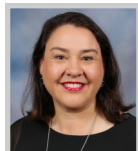




St Mary's Primary School

We aspire, we include, we achieve.

Newsletter # 13 | 9 August 2023



News from the Principal

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who made last Wednesday's School Feast Day so successful. Mass was a special whole school celebration with many families joining us. The students enjoyed the many activities on offer and the sausage sizzle was a welcome treat. Congratulations to the Novak family, the winners of the 10kg Chocolate Block raffle, which raised \$697. These special days are the ones that your children will have fond memories of for a very long time.

Last Sunday, during the parish feast day celebrations, the parish formally farewelled Fr Jaycee. We sincerely thank **Fr Jaycee** for his many valuable contributions to St Mary's School and wish him all the very best as he takes up his new position at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.

Last Friday, our National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) was submitted to gain funding for our students with additional needs in 2024. This funding contributes a portion of the financial means required for the school to make adjustments for these students to successfully access the curriculum. Thank you to **Bernie Hellard**, our Learning Diversity Leader and **Marie Monea** our Deputy Principal for coordinating all aspects of this process and undertaking the extensive moderating process. Thank you to all teachers and staff for collecting the evidence throughout the past year to enable students to be included in the submission.

Over the coming weeks, the Leadership Team's attention will begin to focus not only in 2023, but also in the future planning of 2024. While we don't have a formal re-enrolment process for current families, **if for any reason your child/ren will not be returning to St Mary's School in 2024, other than current Year 6 students, please let me know in writing by 15 September** as this will be the required term's notice given to the school.

At the beginning of Term 4, class lists for 2024 will begin to be drafted. We will be using a software program to formulate classes with a

balance of academic and social needs. If you have any additional information about your child/ren that you believe we would benefit from knowing, please email, by **15 September**, to:

principal@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Classroom teachers have not been set for next year, and the requesting of specific teachers is not appropriate.

A review of our attendance records show that we have a considerable number of students arriving daily after the 8:50am bell, some as late as 9:40am, without a valid reason. Students arriving late are missing substantial learning opportunities, particularly Spelling Mastery lessons. I am aware some teachers have communicated with individual families as well as general reminders to year level cohorts. I too am now bringing to your attention the **importance of all students arriving before 8:50am. If students are needing to come through the front office door, this means the gates are closed and they are late for school. If arriving after 8:50am, an adult family member must sign them in.**



This Sunday, our Year Four students will receive Holy Communion for the first time. Thank you to our **Year 3/4 teachers** for working in partnership with their families to prepare them for this important Sacrament.

Thank you to **Bridgette Henderson**, our Religious Education Leader for planning and coordinating this special occasion. We hope they all enjoy their special day as they take this step in their Sacramental journey.

Kind Regards,
Annice Lappin

Upcoming Dates in 2023

TERM 3

Week 5

Wednesday 9 August

Year 3/4 Attending Parish Mass, 10:00 am
ANXIETY INFORMATION SESSION, 7:00 pm, online webinar for school families.

Sunday 13 August

Sacrament of First Eucharist (Year 4 participating students), 2:30 pm

Week 6

Monday 14 August

Whole School Assembly at 3:00 pm
Foundation. *Gates open 2.55 pm*

Wednesday 16 August

Year 5/6 Excursion—Scienceworks

Thursday 17 August

Book Week Parade, Atrium 9:00 am
Families Welcome

Friday 18 August

Fresh Fruit Friday

Week 7

Wednesday 23 August

District Athletics

Friday 25 August ****NEW DATE****

Foundation Excursion, Werribee Zoo

Week 8

Monday 28 August

Whole School Assembly at 3:00 pm
Year 3/4 Quartz. *Gates open 2.55 pm*

Year 5/6 Life Saving Incursion

Wednesday 30 August

Father's Day Breakfast; 8:15 am

2023 Staff Email List

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

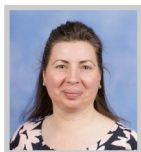


2023 Family Handbook

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

Dear Families,

We have close to 100 families joining us this evening for our **Anxiety and Stress Management in Children** webinar. We thank **Danielle Spencer**, Provisional Psychologist, and **Jesse Diggins**, Strength Psychology Director, for sharing their expertise with us.

The session aims to delve into the very topical conversation of anxiety and has been tailored to the needs of our school community. Thank you to the many families who submitted questions and wonderings.

The Zoom link has been sent to registered families via Operoo. The webinar begins at 7:00pm, tonight (Wednesday 9/8). See you online!

Book Week will be celebrated one week early at St Mary's School this year! Book Week celebrates books and Australian authors and illustrators. This year's theme is: **Read, Grow, Inspire**; aptly reminding us that good literature helps our minds to grow and flourish.



#CBCA2023



Our annual Book Week Parade will be held on Thursday, 17 August. On this day, students are invited to dress as their favourite book character. The parade kicks off at 9:15am and families are most welcome to join us. Students are required to wear closed-toe footwear and bring a change of clothes if their costume is too restrictive for them to enjoy play breaks and learning time.

Cari Saluti, Marie Monea



Sacrament of First Eucharist

We pray for the following Year 4 students celebrating their Sacrament of First Eucharist this Sunday, 13 August at St Mary of the Angels Basilica:

Duke Allchin
Jack Armstrong
Claudia Assemani
Thomas Baker
Sophia Bordonaro
Theodore Keating-Brennan
Amelia Brown
Gianni Carlini
Jackson Carrodus
Rafferty Evans

Jude Foley
Isaac Goldberg
Eloise Hampson
Pippa Harper
Kitty Humphrey
Jada Jennings
Roy Jones
Archie Kelly
Sonny Lamanna
Pippa Mahoney

Daniel Manganelli
Joel Mathews
Charlotte Mendoza
Bella Miller
Judah Munday
Mia Prime
Thomas Scott
Sophia Sheahan
Hugo Trott
Isla Williams

TERM 3 Key Dates

Week 5

Wednesday 9 August Anxiety Family Information Session; 7:00pm - Facilitated by **Strength Psychology**

Sunday 13 August **Sacrament of First Eucharist** (participating Year 4 students); 2:30pm

Week 6

Monday 14 August PSG Meetings - Day 1

Monday 14 August School Assembly (Foundation); 3:00pm

Wednesday 16 August Year 5/6 Excursion - ScienceWorks August

Thursday 17 August Book Week Parade

Friday 18 August Fresh Fruit Friday

Week 7

Wednesday 23 August District Athletics
****UPDATED DATE****

Friday 25 August Foundation Werribee Zoo Excursion
****NEW DATE****

Week 8

Monday 28 August Year 5/6 Life Saving Incursion

Monday 28 August School Assembly (Year 3/4 Quartz); 3:00pm

Tuesday 29 August PSG Meetings - Day 2

Wednesday 30 August **Father's Day Breakfast; 8:15am**

Thursday 31 August Years 3-6 AFL 9s Competition (participating students)

Friday 1 September Year 5/6 attending Parish Mass; 10:00am

Saturday 2 September PFA Bunnings BBQ

Week 9

Tuesday 5 September **Open Doors Wonder of Living** Enrichment Sessions



Wednesday 6 September PFA Meeting; 7:00pm

Friday 8 September Lunch Order Day
Cheer Toasties



Week 10

Tuesday 12 September Mercy Feast Day - Wear Blue

Wednesday 13 September PSG Meetings - Day 3

Wednesday 13 September School Advisory Council Meeting; 7:00pm

Friday 15 September End of Term 3; 1:00pm



Open Doors - Wonder of Living Enrichment Sessions (via Zoom)

Our school is offering Years 3-6 families the opportunity to participate in **The Wonder of Living Family Enrichment Program** on the topic of sexuality education.

Tuesday 5 September

Year 3/4 - 5:30pm (Parent/Child online session)
Year 5/6 - 7:00pm (Parent/Child online session)

Information about the Enrichment Sessions will be sent later this week. Interested families will be able to register their attendance.

St Mary's School Parents & Friends' Association News

St Mary's Parents & Friends Association

TRIVIA NIGHT 2023

NEW DATE!

Save the date and book in the babysitters!
Come along and enjoy some friendly competition at the St Mary's P&F Trivia Night.
Please support this great fundraiser for our school.

FRIDAY
27th OCTOBER

7pm
Pioneer Room
St Mary's Parish

COST: \$20 per person (8-10 people per table)
BYO nibbles and drinks

Trivia Master | Simon Morrison
• Silent Auctions • Games and Prizes

Bookings will be via TryBooking.
Details in School Newsletter and School's Social Facebook page

Contact Lauren 0418 580 949 for team booking instructions or to join a team

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team booking
instructions or to
join a team.



**SAVE THE
DATE**

Saturday 2 September
PFA Bunnings BBQ
Warrn Ponds

Families4Families

One of the many lovely things about St Mary's School is our sense of community. We are small enough to be able to be there for each other.

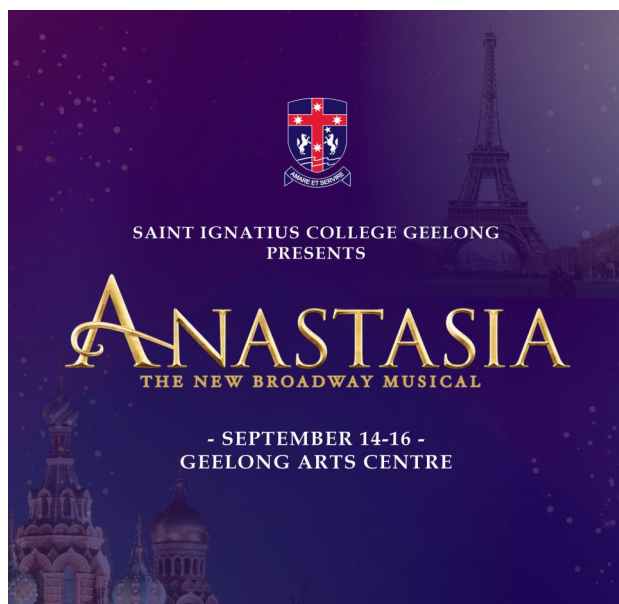
In previous years, there was a Families4Families (F4F) group, whose aim was to offer support to those in our school community that might need a helping hand. Anyone can be involved if they wish, and we would love to hear from you.

If you agree to take part, members may be contacted by the P&FA co-presidents, **Kirstie** and **Katie**, asking if they have availability to assist a family in need. Assistance may take the form of preparing a meal for the freezer, baking a slice or a cake, making school lunches, picking up essential items, or mowing a lawn. The aim would be to have a large group of people that would be happy to be contacted, so that many hands would make light work.

Either, if you are a family that needs a helping hand or you would like to sign up to help, please contact; **Kirstie Irwin 0411552010, Katie Norton 0437884205.**



Community News



Anastasia will run from **September 14-16** at the newly refurbished **Geelong Arts Centre**, with all general tickets being available via the [link](#).

St Paul's Anglican Church, Geelong

You are invited to become part of the music program at St. Paul's.

The St. Paul's Choir, long renowned for the excellence of its music, currently has vacancies for singers in all voice parts.



The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 pm and rehearses at 9:30 am Sundays for a 10:30 am service. **Choral Scholarships** are available for suitable singers.

There is an occasional choir which joins the choir for special occasions for those unable to make a commitment to the main choir.

A children's choir will be commencing for ages 7-16 years.

Applications are open for an Organ Scholar.

Further information:

Director of Music, Dr Terry Norman, 0411 875033
termernorman@gmail.com

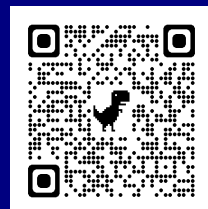
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2023 Family Handbook

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Facebook:

[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](#)

Instagram:

[stmarys_ps_geelong](#)

Twitter:

[@StMarysPS3220](#)

School Website:

www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Parent Portal password -
mary175



St Mary's School, Geelong

www.smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

T: 5229 9453

Newsletter # 13
Term 3—Week 5