

St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 2 – Thursday 6th 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 2020 year has begun smoothly and it is always a highlight to see so many happy children wanting to be at school, enjoying time with old and new friends. I do hope the year ahead is a positive one for you all where you make good connections with your child's teacher. It is important that you make yourself known early in the term.

The building extensions are completed and we are very pleased to have such quality facilities. The library still requires shelving to be installed. I congratulate Dixon builders on the quality of work and thank them for working so well in a school environment.

Please note the following safety concerns/advice:

- 1: Some people are not giving way to bike riders and pedestrians when leaving the car park/ pick up zone. The signage is clear.
- 2: After picking up at the pick-up please check for entering busses before moving off. We have had some near misses.
- 3: We will not be supervising any crossing at the north/west corner of the oval. The new gate at the South west corner will be the exit point for children. If you are collecting children near the north / west corner, encourage them to use the main crossing and to make their way to you.
- 4: Please note that you are not to drive across any footpaths to park. This means no parking on the land either side of Bridlington Avenue at the East end of school.

Brendan Atley
Principal

Catholic identity

Today's [Wednesday's] reading is from the Gospel of Mark. [Mark 6: 7-13]

Jesus returns to his hometown.... he comes as a teacher. Yet his teaching is greeted not with wonder, but with contempt! Can you recall a time when you've felt too quickly disregarded or dismissed by those closest to you, those who know you too well? What did that feel like?

Now turn the tables for a moment..... Can you identify those around you, people you know who all too often get disregarded or shouted down? "Oh it's only so-and-so", you might say 'Don't worry about them.' How important would the message have to be before you took them seriously?

Try to imagine the scene, see the faces of the people from Jesus's hometown. Listen to what they say about him. Could such an amazing man come from such an ordinary town?

Ask God now for whatever you feel you may need, **an increase in faith** perhaps, or **maybe the ability to see God's power and love in all the ordinary things, as well as the amazing things around me.** Talk to God, and listen to what God has to say.

Spirit of God, deepen my faith, when you seem far away from me. Help me to see your presence in all things.

Beginning of the Year Mass

Next Thursday at 2:00 pm we will have our beginning of the year Mass. We would love as many parents as possible to join us for this celebration.

Baptism

There are a few students of primary and secondary age who have made enquiries to the Parish about becoming Baptised. Christine Sebire will be organising preparation sessions throughout this term for these students. If you know of any child who may be interested in becoming Baptised, please let me know. [Angela Finn]

Information Evening Welcome BBQ

Our information evening & welcome BBQ is on Tuesday 18th February at 6.00 pm – 7.30pm. ALL WELCOME.



Attendance

Regular attendance at school is critical to the development of the whole child.

If your child is unwell or not attending school for a specific reason please register this on PAM or call the office before 8:45am.

More details regarding the school attendance procedures will be shared in coming weeks.

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

Learner Diversity

We are very pleased to welcome Tess Ringin (Speech Therapy) and Leah Willams (Occupational Therapy) to St Mary's for 2020.

Tess will be here each week and Leah one day a fortnight

Let's learn to Knit



Lunchtime Knitting Club will start next Wednesday 12th Feb at Lunchtime in the Brigidine Centre. If you still have your knitting bag from last year please bring it along. Anyone keen to learn this fantastic skill is welcome to come along.

We look forward to welcoming back our wonderful volunteers from last year Jan, Bev, Marg, Sonja and Rae.

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 on 0417 822 589 or

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

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 refer to website for information:

www.ptv.vic.gov.au

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

Explaining Absences



Report your child's absence before school commences

Provide a reason for your child's absence

Notify the school of any upcoming absence

PAM Alerts.

If having trouble finding notifications in PAM.

Once logged in t PAM, click on Student Profile - Scroll down to School Activities.

All complete and incomplete activities will show here.

These stay in this area for future reference, you are always able to go here and find past information.



27th annual

Sunday, March 1

Ride/Run/Walk

AWMA Water Control Solutions
Cohuna Bridge to Bridge
Apex Park, Cohuna

Register online:
www.bridgetobridge.org.au

- Mawson's Mini Miller
- Gannawarra Shire Council 6.5km Fun Run/Walk
- Cohuna Waterfront Holiday Park 12.5km Trail Run
- Cohuna Auto Electrical 21.1km Trail Run
- 6.5km Junior Cycle
- Gannawarra Times 25km Cycle
- 50km Cycle



AWMA
Water Control Solutions

A major fundraiser for the
with proceeds going towards
an endoscopy camera.



Organised by
the Bridge to
Bridge
Committee
and the



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.



2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

TERM 1

3 rd - 7 th Feb	Swimming Year 3-6 (NO swimming Thurs 6 th)
10 th Feb	Grade 4 Gymnastics
11 th Feb	Bowls tournament Practice 5/6
13 th Feb	Whole School Mass
14 th Feb	Swimming Carnival Year 3-6
17 th Feb	Grade 3 Gymnastics
18 th Feb	Information Evening Welcome BBQ 6.00pm – 7.30pm
18 th Feb	Whole school Assembly 2.05pm
20 th Feb	Grade 6 Open Water Swimming
20 th Feb	Year 1 Mass at St Marys Church
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
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
27 th March	Caritas K's 9.00 – 10.45am
27 th March	End of Term.
14 th April	First day of Term 2

School Uniform

It is an expectation at St Mary's that all children wear our school uniform

Girls Winter Uniform

Navy pants
Optional: navy shorts or skort
Navy and Gold polo with school logo.
St Mary's School Jumper
Navy blue tights or white socks
Dark navy pleated tunic

Boys Winter Uniform

Grey school pants - long/short
Navy and Gold polo shirt with school logo
St Mary's School Jumper
White socks

Girls Summer Uniform

St Mary's School Dress
Dark navy tailored shorts or skort
Navy and Gold polo shirt with school logo
St Mary's School Jumper
St Mary's School Jacket
White socks

Boys Summer Uniform

Grey school pants – long/short
Navy and Gold polo shirt with school logo
St Mary's School Jumper
St Mary's School Jacket
White socks

Shoes

School shoes and boots are required to be all black.
Black running shoes are acceptable as school shoes, provided they are completely black.
Brown /Black sandals may be worn with summer uniform with no socks.

Hats

Broad brimmed hats with school logo or bucket hat with school logo
St Mary's School follows SunSmart Guidelines so school hats are to be worn for protection.
St. Mary's School Hat is compulsory for all children from January to the end of April and from September to December but can be worn at other times during year if required by weather conditions

Sports Uniform—Years 3—6

Boys: navy sports shorts only
Girls: navy sports shorts only
All shorts should be short-legged sports shorts,. No logos/stripes on shorts.
Navy track pants (No stripes/logos)
White socks (no colour/logos on white socks)
Sport shoes

The following guidelines regarding personal grooming are expected to be followed by all students at St Mary's School.

It is considered unnecessary to have extremes in hairstyles e.g. spray colouring, excessive spiking
Long hair should be tied back while at school. Children should wear the school colours blue or yellow for ribbons, clips etc.
Jewellery such as bracelets, necklaces and earrings should not be worn to school. Children with pierced ears are permitted to wear studs or sleepers.
Nail polish must be removed prior to attending school.
If for any reason your child cannot wear any part of the uniform, a note of explanation is to be sent to the class teacher. Our uniform standard is as stated.
If you have any queries, please contact the School Office.

Uniforms may be purchased from Lords Fashion Centre, 198 - 200 Hare St, and phone: 54821364
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm, Saturday 9:00am - 1:30pm

Subject to change

INSIGHTS

Working closely with your child's teacher this year



In my work as a presenter and educator I've visited hundreds of schools, spoken with hundreds of school leaders and worked with many educational innovators and researchers at the forefront of modern education. These people and experiences have given me valuable insights into what makes great schools tick.

Strong parent-teacher relationships are one of the hallmarks of all great schools. They're a major contributor to student success. The research into schooling across the Western world reveals that positive parent-teacher partnerships are a more significant factor in student success than parent income levels or social status.

However, parent-teacher relationships require effort and energy from both parties if they are going to really benefit children and young people.

Way to help form strong bonds with your child's teachers this year:

Knowing (building affinity)

Know – the first element – requires you to be both proactive and patient. *Proactive because you need to be willing to meet and work at maintaining relationships. Patient because it may take some time to build a working relationship.* For your partnership to be meaningful and successful you need to meet with your children's teacher(s) with the goal of forming a respectful professional relationship. Share your aspirations for your child and be willing to build the teacher's knowledge about your family.

Get to know your child's teachers' aspirations and gain an understanding of their approach and the focus they have for this particular year group. Also commit to continuing to know what's going on in the life of your child's classrooms as well as the life of the school on an ongoing basis.

Supporting (building trust)

Children need to know that you are fully behind what their teachers are trying to achieve if they are going to commit fully to learning. The best way to support your child's teacher is to trust their knowledge, professionalism and experience. Avoid the temptation to question the expertise of teachers in front of students, particularly when the teachers use methods that you are unfamiliar with. Initiate conversations with teachers around methodology to give them the chance to explain the approach they are taking.

Participating (building links to student learning)

Participation – the third element – takes into account the level of parent engagement in student learning. There's a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent engagement in student learning and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning, take an interest in what he is doing. Follow school and teacher guidelines about helping at home and attend as many conferences, meetings and events involving your child as possible. This simple strategy has a significant, long-term impact.

Communicating (building relationships)

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids of any age. Family circumstances change. Friends move away. Illness happens. Mental health challenges can hit anyone at any time. These changes affect learning. Keep teachers up to date with significant changes or difficulties that your child or young person experiences so they can accommodate your child's emotional and learning needs at school.

Advocating (building loyalty)

Advocacy – the last element – means that you talk teachers and your school up rather than tear them down among children and the wider community. Teachers hold very public positions and generally work hard to build good reputations both within their school and their wider education community. Consider a teacher's reputation among the community and also with children when you discuss educational matters with others.

Building parent-teacher relationships doesn't just happen. They take good will from both sides, a commitment to setting aside the time necessary to support the home-based learning tasks that are expected, and a willingness to communicate both concerns and commendations through the correct channels.

Parent-teacher relationships – long may they prosper!

SPORTS REPORT

Sports Reporters

Welcome Darcy Cullen, Gus McMahon, Max Connelly, Ashley Tenace, Tess Rohde & Lochie Paterson to the sport reporters team this year. These leaders will be speaking at assembly each fortnight about all things sports. They will also help me write the Newsletter column each week.

Thanks to Mr Atley, Mrs Lloyd & the P&F

Last year Mr Atley, Mrs Lloyd and the P&F put their heads together to solve a problem we had with our Sporting tournament uniforms. When our amazing Girls Football team made it to State last year, we realised that we were in need of a new set of Football jumpers and even shorts (at that level they need to match).

This group of brain stormers also believed it would be nice for all netball teams to be wearing dresses, and not just two teams each week.

Thank you to the P&F for supporting the ideas from Mr Atley & Mrs Lloyd. We now have a brand new matching Football jumper & shorts set, and 25 new netball dresses with bright bibbers for the days they play each other. We are very fortunate that we have such amazing parents to raise money and work with us to provide new and exciting things for students to utilise. See our models Lochie & Tess in the new uniforms purchased



GYMNASTICS - Sports Grant

We are also fortunate to be a part of the Sporting Schools Victoria. This allows us to apply for Grants termly to give us access to extra sporting opportunities for the students. This term we have decided to allocate the funding to Gymnastics from Grade 1-4. The following dates are when the students will be participating in the gymnastics. This is an 'incursion' which means there will be no need for permission to be signed on PAM.

- Grade 1 - Monday 3rd February
- Grade 4 - Monday 10th February
- Grade 3 - Monday 17th February
- Grade 2 - Monday 24th February
- Grade 1 - Monday 2nd March

On these days the students will participate in an hour session with Emma from John Palmer's Gymnastics.

Swimming Carnival

Our annual Swimming Carnival for Grade 3-6 is being held on Friday 14th February at the Echuca War Memorial Swimming Pool. The approximate times will be on PAM by Monday 10th February. The carnival will be starting at 10am and finish at 2:30pm. If you are able to help please email me on ccarter@smechuca.catholic.edu.au