



St Mary's Newsletter

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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Thursday 22 February 2018 Week 4 Term 1

We want our children to be:
CARING, BELIEVERS, OPEN, SECURE, WELL BALANCED, GENEROUS, CREATIVE

Dates to Remember

Thursday 22 February @ 8.30-8.50am Bendigo Student Banking
Thursday 22 February @ 1-3pm Uniform Shop open

Thursday 1 March @ 9am Year 2 Oral Language Presentation
Thursday 1 March @ 2.40pm Year 1 Oral Language Presentation
Monday 5 March Public Holiday
Tuesday 6 March Pupil Free Day

The Uniform Shop is open on
Thursday afternoons between 1pm and 3pm 😊
Term 1 is Summer Uniform



MASS TIMES

Saturday 24 February
Kirup @ 6pm

Sunday 25 February
Donnybrook @ 10.00am

Altar Server: Joshua, Christoper and
Skye

Capel @ 8.00am

Donnybrook YOUTH MASS
@ 6pm-8pm (see insert for more
information)

God's Math

1 CROSS

+ 3 NAILS

4 GIVEN

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Learning

The school delivers a protective behaviours program in all year levels. The themes of this program is that everyone has the right to be safe and we can help ourselves be safe by talking to someone we trust. I encourage parents to talk to their children about what they have been learning about and to talk to myself or classroom teachers if you have any queries. The other week I put an example of the Year 1 program in the newsletter. The following is the topics that the Year 6 students focus on this term:

Year 6 – Term 1 – Keeping Safe Overview
General Topic
Being Safe
Rights and Responsibilities
Gender Stereotypes
Relationships Circle
Definition of Power
Tricks & Bribes
Pressure
Bullying as an abuse of power
Developing a trust network
Network Letters
Warning Signs
Feeling Unsafe
Risk-taking and emergencies

Operational automaticity (the ability to add, subtract, divide or multiply mentally in a timely fashion) continues to be a focus at the school in 2018. Significant gains in this area have been made by children who invest time in Mathletics and XtraMaths app. These skills are the foundation of higher order mathematics such as algebra and word problems which are part of our primary curriculum. We urge parents to support their children’s learning journey by ensuring they complete their maths (as well as reading homework).

The Year One students have settled in well to life in the big school. I have been really impressed with their work when I have visited the classroom and a number of students have visited my office to showcase their wonderful writing. Well done Year 1.

We are taking part in the Fogarty Edvance Program 2018 – 2020, which aims to support school improvement. As part of this, we invite feedback from the school community. Please follow the link to complete the survey. For more information please see the txt box below. <https://www.tellthemfromme.com/stmarys>



Engagement

Year 6 parents, please mark your diaries that we will have a visit from past students and the Principal of BCC to talk to Year 6 students and parents on the 15th March at 1pm in the multipurpose room. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting – an SMS will also be sent out close to the date to remind parents.

Faction shirts - Don’t forget to get your orders in for our faction shirts – these must be pre-ordered – there will be no extras held on site. A big thank you to the P &F who have discounted these shirts, so you only have to pay \$8 per shirt!

Accountability

School fee accounts are going out this week. The school offers significant discounts to Health Care Card holders. To qualify for this discount you must present a copy of your current health care card to the office. If you are experiencing difficulties paying fees, please make an appointment to see me. The school offers a number of easy ways to make part payments for fees – please see Katja regarding bank transfer information and direct debit.

Please remember to sign into the school when visiting for parent help. Sign in sheets for parents are also available at events such as oral language presentations. By signing in at the school you are agreeing to follow the Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is available on our school website as well as being emailed out to all families at the beginning of the term.

Discipleship

On Sunday this week we celebrate the commissioning mass for our staff. This is a wonderful liturgy for staff to renew their commitment to the school. We are very blessed to have such enthusiastic, engaged and dedicated staff in our school.

Our Year 3 and Year 4 students started altar serving training this week. Thank you to all the students and families who have committed to supporting the parish with altar serving this year.

God Bless
Annette Quirk
God bless,
Annette Quirk
Principal



Tell Them From Me

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning* survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Mary's Primary School Donnybrook.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/stmarys>

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

If using the Drop Off/Pick Up around the church, parents please do not use this as a parking area. Students need to independently walk into the school.

If using the back, car park, via Owen and Ecclestone Street, parents must park and walk their children into the school and collect them from their classroom.

Saint Mary's 50km Club

This year we will be running the Saint Marys 50km Club on Friday mornings before school and at recess time. By running this program, we hope to encourage students to build up their fitness by completing the 50km (250 laps of the oval) by the end of the school year. Students will be rewarded with a special token of their efforts at the 10km and 25km mark, as well as when they reach 50km.

Children are to meet on the oval at 8.30am to participate in the morning session. Parents are more than welcome to watch or even join in!

Mrs Pettersen

Criticism

Criticism is something that we will have to put up with for as long as we live. People will always find something wrong in what we say or do or in our failure to say or do something. Sometimes we even get criticized by what we wear. If you are in a position of leadership, expect a lion's share of criticism.

You will never be good enough no matter what you do. In my role as a priest I had my share of criticisms and like the rest of you I would feel bad initially and it is a natural reaction. But over the years I have learn to sift which ones are worth taking in and which ones were given out of spite and I respond appropriately.

Criticisms, though it can hurt our sensibilities, are good because it helps us improve ourselves. Quite too often we are our own worst enemy and we cannot see our errors and annoying habits. Loved ones and friends who truly care about us mirror it to us. If we were any wiser, we would appreciate their corrections and criticism because they are given out of love and concern. Quite too often though we resent their concern and become angry with them. That is foolishness. How can we improve and grow if no one will correct us? My spiritual director, while he is very quick to affirm me and encourage me in so many ways, is also very honest when I need to be corrected and I take his corrections as signs of affection. Most of our personal growth happen when we are corrected and criticized. The wisest men and women of history learned how to take criticism as a challenge and therefore grew into maturity and wisdom. Unfortunately, for most people criticisms are often seen as a personal attack and therefore fail to improve. Instead of looking into themselves and analyzing the veracity of such criticisms, they justify themselves, blame or resent the critics and therefore not improve themselves.

When we are criticized, let us be honest about ourselves. If there was truth to what people were saying, be humble enough to change. If the criticism hurled at us were born out of ignorance or spite, then let them slide on our hide and not allow those criticism to stew in our heart so you can sleep at night.

The only way to avoid being criticized is to be invisible, which means we do nothing, we say nothing and be nothing. But if you stood for something, if you were passionate about something, if you spoke the truth, then be ready to be criticized but criticism should not discourage you. Remember, there was never a statue built for a critic but always for the criticized.

By Father Gerald

You are invited to attend The World Day of Prayer

This is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

*The service is held this year at All Saints Anglican Church
(South West Hwy) on Friday 2nd March at 9.30am.
Following the service Morning Tea will be provided.*