



# St Mary's Newsletter

## WELCOME TO WEEK 4

Wow...how quickly our world can turn around! Firstly, thank you to everyone for a fabulous week last week! I am so grateful that we all took up every opportunity to gather last week and start our school year as positively as possible! Our Parent Information evening was well attending and allowed our parents to meet their child(rens) new teachers and be provided with valuable information for our year ahead. Our Beginning of Year Mass and BBQ was one of our best! There was a great vibe and collective appreciation for just being together and the night was a huge success. I truly enjoyed catching up with everyone in such a relaxed environment and was thankful for the positive feedback around how great our Mass was! A true celebration of community!

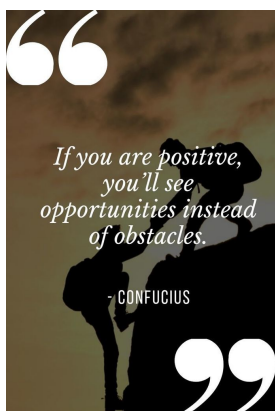
Our swimming sports again, was such another wonderful site of community, effort and the united effort to just have a go! Given that many of our learners would have had less time in the pool last year, they all did their best and had fun! Our sports captains were amazing at leading their peers and being encouraging and supportive of all! Carmel took out the overall day with, Lourdes a close second and Fatima in third! Unfortunately our Zone heats have been placed on hold but I am sure we will be a force to be reckoned with in the pool when we do! Thank you to all of the staff and parents who supported the day in presence and organisation.

By Friday afternoon we were all sent into plans for a whirlwind lock down! This is extremely challenging for all of us, both in our professional and personal lives. I cannot thank our families enough for reading all of the information provided by the school to ensure we are all clear on the 3 day lock down. Thank you to the families for checking their employment against the Victorian State Government Stage 4 restrictions and making arrangements for your children. At present St Mary's is trying to support all families as best they can and we recognise that we all believe ourselves to be essential however to qualify for supervision parents must both meet explicit employment categories. We remain hopeful that we are only in lock down for the 3 days but will continue to communicate with you as we receive directives or if the lock down increases.

We hope that all families now have their learning packs and have had some time to look through and explore. If at anytime there is any questions around learning, please contact your child's teacher. If anyone else is needing further support or understanding around our guidelines and processes at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

God Bless Everyone & Have a wonderful week!

Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



## DATES AHEAD

- 17th Feb: Ash Wednesday Mass @ 12:30pm - Canceled
- 18th Feb: Possible Closure Day if lockdown continues
- 22nd Feb: St Mary's P&F AGM @ 6:30pm
- 26th Feb: St Mary's School Closure Day - No learners today
- 3rd Mar: Preps to attend full time
- 8th Mar: Labour Day Weekend - Public Holiday
- 19th Mar: Harmony Day
- 26th Mar: Full School Assembly @ 2:20 in the Church



*St Mary's is a Child Safe School.*

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

## A PRAYER

### LENT & CARITAS Australia

This week we begin the season of LENT. During this time we reflect on how we can be better people and how we can better serve others in our community. It is a time for reflecting on our lives, for refocusing on God's love for us, and God's call to love and serve others.

Lent is a time for renewal through prayer, fasting and giving, as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter – the most important feast in the Church's calendar. Lent provides us with an opportunity to consider how we might help those in need, rather than thinking about ourselves.

Around the time of Lent we also begin our learning on social justice through CARITAS Australia - Project Compassion. The theme this year is 'Be More,' with the message inspired by Saint Oscar Romero to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

In Matthew 5, Jesus says "if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." Through Caritas, our support assists the neediest communities, expressing love and compassion for the most vulnerable.

### St Mary's School Board AGM

St Mary's school board AGM has been placed on hold for the time being. A new date will be rescheduled as soon as possible.



### 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 Parents & Friends Association

On Monday 22nd February 2021 @ 6:30pm St Mary's will have its P&F Annual General Meeting! Everyone in our community is welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining the P&F please come along. All positions are declared open out our AGM and nominations are welcome!

The P&F do an amazing job at supporting events, fund raising, supporting families and simply having fun at school! Please bring along your ideas and enthusiasm. We know that many of our parents work, but an contribution is greatly appreciated.



**St Mary's P&F AGM - 22nd February 2021 - All Welcome**

### St Mary's Swimming Carnival

**2021**

Congratulations to Carmel House for taking out the St Mary's 2021 Swimming Carnival Championship.

**1st CARMEL**

**2nd LOURDES**

**3rd FATIMA**



Carmel House Leaders: Georgie Neil, Mac Ryan & Silas Toll

### **Congratulations to the following students:**

10 Yr old champions: Liam Bowland & Milla Ryan;

11 Yr old: Noah Mathers & Eadie Power;

12 Yr old: Brooklyn Bowland & Mac Ryan.



## Junior Team

Wow! What a full week we have had, we had an absolute blast! From Parent Information Night Wednesday, our fun filled fantastic welcome back Mass & Family BBQ Thursday to finish the week on a high with a great day at the pool for our Swimming Carnival.

We would like to thank all of our parents who attended our Parent Information night, for listening to our presentations, offering their support and asking great questions.

The learners and families who attended our Welcome Mass & BBQ had a great night, although it was a hot night the meals served by the Staff and jumping castle were a big hit. It was so great to meet everyone for the first time or catch up with some familiar faces and celebrate altogether.

Finally we had the Annual Swimming Carnival on Friday which we would like to congratulate all of the learners that participated in the events and gave it a go.

The Prep's looked at the letters 'S' and 'A', completing a range of activities for the letter and sound. They also practised ordering numbers from 0-10.

The Year Ones practised making predictions when reading and stretchy snake for their decoding reading strategy and began their reading rotation activities; which all learners were super engaged in.

In Years 2/3 learners practised assessing themselves using a rubric in relation to their Fluency when reading. They filmed themselves and listened back to mark their reading after assessing Miss Toll as a sample.

## Senior Team

What a wonderful and busy week we have had! It was wonderful to see our parents on Information evening and being able to have them in our learning spaces. Our Beginning of Year Mass and Family BBQ was a wonderful night minus the heat. Our learners did a fantastic job reading and singing during our Mass. Thank you to all our families who were able to make it.

Swimming sports was yet another fantastic day and all the learners had a wonderful time. It was great to see all learners cheering each other on and being encouraging and supportive. Congratulations to all who participated in the day.

Our learners enjoyed sharing their thoughts and thinking about Carism during Inquiry time. It was great to see the learners collaborating with each. The learners got to draw a portrait of each other.

We discussed what compassion and kindness mean and how we can show actions of kindness.

## Happy Birthday



- Harry Link 16th February
- Chloe Hawken 20th February

# St Mary's Beginning of year Mass 2021





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