

Term 1 | Week 7 | Date: 8th March 2021

436 Moppett St , Hay

02 6993 1775

admin.hay@wf.catholic.edu.au

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

March 10th

Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends of St Mary's School

*"It is our job to prepare our children for the road, not prepare the road for our children."*

( From 'The Blessing of a Skinned Knee' - raising self-reliant children by Dr Wendy Mogel)

From my perspective of being a teacher/school principal for 43 years and a parent for 37 of these years, I'd say that both parenting and teaching are great privileges and both are challenging and rewarding in equal measure. Of course there are great connections between the work of the parents and teachers - after all, parents are the child's first teachers and teachers themselves, if they are to be successful in motivating children to learn, need to work in close partnership with parents.

This is a critical partnership and for it to be at its best, there needs to be a shared appreciation and understanding around what each individual child needs in terms of their wellbeing and learning. The role of *'listening'* is critical to the success of this partnership. In short, teachers must listen to parents and parents must listen to teachers.

Again from my perspective, when children are allowed to *'s-t-r-e-t-c-h'* themselves and, dare I say it, *'fail'* sometimes in their efforts to do so, they expand the sense of their own capability and then feel more confident to tackle the next challenge. In her book, *'The Blessing of a Skinned Knee,'* Dr Wendy Mogel suggests that children insulated from challenges and risks of failure become less capable to deal with adversity. She notes the incidence of *'teacups,'* uni students who are so overprotected by their parents that they are incapable of functioning in the parentless world of higher education and in the new workplace where they struggle in relationships and with challenges,



By overprotecting our children, we do them a double disservice. Firstly, we insulate them from experiences that facilitate their growth and resilience. Secondly, by actively protecting them, we send them a message that they are not capable of coping on their own. So, as parents and teachers, we need to take a positive view towards challenges, seeing them as opportunities for growth of children's independence, confidence and capability. We should protect less and instead seek out experiences that will allow the development of the character strengths of resilience, hope and optimism.

Jesus himself, a wonderful teacher, understood this clearly, stretching his first followers to the max. Despite Peter, his closest disciple, failing Jesus a number of times, Peter grew through these experiences of failure, going on to be the founding father of our Catholic religion and the first Pope of our Church.

Closer to home, I spoke with one of our Year 5 students who had trialled for the Diocesan Cricket Team a couple of weeks back and who had *'failed'* to make the cut. *"How do you feel?"* I asked him. *"Good,"* he responded, *"there were some really good players there and I really enjoyed it."* *"What are you going to do now?"* I asked. *"I'm going to practise harder to get better and I'm going to try again next year"* he responded. *"What if you don't make the cut next year?"* I queried. *"I'm just going to have to practise again only much harder"* was his response. Needless to say, I was mightily impressed with his character and mindset. This child is destined for a bright future, for sure, I thought.

Wishing everyone a great week!

Vince Campbell

### **Term 1 Planner - Weeks 7 to 10**

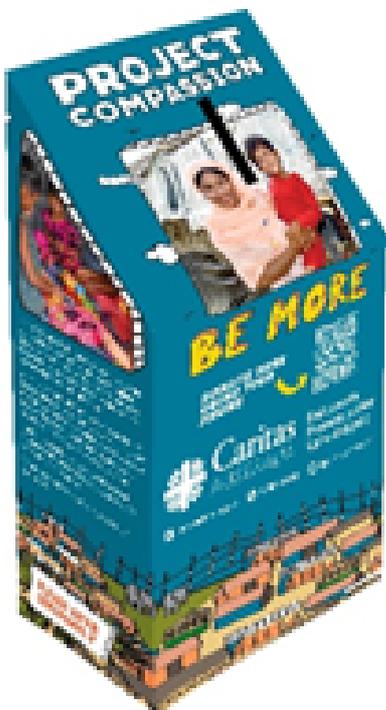
Week 7 March	8 Parent/Teacher interviews 3.30-5.30pm	9 WF Touch Trials Parent/Teacher interviews 3.30-5.30pm	10	11 Yr 5/6 Stations of the Cross 9am	12 Back up WF Touch Trials	13/14
Week 8 March	15	16 WF Winter Trials	17 200 Years of Catholic Education Celebration Family Picnic 1.00pm	18	19 Back up WF Winter Trials	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
	NSWPSSA Swimming - SOPAC TBC				HOLY WEEK	

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

## Stations of the Cross

YEAR 2/3/4 -  
FRIDAY 5TH  
MARCH AT 9.00AM

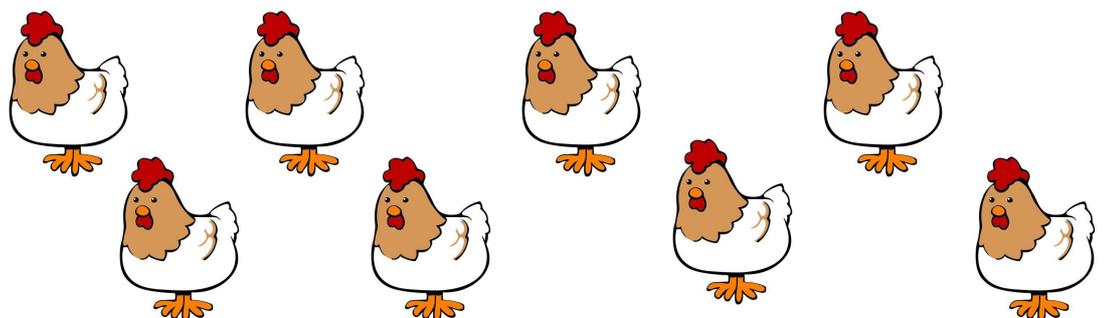
YEAR 5/6 -  
THURSDAY 11TH  
MARCH AT 9.00AM



### Project Compassion Fundraising Update

The children at St Mary's have currently donated \$42.85 to support the annual Project Compassion appeal. This is enough money to purchase 8 chickens! We will continue to raise money to support Project Compassion until Easter.

Thank you to all the families who have contributed!



# 200 Years of Catholic Education



## PICNIC LUNCH

**ST PATRICK'S DAY  
WEDNESDAY 17TH MARCH AT 1.00PM**



Catholic Education  
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

*Faith in the future*

[www.200years.catholic.edu.au](http://www.200years.catholic.edu.au)

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**BYO PICNIC FOOD**

ST MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL



MARCH 17TH 2021

• ST. PATRICK'S DAY •

DRESS IN GREEN

GOLD COIN DONATION

DONATIONS GO TOWARDS PROJECT  
COMPASSION



# *CONGRATULATIONS*

*Emma, Giselle,  
Archer & Olivia*

For qualifying for the NSWCPS Swimming in Sydney on  
Monday 22nd March

We have more great news from our swimmers who participated in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Condobolin last Monday 1st March. Congratulations to Archer Gill who qualified for the following events - Breaststroke, Butterfly and the Medley. Giselle Gill - Butterfly and Medley. Both Olivia Barnes-Heriot and Emma Curtis qualified for the Mixed Relay with Archer and Giselle. These students will be traveling to Sydney in week 9 for the NSWCPS Swimming. Once again, congratulations to all our swimmers who participated in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival.

# Weekly Compliance Articles

## DRIVING SAFELY NEAR SCHOOL BUSES

There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is setting down or picking up school children. This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

Lights will flash on the front and back of the bus reminding drivers that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road.

Buses can't stop quickly because they are large and heavy vehicles. So, remember:

Reduce speed to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing

Give way to buses

Watch out for children crossing

Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.

### Informal school bus stops

Informal bus stops are not sign posted and are usually found in rural areas. They may be at the front of a property, or on the side of the road, which may make children difficult to see.

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

## Friday Lunch Offer

### Creamy Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread

**\$5.00**

### Update

*"Cead Mille Failte!" (A hundred thousand welcomes!)*

We will be celebrating St Patrick's Day and 200 years of Catholic Schools in Australia next Wednesday, March 17th, the feast day of St Patrick. Children are asked to bring a gold coin donation for our Lenten Project Compassion Appeal and are asked to wear some green on the day. Thanks to the relaxing of the Covid restrictions we are now able to invite parents onto the school grounds and so we will be hosting a lunchtime picnic at 1.00 pm where you are invited to bring your own picnic and share it with the children on our school grounds. Looking forward to seeing you there!



**STUDENT BANKING FOR 2021**

**IS EVERY**

**TUESDAY**