

St Mary's Primary School

Week 5 Term 2: Issue 8

Friday 24th May 2019

4-12 Duke Street,

Maffra, Vic 3860

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Our Mission:

At St. Mary's School Maffra, we are a Catholic School that strives to be authentic to the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the Church. We aim to be an inclusive and nurturing community that respects, values and empowers each person to fulfil their dreams and potential. We envisage a School that provides challenging, relevant and child-centred learning experiences. We believe that the social, emotional, moral, spiritual and physical wellbeing of our students is pivotal to student health, safety, learning and success.

2019

Term Two

Week 5

Saturday 25th May

- St Mary's Parish Family Mass @6pm

Week 6

Tuesday 28th May

- St Mary's Open Day
9am to 11am

Friday 31st May

- Peace Mass
@Bishop Phelan Stadium

- Sustainability Warriors
Bike Ride @3.45pm

Week 7

Friday 7th June

- Year 5/6 Class Mass @10am

Week 8

Monday 10th June

- Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday

Thursday 13th June

- Regional Cross Country

Week 9

Wednesday 19th June

- Grade 5/6 Camp

Thursday 20th June

- Grade 5/6 Camp

Friday 21st June

- Grade 5/6 Camp

Dear Parents

Our school continues to be involved in numerous activities that engage the children. This was evident yesterday when I joined Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2 on a trip to the Royal Melbourne Zoo. It was a great day that complimented their learning with all children participating in the Wild Explorer Program with staff at the zoo. Well done to all of the staff and parents who travelled with the children yesterday. Your support was much appreciated.

Our school, along with the 43 other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale, will celebrate Catholic Education Week from 24 to 31 May. The theme for this year's celebrations is "Listen to what the Spirit is saying".

As Catholic schools, we are called to do more than just pass on the faith: we are invited to translate our faith into deeds so we are truly living God's Word. Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and share features that are special about our schools.

Members of our staff will be attending the Leadership Mass and Dinner held in Traralgon tonight. Our school will also hold a number of activities including an Open Day next Tuesday, 28th May between 9am and 11am. Further Open mornings will be made available in Term Three. Part of celebrating Catholic Education Week is participating in our Annual Peace Mass at Bishop Phelan Stadium on Friday, 31st May commencing at 11.00am. Families are invited to attend the Mass which will be led by Bishop Patrick O'Regan. Mass will be celebrated with over two thousand children, staff and parents from our Catholic Schools in Wellington Shire. It gives us the chance to reflect and be thankful for our families as well as having a united stance for mercy and peace. This celebration is a result of the tragic events of the bombings in Bali, and a number of principals, including myself fifteen years ago supported this event as a way of recognising Peace and Love surrounds us as young individuals.

This year Sister Patricia Fox will address the Years 5 & 6 students after mass. She will explain her life and story of how she helped and supported the poor and lost in the Philippines. She is a truly inspirational woman who has an important message that needs to be heard.

As mentioned previously in the newsletter the school is working towards a refurbishment program to maximise collaborative working spaces for all children. This will be an exciting project that will allow us to use effective high impact teaching strategies with the children. In Term Three some drawings will be made available for the school community to view and respond.

Over the next two weeks we will have some staff on leave. Dianne Austin will be heading overseas on the Sion Scholarship Program and Mary McLaverty and my myself will be taking some long service leave. In my absence Anne-Marie Robb will be the acting principal.

In the last edition of the newsletter I mentioned an article on homework would be included. This is attached to this edition so please have a read.

A reminder that our Family Mass is tomorrow night commencing at 6pm. Please join us if you are free.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Jason

HDSSA Cross Country:

Congratulations to the 36 students who represented St Mary's in the HDSSA Cross Country event on Monday 13th May. St Mary's came home with the winning shield, well done to everyone who competed.

Wellington Cross Country:

Congratulations to all our students who represented our school in the Wellington Division Cross Country on Monday 13th May. We have 13 children who will be moving onto the Regional Cross Country at Lardner Park, Warragul on Thursday 13th June.



**Team
SUPERSTARS**

School Fees 2019:

Our School Fees for the 2019 School Year are as follows:

School Fees: \$1260 per family
Capital Fee \$220 per family
Excursion Levy \$50 per child Foundation to Year 2 only
Curriculum Levy \$160 Foundation, \$140 Year 1 & \$130 Years 2 to 6
Activity/Incursion Levy \$20 per child
Swimming Levy \$50 per child
ICT Levy \$30 per child
Camp Levy Year 4 \$150.00
Camp Levy Years 5 & 6 \$350.00

- **All Fees, Levies and Camp Charges for 2019 have been charged to you Fee Accounts.**
- **The Drought Assistance money has been applied to your Fee Accounts as per instructions, firstly to any camps, excursions and levies. If there was still any credit left to be applied, these were then credited to your school fees.**
- **A detailed fee statement is available from the School Office if required.**
- **If applicable, CSEF Credits have been applied to Fee account.**

Invoices are for the full year's fees.

The option to pay in three instalments still applies.

Due dates for payments are:

1st Instalment by 31st May 2019,
2nd Instalment by 9th August 2019,
3rd Instalment by 25th October 2019

We accept weekly, fortnightly, monthly payments by direct deposit. If paying by cash please have the correct money. If paying by direct deposit, please refer to our bank account details on your invoice and include your reference number. School fee invoices will be mailed to all families in the coming weeks. If you have any concerns regarding school fees please contact the Office.

Woolworths Earn and Learn:

Between 1 May and 25 June 2019, collect as many stickers as you can. Stick them on the sticker sheets and return them to collection box in school foyer or drop them in our collection box at Woolworths Maffra.

Don't forget, you can always download and print extra sticker sheets at woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Thank you for your support.



P & F Pie Drive:

Thank you to Lisa McMahon for coordinating P & F Pie Drive and to everyone who supported our fundraiser.

We Raised \$786.00

THANK YOU
for your support

Sacrament of Confirmation:

Please note change of date and time for Sacrament of Confirmation Parent/Child Meeting to **Wednesday 17th July at 6pm.**

CHALKIE / AN INSIDER'S VIEW OF TEACHING

Homework and its many pitfalls

A SIGNIFICANT chink in the armour of most teachers is a lack of understanding of the workings of the brain. Admittedly, it is only recently that neuroscientists have begun to unlock the secrets of the human brain. However, I wonder how much attention is paid to how the brain works in teacher training and in professional development programs.

Our core business is student learning. But how does the brain learn? If we can grasp how the brain processes, stores and retrieves information, surely we would align our pedagogy to maximise the learning potential of our students? The plethora of new teaching strategies would have to pass the brain test.

An example of this is the perennial debate about the value of homework. The arguments are not only about the amount

of homework but whether any should be set at all.

Harris Cooper, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke University in North Carolina, conducted a review of the existing research on homework in the mid-2000s and found that the amount of homework students reported doing correlates with their performance on in-class tests, especially for high school students.

However, according to Alfie Kohn, author of *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*, homework is a "reliable extinguisher of curiosity" and that countries whose students regularly outperform American kids on standardised tests, such as Japan and Denmark, send their kids home with less schoolwork.

Kohn is also concerned about

homework's effect on quality time spent with family and the adverse impact on a student's attitudes and happiness.

The problem with many debates like this is confusion about definitions. Setting housework just for the sake of it is different to setting imaginative, challenging homework which reinforces what was taught in the classroom that day.

If brain science tells us that effective learning requires reinforcement within 24 hours of acquiring a new skill, then it would seem that there is a strong case for carefully-crafted set homework.

Furthermore, setting homework and not providing students immediate feedback is counter-productive. Homework should be a seamless extension of what is learnt in class, not a boring, meaningless work-sheet.

Drawing on our understanding

of human psychology, we need also to reflect on how we talk about homework. It should never be described as a punishment, nor 'no-homework' a reward. Students will hardly value homework if teachers do not even bother to check it.

By all means, abolish homework, but be sure that it is replaced by strategies that recognise how the brain works and which will reinforce the learning process. The irony is that if we inspire our students to be avid learners, they will probably want to learn outside of school hours anyway!

CHALKIE

Parish News:



WEEKEND MASSES:

MAFFRA: Sunday 9.00am

HEYFIELD: Saturday 6.00pm

COWWARR: 1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am

NEWRY: 2nd & 4th Sunday 11.00am

DARGO: 5th

RECONCILIATION:

Maffra: Saturday – For Half Hour after 9.30am
Mass

(And any other time by request).

Heyfield: 5.20pm-5.45pm prior to Saturday
evening Mass

Peace Mass ~ Friday, 31st May



Each year During Catholic Education Week, the Catholic schools in the Wellington shire come together to celebrate the Peace Mass.

This year, all of the Catholic schools in the shire are working together to assist the St Vincent de Paul's Gippsland Farmer Relief program. We are seeking donations of non-perishable items which will support the families in our local area who are experiencing hardship. Donated items can include rice, pasta, canned goods, cereals, long life milk, etc. Please check the use by date on all items. All donations can be placed in baskets located in each classroom by Thursday, 30th May.

I thank you in advance for your generosity with this initiative.

COMMUNITY
Get-Together

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
THE RE-OPENING OF THE
NEWRY HALL
(UPPER MAFFRA MECHANICS INSTITUTE)

Live Music | Dinner, Tea & Coffee Provided | BYO Drinks

- FRIDAY, 24TH MAY 2019 -
6PM DINNER (NO COST)
FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY FESTIVITIES

RSVP 20TH MAY 2019

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
WELLINGTON
2018-2019
Newry General Store

NEWRY GENERAL STORE - PHONE: 5145 1359
NEWRYGENERALSTORE@GMAIL.COM
(UPPER MAFFRA MECHANICS INSTITUTE)

Awards:

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at assembly:

	Class Award
Foundation	Charlee Mooney-Newton Willow Matthews
1/2C	Jack Bates Kart Hart
3/4D	Ishnoor Kaur
3/4E	Dustin Daly
5/6F	Jy Higgins Meg Slattery
5/6G	Bella Forsyth Kate Coleman
Positive Behaviour	Amber Bates Olivia Nicolaci
Tidiest Lockers	3/4D - Week 3 3/4E—Week 4



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May

13th Jed Forsyth 3/4E

16th Sam Jones 3/4E

20th Lara Butcher 1/2C
Charlotte Sage 3/4D

21st Ella Higgins 3/4D

25th Thomas Phillips 5/6G

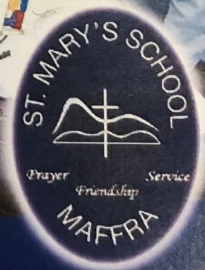
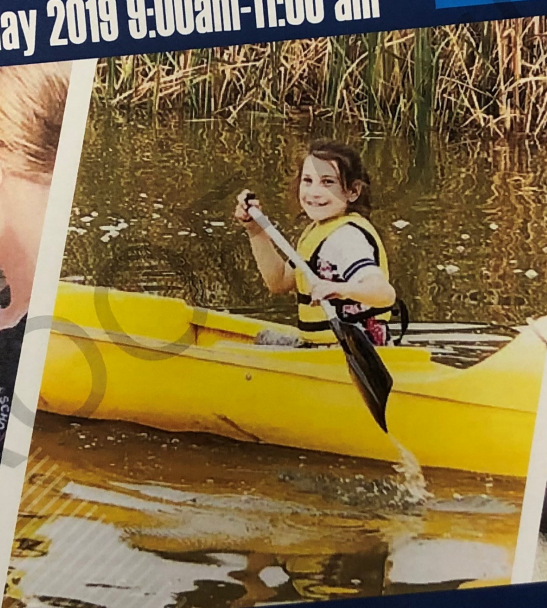
Congratulations
Class -----
You have all
contributed to the tidiest
hallway locker space this
week.
Fabulous Teamwork.

Principal: _____ Date: _____

Open Day

Open day: Tuesday 28th May 2019 9:00am-11:00 am

"Listen to what the Spirit is saying" - REV 2:7 through Prayer, Friendship and Service.



ENQUIRIES - principal@stmmaffra.catholic.edu.au

PHONE - 51471334

Melbourne Zoo Excursion

