



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 6

Our start of year mass and blessing of our new building is just around the corner. We will officially welcome our new families and particularly our Preps. Mrs Kelly has been busy organising the mass celebration and the mass has great learners involvement. We hope that our learners are there to mark this important occasion and show Bishop Shane how remarkable our community is.

In schools children will continually have incidents where they are learning and developing their social skills. We ask that if your child is involved in an incident and they require support in problem solving we ask that you let your classroom teacher know. In line with our Parent Code of Conduct and Complaints and Grievance policy we ask that parents do not problem solve among themselves issues that can be supported at school.

This weekend we have a long weekend! It is the Labour day weekend and we have a public holiday on Monday. No learners or teachers are required at school on Monday 9th March! We hope all of our families enjoy their extra day together!

St Mary's School Board AGM is upon us. Please complete the nomination form below and return to the office to express your interest.

St Mary's will also have a Learner Free day on what was the last day of term 1. St Mary's staff will take part in collective professional development on Friday 27th March. Our last day of term is now the 26th March. Please place the closure day on the calendar

God Bless - Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



TERM 1 CLOSURE DAY:

Friday 27th March - No school for learners



DATES AHEAD

- 4th Mar: Playgroup 10-11am, Preps are in today
- 9th Mar: Labour Day - No school
- 11th Mar: Playgroup 10-11am
- 12th Mar: Beginning of year Mass and BBQ
- 13th Mar: Prep testing
- 16th Mar: Board meeting @ 7pm
- 18th Mar: Playgroup 10-11am
- 20th Mar: Harmony Day
- 23rd Mar: P&F Meeting AGM @ 7pm
- 24th Mar: Assembly 2.15pm
- 25th Mar: Playgroup 10-11am
- 26th Mar: Learning conversations 1-7pm, Last day of Term 1



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

PBIS Blitz

Respecting all sports equipment and putting all equipment away when we have finished using them.



School Board AGM

16th March @ 7:00pm

Please come along and express your interest in joining our school board Working towards school improvement and achieving goals!

P&F AGM

23rd March @ 7:00pm

Please come along and express your interest in joining our P&F! There are many roles and all are welcome!

St Mary's acknowledges and pays respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet: the Barrapa Rappa People, and pay respects to elders both past and present.



Uniform Update

We are so overwhelmed by the positive response and feedback to our changes of uniform. Our learners look smart and most importantly are comfortable!

The cooler weather will soon be upon us and we have placed orders for long sleeve polos and yoga style pants for the girls. Our girls are still welcome to wear the tunic for winter with navy tights. The boys are also welcome to wear navy tracksuit pants. All uniform is to be the unified and can be purchased through CDF pay.

We too are waiting on our tri-colour sport top to come in and see how that is received. These tops are in a light weight material and for sports days only.

Some items are on back order and we are experiencing further delays because of the Corona virus.

This year we are trialing what works in regard to uniform and we thank you for your willingness to support the changes.

A PRAYER

In this week's Gospel readings we reflect on the experience of Jesus in the desert for 40 days which parallels the Israelites' journey for 40 years in the desert. Jesus stays steadfast in his commitment to his mission and avoided the temptations of the devil; rejecting power and material comforts to live more simply. The temptation for Jesus was to use his powers for his own gain, but he chose not to do this. We are all tempted to selfishly use the gifts God has given us- but we can instead choose the path of generosity and service. Shirley is a local woman from a community high in the hills of the Philippines. By participating in Caritas Australia, Shirley has courageously learnt new healthcare skills to help her local community. As Chief of her village Shirley has improved the health and status of others.

This Lent, how will we answer God's call to go further together with Jesus and to challenge our understanding of our mission

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are pushed to the edges of society and whose value and potential are not recognised; that their silenced voices may be raised in hope.

School Fees

St Mary's have sent home 2020 fee statements complete with relief that we have been able to distribute from the drought grant that we received. We hope this is of some financial help to our families. St Mary's will continue to follow our fee procedure in collection and communication. If at anytime families would like to discuss fees, please contact the office and make an appointment to see Jasmine.

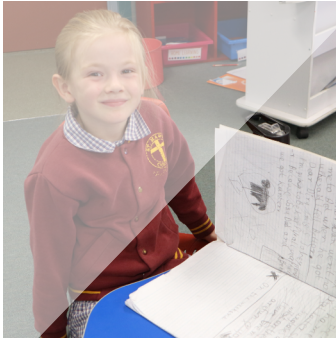
St Mary's Fee Assistance application is completed annually followed by a meeting with the Principal. Our fee assistance application form can be located within our policy and procedure and this document is on PAM.



World Day of Prayer 2020

On Friday 6th March at 10:30am, our local community will celebrate World Day of Prayer. This year the service will be hosted by the Uniting Church.

Please join this celebration of prayer and community if you can.



OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM

This week the Prep learners have been learning to recognise numbers to 20. The learners have been collecting items to make numbers to 20. The Preps have been learning to recognise the difference between words and letters. They have been reading the rainbow fish and recognising ways that they can be good friends and to be inclusive of all. In writing the Preps have been learning about colourful semantics. The preps have been using colourful semantics to help them write recounts. The Preps have enjoyed spending time with their buddies to find items around the school that begin with the letters in their name.

This week the Year 1/2 learners have been expanding their knowledge of place value with the assistance of MAB blocks. The learners have become very interested in our Inquiry, and can't wait to hear more about the Good Samaritan Sisters and their connection to St Mary's. We have also been exploring the life of St Benedict.

In Writing we have been learning about dressing up sentences and making them more interesting by changing adjectives.

BIRTHDAYS



SENIOR TEAM

Our Year 3/4 learners have been building their narratives behind the scenes by thinking like an author. Learners have been learning about how dialogue and interesting vocabulary words can help make their writing more interesting for their audience. We have continued with our learning in place value in Mathematics with ordering numbers and exploring partitioning and the expanded form of numbers using place value. Learners enjoyed researching Arch Bishop Bede Polding and creating slide shows as part of our Inquiry investigations.

Our 5/6 learners are focusing on growing their reading predictions by using strong vocabulary about the text structure and features. In writing, we have been developing our understanding of planning a problem and are excited to continue developing our fantasy narratives. We are also exploring many different writing genres to step outside our adventure comfort zones! We are expanding our understanding of place value into the four operations beginning with addition. We look forward to developing many mental and written strategies over the next few weeks. Our learners are in the 'sorting out' phase of our inquiry where we are presenting our understanding of the story of St. Mary's in our own creative ways.

- Maggie McGlone - 26th February
- Matilda Douglass - 27th February
- Mackenzie Dobie - 28th February

OUR INTER SCHOOL SWIMMERS

Well done to Jorji Easton, Edie Power and Mac Ryan for their incredible efforts at the second zones in Swan Hill last Monday. They all did a wonderful job at representing St Mary's, bringing home some significant places and recording some impressive times. They all now go to the third regional zones in Swan Hill on March 19th. Every heat gets more competitive and it is a huge achievement to make it through! Well done Jorji, Edie and Mac.

St Mary's Opening Mass & Blessing of our new building - The Magdalen Building

Please RSVP your families attendance on School Stream by the 8th March for catering purposes.
A request for our families to bring the following:

A - K: A sweet

L - Z: A salad

Thank you



St Mary's Opening Mass & Blessing of New Building



Bishop Shane Mackinlay will celebrate our beginning of year mass and officially open our new building - The Magdalen Building.

March 12th 2020 | 6pm at the Church

King George St Cohuna

Mass will be followed by a blessing of our new building. Please join us following this for a BBQ in the school grounds

RSVP: 8th March 2020 Phone 5456 2062



School Entry Code: h7Xn6M

Dear Parents/Guardian

RE: Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Survey

I write to invite you to participate in the ECIS Survey which will assist us in better understanding how our Catholic Identity is expressed in work and practice here at St Mary's Primary School Cohuna.

The Catholic University in Leuven, (Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven) was commissioned by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) to design a process and tools, based on sound research, to accomplish the goal of understanding our current Catholic identity and where the school community might like to see it in the future.

The survey is a key element in this process and I write to request your participation. The online survey gathers responses from students in year 5 & 6 Years, all staff, and is open to all parents.

You are asked to complete the survey online; it may take you an hour to do so. Try not to get caught up on the questions, simply respond intuitively. Keeping a record of your individual user code and password will allow you to complete the survey over two or more sessions. The survey is only available through the project website; please refer to the 'Instructions for Adults Completing Surveys.' Your responses to this survey are anonymous, at no time will you be named or identified.

To encourage the maximum response rate we are entering all parents who complete the survey into a raffle, with 2x \$50 fuel voucher prizes. We are asking all families to complete this survey, and once completed, you will receive a certificate of completion. Send this certificate of completion to the Office to be entered into the draw. The fuel voucher draw will occur at assembly on Friday 27th March.

If you have any questions , please contact me. Thankyou for your consideration of this request and for your anticipated participation.

Kind Regards,

Jasmine Ryan
Principal

Enhancing Catholic School Identity

General instructions for survey completion for parents

Thank you very much for making time to participate in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity project. The purpose of this survey research is to gain meaningful insights into how your son or daughter's school views its Catholic identity today and how such identity might be shaped for tomorrow.

Everyone's input is important.

The survey period is open **from Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 27 March 2020** and your participation should take about **55 minutes**. It's best to finish the survey in one shot, without having to come back later.

Your responses are anonymous and your personal data is treated confidentially in accordance with ethical and legal guidelines.

Only you will be able to view your individual results and this can be done once you've completed the questionnaires.

Keep these best practices in mind:

- ✓ **Answer spontaneously and don't overanalyse.** *Your input is more valuable if you respond with the first thought that comes to mind. Plus, you'll proceed faster.*
- ✓ **Choose the response that honestly matches your opinion.** *Don't hesitate to select "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" if that's in fact how you feel.*
- ✓ **Respond as best you can to each question as it is worded.** *You may feel that some questions don't fully apply to your school environment. That's OK; just respond as best you can.*

It's also helpful to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Many questions ask you for two perspectives:**
 - "My son/daughter's school" as you actually see things today
 - "My ideal school" as you would like to see things in the best future scenario
- ✓ **Some questions might seem repetitive; but they're actually not.** *There's a scientific purpose behind the ways in which the questions are formulated. Every question counts.*
- ✓ **Trust that the survey as a whole will accurately capture your personal point of view.** *Even if you struggle to respond to some individual questions, it's important to complete the entire survey.*

LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Access the surveys at **www.schoolidentity.net**
2. Enter the case-sensitive password **Ghj654** and click login

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Website access password: | <input type="password"/> |
| | <input type="button" value="Login"/> |

3. Click on the **TO THE SURVEYS** button

TO THE SURVEYS

4. If you're a new user: Click on the **NEW USER** button

If you wish to continue a previous session: Enter your **personal login name** and **password**

5. Enter your school's **entry code** – as provided by your school – so that your input will be linked to your school.

6. You are now logged in.

Displayed on the screen is your unique **user code** and **password** (case-sensitive).

Save this information (by writing, printing, saving, or emailing it) in order to access the website at a later time.

7. From this point forward, please follow the instructions on your screen to complete the surveys.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
|  | User code: u000000 |
|  | Password: ***** |
|  | |

SURVEY PROGRESS

- The survey begins with some general demographic questions.
- The survey proceeds in several parts. Please finish one part before proceeding to the next one.
- You can view your results at any time by returning to the main questionnaire page.
- You can return at any time to a question and change your response.
- If you wish to pause and finish the survey at a later time, please **save your user code and password** (case-sensitive) in order to re-access the website.

Please see the reverse side for general instructions.
Your input matters. Thank you.

Nominations for St Mary's School Board 2020

Dear Parents,

This notice is to advise all in our community that we have our Annual General meeting approaching for the St Mary's School Board.

The meeting will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7:00pm. Anyone in the community wanting to attend is welcome.

St Mary's has a highly effective and supportive School Board that we would like to grow. Our shared input and wisdom is a greater driver to school improvement. Everyone in our school has something to offer.

We are seeking nominations from people who would like to commit to the school board. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please complete the form below and return to school in a sealed envelope, marked, ***"To the School Board Secretary"*** by Monday 9th March 2020.

Kind Regards,

Jasmine Ryan



Nominations for St Mary's School Board 2020

| I put forward my nomination for membership of the St Mary's School Board. | |
|---|--|
| I wish to nominate myself for a position on the St Mary's School Board. | |
| Print Name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Date: | |

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Cohuna Pre-School Fundraiser

Help us raise funds for our preschool by purchasing personalised labels, gifts and products at Stuck On You. Purchases raise 20% commission for our Cohuna Preschool fundraising.

Shop online at [stuckonyou.com.au](https://www.stuckonyou.com.au) and use the code word is COHUNAPRESCHOOL or use the unique fundraising stuck on you online store

<https://www.stuckonyou.com.au/affiliate/fundraiser/COHUNAPRESCHOOL>

Or Call 1800 645 849

SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH

COHUNA POLICE & CITIZENS

CHARITY GOLF DAY

COHUNA GOLF CLUB

FRIDAY— 20th March 2020

SHOT GUN START—AT 12.30pm

ASSEMBLY AT 12 noon - BBQ LUNCH FROM 11am

PROCEEDS
Cohuna Secondary College
CHAPLAINCY FOUNDATION

BOOKINGS preferable
Phone GEOFF HALL
0428 577 361
03 5456 2156 (AH)
Entry Fee - \$40.00
Includes
BBQ Lunch & 2 course main meal for dinner

Men's & Ladies 4 person Ambrose Competition
also Non-Handicap NTP'S &
\$400 First Hole- In-One on 8th green
• Putting competition
PRIZES FOR WINNERS & RUNNERS UP
Valuable prizes to be won

COHUNA GOLF CLUB HOME COURSE of STUART APPLEBY



NDCH

Northern District Community Health

NDCH-your first port of call in the pursuit of good health!

International Women's Day 2020
March 8



International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the achievements of women.

The day marks a call for gender equality. Gender equality is the state in which access to rights or opportunities does not depend on gender.

3 Tips for teaching your children about gender equality

1. Be open and talk about it

Talk with them about what gender equality means and why it is important. Talk about how important it is for both men and women to have equal opportunities.

2. Give examples

Show them examples of gender equalities and inequalities.

3. Model gender equality

Children learn from what they see. Role model positive gender equality behaviours at home and in the community. Share home tasks such as cooking and cleaning with both boys and girls.

For more information visit: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>

www.ndch.org.au