



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Term 1 - Week 2 - Wednesday February 5, 2025

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



Greetings to the St. Mary's School Community!

It is such a privilege to journey together with our students and their families as they enter a new school year. We have welcomed many visitors into our school already including Mr. Glenn McMahon, School Improvement Leader, and Father Peter Taylor. Both commented on the calm and inviting environment in which our children are provided to learn.

Playground

Currently our playgrounds are closed due to lack of certified soft fall material. I am working with contractors for a speedy solution to this. Student safety is of the utmost importance and as such I appreciate your patience as I work to have this rectified.

Communications

Last week we migrated from a Google Operating system to a Microsoft Operating system. During the process some functions and procedures which were in place have been disabled. Our aim is to have a streamlined communication system to ensure all parents receive information in a timely manner.

We intend to utilise SIMON Communications Centre as our main source of communication. This will be complemented by our Facebook page and specific written communication. Again, I thank you for your patience as we all adapt to a new way of communicating.

Our Newsletter will continue to be distributed on a Wednesday and will include upcoming dates, special events and learning in action.

Year 4/5 Class Teacher

Mr Michael Ratcliffe tendered his resignation from St. Mary's School to take a position at Belvoir Special Developmental School in Wodonga. Michael will be with us until 28 February. I know you will join me in wishing Michael all the best on his future endeavours. In the meantime I have commenced a rigorous recruitment process.

Important Calendar Dates

Term 1 - 2025

Thursday 6 February

Class Information Sessions/Whole School Address:
. Foundation & Year 1—3.45pm
. Principal Session - 4.10pm, all Parents/Carers in Undercover Area
. Senior Session—4.25pm, in your child's classroom

Friday 7 February

Note: BBQ postponed due to extreme weather
Beginning of School Mass 9.15am - All Welcome

Wednesday 12 February

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 13 February

District Swimming (Seniors) - Beechworth Swimming Pool

Friday 14 February

Assembly 9.00am in Hall - All Welcome

Wednesday 19 February

Foundation Rest Day

Friday 21 February

Assembly 9.00am - Undercover Area - All Welcome

Mon-Thur 24-27 February

School Photos Day

Wednesday 26 February

Years 2 to 6 Swimming Lessons - 12.45 to 3.00pm, Rutherglen Pool

Friday 28 February

Rutherglen Pool

Tuesday 4 March

Foundation Rest Day

Wednesday 5 March

Swimming Carnival 9.00am to 2.00pm, Rutherglen Pool

Friday 7 March

Shrove Tuesday

Monday 10 March

Ash Wednesday

Friday 14 March

Assembly in Hall 9.00am - All Welcome

Friday 21 March

Labour Day Public Holiday (Vic)

Friday 18 April

Assembly 9.00am - Undercover Area - All Welcome

Saturday 19 April

Harmony Day

Sunday 20 April

Good Friday

Easter Saturday

Easter Sunday

Mass Times:

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

Phone - 02 6032 9284

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Email - principal@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

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Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Classroom Information Sessions

Thursday afternoon will see our classroom information sessions take place.

The Foundation and Year 1 teachers will present to their parents at 3.45pm, following which all parents will gather for the Principal Address highlighting the key aspects of Magnify and vision moving forward.

At this point the 2/3, 4/5 and 5/6 parents will join their child's teachers in their respective classrooms. Children will be supervised in the playground whilst the meetings take place.

Beginning of School Mass

Please join us at our beginning of school mass on Friday morning (7/2/25) at 9.15am in the Church.

May God's Blessings be with you all as we continue our journey of excellence in education at St. Mary's School.

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick
Principal.

Reminders/Important Information:-

Lunch Orders

The Silver Key Café Price List has been updated with minimal prices increase - their first for a number of years! The new Price List will be sent home with the children and updated on our website this week. New prices will commence next week - Friday 14 February, 2025.

All orders will need to be given in to the office by Wednesday mornings for Judy to take down to the Silver Key that afternoon.

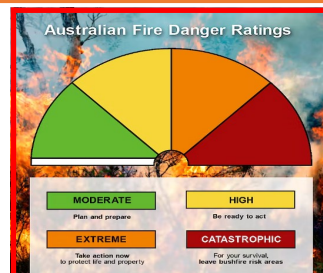
No Hat No Play

No Hat No Play is in force for Term 4 and Term 1 of 2025. Please make sure your child has a labelled school hat for use every day, if they don't have a hat they will have to stay in the shade.

Judy has some available from the office if you require to purchase a new one for \$12.

Smart Phones/Watches Etc.

All students Smart Phones or other devices must be handed in at the office upon arrival at school, and collected at the end of the day.



CODE RED SCHOOL CLOSURES
Our school has been identified as a school in a high risk bushfire area and has been placed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register.

This means that all schools, kindergartens and licensed child care centres that have been identified as being at high fire risk and on the Department's Victoria-wide Bushfire At-Risk Register will close on days declared Code Red.

Schools and services not on the Bushfire At-Risk Register will remain open, unless directly threatened by fire or another emergency.

Where possible, three (3) days notice of a planned closure will be provided. However, experience indicates that a Code Red fire danger rating day may be forecast at short notice. Parents and guardians should expect that in some instances less than three days notice may be provided. Once the final decision to close is confirmed at 12 noon the day prior, this decision will not change – regardless of any changes in the weather forecast. This will help limit confusion and help families plan for how their children will be cared for when their school is closed. When a school is closed in response to bushfire risk, no one, including staff, contractors and other users, will be permitted on site.



Congratulations to all who are celebrating their Birthdays this Week!



Lachlan



Logan



Ava

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.



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

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