



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

*"Educating for Life Since 1912"*



## Term 3, Issue 11

**Tuesday 25th July 2023**

Dear Families,

I hope this fortnight's Newsletter finds you all well! We have been busy beavers here at school and have started the term beautifully! As always, there are many things going on (incursions and excursions) which all are planned to compliment the children's learning. A great deal of work goes in to the planning of what your child does here every day at school, and the teachers are never resting! It's this planning that really helps refine the learning your children receive and helps them take the next step in their learning journey. In fact, our 2023 NAPLAN results will be going home to the families of children in Year 3 & Year 5 today, and we are really pleased with our results. The government have changed the way NAPLAN results are presented so we can't compare them to our previous achievements, but we appear to be on a continuous improvement curve, which is great news for our school and our Community!

**Stay tuned in the coming weeks for some information about how we scored in NAPLAN!!!**

### CONFIRMATION - What a beautiful Celebration!

As you would be aware, a number of children amongst our Year 5/6 cohort celebrated their commitment to their own personal faith journey through the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a beautiful celebration and Bishop Tony Ireland was very inspiring with his Homily. Amazingly, he knew all of the children's names and chosen Saint names, and he encouraged the children to mimic their chosen saint, to lead a life as close to theirs as possible. Thank you to all of the families who celebrated with us, to the staff who came to take part, to the staff who helped prepare the children, and to Mrs D'Souza for doing an amazing job organising the Sacrament. Some beautiful photos to follow.

### A reminder to drive safely in and around the school

As many of you will notice, we regularly have the police parked on Power St during the school hours catching motorists driving above 40 kmh in the school zone. This provides a safer environment for our students and families before and after school which is great! I also ask you to remember to drive safely and slowly while driving through the school car park. We still have some families who drive quickly through the car park even after being reminded by staff to slow down. We also ask that you make sure you are not blocking any lanes of traffic while waiting for the school gates to open or when turning around in the surrounding streets.



### Lunchboxes

Please don't bring fast food to school in your child's lunchbox or deliver it to the office. Save these treats for outside school times. We are also a 'water only' school because drinking water is a great habit for life!

Have a wonderful week, Terry

### Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Gardiner: Hey Miguel...do you know where a boat goes when it is sick?

Miguel: Ummm...I have no idea...where does a boat go when it is sick?

Mr Gardiner: It goes to the Dock...get it? The Dock? Because boats stop at a dock, and because Doc is short for Doctor??? Get it...

Miguel: Oooooooooohhh...that is a very bad joke...

Mr Gardiner: Ba ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!! Thank you very much!!!

### JULY

**Wed 26th**

**Y1 Excursion to Gippsstown**

**Thurs 27th @8.30 - 10am**

**Uniform Shop open**

**Fri 28th**

**School Closure Day**

**Mon 31st**

**Y5/6 STEM Day @**

**St John's**

**Mon 31st**

**Prep and Playgroup**

**Wildlife Incursion**

### AUGUST

**Tues 1st @9.15am**

**Y1/2 Class Mass**

**Wed 2nd**

**AFL Sessions in PE**

**Wed 2nd @2.15 - 3pm**

**Step Into Prep**

**Thurs 3rd @8.30 - 10am**

**Uniform Shop open**

**Thurs 3rd**

**Y5/6 Incursion**

**Fri 4th**

**Y3/4 Writer's Incursion**

**Fri 4th @2.40pm**

**Assembly**

**Wed 9th**

**AFL Sessions in PE**

**Wed 9th @2.15pm**

**Step Into Prep**

**Fri 11th @ 2.40pm**

**Assembly**

**Tues 15th @9.15am**

**Feast of the Assumption**

**Whole School Mass.**

**Please join us!**



# Learning and Teaching News

There are many exciting learning experiences happening at St Mary's this term!

## Writers In Residence

The Year 3/4 students are participating in a Writer's in Residence program where we have a published author, Sarah Speedie visiting the 3/4 classes weekly for four weeks.

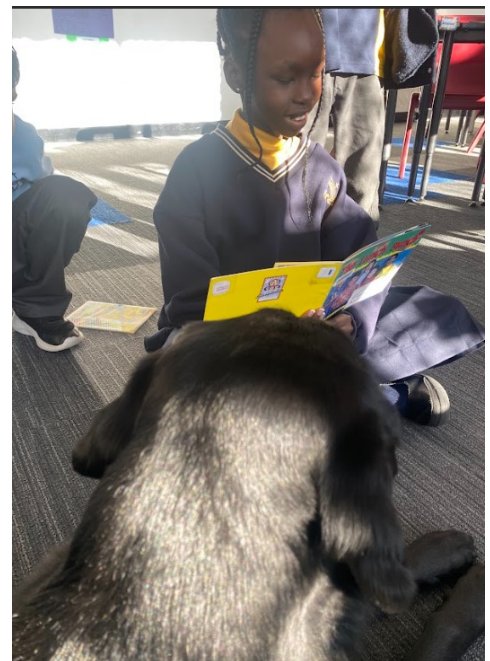
Sarah has been working with the students on developing a story based on a theme and including language features and writing strategies to engage the readers. The students will then publish their stories and this will be included in a 3/4 collection of stories for all to read!



## Tito Reading Club

Reading continues this term with Tito, the Therapy Dog. Groups of students read to Tito weekly to develop their fluency and enjoy spending time with Tito.

*I think Tito enjoys these special moments too!*





## *Our Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden*

### Our Bush Tucker Garden

#### ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DANDENONG

The aim of our project is to introduce, plan and design a bush tucker garden to grow native edible plants and raise awareness about Aboriginal cultures. The children will be involved in designing, planting, growing, and learning about Indigenous plants, and harvesting and eating the produce. The expected (environmental and educational) outcomes of the project include learning about Indigenous plants and local ecosystems through developing a bush tucker garden.



*Work has begun on our Indigenous Bush Tucker Garden. The Year 3/4 students have worked hard to begin clearing the garden beds ready to begin planting! Hard work, but a lot of fun!*

*If you would like to help with this project please see Rena Walsh or the Year 3/4 teachers.*





## Gala Day 2



Gala Day 2 was really exciting! We played a variety of sports like volleyball, tag rugby and soft ball. Below are some reflections from the students in the 5/6 community:

“I really liked playing soft ball because it was fun and I liked the rules.”(Braden)

“Volleyball was really fun because I had a couple of my friends there. The other teams were challenging us and we tried our hardest.” (Gloria)

“What a day it was! My team almost had a chance to get to district. We had a lot of fun meeting new people and playing with our friends.” (Kimaya)

“Rugby was super fun and even though some of the teams were a little unfair, we still enjoyed ourselves.” (Harjasreet)





# Confirmation 2023



**A PLUS**  
**SCHOOLWEAR**

AGS PRINTS PTY LTD  
PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**Further Reduced Prices!**

## Clearance Specials

**Sky Blue HATS**  
now **\$7.00**



**S/Sleeve Polo**  
were ~~\$30~~ now **\$15.00**  
Sizes 6,8,14,16

**Fleecy V-Neck Jumper**  
were ~~\$33~~ now **\$15.00**  
Sizes 6,8,10,14,16



**Thursdays 8.30am - 10am**



## Photo Competition open to Greater Dandenong school students

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council produces a Community Calendar for residents which features photos taken in our municipality. We love seeing our city through your eyes and this year will run a competition calling for residents to submit photos taken in Greater Dandenong.

A judging panel, including the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre curator, will select 12 finalists for inclusion in the 2024 Community Calendar to be distributed to the community in December 2023.

The panel will also select one winner each from four categories to take home cash prizes. The categories include:

- Nature
  - The Built Environment
  - Children and Young People (taken by children and young people aged 4-16)
- Open category – an extra winner chosen from across the previous three categories.

**Submissions will close on Friday 28 July 2023.** [www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition](http://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition)



## Enrolments 2024

**We are running our Step Into Prep program again this year.**

If your child is starting Prep in 2024 you are welcome to bring them along for a taste of school.

Beginning on the 2nd August and running for 6 Wednesday's in a row, each session runs from 2.15pm to 3.00pm and is a great opportunity for your child to familiarise themselves with the whole experience school.

If you have a child turning 5 by 30th April 2024, they may be eligible to enrol at St Mary's school for Prep next year. Please come to the office for an enrolment form.



### July

25th Justin  
29th Athyak  
29th Ayen  
31st Akulang

### August

2nd Nathaniel  
2nd Sineth

## Fees

If you would like to pay by direct debit please come to the office to fill out a form.

## School Contacts

Principal: **Mr Terry Gardiner**

Deputy Principal: **Mr Bryan Handasyde**

Family Engagement Leader: **Mrs Yvette Silva**

School Secretaries: **Ms Michelle Grenfell, Ms Jane Merchant**

School Office Hours: **8.30am - 4.00pm** Phone: **9791-7650**

Email: **principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au**

Website: **www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au**

## Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: **Fr Brendan Lane** Parish Office: **9791 4611**