

Term 1 | Week 4 | Date: 17th February 2021

436 Moppett St, Hay

02 6993 1775

admin.hay@wf.catholic.edu.au

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians and friends of St Mary's

Since arriving in Hay a few short weeks ago I have fallen in love with the beautiful riverside trail that wends its way around the reserve at Bushy Bend. Each morning and evening I take to the trail and it never fails to enrich my senses with a glorious feeling of calm and peace. I believe that each child is intrinsically drawn to nature. As we grow older it is easy to lose this connection. That said, it is wonderful when we are able to open our senses and reconnect with it and it is never too late to do so.



Being present in nature provides the greatest antidote to the busyness of life with the constant distractions of phones and other technological devices that vie for our attention 24/7. Simply being present in nature is just about the best thing we can do to enhance our own sense of wellbeing and in my book, it beats the sweaty atmosphere of the gym hands down every time. Apart from the natural beauty of the creation all around Bushy Bend, I admire greatly the way the environment has been enhanced by the human artistry of the sculptures that pay homage to the work of the early settlers and pioneers and depict the geological history of the riverscape.



In a sense this speaks to me of the way that each of us as parents and teachers can enhance and beautify the natural qualities of the children whom we parent and teach through the lessons we give them. In a very real way each of us, parents and teachers, is a potential artist. In the same way that Michaelangelo perceived the angel in the hard block of stone and the sculptor of Bushy Bend perceived the beauty hidden in the steel, we are similarly challenged to first of all see and then to bring out the beauty in our young people, helping them to be the best versions of themselves.

On a spiritual level the winding path of Bushy Bend speaks about the Lenten path ahead of us as we approach the holy season of Easter with its message of Hope that is the centrepiece of our Gospel message.

Mrs Nelson and myself were delighted to meet with a representative from Hay Plains Landcare yesterday who invited our school to participate in the 'Seasons for Seeds' program that will see our students, along with students from the other two local schools, learning about environmental stewardship and being involved in an environmental regeneration project to enhance my beloved Bushy Bend. What a great learning experience this promises to be for our students. Hope indeed!

God Bless

*Vince Campbell*

Vince Campbell

Week 4 February	15 Southern Cluster Carnival- Hay	16 Shrove Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday Mass - 9am	18	19 WF AFL Trials (Hay)	20/21
		Swimming Program	Swimming Program	Swimming Program	Swimming Program TBC	
Week 5 February	22	23	24	25	26	27/28
Week 6 March	1 Diocesan Swimming Trials	2	3	4	5 Yr 2/3/4 - Stations of the Cross	6/7
St Mary's Swimming Program- Times TBC						

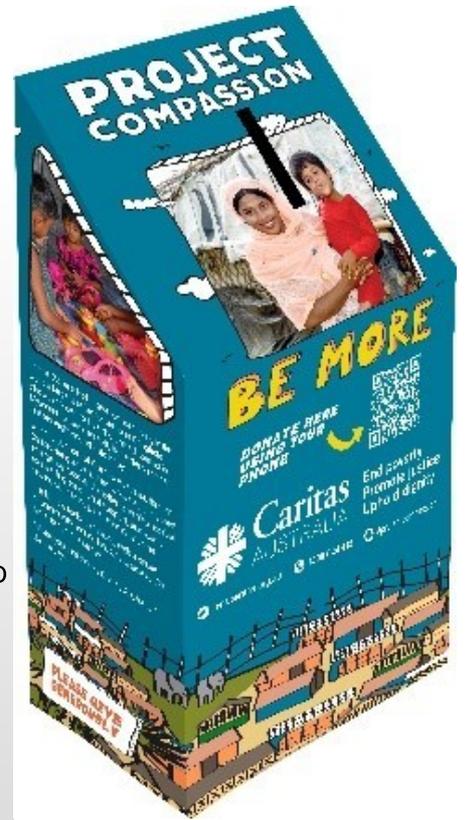
# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Ash Wednesday – 17th February 2021

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. The Year 6 leaders will be organising some fundraising activities for the school to support Project Compassion throughout Lent.

Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's **"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."**



## Mr Kupkee Visits St Mary's!

On Tuesday, the students and staff of St Mary's welcomed Mr Chris Kupkee to the school. Mr Kupkee is a member of the Mission and Religious Education Team of the diocese. During his visit Mr Kupkee shared his knowledge of the Religious Education Curriculum, *Educating in Christ*, we thank Mr Kupkee for the time he spent with our students and staff.



# CLUSTER SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Monday St Mary's hosted the Southern Cluster Swimming Carnival at the Hay Pool.

Students from Balranald, Deniliquin, Hillston and Hay competed in the carnival. Once again the weather was perfect for a swimming carnival.

All students swam to the best of their ability and there were many close results. The good sportsmanship was again very evident with all schools cheering everyone on.

Thanks again to Kerry Barnes, Kelly Robson, David Hill, Nat Arandt and Gayle Munn who assisted us on the day. Thanks to the school parents who also helped in so many ways to make the day a great success.

The following students have qualified for the Diocesan Carnival :

Archer Gill, Giselle Gill, Emma Curtis, Jye Scott, Tilly Weeks and Olivia Barnes.



## **AFL Trials**

On Friday Archer Gill, Brody Stringer and Rhett Mealing will attend the AFL Trials. The trials will be held at No 2 Oval here in Hay. We wish them well for the trials.

## ***School Swimming Lessons***

Swimming sessions for the whole school have now begun and the students are enjoying the time at the pool. We will confirm if the lessons are on this Friday. After this week we will have 1 week break and start again Monday 1st March for the week.

### Swimming Carnival

First everyone in our class gathered up in line at the gate, some people at the front and some at the back. I personally wanted to be at the front because I really wanted to sit in the back with my friends (Simmy and Zoe). I wanted to run when they said off you go but I knew I would be called back and lose any hope of sitting in the back.

So I fast walked because technically it's not running. I was speeding through the rows of chairs, thinking that I'll definitely get the spot I was hoping for but then a road block 🚗 someone was stuck or something and it was like a traffic jam. When that was over (it didn't last long but it seemed like it did) I got the second best spot.

Prince, Emma and Ava got the spot I wanted but I was satisfied with the second best spot. I sat next to Simmy because I wasn't quite sure where Zoe went and we headed off. I looked out the window and watched the school become further and further away. Then I talked with Simmy for a while then looked out the window and saw we were going past Arandt automotive and heading back to the school. Mr Campbell had missed the bus.

Fast forward a bit and with Mr Campbell on the bus we headed off again and then we stopped at the pool and we all hopped out of the bus but then I had to get back on to look for my hat, finally ready to go into the pool.

Me feeling excited and nervous at the same time hoping that I could make gold 🏆 win 🏆 We all sat down, 🌟 gold 🌟 on one side blue on the other (even though some people just sat on gold's side even though they were in blue ) and people who forgot sat in the middle. I place my towel on 🌟 Gold 🌟 side and sat next to Zoe since Simmy was on blue not 🌟 Gold 🌟 After i got changed into my swimmers mum said I had to go up to marshalling so she helped me put my cap on and gave me my goggles so I went up to marshalling to do my freestyle race 🏊. When I went up to marshalling I was fine and had a chat with Ava then hopped up on the blocks and started to feel very Nervous but I really wanted to do well so I heard take your marks get set, Go! I pushed off hard with my legs and started swimming before I knew it I was at the end of the pool . After I finished my other races (by then everyone was finished) we were told to sit down under the tarp, they announced the awards Junior boy 11yrs ( It was Archer ) then 9rs was me runner up Ava . Next they announced the house winner (my favourite part 😊 ) Which was 🌟 gold 🌟. Then we all hopped back on the bus and went back to school.

Recount by Giselle Gill

# SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM



We would like to thank all of those involved with organising and running this program.

The students are learning a lot and really enjoying themselves.

We won't be swimming next week but will begin again on Monday 1st March.

# Weekly Compliance Articles

## KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHEN DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP AT SCHOOL

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children and others safer during drop-off and pick-up times during the school week:

- Make sure your children are fastened in the correct child car seat for their age and size and that it is fitted correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Watch for flashing lights on buses. They let you know that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road. A 40km/h limit applies when school bus lights flash.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Always park and turn legally around schools. Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car through the Safety Door, away from passing traffic. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](http://safetytown.com.au)

## FREE WEBINARS TO HELP YOU PROTECT CHILDREN ONLINE

In partnership with the [eSafety Commissioner](#), the Council of Catholic School Parents will be holding two free webinars to provide parents and carers with strategies to establish a safe online environment for their children.

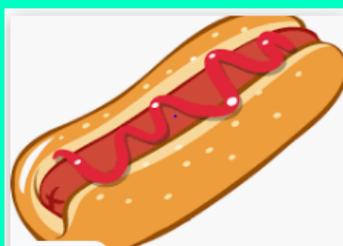
The sessions will be presented by Greg Gebhart, one of Australia's leading online safety presenters. Greg has provided presentations to more than 800,000 participants at state, national and international events.

[Download flyer](#)

## Friday Lunch Offer

### Hot Dog w/sauce

### \$3.50





**EVERYONE IS INVITED  
TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL**

# **Picnic in the Park**

**6pm Monday 22nd February 2021**

**BYO Picnic Dinner or food to  
barbeque, drinks and rug/chairs.**

**Moppett Street  
entrance.**