



Term 4 Week 3 — 26 October 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 hope that you are keeping well during these wet and rainy days that we are experiencing.

The wet weather has led to a huge increase in mosquitoes around the school and we are doing our very best to minimise the impact of this on our children through careful spraying and playing indoors.



We enjoyed a lovely experience on Monday afternoon this week, learning all about the great Indian festival of Diwali. It was terrific to have Mina and Nidhi Patel, along with others from the Indian community, join us and teach us about the tradition of Rangoli.

The children and staff responded so well to this age old traditional art activity, using patterned templates to create colourful artworks. We learned about the importance of increasing our awareness, understanding of different cultures which leads to appreciation and respect. An important tradition of Diwali is the giving of gifts and our children and staff members each received special gifts from our Indian families. We finished the afternoon with an energetic Bollywood dance routine which was amazing - Check out our school Facebook page! Thank You to our beautiful families of Indian cultural background for all you do for our school and sharing your wonderful culture and traditions with us.

**Farewell Vicki Bourne-Fallon:** Following a restructure at the Catholic Education Office in Forbes, Vicki will be finishing up in her role as Educational Consultant to St Mary's at the end of this week. Vicki visited St Mary's for the final time last week and we hosted a special morning tea to thank her for her great support and contributions over the years she has worked with us. On a personal note, I thanked Vicki for her encouragement to me back in 2020 when she advocated strongly for me to come to Hay and work with the community here. If it was not for Vicki, I would not have come to Hay, for sure. Over the last couple of years she has been a tremendous supporter of St Mary's School at every level, working with the Education Office, myself, Fr Chris and Fr Paul, as well as all staff members here in the very best interests of the whole community. Vicki has tremendous passion for student and staff wellbeing and has been a wonderful source of inspiration to our school as we have strived to create a culture of wellbeing here with a strong focus on the character strengths of each student and staff member. Farewell, Vicki, and the biggest thank you from all at St Mary's. Your gentle and encouraging presence has been a gift to us and you will be missed. Live well!

I wrote about our lovely Marian grotto last week and about how we were gathering each morning to say a decade of the rosary during this special month of October. Our gatherings have been a little bit hit and miss this week due to the wet weather and the mosquito infestation. Nevertheless, it has been so heartening to observe the growing spirituality of our young children. I was speaking to some of the children about the life of St Francis and his great love of nature and creatures. We talked about the importance of caring for small creatures and explored the rhythms of life and death for small creatures and insects and related it to the life cycle of humans. One child responded, *"I'd like to live forever!"* This led to a gentle exploration of our faith and that when eventually we pass on from our earthly life, our faith tells us that we are reunited with loved ones who have gone before us and that we live forever with our God who created us in our earthly life.



Some of the smaller children were intrigued by butterflies and how they sometimes found them, thinking they were dead and they somehow 'came to life' (a bit like the resurrection really!) and flew away. I was very touched when a few children made a little cross from twigs and placed it in front of Mary's statue.

They lovingly laid a dead butterfly by their little hand-made cross, so that it could rest in peace close to Jesus and close to Mary. What a beautiful way to tap into our children's spirituality. It is something that each child has and it is wonderful to find ways to animate it and bring it alive within them.

Wishing everyone a wonderful week and thanking you all for your ongoing support for our lovely school, St Mary's.

God Bless

Vince



## Diwali

We had a wonderful afternoon learning about Diwali, Festival of Lights, with family and special guests. We made rangoli designs, danced and were treated with gifts. Thank you so much Mina, Nidhi and guests for sharing your culture with our school.



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

## What's Coming up in Term 4

Date	Details	Time
27 Oct	Cricket Gala Day for students in Year 3 to Year 6	
28 Oct	Leap into Kinder Program	
	Silly Socktober (all students welcome to wear silly/funny/crazy socks)	
1 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day	
4 Nov	Leap into Kinder	
	2/3 Assembly All welcome to attend	2.30pm
7 Nov	PUPIL FREE DAY	
8 Nov	Wadjiny Performance (all students will attend)	9.30am
	Yr 6 to attend WHMHS - Drumbeat	
10 Nov	Year 6 to attend HWMHS	11.20am
11 Nov	Leap into Kinder	
	Remembrance Day (5/6 to Attend)	10.45am
15 Nov	Yr 6 to attend WHMHS - Drumbeat	
18 Nov	Leap into Kinder Graduation	
	K/1 Assembly All welcome to attend	2.30pm
21 Nov	Road Safety Week	
24 Nov	Whole School Mass	10.15am
25 Nov	Whole School excursion to Altina Wildlife Park	
28 Nov	Swimming	1.30-2.45
	Christmas Tree Fete	5pm—8pm
29 Nov	Swimming	1.30-2.45
	Yr 6 Orientation Day HWMHS	
30 Nov	Swimming	1.30-2.45
1 Dec	Swimming	1.30-2.45
2 Dec	Swimming	1.30-2.45
	Cultural Garden Opening	



## T20 BLAST CRICKET FUN DAY

ALL STUDENTS FROM YEAR 1-6  
WILL BE JOINING THE

**CANCELLED**

STUDENTS WILL COME TO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER WEARING THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM,  
THEY MUST BRING THEIR OWN SHOES, LUNCH AND DRINK BOTTLES  
THERE WILL BE NO canteen on the day

*Congratulations to our award winners for Friday 21 October 2022.*

*Krishí Patel, Zoya Shahzad, Lacey Headon, Lincoln Nelson,  
Katie Black & Emma Curtis*



## 2022 Compliance Articles

### 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 (e.g. 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.

Hay Aboriginal Corporation Community  
Working Party presents:

**2022 NAIDOC  
FAMILY  
FUN DAY!**

**30th October 2022  
Starting at 11am  
Hay Park**

*A fun filled day for all of the  
family which will include:*

Face painting, boomerang painting, emergency  
services education, colour run around Bushy  
Bend, Colouring in competition announced,  
plus so much more!

**BBQ Lunch Provided**