

St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 4 – Thursday 20th February 2020

15-33 Bridlington Ave, Echuca, VIC 3564 | Principal: Brendan Atley
PH: 5482 1342 info@smechuca.catholic.edu.au



At St Mary's all children have the right to feel safe and be safe all of the time.

Dear Parents. Friends and Guardians,

The teachers appreciated you making the effort to attend the information session on Tuesday. It really helps them when they are able to know the parents of the children in their care. We really appreciated our existing parents taking the time to welcome the many new families that attended. Knowing each other is important if we are to be community.

Brendan Atley
Principal

I attended the recent Shire Council meeting with Brendan Atley and Rebecca Caldwell (School Board member) to respond to the application for new service station that is to be placed on the corner of Bridlington Ave and the Murray Valley Highway. We raised concerns around air quality and safety, making it clear that our children, teachers and parents will be in close proximity. Following the presentations from a number of objectors, the council voted to approve the application for the service station with no amendments. Vince Fusti (School Board)

Catholic identity

Reflection 1 Corinthians 3:16

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Loving God, Help us to fully understand that your Spirit lives within us - for when we do comprehend this, we will surely treat ourselves and others with greater empathy, love, compassion and forgiveness. Amen.

Lent

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Lent is the season where we prepare for the mystery of Easter. The **three major activities** are **fasting, giving to the poor, and prayer**. The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. **Pancakes** were traditionally **eaten** on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting for the 40 days of Lent.

Next Tuesday morning we will have pancakes at school. On **Tuesday afternoon, 2:00 pm**, we will burn palms used for last year's Palm Sunday ceremony to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Then on Ash Wednesday, the whole school will gather **at 9:00 am** for a brief liturgy and to receive ashes. All are welcome to these liturgies [not Masses].

Please bring a gold coin donation for the pancakes. A beginning to our fundraising for Caritas!

Caritas K's

Caritas K's will once again be our major focus for raising money for Project Compassion or Caritas. Books will go home within the next week.

Our Caritas K's Day will be on Friday 27th March.

Caritas Australia helps people help themselves — regardless of ethnicity, religion or political beliefs. Our agency supports long-term development programs in impoverished communities in Africa, Asia, Indigenous Australia and the Pacific — helping oppressed people to rediscover their dignity by taking greater control over their lives and overcoming poverty.

Information Night / Welcome BBQ

Thank you to all those who attended our Information Evening/ Welcome BBQ. It was so good to see so many people chat and enjoying the company of others. A special thank you to all those who cooked, served and cleaned up. Gathering and sharing a meal is such an important part of our community and we can't do it without our VOLUNTEERS!



PANCAKES! PLEASE COME AND HELP ON THIS DAY IF YOU CAN... THANK YOU

We are making huge effort at St Mary's to be more sustainable in all we do, so this year we will be making our own pancake mix.

We are asking our Prep and One Families to donate ingredients and a note will be sent home on MONDAY explaining what we would like each class to bring.

PDDI and PGRP - 2kg bag white Self Raising Flour, PSKI and PERO – 2L Milk (used by date after Feb 25th)

1ADU - Strawberry / Raspberry Jam, 1BHA - Maple Syrup 1SCO – Lemons 1LGP - Dozen Eggs

We have enlisted the help of several students from St Joseph's to help mix from 8am but really need the help of parents to cook. If you can assist please contact **Terrina Phelan** (Yr 1 Teacher and Sustainability Leader) via email tphelan@smechuca.catholic.edu.au and let her know!

This is a favourite event on the St Mary's calendar and it is reliant on parent help... Thank you in advance.

Gold coin donation.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Learning Conversations are an important part of our commitment to Learning, Assessment and Reporting at St Mary's. Please make the most of this opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss their strengths, challenges and goals in learning.

Learning conversations will take place on Tuesday 3rd March 8:30 - 6:30pm. Please book using PAM. Bookings will open 9am Monday 24th February.

If you have any issues making a booking please contact the school reception for assistance.

How to book a Learning Conversation

- Go to <http://pam.smechuca.catholic.edu.au/>
- Login:
- Click on Parent Teacher Interviews (top right hand corner)
- Select your child
- Select the teacher
- Select convenient time

CSEF (Camps School Excursion Fund): Do you know you that you may be eligible to claim \$125.00?

Families who hold a current Health Care Card may be eligible. Please contact the office ASAP. Thank you

Different Pathways to a Common Outcome

Curtis Carne participated in Under 10 Boys at the Southern 80 last weekend. He skied 20kms behind a boat called Viper F2 in a time of 13.32 minutes. He trains hard and we are very proud of him for skiing so well and improving at every race and the best part is his smile at the finish line because he loves it so much. Curtis is recognised for **ACHIEVEMENT**.



CELEBRATE: Well done Josh Parker who was Placed 1st and is National Champion the *FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS* competition. Amazing effort.

INCLUSIVE/COURAGE:

All those who participated in the Student/Parent/Teacher swimming relay last Friday. Very impressive.



PLAYGROUP.



We host a free Playgroup each Monday morning from 8.50 till 10.00am in the Community Room behind Brigidine Centre. Why not come along and enjoy a cuppa, meet some new people and have your pre-schoolers enjoy some craft, storytelling and play. Please contact Mel Slattery (Home School Liaison) on 0417 822 589 or email

mslattery@smechuca.catholic.edu.au if you would like more information about any of these activities.

School Lunch Ordering 2020

Could parents please ensure that they have changed their child's year level or classroom on the online school lunch orders website. SchoolLunchOnline.com.au

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE:

Students who live more than 4.8km from St Mary's (most direct route between home and school) in Victoria and do NOT have a free school bus, please contact the school as you may be eligible for Conveyance Allowance which will be organised via MiKi cards this year. **Families who claimed in 2019 will need to reclaim allowance again this year please.** Please contact the office.

Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist

If you wish for your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist this year, you must enrol in the program **now!**

All information and enrolment forms are available at <http://www.stmarysechuca.org.au/>

Go to Parish Info: Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Any enquiries should be made to St Mary's Parish on 54821127 Tues-Fri.

Enrolments close strictly 13th March and the Commencement Meeting for both parents and children is the 25th March.





Talk to school if:

Your child is not wanting
to attend school

You need support getting your
child to school

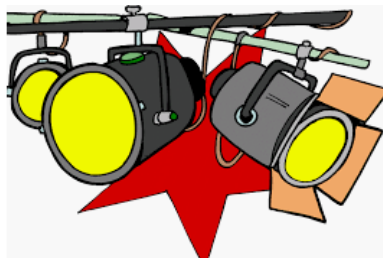
Performing Arts

During Term 3 we will be holding our very popular St Mary's School Production. We are in the process of finalising the script; it's going to be amazing.

We are looking for anyone who'd like to join our School Production Team.

If you have an interest in set design, dance choreography or creating costumes please feel free to email me.

Thanking you, Kristi Larkin



School fees

School fees have been sent out today, these fees are due now. Thank you to those people who are direct debiting.



Asking Questions-

Try these three questions to replace
"how was your day"?

- What are you looking forward to about tomorrow?
- What was the hardest thing you did today?
- What was your favourite part of the day?

2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

TERM 1

21 st Feb	Campaspe Swimming Carnival
24 th Feb	Grade 2 Gymnastics
25 th Feb	School Photo Day
25 th Feb	Shrove Tuesday
26 th Feb	Ash Wednesday
27-28 Feb	Grade 5 swimming,
28 th Feb	Clean up Australia Day at school
2 nd March	Grade 1 Gymnastics
3 rd March	Learning Conversations – School closure day
6 th March	Campaspe Lawn Bowls
13 th March	Campaspe Tennis Trials
20 th March	St Joes Foundation Day Yr 4
27 th March	Caritas K's 9.00 – 10.45am
27 th March	End of Term.
14 th April	First day of Term 2

Clean Up Australia Day
Sunday March 1st 9am

Meet under the bridge behind the Echuca Visitor Information Centre. Bring your sunscreen and sturdy shoes. We will provide gloves, bags and morning tea.

Join St Mary's Parish Community to clean up our special patch of Creation - the Onion Patch.



GRAND OPENING

of our new office at 13 Percy Street, Echuca
This is a family friendly event with free children's activities



Thursday 12th March 2020

3.00pm - 5.00pm

Our service provides family & relationship counselling, children's counselling, family dispute resolution, property mediation, child inclusive mediation, parenting education and programs/workshops



Do you want to play your Junior Netball at Mitiamo in 2020?

The Mitiamo Football & Netball Club (affiliated with the Loddon Valley Football Netball League) are looking for 17/U & 13/U netball players for the 2020 season.

We aim to provide players & their families a friendly & safe environment where they can enjoy their netball. Our coaches are accredited & will help to develop the skills of netball & the value of teamwork.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our Club please contact Netball Operations Manager Glenda Thomas for further information.

Glenda Thomas
Phone 0459 110 838



Echuca Moama Apex club is a Men's service club for under 45s. We are looking for members who enjoy serving the community and are looking for a club to socialise and network.

We are hosting a Social bare foot bowls and BBQ night for potential new members to meet existing members and to find out more.

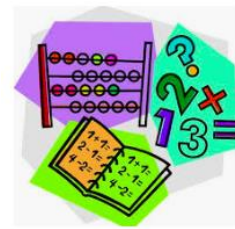
When: Wed 26th Feb – 6pm

Where: Echuca Bowls Club- High St Echuca

For more info text: 0407015378, email: echucamoamaapex@gmail.com or message us through Facebook.



Math matters



Welcome to Maths Matters at St Mary's in 2020. This will be a regular addition to our weekly school newsletters with tips and links to resources that will support families to engage in maths activities together. Research shows that children who can view maths in their everyday world develop confidence in themselves as learners.

This week, discuss with your child/ren:

- Where do they see maths around them?
- How can they use maths at home?
- What are some math games we play at school that can be played at home?

For junior primary students:

Play snakes and ladders and other board games where counting is used, identify and draw shapes they see around them and begin to discuss how we read clocks. Count cars when driving and discuss which car colours are more popular.

For middle primary students:

Discuss how we use larger numbers in our everyday activities- shopping on a budget.

Support children in cooking activities where they have to measure ingredients and explore duration of time- how long will it take to travel distances, plan itineraries.

For upper primary students:

Explore budgeting- phone plans, bills, groceries. Build a Lego model, and then draw the model from different points of view, such as top, front, sides.

Explore interesting facts: A million seconds is 12 days; a billion seconds is 31 years; a trillion seconds is 31,688 years.

A great link for parents and carers to check out is:



<http://numeracyguidedet.global2.vic.edu.au/numeracy-at-home/>

It explains the importance of developing numeracy skills from a young age, gives ideas for families to engage in conversations, and offers ideas for activities that families can do together.

If you would like more 1:1 support, please feel free to contact me on lgould@smecuca.catholic.edu.au or call the office.

Yours in Maths,
Lauren Gould
Numeracy curriculum leader.





SPORTS REPORT**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

On Friday we had our Annual 3-6 Swimming Carnival down at the Echuca War Memorial. The day was full of races and cheering.... Especially when the teachers won the first ever parent/teacher/captains relay.



There was an amazing effort from all who participated. Well done on trying your best in the pool. Congratulations to our Age champions -

- 11 year old girl - Sophie Baeurle
- 11 year old boy - Oscar Coombs
- 12 year old girl - Indi Phillips
- 12 year old boy - Kristian Fitzsimmons



It was a close race for the houses this year. But yet again St Brigid proved strong taking out the hat trick. Well done Zeke & Anais in leading your house to another win.

We would like to thank all the LSO staff, teachers, and parents that helped on the day, particularly Krissy Oliver & Fiona Newton at the score table.



Congratulations to Blake Cooper who received an award for 'House Spirit'.

CAMPASPE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Tomorrow is the Campaspe Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to our 44 students who qualified to compete in this event. We look forward to seeing the results and who will go to Swan Hill on Thursday 19th March.

HOCKEY CLINIC

On Tuesday our Grade 1 & Grade 2 classes were lucky to be apart of a Hockey Victoria clinic at school. If your child is in one of these year levels you would have noticed a sheet about 'Hook in 2 Hockey' in their bags. For all students at our school - we have an opportunity to participate in this program.

WHEN - Thursday 4-5pm (starting 27th February)

WHERE - Echuca Hockey field at the Echuca College

WHAT - 12 week program for Hockey

HOW MUCH - \$85 for 12 weeks, which includes a participation pack (all equipment & uniform included).

HOW TO REGISTER - head to hookin2hockey.com.au, type in our Postcode and clinic on Echuca Hockey

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Call Ian on 0439821791

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 20th - Grade 6 Open Water Swimming

Friday 21st - Campaspe Swimming Carnival

Monday 24th - Grade 2 Gymnastics

Thursday 27th & Friday 28th - Grade 5 extra swimming