



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 9

Week 9, with only 12 days of face to face schooling to go! Today our annual swimming program began with Miss Spence leading the way and getting all of our learners acquainted with the pool again! From tomorrow our learners are in ability group to best target their needs and build their confidence in the water. We will swim daily now until the end of the year with the exception of Community Step Up day. Thank you to the parents for their organisation with swim items daily!

In 2021 St Mary's will be governed by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited. Our school will be governed by a board of directors and supporting committees and some practices and processes will change to align with this new governance. In some areas of operation St Mary's will have to adhere to new guidelines and expectations. This change was a result of the Royal Commission and we now operate under a more corporate model. St Mary's will continue to share with you these changes as the transition evolves.

We are only a week away from our Community Step Up Day and St Mary's has been planning and preparing our classes and teaching staff up until now. Organising classes, staff and ensuring we are all supported in our schooling is a priority for St Mary's and is very complex. It is an exciting time for everyone and please be assured that we always put the learners at the center of every decision and action.

This year has been a challenge for everyone. Our teachers and families did an incredible job in such uncertain times. Moving forward into 2021 we have taken into account the year we have had and what we can do moving forward to best support our learners. When planning our classes many factors are considered; learner needs, knowing our learners, class size, teacher expertise as well as financial budgets.

In 2021 we will have a combination of straight classes and multilevel classes however collaboration and targeted teaching will continue throughout the whole school. We are now four years into collaborative practices from both staff and learners and what we have achieved is improved academic data, progressive teaching and learning and expanded social connections among the learners. Our teachers are well versed at differentiating and meeting the needs of our learners. In 2021, we will have a Prep, Year 1, Year 2½, Year 4½ and a Year 5½. Our Year 5 learners will be invited to select two friends they would like in their class and all learners will be assured one. The Year 5 split will consider the fair and equitable split of academic and adjustment needs, as well as siblings being separated. All learners and families will be introduced to their 2021 teacher and class on 8th December at Community Step up day!

All classrooms will continue to have a Learning support officer allocation of time. Predominantly our learning support officers work alongside teachers in supporting adjustments made by the teachers according to qualified health professionals and teacher expertise. St Mary's does not have the capability for 1:1 support for any child, rather we try to support all as much as possible. In 2021 our learning support staff will work on a variety of timetables, in a variety of classrooms to meet the needs of as many learners in core curriculum areas. We will continue to have the additional support of Learning discovery with Mrs Kelly and Sacha Keir our Chaplain for 4 - 5 weeks of explicit interventions. All schools in Victoria have been provided with some additional funding for support under a tutoring program. The guidelines regarding this are yet to be released and St Mary's implementation plan will be shared

with our community once finalised.

God Bless

Jasmine Ryan (Principal)

Week 10 newsletter to be shared on 8th Dec

DATES AHEAD

- 2nd Dec: Prep Transition (9am - 2:20pm), Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 4th Dec: Advent Liturgy @ 12:30pm
- 8th Dec: St Mary's Feast Day - 12:00pm Whole school liturgy, Community Step Up Day 2021, Year 6 Graduation Dinner & Ceremony @ 6pm
- 15th Dec: St Mary's End of Year Pool Party
- 16th Dec: St Mary's Last day of school for 2020 (3:15pm dismissal)



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

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

Uniform Opinion Survey

We are seeking our families opinions on our uniforms. St Mary's is tabling the idea of simplifying the uniform for ease and comfort.

Teachers will survey our learners for their opinion also. If families have the time to complete the following, that would be great.

St Mary's Uniform Survey

This survey will close on 7th Decembet 2020.

PBIS

Respect for Others.

This week as a whole school we will be focusing on Respect for our environment by putting the equipment away and picking up our belongings.



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.



A PRAYER

Human beings are sometimes severe.

God, for His part, comes to clothe us in compassion.

He weaves our life, like a beautiful garment, with the threads of His forgiveness. He buries our past in the hearts of Christ and He has Already taken care of our future.

For whoever knows How to love, For whoever knows how to suffer, life is filled with serene beauty.



Changes to Covid Restrictions

St Mary's has received updated conditions from CECV around the easing of restrictions at school. The school is exploring these changes and adjusting our covid safe plan and what that means for our community. These changes will be shared with our community in the coming days.

Canteen for the remains of the year

Mrs Edge will no longer have special lunches on a Wednesday due to our swim program. Our canteen will remain open on Mon / Wed / Fri until the last day of school - 16th December! Thank you Mrs Edge for an amazing year of yummy food!

End of Year Events

St Mary's has been waiting patiently for restrictions to change to allow us to gather comfortably and safely as a community. Unfortunately, due to our numbers and the lateness in the school year we have decided not to have an end of year mass and BBQ this year. Instead the staff and learners will have an end of year liturgy where we farewell many, celebrate our achievements and end our year. We will live stream this via Facebook for our families to join us. We look forward to gathering together in 2021.

Our Year 6 Graduation has been made possible. St Mary's is allowed to join our graduates and families if we follow the guidelines of the venue. We will celebrate with our graduates on Tuesday 8th December at 6pm at the Tavern. Finer details will be shared with our Year 6 families this week.

Semester Two Reports & Optional Learning Conversations

This semester we will not print our reports yet rather release them on PAM. A school stream notification will be shared with the community once our reports are ready to be accessed on Parent Access Module (PAM). If any parent cannot access PAM, please contact the office to access your account details.

On Thursday 10th December time has been scheduled for parents to have virtual Learning conversations between 1pm - 5pm. Bookings are optional, at the discretion of parents and the details for bookings will be shared on School Stream on Friday 4th December.

OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM

In Literacy, the junior learners are continuing to ask and answer questions about the text they are reading. They are continuing to build on their knowledge and understanding of nouns, adjectives and verbs. The junior learners are able to identify these in a text and use them in their writing to add more detail. The junior learners have been busy learning to write procedure text. They understand that a procedure text provides instructions on how to do something. This week the prep learners followed instructions to make a paper aeroplane. They were then required to create their own design and write a procedure text so that someone else could make.

In mathematics, the Prep learners are continuing to build on their understanding of time to O'clock. They have been learning to read, write and make time on analog and digital clocks. In Year 1/2 the learners have been learning to recognise the time to half past. The 1/2 learners are also learning to recognise common fractions. They have been busy creating a fraction book.

The junior learners have been creating their digital portfolios in Inquiry. This week they have been using iMovie to create their portfolio. They have added the pictures, video and soundtracks to their iMovie. The Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 learners will be continuing to edit their video to present them to their peers in the coming weeks.

SENIOR TEAM

The Year 3 - 6 learners are really looking forward to the Swimming Program and their Flexible Learning! We have created engaging learning activities for Literacy, Mathematics, Inquiry and Religion. We can not wait to see the learners' creative minds explore over the next two weeks.

In Literacy in the Year 3/4 learning space, learners are exploring the hybrid text "Searching for Cicadas." This text stretches our thinking about both nonfiction and fiction texts! In Mathematics, learners are investigating the questions "What are the features of a map? How can we use grid references to give directions?" In Inquiry, learners are very excited to be putting together their writing alongside some videos and photos from throughout the year to create their own websites!

In Year 5/6 learners are busy publishing writing to engage their audience. We are exploring texts that develop our understanding of media. Learners are investigating mathematical concepts of 24 hour time, timetables and tessellations. The Year 5 learners are continuing to develop their website to showcase their fabulous learning in 2020. The Year 6 learners are busy preparing for their graduation.

Snacks & Lunches During Swimming

Already we have our learners stating they are very hungry today! Can we please ask families to pack something extra during our swimming program to accommodate the extra hunger! Thank you

**Happy
Birthday**



- Riley Hore 3rd December
- Thomas O'Mahoney 3rd December







Thanks School Communities

As 2020 draws to an end we wanted to give a big SHOUT OUT to our amazing school communities.

2020 has thrown challenges at us and we have had to do things differently. We have heard many stories of students' successfully managing new ways of learning and we have been amazed at their resilience and creativity! Whilst it hasn't been for everyone, we reckon you have all done a fantastic job!! You are stars!!! Our school communities' have tackled remote learning and teachers have turned themselves inside out to make sure our children get a great education. Well done to you all. Finally to parents and carers who have balanced and juggled many demands to support our young people with learning and their wellbeing. Congratulations on your huge efforts!

We are so proud of our community and our response to COVID. It has been such a pleasure to work closely with schools, Kerang, Cohuna and Boort Hospitals, Gannawarra and Loddon shires, Mallee District Aboriginal Services and Neighbourhood houses. Together our staff and partner organisations have worked really hard to keep the community informed and safe.

As COVID restrictions ease, please prioritise your own health and wellbeing as number 1. At NDCH we have a range of mental health and alcohol and other drug supports to assist you, along with our medical clinic, nursing and allied health teams. So give us a call on 5451 0200 or check us out on Facebook or our website, and reach out- we would love to support you. Many people have used a support service for the first time this year- and we are thrilled that so many in our community are taking care of themselves and seeing it as okay to say 'I'm not okay & need some help'.

Cherish the challenges we have overcome, and be proud of your achievements. We are proud of you all.

The team at NDCH wish you all a peaceful holiday period, and hope there is laughter and love.

Take good care, stay safe and be kind.

Mandy Hutchinson and the team at NDCH

CEO

Cohuna Lawn Tennis Club's

GET INTO TENNIS

8 week Hot Shots program

Children (aged 5-15) and all skill levels
are **WELCOME**.

\$3 each week for ball fees.

Please register at
<https://hotshots.tennis.com.au/register/>
& click 'Join the Team', Cohuna as 'Venue' &
Jason as 'Coach'. All registrations will
receive a free T-Shirt. Starts 5th of Dec.
All enquiries to our Facebook page

9 - 10:00am



CKFNC

SPECIAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NETBALL 2021

Tuesday 1st December
6:30pm @ CKFNC Club Rooms

Cohuna Kangas are seeking enthusiastic and reliable
people to join their netball department.

All positions declared vacant.

Also important 2021 information regarding revised junior
age groups, coaches and pre season dates.

All players, parents, current and new and invited to attend.

Contact Gab Fitzpatrick for any further information: 0447798956



COHUNA SWIMMING POOL

January 2021; School Holiday Program

The ability to swim is a skill each and every child should be taught.

The aim of *GeoffSwim* is to teach our swimmers to be capable and comfortable in the water.

Lifesaving Victoria recommends that all children leaving Primary School should be able to swim 50 meters efficiently and tread water for 5 minutes

GeoffSwim program commences 5th January
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday for 3 weeks.

(30 minute lessons between 10 am and 1pm)

School age children, Pre-school (over 3 y.o.)

Adults at times to be arranged

Contact; Geoff Dale (Austswim Teacher of Swimming)

Phone 0428 563395

Email geoffdale29@gmail.com