui Forster and Emma Bolger all the best with their move to Melbourne, Woorinen South and Canberra respectively and thank them for their contributions to our school during their time here.

And welcome to our new St Mary's students and their families as well!

Year 1: Braxton Miller, Emily Bun

Year 2: Donny Andrews

Year 3: Alexander Gadsden, Toby Garnham, Mitchell Jones, Lexi Milley, Charles Murdoch

Year 4: Elijah Leverett, Toby Rodriguez, Temi Osunneye

Year 5: Brydie Andrews, Lacey Callaway, Gracee Dillon-Western, Aaron Gadsden, Lane Garnham,

Year 6: Esperanza Rodriguez, Patrica Finney

## Congratulations

Congratulations go to Chris and Megan Prockter who welcomed Clementine into their family over the holiday, to Carla and Aedan Gorman on the safe arrival of Archie.

## Holiday Update

We have been busy over the summer break with new projects and maintenance work being undertaken across the school. We have taken possession of a new portable in readiness for the building program which is scheduled to start mid year and moved other portable buildings around to best utilise our school grounds and provide access for emergency vehicles. The OSHC service is looking amazing with more new equipment and resources purchased for use in the program and to cater for

the growing demand for before and after school care. Lots of spring cleaning and maintenance work has also occurred and our grounds are looking fabulous and ready for action!

### Covid Update

Separate correspondence has been sent to all families via email about the collection of RATs, what to do if your child or a member of your household contracts Covid and additional details from the latest school guidelines. Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or queries.

### Parents and Visitors coming onsite

We appreciate the start of the school year is a challenging time regarding parents and carers coming onsite. In the early weeks of this year we are limiting parents, and visitors who enter school buildings to reduce the risk of transmission. The school is aware of the challenges that the current restrictions impose but is required to observe the rules put in place to keep our school community safe. Foundation families are able to come onsite to settle their child on Monday and Tuesday (see separate letter sent to new families).

From Wednesday 2nd February, parents may enter the school grounds before school to take their child to class or drop things to the office. Any parents' onsite are required to check in with a QR code and have the school confirm that they are fully vaccinated. This is not required if you are just dropping off or picking up your student.

We ask all parents, carers and visitors to observe physical distancing rules and wear face masks when onsite.

### Meet the Teacher Chats

At the start of each school year we hold Meet the Teacher chats. These chats are designed to give parents a chance to chat to their child's teacher and to tell them a little about their child. Essentially, they are the opposite of a Parent Teacher Interview where the teacher does most of the talking. A list of questions to help guide the conversation will be emailed to all families this week. They are usually done in person, but this year in line with current restrictions these will be held over the phone.

The interview schedule for Meet the teacher will open on Wednesday this week with all details about booking a time emailed to families.

Our Teachers are looking forward to meeting with each family and learning more about the children in their 2022 class.

### School Photo Day

Just a reminder that our school photo day is fast approaching - **Tuesday 8th February**. All information has been sent out via PAM. The students' individual and class photos will be taken on this day. If you have any concerns or queries regarding your school photo order please give the office a call.

### Our Josephite Heritage

The Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, often called the "Josephites" or "Brown Joeys", were founded in Penola, South Australia, in 1866 by Mary MacKillop and the Rev. Julian Tenison Woods. In 1923, three Josephite sisters arrived in Swan Hill to work at the newly opened St Mary's Primary School. Sr Kathleen McSweeney was the last Sister of St Joseph who worked at St Mary's and lived in our local community.

It is timely to acknowledge Sr Kathleen as she passed away just before Christmas and was a greatly loved staff member. We remember Sr Kathleen as an energetic and determined woman who was ahead of her time in many of her teaching practices, teaching staff meditation and the benefits of movement and learning well before it gained mainstream popularity. She had a great sense of fun and a forthright manner that made her both formidable and endearing at the same time!

Rest in peace Sr Kathleen and thank you for your friendship, wise counsel and service in our school.

This year we will endeavor to honor our Josephite heritage and the immense contribution by the sisters in shaping our school, by including a reflection from Mary MacKillop in our newsletter each week.

**"God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark."** Mary MacKillop, 1899





### Keeping in touch – Our communication with you

Throughout the year there will be times when you need to contact your child's teacher(s) or one of the senior leadership team. We encourage frank and open discussions at all times and would suggest that any matter, major or minor, is best dealt with sooner rather than later. If there is something you are concerned about, unsure of or puzzled by regarding your child we would encourage you to touch base with us. While it may be convenient to try to catch a teacher before or after the school day, this may not be the most appropriate time to have an in-depth discussion about your child. *So how do you do this?* Phone or email to the school, who will contact the class

teacher asking them to call you. We strongly encourage all families to join our school Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysswanhillvictoria) as it captures many different events occurring at the school while our Instagram page #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 and upcoming events regularly on the local radio station and on our Face

### Assembly celebrations

Until restrictions ease we will continue with our current covid safe practice of running remote whole school assemblies each Friday. As soon as we can gather as a whole school community, we will recommence our normal practice of holding these each Friday afternoons from 12:25 pm. Our weekly assembly prayer is shared on our school Facebook page.

### Parent Carparks

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.

Have a great week as we all get back into the swing of school life,

**Kate**





At St Mary's we provide support for children across many areas.

Wellbeing and Additional Learning Needs Coordinator--Ginny Gook



Wellbeing team-We are very excited to let you know that we have expanded our wellbeing team to support children at school. We welcome Josh Rodriguez, Melanie White and Brooklyn Caruso and look forward to working with them throughout the year. Each person will have specific year levels to work and other children on a needs basis.

Brenda Ford— Foundation

Krishell Wilson - Year 1 and 2

Melanie White - Year 1

Jordan Morris - Year 3 and 4

Josh Rodriguez – Year 5 and 6

Brooklan Caruso – Year 5 and 6

These people work with children who need extra support for a variety of wellbeing reasons. This support can be the whole class, small groups or one on one. Some are qualified Brain Gym and Peaceful Kids Leaders and work with teachers and children teaching strategies and movements that help children be ready for learning. They also work with teachers and children incorporating mindfulness activities throughout the day. Please contact Kate or Ginny if you have significant concerns regarding your child's wellbeing.

**Learning Support Officers - (LSO's)** work in classrooms either supporting children or conducting programs on an identified needs basis. They are an amazing team and build wonderful relationships with the children they support.

## Curriculum News - Mrs Hall

### DNA: Dreams, Needs and Abilities

With the excitement of a new year we begin with a whole school focus around our '**Learning to Learning**' Units. As a school we value the strong focus of positive relationships, building connections amongst students and staff and fostering resilience which is built from strong relationships. This week our students will share their **DNA (dreams, needs and abilities)**, as a way of building relationships and making new connections with their peers and teachers. We believe that every child is a success story waiting to be told and that **"Every Child Matters Every Day"**.



### Different ways to ask your child "How was school today?"

Here are some great questions and conversation starters to get your children talking about school. Remember it is also the perfect opportunity for you to share your own answers too and as a family.

- *What is your DNA? (Dreams, needs, abilities)*
- *What is something that went well today?*
- *What made you smile today?*
- *Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?*
- *Tell me something that made your teacher laugh today.*
- *Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.*
- *What did you do that was creative?*
- *If you could choose, who would you like to sit next to in class?*
- *Where is the coolest place at the school?*
- *How did you help somebody today? Did anyone help you?*
- *Who would you give student of the day to today? Why?*

- Which playground is your favourite and why?
- If you got to be the teacher tomorrow what would you do?
- What are you looking forward to this week/term/year at school?
- Tell what Lego club looks like?

### Learning Planners for families in Isolation

All our Year levels have and will continue to provide weekly planning for our families and students if needed in isolation. The learning tasks provided are designed to keep our students connected and provide learning activities that can be completed at home.

We are grateful for the partnerships with our families, as relationships are the key to our school community, so please don't hesitate to contact your classroom teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership team, if you have any questions or concerns. Remember that your family's health and wellbeing is the number one priority.

## RE News - Mrs Davies

### Prayer for the Beginning of 2022 School Year

We give you praise, O God,

Bless us as we start this new year with our friends and teachers  
Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.

May we show love to one another and to all.

May the new beginning of this school year remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.  
Help us to learn and to work together.

Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak.

Bless our school and keep us safe-welcome all our new teachers and students from other schools.

Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us.

Bless all those who care for us in school and at home.

May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us and help us to live as well as we can, giving thanks and glory to God as she did.

Amen.



## Physical Education - Miss Clark

### **Open Water Learning Experience- Years 3 and 4**

Welcome back everyone! We kick off the term off with our Year 3 and 4 students attending an Open Water Swimming Day at Lake Boga this week.

The Open Water program is designed to empower children with potentially lifesaving skills that may one day save their own or someone else's life. These sessions are conducted by qualified trainers from Life Saving Victoria. Learning safety skills for open water is particularly relevant for Swan Hill and surrounding areas.

The following dates and time are when classes will attend Lake Boga;

**Thursday 3rd Feb 10am-12pm:** 3H and 3G

**Thursday 3rd of Feb 12:30pm- 2:30pm:** 4K, 4L and 4N

**Friday 4th of Feb 10am-12pm:** 3I, 3J and 4M



Please ensure permission on PAM is given for your child to attend.

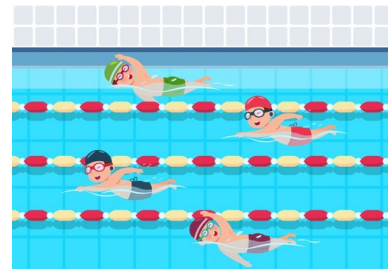


### Swimming Trials- Years 3-6

St. Mary's Swimming Trials will be held on Thursday, 10th February at the Swan Hill Town Swimming Pool (outdoor) beginning at 1.15pm for students 9 years and older.

This is an **OPTIONAL** event and students who participate must be able to swim 50m (1 lap) non stop in order to try out. On the day, each child who wishes to participate will be given the opportunity to swim in the stroke(s) that they have nominated. All strokes will be 50m. We will simply record their time for each nominated stroke to determine the fastest 2 swimmers for each event in each age group to qualify for the Division

Swimming event held later in the month. Thanks again to all of those who have signed up for these events and goodluck! Please ensure permission on PAM is given for your child to attend.



### School Sport Victoria (SSV) State Team Trials

Students who turn 10, 11 or 12 in 2022 have the opportunity to register to trial for the State SSV teams for 2022. The trials are held in Swan Hill in April/May 2022. (Trials dates are listed on the Mallee Division website, all held between 4.00-5.00pm at local venues)

#### Important information

1. Main Sports are AFL Football, Netball, Soccer and Basketball.
2. Students can register for Hockey, Triathlon and Volleyball trials, but these trials are not held in Swan Hill.
3. **Students need to be 'talented' at their chosen sports.** These trials are not come and try events.
4. Online Registrations on the SSV State Website. <http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au> opened Wednesday, 1st December 2021 and **close Tuesday 1st March 2022.** (no late entries accepted after that date) There is a one off fee per sport which is non-refundable.
5. A student can register for more than one sport but would have to pay a fee for each sport they select.
6. **Each school can register up to 3 children to trial for a particular sport. If there are more than 3 who register then schools must do their own trial before the division level.**
7. Students must get their Principal and the School Sports Rep Permission to trial.
8. If they are selected to progress from the Swan Hill trials, students then move on to trial against students from across the Loddon Mallee Region. There are quite a few levels of trials before the final teams are selected.
9. For further information please contact your local school, SSV Website or contact your District and Division Coordinators.

## KEY DATES

### Wednesday February 2nd

Foundation Rest Day

### Thursday February 3rd &

### Friday February 4th

Open Water Swimming for  
Year 3 & Year 4 students  
Information has been sent  
via PAM

### Tuesday February 8th

School photo day  
Information has been sent  
via PAM

## Administration News

### OSHC @ 2 Murlong - Before & After School Care



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>

### Book Club - Issue 1

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 will be sent home this week. We will not be accepting cash payments for orders. Please order online following the instructions below.

#### **Issue 1 orders are due by Tuesday February 15th.**

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)



### 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

### Australian Government Department of Health's Child Dental Benefits Schedule

The CDBS provides individual benefits for a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits are not available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and cannot be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

Eligible children will have access to a benefit cap of \$1,013 over a two calendar year period.

To be eligible a child must be aged between 2-17 years and their family must receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or a relevant Australian Government payment.

Families can check whether their child is eligible for the CDBS by contacting Services Australia. General information about the program can be found on the [Services Australia website](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/).

[https://m.facebook.com/100068840425291/posts/232333025738043/?\\_rdr](https://m.facebook.com/100068840425291/posts/232333025738043/?_rdr)

# SWIM

# BIKE

# RUN

## 2022 VOYAGE FITNESS RIVERSIDE TRI



### MINI TWILIGHT TRI

### SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 6PM START

### RIVERSIDE PARK SWAN HILL

SWIM, RIDE & RUN ALONG THE SCENIC MURRAY RIVER & PIONEER SETTLEMENT.  
ALL AGES & FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME. START & FINISH AT RIVERSIDE PARK, SWAN HILL.

#### 24KM BIKE RIDE

Scenic Ride  
Raising Awareness  
and Funds for  
Chances for Children

SATURDAY

#### MINI TRI

All Ages Welcome  
50m Swim  
2km Ride  
800m Run

CHECK IN 4.30-5.30PM

#### SPRINT TRI

Individual/Team  
500m Swim  
20km Ride  
5km Run

SUNDAY

#### SHORT TRI

Individual/Team  
200m Swim  
12.5km Ride  
2.5km Run

SUNDAY

#### 5KM, 15KM & 21KM FUN RUN

Run or Walk  
Pram & Family  
Friendly Course  
No Pets Allowed

SUNDAY



The Guardian



THE  
BEAUTY  
SPOT.



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







# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

JANUARY 1ST - SAMANTHA P

JANUARY 2ND - TULLIE W

JANUARY 4TH - SAM B, GRACEE D-W, TAWNEY MC,  
ADDISON M

JANUARY 5TH - MARLEY B, CHARLOTTE T

JANUARY 6TH - JOHN G

JANUARY 7TH - EVA R

JANUARY 8TH - JACK H, ASHA N

JANUARY 9TH - LOGAN H, LAWSON R

JANUARY 10TH - SIENNA A, AARAV B, BELLE L





JANUARY 12TH - TOMMY N

JANUARY 14TH - LARA M, LEO W

JANUARY 15TH - SONIC H

JANUARY 17TH - ALEX G, WILL O'B, JUDD O'S

JANUARY 18TH - PACEY T

JANUARY 19TH - MICHAELA MC, KYE T

JANUARY 20TH - BEAU H

JANUARY 21ST - TILLY S

JANUARY 23RD - LEVI C, SIMRAN K, DUSTIN M

JANUARY 25TH - INDI P, EVIE S

JANUARY 26TH - SKYLER M







JANUARY 27TH - OSCAR B, RORY D, RILEY H,  
OLIVIA R, HUGH W

JANUARY 28TH - JAKE O'B

JANUARY 29TH - HATTIE P

JANUARY 30TH - MAX H, MYLES H, KAEDEN K,  
KAIDEN M

JANUARY 31ST - THOMAS L

FEBRUARY 2ND - DONNY A

FEBRUARY 3RD - JOHANNES O

FEBRUARY 4TH - MAVERIK B, CHLOE N, GYPSI O'B

FEBRUARY 5TH - DAVID T, KEVIN T

FEBRUARY 6TH - MARK H, MARCUS MCI, LOLA R





 Welcome  
**BACK TO  
SCHOOL**

