



# St Mary's Primary School

We aspire, we include, we achieve.

Newsletter # 4 | 13 March 2024



## News from the Principal

**Annice Lappin**  
Principal

Dear Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed the recent long weekend, particularly with the great beach and pool weather we had for the three days! I am grateful that the cooler weather has brought some relief at school this week.

This week is recognised as **Catholic Education Week**. It is a time to celebrate and be grateful for all the blessings a Catholic education brings. I am particularly grateful for our school community and the many contributions made by many, that make St Mary's School a wonderful place.

Over the past few weeks, many of our students have been able to attend events held off the school premises. These have included; Ash Wednesday Mass, World Day of Prayer, Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball lightning premierships and the Foundation to Year 4 Swimming Program. The feedback from adults in attendance has been extremely positive, complementing our students' overall behaviour, manners and enthusiastic participation. It is wonderful that our students are consistently displaying the values of respect, responsibility and safety, both at school and when out and about in the community.

This week, NAPLAN testing begins. If your child/ren are in Year 3 and 5, we ask you to ensure that they are at school on time to ensure that they are prepared to undertake the assessments and that they are not disrupting any other students.

Last week's swimming lessons were a great success, particularly the increased lesson time and the decreased number of days. Having been at the pool three of the five days, it was rewarding to see many students' water safety and swimming skills improve. Thank you to the staff for their supervision and support of all students while undertaking this offsite activity. Thank you to the families who were able to attend to assist with their children's changing. Thank you to everyone for adhering to our child safety standards while at the pool.

**Western Regional Bishop, Martin Ashe** will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Confirmation candidates next Thursday, 21 March. Thank you to **Caitlin Steven**, our Religious Education Leader and our teachers who have prepared these candidates in partnership with their families, the first and best educators of their children in the ways of the Catholic faith. Please pray for these young people as they take this most important step on their Sacramental journey.

An audit of our home reading books has recently been completed, revealing that a significant number of home reading books are missing, particularly from our Year 1/2 collection. These are a significant cost to replace and individual books are not able to be replaced, but rather, sets need to be purchased. **I ask that all families look for and return any found, outstanding books and are diligent in ensuring all home reading books are returned, once read by their child/ren.** Students will also be reminded of this request, by their teachers.

The **Parents and Friends' Association** will meet tonight for the second time this year, at 7:00pm in the St Mary's School staffroom. The many contributions of our families, builds a valuable partnership between home and school, which benefits everyone in our faith and learning community. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and everyone is encouraged to support the events and activities planned for this year.

The final two weeks of Term 1 have many exciting events and activities remaining, including our annual **Easter Raffle**. If you are yet to purchase tickets (see page 7), I encourage you to hop to it! The raffle will be drawn after our end of term, Holy Week liturgy on Wednesday, 27 March. I hope to see many of you there as we celebrate the conclusion of a great first term.

*Kind Regards, Annice Lappin*



ST MARY'S SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE, NURTURING AND EMPOWERING CULTURE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

## CALENDAR

### **TERM 1**

#### **Week 7**

**Wednesday 13 March**  
NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5)

**P&FA Meeting**, School Staffroom  
7:00 pm

**Thursday 14 March**  
NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5), **9:05 am**

**Friday 15 March**  
**LUNCH ORDER DAY**, Routley's  
1:00 to 1:30 pm  
**MANNIX FEAST DAY**  
(Students wear of touch of red; school uniform or casual clothes)

#### **Week 8**

**Monday 18 March**  
NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5), **9:05 am**

**2025 School Tours**  
9:15am & 12:00pm

**Tuesday 19 March**  
NAPLAN (Yrs 3 & 5), **9:05 am**

**Thursday 21 March**  
Sacrament of Confirmation; 5:00pm

**Friday 22 March**  
**P&FA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY**

**2024 School  
STAFF  
Email List**

Follow the [link](#)



**FAMILY  
HANDBOOK**

Scan the QR  
Code or  
follow the [link](#)



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.



## News from the Deputy Principal

Marie Monea  
Deputy Principal

Dear Families,

This term's learning has focused on **Civics & Citizenship** and the **Personal & Social capability**. To celebrate our term's learning, all learning spaces will be "open" on **Tuesday 26 March between 3:30pm - 4:30pm**.

A **warm invitation is extended to all families to join us**, staying for as 'long' or as 'little' as the family diary allows.

We are hopeful that this **Open Classroom afternoon** provides a 'window' into the rich learning experiences that have occurred throughout the term. We hope you can join us!

This week, I spoke with students regarding the importance of being safe in and around our school, particularly looking both ways when crossing Little Myers Street and only saying hello to people that we know. We have included a link to the **Safety 4 Kids website** and thank families for their support in discussing topics such as **road safety, stranger danger** and **online safety** in age appropriate language.

**Cari Saluti,**  
Marie Monea

[Safety4Kids](http://www.safety4kids.com)



# Open CLASSROOMS

**Tuesday 26 March; 3:30PM - 4:30PM**

## Foundation

Along with learning all about respectful, responsible and safe behaviours at St Mary's School, Foundation students have enjoyed a particular focus on **Nursery Rhymes**. Expect a spotlight on **Roses are Red** and **Little Miss Muffet** ... but let's hope the spiders are not real!

## Year 1/2

It has been all about exploring the 'world' of **Fairy Tales** in Year 1/2.

Be ready to read the vocabulary-rich imaginative **Narrative Writing** pieces, complete with a castle craft!

## Year 3/4

Do we have a future Prime Minister in the making?

Year 3/4 students will be showcasing their **Persuasive Writing** piece about **Rules and Laws**.

## Year 5/6

Year 5/6 students have been learning about **Government and Democracy**.





Student-created pyramids that describe the **Three Levels of Government** will be on display.

**YEAR 5/6 STUDENTS**  
**Wear Sport Uniform**  
**Monday 18/3 & Wednesday 20/3**

**ALL STUDENTS**  
**Wear Sport Uniform**  
**Tuesday 26/3**

## Term 1 School Calendar, 2024

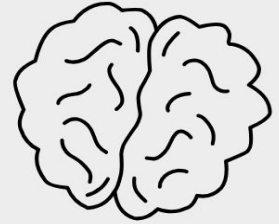


Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7	MAR 11 SCHOOL CLOSED Labour Day Public Holiday	MAR 12	MAR 13 NAPLAN (Years 3&5) Assessment Period Opens Newsletter Day 7:00pm Parents & Friends' Meeting, School Staffroom	MAR 14	MAR 15 LUNCH ORDER DAY Routley's Bakery MANNIX FEAST DAY 
8	MAR 18 9:15am 2025 School Tour	MAR 19	MAR 20	MAR 21 5:00pm Sacrament of Confirmation 	MAR 22 NAPLAN (Years 3&5) Assessment Period Ends FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
9	MAR 25 PSG Meetings	MAR 26 CROSS COUNTRY F-2 (School Site) 3-6 (Eastern Gardens)  Open Classrooms; 3:30pm—4:30 pm 	MAR 27 2025 Foundation Enrolments (Siblings) Close 12:30 pm School Assembly (1/2 Pearl) Newsletter Day. Easter Raffle Draw. End of Term 1: 1:00pm	MAR 28 STUDENT FREE DAY	MAR 29 SCHOOL CLOSED: Good Friday 

## Term 2 School Calendar, 2024

Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	APR 15	APR 16	APR 17 District Cross Country Newsletter Day	APR 18 9:15am 2025 School Tour	APR 19 2025 Foundation Enrolments (New Families) CLOSE
2	APR 22	APR 23	APR 24 School Athletics Day, Landy Field	APR 25 Anzac Day SCHOOL CLOSED	APR 26
3	APR 29 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Topaz)	APR 30	MAY 1 District AFL 7 Soccer Newsletter Day 7:00pm Parents & Friends' Meeting, School Staffroom	MAY 2	MAY 3
4	MAY 6	MAY 7 Mother's Day Breakfast— 8:15am & Liturgy 8:50am	MAY 8 District Netball	MAY 9	MAY 10
5	MAY 13 3:00pm School Assembly (3/4 Onyx)	MAY 14	MAY 15 Newsletter Day	MAY 16 Year 5 Faith Formation Evening; 6:00pm to 7:00 pm	MAY 17
6	MAY 20	MAY 21	MAY 22	MAY 23	MAY 24

# PSYCH CORNER



by Dani Spencer (Provisional Psychologist)

## The Emotional Experience of Stress

Childhood is often perceived as a carefree and joyful time, but the reality is that even the youngest members of our community can experience stress. Stress in children can manifest in various ways. Understanding the emotional experience of stress in children is crucial for parents, educators, and caregivers to provide the necessary support and guidance.

As mentioned in last fortnight's newsletter, the stress response is the system the body uses to energise us to face challenges. When we believe we have the resources needed to meet a challenge, we experience this pleasantly. We call this state *eustress*. Eustress involves emotions such as excitement, motivation, curiosity and confidence. Situations where a child might experience eustress in school include learning a challenging topic of interest to them, sitting a test they have prepared well for, playing a game they've just learned, or talking to a new companion they like.



If we believe we do not have the resources needed to meet a challenge, we experience this unpleasantly. We call this state *distress*. We experience emotions such as fear, irritability, confusion, overwhelm, or despair. School situations that may lead to distress include dealing with conflict with peers, being set a task that they believe is too difficult, or, for some children, being away from caregivers for extended periods.

We can lessen the distress, but not the level of challenge, experienced by children by

- **Acknowledging the challenges they are striving to meet** - 'This reader looks tricky'.
- **helping them rethink their resources** - 'Do you think you might have enough time to do it if you do some now and some tomorrow?'
- **providing them with more resources** - 'What about if we do this bit together?'
- **recognising when it is going to take time to develop the resources they need** - 'This looks like a big challenge, that we might need to break into smaller chunks and work towards over time'.





## Religious Education News

**Caitlin Steven**  
*Religious Education Leader*

Dear Families,

Congratulations to our **Year 6 students**, who will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, next Thursday. The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated by **Bishop Martin Ashe**, along with **Fr Jim Clarke** and **Fr Jude Johnston**.



### Please pray for:

Charlotte Bowman  
Tilly Buckingham  
Henry Erlenbusch  
Patrick Humphries  
Saige Jolley  
Erika Kanellos  
Olivia Kearney  
Nate Kelly  
Vera Kelly  
Will King  
Louis Lloyd  
Audrey Palmer  
Max Phillips  
Archer Trott  
Mia Bartolo  
Giulia De Marte  
James Di Giandomenico  
Maci Flanders  
Mia Halley  
Matylda Markham  
Real Martins  
Alfie Oliver  
Henry Owen  
Hattie Palmer  
Rafe Williams  
Celeste Banks  
Max Davidson  
Dino Fernando  
Isabelle Joyce  
Zac Kelcey  
Lucinda Kurelja  
Harry McGowan  
Peyton Muisen-Khoury  
Audrey Mulder  
Michael Posterino  
Olliver Ruyg  
Frances Walsh  
Giselle Zaljevic



## Sacrament of Baptism

Next term, I will be facilitating a **Baptism Preparation Program** for students of families who wish to have their child/ren baptised.

The Baptism Preparation Program will consist of 4 one-hour lessons, taking place on Monday afternoons: **6 May, 13 May, 27 May and 3 June**. Parents/Carers/Guardians do not attend these sessions.

The Program introduces Baptism as the sacrament of initiation into the Church community and focuses on the key symbols and actions used in the Rite of Baptism.

This school-based Preparation Program will be offered every third year and completion of this Program enables eligibility for Baptism at St Mary of the Angels' Parish, this year.

If you would like to enrol your child in the Baptism Preparation Program please complete this Google form ([Click here](#)) by **Wednesday 27 March**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

[crippon@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:crippon@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

## Foundation 2025 Enrolment

# Foundation 2025

**Enrolments OPEN 26 February 2024**  
**Enrolments CLOSE:**  
**Current School Families 27 March 2024**  
**New School Families 19 April 2024**

## SCHOOL TOUR DATES:

Tuesday 27 February, 2024 | 9:15 am

Monday 18 March, 2024 | 9:15 am

Thursday 18 April, 2024 | 9:15 am

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL 66-68 Lt Myers Street, Geelong**

Tour bookings open 30 January | Book your school tour at:  
[www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au/enrolments](http://www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au/enrolments)



## Enrolment Process

### CURRENT SCHOOL FAMILIES (Siblings)

**First Round Offers**  
**By T2, Week 1**

**Enrolment Interviews**  
**Monday 13 May**  
*Link will be sent via the offer letter*

Current Families at the school **DO NOT** pay a \$50 non-refundable **application** for enrolment deposit.

### NEW SCHOOL FAMILIES

**Enrolment Interviews**  
**Monday 22 April**  
**Tuesday 23 April**  
*Link to book will be sent when application and enrolment deposit received*

**First Round Offers**  
**24 April**

New Families to the school pay a \$50 non-refundable **application** for enrolment deposit.

### Enrolment Form

*Hardcopy Enrolment Forms available at the school office.*

**Book a School Tour**

## St Mary's School Parents & Friends' Association



**HOP TO IT!!!  
PLEASE SUPPORT  
ST MARY'S SCHOOL P&FA**

# Easter Egg Raffle!

**Tickets \$1 each  
Purchase via Trybooking:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CPHWQ>  
Raffle drawn Wednesday 27 March  
at School Assembly 12:30 pm**

**Any Queries contact Simone Shannon:  
0438 089 906**



This week Ruth signed the school's personal copies of her book, *The Dinosaur Did It*. Ruth read the book to some St Mary's School classes.

*The Dinosaur Did It* is available in all good bookstores.

## Community News



**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SUNDAY 24TH MARCH | 10.30AM**

2 separate sections  
'the Little Tackers Section' 0-5 years,  
and the 'General Hunt Area' 5 years +

All profits going towards student resources at the College

Tickets are available via the below link  
and the QR code [www.trybooking.com/COOMZ](https://www.trybooking.com/COOMZ)  
Thanks to the Parents and Friends Association for this 'eggcellent' event.





## Secondary School: OPEN DAYS



*Come and See*  
**OPEN DAYS 2024**

**Wednesday 13, Friday 15  
and Friday 22 March 2024**

### Multiple Information and Tour Sessions

Bookings are essential  
and can be made online from  
Wednesday 31 January 2024

[clonard.vic.edu.au](http://clonard.vic.edu.au)



## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE GEELONG COLLEGE TOURS

St Joseph's College Geelong invite you to join our College Tours this semester.

We are proud to continue offering an innovative education, and we welcome all senior primary school boys and their families to come and visit us.

Year 7 applications for 2025 are now open, apply via the college website.

Bookings essential, register via our College Website: [sjc.vic.edu.au](http://sjc.vic.edu.au)



**Tours commence at 9:00am**

Monday 18 March    Wednesday 20 March  
Tuesday 26 March    Wednesday 27 March  
Wednesday 17 April    Friday 19 April

**Enrol to learn.  
Graduate to lead.**

Saint Ignatius College Geelong

[www.ignatius.vic.edu.au](http://www.ignatius.vic.edu.au)

**ENROL NOW  
FOR YEAR 7 2025**

Open Tour Dates:

- MONDAY 18 MARCH 4.15 PM – 5.45 PM
- TUESDAY 19 MARCH 11.00 AM – 12.30 PM
- WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 11.00 AM – 12.30 PM
- THURSDAY 21 MARCH 9.00 AM – 10.30 AM
- THURSDAY 21 MARCH 4.15 PM – 5.45 PM

**BOOK A TOUR ONLINE NOW**  
[IONA.VIC.EDU.AU](http://IONA.VIC.EDU.AU)

**DISCOVERY  
DAY 2024**

**FRIDAY 22 MARCH**

[shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

**BOOK  
ONLINE  
TODAY**

*Discover life at  
Sacred Heart College*



## Community News



POTTERY STUDIO-EVENTS & GALLERY

### School Holiday's Pottery & Craft Sessions

Tue 2nd April 10am-12pm Kids Pottery Class  
 Wed 3rd April 2pm-4pm Kids Pottery Class  
 Fri 12th April 1pm-3pm Kids Pottery Class

Additional classes will be listed on these dates and other dates if these book out. Adults may book a spot for themselves to join in and make something as well. You can either stay or drop off.

**\$55 per person for 2 hours. Includes clay, colours, glazes and 2 kiln firings.**

To book visit the website <https://hazytales.com/events/events-calendar/>

These are a few of the other things we do at Hazy Tales Studio:  
 Bespoke Pottery Parties for Adults & Kids. Custom events. Hen parties.  
 Adult evening 'Clay & Cocktails by Candlelight'. Porcelain products & jewellery for sale.

16 MAYALL WAY, DRYSDALE, BELLARINE [sally@hazytales.com](mailto:sally@hazytales.com) 0439 709 492  
[www.hazytales.com](http://www.hazytales.com)



★★★★★  
 "I wish there were programs like this when I was at school. Great opportunity for the young generations" - Jose, parent.

**Junior Engineers** Presents **AQUA MODE**  
 CODING AND ROBOTICS FOR KIDS

Want to know more?  
 ✉ [customerservice@junioengineers.com.au](mailto:customerservice@junioengineers.com.au)  
 ☎ 1300 089 344  
 🌐 [junioengineers.com.au](http://junioengineers.com.au)

### School Holiday Coding and Robotics Camps

**Beginner Courses:**

- STARS EXPLORE: Ages 5 - 8 years
- STARS MASTER: Ages 9 - 10 years
- NEW! STARS ADVANCED: Ages 6 - 8 years
- NEW! STARS CODE: Ages 7 - 12 years
- ULTIMATE ROBOTICS: Ages 7 - 12 years
- ROBOTICS: Ages 8 - 12 years

**Intermediate Courses:**

- ROBOTICS: Ages 10 - 13 years
- ROBOTICS: Ages 10 - 13 years

**Various Locations**  
 Across VIC In Greater Melbourne including Geelong and Mornington Peninsula  
 All classes are open to the public

**OR Learn ONLINE**

## 2024 Staff Email List

Follow the [link](#)



## Family Handbook

Scan the QR Code or follow the [link](#)



**f** Facebook:  
[@St.MarysPrimaryGeelong](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysPrimaryGeelong)

**Instagram:**  
[stmarys\\_ps\\_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/stmarys_ps_geelong)  
**Twitter:**  
[@StMarysPS3220](https://twitter.com/StMarysPS3220)  
**School Website:**  
[www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)  
**Parent Portal** password - **mary175**



St Mary's School, Geelong  
[www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

T: 5229 9453

Newsletter # 4  
 Term 1—Week 7