

St. Mary's Primary School Bairnsdale Newsletter

No. 01 09/02/2012



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Thought for the day

‘To bring out the best in those around you, give them encouragement and show them loving appreciation.’

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that another school year has commenced, where did those holidays go? We have had a very smooth start to the school year with the children and staff returning in high spirits. A big welcome to the families who have children commencing at St. Mary's for the first time. I hope your association with the school is a long and happy one. This year we have 50 children commencing in Prep and another 11 students across various year levels. We also welcome four new staff members to our school: Mrs. Sue Symons (5S), Mrs. Libby Crowe (1C), Miss Loretta Van Den Einden (Integration Aide) and Miss Shannon Ryan (Teacher Aide). On Sunday 19th February at the 9am Parish Mass all new families and staff members from St. Mary's and Nagle College are invited to attend a 'Welcome Mass'.

The first week has been very busy and we have a number of big events to commence the year. On Thursday 9th February we celebrated the Beginning of Year School Mass at the Bairnsdale Church. It was a wonderful celebration and the students were well behaved.

The School Swimming Carnival for children in Grades 3 to 6 will take place on Friday 10th February at the outdoor pool. A letter explaining the details and permission forms were given to parents at the student interview last week. A reminder of what is required is included below.

Grades 3-6 Swimming Carnival - Friday 10th February:

- Children swimming 50 metre events will leave school to travel by bus at 9am. They will stay at the pool for the remainder of the carnival and join in novelty events.
- Children competing in the across the pool races and novelty races will leave school by bus at approximately 10am.
- The carnival will conclude at approximately 2pm (weather dependent).

What to bring:

- School sports uniform and school hat
- House coloured shirt (optional)
- Bathers
- Swimming shirt (rash shirt) – no shirt no swim
- Water bottle, food, sunscreen
- Towel
- Plastic bag for wet bathers / towel
- Extra short sleeve shirt and shorts for the "clothed" swimming race.

St. Mary's Water Safety and Survival Program

St Mary's offers a subsidised Water Safety and Survival Program for all children during either Term 3 or Term 4 (10 lessons). The children travel by bus to the BARC under the supervision of their class teacher and are then put into groups with qualified swimming instructors to complete their lessons. This program is an important component of the school's curriculum and is compulsory for all students. The only exception to this is when

children have a serious medical condition that prohibits them from participating. The lessons cost \$75 (includes bus travel) and payment is made when parents pay school fees and levies. We understand that many of our students participate in swimming lessons outside of school, and this is strongly recommended and encouraged, however we believe that our program plays a vital part in children learning the necessary water safety and survival skills they will need throughout their life. The drowning statistics in Australia are alarming and schools play an important role in helping reduce the numbers. Swim Australia CEO, Ross Gage said last year, *“The swimming and water safety skills and knowledge developed around a baby and toddler need to be enhanced and added to during their preschool years. Likewise, once school aged, they need to become stronger swimmers and develop new water safety skills and knowledge. Parents need to ‘go the distance’ with their child’s aquatic education.”*

Student Leadership 2012

We congratulate the following students who will take up leadership positions this year:

School Captains: Danielle Capobianco
Seth Clay

Liturgy Leaders: Sarah Malcolm
Aimee Johnston
KB Seneke
Caleb Ahchow
Sarah Butler
Ciara Fitzsimon
Emily Calabro
Searsha Glassborow

House Captains:
Josephite (Green) Grace Robins
Bailey Percival
Woodward (Red) Chloe Molineux
Daniel Grassby
Presentation (Blue) Ilona Pruscino
Coby Jarvis
Sion (Yellow) Tess Coverdale
Adam Dunkley

Important Medical Issue

I would like to ask for your cooperation in an important matter. One of our children is receiving medical treatment which puts him at serious risk if he develops chicken pox, measles, mumps or shingles. For chicken pox, shingles and measles a special protective injection is available for this child, however, it is only effective if given within 72 hours of exposure, and only lasts for one

month. **It is VERY important that you let us know immediately if your child develops any of these infections.** Please ensure you notify us immediately as the health and wellbeing of your child’s fellow student depends on this information.

Sound Waves Spelling

You would have noticed that each child received a “Sound Waves” Workbook in their stationery pack. The Sound Waves approach is a key component of our spelling program. The Sound Waves approach uses a sound-to-letter strategy, which acknowledges that sounds can be represented in more than one way. The Sound Waves approach focuses first on the basic units of sound in our language – phonemes. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form the words in our language.

Active after School Program Ceases

Due to the decline in interest and numbers from students and parents St. Mary’s will no longer be offering the Active after School Program.

Pupil Free Days 2012

Please note the following dates in your diary as there will be no classes on these days:

Tuesday 13th March Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday 29th June Parent/Teacher Interviews
Monday 10th September RE Inservice for Staff
Monday 5th November Report writing day

School Uniform

St. Mary’s has a prescribed school uniform and parents are asked to ensure that children are wearing the correct uniform at all times as **substitutes are not permitted.** The Uniform Shop is open twice a week - Monday (3pm to 3.30pm) and Wednesday (8.50am to 9.30am). **I ask that parents take particular note of the following expectations:**

Hair

Students’ hair should be clean, well-groomed and off the face. Hair below shoulder length should be tied back using a plain navy blue or lemon ribbon or elasticised hair-tie. No other form of decoration (e.g. beads) should be worn in the hair and **extreme colouring and hairstyles are not permitted.** Hair should be the student’s natural colour.

Jewellery

A set of small plain sleepers or studs may be worn in the lobes of the ear. Bracelets, chains and rings may not be worn. (The only exception is a fine neck chain with a small approved Christian symbol or a Medic Alert bracelet or necklace.) Obvious

use of cosmetics (including nail polish) is not permitted.

Other

- School bags are compulsory
- School hats must be worn during terms 1&4
- Students must wear black school shoes or black elastic sided boots. Black 'slip ons' and black sandshoes are not permitted
- Anklet socks are not permitted
- Sports uniform must only be worn on PE and Sports Days.

Some important reminders

- Students are **not** supervised until **8.30am** each morning. They should not be arriving at school before this time.
- The 'drop and go' area is not to be used as a car park. Cars must not be left unattended in this area. There is an 80 car parking area at the northern end of the school.
- Please exercise extreme care when dropping off and picking up children. This includes turning **left** when exiting the school grounds.
- Please make sure that students have clear instructions on how they are to go home before they arrive at school.

Calendar Dates

A term calendar is attached to this newsletter for your information.

Best wishes,

Kevin Greenwood,
Principal.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

If you are eligible to receive the Education Maintenance Allowance the form, which is available from the school office, is due to be lodged at the office by **Wednesday 22nd February 2012**. We will require a photocopy of a Health Care / Pension Card that was valid on 1st February 2011. For your convenience we can photocopy the card at school. **NO LATE CLAIMS ACCEPTED.**

UNIFORM SHOP

Our school wear suppliers have advised us that their prices will increase as of 1st March 2012. Unfortunately we will need to pass these increases on to the items in the Uniform Shop. Anyone wishing to purchase uniforms should do so before the 1st March to avoid paying the increase. We will endeavour to keep price increases to a minimum. Many thanks to Renee and everyone else who helped out in the Uniform Shop on

Thursday and Friday last week – your help was greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time in the Uniform Shop either on a Monday (3pm – 3.30pm) or Wednesday (8.45am – 9.30am) can do so by ringing Vikki on 51531685 or 0413045039.

Vikki Holland, Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

GARDEN CLUB

Connie (co-ordinator of the Garden Club) is in need of glass jars and bottles for putting preserves in, so if you have any at home that you no longer require she would greatly appreciate them. The jars and bottles can be dropped into the school office.

Connie (with the help of the Garden Club members) is also thinking about compiling a recipe book containing "Family Favourite" recipes. So if you have some favourite recipes you would like to contribute please send them in to the school office in an envelope marked "Recipes for Connie".

PHELAN'S TOWN BUS SERVICE

Term 1, 2012 bus fees are now due. Please make cheques payable to St. Mary's Primary School Town Bus Committee. The fees can be handed to the school office, marked "Town Bus Fees". Once the fees are paid your child will be issued with a tag, which will need to be attached to their school bag, so the bus driver can see that the fees have been paid.

FULL TIME USERS

**1 child \$100 per term / 2 children \$120 per term
3 or more children \$140 per term**



PART TIME USERS

(up to 5 trips one way per week)



**1 child \$80 per term / 2 children \$95 per term
3 or more children \$100 per term**



LINDENOW JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
PO Box 82 Lindenow 3305



REGISTRATION DAY

Sunday, 26th February, 2012

Lindenow Clubrooms 11am – 1pm

Bring a Mask

New & Old players / Families welcome

Season Commences April 15, 2012

UNDER AGE FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

AGE GROUP	START DATE	END DATE
UNDER 11	1/1/2011	31/12/2012
UNDER 13	1/7/2011	31/12/2012
UNDER 15	1/7/2011	31/12/2012

There is a minimum age limit of 9 years of age. That is, a player must turn 9 in 2012 in order to play in the Under 11s.

Parents may play in Under Age Football up until the season in which they turn 14.

If you are unable to make it on the day or have any enquiries, please call Margie on 51576295 / 0409675295

St Mary's Term 1 dates 2012

February

Thursday 9 th	10am – Start of Year Mass at church
Friday 10 th	Swimming Carnival – Grades 3 to 6
Tuesday 14 th	5.30pm – Reconciliation Parent Meeting – Parish Centre
Wednesday 15 th	Prep rest day 5.30pm – Board Meeting – staffroom
Sunday 19 th	9am – Mass to welcome new families staff at St. Mary's Church
Wednesday 22 nd	Prep rest day 11.30am – Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass 7.30pm – PTFA Annual General Meeting – school staffroom
Thursday 23 rd	10am - District Swimming
Tuesday 28 th	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra 5.30pm – Reconciliation Workshop (No. 1) – Parish Centre
Wednesday 29 th	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra Prep rest day

March

Thursday 1 st	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra 9.10am – 4M Mass 10.15am – 5S Reconciliation
Friday 2 nd	Gr. 6 camp – Canberra
Monday 5 th	Preps commence full time
Tuesday 6 th	Division Swimming
Wednesday 7 th	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy
Thursday 8 th	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy 9.10am – 2C Mass 10.15am – 4N Reconciliation 10am – 2pm – Gr. 6 Maths Activity Day
Friday 9 th	Gr. 5 camp – Gelantipy
Monday 12 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday 13 th	Pupil Free Day Parent / Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 14 th	Regional Swimming
Thursday 15 th	9.10am – 2W Mass 10.15am – 6P & 6H Reconciliation
Friday 16 th	School photos
Tuesday 20 th	Division Tennis 5.30pm – Reconciliation Workshop (No. 2) – Parish Centre
Wednesday 21 st	5.30pm – Board Meeting
Thursday 22 nd	9.10am – 1M Mass 10.15am – 5B Reconciliation
Friday 23 rd	'Ride to School' Day
Monday 26 th	Gr. 4 camp – Coonawarra
Tuesday 27 th	Gr. 4 camp – Coonawarra 7pm – Gr. 3 Reconciliation Rite – St. Mary's Church
Thursday 29 th	9.10am – 1C Mass 10.15am – 4M Reconciliation State Swimming 5pm – 7pm – PTFA Easter Fair
Friday 30 th	11.30am – Easter Liturgy 2.15pm dismissal – last day Term 1