

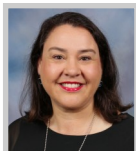


St Mary's Primary School

We aspire, we include, we achieve.

Newsletter # 20

| 29 November 2023



News from the Principal

Dear Families,

As the last newsletter was published, the Year 5/6 students, teachers, staff and myself were enjoying time at the beach in Princetown as part of school camp. I am thrilled to share that it was one of the best school camps I have participated in. The students were remarkable both in terms of participation and behaviour. The students truly shone through their enthusiastic and active engagement in all activities. The camp provided an opportunity for learning beyond the classroom with a variety of team-building activities, outdoor adventures and lots of fun! It was heartening to witness the students' cooperation, and positive spirit throughout the entire experience, even when we encountered some cool and wet weather. Thank you to all the adults who attended, making this experience possible. Special thanks to **Dr Tracey Gormley** (mother of Tess McKeague) who attended as the medical expert. I hope that if your child attended, they have shared with you all the highlights.

Last night, the School Advisory Council met for the final time this year. The items discussed were the 2023 MACSSIS Survey results, 2024 Enrolments and Future Projected Enrolments, 2024 School Fees and Levies, 2024 Finalised School Timetable and the 2024 School Review dates and process. With gratitude and appreciation I thank our **School Advisory Council members** for their support and advice throughout the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank outgoing member, **Brad Jones** who has completed his two year tenure. His commitment to our school is greatly appreciated. **Nominations for the 2024/2025 SAC will be called for in Term 1, next year**

The **COLOUR RUN** is fast approaching! This is a much loved family event, supported by the Parents and Friends' Association and an opportunity to raise funds for our school. Thank you to the students and their families who are sourcing sponsorship and depositing the funds directly into the P&FA bank account. We hope to see as many families there as possible. It will be a

fabulous school community event to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year!

A reminder that the **'Thank You Morning Tea'** will be hosted on the **Atrium** on **Wednesday, 6 December at 9:00am**. Thank you to those who have responded to the Operoo. You may like to bring your own morning coffee.

Thank you to the many families who have already donated to our Christmas Appeal that will support the **Bay Leaf Community Kitchen** to assist in providing hundreds of quality Christmas food and toy hampers to Geelong's most vulnerable families. As in the past, our families are again proving to be very generous. Gifts/Donations can be delivered to the school's administration area and will be collected from the school on **Friday, 15 December**. Alternatively, you may choose to make a donation via direct deposit BSB:633000, Account Number: 168394740. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and support many families in our local community.

2024 Class lists are now finalised. This year, for the first time, we have used a computer program with many parameters entered, to allocate students to classes. This is to ensure the best possible combinations of students. As St Mary's School has open and flexible classrooms, students are in the privileged position of interacting with everyone in the year level cohort and all the teachers and LSOs in the learning space on a daily basis.

As a lovely end to this week, on Friday, all students will be invited to make and enjoy their own salad sandwich, with all ingredients provided by the school. Students will be able to choose fillings on their sandwich, ranging from ham, cheese, lettuce, carrot and tomato.

Kind Regards,
Annice Lappin

Upcoming Dates in 2023

TERM 4

Week 9

Friday 1 December

HEALTHY LUNCH DAY (Salad Sandwiches)

Week 10

Monday 4 December

Whole School Assembly at 3:00 pm
Foundation. *Gates open 2:55pm*

Tuesday 5 December

School Choir Excursion

Wednesday 6 December

Parent/Carer/Guardian 'Thank You Morning Tea', 9:00am, School Atrium

P&FA Meeting, School Staffroom,
6:30pm. *All Welcome*

Thursday 7 December

P&FA Colour Run & Family Picnic
5:30pm, Eastern Gardens

Week 11

Monday 11 December: Principal for a Day

Tuesday 12 December

2024 Step Up Morning

All Students. 9:15—11:15am
STUDENT REPORTS (Shared with Families)

Wednesday 13 December

Year 1/2 Excursion, Village Cinema

Thursday 14 December

Foundation Excursion (MoPA)

Year 3/4 Excursion, Village Cinema

Year 5/6 Excursion, Leisurelink

YEAR 6 GRADUATION, 5:00pm

Friday 15 December

2024 School Captains' Photo; 9:00am
12:15pm End of Year Assembly
STUDENTS DISMISSED 1:00PM

2023 Staff Email List

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

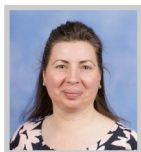


FAMILY HANDBOOK

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

Dear Families,

Thank you for accommodating last week's Student Free Day. Thank you also to the **Learning Leaders; Deborah Boland, Hannah Jackson and Jack Flynn-French**, for assisting me with facilitating the day. The day's agenda involved a webinar about the fundamentals of the Response to Intervention model, time for reflection of practice and Term 1 curriculum objectives.

Important term dates and student free days for the **2024 School Year** are now finalised. Other important dates such as year level excursions/incursions, sporting events, camps and Sacraments will be communicated to families throughout the year.

Soon, families will receive a **magnet** for household refrigerators. These magnets have been designed to provide families with easy access to the school's Family Handbook and details about reporting student absences.

There are many events scheduled to soon take place; thank you for responding to all current Operoo eForms - every year level has an exciting upcoming event!

Cari Saluti,
Marie Monea



St Mary's School, Geelong

2024 School Dates

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Tuesday 30 January - Wednesday 27 March	Monday 15 April - Friday 28 June	Monday 13 July - Thursday 19 September	Monday 7 October - Tuesday 17 December

Student Free Days (Staff Professional Learning)

TERM 1: Thursday 28 March

TERM 2: Friday 7 June

TERM 3: Friday 16 August
Friday 20 September

TERM 4: Monday 4 November
Monday 25 November

School Closure Days (Public Holidays)

Labour Day: Monday 11 March
Easter: Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April
ANZAC Day: Thursday 25 April
King's Birthday: Monday 10 June
AFL Grand Final: Friday 27 September
Melbourne Cup: Tuesday 5 November

FOUNDATION STUDENTS



Tuesday 30 January - Friday 2 February
Foundation students attend school from 8:50am - 1:30pm



Rest Days: Wednesday 7, 14, 21, 28 February



Family Picnic: Thursday 1 February



School Photo Day: Friday 1 March



F-4 Swimming: Monday 4 March - Friday 8 March



Athletics Day: Wednesday 24 April



Languages Celebration Day: Thursday 13 June



Art Show: Wednesday 18 September

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

8:30am - 8:50am	Gates Open
8:50am - 8:55am	Homeroom
8:55am - 9:55am	Learning Session #1
9:55am - 10:55am	Learning Session #2
10:55am - 11:05am	Supervised Eating Time
11:05am - 11:35am	PLAY BREAK
11:35am - 12:35pm	Learning Session #3
12:35pm - 1:35pm	Learning Session #4
1:35pm - 1:45pm	Supervised Eating Time
1:45pm - 2:15pm	PLAY BREAK
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Learning Session #5
3:15pm - 3:30pm	Gates Open



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEELONG

GATES CLOSE 8:50AM

Students arriving after 8:50am are required to be signed in by a Parent/Carer/Guardian

REPORT A STUDENT ABSENCE

absence@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Email prior to 8:50am on the day of absence with the reason



**FAMILY
HANDBOOK**

SCHOOL DAY 8:50AM TO 3:15PM

Fridge Magnet

Term 4 School Calendar, 2023



Wk	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9					DEC 1 Healthy Lunch Day (Salad Sandwiches) Provided by the school.
10	DEC 4 3:00pm—Assembly (Foundation)	DEC 5 School Choir Excursion (Geelong Football Club)	DEC 6 P&FA Meeting; 7:00pm Thank You Morning Tea, 9:00am, ATRIUM	DEC 7 P&FA Colour Run & Family Picnic; 5:30pm	DEC 8
11	DEC 11 Principal For A Day	DEC 12 2024 Step Up Morning (9:15-11:15am) Student Reports (Shared with Families)	DEC 13 Year 1/2 Excursion (Movies)	DEC 14 Foundation Excursion (MoPA) Year 3/4 Excursion (Movies) Year 5/6 Excursion— Leisurelink, Waurin Ponds Year 6 Graduation; 5:00 pm	DEC 15 2024 School Captains' Photo; 9:00am 12:15pm—End of Year Assembly Students Dismissed; 1:00pm

**QUIET ACHIEVER AWARD**

We congratulate

OLLIE MAMONE

Foundation Opal, who has been
awarded the **Term 4 Rotary Quiet**
Achiever Award.

This award and \$30 Dizzy Toy voucher
has been donated by **Rotary Bayside**
Geelong and recognises students who
give their very best efforts every day.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Since 2015 the Victorian Government's **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** has assisted eligible families by providing payments to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. **If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent as at 29 January 2024, you may be eligible for this funding.** In 2024 the amount will increase from \$125 to **\$150 for eligible primary school students**. The allowance will be paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions/incursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. Application forms are available [here](#) for application in 2024.

2024 School Fees & Levies

Family Fee	\$1,925.00
Building Levy	\$365.00
	\$2,290.00
Additional Charges (PER CHILD)	
Curriculum Levy (All Students)	\$180.00
Technology Levy (All Students)	\$85.00
Activity & Event Levy (All Students)	\$20.00
Chromebook Levy (Yrs 3-6)	\$50.00
Sacramental Levy (Yrs 3, 4 & 6)	\$30.00
Swimming Levy (Yrs Foundation-4)	\$90.00
Camp Fee*—Extended Day Camp (Yrs 3&4)	\$100.00
Camp Fee*—3 days/2 nights (Yrs 5&6)	\$350.00

FEE & LEVIES Commitment Agreement

All **NEW FAMILIES** to the school will need to complete a **Fee & Levies Commitment Agreement**, available on the school website:

[Parent Portal](#)
(password mary175)

CURRENT school families only need to complete a **NEW Fee & Levies Agreement** if they wish to make a change to their current arrangement with the school. *Please contact the school office.*

Following presentation to the School Advisory Council of the above 2024 School Fees & Levies, we confirm the following:

There are three compulsory components to school fees and levies billed each year:

1. **Family Fee:** charged annually **per family** covers the majority of school expenses and includes school paid staff salaries, student protection insurance, administration and operating costs of the school.
2. **Building Levy:** charged annually **per family** is a building improvements and maintenance levy used for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of school buildings, and to support capital loan repayments. **It is compulsory and not tax deductible.** (NB: Donations to the School Building Fund would be tax deductible. Please contact the school for more information).
3. **Additional Charges (per student):**
 - Curriculum Levy & Technology Levy** charged annually **per student** to support classroom programs and assist with the cost of textbooks, stationery, classroom materials, educational experiences, IT hardware upgrades, software & licensing.
 - Chromebook Levy** charged annually **per student** in **Years 3-6** to provide a dedicated Chromebook device to each student in these year levels for use in class and to assist with any further remote learning or at home tasks. Devices remain the property of the school at all times.
 - Sacramental Levy** is associated with the Sacramental Program conducted each year for students within **Years 3, 4 & 6** (Reconciliation, First Eucharist/Holy Communion and Confirmation, respectively) and charged annually for **every student** within these year levels. (Please note: although Non-Catholics participate in the Sacramental Program they are not eligible to receive a Sacrament).
 - Activity & Event Levy** charged annually **per student** to cover a student's involvement in activities where they provide a gift for their chosen recipient for **Mother's Day & Father's Day** and participate in **Feast Days** (Mannix, Mercy & McAuley) & **Shrove Tuesday** (Pancake Day) where support is given to various Community Groups including the St Mary's Parish Pantry. (Please note: The school's Parents & Friends' Association (PFA) will hold various separate events during the year which may include a cost).
 - Swimming Levy** is associated with the compulsory five (5) day Swimming Program for **all students in Foundation – Year 4** to support the cost of this program.

Annual Camps (*Please note: All Camp Food included in the Fee is GST inclusive): Students in **Years 3 & 4** will participate in an **extended day camp** for 2024. Students in **Years 5 & 6** will participate in a **two (2) night camp** (3 days/2 nights).

Family School Fees Statements

Families are billed annually for School Fees & Levies at the commencement of each school year for their enrolled child(ren). Any student commencing or leaving during the school year will receive rebates as per the Principal's discretion. Financial support is available through the Victorian Government's Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund and the School Fees Concession Program. Information and Application Forms for these are available [here](#) for eligible families wishing to apply in 2024.

Payment of School Fees

All families are required to have a **Fee & Levies Commitment Agreement** in place.

The preferred payment option by **Direct Debit either annually, quarterly, monthly or fortnightly**. Families selecting payment by Direct Debit also complete a **Direct Debit Authority Form**, which will continue to operate for the length of time the family has any child(ren) enrolled in St Mary's Primary School or amounts still owing following departure. Amounts payable are adjusted accordingly each year unless the school receives written advice to the contrary. *Please note: Families who request individual split billing will need to complete separate Fee & Levies Commitment Agreements and their payments will be adjusted accordingly.*

Alternatively, families preferring to make a one off, **lump sum, full payment** at the beginning of the year can do so by cash, cheque, credit card or EFT prior to **28 February, 2024**.

If families are unable to comply with either of these methods of payment you are asked to make an appointment with the Principal to organise a **Private Fee Agreement**, which will be reviewed each year.

If school fees are not paid, and there is no approved payment arrangement in place, your child(ren)'s enrolment will be reviewed. Legal advice may also be sought for outstanding accounts to be forwarded to a commercial collection agency with any additional collection costs payable (if applicable) payable by the family.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Education Curriculum is GST exempt, and as such GST does not apply to School Fees & Levies. However other activities of a recreational nature (e.g. Food on School Camps) do attract GST and is charged accordingly.

Medical Management at St Mary's School

St Mary's School requires parents/carers/guardians to contact School Administration if your child requires ongoing medication at school and/or has a health/medical management plan, or has a diagnosed health need. The principal must approve all ongoing and regular administration of medication at school.

If a student at St Mary's School has a diagnosed health care need, complex care need or relevant medical condition, there must be in place:

- A **Medical Management Plan** prepared and approved by a treating AHPRA Health Practitioner and provided to the school by the parents of the child, outlining the required care and support and an escalation plan to be followed in the event of a related incident, and
- An authorised plan/form, the **Medication Authority Form**, for administration of medication (if applicable) at school, in accordance with the Medical Management Plan. **The school requires that parents make a request to the school when their child requires medication to be taken during school hours.**
- A Student Health Support Plan developed between the school and the parents of the child to articulate implementation of required care, support and risk mitigation.

Medical Management Plans may need to be updated annually or when a child's condition changes, a child's medication has changed, before an excursion/camp (risk assessment) or when medication is due for expiry.

STUDENT MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Where students have been diagnosed with a medical condition and require the administration of medication at school, St Mary's School requires parents/carers/guardians/carers to provide relevant information to enable it to carry out its duty of care obligations through a [Medical Management Plan](#) and [Medication Authority Form](#).

Medical Management Plan, prepared by the registered AHPRA Health Practitioner and parent/guardian/carer, detailing:

- brief relevant information concerning the medical condition of the student that will be of assistance to the school in its care of the student;
- the type of treatment and the frequency of administering treatment while at school;
- what action to take if the student's health deteriorates; and
- the name, address and telephone numbers for an emergency doctor and emergency family contact.

Medication Authority Form

- Medication (for non-threatening illnesses) is the parents'/guardians' responsibility and will only be administered by the school if indicated in the Medical Management Plan and accompanied by a **Medication Authority Form** completed

and signed by the parent/guardian **and** the AHPRA Health Practitioner. Families must communicate with the school's administration team and classroom educator regarding medication and authorisation forms to ensure the correct actions are taken.

A **condition specific Medical Management Plan** - Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Allergic Reaction Plan **do not** require a Medication Authority Form to be completed, unless the form doesn't cover the medication to be administered.

If a student has a **presenting health need that requires short term medication (prescription or over the counter)** to be administered during school hours, **only a Medication Authority Form** is required to be signed by an AHPRA registered medical practitioner or pharmacist, and the student's parent/guardian/carer. For any medication that is to be administered during school hours, the Medication Authority Form must indicate the correct required dosage, storage instructions and medication must be supplied in the **original packaging with full details indicating the child's name, type of medication, time to be taken and via the correct method, such as inhaled or orally.**

Ongoing daily medication is to be provided to the school in a Webster Pack. The school will do its best to administer medicine as required. **Please note: the school does not allow the first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction.**

Families are advised that asthma reliever medication ie Ventolin is the only medication that can be kept with the child in a classroom environment. All other medication will be stored in a safe place within the First Aid Room and will not be accessible to young people without adult supervision. Substances prescribed for a particular student e.g. Epipen – are retained solely for the use of that student.

All staff, inclusive of casual relief teachers, are made aware of the students with Medical Management Plans and their Management Plans are displayed in a sensitive manner.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

**St Mary's School Medication Authority
Form**



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools
Medical Management Plan



St Mary's School Parents & Friends' News



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEELONG

Parents & Friends' Association
invite you to our

Colour Run & Family Picnic

**THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER
5PM - 6:30PM**

**VENUE:
THE GEELONG
BOTANICAL
GARDENS
- EASTERN
PARK BBQ AREA**

**BYO PICNIC
DINNER TO
ENJOY BEFORE
AND/OR AFTER
THE COLOUR
RUN STARTS AT
5:30PM!**



**BRING MOSQUITO
REPELLENT AS THE
MOZZIES CAN BE
BAD DOWN AT THE
GARDENS!**



**HAPPY GELATI
SNOW MAN
ICE CREAM TRUCK
WILL BE THERE SO
BRING SOME
MONEY FOR AN
ICE CREAM!**

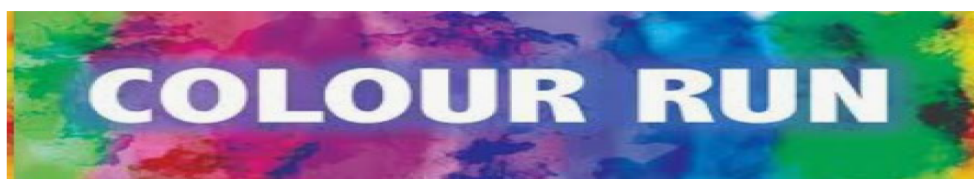
**STUDENTS
CAN WEAR
WHITE T-SHIRTS
OR ANY LIGHT
COLOURED OLD
CLOTHES**

2023

St Mary's School Parents & Friends' News



ST MARY'S SCHOOL, GEELONG

**2023 Sponsorship Form**

Name: Class:

On Thursday December 7th, 2023 I will be participating in the St. Mary's School Colour Run at Eastern Park.
The money raised will be used towards improving our school, that will benefit all students.

Name of Sponsor	Amount Sponsored	Signature	Amount Collected
EXAMPLE: Generous Sponsor	\$5.00	G. Sponsor	\$5.00
TOTAL COLLECTED			\$

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND DEPOSIT ANY SPONSORSHIP MONEY INTO THE P&FA ACCOUNT, BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2023 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A PAIR OF CRAZY SOCKS! (2 PAIRS PER CLASS TO BE WON BY RAFFLE DRAW)

St Mary's School Project Fund**Bank NAB****BSB 083347****ACCOUNT 647087522**

REF: Name_ Colour Run

Hardcopy of this
form is available at
School
Administration.

Community News



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

Junior Engineers

Presents

Superhero MODE

CODING AND ROBOTICS FOR KIDS



Want to know more?

✉ customerservice@jnrengineers.com
☎ 1300 089 344
🌐 juniorengineers.com.au



School Holiday coding & robotics camps

Beginner Courses:



Ages 5 - 8 years



Ages 5 - 10 years



Ages 7 - 12 years



Ages 7 - 12 years



Ages 9 - 12 years



Ages 5 - 8 years



Intermediate Courses:



Ages 10 - 13 years



Ages 10 - 13 years



Ages 9 - 12 years



Special 1-day pre-Christmas **Minecraft & CodeMonkey** courses available.

Various Locations

Across VIC In Greater Melbourne including Geelong and Mornington Peninsula


All classes are open to the public

Dr. Seuss's THE CAT IN THE HAT

LIVE ON STAGE IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

January 20
Geelong Arts Centre

www.geelongartscentre.org.au
www.catinthehatlive.com




Community Kitchen

Providing meals for deserving families in need.

<https://www.bayleafkitchen.com.au/>

Donations greatly appreciated.

Bank Details:

BSB:633000 Account: 168394740

Community News



POTTERY STUDIO-EVENTS & GALLERY

School Holiday's Pottery & Craft Sessions

Fri 29th Dec 10.30am-12.30pm Kids Pottery Class
 Thur 4th Jan 10.30am-12.30pm Kids Pottery Class
 Tue 9th Jan 2pm - 4pm 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 0439 709 492
www.hazytales.com



*An Invitation to people in the Bellarine
 and beyond to join together in prayer
 and worship as we celebrate the season of*

ADVENT

Where: Santa Casa

55 Flinders Street Queenscliff

*Date: Saturday, December 9th, 2023,
 at 2.30pm followed by a supper at 3.30pm.*

*Please arrive a little earlier so we can
 begin on time and contact Lizzie to register*

0415 194 261 or via

santaCasa@lanapag.org.au

For your diary: Gatherings for 2024:

17 Feb, 25 Mar, 15 May

31 Aug, 5 Oct, 14 Dec

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE BASILICA

Our main sponsor for the 2023 event is: SC Technology Geelong

- ◆ The event runs between 2pm - 4pm. Carols start at 3pm.
- ◆ It will all be held over at the Basilica. Carols will be inside the Basilica this year.
- ◆ Please arrive at 2pm where you can purchase some Christmas/religious items from our Christmas Gift Stall, buy some delicious edibles at our Sweets/Treats Stall, Guess the number of Jellybeans in the Jar (\$1.00 per guess), get your Face Painted by Kelly (Geelong face painting), and purchase tickets in the Christmas Raffle (Tickets: \$1ea; 3 for \$2; 8 for \$5). The Raffle will be drawn at the close of Carols.
- ◆ The Carol singing (starting at 3pm) will be led by the Basilica/Mixtures Choir (a blend of the 2 Choirs), performers will be Anna Demetriou, some previous Junior Choir members, and our very own Parish Junior Choir.

We have also invited a **Bean Cravin' Coffee** van along – they will provide a great coffee at a great price.

2023 Staff Email List

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



Family Handbook

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



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 # 20
 Term 4—Week 9