



# St Mary's Newsletter

## WELCOME TO WEEK 1

Welcome to our 2021 school year! We have started so very well! There is definitely a genuine excitement from our learners to our staff that we are all back together at school as one! We hope and pray that the year continues like this as we have much to learn, do and celebrate!

We particularly welcome our Prep learners who are small in stature yet big in personality! We have some existing families and siblings who have started school with such confidence and some new families who we warmly welcome. To the Prep level we welcome the Bolch, Borkowski, Dye, Flanigan, Gordon, Goulding and Warby families! We look forward to celebrating many milestones with all of our Prep families throughout the year. We also welcome to Year 6 and Year 4 Bella and Connor who have joined the Cohuna community recently. We know all in our community will welcome and support their transitions.

As the new year has begun it is great to see so many learners in correct uniform. All uniform can be purchased from the school and paid for on CDF. Teachers will soon inform families of sport days so that the correct uniform and particularly shoes can be worn. A reminder that if you choose for your child to wear school style runners on most days, they need to be all black, with no other colour. No canvas style shoes are part of our uniform. Thank you to the families who completed the survey around uniform late in 2020, the outcome of this will be shared with our community soon.

Today detailed information will be shared with families around our Schedule of fees for 2021 and our process and procedure in regard to collecting fees and invoicing families throughout the year. If at any time any family needs to discuss fees, I am always available. If there are any questions pertaining to our policy or process of collection, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you to our families for their continued support on adhering to our Covid Safe practices. We so very much would like our community to gather and resume as normal however we must still ensure what we do and how we do it is safe! As we slowly return to large gatherings and having parents onsite we will continue to communicate what needs to be practiced to ensure that safety of all in our community. If at anytime parents need to see teachers or myself, please call the school to make a mutually convenient time.

Next week we have two events that we hope our families support warmly. We have our Parent Information Evening and our beginning of year Mass and BBQ. We recognise both of these events as important foundations to start a successful year. Tomorrow an invitation will be shared on School Stream to gather numbers for our start of year BBQ. Our teachers will also share with you information about our parent information night, with times and classrooms.

We recognise that the start to the school year provides an overwhelming amount of information however myself and teachers will continue to be here to inform and support our families. I look forward to seeing you all over the coming weeks.

God Bless Everyone & Have a wonderful week!

Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



## DATES AHEAD

- 3rd Feb: Preps Day #1 of Rest
- 5th Feb: No Canteen today
- 9th Feb: PSG's for families (onsite or virtual)
- 10th Feb: Parent Information Evening 6:30pm
- 11th Feb: Beginning of Year Mass & BBQ
- 12th Feb: St Mary's Swimming Carnival
- 15th Feb: St Mary's School Board AGM @ 7pm
- 17th Feb: Ash Wednesday Mass @ 12:30pm
- 22nd Feb: St Mary's P&F AGM @ 6:30pm
- 26th Feb: St Mary's School Closure Day - No learners today



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

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

## A PRAYER

### A Learner's Prayer for the Beginning of the School Year

We give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and brings us joy.

Bless us as we start this new year with our friends and teachers  
Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh.

May we show love to one another and to all. May the new beginning of this school year remind us that you give us chances to start over again and again.  
Help us to forgive others as we receive your forgiveness.

Help us to learn and to work together. Help us to listen when we should and to know the best words when we speak and when it is better not to speak.

We thank you for our friends Help us to be good friends this year. Help us to be patient with ourselves and with others.

Bless our school and keep us safe. Be with us as we travel each day.

Help us to be aware of your love shown to us in the people around us.

Bless all those who care for us In school and at home.  
Help us show our care for them and to say sorry when we need to.

May the Blessed Mother Mary protect us And help us to live as well as we can Giving thanks and glory to God as she did.

Amen

### St Mary's School Board AGM

St Mary's school board AGM will be held on Monday 15th February in the staff room. All community members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining the school board please complete the attached nomination form and return it to the school office.



### PBIS

#### Respect for Self.

Respect for our unity and wearing the correct school uniform to start our year off well!



*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.*

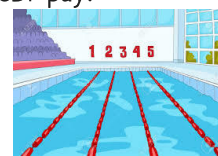


### St Mary's Swimming Carnival

On Friday 12th February we will take to the pool for our 2021 Swimming Carnival. We were lucky enough to have a consistent and high quality swim program which will support our readiness. Parents are welcome to come along and support the day!

Miss Spence will share with our community permission forms to attend on School stream this week. We will also offer a BBQ lunch which families can order and pay for via CDF pay.

We hope to see many of you there!



### Friends In Need

The community of St Mary's can always be relied upon to support our families in need. Sometimes these families are part of our school and at other times they are a part of our local community. Again, in 2021 we invite families to volunteer to make a meal for our Friends in Need Freezer. If you are able to volunteer, a foil tray and some health and safety instructions will be sent home. At this point in time, our freezer is empty, so we do hope we can get it replenished soon! Thank you to anyone who can help in advance.





## Junior Team

Wow! Welcome to 2021 isn't it great to be back at school?!

I cannot tell you how excited the Junior School Educators are about coming back to school and learning with you all again in our new spaces and with our new classes of learners. The Junior spaces look amazing and I'm sure all of the learners will tell you how impressed and excited they all are to be with their new teachers, classmates and beginning a new year. We have started off with two days of testing and assessment to get to know exactly where each learner is to start the year off with a bang and pin point each child's exact needs. We are enjoying getting to know where everything is in our spaces, learning or remembering our classmates' names through games and interactions. The learners have also been setting their own personal learning goals and displaying them in our rooms to keep track.



## Senior Team

Welcome back everyone. It was great to see so many happy and smiling faces. The senior teachers appreciate the effort that all the learners put in with their testing. It was great to see all the learners mixing and catching up with each other.

The senior teachers are super excited to be learning with all the year 4/5/6 learners.

Learning space looks amazing and it is great to see all the learners excited and interested in their new classroom. We are spending time getting to know our learners, identifying what they enjoy and where to next with their learning. We have been setting academic and personal goals that each individual would like to achieve by the end of the term.

We played some team building activities that required the learners to collaborate together and communicate with each other. It was great to see the dynamics and how they supported each other throughout the activities.



## Nominations for St Mary's School Advisory Council 2021

Monday 1st February 2021

Dear Parents,

This notice is to advise all in our community that we have our Annual General meeting approaching for the St Mary's School Advisory Council.

The meeting will be held on Monday 15th February 2021 at 7:00pm. Anyone in the community wanting to attend is welcome.

St Mary's has a highly effective and supportive School Advisory Council that we would like to grow. Our shared input and wisdom is a greater driver to school improvement. Everyone in our school has something to offer.

We are seeking nominations from people who would like to commit to the School Advisory Council. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, please complete the form below and return to school in a sealed envelope, marked, *"To the School Advisory Council Secretary"* by Friday 12th February 2021.

Kind Regards,

Jasmine Ryan



## Nominations for St Mary's School Advisory Council 2021

I put forward my nomination for membership of the St Mary's School Advisory Council.

I wish to nominate myself for a position on the St Mary's School Advisory Council. .	
Print Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	



## Welcome Miss. Adams!

We would like to give Miss Adams a very warm welcome to the St Mary's community. Miss Adams is our Grade 1 teacher and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.



"My name is Chloe Adams and I am so excited to be teaching at St Mary's Cohuna in 2021. I grew up in Kerang before moving to Bendigo to begin my teaching degree where I have lived for the past 5 years. I have been a part of Marong Primary School for the past three years and am now moving to the Cohuna region and looking forward to continuing my teaching journey at St Marys. I love spending time with my family and friends and enjoy playing sport. I am so excited to meet everyone and become a part of the amazing St Mary's community! Bring on 2021!"