



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 8

We are approaching the first Sunday of Advent, a great time to reflect and discuss the true meaning of Christmas within our families. St Mary's has such a solid understanding of the season of giving and I cannot thank our community enough for their generosity of hamper donations. The difference these small acts make have a ripple effect on many. Thank you everyone.

Our Year 5/6 learners all returned from their trip to Canberra last week, well yet tired. It was fantastic to hear from our teachers that our learners did us proud in this setting also. Still enacting St Mary's RRR expectations and taking part in the many attractions with respect and curiosity. I thank Miss Santilla, Miss Adelia and Mrs Fry who took additional time away from their lives and families to ensure the safety and well being of our learners throughout the week.

It is the festive season, and I understand that all families have many things on during this busy time. I do ask that all families please take 5 minutes of their weeks to read our newsletter, PAM weekly organisation and our Seesaw posts. St Mary's staff are committed to consistent communication so that our families are well informed. Over the last 3 weeks of school there is much on and we do not want anyone to miss anything. Thank you for your co-operation on this.

Final school invoices have been shared with families. Thank you to those families who have settled their accounts already or have scheduled debits to do so. Can I ask that all accounts be settled prior to the end of the school year please. At the end of this week, the schedule of school fees for 2020 will be sent home to families. I hope this supports families with their financial planning for the year ahead.

God Bless,

Jasmine Ryan - *Principal*



FOR THE CALENDAR

- 29th Nov: Advent Liturgy & Prep transition - 9-1.30pm
- 2nd Dec: Learning Expo - Celebrate Cultures Colliding
- 3rd-16th Dec: Swimming Program (11:30 - 2:30)
- 6th Dec: Prep Transition 9am-2.20pm.
- 6th Dec: Semester 2 reports to come home, Advent Liturgy @ 12:30
- 8th Dec: Feast of Immaculate Conception - Mass @ 10:30am
- 10th Dec: Community Step Up Day for all Learners! Swimming Program Preps 2020 only, Year 6 Graduation Dinner @ 6:30pm
- 11th Dec: Optional end of Year Learning Conversations 1:00pm
- 12th Dec: End of year Mass & BBQ @ 6pm



PBIS BLITZ

Respecting your belongings, hats, jumpers, lunch box and containers

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DINNER

Our Year 6 learners are very excited in preparing for the end of their time at St Mary's primary school. Today invitations have come home with details of the Year 6 2019 Graduation Dinner! We are looking forward to celebrating this night with our Year 6's and their parents!



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A reminder that we will celebrate our Term 4 community mass on Sunday 8th December @ 10:30am. Hoping to see many of our families there! Please RSVP on our App.



SWIMMING PROGRAM

St Mary's annual swimming program is about to begin in week 9. From 3rd Dec - 17th Dec all learners will visit the pool daily. **Step up day is the only day that swimming will not take place - 10th December.** Every session is leveled and our learners have been placed in ability level so that their time in the pool is targeted to their needs. A few items to note before we commence:

- Parent permission must be received for our learners to attend
- All items needed to be brought to school each day. No UV swim top / no swimming!
- If the weather is 24 degrees or less @ 11am - Swimming will be canceled. This is school and pool policy.
- If the weather is 38 degrees or hotter - Swimming will be canceled.
- Swimming is part of the Victorian Curriculum - attendance and participation is expected of all learners.

A PRAYER

An Advent Blessing

Follow, where the Spirit of Hope leads you.

Listen, as the Child of Peace cries for you.

Rejoice, as the Love of God embraces you

and go now, with Hope, Peace and Love in your hearts and the blessing of the Creator,

Child and Spirit forever with you.
Amen.

Amen



Child Safe Reminders



St Mary's recognises that walking our pets is a wonderful way to exercise as a family. St Mary's is happy to allow dogs on leashes in the wider playground, however no animals are to be taken inside the buildings and classrooms. This is a matter of OH&S and Child Safe. We thank you for your co operation.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BUSH FIRES



A very last minute act of social justice however Hit FM Bendigo are promoting a Casual clothes day with a Gold Coin donation this Friday to support those in our national community effected by bush fires! St Mary's recognises this as a need worthy of our support! This Friday, all learners and staff are invited to wear casual clothes and support this cause. Please bring a long a gold coin and we will donate collective proceeds to those in need!



UNIFORMS

Due to the new style polo shirts being introduced next year (2020 will be a year of transition where both style shirts can be worn), we are offering the old style shirts at half price. Long sleeve polos are \$13, short sleeve \$11. There are limited stocks available so these will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please see Jenny or Alex if you would like to purchase a shirt (the old style are not available to order through CDFPay). **The new uniform items - polos, sport shorts & sport skorts - are now available to order through CDFPay.**

OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM (Prep - Year 2)

The Prep - Year 2 are continuing to explore different countries and cultures around the world. This week they are Identifying famous landmarks and the culture of Ireland. They will be comparing similarities and differences between Ireland and Australia.

All learners in the junior area will be continuing to participate in testing this week. The Prep learners will be asking questions during their reading. They will be learning to ask questions before, during and after reading to help build on their understanding of the text.

The Preps will be exploring money this week and identify Australian coins and notes. The Year 1 learners will be practicing subtraction after a fun couple of weeks sharing. They will continue to explore autobiographies and continue to write their own!

As well as finalising our testing, the grade 2 learners will finalise their descriptive writing, learn about fractions and revise addition and subtraction. They will select a country (preferably one their ancestors came from) and investigate various aspects of the country and its culture.

SENIOR TEAM (Year 3 - Year 6)

In the Year 3/4 learning space this week, learners have been using our comprehension skills to find the meaning of new words and to make connections between non-fiction texts during shared reading. Learners are including detailed information about their characters within their narrative writing. In Mathematics, we have been learning about counting money, using money in simple shopping transactions and calculating the change we would get. In our Inquiry learning, learners have selected a country that they would like to research as part of their own project. As a collaborative, we have made a list of all the things we could include information on in our presentations.

Last week Year 5/6 learners explored Canberra with other primary schools in our area. It was a great opportunity to create new friendships before secondary school. They developed their understanding of how our government operates in Australia and had the opportunity to sit in chairs at the House of Representatives and the Senate. The War Memorial was fantastic where our learners investigated different wars and were able to experience some live shows. Questacon and Zone 3 were one of the favourite attractions on camp and we loved laser tag and the vertical slide. We experienced so much in a week and our learners thoroughly enjoyed the variety of different activities they participated in.

BIRTHDAYS

Charlie Toohey - 28th

Riley Hore - 3rd

Tommy O'Mahony - 3rd



Celebrating - When Cultures Collide!

Thank you to the families who are coming in to share a tasting dish of their cultural origin! It is so important to celebrate and share our diversity!

On Monday 2nd December, we are inviting learners to take part in a tasting style lunch. It will be 50c per taste of the many cultural delights! All proceeds will go to our Neighbourhood House to support their community Christmas lunch! Examples of the tasting menu are...pizza, pasta, gelati, spring rolls, German sausage, shortbread, noodles etc...

Our Learners are invited to wear any cultural dress that they may have at home! We believe that no more than \$2.50 will be needed per child. If you feel your child won't try such foods feel free to send a normal lunch. **There is no canteen on this day.**





Cultural CELEBRATION Learning Expo

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE
THE CULTURES OF OUR COMMUNITY

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER
2019

2.20PM- 3PM

WE WILL BE SHARING OUR NEW
KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
WITH OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Following our When
Cultures Collide
Celebration,
parents and
families are invited
to come along to
our Learning Expo!
We look forward to
sharing with you
our Term 4
Learning!

COHUNA TRADERS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SPREE

5th - 6th - 7th DECEMBER

TICKETS \$5

A ticket entitles
you to 3 days of
exclusive in-store
discounts & the
chance to win
\$500 COHUNA CASH!

All proceeds go
to the New Years Eve
Fireworks!

MITRE 10 (COOKES) - AD HOME FURNISHINGS - COHUNA SPORTS STORE -
COHUNA FLORIST - KAZZ'S HEELS - COHUNA BETTA - 35 MENS - UNA IGA -
BOWER TAVERN - COHUNA BUTCHERS - COHUNA PAPERS PLUS - GIFTS &
THINGS - TERRY WHITE CHEMIST - MICHELLE GAYE - COHUNA LPO -
FACTORY & FIELD WAFFLES - ELM TREE NURSERY

COHUNA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY CAROLS 2019

Many thanks to all families who are able to come and join in the fun at the Carols Sunday 1st December at the Cohuna Memorial Hall.

Learners wear neat casual clothes. (If they have Christmas tee shirts or Santa Hats, of course they can wear them. Please note - **No Thongs!** This is a safety issue getting on and off the stage. Sandals or runners are fine.)

The Learners will have set seats at the front of the hall with the teachers. They may either stay seated with the teachers or return to their families after their performance, but must then remain seated with their families. This will allow the rest of the community to continue to enjoy the Carols.

It is a school & community function, so the learners are expected to show their excellent performance and audience manners. Our learners excellent behaviour last year was noted by many and I feel sure we will receive the same positive feedback.

Santa arrives at 6.15pm

Carols begin at 7pm

A gold coin donation is appreciated.





Jules Film Now Available!

“Jules” is now available. Cost \$7

If you would like a copy:

Please send a **New** 8GB USB drive to school, named and in a snap lock

bag along with the money (**cash**) and order form below.

Please remember that no copy of the film is to be put online due to copyright.

“Jules” Film Order Form - Cost \$7

Name: _____

Number of USBs _____

Total _____



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5 Tips to Surviving Christmas Time



It is now less than 1 month until Christmas day!

Christmas is an exciting time of the year but for many it can also be challenging and stressful. We have provided 5 tips to help make Christmas easier for you and your family this year.

Don't do everything yourself

Start talking to your family now about who will be doing each task leading up to Christmas and on Christmas Day. Plan and write out a to-do list for adults, include teenagers also! Jobs on the to-do list can include shopping, cleaning and organising decorations and food. Encourage everyone to help each other.

2. Buy presents early to avoid last minute stress

If you haven't already begun, start your Christmas shopping now! Set a budget that best suits you and write ideas for each person in your diary or the notes section on your phone.

3. Don't feel pressured to spend a lot of money

It can be tempting to keep buying and buying presents for your loved ones. But it is important to stick to your budgets to avoid financial stress later on. Christmas is about the thought not about how much money has been spent on each present.

4. Enjoy the day with your loved ones and make it special for your children

Don't get caught up in all the organising and chaos of everything on Christmas day. Have fun! Appreciate the time you get to spend with your children and the happiness that Christmas brings to them. Be present in the moments throughout the day from lunch and dinner to when the children are opening presents.

5. Make time for yourself in December

Spare time can be limited during December but Christmas time and holidays are also about recovering from the big year that you have just had and preparing for next year. Do something that you enjoy and find relaxing. This could include exercise, meditation, getting someone to look after the children for an hour, having a sleep in or watching a movie. Do what works best for you!

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