



Term 1 Week 9 — Wednesday 23rd March 2022 436 Moppett St Hay 2711 02 6993 1775 admin.hay@wf.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's

Hoping that you are keeping well in these troubling times for our world as our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine as we mourn the terrible loss of lives there in the war. Closer to home, here in Australia, we similarly turn our thoughts to the families and businesses who have lost their homes and livelihoods with the flooding. It's not always easy to find good news and yet, as teachers and parents, it is still so important for us to speak positively about the world with our children, telling them that it is a good world. If we care to look, there are stories of great human courage and kindness everywhere in the midst of the terrible happenings and these stories should give us hope for the future. In our own little town of Hay we can feel a sense of comfort and gratitude that we are not directly impacted by the conflicts and disasters elsewhere in the world.



Yet at the same time we are connected by virtue of our common humanity to our global brothers and sisters whether they be in Ukraine, Lismore or anywhere else where there is suffering. As parents and teachers we need to be very sensitive to the impact that so much 'bad news' can have on our children's wellbeing and sense of hope for the future. It is so important that we are beacons of hope and positivity for our young people, encouraging them to feel compassion for those suffering while at the same time inspiring them with stories of courage and kindness, all the while gently protecting them from the ongoing negativity of the 24 hour news cycle. I believe that this is where we can really emphasise a key message

of our religious faith, the message of Jesus who truly proclaimed the 'Good News,' when he said *'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.'* This is a message of great positivity and especially so as we approach Easter, the true season of Hope.

And now for two good pieces of news relating to St Mary's. We can all be so grateful that the relaxation of the Covid restrictions have provided us with some sense of normality with parents and visitors finally being permitted on the school site. It was so good to welcome so many of you to school last Thursday evening, St Patrick's Day, for a gathering in the hall, a chance to see your children's classrooms and to have a lovely family barbeque dinner for everyone. There was such a lovely atmosphere throughout and we really must look for more opportunities to do this again. A big thank you to you all for coming along!

Our second Good News story is our whole school celebration of Harmony Day on Monday. What a special day it was! It was a true joy to see so many of our children, particularly those in our Kinder and Year 1 class, coming to school in dress that reflected their cultural background. The children inspired us with their pride and love of their culture and it was a powerful learning experience in the upper grades as students shared elements of their own cultural knowledge, such as Arabic writing, with their peers. We celebrated the day with a lovely whole-school liturgy, led by Mrs Nelson with great participation from all classes. The liturgy concluded with children from different cultures processing out of the hall to the Peace Pole garden where they placed flags from their country. What a lovely way to celebrate our cultural diversity and honour the different religions and cultural backgrounds of the children and families that make up our lovely school - Aboriginal, Pakistani, Indian, Fijian, Malaysian and Japanese to name some - we are truly blessed indeed.

Respect for Self—Respect for Others— Respect for the Environment



A highlight of Monday was the wonderful smorgasbord of culinary delights cooked up by our parents and featuring some delicious food from the above-named cultures. We could all hardly contain ourselves, such was the quality of the food and everyone ate heartily! I would like to finish by complimenting our Years 5 and 6 children for showing such great leadership in helping to organise the planning of the day and for being such great hosts as they served up the food for everyone. Well done Mrs. Nelson and Years 5 and 6!

Building on the lovely atmosphere that we experienced last Thursday I would like to have a **'Fundraising and School Promotion Meeting'** at 5.15 pm next Tuesday March 29th of interested parents so that we can make a plan for organising some fundraising and fun type activities for the rest of the year eg: Christmas Fair, Mothers'/Fathers' Day activities etc.



Now, a few words about Giselle Gill, one of our Year 5 students who returned to school on Wednesday after representing St Mary's as part of the Polding Team at the Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival held at the Aquatic Centre, Sydney Olympic Park, earlier this week. Giselle is a fine young student with a number of great qualities including humility. True to form, Giselle represented St Mary's and the Polding Team with great distinction. Congratulations Giselle and we are all so proud of you!

Vacation Care at St Mary's in the School Easter Holiday

I am delighted to be able to inform you that, with school holidays just around the corner, St Mary's will be hosting a vacation care program during the holiday period. The school has established a productive working relationship with Hay Children's Services (HCS) and together we have been working hard to take this vacation care initiative forward. I received confirmation just last week that our school site meets the Department of Education guidelines and that the program can now go ahead. Details as follows:

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

Who can attend? Children 3 - 12 years of age.

When? Week days during the upcoming holiday period (no Public Holidays) Monday April 11th until Friday April 22nd between 8.30 am - 5.30 pm.

For further details contact Hay Children's Services on 6993 1757 or admin@haycs.com.au

Stations of Cross - Thursday April 7th at 12.15 pm in Church

Parents, Friends and Parishioners are most welcome to join us as staff and children present a short reflection on the story of the last days of Jesus's life, known as the Passion. This will be a prayerful and solemn gathering for us all as we prepare in readiness for the joy and celebration of Easter that happens on Easter Sunday while we are on holiday.

Wishing everyone well and thanking you for your support for St Mary's.

Vince Campbell

Principal

Feedback from last Thursday's Parent Meeting

What's Going well at St Mary's right now?

- Involvement of school in parish masses.
- Comfortable teaching environment
- Parents and teachers are very close and makes us get to know what's going on. Easy to talk to teachers about problems.
- Teachers are enthusiastic
- Personal comment in relation to one child's improvement in work and good behaviour. She is very excited to come to school and tell her parents about what is happening.
- Easy to communicate with teachers.
- Small classes mean lots of individual attention from teachers.
- Children are happy and very settled.
- Wonderful education with the Catholic religion.
- Sporting Activities/core skills.

Encouraging positive behaviour/strengths and confidence building.

Some of the Things that I would like to see happening at St Mary's that would make it a better school:

- Swimming program
- Canteen?
- Would like to see P&F group form to get fundraising going.
- Swimming program summer months
- Lunchtime organised sports
- boys/girls clubs
- Preparation for all carnivals - cross country/athletics.

Starlight Lessons 2021

Some ways that I could support the school eg helping in the garden or being on a fundraising committee for an event:

- P&F up and running
- Fundraising Committee
- Helping out around the school eg putting up the shed and helping in the garden
- Helping with Sports
- Gardening
- Helping out whenever needed in any way!
- Children's reading

Providing seeds

School Garden:

General feeling that it was good to have gardens ready for planting and that now we need to get children, parents and staff involved in the gardens. A number of parents indicated that they would like to be involved and they will be contacted shortly. We will also involve the pre-school who will start to visit the school again now that Covid restrictions have eased.

Fundraising:

- Let's have a meeting to start planning some events eg Trivia Night (possibly with a dress-up theme) or a Murder Mystery night. Fr Paul volunteered to help here!

School Concert.

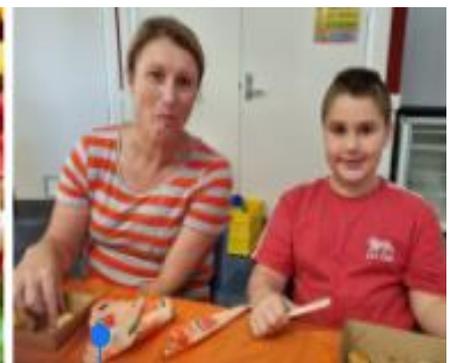
Listening to Children Read:

A number of parents indicated interest here and you will be contacted. Presently the school is doing a special 'Early Literacy Project' and we are in the process of ordering a batch of new reading books that will be able to be sent home.

Parents with Special Talents/Interests:

- A number of parents indicated their willingness to help out here and I will be following up with some of you. Some examples include Japanese and Fijian dancing and singing as well as help with sporting programs.

Harmony Day



Respect for Self—Respect for Others— Respect for the Environment

R. E. NEWS

6



FAMILY MASS + SUPPER + GAMES + PRIZES

6pm Saturday, 2nd April

Spread the word & bring the whole family!!!

Dear friends, I'm very excited to announce our next Family Mass for 2022—**6pm Saturday, 2nd April**. We will be getting all the children involved in heaps of ways: singing, reading, serving, computer, offertory, welcome, collection, music and much much more. Immediately afterwards, while the BBQ is underway, there will be heaps of fun games for young and old. What a wonderful opportunity to come together as a parish family.

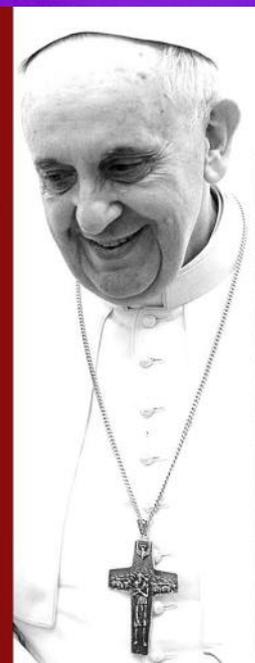


[Orphan Lamb Struggles to Find a Home](#)

Over the next couple of weeks I will be guiding the children on how they can participate at Mass so they can do so with confidence and really enjoy themselves. Our hope is to soon include a roster with this RE News page that will enable school families to get involved in our Saturday night celebration and ensure that everyone, young and old, are always welcome and engaged.

Something else we're looking to introduce is a

**DEAR YOUNG
PEOPLE,
DO NOT BURY YOUR
TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT
GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU!
DO NOT BE AFRAID
TO DREAM OF
GREAT
THINGS!**
POPE FRANCIS



monthly music group at the Sunday Mass. We'd love to discover a local musicians and singers — young and old — to bring together a wonderful choir/music group. So if you're interested or know someone who might be please let the School Office know and we will let you know about practices. Exciting isn't it!?!

Fr Paul Newton

Mobile: **0418 294 847**

Email: frpaulnewton@gmail.com

Parish Office Ph: **(03) 5020 1645**



Sandhills Artefacts

We are very thankful to Jade Audlist for organizing an excursion to Sandhills Artefacts Authentic Wiradjuri Art, in Narrandera for the entire school. We will be going on Wednesday 6th April. The cost has been fully covered by the school.

Students will need to bring their own recess and lunch on the day. We will send home a note next week with further information.



NAPLAN

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed their NAPLAN trial today. The trial went off without a hitch with all students completing their set tasks without too much drama. The actual NAPLAN testing will be completed on 10th, 11th and 12th May 2022.

Students will need to have their own headphones for these days.

FRIDAY LUNCH DEAL

Home Made Sausage Roll w/sauce



\$3.50



Around the Grounds

In K/1 we have so many amazing and different cultures in our class which we are so grateful for. We completed a puzzle of different cultures we have around the world!



Class Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received class awards at our assembly

Sera Mocevakadua: for being an imaginative and creative member of our class

Cathy Rokotavaga: for being a consistently kind, caring and friendly classmate and student

Lacey Headon: for consistently doing the right thing in class and always trying to improve

Lincoln Nelson: for his ability to complete tasks especially in writing

Usher Stringer: for enthusiastically putting his best efforts into cross country training

Hannah Edmonds: for striving to write an engaging historical narrative and succeeding



K/1



Lots of fun in K/1 when we acted out The Little Red Hen
Reading is so fun!!



CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular, the school will:

- Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.

Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

MAINTAINING PROFESSIONALISM

All staff are expected to act professionally and in accordance with the school's expectations regarding staff conduct toward children. We understand that staff have a duty of care to:

- ensure no child is exposed to foreseeable risk of harm;
- take action to minimise risk;
- supervise actively; and

if we see others acting inappropriately with children, report concerns to the Principal.

School staff also understand that they are in a position of trust, authority and influence in relation to children and that it is important that we do not take advantage of that position to mistreat or misguide students either intentionally or inadvertently.

What's Coming up in Term 1

	Please note all events are subject to change.
25 March	2/3/4 Stations of the Cross 9.25am
26 March	St Fergal's Mass 6pm
31 March	Big Vegetable Crunch 10.00am
1 April	Assembly TBC
6 April	Sandhills Artefacts Excursion (Students will need to bring their recess and lunch)
7 April	Mass 10.30am <i>Last Day of Term 1 for students</i>
8 April	Pupil Free Day (Professional Development Day for Staff)
26th April	Term 2 Begins



HCS
HAY CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Hay Vacation Care

School holidays are just around the corner!

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

Who can attend: Children 3 to 12 years inclusive.

When: Week days (no public holidays) Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April 2022 from 8.30am to 5.30pm

NEW VENUE: St Mary's Parish School, 436 Moppet St

Cost: \$25 per day per child (invoiced in advance and payment terms will apply, CCS subsidy does not apply).

Contact: Ph 6993 1757 or admin@haycs.com.au to enrol.

Enrolments CLOSE Friday 1st April



Health
Murrumbidgee
Local Health District

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH NURSE IS VISITING HAY

Tuesday 26/04/2022 Wednesday 27/04/2022

Hay Community Health Service



Artwork by Natalie William
Commissioned for the MLHD Women's Health Nurses

For an appointment with the Women's Health Nurse

RING 1800 654 324

- Cervical Screening Test
- Breast Health Awareness
- Menopause/Pelvic Floor Education
- Contraceptive Advice
- Pregnancy Testing with Counselling and Referral
- STI Screening

Cancer Information Evening

With special guest Associate
Prof Anthony Dowling

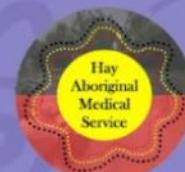


Friday 25th March
Commencing at 7pm
Rear of HAMS

Two local Cancer Survivors will be speaking about their cancer journey

Catherine Goodall from the Cancer Council will speak about screening programs

Dinner available for sale from Garnished Fine Food Van & BYO Drinks





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