



Term: 4 | Week 5 | Date: November 2, 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All the staff received a lovely surprise last Friday when they were greeted with some small gift packs put together by the School Council as recognition for World Teacher's Day. As I reflect on the impact of Covid-19 over the last 18 months, it has certainly added to the complexity of the role of teachers across Australia. Something which I'm sure everyone had an insight into, via the periods of Learning from Home we have all experienced. Like being a parent, teaching provides great moments of celebration but at times it has moments of challenge too. I am in awe at how the staff at St Mary's are so committed to focus on constantly working hard to ensure all our students continue to learn, grow and develop and experience learning success not just academically, but faith filled, socially and emotionally as well.

Following from Crazy Hair day in Week 3, last week saw us experience Crazy sock day. There were some amazing sock colours and designs on display, which brightened up all the classrooms. On top of this, the students had lots of fun in PE testing their skills in the 'sockball' shootout. The students got to have a small experience of what other students around the world have to do to enjoy a simple game of soccer. It gave a real chance to emphasise with the students how fortunate they are and the need to be grateful for what they have and not focus on the next thing they want or getting something new all the time.

Finally, a reminder that for those students who are participating in our Sacramental programs for Reconciliation and Holy Communion, the Commitment Masses begin this weekend, either Saturday night at 6:00 p.m or Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. There will also be Commitment Masses on the following weekend of November 13/14th as well.

Have a fantastic week and stay safe.

Regards,

Glenn

YOU CANNOT GET THROUGH A SINGLE DAY WITHOUT HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD AROUND YOU. WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE, AND YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF DIFFERENCE YOU WANT TO MAKE.

J. Goodall

KEY DATES

Sat 6th/Sun 7th Nov: Commitment Masses for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Sat 13th/Sun 14th Nov: Commitment Masses for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Term 4 Parent Planner: [Click here to view the Term 4 planner](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians, past and present of this land of the Wiradjuri people who long before us lived, loved and raised their children on this land.

We also acknowledge all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our community and acknowledge their deep physical and spiritual connections to their land.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

DATE CORRECTION

Please note that we need to correct the date of our 2022 School Orientation Day. We initially had it scheduled for Tuesday 23rd of November, but changed it to the following week for November 30th due to some confusion over when the NSW Statewide orientation date was.

We will be returning to the original date of Tuesday November 23rd, which aligns with the NSW date.

I apologise for any confusion and inconvenience this may have caused.

Glenn McMahon

COVID UPDATE - SPORTS CARNIVALS

The latest Covid Guidelines for schools update has the following information regarding sports carnivals.

- School and interschool swimming carnivals, cross country and sports carnivals are not permitted in Term 4 2021.

We were hoping to be able to have our school swimming carnival this term, but unfortunately this is now not possible.

Also please note there will also be ***no more Diocesan sports trials this term*** due to the current guidelines that are in place for sporting events.

NAPLAN

The release of the 2021 NAPLAN results has again seen significant and outstanding learning success continuing at St Mary's.

Whilst NAPLAN is only one tool used to measure student learning, it gives us an indication of not only individual, but whole school achievement.

Ten categories across literacy and numeracy are assessed and this year's results show that our students at Year 3 and Year 5 have had continued learning success and growth. St Mary's achieved well above the national average in 5 categories, above the national average in 3 and our students are working at the national average in the remaining 2.

Great reward for the hard work of students, families and staff.

LEARNING SUCCESS @ ST MARY'S

NAPLAN has 10 focus areas for assessment in all schools across Australia.

How St Mary's achieved in the 10 categories assessed

5

Well above
the National
average

3

Above the
National
average

2

At the
National
average

RESOURCE LINKS



smcwww.catholic.schooltv.me



esafety.gov.au/iparent



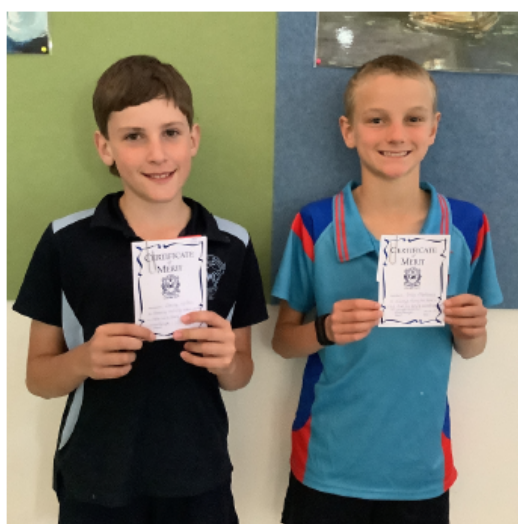
Click to read the latest edition of "Together"

ST MARY'S PHOTOS

SOCKTOBER - CRAZY SOCKS AND SOCKBALLS DAY



MERIT AWARDS & PRINCIPAL AWARD



ST MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

A huge THANK YOU to the School Council from all the staff for their personalised gifts that greeted them last Friday on World Teacher's Day. They were very much appreciated.



PAWSOME STORIES COMPETITION

During Term 3, the students in Year 3 & 4 were given the opportunity to enter a story writing competition organised by RSPCA Victoria called Pawsome Stories creative writing. Six students took up the challenge and were not deterred by the fact that they were entering their stories in a category for Year 3 - 6. Although it was a very competitive field, the students did an Awesome job writing their Pawsome Stories. They each received a certificate of successful participation signed by the judges; Author, Andy Griffiths and Author, Cameron Macintosh.

Congratulations to the following students: Rosie Hicks, Mona Liu, Meegan Davey, Pippa Thomas, Phoebe Ireland and Cienna Dickins.



2022 KINDER TRANSITION

Our **"New Beginnings Transition Program"** will continue next week and runs for an hour per session. The sessions will start at **2:00 pm and run until 3:00 pm**. The remaining dates for the transition program are:

Tuesday 9th November, and Tuesday 16th November.

In line with the current COVID-19 guidelines for Transition Programs the following needs to be adhered to:

- All students must be well and free of any flu-like symptoms in order to attend.
- Parents and carers are not able to attend on the school site and are to report to the designated drop-off and collection zones at the front of the school.
- Those with surnames from A-L will sign their child in and out at 1:50 p.m at the gate in front the school hall.
- Those with surnames from M-Z will sign their child in and out at 1:50 p.m at the double gate at the front of the school, in line with the driveway.
- Parents and carers are asked to leave promptly at the conclusion of both signing in and picking up their child.
- All parents and carers must maintain physical distancing while signing their child in and out.
- All parents and carers must check in using the QR code.

This Program will assist your child in learning the routines and help them become familiar with the school facilities, teachers and the Kinder classroom.

Please note a correction to our date for our **Orientation Day** which is **Tuesday 23rd November** from **9:30 am until 11 am**.

HELPING YOUR CHILD DEVELOP INDEPENDENCE - LET THEM FAIL!

All parents have a natural instinct to protect their children, this is evolutionary- engrained in us, but can this be causing more harm than good?

Covid 19 and the 2020 Pandemic has aroused anxiety and uncertainty driving many parents to limit their children's independence more than usual. Although the threat to infection is very real, parenting from a fear response can have detrimental long term effects.

Some limits to independence is for good reason. We want children to be safe, but children cannot grow into independent adults if they never get to explore the world around them and make choices for themselves, which inevitably means that they will make at least the occasional bad choice.

But learning from mistakes is some of the best learning we do.

Parents can still support their child/ren and starting early provides opportunities to teach safety skills while monitoring choices. This method allows for coaching opportunities and helps build a child's confidence in their ability to make a considered choice.

It's always tempting to jump in and save them, but try to limit that for the real emergencies. If they fall down and get hurt, get a bad mark because they left an assignment at home, experience normal conflict at school, next time they will do better, especially if you are supportive and help them think it through. They will also learn that they can survive these mistakes.

10 Ways to help Children & Teens learn from mistakes

- Acknowledge that you don't expect them to be perfect.
- Let them know your love is unconditional, regardless of their mistakes or lapses in judgment.
- Don't rescue kids from their mistakes. Instead, focus on the solution.
- Provide examples of your own mistakes, the consequences, and how to learn from them.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their mistakes and not to blame others.
- Avoid pointing out your child's past mistakes. Instead focus on the one at hand.
- Praise children for their ability to admit their mistakes.
- Mentor your child on how to apologise when their mistakes have hurt others.
- Help kids look at the good side of getting things wrong.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Supporting Sensory Regulation - For Parents



This workshop will include interactive activities, discussion and the presentation of evidence-based strategies to support the regulation and sensory needs of children and young people experiencing mental health complexities, with a specific focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Developmental Trauma. The workshop will be delivered from an occupational therapy perspective, with additional reference to key neuroscience and attachment- based research.



Presenter:

Kate Piromalli
Clinical OT Advisor

Friday 19 November
10:00pm – 12:00pm

Cost: \$30

[Book here](#)



This Workshop is suitable for :

- Parents
- Carers



Contact for more information:

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