



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 10

The end is so close! We now only have 6 face to face school days to go until we end our year! Today we had our Step Up Day across the school and what a day of excitement it was. Our learners had a fabulous day with their 2021 teachers and all made an appearance. Our Learners now know their teachers and learning spaces for next year. Our Year Ahead information has been attached for our families reference. Thank you to all of the staff for their efforts in preparing such a fantastic day and an official welcome to Miss Chloe Adams in Year 1 and Miss Sarah Ververs who will lead our STEAM learning.

Last week the staff spent some of their professional meeting time exploring our term 4 academic data to be able to truly recognise the impact of this year. It was incredibly pleasing to see that we predominantly saw growth across all learners. It was amazing to be able to evaluate the year in such depth and know that even though remote schooling was a challenge and implication to schooling that the learners who took part in remote schooling with the support of their teachers and families grew in themselves academically. This is pleasing to the school and also to our learners. Great effort, innovation and commitment was dedicated to our learners during these times and it is affirming to know that what we did as a community made a positive impact.

With only 6 days to go for our face to face schooling and a years end that is worth celebrating, please see the below events that will conclude our 2020 year;

- 10th Dec: Optional Learning Conversations for Parents (1pm - 5pm)
- 11th Dec: Advent Liturgy @ 10:30am
- 14th Dec: Last Day of St Mary's Swimming Program
- 15th Dec: St Mary's End of Year Pool Party (11:30 - 3:00) Lunch will be provided
- 16th Dec: Christmas Casuals, End of Year Expo @ 10am - Parents Welcome, RRR Whole School Award - Movie & Popcorn, Last Day of Term 4 - Dismissal @ 3:15pm

This evening we will celebrate our 2020 Graduation evening. We have nine Year 6's heading off to secondary school and it is fitting to recognise this milestone. Tonight some of these learners will receive community awards, share memorable moments of their times at St Mary's and make their parents proud. We will share the award winners in next weeks newsletter and recognise our graduates again as a community at our End of Year Learning Expo.

God Bless

Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



DATES AHEAD

- 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)
- 17th & 18th Dec: St Mary's Staff Closure Day - 2021 Preparations
- 18th Dec - 26th Jan: St Mary's is closed



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

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

A PRAYER

God our Father, we thank you for this time of joyful waiting. We thank you for the many blessings you have given us, may we always appreciate all that we have and remember those who are less fortunate than us. May the hope and joy of this season fill our hearts and make us living signs of your love for a world that hungers for your peace. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Outcomes of our Uniform Survey

Thank you to half of our families who completed our uniform survey. We will not be making any changes at this stage and we will continue to wear our navy version of our uniform in 2021.

St Mary's will communicate in the new year whether the tailored pants, shorts and skirt will be removed from our uniform next year,

Please refer to our Year Ahead information to revisit our uniform expectations.

Changes to Covid Restrictions

St Mary's is now allowed to have parents and visitors onsite. All visitors in line with our Covid Safe plan and Child Safe practices must sign in at the front office. For our visitors and families convenience, a QR code has been set up. This works on most smart phones or a compatible app can be downloaded.

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!

Staffing 2020

Today was Community Step Up Day and we hope everyone in our community enjoyed being in their new 2021 learning spaces. Here are the St Mary's staff for 2021.

Prep:	Miss Cartwright & Miss Cooke
Year 1:	Miss Adams & Mrs Merkel
Year 2 / 3:	Mrs Lamb, Miss Toll & Mrs McLoughlan
Year 4/5:	Miss Cooke & Mrs Edge
Year 5/6:	Miss Spence, Miss Adelia & Mrs Fry
The Arts:	Mrs Williams
Italian:	Mrs Jones
STEAM:	Miss Vevers
PE:	Miss Spence
Learning Discovery:	Mrs Kelly
Leader of Learning Adjustment:	Jacqui Deola
Principal:	Jasmine Ryan
Deputy Principal:	Adelia Muldoon
Administration Office:	Jenny Barry & Tammy McGillivray

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.



OUR LEARNING

JUNIOR TEAM

This week the Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 learners have been loving attending the pool. They are enjoying participating in swimming lessons and have learnt a lot.

The Junior learners have published their digital portfolio. They have learnt to collaborate, problem solve and think critically as a team to draft, create and publish a digital portfolio of their year.

The Junior learners are continuing to revise questioning, identifying the author's purpose, recognising the main idea and connections within the text. They are continuing to build on their understanding of the procedure text and their structure.

The Prep learners have completed their unit on measurement. They are beginning to revise number, place value and data. The Year 1 and Year 2 learners are exploring chance and location. They are learning to give and follow directions to places around the school. The Year 1/2 learners are learning to recognise the likelihood of events. They have been busy playing greedy pig.

SENIOR TEAM

Term 4 is just floating by. Our swimming program is off to a fabulous start and our learners are completing many learning tasks using their flexible learning grid.

The Year 3/4 learners are exploring different Christmas stories and creating our own Christmas Journeys through imaginative texts. In Mathematics we are exploring different angles within the environment and how we calculate money in everyday events. They are all thoroughly enjoying the creation of websites to share their 2020 learning journey in Inquiry.

The Year 5/6 learners are exploring cartoon creations to create their own Christmas story. We are investigating 'How Does It Tessellate?' during Mathematics to explore the effect of shape combinations.

The Senior team wishes our Year 6 learners the best of luck for their Graduation tomorrow night. We are incredibly proud of your learning journey at St. Mary's and can not wait to celebrate with you all.

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



- Zaeli Cutter 8th December
- Rex Power 9th December
- Charlie Grills 11th December









NDCH

Northern District Community Health

NDCH-your first port of call in the pursuit of good health!

Positive messages for children during Christmas



It is about giving not just receiving

Take the opportunity to teach your child about the importance of giving as well as receiving. Children are led to believe through popular culture that Christmas is about getting presents but it is also about giving and there is a great lesson here about the joy of giving to others as well.

It is the thought that counts

The value of a present is not in its size or price tag. Children don't understand the cost of things but they can understand the love and thought behind a gift if we explain it to them. Remember that how we respond to presents we receive models how our children respond to the gifts they receive.

Spending time with loved ones

As well as giving and receiving gifts, Christmas is a time for spending time with close family and friends and celebrating each other. Children often understand the value of time with loved ones better than many adults. They simply enjoy being around people that they love who love them back. This one is a lesson for the adults from the children.

Embrace the joy and excitement

There's no doubt that the lead up to Christmas can be a very busy time but one that is also filled with excitement. Embrace the fun and joy, your children will love it even more and they will have great memories if they see you getting into the spirit with them.



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)

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