



Term 2 Week 4 — Wednesday 18th May 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

I wrote to you last week about some school events that we have already got in the pipeline including Fathers' Day event and raffle; presence at the Hay Sheep Show; our Kinder Transition 'Reach For The Stars' program; School Sleepover in Term 4; Christmas Tree Fete.

As we now approach the midpoint of Term 2, I am keen to give you an update on the planning that is taking place to advertise and promote our little school of St Mary's within the Hay community and beyond.

Advertising and Promoting St Mary's School: Schooling is always a very competitive business whether in a metropolitan environment or within a regional one like Hay. I believe that a real strength of our school is the fact that we are a 'small' school in terms of our student population. Staff members know each child and their families so very well and we believe that no child is anonymous here and no one falls through the cracks in terms of their learning and wellbeing. That said, we do need more students here - more students means increased levels of staffing and support as well as greater all round opportunities. I believe that we have the capacity to increase our level of student enrolments without compromising on our learning standards and our small school feel.

Fr Paul, St Mary's staff and myself are working with key people from the Diocesan Catholic Education Office to advertise and promote our school in a positive light with a view to making it a school of choice for all local families and with a particular emphasis on those young families who are at the start of their schooling journey. A big part of our promotion involves debunking a number of myths such as the two below:

MYTH

FACT

St Mary's Schools Fees are expensive.



- Our school fees equate to less than the cost of a cup of coffee each day.
- Individual payment plans can be negotiated with the school.
- No child is denied education at St Mary's or any Catholic School on the grounds that parents can't afford the fees.
- For 2023 and 2024 there are voluntary fees only - ie no necessity to pay any school fees.

You have to be a baptised Catholic to attend St Mary's.



- St Mary's, as a proudly Catholic School, is fully inclusive and warmly welcomes children of families from all religious faiths as well as families of no religious faith.

Principal Position 2023: This position has been advertised and an appointment is expected to be made before the end of this term. I am hopeful that this appointment will be announced within the Hay community before we break up for the mid year vacation. In the event of this going to plan, I will be working with Fr Paul, St Mary's staff members and the Catholic Education Office to ensure that there is a smooth transition for the incoming principal over Terms 3 and 4 so that the successful person can 'hit the ground running' at the start of next year. I ask for your prayers that the right person steps forward to make an application.

St Mary's has a long and proud tradition within the Hay community, a community it has served since 1883. Currently the school is forging a strong partnership with Hay Children's Services (HCS) and the valuable work it does within the community. HCS made use of the St Mary's School site to run their successful vacation care program during the recent Summer holiday and this program will run during the remaining vacation periods this year. I am meeting with key personnel from HCS to explore further ways in which we can partner to increase the quality of schooling and educational options available within Hay and the surrounds.

On a closing note, watch out for some colourful banners, currently being designed, that will be appearing on our fence soon, promoting our great little school.

I would love to hear from any of you who might have further ideas of what we can do to spread the good news of St Mary's within the Hay community.

Laudato Si Week: During their Religion lessons this week, I have been speaking with the children about Pope Francis's special letter of 2015 and what each of us can do to look after the environment and truly honour the beauty of all of God's creation. I will write more on this in an upcoming newsletter.

Wishing everyone well and thanking you for your support.

God Bless

Vince

What's Coming up in Term 2

23 May	National Reconciliation Week
26 May	National Sorry Day
27 May	2/3/4 Assembly 2.30pm All Welcome
3 June	Athletics Carnival
7 June	Healthy Harold
17 June	K/1 Assembly 2.30pm All Welcome
1 July	Last Day of Term 2

R. E. NEWS

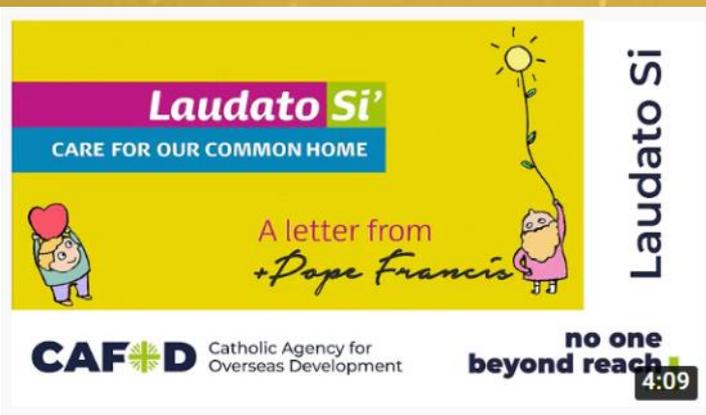


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He is risen!

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 16-24 MAY

Laudato Si' Week 2022, to be held 16-24 May, will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical letter, to all people of good will, on the care of the environment, our common home. This global celebration also unites Catholics in rejoicing in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and intensifying our efforts to take action to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor. The challenge and invitation is therefore: how can you recognise this week individually, as a family, a parish, a school, an organisation or a local community?



[Laudato Si' animation for children](#)

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

Taken from Laudato Si'

*All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.*

*You embrace with your tenderness
all that exists.*

*Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.*

*Fill us with peace,
that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one.*

*O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world
and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.*

*Encourage us, we pray,
in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

Amen. Alleluia.



[Laudato Si': Animated clip for young people](#)

May all children, everyday of their lives, be able to celebrate the beauty of God's amazing creation. May they have eyes to see how wonderful life is and all that fills it. May they learn to cherish everyone and everything on this precious and fragile planet - our common home.

God bless. Fr Paul

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Birthday Wishes

The Staff and students of St Mary's Wish the following people a very

Happy Birthday

Felisha 20th May



**ACTIVE KIDS ARE
SMARTER KIDS**



FRIDAY 20 MAY 2022

**Until they're ten, children must always hold
an adult's hand when crossing the road**

WALK.COM.AU



@nationalwalksafelytoschoolday



@natwalktoschool



@natwalktoschool #WSTSD



National Road Safety Week 2022
15 - 22 May

SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL STATE, TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

STUDENT AMBULANCE COVER CONDITIONS

Student Ambulance Cover applies to transportation following a student accident, not an illness or medical condition. School policy is to call an ambulance in the event of a serious injury or illness (eg severe asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction, seizure etc). If your child has a pre-existing medical condition that falls into this category, please be aware that the cost of the ambulance may be at the parent's expense if you do not have family ambulance cover.

STUDENTS ON VISAS

For our families from overseas, it is important that the school has details of your current residency status.

Please provide us with your new visa grant notice or Australian citizenship documents, if:

- there has been any change in your visa sub class or the expiry date, or
- if you previously had a visa but have now become an Australian citizen

FRIDAY 21st LUNCH DEAL

Hot Dog w/sauce

\$3.50

Our Athletics Carnival has been set for **Friday 3rd June** at Number 1 Oval.

We will not be running a canteen on the day but we will have a meal deal or sausage sizzle. The details will be confirmed prior to the day.

We are looking for helpers to assist on the day with setting up the field events, running/supervising the field events and time keeping.

The day will start at 10 am with the 800m races. The age races will begin at 11.30am.

Children will come to school as normal and we will all work to the park together once the rolls have been marked.

Please indicate if you would like to help out. Field events and track events are held at different times so you can volunteer for both if you are feeling adventurous.

Many hands make light work

✂ -----

Athletics Carnival 2022 Volunteer

PARENT/GUARDIAN/FRIEND NAME: _____

- I CAN HELP WITH TIME KEEPING I CAN HELP WITH LONG JUMP I CAN HELP WITH SHOT PUT
 I CAN HELP WITH HIGH JUMP I CAN HELP WITH DISCUS OR, I CAN HELP IN ANY AREA YOU NEED