



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 8

St Mary's recognises the concern around the Coronavirus at present and are following directives from state and federal government as well as Catholic Education Commission Victoria. At present school will operate - business as usual. We will continue to communicate with our families as we receive directives also.

At school we have revisited the importance of hygiene, hand washing, covering our mouths when coughing and not holding hands during play with all children. We are ensuring we have hand soap and trying to stock hand sanitizer as much as possible however this is proving difficult.

As concerning as the Coronavirus is, St Mary's is ensuring that our learners feel safe and secure at school. Please be open with your children around their concerns at home also, they may have questions.

On Friday we celebrate Harmony Day. Harmony day across our nation nurtures the need to celebrate diversity and inclusivity. This Friday our learners are welcome to wear a touch of orange and we will all take part in activities to celebrate the beautiful individuals that we all are!

In such uncertain times I hope as a community we can continue to remain calm and positive for the children in our care.

God Bless - Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



TERM 1 CLOSURE DAY:

Friday 27th March - No school for learners



DATES AHEAD

- 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

Harmony Day

Harmony day is on Friday 20th March 2020.

We ask that everyone wears a touch of orange on this day.

The learners will be taking part in cultural activities and listening to our special guest around the Indigenous connections in our community.



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

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

PBIS Blitz

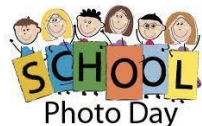
Respect for self

Safe moving around the school.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photo date is set - Photos will take place on Thursday 16th April.



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.



Thank you - Our Magdalen Building

Thank you to everyone who attended the opening of our Magdalen Building. Our new building carrying on the recognition of Mother Mary Magdalen one of the first Good Samaritans nuns who founded our school community in 1926.

Bishop Shane was very impressed by our school and community. It was impressive to see our new Bishop meet our community and speak to as many people as possible.

We are thankful that some of our parishioners were able to attend and expressed their kind feedback of our new areas both administration and learning.

Again, thank you to our whole community for the organisation, support and contributions to a wonderful evening!

A PRAYER

As our Lenten journey continues, let us try to keep in mind the joy to be found in the simple things in life and how doing the smallest things for others can make a big difference in their lives.

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.

Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.

Amen.

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

The Prep learners are continuing to learn about numbers and their values. They are learning to recognise values to 20. The Prep Learners have enjoyed learning about Holy Week and exploring everything that Jesus did. They have been exploring St Benedict and gathering facts about his life and presenting them in a powerpoint.

The year 1 and 2 learners have been publishing their new learning of St Benedict and Bede Polding using digital technology. They are continuing to explore place value, and are enjoying the chance to order their numbers from smallest to largest. The year 1/2's are full of facts and knowledge about the story of Easter and have created beautiful art! Thank you to all the learners that helped us celebrate the beginning of school mass.

SENIOR TEAM

In the Year 3/4 learning space, we are putting the finishing touches on our narratives to revise, edit, publish and illustrate them ready for our audience to enjoy them! Learners are making lots of connections in their place value learning. We are going further in our Inquiry learning and connecting all of our learning to find similarities and differences. Learners are thinking about how they can be inclusive of others within our school at St Mary's to share Jesus' message. In the 5/6 learning space, we have been growing our understanding of addition by exploring the vertical strategy and expanding our skills by applying this strategy to decimals and integers. In writing, we have continued to draft our fantasy text and have learnt an effective way to edit our learning for ourselves and our peers. In reading, we have been revising our solving word strategies to ensure we have many choices to apply when reading challenging words. We are very proud of our inquiry journey and have amazing presentations of the 'Story of St. Mary's' to share with our community.

BIRTHDAYS



- Sienna Whyte - 6th March
- Bailey Gray - 10th March
- Oskar Fletcher - 12th March
- Edie Power - 12th March
- Addisson Taylor - 16th March



Mark Watkins - Supporting one of our own...

I am lucky to live and work in a community where people are truly there for one another. I am lucky that I have the support and access to a generous community in many times of need. I am also lucky that I have been able to know the Watkins family as long as I have lived here, our children play together.

I am writing to our community today in hope that any support you can provide you will. In times of hardship of drought and virus the reality of asking for further support is complex. I do know that this family has a real life hero behind their story and collectively as a family have fought extremely hard and independently for such a long time.

Please take the time to read Mark's story and give what you can even if only small. I am continually approached by my community and asked what we can do and at this point in time this is what we can do!

On a further level the support we can offer the Watkins family will be discussed at the Board and P&F level because I know it is the unified power of our community that can offer true hope and difference.

The link below will allow you to access Mark's story as well as know that funds raised go directly to the medication that is needed. This is not a *Go Fund me* page rather than a direct contribution to possibly life saving medication.

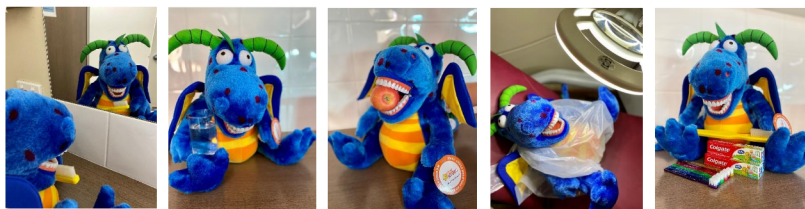
The Watkins' journey is at a cross road and I hope and pray that St Mary's can support the family in their time of need.

Jasmine Ryan

<https://treat.rarecancers.org.au/campaign/2095/helping-mark-watkins>



World Oral Health Day March 20th



Tips for looking after your families teeth:

- 1. Brush every morning and night:** Use fluoride toothpaste. Brush every tooth gently in circles for two minutes. Spit and do not rinse with water at the end.
- 2. Drink well:** Drink mainly tap water. Soft drink and juice have added sugar that are not good for your teeth.
- 3. Eat well:** Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods from all five food groups. Limit foods with added sugar. Healthy meals and snacks are important for healthy teeth.
- 4. Visit the dentist every year:** Visit the dentist at least once every year. They will check to make sure your teeth are growing properly and are clean.
- 5. Change your toothbrush often:** Get a new toothbrush every three months.

For more information visit: https://www.worldoralhealthday.org/sites/default/files/assets/WHO20-factsheet_children-EN.pdf OR <https://www.dhsv.org.au/dental-advice/general-dental-advice>

www.ndch.org.au

Governance update

For Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sandhurst



BULLETIN ONE

MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020

Welcome to the first of a series of Governance Bulletins that will be circulated to you from the School Governance Working Party throughout 2020. As you are aware, Bishop Shane Mackinlay established a working party in December last year to advise him on the most appropriate model of 'Incorporated School Governance' to suit the unique needs and aspirations of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Progress to Date:

The Working Party has now conducted three formal meetings since it was commissioned. In this first phase of operations the focus has been primarily upon the investigation and discernment of the most appropriate new governance model for Catholic schools across the diocese. To this end the Working Party has:

- Developed a project plan and implementation timeline to guide the project;
- Initiated a process that will identify the major 'Guiding Principles' that should underpin 'Good Governance' within the context of a Catholic community;
- Researched nine different models of incorporation that have been implemented in other diocesan and Catholic education systems;
- Initiated productive discussions with relevant agencies and advisers in the areas of industrial relations, legislative requirements and legal and canonical requirements which will remain an ongoing focus through Phases 2 and 3 of the process in the second half of this year.

Listening Assemblies:

The first of the Listening Assembly consultations for priests, principals and school board representatives will be held on March 17 and 18 in Shepparton. These will focus on five key objectives:

- Understanding the rationale as to **why** incorporation is occurring in our schools and how, if done well, it can be of great strategic benefit to our children's education into the future;
- Recognising valuable dimensions of our current governance processes at the local parish level that should be captured and inform future models of governance;
- Discerning the key 'Guiding Principles' with respect to governance structures and processes that should underpin the decision-making process for a new model of Governance;
- Identifying some of the major priorities and challenges facing Catholic education in the diocese in the coming decade and beyond; and
- Briefing participants on the further stages of the Working Party's project plan.

Where to Next:

Following the first round of Listening Assemblies a further Bulletin will be circulated providing a summary of the key understandings that have arisen from this consultation. The Working Party will subsequently begin investigating and developing potential incorporation models for the diocese, with a view to proposing a possible incorporated model that will be critiqued by our key stakeholders at the second series of Listening Assemblies on the 26th and 27th May.

As the consultation process unfolds any comments or questions you wish to direct to the Working Party can be made by utilising the dedicated School Governance Working Party email address: sgwp@ecosand.catholic.edu.au

Volunteers Needed

Good Friday Appeal - Friday 10th April

Volunteers Needed

Meet at the Cohuna Fire Station at
9.00am

(free Easter eggs & chips for the
volunteers)

U16's will need an adult to supervise