



Newsletter

Term 4, Week 2

Thursday October 14th, 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 Tuesday, 19th & Wednesday, 20th	Gr's. 3/4 onsite (2 days only)	DECEMBER Wednesday, 1st	Foundation 2022 Transition Morning - 9:00am - 10:30am
	Gr's 5/6 onsite (2 days only)		
Thursday, 21st Friday, 22nd			
Tuesday, 26th	All students return onsite P - 6 - TBC	Friday, 3rd	SCHOOL CLOSURE - Staff PD
NOVEMBER Tuesday, 2nd	MELBOURNE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Tuesday, 7th	Going Up Day - Gr's Prep - 5 Including Foundation 2022
Wednesday, 3rd	Confirmation Preparation Evening - Denise Arnel - 7:00-8:00pm	Wednesday, 8th	School Sports Carnival
Tuesday, 9th - Thursday, 18th	Book Fair	Monday, 13th	Reports Released EOY/Graduation Mass - 6:00pm
Friday, 12th	SCHOOL CLOSURE - Staff PD	Tuesday, 14th	Sausage Sizzle Lunch Last Day of Term 4
Sunday, 14th	Confirmation Mass - 10:30am	Wednesday, 15th Thursday, 16th	Numeracy Testing
Wednesday, 24th	Foundation 2022 Transition Morning - 9:00am - 10:30am		

Lord Jesus,

I give you my hands to do your work,

I give you my feet to go your way,

I give you my eyes to see as you do,

I give you my tongue to speak your words,

I give you my mind that you may think in me,

I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me.

Amen.



Dear families,

It has certainly been another interesting week with our combination of offsite and onsite learning. Our Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students were joined on Tuesday and Wednesday by the Year 3 and 4 students.

It has been so nice to have more children in the classrooms and playground.

A very big thank you to parents and carers of our 3/4 students for preparing them so well for their transition back to school. The students are managing really well with mask wearing inside. They have adapted well to the changes and I think are happy to be with teachers and friends in person again.

Welcome back to our Years 5 and 6 for Thursday and Friday. This will be our routine for next week as well.

Announcements

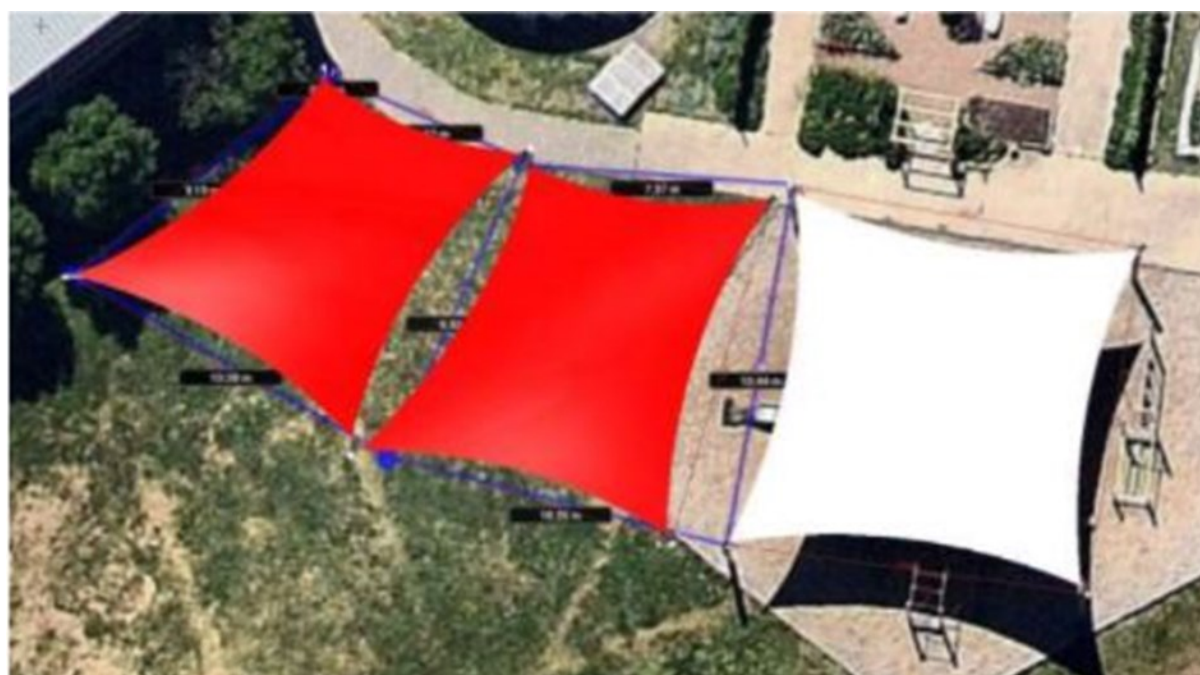
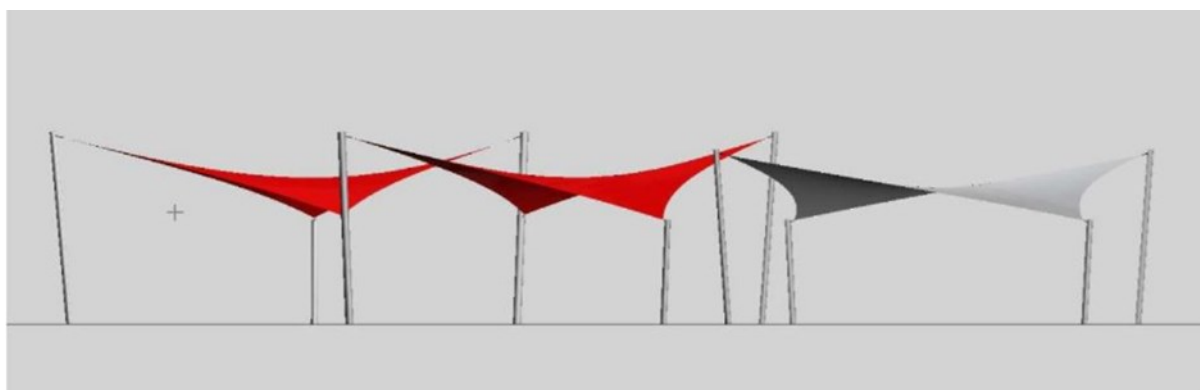
Last week the Victorian Government made more announcements in line with directions from the Chief Health Officer. These announcements have elicited various responses within our community (and no doubt across Victoria) and are directives that we as a school do not make but are expected to follow. It is important that we continue to respect each other even if we have differing points of view. At the end of the day, the staff at St Mary's are here to help your children grow and develop. When more information about the directives comes through, I will communicate it as quickly as possible. For the current week ahead what we do know is that:

- All grade 3-6 students are required to wear masks whilst onsite (Tues-Wed Gr 3/4 & Thurs-Fri Gr 5/6)
- Restrictions continue to be in place to minimise non-essential visitors to the school.

- Mandatory vaccination protocols are in place for all staff (inc. emergency teachers), placement personnel, essential visitors, contractors and volunteers from Monday 18th October.
- Enhanced cleaning routines remain in place (to be revised at the conclusion of 2021).
- As shared in last week's newsletter, where practicable scheduled classes will be utilising outdoor spaces.

Grant Application

An application has been submitted and is now pending review for the shade sail grants to increase sunsmart outdoor spaces for learning and teaching. We have the capacity to apply for a grant up to \$25,000 with the current proposal to build a shade structure between the senior playground and library building. The rationale behind this is to construct a versatile shade structure that can be used as an additional outdoor classroom as well as supporting future sustainability and sports lessons.



Please note that the white shade sail is the existing structure over the senior playground. The red sails are the potential new additions (colours are not yet determined).

Air Purification Devices

You may have heard about the introduction of air purification devices in schools. I have yet to receive any further confirmation about this, but based on the following criteria issued by CECV St Mary's will definitely be eligible. I will share more when further information comes to light.

Air purification devices will be made available to all low-fee Victorian Catholic schools, which we believe will include schools that were deemed eligible by the state government for Tutor Learning Initiative funding. A full list will be provided in the coming days. These devices will remove potentially infectious particles – like coronavirus – from higher risk areas in schools including staffrooms, sick bays, music rooms and other high-traffic area.

Preparing for 2022

Further details will be added to our upcoming newsletters, but it is important to stress that preparations for 2022 are well underway. Based on the present strong enrolment numbers for Foundation we are envisaging a total school enrolment in the vicinity of 90 students which is a key celebration of our collective achievements.

A couple of important upcoming dates for 2022 Foundation transition to St. Mary's are:

Wednesday November 24th: 9.00am-10:30am

Wednesday December 1st: 9.00am-10.30am

Tuesday December 7th: 9:00am-11:00am
(this date is also the scheduled whole school transition morning)

Please note that the above dates are subject to the restrictions in place at that time. Following last year's protocols, we made need to split the Foundation students into two groups. If anything changes, I will be in touch immediately with the effected families.

Have a happy and safe week ahead!

Kind regards,
Therese & Ben.



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

Grace Lucas : 19th October



Community News . . .

YAG & FREEZA PRESENT

**COSCARS
YOUTH
FILM FESTIVAL**

**New date - Friday 22 October
7.30pm**

**FEATURING THE WINNING FILMS FROM THE
COSCARS YOUTH FILM COMPETITION
AND
FEATURE FILM: ZOOTOPIA**

**AT THE VILLAGE SQUARE (CORNER OF FREDERICK AND
LYTTLETON STREETS)**

FREE ENTRY / ALL AGES EVENT

ICE-CREAM AND POPCORN AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
OR BYO PICNIC!

To help us keep numbers to a COVID-safe level, please register your
attendance at: <http://tix.yt/coscars>

For more information or for additional support to attend this event,
contact Shannon Lacy on 5471 1700 / youthmountalexander.vic.gov.au
Alcohol, drugs and smoke free, fully supervised event, no pass outs u/18



Sunday 17 October at 4 pm: Explore Your Backyard - Online Launch

Join via [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

What will happen when Costa the Garden Gnome and Coliban Water's Managing Director Damian Wells sit down for a Sunday afternoon chat? They will discuss gardening and water use, of course! Plus, they will be launching our fantastic online festival for National Water Week, 18 -24 October 2021.

While it's an informal chat, you can expect to hear from them about:

How the popularity of gardening and exploring our local neighbourhood has surged during Victorian lockdowns.

How climate change, population growth and water availability can inform garden planning.

How to future-proof our gardens.

So, grab a cuppa and join the LIVE conversation, where we will celebrate the amazing ways Victorians save water, and you might even be inspired to Explore Your Backyard!

Costa the Garden Gnome started out as a concrete garden ornament, 'living' in dirtgirl's veggie garden. That was before the 'costavator' and before the 'transformation'. He knows everything about nature and gardening.

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



‘Sustainability is our SUPER POWER!’

World Food Day, October 16

Our Actions are our Future

The food you choose and the way you consume it affect our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work. So you need to be part of the change.

A sustainable agri-food system is one in which a variety of sufficient, nutritious and safe foods is available at an affordable price to everyone, and nobody is hungry or suffers from any form of malnutrition.

We need to influence what is produced by **increasing our demand for sustainably produced nutritious foods**, and at the same time be more sustainable in our daily actions, first and foremost by **reducing food loss and waste**. We also have the responsibility to spread the word, building awareness about the importance of a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.