



## Newsletter

Term 3, Week 5

Thursday August 12th, 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

<b>AUGUST</b> 23rd to Friday, 27th	Book Week & Book Fair Dress Up Day - Monday, 23rd	Sunday, 12th	Mt. Alexander Bushwalk following Mass - <b>CANCELLED</b>
Wednesday, 25th	First Communion Preparation Evening - with Denise Arnel - 7:00pm	Tuesday, 14th	Sporting Colour Dress Up & Special Lunch
Sunday, 29th	1st Holy Communion - 10:30am	Friday, 17th	Whole School Mass - 9:15am Last day of Term 3 - 2:30pm finish
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Friday, 3rd	SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY - Staff Professional Development	<b>OCTOBER</b> Wednesday, 27th	School Production



## Feast of the Assumption

And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For all who are lowly and poor, pray for us, holy Mother of God.

For all women, made in the image and likeness of God pray for us, holy Mother of God.

For mothers, nurturers of the image of God in their children pray for us, holy Mother of God.

For those who have died sharing, with Mary, Christ's glory pray for us, holy Mother of God.

For all of us disciples of Jesus, your Son pray for us, holy Mother of God.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Dear families,

What a confusing week! To say that I have so many mixed emotions with the snap lockdown announcement last week then a return this week is an understatement. I am sure many of you have been through a range of emotions too and may still be working through them. I am! And I am very happy to be back and seeing the kids in class.

Can I thank the entire community for keeping track and up to date with our communications over the past few weeks? I hope by now you have trust and faith in our approach about how we communicate and at times the need to be very decisive about actions.

Last week I sought significant levels of input into decisions as the Premier made the announcements late in the afternoon. As I have stated before, we receive the same information as the general public via media. We too hear the rumblings from various media sources which makes things heightened until the announcement and confirmation.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff group at St Mary's. Flipping from onsite, to remote learning and back to onsite in rapid succession has been a major challenge for all schools. Their efforts are much appreciated!

### **School Review**

As you may be aware, St Mary's School is currently undertaking the five-year school review process. Yesterday our staff engaged with reviewer Michael Rowland to commence the discussion around our strengths, challenges and future directions. We look forward to continuing to engage with Michael next week as well as later in the term. Following the discussions, he will present a report to our school to inform strategic action for the next 5-year cycle.

### **Keeping warm**

With such cold weather upon us, can we please ask parents that children come to school suitably dressed for outside play, as well as PE. All children should be in a jumper and/or coat when outside as a minimum. If children need extra warmth on really cold days, then scarfs, beanies and gloves are acceptable also. As a sustainable school, it is also important that students are wearing jumpers rather than turning up the heaters constantly when there are many students in short sleeves.

### **Child Safety at St. Mary's**

All organisations working with children must take steps to prevent abuse. They cannot assume that child abuse does not, and cannot, happen within their organisation.

The standards are a result of recommendations of the Betrayal of Trust inquiry and evidence of what works to prevent child abuse.

In 2012 and 2013 the inquiry looked into the handling of child abuse by religious and non-government organisations. Its report highlighted poor and inconsistent practices for keeping children safe. It found some organisations' cultures did not focus on children's safety and many failed to report or act on child abuse allegations.

Child Safe Standards aim to:

- promote the safety of children
- prevent child abuse
- ensure organisations and businesses have effective processes in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse.

Child Safe Standards work by:

- driving changes in organisational culture – embedding child safety in everyday thinking and practice

- providing a minimum standard of child safety across all organisations
- highlighting that we all have a role to keep children safe from abuse.

Although all children are vulnerable, some children face additional vulnerabilities. The standards provide three overarching principles for organisations to cover:

- the cultural safety of Indigenous children
- the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds the safety of children with a disability.

There are seven child safe standards:

- Standard 1: Governance and leadership
- Standard 2: Clear commitment to child safety
- Standard 3: Code of conduct
- Standard 4: Human resource practices
- Standard 5: Responding and reporting
- Standard 6: Risk management and mitigation
- Standard 7: Empowering children.

We always have child safety at the forefront and continue to be proactive in making sure that we maintain a safe environment for all of our children. Child safety is the responsibility of all who are part of our community. Our codes of conduct which can be viewed on our website along with our child safe policies outline how we meet the child safe standards. If you would like further information about child safety at St. Mary's, please see me.

### **School Attendance**

Our teachers continue to plan carefully in order to engage your children in the process of learning and maintain consistency in a very difficult time. Student's regular attendance is key to enable continuity and deep learning to occur. There is a significant amount of uncertainty that is playing on many young minds, and unsurprisingly, this leads to patterns of anxiety for some. Being present at the start of the day, by 8:50am, is critical to helping your child settle into their structured daily routine.

### **School Uniform**

Students at St. Mary's are required to wear a formal compulsory identifying uniform, which distinguishes them as a member of the school. The uniform provides an opportunity for the students to display pride not only in themselves but in their membership of the school.

During Term 2 & 3, winter uniform is to be worn. (Please note that there is a transition period of two weeks at the start of Term 2 and at the end of Term 3 that takes into consideration the changing of the seasons.) All students should be dressed in full winter uniform at the moment. Details of our winter uniform are on our school website.

I have received a couple of requests for further clarity around the expected school uniform. With the images available on the website of correct uniform alongside the dress code expectations below, I hope this helps.

If your child is out of uniform for any reason, please notify your child's teacher directly.

## **APPLICATION OF THE DRESS CODE**

- The Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions.
- Summer and winter uniforms, as well as sports uniforms are prescribed, and are required to be worn.
- Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, plus watches are the only acceptable jewellery.
- Extreme hair colours (e.g. green, pink or purple rinses) and/or extreme hairstyles (e.g. spikes or mohawk) are not permitted.
- Other than clear nail polish, cosmetics may not be worn at school.
- The only headwear that is acceptable is Sun smart hats consistent with our Sun Smart policy or a navy beanie.
- Black school shoes should be worn. Runners may be brought to wear on sports days.
- Hair that is longer than shoulder length is to be worn tied back as a health and safety measure. Ribbons, clips, bands and 'scrunchies' are to be of navy colour.
- Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd. (MACS) requires the Principal to be responsible for implementation of the Dress Code in a manner consistent with the Student Behaviour Policy.
- Arrangements can be made to supply uniforms for families experiencing economic hardship through consultation with the Principal.
- Parents seeking exemptions to the Dress Code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, health condition or economic hardship must discuss this directly with the Principal.

### **Sustainability**

Under Miss Crane's leadership, the staff and students are currently working through the processes to maintain our 5-Star Resource Smart accreditation. Whilst the work is difficult to share throughout the endless lockdowns and consequent restrictions, excellent learning and teaching initiatives are occurring across the school. We are actively engaged in discussions around our key concept of 'Influence' as well as investigating health and wellbeing in our inquiry-based learning.

We will continue to provide updates in the newsletters about our progress in sustainability. This week I would like to draw your attention to 'nude food' to reduce the amount of waste from lunchbox snacks. For newer families at St Mary's this has been a key focus over the past 4 years. Our aim is to limit the total waste across the school in all areas as much as possible. Here are some ideas you may like to investigate to minimise waste through packaging in lunch boxes.

Wishing you all a happy and safe week ahead!

Kind regards,  
Ben Shields.

# Book Week 2021

**CBCA BOOK WEEK 2021**

**Monday 23rd to Friday 27th August**



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 24th August and the sale of the books will commence*

*from Wednesday 25th of August until the following Wednesday 1st September. Further details on how books can be purchased will be advised in next week's newsletter.*

## **P & F News . . .**

**LADIES NIGHT:** Friday 20th August. Goldfields Track Café, Harcourt at 6.30pm. RVSP to Jo Lawrence on 0412 839 124 by 18/8/21.

**SUSHI LUNCH ORDER DAY:** Orders to be in by 5:00pm on the Thursday.

### **BREAKFAST CLUB:**

Further information to follow when this will resume.

### **STUDENT SPECIAL LUNCH DAY:**

We have a fish and chip day coming up on Tuesday, 14th September, when students also get the opportunity to wear their favourite sporting colours (in readiness for the footy finals). Details of ordering TBA.

### **TERM 3 SOCIAL EVENT - Sunday 12th September: (NEW DATE)**

Join with our school community for 10:30am mass followed by a bush walk and campfire at Leanganook, Mt Alexander. BYO picnic lunch. Marshmallows provided! (Subject to COVID restrictions).

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Date to be advised.

# Term 3:



# St Mary's Music Hall

# School Production

\***WHEN it's on:** We are aiming to have our P – 6 school production called “St Mary's Music Hall” in the last week of term 3 at St Mary's Hall. There will be two shows on the day, a matinee and evening show.

\***WHAT it's about:** The production is about the history of “Music Hall” entertainment that occurred in Australia from 1890 to 1930. The shows were based on a variety of entertainment including singing, dancing, circus acts, joke telling, poetry recitals, magic and playing musical instruments.

\***COSTUMES – WHAT to wear: For all students:**

- All costumes will be worn to school on production day. There will be no changing of costumes required.
- White, navy or black short/long-sleeved buttoned shirt, blouse, or tee-shirt. (No patterns)
- Black or navy long shorts (to the knees), pants, skirt or dress. (No patterns).
- 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.
- White, black or navy socks
- Optional top hat or old fashioned cap.
- All students will be provided with a hairband, bow tie or long tie for the shows.

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

*Brydie Aldridge : August 16th*



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



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***‘Sustainability is our SUPER POWER!’***

## **Keep Australia Beautiful Week, August 16 – 22**

Founded in 1968, Keep Australia Beautiful was our nation’s first sustainable and anti-litter campaigner.

This year we’re putting plastic in the spotlight as we try to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic to prevent it from becoming litter.

Many of us don’t realise that litter is not just food packaging rubbish that’s ended up on the streets. We use the Environmental Protection Act released in 1970 as a way to define litter. It states that any material not disposed of properly can become litter, this includes:

- Food and organic waste
- Green waste – garden clippings, dirt, soil, sand and debris
- Plastic in all forms
- Cardboard
- Building materials – glass, metal, concrete

It is easy for us to assume that throwing ‘natural’ waste such as banana peels and apple cores into the bush is fine – they’re natural, right? But spare a thought for animals that may come across these objects and ingest them... possibly not good for their tummies!

To see how you can get involved, visit <https://kab.org.au/get-involved/>



YAG PRESENTS  
**YOUTH FILM  
COMPETITION**

FOR 8-25 YEAR OLDS

**\$50-\$150 Cash prize**

Winners screened @ the  
COscars film festival  
on  
17 September 2021

Categories:

- **Snapshot** (1 minute film)
- **Short** (1-5 minutes)  
*Snapshot and short have 3 age categories:  
8-13yrs, 14-18yrs and 18-25yrs*
- **Short film** (10-25 minutes) - open category.

**ENTRIES CLOSE → 1 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Competition entry forms and guidelines can be downloaded at [www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au](http://www.mountalexandershireyouth.com.au) or picked up at the Castlemaine Library and Castlemaine Secondary College reception.

For more information contact Shannon Lacy on 5471 1700 or [youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@mountalexander.vic.gov.au)



SCAN ME