



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 8

The St Mary's school board celebrated many successes and achievements at their AGM last week! Please find attached our departing School Board Chair, Lyndsey Quinlan's annual report.

As Lyndsey concludes her four year tenure with the school board we thank her for her commitment, creativity and leadership as board chair. Your contribution has been invaluable.

Thank you to all St Mary's board members for a year of growth, sharing of ideas and most of all your unwavering support and genuine motivation to do the best for our school.

Our AGM also welcomed some new members which always engages new ideas, enthusiasm and ensures succession planning! Welcome Tim Douglass and Emma Boughtwood.

Rob Merkel who has been on the board for twelve months now has taken on the role and responsibility of School Board Chair. Rob brings a timely level of expertise as we enter a time of building and construction along with great vision for St Mary's well into its future.

God Bless

Jasmine Ryan



FOR THE CALENDAR

- 15th - 27th Mar: Jasmine Ryan on LSL
- 26th Mar: Assembly - Host Yr 2
- 28th Mar: Yr 6 Transition to CSC 1:30 - 2:45, Learning Conversations 1:00 - 7:00pm
- 1st Apr: No School - Closure Day for Staff PD
- 2nd Apr: Cyber Safety talk - Andrew Downes P&F @ 7pm
- 3rd Apr: Specialist Planning Day, Class Mass @ 12:30pm Yr 3/4 to host
- 4th Apr: First Aid in Schools
- 5th Apr: End of Term 1 - Dismissal @ 2:10pm
- 2nd May: Cross Country



St Mary's is committed to Child Safety.

We believe all children have the right to feel safe and be safe.

P&F NEWS

St Mary's School Project Compassion

Due to Easter falling at the end of the holidays Project Compassion boxes will be due back at school by 3rd May.

Let's give 100% this Lent.

P&F would like to thank everyone who donated cakes for our Cake Stall last Thursday.

We had over 200 containers of yummy cakes & slices. We raised \$1006 which is amazing!

Well done to everyone and it is much appreciated.



Friends In Need

Thank you to our St Mary's community for your generous support and contributions to our Friends in Need Freezer. Casseroles and Pasta Bakes are gratefully received and we would most appreciate if the pasta is sent in its packet uncooked or the rice supplied in the microwave pouches.

EASTER RAFFLE

All raffle tickets & money along with Easter Egg donations to be submitted by this **Friday 22nd March** for the raffle to be drawn at School Assembly on Tuesday 26th March.

A PRAYER

HARMONY DAY

We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in Australia and in our community.

Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance that ensures lasting peace and racial harmony.

Grant that we may show equal respect to all persons of different cultures that we may come across.

And help us to remember and appreciate that we are one country, with many stories.

Amen.



PBIS BLITZ

**Talking
respectfully
towards others
and being kind.**



PARENT LEARNING SUPPORT IN CLASSROOMS

Last week, parents from our Parent Learning Support program began to support the classroom teacher by participating in small group learning experiences. The learners have loved their parents being a part of their learning and we thank all those who have given their time to help create stronger learning partnerships.

FAMILY MASS

Thank you to all of the families who attended our first Family Mass on Sunday 17th March. It was encouraging to see a wide variety of learners from through out the school supporting the Year 5/6 learners. Thanks to the staff and parents who were able to attend. Their assistance in cooking the BBQ and supporting St. Mary's is always appreciated. Congratulations and well done to Miss Santilla and all of the learners who prepared and participated in the Mass. Thank you to Elaine for assisting with the music, there were certainly some smiling Irish eyes.



OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM (Prep - Year 2)

The Prep – Year 2 learners are continuing to explore numbers through addition and subtraction. The Preps are continue to recognise the value of numbers to 20 and we are practicing to count in order. The Year 1 and 2 learners are beginning to explore the structure of a narrative. They have been creating plans for their stories. The Prep learners have began to write their recounts. The Preps are enjoying learning to write. The Prep- Year 2 learners have began to create a poster, video or slide show on area of safety. They are working in small groups to complete their research project.

SENIOR TEAM (Year 3 - Year 6)

Learners have been working hard on their Inquiry advertisements this week; they are up to script writing and will be filming before the end of the week! Very exciting! An invitation will be sent out soon for parents to come in and view the finished products. In maths, learners have been refreshing and learning strategies to enable them to solve addition problems correctly, such as the split strategy and vertical addition. Learners are also continuing to practice their mental addition and subtraction skills.

BIRTHDAYS



- Kieran Jameson - 23rd March
- Silas Toll - 26th March
- Amelia Hammond - 26th March

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

The bookings for learning conversation are open. Please access the link below, enter our event code and make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au>

CODE - 65z8b

GOODLUCK JORJI

We wish Jorji Easton the best of luck as she participates in the swimming relays on Thursday in Swan Hill



Board Chair Report

Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual General Meeting for the St. Mary's school board. A special welcome to Ashley Marsh who is an Educational Consultant from CEO, and new board members for 2019, Tim and Emma.

The year 2018 marked an amazing year for our school and its Board Members as it was a year of challenge, reward and celebration. As a Board we continued our growth and strived for excellence for our Students, Staff and Community.

This is my fourth year on the School Board, this is also the first year I have had the privilege of Chairing the Board, and I thank you all for trusting me in this position. This year we were happy to welcome new board members Nerissa Nicholson, Rob Merkel and Ben Appleby to join existing members Jasmine Ryan, Adelia Muldoon, Ian Trevena, and myself. We were also thrilled to finally welcome Father Novie as the new Canonical Administrator in May.

As the School Board, our role is to be a consultative and advisory body for the school community, with specific responsibility for strategic planning, support to the Principal, giving informed advice, school renewal and development and defined areas of policy. School boards should be open to broad membership including people of varying gifts, skills and faith backgrounds and we are lucky enough in our school community to have this diversity.

Throughout this year the Board has assisted Jasmine with a number of projects, policies and procedures including:

- Review of the Vision and Graduate Outcomes of the School's strategic plan;
- Discussion around Working With Children's Check and St. Mary's School Volunteer Audit and the schools compliance with Child Safe's compulsory minimum standards;
- Assisted in the setting of the School Fee's & Collections Policy;
- Reviewing and implementing marketing strategies for increasing future enrolments with promotional film added to website;
- Revision of annual action plan;
- Assisted with Complaints and Grievances procedure;
- Participation in 2018 Leadership review with Catholic Education Office;
- Perhaps our biggest and most exciting challenge of 2018 was working towards getting a Minor Capital Works grant to move forward with our Master Plan. After years of building plan reviews and brainstorming this vision for St. Mary's we were successful in getting a grant in June after an earlier unsuccessful attempt, and began immediately working with our architect to get the ball rolling with tender applications. Tender applicants were narrowed down to one for commencement of building stage 2, which would see the beginnings of a new admin block and indoor toilets for the learners. A refurbishment of the current admin block to create new learning space for our growing student population will hopefully go ahead after a second successful grant is applied for later in the year. Building was to commence in March 2019 and I wish you all well with the remainder of this process.

As this is my last year as a Board Member of St. Mary's, I would like to thank the School Community for the opportunity to be involved with the School Board. It has been my privilege to work with and get to know so many committed people whose singular goal is to provide care, support and a quality catholic education to our children. I know you will all continue the good work being done to nurture our wonderful School Community.

I would like to thank our Board Members for the time they volunteer which makes St. Mary's School Board a continued success. Thank you for your dedication, contribution and tireless efforts this year and St. Mary's look forward to your continued support.

On behalf of the Board, I also want to sincerely thank the P&F Committee for their hard work. Your role is an important one in that it helps to develop a culture of parents as partners in your child's education. Your work also builds a sense of community in our school.

To the team of highly motivated and well respected leaders, teachers and teaching assistants guiding our students, who's focus is solely on the education and wellbeing of our children, thank you sincerely on behalf of the Board and the St. Mary's community.

Thank you

Lyndsey Quinlan



St. Joseph's
College Echuca
STRENGTH & KINDLINESS

Please come along to the

YEAR 7 2020 INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday, 8th May 2019 at 7.00pm in the
St. Joseph's College Oak Centre

Principal Thursday 04.04.19 9.00 & 9.45am
Tour Times Monday 29.04.19 9.00 & 9.45am & 4.15 & 5.15pm
Thursday 02.05.19 9.00 & 9.45am

To book a tour, contact Mrs Rhonda Battye
(03) 5482 2577 or registrarsje.vic.edu.au

Enrolment Packs available for collection at the College
AFTER 8th May 2019 if you are unable to attend.

Parking is available at VIC PARK



**Creative, Supportive
and Community**

**LET YOUR CHILD HAVE
AN EDUCATION ADVENTURE
THEY WILL REMEMBER
Information Evening
for 2020 Year 7 students
Wednesday, 1st May at 7pm**

You will have the opportunity to discover the many exciting programs on offer and tour our wonderful school. We will introduce many of our staff responsible for the classroom and specialist programs provided at CSC.

Enquiries: 5456 2555