



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Term 4 - Week 10 - Wednesday December 11, 2024

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



ADVENT WEEK 2: *A Prayer of Peace*

Peace from you, Jesus, is peace that surpasses all understanding.

We know this world is not here to give us this peace. It can only come from you. As the storm rages around us, Lord, will you fill us with your peace. The peace you give always causes me to trust in you despite my circumstances, Lord. I am placing all my worries and fears at the foot of the cross today. Lord, help me to be a light of peace to those around me, sharing why we don't have to be afraid when the world is uncertain. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for Christmas.



Welcome to this week's Newsletter

This week we lit the second candle on the Advent Wreath.

The second candle represents Peace. At this time, we Pray for Peace on Earth and Peace in our own hearts.

In the busyness of the festive season, we often feel rushed hopping from one event to another. Centering oneself with prayer can provide that peace in our own hearts.

Important Calendar Dates

Term 4

Wednesday 11 December
Thursday 12 December
Friday 13 December
Monday 16 December
Wednesday 18 December

Nativity Play - 6pm at St Mary's Church
Rutherglen Christmas Carols at Lions Park (all Schools)
Pool Fun Day in Corowa
Christmas Raffle Draw
Last Day of Term 4 for Students
(Casual Clothes - Gold Coin Donation)
- **Normal Finish at 3.30 pm**

Term 1 - 2025

Thursday 30 January
Friday 31 January
Wednesday 5 February
Wednesday 12 February
Wednesday 19 February
Wednesday 26 February
Friday 21 February
Monday 10 March
Friday 21 March
Friday 18 April
Saturday 19 April
Sunday 20 April
Monday 21 April
Tue-Thur 23-24 April

Years 1-6 First Day of Term 1
Foundation Students commence
Foundation Rest Day
Foundation Rest Day
Foundation Rest Day
Foundation Rest Day
School Photos Day
Labour Day Public Holiday (Vic)
Harmony Day
Good Friday
Easter Saturday
Easter Sunday
Easter Monday
Student Free Days - Staff PD

Mass Times:

Chiltern - Saturdays 5.00 pm
Rutherglen - Sundays 9.00 am
Wahgunyah - Sundays 10.30am

Phone - 02 6032 9284

Web - <http://www.smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au>

Email - principal@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

75-89 High Street, Rutherglen, Vic, 3685

PO Box 146

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Graduation Mass:-

Last Friday we celebrated the Year 6 students with a Graduation Mass. It was a reverent celebration filled with much emotion.

Mrs Dickinson prepared a beautiful then and now movie showing our graduates as infants which provided great joy. The Year 6 Foundation buddies reflected on the guidance and leadership of their friends over the year. We heard of friendship, support, and accompaniment, all a beautiful living legacy that these young people have stamped on the hearts of the next generation at St. Mary's School.

On Monday night we celebrated with the year 6 students and their families with a delicious meal at De Bortoli Wines.

Again, this celebration provided us an opportunity to reflect on the last seven years of education provided to these young people. A highlight of the night was a video reflection provided by Mr Attwater. Mr Attwater thanked the parents for choosing 'The best school in Rutherglen'. I say I must agree!

Yesterday the students met their new classroom teachers for 2025 as we joined in the Statewide Transition Day. The students were engaged in many activities in preparation for the new school year.

I look forward to welcoming one and all to our Nativity, Awards Ceremony, and the unveiling of the Christmas Windows which the students and teachers have worked tirelessly on over the past few weeks.

May God's Blessings be with you all as the 2024 school year draws to a close.

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick
Principal



Grade 6 Graduation Dinner:-



Carols at Glenview Aged Care Nursing Home

Last Friday the Grade 3s and volunteers from Grades 4-6 walked up to Glenview and sang some Christmas songs. It was very special and the students sang beautifully. The residents loved every minute. An experience showcasing what Christmas is all about; Spreading joy in our community.



Christmas Hamper Raffles - Donations Sought!!

It's that time of year again!
Any donations towards the Christmas Hamper Raffles would be Greatly Appreciated.

Remember the more donations the more raffle prizes we can give out.
One book of 15 tickets were issued to the oldest, or only, child of each family.

Additional books available on request.

The Raffle Draw is scheduled for
Monday 16 December.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Rutherglen - 6.30pm - A family children mass and children are encouraged to dress up in Christmas style!

Chiltern - 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Rutherglen - 9.00 am

Wahgunyah - 10.30 am

No Hat No Play

No Hat No Play will still be in force for Term 1 of 2025. Please make sure your child has a labelled school hat for use every day Judy has some available from the office if you require to purchase a new one for \$12.

Lost Property

There are eleven zip up jackets in the uniform room without names on them that have been left lying around in the Junior building for some time. If your child is missing one please check the uniform room.

NOTICEBOARD



Big Summer Read and Graphic Novel Celebration!

The Big Summer Read is back again. Come and find out all about it and collect your BSR materials so you can do lots of reading during the school holidays. We will have more of our new graphic novels for you to explore, we'll play some games and enjoy a snack.

Where: Rutherglen Library
When: Wednesday 11th December
Time: 3:45 - 4:45 pm

indigoshire.vic.gov.au/libraries



Health Care Card HCC 2025 update

For Primary School families

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) is pleased to inform Primary School families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) that you are eligible for a significant reduction in School fees for the upcoming year, including all fees and levies.

We understand that many families have varying circumstances and in response to the rising cost of living expenses, we are committed to supporting those who need additional assistance.

Please be assured that this support is provided to ensure all students have the opportunity to thrive in our school community. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the school office.

3 simple steps

- 1 provide a copy of your HCC to the school office
- 2 complete a Camps, Sports & Excursions Form (CSEF)
- 3 set up a direct debit arrangement at the school

If you've already submitted your HCC, completed the CSEF Form, and have a direct debit in place, no further action is needed – the discount will be applied automatically.



Acknowledgement of Country

The title of the mural is: *Unity in Faith and Culture.*

The mural pays homage to the story of Nano Nagle's vision, the First Nations people connection to the land and the FIRE Carriers story



Artist *D. Treahna Hamm*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn, work and pray, the Yorta Yorta Nation, including the eight clan groups. We especially acknowledge the Kwat Kwat people who have walked here in Rutherglen. We pay our respect to Elders past present and future. At St Mary's Primary School we care for our environment and our community and recognise the continuing connection First Nations people have to land. We commit to walking in the way of reconciliation, as represented by our FIRE carrier Covenant, as we respect their cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection to their land, waters and community.



PBIS Expectations - In The Office Building

Congratulations to all those who are celebrating Their Birthday This Week!!



Milla



Iris

Expectations in Office Building



Respect Ourselves

- Use inside voice
- Be patient and polite eg Please, Thank you, Excuse me
- Respect all staff
- Smile to others
- Watch where you are walking
- Enter and exit rooms calmly and correctly

Respect Others

- Smile to visitors in the school and say hello
- Follow adult instructions
- Accept differences
- Use respectful and inclusive language
- Speak kindly to others
- Consider how your actions impact others

Respect our Environment

- Close the doors
- Push in chairs when you have used them
- Wipe your feet on the mat before coming in
- Use furniture correctly



Class Structures and Staffing 2025

Class/Role	Teacher/s	Education Assistant
Principal	Mrs. Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick	
Foundation	Mrs. Bert Cheeseman Mrs. Hannah Kelly	Mrs. Rhi Cracknell
Year 1	Mrs. Ronnie Mayhew Mrs. Jane Van Zanten	Ms. Trudy Walsh
Year 2/3	Mrs. Emily Morris	Mrs. Kate Lee
Year 4/5	Mr. Michael Ratcliffe	Mr. Oscar Willding
Year 5/6	Mr. Tony Kent	Mr. Wayne Milthorpe
Inclusive Education Leader	Ms. Nicole O'Mahoney	
Religious Education Leader	Mr. Tony Kent	
Sports Coordinator	Mrs. Emily Morris	
Technology Leader	Mr. Michael Ratcliffe	

Staff Email Addresses

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick (Principal) - mdusterhoftmavrick@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Bert Cheeseman (Foundation Teacher) - bcheeseman@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon-Wed)

Veronica Mayhew Gr 1/2 Teacher) - vmayhew@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Thur-Fri)

Hannah Kelly (Gr 1/2 Teacher) - hkelly@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon-Wed)

Jane van Zanten (Art/Foundation Teacher) - jvanzanten@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Thur-Fri)

Amanda Arnot (Business Manager) - aarnot@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Tony Kent (Gr 5/6 Teacher) - akent@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Libby Dickinson (Deputy Principal) - edickinson@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Michael Ratcliffe (Gr 4/5 Teacher) - mratcliffe@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Emily Morris (Grade 3 Teacher) - emorris@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Nicole O'Mahony (Inclusive Education Leader) - nomahony@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

Gina Nero (Italian Teacher & 5/6 Teacher) - gnero@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au (Mon & Fri)

Judy Fah (Admin Assistant) - jfah@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au