

St Mary's Newsletter

Issue 3 – Thursday 13th 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 children have settled quickly into routine and I thank you all for having your children so well prepared for school. It is one of life's significant moments when you send your children to school for the first time, trusting that they will be cared for and provided for adequately. Thank you for placing that trust in us. It is a responsibility we take very seriously.

I need to remind you that we are obligated to follow up school absence appropriately for compliance. If your child is marked absent by the teacher, you will receive a text. We expect you to respond to this to ensure your child is safe. If we cannot contact you we try your emergency contact and then if there is still no response we need to ring the Police. So, you can see that it is very important that the contact numbers that you have given the school are up to date and accessible (mostly in the morning.) If you know your child is going to be away, you can go into PAM with your login (contact the office if you cannot access this) and go to the Parent Notified Absence tab. To avoid the school notification text, you will need to contact the school prior to 9.15. It is so important that if your child is late to school that they sign in at the office.

I had a very concerned resident speak with me this morning after near miss yesterday when a father was on his phone and his child has darted across the road missing the oncoming car narrowly. If you are parking down Whitby Crt or across the road at the East end of the school, have your children use the crossing. The crossing is there to keep your children safe. Please use it. If unsafe crossing of children continues at this point, we will be forced to close the entry gate there.

Our aim is to have healthy teachers maintaining high standards. To assist this, we are not expecting them to respond to work emails outside of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday during term time. Staff will normally endeavour to respond to emails within 24-48 hours. However, they are not expected to respond in this timeframe during weekends and term breaks. I ask that you work within these guidelines.

I hope many of you can make the BBQ and Information evening next Tuesday the 18th 6pm.

Brendan Atley
Principal

Catholic identity

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is **set on a lampstand**, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, **your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.**" Mtt 5:14-16*

Reflection

Jesus gives us a beautiful image of ourselves as light. Jesus tells us that we need to be seen; to be visible to others in order to share our gifts, especially the gift of faith.

The image of light is powerful. Without light, we stumble and struggle through our lives. For us, Jesus is the light that guides us through the darkness and he exhorts us, in turn, to share our light with

everyone we encounter. Jesus tells us that our good deeds should be visible - not for us to be admired or feted, but so that we can be the light of God's love in a world that is often in the darkness of sorrow, pain or tragedy.

There is an imperative in this gospel text. **"You are the light of the world."** (Matt. 5:14) The emphasis is on the word 'you'.

God of Light & Love, May we let our light shine in the world - use our gifts and be unafraid to spread the Good News of Jesus by the way we speak and act. Amen.

Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day / School Photos: Tuesday February 25th.

What a busy day!!! **Pancakes** in the morning. **Burning the Palms Liturgy** to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. School photos throughout the day.

All are welcome to attend this liturgy on Tuesday Feb 25th at 2 pm.

Ash Wednesday: There will be a brief liturgy and ashes will be distributed at **9 am Wednesday 26th** February.

Meditation on the Daily Readings: In the St Mary's Church at 8.15 am Wednesdays .

Sacraments: Our Parish *Steps in Faith* sacramental preparation for children to receive the sacraments of **Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist [Communion]** will kick off **25th March** with **enrolments** before that. More information to follow.

The Parish will also be **preparing young people (Primary and Secondary) for Baptism** this term; so if you know of anyone who is interested please let us know.

Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 1st March 9am - St Mary's Parish has registered to clean up the area along the river from the port to the Bridge – Meet under the bridge behind the Echuca Visitor Information Centre. **Bring your sunscreen and sturdy shoes. Gloves, bags and morning tea provided!**

Information Evening & WELCOME BBQ

You are all invited to our Information session and BBQ on TUESDAY 18th February 6pm.

The format for the evening:

- 6pm Gather in Brigidine Centre for a brief information sharing session
- 6:30pm Meet and Greet in classrooms and share a sausage or hamburger provided by the parents and friends group.

This is a great opportunity to meet new families, say hello to your child's teacher and become familiar with the organization of our school.

You will receive a personal invitation from your child today! Please RSVP via the link on the St Mary's Facebook Page.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

PANCAKES!

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.

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.

P&F SURVEY RESULTS



Majority supported the same events to be run in 2020

This includes: BBQ information night, Catering events throughout the year, Mothers Day Event, Big Night Out, Fathers Day Breakfast, Golf day & the Fete bi-annually



Things to change

Mothers Day format, review donations for the art show, more family activities, include a pie drive, identify which events are for profit and which events are for non profit.



suggested event ideas

Year level to be in charge of an event, disco or trivia night, pie drive, fun run, end of term bbq, crazy hair/sock day, dads night out, mother night out



frequency of events

79% said "don't change a thing - it's just right"



The purpose of the P&F

100% percent answered social events, friendships, fundraising, school board liaison & fun

83 responded to the online survey

Thank you for your feedback, we really appreciate your ideas & support

Parents and Friends Survey Results

Thank you to our P&F community for completing the 2019 end of year P&F survey. We value your feedback and are working hard to ensure it is captured in the planning for our 2020 events.

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. Schoolonline.com.au



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

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.



Getting the same answer at the end of every day?

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

- What made you smile today?
- What did you read about today?
- How were you brave today?
- Did you learn a new word today?
- Can you teach me something I don't know?

Learning Conversations 3rd March

Learning conversations will take place on Tuesday 3rd March 8:30 - 6pm. Booking information will be sent home via newsletter and PAM on Monday 24th February.

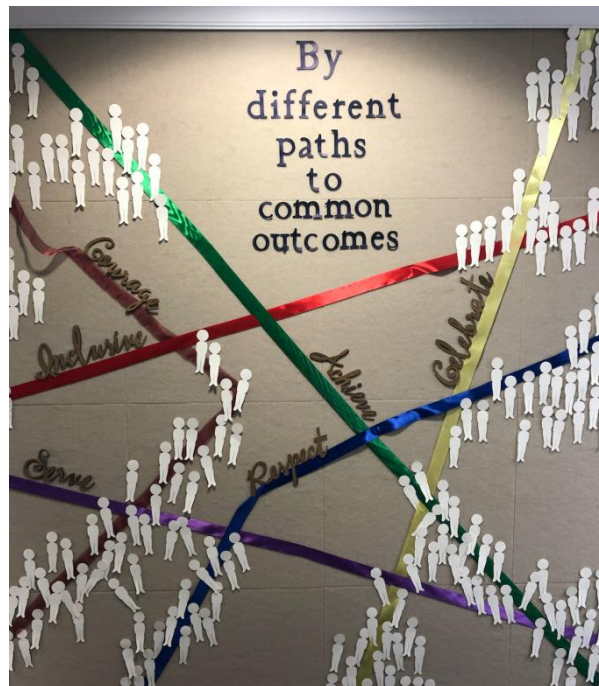
Looking forward to welcoming all families on this day.

By Different Pathways to a Common Outcome

Last year we were 'Hunting for the Good', this year we are celebrating the different and diverse skills, gifts, talents and achievements of members of our school community.

This week we recognise

Miss Pearson and Miss Kearney for their **COURAGE**. It is very courageous and brave starting your teaching career. We love having you at St Mary's.



Will Walsh and Sierra Carfora Norris **SERVING** our community by leading us with confidence and polish Assembly



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.



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.

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

PAM Alerts.

If having trouble finding notifications in PAM.

Once logged in to 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.

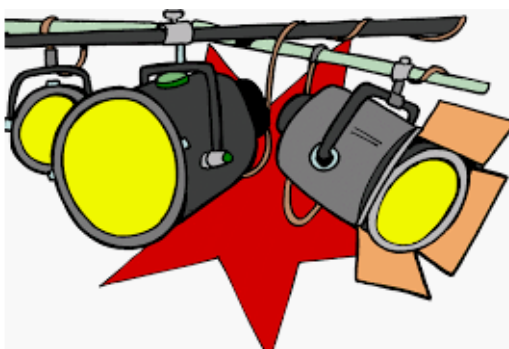
Performing Arts

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

**2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR****TERM 1**

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 Mary's 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
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
27 th March	Caritas K's 9.00 – 10.45am
27 th March	End of Term.
14 th April	First day of Term 2

Unexplained Absences

If a student is absent without reason, the school will contact the parent

If contact cannot be made with the parent, the emergency contact/s will be contacted to ensure the safety of the student



Attendance Matters

Let's learn to Knit

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

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

awma
Water Control Solutions

Organised by the Bridge to Bridge Committee and the



Lunchtime Knitting Club has started 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.

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.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is a worldwide event that raises awareness about online safety and encourages everyone to help create a better internet.

Safer Internet Day aims to create both a **safer** and a **better** internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

This term in the Digital Technology Specialist's area we will look at Media use and it's connection to wellbeing. Some of the mantras we will be using are "Pause for People" and having 'device-free moments' in our lives ensuring we have a balance with other important life events and people.

I encourage families to openly have conversations with your children around technology use in the home and developing healthy habits early on. Attached to this newsletter is a resource that may be helpful. – Sarah Dicker



Safer Internet Day 2020 | Tuesday
11 February
Together for a better internet



**Start the chat before
someone else does**



**Safer Internet Day
2020** | Tuesday
11 February
Together for a better internet

Start the chat about online safety and help make every day a Safer Internet Day!

Join in the Safer Internet Day buzz

This year Safer Internet Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, 11 February 2020. The theme is 'Together for a better internet' and Australia's eSafety Commissioner is encouraging parents to mark the day by starting family conversations about online safety.

You can download our Safer Internet Day resources at esafety.gov.au/sid and use them to start the chat about online safety with your family.

Explore Australia's online safety hub

Check out eSafety's great range of advice and resources. Get started by visiting our **parents and carers** pages and reading the practical tips for kicking off an online safety conversation. You can also download our **'Parents guide to online safety' booklet** (available in 5 languages), look through **eSafety Kids** with your family or get familiar with our **step by step advice** for reporting different types of online abuse. **Find out more at esafety.gov.au**

Join our free parent webinar

The session will cover how to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and cyberbullying.

Helping Kids Thrive Online

12th February 2020 at 8:00 PM (AEDT) 14th February at 2020 12:00 PM (AEDT) **Register now at esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars**



esafety.gov.au/sid



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
Email: aegmthomas@gmail.com

Johnno's Run 2020
Building homes for people with disability

Launch & information night!
Monday 2 March 2020

Shebani's Chicken Spit at 6.00pm
Scenic Drive, Echuca
Gold Coin Donation
RSVP: events@clrs.org.au

The Early Bird prize valued at \$980 will be drawn on the night

Launch proudly supported by

Community Living & Respite Services
26A Percy Street Echuca
P: 5480 2388 | clrs.org.au
@CLRSINC

Event Sponsor: **MOAMA**

Major Sponsors: **SHEDANI'S, BRANDRICK, LACTALIS, FOREVER FRESH, EMPORIAN, RIVERINE, HERALD, GLENVIEW, BELL, GLENVIEW, BELL**



St. Mary's School

PH: 0436 819 832 www.schoolsout.net.au

SCHOOL'S OUT!



TAKING BOOKINGS FOR ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SCHOOL AND ST. MARYS, ECHUCA!



The last week at Schools Out was filled with lots of exciting games and activities. On Monday we made everyone's favourite, slime! We mixed all the ingredients together and chose either pink or blue colour to add, both being glow in the dark. It was a messy and sticky experience and everyone got to take home some of their very own slime.

On Tuesday afternoon we made chocolate coated strawberries. We melted chocolate and everyone got to dip their own strawberries to take home to share with their family, even though a few were snuck in before mum and dad came to pick them up.



On Wednesday we got to make our very own jam from scratch. The children carefully chopped up the strawberries, put them in a saucepan with blueberries and sugar and watched the mixture turn into a delicious jam. Another yummy creation to take home and share with their family! Thursday brought back the warm weather and with it, a water fight! While having afternoon tea and icy-poles outside, water guns were filled up and the games began. Even the teachers weren't safe from being sprayed with water. We then made 'nice-cream' with bananas, raspberries and coconut milk, which was a welcomed treat in the heat. On Friday morning we made pancakes for breakfast! Mini Masterchefs helped make the mixture, which made them all the more delicious to eat!

Friday afternoon saw the water guns come out again and because the weather was so beautiful, we spent most of the afternoon playing outside, playing tiggy on the oval and getting messy in the sandpit. Throughout the week, playing giant Uno and making Lego creations was a huge hit. It's so awesome seeing their creativity shine through with the Lego! We have made cubby houses, played team ball games and spent a lot of time running around the oval, in the sandpit and on the playground. We are looking forward to another fun-filled week here at Schools Out!

SPORTS REPORT

SWIMMING SPORTS

Tomorrow we have our Annual School Swimming Sports. The Grade 3-6 students will all head down to the Echuca War Memorial Pool at 10am. All the information in on the PAM permission notification you would have received last week. All times for the events are an estimate and at times we do run ahead and behind the allotted times for events.

Reminders:

- that the students need to wear their PE uniform or a T-Shirt (no singlets or tank tops please) in their house colour. They may also wear their thongs to and from school that day.
 - Students will not have access to buy anything from the pool front desk.
 - Please make sure they have sunscreen on and they have enough water and healthy food for the day.
- We are looking forward to seeing parents/grandparents and friends down at the pool supporting. We ask if you take your child at the end of the day, that you use the sign out sheets near the scoring table inside.

***make sure you are there for a special new event at 2:00pm - it is bound to please!

SOUTHERN 80

On the 8th of February we had a student from our school compete in the Southern 80. Curtis Carne in Grade 4 raced behind the boat 'Viper F2' and came 8th in the Under 10's class. Congratulations on an amazing job Curtis. Written By - Max Connelly



PIRATES BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Over the weekend we had a brave team of Pirates who competed at the Albury/Wodonga junior Basketball Tournament. Two of the teams took out the main honour, and one of the other teams took out runners up which is an amazing effort

Our Grand Final Winners were the u12s girls team & the u12s boys team. The u14s girls team came Runners-up.



Here is a list of the people who competed - Elise Napier, Sadie Jones, Georgia Beasley, Oliver Jones, Grace Napier, Kai Anderson, Charlie Sutton, Jack Alberni, Liam Beasley, Will Hatfield, Arly Walker, Arli Canham, Keoni Anderson, Paddy Oliver, Jack Oliver, Tess Rohde, Rose Byrne, Indi Phillips, Charlie Gotch, Beth Morris, Eve Hatfield and Emma Oellermann.

Well done on working as a team and being active!

Written By - Darcy Cullen

Photo - Winning U12's Girls Team.

BOWLS TOURNAMENT PRACTISE

On Tuesday 11th February Dan Larkin took the 5/6 Lawn Bowls team to the Moama Bowling Club to practise for their upcoming tournament. The students enjoyed their afternoon and learnt more about the game. They even had the opportunity to win Frinkle vouchers. Well done Sam Williamson, Jess Rosa and Noah Chapman for winning the vouchers on the day

Thank you to Luke Carter & Corey Walsh at the Moama Bowling Club 'Greens' for organising and taking the kids for the session.



The student that attended the practise session will compete in the annual Primary school tournament on Friday 6th March.