



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 10

We are quickly approaching the end of a wonderful school year! The walls are looking a little bare and the end of year clean up pending! This is always a time of mixed emotion!

This week we had our annual step up day! It was a day of activity and excitement. Everyone spent the day with their educators for 2020! Most spaces were true to where our classes will be in 2020 except our Year 5/6. These children welcome the new space of the refurbishment of our existing admin in 2020. I have attached information for the year ahead for all!

We are expected to take over occupancy of the new building this week, however as this is our busiest time of the year we will not utilise the space in its full capacity until 2020. The admin entry will be the only active part for the remains of the year. This will allow staff to set up all areas properly. We thank you for your patience as we move and we will let you know when it is up in use!

Mrs Keely in 2020 will be taking a year of leave to explore new possibilities! Mrs Keely has shared all of her talents with our school community and given many children cherished memories. We hope her 2020 is all that she hopes for and we look forward to seeing her in the future!

We will have one final newsletter next week! Thanks everyone.

God Bless,

Jasmine Ryan - **Principal**



FOR THE CALENDAR

TERM 1 - 2020

- 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: Pool Party!
- 18th Dec: End of Term 4 - 3:15pm Dismissal
- 23rd Jan: St Mary's will be open for uniform pick up (12pm - 4pm)
- 28th Jan: Staff return to school
- 29th Jan: L - Z Testing day
- 30th Jan: A - K Testing Day
- 31st January The Whole School begins 2020



PBIS BLITZ

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

GRADUATES 2019

On Tuesday evening we celebrated with our 2019 Graduates. It was a beautiful evening of fun, love and community.

Our Graduates shared highlights of their time at St Mary's and their hopes for their futures.

Thank you to our staff, P&F and Bek Sherlock for all of your help in what was a memorable night!

We wish our Graduates every success.



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



NEW UNIFORM

Our new uniform has arrived, thank you to the families who have placed orders. Orders will be packed and sent home prior the end of the school year. All new items are true to size except the new girls sports skirt. It appears to be a little on the smaller side especially in comparison to the tailored skirt.

Families who place orders over the holidays will be able to collect them from the school on Thursday 23rd January. The school will be open from 12:00pm - 4:00pm on this day.

Please remember that there is a twelve month roll over period to allow families time to transition to the new uniform. We also still have some of the existing uniform for sale at half price. All uniform (with the exception of old style polos) can be ordered and paid for on CDF Pay.

Our tri-colour sports top will be available in the new year.

A PRAYER

Jesus we want your coming to make a difference in how we live and love.

Open our hearts to hear your telling us how we can bring peace and joy to others.

Come Lord Jesus!



Child Safe Reminders



Just a thought as we approach a new school year soon...Please take some time to consider emergency contacts on your child(ren)s files. Please make sure they are up to date and current. We will also remind families of the current information that needs to be placed on PAM for our learners. Thank you

THE LEARNING BAR SURVEY

Apologies to any family who has tried to complete the St Mary's Learning Bar survey. The problem has been rectified from the provider and the survey is now working for families to complete. Please be advised that below is a new link:

Survey Link: <https://tellthemfromme.com/survey/splash/stmarys2019>

Thank you to any family that has the time to complete this short survey at this time of year. The survey will be open until the 17th December.



OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM (Prep - Year 2)

The Prep - Year 2 learners were so excited to start swimming this week. They have enjoyed participating in the lessons. The learners enjoyed their step up day meeting all their new teachers for next year. They had a great day getting to know their new teachers and experiencing their new classroom for next. Everyone is really looking forward to next year.

The Prep learners have been focusing on asking questions about the text and building on their comprehension skills.

The Year 1 learners are publishing their autobiographies.

The Year 2 learners are learning about the Christmas narrative.

During the time of advent the Prep- Year 2 learners are focusing on an advent goal each week, showing kindness and love towards all.

SENIOR TEAM (Year 3 - Year 6)

In Year 3/4 learners have enjoyed selecting maths activities off our class maths learning rubric. They like the idea of being able to select their own maths activity and challenge their learning. Learners are continuing to research and complete their Inquiry Culture project in preparation for their presentation on Friday. Learners will be able to share with their peers their findings about the country's culture.

In Year 5/6 learners are enjoying using the Literacy learning rubric which allows them to select their own activity for the day. They are researching a country and its culture and finding interesting facts to support them.

Year 6 learners have been busy preparing for their final week at St Mary's.

Learners are enjoying the swimming program and participating well and challenging themselves.

BIRTHDAYS



Charlie Grills - 11th

Millie Dobie - 15th



Congratulations to our Graduates 2019

2020

Our Year Ahead - St Mary's

December 2019

Exciting times ahead...

This week we officially welcome the 2020 school year! All of our Learners, regardless of their path next year, have met with their 2020 teachers. We know that this day annually brings great excitement. We hope all children have come home having had a great day and looking forward to next year, we know we are.

2020 promises to be an exciting year of engaged learning and success. St Mary's staff and learners are continuously striving to provide the best possible education, which is rich and relevant for our children today. Our educators use data, passion and interest to ensure we are all experiencing success and connection to all that we learn. We will continue to collaborate throughout the school to provide the most targeted teaching and learning possible, while also allowing our learners to socialise and learn in a variety of settings.

We appreciate and value that our families too are great models of learning, placing importance on education and nurturing your children's connection to their school community. We know that our journey will continue with many celebrations and wonderful memories in the new year.

St Mary's has had a wonderfully successful year and we look forward to this continued success in 2020. We will open our new administration building and new learning space. We welcome new families, new staff and new learners. We know that all in our community we embrace the new year, our new community and all the blessings that it entails.

"Learning never exhausts the mind."

Leonardo da Vinci



Caption

Focus Areas for 2020

- Improved writing outcomes for our Learners
- Increased Leadership capacity of Staff
- Submission of Victorian Smarty Grant to complete St Mary's Master Plan Stage 4 -5
- Launch of St Mary's Charism Curriculum Framework
- New & Improved Uniforms
- VRQA - Whole School Review (Victorian Registrations & Qualifications Authority)
- New staff, learners & families to join the St Mary's community

Our starts to Term 1 - Testing Days

St Mary's again in 2020 will operate at half learner capacity for day 1 and 2 of term 1. This process allows educators the opportunity to gather data ready to inform and target teaching. This is cost effective and allows uninterrupted testing time with the teacher.

On the first two days of the school year we ask that following families attend:

Families Names:

L - Z: 29th January 2020

A - K: 30th January 2020

No Preps are to attend until Friday 31st January 2020.

The first official day for the whole school will be **Friday 31st January 2019**

St Mary's staff thank you for your ongoing support of this.



Educator Role	Staff Names
Prep	Miss Sarah Toll
Year 1	Miss Graecen Cartwright
Year 2	Mrs Meaghan Lamb
Year 3	Mrs Janette Colbert & Miss Lauren Spence
Year 4	Miss Meg Cooke
Year 5/6	Miss Jayde Santilla
Specialist Educator Roles	Staff Names
Principal	Mrs Jasmine Ryan
Senior School Leader / Pastoral Wellbeing / PBIS	Miss Lauren Spence
Leaders of Learning Adjustment	Mrs Jacqui Deola
Junior School Leader (Prep - 2)	Miss Sarah Toll
Senior School Leader (Yr 3 - 6)	Miss Jayde Santilla
LOTE: Italian	Mrs Angie Jones
Visual Arts	Miss Jessica Baker
PE	Miss Lauren Spence
Learning Discovery Leader	Mrs Marie Kelly
Learning Support Team (Varied timetables across the school)	Mrs Julianne Fry Mrs Julie McLoughlan Miss Megan Wood
Administration Officers	Mrs Jenny Barry Mrs Alex Martin
Chaplain	Sacha Keir
Canteen Manager	Leasa Edge

Every Learner at St Mary's is different and unique and we do our best to nurture and celebrate this at every opportunity. Through collaborative structures and strategies within teaching and learning across the school we are able to discuss learners data, needs and target the curriculum. With educators working in shared spaces and for periods of time our teacher capacity grows, enhancing what we offer our Learners. 2020 will see greater collaboration among our educators and learners. Research supports mixed and targeted learning through the use of data to drive teaching and learning. All of our learning spaces aim to prepare our learners for success and growth.

In 2020 our specialist teachers will be employed on Tuesday and Wednesday's for specialist curriculum of Physical Education, LOTE: Italian and the Visual Arts. Our specialist teachers will also support our classrooms in the mornings for core curriculum.

Mrs Jones - Plus One to the Year 5/6 Learners

Miss Spence - Plus One to the Year 3/4 Learners

Miss Maker - Plus One to the Year 1/2 Learners

Drought Household Financial Support

During the drought and dry conditions it can be difficult for our local farmers to meet household costs.

Financial support for household costs is now available to those living in the Gannawarra and Loddon shires who are drought-affected and rely on farming as their main source of income.



Payments of up to \$3000 are available to:

- Farming families
- Farm workers
- Contractors

Payments can be used to assist with household costs such as:

- Residential rates
- Groceries and food
- School expenses
- Household bills – Electricity, gas, water
- Rent
- Telephone expenses
- Urgent dental and medical treatment

Funds are available until June 30 2020 or until all program funds have been used- whichever comes first

Application form and guidelines available at <http://cwaofvic.org.au/about/drought-relief/>

www.ndch.org.au

GANNAWARRA LIBRARY SERVICE

Summer Fun at Gannawarra Libraries

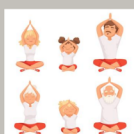


Grandparents and Mini Movers!

Kerang Library- 10.30am, Monday 6 January
Cohuna Meeting Room- 10.30am, Tuesday 7 January

Kerang Library- 10.30am, Monday 20 January
Cohuna Meeting Room- 10.30am, Tuesday 21 January

*Suitable for 3 – 12 year olds
30 minute sessions



Come to your local library and revisit some of our favourite craft activities, or just have fun at our free craft tables.

Craft supplies will be in the respective libraries from 11.00am – 3.00pm on the days below.

Cohuna

CleverClay (Booking Required) –
10.00am, Thursday 9 January
Koi Fish – Monday 13 January
Hatching Chicks (Booking Required) –
10.00am, Thursday 16 January
Super Hero Capes – Friday 24 January

Leitchville

(Crafts available 2.00pm – 5.00pm)
Sand Art – Tuesday 14 January
Paper Plate Flowers – Tuesday 28 January

Kerang

Koi Fish – Friday 3 January
Peacocks – Thursday 9 January
Wooden Jewellery Stands (Booking Required) –
10.30am, Wednesday 15 January
CleverClay (Booking Required) –
10.30am, Thursday 23 January

Quambatook

Paper Bag Animals – Monday 13 January
Bead Critters – Wednesday 22 January



Contact Us

Kerang 5452 1546
Cohuna 5456 2124

* Children must be accompanied by an adult

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