



Newsletter

Term 4, Week 3

Thursday October 21st, 2021



We acknowledge and respect the past and present Elders, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and custodians of this land the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

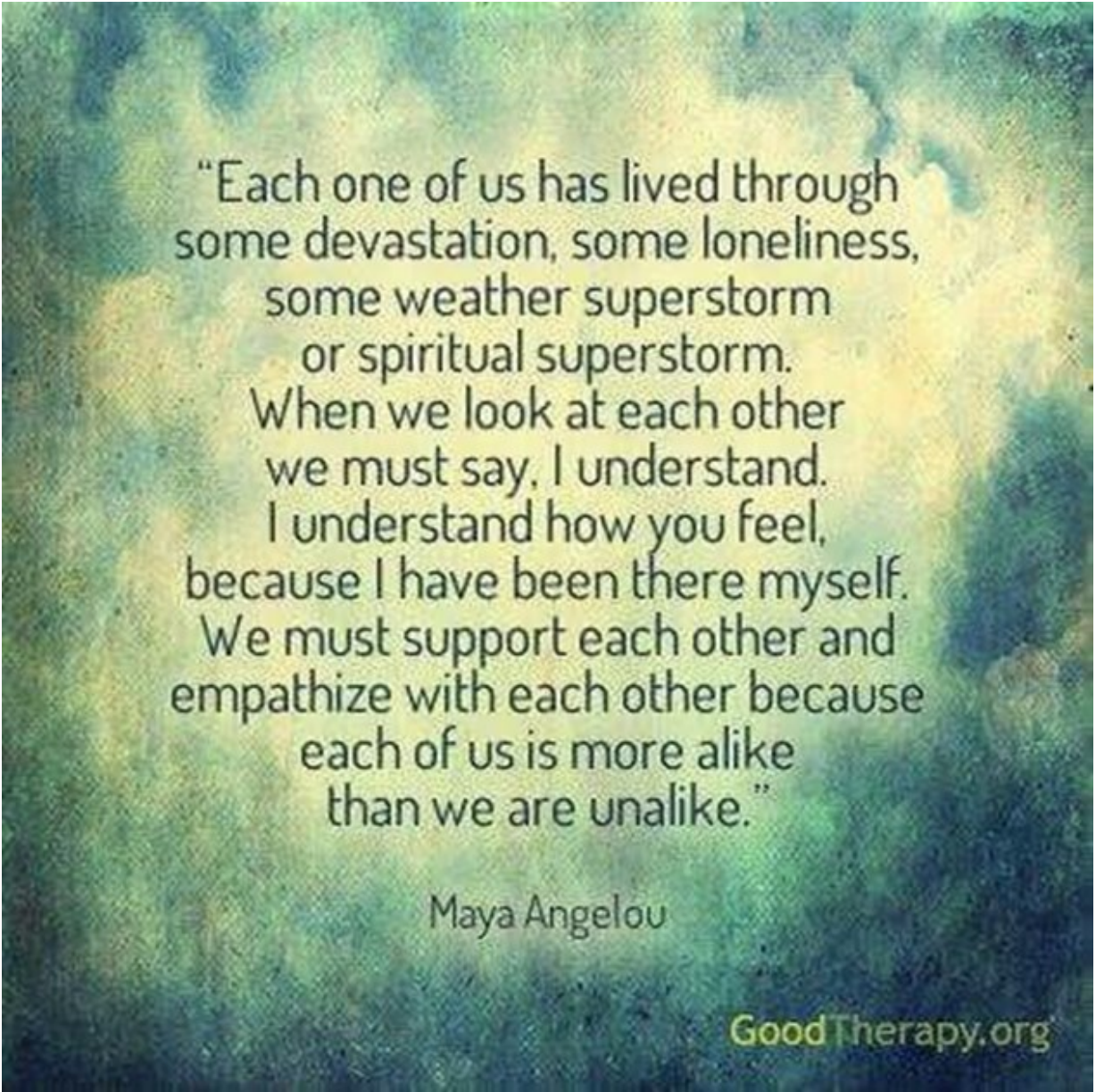
Thank you for protecting and preserving our land Australia in the past, for sharing it now and educating us for the future.

We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future and acknowledge their spiritual connection to Country.

Wonder • Persevere • Believe • Create
Respect • Responsibility • Resilience

TERM DATES

OCTOBER Friday, 21st	All students return onsite P - 6	DECEMBER Wednesday, 1st	Foundation 2022 Transition Morning - 9:00am - 10:30am
NOVEMBER Tuesday, 2nd	MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Friday, 3rd	SCHOOL CLOSURE - Staff PD
Wednesday, 3rd	Confirmation Preparation Evening - Denise Arnel - 7:00-8:00pm	Tuesday, 7th	Going Up Day - Gr's Prep - 5 Including Foundation 2022
Monday, 8th (week) Tuesday, 9th - Thursday, 18th	Book Week Book Fair	Wednesday, 8th	School Sports Carnival
Friday, 12th	SCHOOL CLOSURE - Staff PD	Monday, 13th	Reports Released EOY/Graduation Mass - 6:00pm
Sunday, 14th	Confirmation Mass - 10:30am	Tuesday, 14th	Sausage Sizzle Lunch Last Day of Term 4
Wednesday, 24th	Foundation 2022 Transition Morning - 9:00am - 10:30am	Wednesday, 15th Thursday, 16th	Numeracy Testing
Friday, 26th	School Concert		



"Each one of us has lived through
some devastation, some loneliness,
some weather superstorm
or spiritual superstorm.
When we look at each other
we must say, I understand.
I understand how you feel,
because I have been there myself.
We must support each other and
empathize with each other because
each of us is more alike
than we are unlike."

Maya Angelou

GoodTherapy.org

Dear families,

We've tried to keep the community up with relentless changes with of Covid19 announcements. I hope you have been able to keep up too! Keep up the great work everyone. We have done so well in this pandemic but it's not over yet. A number of Bendigo schools were closed recently and after speaking with some of their staff and leadership - it's not a fun experience. If your child is unwell, has the symptoms we are aware of, please follow the protocols. I would not like to see St Mary's shut down and I'm pretty sure you don't either. Let's keep looking after each other and do the things that keep us open and able to learn onsite.

Kids back (again):

This Friday we will welcome **ALL** our students back onsite! This is a few days ahead of the initial plan and fantastic news for all regional schools. Well done to our community through all we have been through and let's hope that we can stay onsite, avoid a COVID-related school closure by all playing our part.

Classrooms will have doors and windows open where possible to continue to promote ventilation, we will encourage hand sanitising, masks inside for Years 3-6 and the physical distancing of adults. The School Operations Guide says “school staff to wear a facemask while teaching wherever practical, except where removal of a facemask is necessary for effective communication.” So, at times, staff may have their mask down to ensure their instructions are clear and to assist students who use lips and facial expressions as cues to assist their learning.

Parents onsite:

Again, I would love to invite you all back onsite however advice is to minimise people onsite. Please call the office first with your questions and if you have to pick a child up early, call the office, park out the front in Templeton Street and we will bring your child out to you. Thanks in advance for your cooperation on this.

SunSmart Hats & Masks:

Hats are required outside and masks are required inside! Let's make this as easy as we can on the kids and staff and send your children to school with both! Both are directives based on health advice from the Chief Health Office. We had a fantastic uptake of both last week, so there may be a few gentle reminders as we progress towards a full school return on Friday.

OH&S:

Over the past term we have been working with Rob Ferrie from AEMS to complete new evacuation maps, procedures and train all staff and students to enact the plans/procedures through a variety of scenarios/drills.

Curriculum Days:

Like in many businesses with KPI's to reach, so do all schools. Each year schools are permitted 4 curriculum days to help achieve and manage the work around reaching the goals. Curriculum days are designed to strengthen teacher pedagogy, learn or revise curriculum content, moderate and write reports and a whole range of other matters pertaining to school life. At the end of the day, it is to continually improve the teachers that work with your children.

Some schools take some of these at the start of the year, middle of a term or end of the year or whenever they can access the professional learning opportunity. Each year, we plan and inform the school council of the proposed dates and have them approved.

We have had two of our designated curriculum days this year and have had to reschedule our other two. The rescheduled dates are confirmed as Friday 12th November (Science of Learning) and Friday 3rd December (Leading Teams).

We are considering the best use of our allocated 4 closure days for 2022 with a key priority being our continued development in Deep Learning underpinned by educational neuroscience which I will explain in more depth as we work towards the 2022 school year.

Have a great week everyone. See you ALL on Friday!

Kind regards,
Ben Shields.

Congratulations



*St. Mary's school community would like to congratulate Bella & Jesse
on their recent engagement. Best Wishes to you both.*

Newsflash!

“St Mary’s Music Hall” School Production

*Very exciting news! The production is now going to be filmed onsite by a local filming company called “Top Hat Productions” on **Friday 26th November**. They will film, edit and put together a DVD of the production.

*Students will come to school on **Friday 26th November** dressed in their costume ready to perform and be filmed.

*Costume Reminder: For all students:

- **All costumes will be worn to school on production filming day. There will be no changing of costumes required.**
- White, navy or black short/long-sleeved buttoned shirt, blouse, or tee-shirt. (No patterns/writing)
- Black or navy long shorts, pants, skirt or dress. School/sport navy shorts and pants are fine.
- Students wearing a skirt or dress will need to wear black or navy bike shorts (monkey bar shorts) underneath.
- Black clean, polished school shoes.
- Optional black or navy jacket, blazer, vest, waistcoat.
- Plain white, black or navy school socks.
- Optional top hat or old-fashioned cap.

All students will be provided with a hair band, bow tie or long tie for the production.

PLEASE NOTE: At this stage parents will be unable to attend due to the current regulations. We will inform you if these regulations change.

We would like to wish the following student a very happy birthday for next week:

Huxley Hardman : 27th October

James Williams : 28th October



Book Week

Week beginning Monday, 8th November

The world of books will be celebrated once again during the annual Book Week activities.

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a range of books that have been shortlisted for various awards by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA). The CBCA is a not for profit organisation which aims to engage the community with literature for young Australians. The CBCA presents the annual Children's Book of the Year Awards to books of literary merit, recognising their contribution to Australian children's literature.

Book Fair

*This Year's Book Fair will once again be held in the School Library. Students will have the opportunity to view the books for sale on **Tuesday, 9th November to Thursday, 18th**. Further details on how books can be purchased will be advised at a further date.*

P & F News . . .

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the P & F will be this Thursday evening at 7:30pm - virtual via link <https://meet.google.com/kzz-tjjs-vvy>

Anyone wishing to join the meeting are most welcome.

SUSHI LUNCH ORDERS:

Sushi lunch orders will resume **next Friday, 29th October**. Please remember to have your orders in by 4:00pm on Thursdays. Thank you.

Sustainability . . .



Chook Pen Renovation Underway

In very eggciting Sustainability news, last Friday saw a two man chook house renovation team in David Lawrence and Paul Lucas start work at St. Mary's. They very kindly donated their time and expertise on building a weather-proof extension. After a significant lay off due to unforeseen circumstances, St. Mary's should have chooks back in the school very soon.

Watch this space.

S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y



‘Sustainability is our SUPER POWER!’

The Great Australian Bird Count, October 18-24

MAKE EVERY BIRD COUNT

Taking part in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count is easy! Just spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space and tell us about the birds you see during that period. You can submit your results using the app or the web form. Every count helps.

How to get involved -

The #AussieBirdCount is a great way to connect with the birds in your backyard no matter where your backyard happens to be – a suburban backyard, a local park, a patch of forest, down by the beach, or the main street of town. You can count as many times as you like over the week, we just ask that each count is completed over a 20-minute period. The data collected assists BirdLife Australia in understanding more about the birds that live where people live.

Register as a counter! <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>



Grounds & Maintenance Position

Purpose of the position

The Grounds & Maintenance position is responsible for operational property and maintenance matters, including general care of all grounds and facilities and day to day property and equipment maintenance.

Responsibilities

■ Grounds

- Development of gardens and grassed areas – including selection of appropriate trees and plants, preparation of garden beds, planting of trees and plants, establishment of grassed areas.
- Maintenance of gardens and grassed areas – including watering (if permissible), weeding and fertilisation of garden beds, pruning of trees and shrubs, fencing, mowing and snipping of grassed areas.
- Ensuring grounds are presented in a tidy and professional appearance.

■ Maintenance

- Undertaking minor repairs and routine maintenance of buildings and equipment as required.
- Arranging and supervising contractors undertaking maintenance on site.
- Liaise with the Principal to prioritise specific scheduled maintenance items.

■ Workplace Health and Safety

- Attend to all matters ensuring that the grounds and facilities meet appropriate OHS standards.

■ Other Tasks/Responsibilities

- Working within the Maintenance budget.
- Completing and maintaining key records.
- Assist in set up of out of school hours events as required (i.e. sports carnivals).

The Grounds and Maintenance position is for approximately 5-10 hours per fortnight with flexible hours.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please talk to Ben for further information.