

Term 1 | Week 8 | Date: 17th March 2021

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends of St Mary's

"Did you know that birds can dance?" I was asked by a Grade 1 child who ran up to me excitedly just before school assembly one morning last week. *"What makes you say that?"* I responded. *"Well I saw them dancing in the sky this morning on my way to school,"* she quickly replied. *"Hmm,"* I thought to myself, *"I've never ever thought about birds dancing before."*



I reflected upon this child's close observation of nature later in the day and couldn't help but wonder at how very young children have that innate capacity to view our world with such wonder and awe. Everyday sights and sounds that we adults consider mundane, walking straight past without really noticing or giving a second thought to, children somehow find beauty and mystery in these self-same things. Later in the week, on Friday, I observed a further example of this. Visitors from

Landcare were speaking to the children about seeds and plants, showing them a range of plant species including saltbush and wattle and engaging them in a school project around seed propagation. A number of the children were in awe at the power of nature to create plants of such beauty from such tiny seeds. The children expressed wonder at the fact that large tracts of seemingly barren ground can be brought vividly to life after rainfall provides the necessary nourishment for dormant seeds to flourish. Mother Nature helps us perceive the beauty of the world with great wonder and awe, for sure, and is a great entry point for us all to experience spirituality, creation and ultimately God. As adults we can do no better than to try to view the wonders of our world through the eyes of a child, maybe that child each of us adults once was.

Catholic Schools like St Mary's are, I believe, particularly wonderful environments to cultivate all of the character strengths and in particular those of Hope, Appreciation of Beauty and Spirituality as it is these very three that provide the foundation for our whole Catholic faith.

This week right across Australia we celebrate 200 years of Catholic Schools in our great nation. It is an inspiring story and St Mary's has been a vibrant part of that story since 1887 as the sign at the front of the school attests. Just like the mighty plants growing from the tiny seeds, Catholic Schools like St Mary's have grown from very humble beginnings. The nationwide celebrations for 200 years of Catholic Schools coincide with today's celebration of St Patrick's Day. On this feast day we reflect with gratitude for the contributions of Irish people, particularly the religious priests, sisters and brothers who more than any other group instituted the system of Catholic Schooling in Australia. Quite simply there is no educational system in the world like our Australian Catholic Education system - it is universally acknowledged as being quite unique. I have been privileged to be a part of this ongoing story for over 40 years while St Mary's School here in Hay has been part of the story for 138 years. Our school is growing strong and like the lessons we learnt last week about the seeds and plants it will, with careful tending, grow stronger still and flourish well into the future. The community of Hay deserves and should expect no less.

Wishing everyone a great week and looking forward to seeing many of you at our lunchtime picnic on the school oval at 1.00 pm today.

We warmly welcome Lanushka and her family who joined the St Mary's family this week and we hope that your time at St Mary's is one of great joy and learning. Lanushka joined our Year 6 class this week.

God Bless

Vince Campbell

Term 1 Planner - Weeks 8 to 10

Week 8 March	15	16 WF Winter Trials	17 200 Years of Catholic Education Celebration Family Picnic 1.00pm	18	19 Back up WF Winter Trials Mass -St Joseph 9am	20/21
Week 9 March	22 NSWCPS Swimming - SOPAC	23	24 Polding - AFL Trials (Newcastle)	25 NAPLAN Practice Test	26	27/28 Palm Sunday
Week 10 March/April	29	30 Yr 5/6 Reconciliation	31	1 Holy Thursday Last day Term 1 Cross Country - Years 2-6	2 Good Friday	3/4 Easter Sat/Sun
	HOLY WEEK					

NAPLAN (PRACTICE TEST)

ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 3 & 5 WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE NAPLAN PRACTICE TEST NEXT THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH

ALL STUDENTS WILL NEED TO BRING THEIR OWN HEADPHONES



Today the students celebrated 200 Years of Catholic Education with a slideshow and enjoying some lovely cupcakes. Thank you to Mrs Beryl Mabon who joined us for the occasion.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

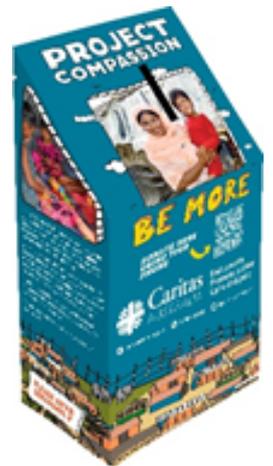
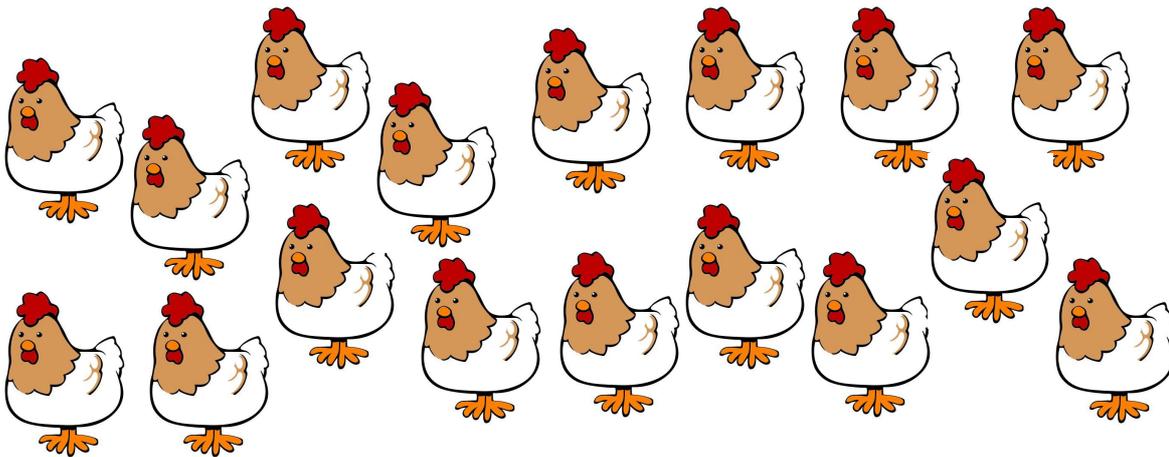
Sr Elizabeth Visits St Mary's

This week Sr Elizabeth Young visited St Mary's School to talk to the students and staff about Project Compassion. Sr Elizabeth focused on identifying all the aspects of our lives that we are grateful for and on how we can demonstrate gratitude and **BE MORE**.



Project Compassion Fundraising Update

This week the children were very excited to hear that they have now raised enough money to buy 17 chickens! Thank you to everyone who has contributed!



The Solemnity of St Joseph Mass

9am Friday 19th March
Parents and friends are
welcome to attend!

SPORTS News

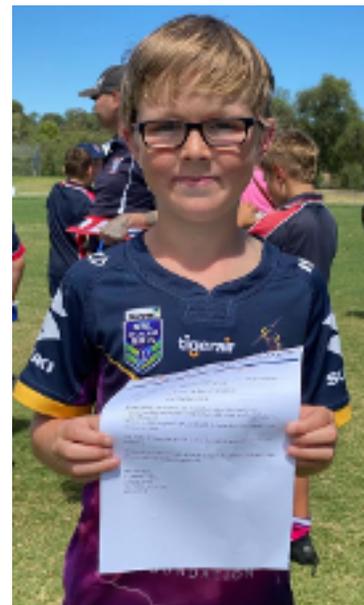
Rugby League

Archer, Rhett and Jaylen made the long journey to Parkes to participate in the WF Open Rugby League Trials.

Congratulations to Archer who has been selected in the WF Team and will now travel to

AFL

Good Luck to Archer who is also off to Newcastle to be part of the WF Afle Team



Swimming

Our relay team, Emma, Olivia, Giselle and Archer who will be swimming at the Sydney Aquatic Centre on Monday 22nd March. Giselle and Archer will also be participating in individual events.



Friday Lunch Offer

Chicken Goujons
\$2.50



*School holidays are just around
the corner!*

Do you need care for your children?

**HAY CHILDREN'S SERVICES INC ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE
THE INAUGURAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM, OPERATING
IN THE TERM 1 HOLIDAYS.**

What: Child led program with an emphasis on fun, implemented by qualified and experienced Educators.

Who can attend: Children 3 years to 9 years inclusive. Priority will be given to children with working parents / carers.

When: Week days, Tuesday 6th April - Friday 16th April from 8.30am to 5.30pm

Where: Hay Preschool premises, 348 Church Street. Outings into the community may be undertaken as part of the program.

Cost: \$25 per day per child (invoiced in advance and payment terms will apply).

Contact: Rachael on 6993 1757 or admin@haycs.com.au for further information or to enrol.

Weekly Compliance Articles

WEARING HELMETS AND RIDING SAFELY

Wearing helmets

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it's the law. The helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand standards and needs to be securely fitted and fastened on your child's head. It should be buckled firmly so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides.

Always remember to check that your child is wearing a helmet whenever they're playing or riding on wheels:

- Bikes
- Foot scooters
- Roller Skates
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades.

Riding safely

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they aren't ready to cycle near traffic or on the road. Until they are at least 10 years old, your child should ride off-road away from vehicles and driveways.

The safest places to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards are within fenced areas. This helps your child from riding or falling onto the footpath or the road. Children under 12 and their accompanying supervising adult riders may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling. Riders need to take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out.

At intersections, riders must dismount and wheel the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK! procedure.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au



DON'T FORGET!

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

Orders due:
Thursday 18th March
2021. Please NO cash,
LOOP orders only.

SCHOLASTIC Book Club

Three **Easy** Ways To Pay

1 CREDIT CARD Your School is in the LOOP! When you order and pay by LOOP, do not fill in the order form or return anything to school. Your order will be electronically linked to the rest of your school's order. Visit scholastic.com.au/LOOP
OR download the app:  

Book Club LOOP
The EASIEST way for parents to order and pay for Book Clubs!

Parents: Are you registered for LOOP?
LOOP is the easiest way for you to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order, if you wish to pay by credit card.

Parents who are registered for LOOP receive exclusive sneak peeks, downloads and offers throughout the school year—don't miss out!

BONUS!

Head to scholastic.com.au/LOOP and register today!

SCHOLASTIC





NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

Friday 19 March 2021



are excited to be celebrating **National Ride2School Day**
on **Friday 19 March 2021**.

National Ride2School Day is the perfect opportunity to kick-start new healthy habits and promote the many benefits of active travel. We encourage all students and their families to leave the car at home and give riding, walking, scooting or skating to school a go.

It's sure to be a fantastic day and we look forward to seeing you there!

