



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Always faithful to God, ourselves and others in the spirit of the Presentation tradition.

St. Mary's is committed to Child Safety and the inclusion of all children.

Respect Ourselves - Respect Others - Respect our Environment

Term 4 - Week 11 Tuesday 12 December, 2023

PBIS Expectations: Whole School

Dear Parents & Carers,



ADVENT

This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent

End of School Year: This Friday 15th December at 3.30 pm



This Friday is the final school day for students. School will finish at 3.30pm. Students can wear casual clothes for a gold coin donation that will go to CARITAS.

Term 1 - 2024 - Tuesday January 30th

The 2024 school year commences for all students on Tuesday 30th January.



Mass Times:

(SEE PAGE 8 FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES)

Chiltern - Saturdays 6.00 pm

Rutherglen - Sundays 9.00 am

Wahgunyah—Sundays 10.30am

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PO Box 146

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Nativity Play - Well done!

A big well done to the students, particularly our Junior school, who performed a wonderful Nativity Play last Wednesday evening in the church. They did a great job. Also a big well done to our Year 4 Narrators who all read beautifully on the night.



Students Awards:

The Student Awards were also presented on Wednesday night. Congratulations to our Student Award winners for 2023 and thank you to our generous sponsors Indigo Shire, Arts Rutherglen, Rotary and our parish group The Knights of the Southern Cross.

Recipients:-

The Arts Rutherglen:

- Arts (Senior) - Harper Potter
- Arts (Junior) - Amelia-Rose Sheppard

Knights of the Southern Cross:

- All Rounder (Junior) - Luca Goudie
- All Rounder (Senior) - Codie Johnson-Wood
- Most Improved - Declan Zani
- Most Improved - Ava Watson

Indigo Shire:

- Junior Academic - Violet Mase
- Senior Academic - Isabel Neil

End of Year Mass

We had a wonderful end of year mass, led by Fr. Peter, last Friday to farewell our 2023 Year 6 group. The year 6 students processed in with Fr. Peter and their buddies. The reflection, with their baby photos, just showed how far they have come in their primary years.





Good Luck Year 6:

Good luck to every one of our leaving Year 6 students as they venture into the world of secondary school in 2024. They have been a great bunch and I'm sure they will uphold the St. Mary's way of always trying to be your best in their new schools. Their buddies will miss them.

Leaving Families:

We also farewell 4 leaving families this year from our school community. We give thanks for their contribution and commitment to our school and their children's education during their time at St. Mary's:

- Chant-Backway Family - Angus
- Delost Family - Bailey
- Moore Family - Ryan
- Rosser Family - Ivy

Best of Luck & Farewell:

We wish Taylor Dickinson the best of luck as she leaves us this year for her Northern Australia adventure in 2024.

Thanks Taylor for all your hard work in your time at St. Mary's and putting up your hand every time we needed extra staffing. I really appreciated it!

We also thank Emma Kerr for replacing Hannah Kelly who is on maternity leave this term. Emma did a great job and we will definitely still see her around as a casual relief teacher next year.

Welcome: Veronica Mayhew

Next year we will welcome Veronica (Ronnie) Mayhew onto our staff, who will be job sharing with Sarah Grogan in the Yr. 1 & 2 class. Ronnie is a very experienced teacher who comes to us from St. Augustine's in Wodonga. I have taught with Ronnie at St. Augustine's previously and I can assure that Ronnie will be a 'real' asset for our school.

Reports Semester 2

The semester 2 reports will be released on **PAM** this Thursday at 2pm.

2024 Staffing:

Parish Priest	Fr. Peter Taylor	
Principal	Matt Attwater	
Classroom Teachers		
Foundation	Bert Cheeseman & Jane Van Zanten	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
		Thursday & Friday
Yr. 1&2	Sarah Grogan & Veronica Mayhew	Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
		Thursday & Friday
Yr. 3	Emily Morris	Monday to Friday
Yr. 4&5	Michael Ratcliffe	Monday to Friday
Yr. 5&6	Libby Dickinson & Gina Nero	Monday, Tuesday, Wed & Thursday
		Friday
Specialists		
Learning Diversity & Wellbeing		Nicole O'Mahony (Mon to Fri)
Italian (L.O.T.E)		Gina Nero (Monday)
Visual Arts		Jane van Zanten (Monday)
Educational Support Officers (Teacher Aides)		
Senior Aides	Wayne Milthorpe, Denise Coman, Kate Lee & Oscar Willding	
Junior Aides	Rhi Cracknell & Jossy McNamara	
Administration	Amanda Arnot & Judy Fah	

STEM Project - Arcade Games:-

This term the Grade 3s and 4s have been working on their STEM project of designing and making their own Arcade Games. They did such an incredible job and worked very hard.

On Monday the rest of the school got to come and play them. It was a lot of fun!



Christmas Raffles

We had so many Raffle prizes (27) to draw last Friday. A sincere thank you to all who donated items and to Sam Mase for wrapping them all for us - Very much appreciated!

Too many winner's names to put them all in the Newsletter, however the first ten prizes drawn were:

- Liara Thompson
- Michael Adams
- Harper Lee
- Tanisha Taylor
- Oliver Vasilevski
- Cody Johnson-Wood (for Pop's friend)
- Lachlan Wilson
- Amelia-Rose Sheppard
- Chris Van Zanten
- Molly Colman



We send our Best Wishes to all
who have celebrated their
Birthdays This Week - and who
will be having a Birthday during
The School Holidays!



Milla



Lachlan



Codie



Iris



Oliver



Lillv



Constance



James



Ayla



George



Ivy



Ryan



Matilda



Callan



Harper



Liara



Charlotte



Amelia



Jed

Congratulations to our Class Award Winners!



BACK ROW: Jackson; Bailey; George; Ryan; Codie; Harper; Ivy; Angus; Kasey

MIDDLE ROW: Cody; Emmerson; Polly; Natasha

FRONT ROW: Liara; Amelia; Tanisha; Violet; Amelia-Rose

Congratulations to our PBIS Award Winners!



This Week's Award went to - - - THE WHOLE SCHOOL!!! Well done Everybody!!

Christmas Mass Times:-

Vigil: Sunday 24th December, 6.00pm, at Chiltern

Vigil: Sunday 24th December, 7.30pm, at Rutherglen (Family & Children's Mass)

Christmas Day: Monday 25th December, 9.00am, at Rutherglen

Christmas Day: Monday 25th December, 10.30am, at Wahgunyah

Rite of Community Reconciliation: Wednesday 20th December, 7.00pm, at Rutherglen

Final Newsletter

This will be our last newsletter of the year.

Firstly, a big congratulations to every one of our students who once again have worked to their best this year. It has not been an easy final term with the challenges of the renovation happening but everyone has put their head down and got on with the job. The challenge will still be there for the first part of term one next year until our new classes will be ready.

Thank you to the staff for another year of wonderful support for their students. Like the students, the classroom renovations have been a challenge and no doubt they are all looking forward to a well earned restful holiday break to recharge ready for an exciting 2024.

A huge thanks to Amanda for the outstanding and professional manner in the way she runs the administration of the school, and now with great support from Judy, I know all families are grateful that the front of house at our school is always a welcoming environment.

A special thanks to Fr. Carey, Fr. Boniface and now Fr. Peter for all the support they have again given me behind the scenes throughout the entire year. It is much appreciated. It wasn't an easy year for Fr. Carey healthwise but he is now recovering well in his retirement life in Albury.

Finally, I hope every family has a very **Happy and Holy Christmas** and can find time to spend some "real" family time together. I look forward to seeing you all back in 2024 for no doubt an exciting year with our new classrooms and a record school enrolment.



See You All Next Year!

Matt





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& FACE MASSAGE WITH
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RUTHERGLEN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH



YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

**Join in the Community Christmas Lunch at 12 noon on
Christmas Day 2023**



If you are on your own for Christmas Day and you would enjoy company, you are invited to register to join with other community members for a 2 course Christmas Lunch with drinks at the Supper Rooms, Rutherglen Memorial Hall on Christmas Day, Monday 25 December 2023 at 12 noon.

Bookings are essential. Contact Leonie Featonby on 0400 429 738 or Krissy Gibbs on 0407 900 756 by no later than Tuesday 12 December 2023. No BYO drinks please.

If you require transport to the Hall, please advise Leonie or Krissy when you make your booking.

There is no charge for the meal to those attending, although donations are very welcome and appreciated.

Any other financial support from individuals, business or organisations would help us to meet the costs involved.

Important Calendar Dates - 2023

Term 4

Friday 15 December

Last Day of Term - Movie Activity

Important Calendar Dates - 2024

Term 1

Tuesday 30 January

First Day - Term 1

Wednesday 31 January

Foundation Rest Day

Wednesday 7 February

Foundation Rest Day

Wednesday 14 February

Foundation Rest Day

Monday 19 February

School Photography Day

Wednesday 21 February

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 21 March

Harmony Day

Thursday 28 March

Last Day of Term

Friday 29th March

Good Friday

Sunday 31 March

Easter Sunday

Staff email addresses

Matt Attwater (Principal) - mattwater@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Libby Dickinson (Gr 5/6 teacher) - edickinson@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Michael Ratcliffe (Grade 4 teacher) - mratcliffe@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Taylor Dickinson (Grade 2 teacher) - tdickinson@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Emily Morris (Grade 3 teacher) - emorris@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Wednesday)
Emma Kerr (Gr 5/6 teacher) - ekerr@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Sarah Grogan (Foundation/1 teacher) - sgrogan@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Nicole O'Mahony (Learning Diversity Leader) - nomahony@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Jane van Zanten (Art/Grade 2) - jvanzanten@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Tuesday/Friday)
Gina Nero (Italian teacher) - gnero@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Tuesday)
Amanda Arnot (Business Manager) - aarnot@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au
Judy Fah (Admin Assistant) - jfah@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au