



# St Mary's Newsletter

## WELCOME TO WEEK 7

We hope everyone enjoyed their extra long weekend and family time! The weather was beautiful and the rhythm of school is well in motion, so an extra break was welcomed!

This week we look forward to seeing you all at our beginning of year mass and blessing of our new Magdalen building. In 1926 Reverend Mary Magdalen, a sister of the Good Samaritan Order was in charge of starting our school. In learning the depths of our story and charism, we found it fitting to name our new building the Magdalen building. We are so excited that our new Bishop Shane Mackinlay will be here to bless and open our new facilities.

Families will notice in mass on Thursday night that some seating will be reserved. This seating is for our learners. We find that their singing and participation in mass is greater if they are altogether. We do ask that families please keep preschool children with parents on this occasion.

As everyone is aware the Corona-virus is very much the point of discussion at the moment. St Mary's receives communication consistently from Catholic Education Commission Victoria in regard to actions of the school. At this point in time there are no specific actions other than normal hygiene, in particular thorough hand washing. We know that the same reminders would happen at home.

See you all on Thursday night!

*God Bless - Jasmine Ryan (Principal)*



### TERM 1 CLOSURE DAY:

Friday 27th March - No school for learners



## DATES AHEAD

- 11th Mar: Playgroup 10-11am
- 12th Mar: Beginning of year Mass and BBQ
- 13th Mar: Prep testing. CARITAS Fundraiser, come dressed as a movie character.
- 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

Respect for self

Safe moving around the school.



### 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.*



## CARITAS Fundraiser

This week our Year 5/6 Leaders have organised a fundraiser for our international CARITAS family! Every year, St Mary's senior leaders come up with creative ways to raise funds. This year the learners have decided to have a dress up day on Friday 13th March. The theme is movie character....it can be as simple and creative as you like!

Please see the ad below which was also shared on school stream!

We ask that every learner bring a gold coin donation for this great cause.

**DRESS UP DAY!**

On Friday the 13th March we are dressing up as **movie characters!**  
To dress up can you please bring a **gold coin** donation. Our donations will go to **Caritas Australia** to help our friends in need. Some examples of what you might dress up as are...

- A Superhero
- A Farmer
- A Sport Star (Cricket player, Tennis player, Basketball player)
- A Doctor
- An Alien
- etc.

By Joelle and Harvey

**BE CREATIVE!**

## A PRAYER

A Gospel story from lent tells how Jesus healed the man born blind. This story has a powerful message for our times. Disability was considered to be the result of sinfulness in Jesus' time. Jesus rejects this by healing the man and *even more radically* healing him on the sabbath. The healing of this man is twofold; the physical cure helps him to see Jesus. The miracle also causes a stir amongst the community; Jesus challenges the leaders, revealing their blindness. Jesus' love and compassion brings light - to the blind man and to those around him.

In Project Compassion, we meet Sakun from India, a young woman living with a disability. In many countries, people like Sakun and her family are often 'out of sight' when it comes to receiving support. Through her participation in Caritas Australia, Sakun's is seen as an equal member of the community, her voice is heard and respected. She can earn an income, is now more independent and participates in village governance meetings, sharing her opinions as an equal. How can we use our freedom and courage, to act with justice and love to those who are excluded?

*Prayer:*

*We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are living with disability: that together we can work to ensure the God given dignity of all is upheld, removing obstacles and overcoming the structures that exist preventing equality in our communities.*

## LEARNING CONVERSATIONS TERM 1

We look forward to seeing all of our families come along and discuss our learning so far this year. Please use the link and code below to make your learning conversation booking.

Thursday 26th March - 1:00pm - 7:00pm

**Link:** <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/book/step1?z=42TXXF>

**Code:** 8v9pq



## TERM 1 LEARNING EXPO

On Thursday 26th March between 9am - 10am our learning spaces will be open for our families to visit and explore!

Our term 1 learning expo will share with you all the wonderful learning's, new understandings and knowledge that we have gained in 9 short weeks! We hope to see many of you there.





## OUR LEARNING

### JUNIOR TEAM

In reading, the Prep learners have been learning to identify initial sounds in words. They have been naming the letter and making its sound. The Preps have been learning to order numbers to 20 and have been using their Ipad to take photos of objects equaling numbers to 20. In Inquiry the Prep learners have been identifying facts about St Benedict and recognising the importance of prayer.

In reading this week the grade 1 and 2 Learners have been focusing on finding facts within non-fiction texts. Learners have been reading about St Mary's history. In writing, year 1/2 Learners have been exploring nouns all around us and we have started our own word wall. Learners have been practising modelling numbers using MAB to show numbers to 1,000 and 10,000 using their place value and expanded form. During Inquiry our Learners have been finding out facts about Bede Polding and how he inspired the creation of our school.

### SENIOR TEAM

In reading, some of our 3/4 learners are learning to read and understand different text types within kids magazine while other learners have been using the 'Fab 4' to dig deeper into their understanding around Caritas. We have been listening to the story 'The Poppa Platoon' to practise our skills in recording all of the important details required in summarising a text. In our RRR program, learners have been identifying positive and negative emotions and matching these to different life scenarios. Our Inquiry this week has us using many thinking skills to wonder, pose questions, research and sort out information about Saint Benedict.

In the 5/6 learning space, we are continuing to grow our understanding of predicting by using the text structure and clues to support our responses. Some Learners have started to grow their understanding of Literature Circles by exploring the different roles and the process. In writing, our Learners are in the drafting process of their fantasy narrative and have deepened their understanding of applying direct speech. In mathematics, our Learners are exploring the addition operation and using the vertical strategy to solve equations and problems. Some of our Learners have also expanded their understanding to applying this strategy to decimals! We have continued to sort out our Inquiry information of the journey of St. Mary's and look forward to taking our knowledge further to help our community.

## BIRTHDAYS



- Ruby Cutter - 7th March
- Emmy Easton - 9th March





**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.

	<b>User code: u000000</b>
	<b>Password: *****</b>
	

## 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:	



## 5 tips for managing your Child's Anxiety

### 1. Slow down

Encourage your child to take some slow deep breaths. Breathe in for 3 seconds, hold for 3 seconds, breath out for 3 seconds. You can help by doing this with them.



### 2. Make time to worry

Set aside 10-15 minutes each day to talk with your child about what they are worried about. They may find it easier to write or draw what they are worried about.

### 3. Encourage positive thinking

Remind them of a similar situation from the past and how things worked out OK.

### 4. Try new things and have a go

Anxious children may often be worried about trying something new and making a mistake. Encourage them to have a go and remind them that it is OK if they make a mistake.

### 5. Step back and look at your own behavior

It can be difficult to see your child struggling. But 'over-helping' when something is wrong can make your child feel like they cannot do anything without your help.

For more tips visit: <https://healthylfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/mental-health-conditions-in-children/anxiety/strategies-to-support-anxious-children>

[www.ndch.org.au](http://www.ndch.org.au)



## GIRLS FOOTBALL

**FREE COME & TRY**

**AGES 6 – 12 YEARS OF AGE**

Do you want to try something NEW?  
Have some fun in a team environment?

Register your details to come and have a go! No skills required and it's all about having fun and enjoying yourself.

**TUESDAY 7th APRIL 10.00 AM – 11.30 AM**

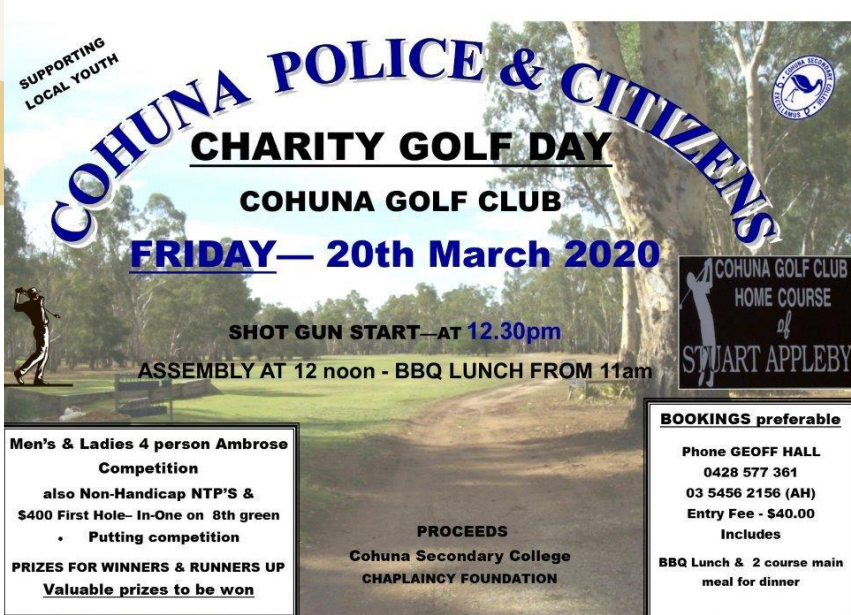
**School Holidays**

**Swan Hill Rec Reserve**

**NEVER SAY NEVER!**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

<https://form.jotform.com/200637718103045>



**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**

**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**

**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



**Kildare**  
EDUCATION  
MINISTRIES  
*In the Brigidine Tradition*



**St. Joseph's**  
**College Echuca**  
STRENGTH & KINDLINESS

Please come along to the

## YEAR 7 2021 INFORMATION EVENING

**Monday, 11th May 2020 at 7.00pm in the**  
**St. Joseph's College Oak Centre**

**Principal** Monday 23.03.20 9.00 & 9.45am  
Monday 20.04.20 9.00 & 9.45am  
**Tour Times** Thursday 30.04.20 4.00pm

**To book a tour, contact Mrs Brianna James**  
**(03) 5482 2577 or [registrarsje.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrarsje.vic.edu.au)**

**Enrolment Packs available for collection at the College**  
**AFTER 11th May 2020 if you are unable to attend.**

**Parking is available at VIC PARK**