



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 9

What a celebration of learning our Cultural Collide day was! Some of the wonderfully creative outfits as well as the amazing cuisine, set us all up for a celebration of diversity! Our friends from St Patrick's Pyramid Hill joined us for the day as the teachers provided further cultural experiences of art, music and exploration. Thank you to all of our families who cooked and donated a variety of dishes for us all to try! It was impressive to see many learners stepping out of their comfort zones for the taste testing table! Through our 50c donations we have raised \$251 which will be donated to our Neighbourhood House in support of their community Christmas lunch.

This Friday our Semester 2 reports will be issued to our learners. Following our reports there are optional Learning conversations available for any parents who may have questions about reports. There are only limited spaces as many people do not take up this opportunity. The booking details are below and will close on Monday 9th December @ 3:30pm.

There has been a date change to the recent calendar. Our community calendar did state that we would have an end of year assembly and carols. This is not going ahead this year. Apologies for this.

Mrs Edge would like everyone to know that canteen will run right up until the final day of school - Wednesday 18th December. Thank you Mrs Edge. Please ensure that all accounts are settled prior to the end of the year!

Our new building is close to completion. Staff will begin moving items on the 12th December. The building in its entirety will not be open fully until January 2020.

God Bless,

Jasmine Ryan - **Principal**



FOR THE CALENDAR

- 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
- 13th Dec: Prep Transition 9am-11.30am
- 17th Dec: Final assembly and Christmas Carols followed by pool Party!
- 18th Dec: End of Term 4 - 3:15pm Dismissal



PBIS BLITZ

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

UNIFORM 2020

Our new uniform is ready for ordering via CDF Pay. Please feel free to place your orders as you are ready. New uniform purchases prior to the end of the year will be sent home on the last day of school to existing families. Prep 2020 families will be contacted when ready for collection.

We look forward to the new comfort and styles in 2020!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday 18th December

CASUAL CLOTHES ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Dismissal will be at the usual time of 3.15pm



COMMUNITY STEP UP DAY - 2020

On Tuesday 10th December all learners will spend the day with their 2020 teacher. The purpose of this day is to build relationships with a new teacher and build excitement for the year that lies ahead.

Most learners will spend the day in their new classroom space. Those who cannot due to building works will still be informed of where their class will be on this day.

Our Year 6 Learners will head off to their secondary schools for a full day of what secondary school will be like! We wish them fun and excitement.

All families will receive information on this day about the teachers who will nurture and grow their children in 2020! Additional information that families will need for the start of 2020 will also be included.

Staffing for 2020 is nearly complete and we look forward to new leadership and opportunities at St Mary's in 2020!



A PRAYER

Almighty God, I hear it over and over: you are coming to me.

I feel my heart stir in anticipation, and I sense that you are inviting me to enter more deeply into the mystery of your birth.

Help me to feel renewed patience settle in my heart, and to lift my face in joy.

I have been like a lost lamb, but I hear your voice calling me and I feel how deeply you want me to return.

Somehow I know that you rejoice in my desire to find you.

Help me not to be afraid to say out loud, to believe: Here is God, coming into my life.

Amen.



Child Safe Reminders



At this time of year we are all trying to fit in extra items and jobs into our day. Please be vigilant around pick up and drop off times that all of our learners know where their pick up point is and who to expect. Phone calls at the bell times are often missed as all staff are supervising learners at dismissal.

THE LEARNING BAR SURVEY

Today our families will have been invited to complete a survey that assists in school improvement and planning. St Mary's Cohuna has been asked to take part in a trial of this survey tool by Catholic Education Sandhurst. A letter, outlining the purpose and process has been attached below. Anyone able to dedicate 10 minutes of your time, it is greatly appreciated. This survey tool is similar to the INSIGHT SRC survey the community has completed in the past. Sandhurst is trialing a variety of school improvement tools to decipher appropriateness moving forward. Thank you again, to those who can take part.

Survey Link: <http://tellthemfromme.com/stmarys2019>

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 learners enjoyed the cultural day on Monday. They enjoyed exploring a range of cultural activities such as making clap sticks, kites and dream catchers. The learners loved the food and especially the ice cream. The learners are looking forward to swimming and are very excited to participate in swimming lessons over the next 2 weeks. The Prep learners are continuing to focus on questioning before, during and after the text. In writing, they are building on their knowledge of sentence structure. The Prep learners are finishing off their unit on money and will complete their post assessment on Friday. This week the Year 1 learners have been exploring Christmas in Australia and all across the world. The learners have been writing their own Christmas Carols that are specific to an Australian Christmas.

SENIOR TEAM (Year 3 - Year 6)

On Monday the learners from 3-6 celebrated culture. They had a fantastic day investigating different cultures and experiences some of their beautiful traditions. Learners are loving their individual Inquiry investigations where they are exploring a country that has influenced Victoria's culture. They have a challenge to present their information in an interesting way that reflects the culture they have explored.

The year 3/4 learners are beginning to explore fractions and looking at whole, half and quarter through many engaging activities. In Religious Education, we have been learning about the story of Jesus and how to make a promise to fulfil. We are ensuring learners appreciate the symbols of Christmas and this includes the meaning of our advent candles.

In the 5/6 learning space, we are enjoying using a rubric in literacy to have a choice in our literacy learning. The grade six learners are busy preparing for their graduation next week. They are very excited to show their parents their learning journey through a digital story.

BIRTHDAYS



- Riley Hore - 3rd Dec
- Thomas O'Mahony - 3rd Dec
- Olivia Wilson - 6th Dec
- Zaeli Cutter - 8th Dec
- Charlie Grills - 11th Dec



RE: The Learning bar: Tell Them From Me

Dear Parents,

Today our families will have been invited to complete a survey that assists in school improvement and planning.

St Mary's Cohuna was recently asked to take part in a trial of this survey tool by Catholic Education Sandhurst. This survey is similar to the INSIGHT SRC survey the community has completed in the past.

The purpose of the survey is to gain parent input and voice around our school. The data is used to support school improvement goals moving forward. The teachers, learners and parents are all invited to complete this survey so that all stakeholders are taken into account.

You will find that some questions may not be applicable to our community, however answer them as best you can. Early in 2020 we will seek feedback from the community on their opinion of the survey and its contents. Regardless of whether the survey is the most appropriate tool moving forward, St Mary's will benefit from the findings and use the outcome in the most beneficial way.

The survey is anticipated to only take 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed by the parent community simply by using the link:

Survey Link: <http://tellthemfromme.com/stmarys2019>

All surveys are confidential.

The survey will be open for completion from:
4th December - 13th December 2019

Again, I thank you in advance for your input.

Kind Regards,

Jasmine Ryan
Principal

Family Violence Support

Last week on Monday 25th of November was the official launch of the annual **Gannawarra Goes Orange** campaign, which aims to put a stop to family violence in Gannawarra.

Statistics show that family violence rates are higher in regional and rural areas. Rates of family violence also increase during times of financial and mental stress.

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Family violence can involve one of or many of the following:

- Physical abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Damage to the home
- Controlling behaviour
- Emotional abuse
- Follow and stalk
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Produce fear



Family violence is often hidden, and victims/survivors can feel very vulnerable. It common for victims/survivors to reach out to family or friends. If you or someone that you know are experiencing family violence there are many support services available.

There is financial support up to \$20,000 to support victims/survivors of family violence. Contact the services below for more assistance.

1800 RESPECT is the 24/7 national family violence counselling service
Orange Door Mallee 24/7 Support Line 1800 290 943
For more information visit: www.respectvictoria.com.au

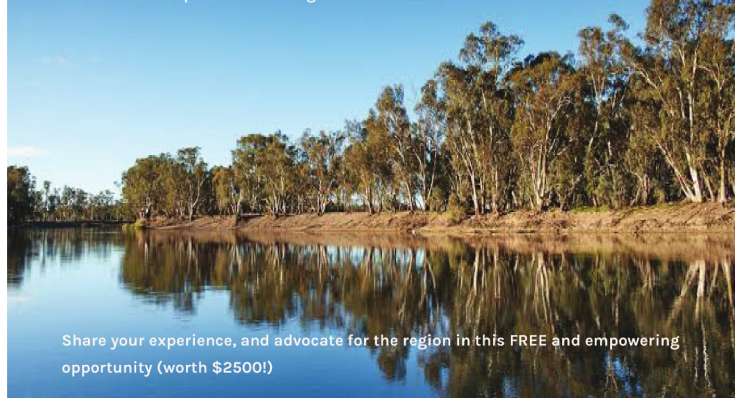
www.ndch.org.au

Digital Storytelling Workshops: Thriving and Surviving

Swan Hill, 14 – 16 January 2020

Are you 12 - 25 and have experienced tough times?

This project provides an opportunity for young rural farming community members to voice their experiences of tough times and for others to learn from these stories.



Share your experience, and advocate for the region in this **FREE** and empowering opportunity (worth \$2500!)

For more information and express your interest:

Contact Rhiannon Jennings, YACVic Rural Development Co-ordinator
rural.sm@yacvic.org.au, 0474 506 000