



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

*"Educating for Life Since 1912"*



## Term 2, Issue 14

**Tuesday 24th May 2022**

Dear Families,

### Confirmation - a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament

Sunday saw us celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Ireland. It was a beautiful moment for our school, our Parish and our students. The recently appointed Bishop Ireland celebrated his first Confirmation at St Mary's and was just so warm and welcoming. His manner was very inclusive and his homily made wonderful connections to some rather challenging readings of the day. His main message was simple: to listen.

Bishop Ireland made all of the children feel very at ease and was very interested in their chosen Saints and why they chose them. It was a lovely celebration and a joyous occasion. Many, many thanks to our RE Leader Jennifer D'souza who did a fantastic job organising the Sacrament, and many thanks to the staff who assisted in the set-up of the Church and the preparation of the children. We look forward to having Bishop Ireland return in 2023.

### Triple Vaccinations for helpers...And students with Covid 19

As is the case in this COVID world, there are new alterations to policies from the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools in relation to what the requirements are for people in schools. We now require all volunteers to be triple vaccinated. This includes parent helpers and parents going on excursions.

And as a reminder, please inform one of the staff (teacher via dojo is the best way) if your child develops COVID-19.

### Fathering Project - What an Opportunity!

You may have seen our new poster up for the Fathering Project as you drive into the school gates. This is a group we have connected with through our wonderful Family Engagement in Learning Leader Yvette Silva. This is a great opportunity! We acknowledge the special role that fathers and other male figures can play in our children's lives.

Fathers play a critical role in the health and development of their children, with evidence demonstrating fathers' potential to positively influence their children's health, social success and academic achievements.

An effective and engaged father or father-figure can lead to:

Increased:

- Student connectedness with school
- Social and emotional development
- Physical activity and positive health outcomes
- Self-esteem
- Resilience
- Social responsibility, maturity and life skills

Decreased:

- Engagement in unhealthy and risk behaviour
- Alcohol, tobacco and drug use
- Suicide and self-harm
- Delinquent behaviour
- Bullying behaviours

Attached to this newsletter there is a QR-code that you can scan to join St Mary's Father's Group. Please join and have access to some great resources. We will also be posting some resources regularly in the newsletter. We are also planning a get together later on in the term - we will keep you posted.

Have a wonderful week, Terry

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

Mr Gardiner: Miss Gray, What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?

Miss Gray: *Hmmm, not sue...*

Mr Gardiner: Finding half a worm in your apple!!!! Hahahahahahaha!

Miss Gray: *Thank goodness I have a mandarin today!*

## May

**Tues 24th 3.30 - 4.15pm**

**FREE Basketball**

**Wed 25th**

**Year 3 Excursion to Library**

**Thurs 26th @ 3.30pm**

**Parent Info Session - Assisting in the Classroom**

**Fri 27th**

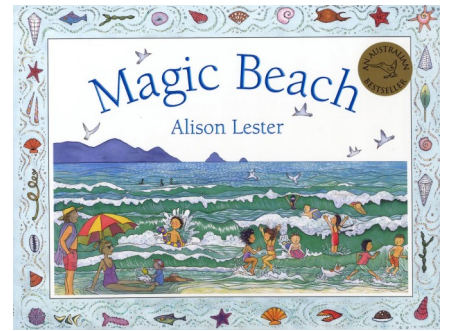
**Year 5/6 Science Excursion**

**Fri 27th @ 2.45pm**

**Assembly**



# 1/2 Community's excursion to the Art Centre to watch 'Magic Beach' Play



The 1/2 Students have been learning how to write narratives. One author they have been focusing on is Alison Lester. Last Wednesday the students had the opportunity to watch one of her Picture Books "Magic Beach" at the Art's Centre. The students had a wonderful time going on the bus, watching the play, seeing the city and playing at the park. Thank you to our wonderful parents that were able to attend too!





# Music

Having fun learning glockenspiel with Mr Pearl.



## St Mary's Primary School Playgroup

**FREE!**

20-24 New Street  
Dandenong  
(Enter via McCrae Street)

Every Monday & Thursday  
9.00am - 10.40am



**ALL WELCOME!**

For more information, contact the  
school office on 9791 7650

**A PLUS  
SCHOOLWEAR**  
AGE PRINTS PTY LTD  
PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED

## UNIFORM SHOP

### Pre-Winter Sale



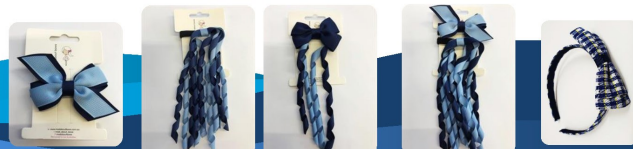
**Polar Fleece Jackets**  
**\$20.00**  
Size 4 & 6 - Not many left



**Raincoats**  
assorted sizes & styles  
were ~~\$37.00~~ now  
**\$10.00**

### Hair Accessories now available

\$4.50      \$6.50      \$11.00      \$10.50







# Why Fathers are Important in the School

We would like to share some of this evidence with you to show just how much you matter to your children, their education, and their life at school. This evidence does not show fathers' influence as superior to that of mothers, but as a separate, important factor in children's successful transition through infancy to adulthood. A fathers' influence on children's cognitive development, social skills, mental health, literacy, and math's achievement is found to be different to that of mothers.

### Top Tips

- Children with an engaged and positive father figure do better in school.
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- Children, whose fathers engage with the school, are more connected to school and less likely to have behaviour issues.
- Children with fathers who have very high parental consistency from the age of 4 to 12, perform better in reading and writing.



### More Tips:

- Fathers play an important role in boosting children's confidence, self-esteem, and resilience.
- Children with engaged and supportive fathers, are less likely to engage in negative and unhealthy behaviours.
- Fathers have a significant impact on their child's wellbeing, happiness, and life satisfaction.

Not only have fathers been shown to have a significant impact on academic achievement, but children's attitude towards learning and school is also very strongly influenced by their father. So, if you model and encourage a love of learning you will be setting your child up for success throughout their lives.



### Wellbeing Check

Fathers who have close connections with their children have better mental health and wellbeing outcomes. So, engage with your kids because not only are you supporting their wellbeing, you are also supporting your own.



# ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DANDENONG

Proudly partnering with The Fathering Project to  
support our fathers and father-figures  
- for the benefits of children.



**Scan to join our  
School Portal**

**Scan to join our  
Dads Group**



SCAN OR JOIN NOW AT :  
[www.thefatheringproject.org](http://www.thefatheringproject.org)

## *Would you like to help out in the Classroom?*

*To find out how please join us*

**Thursday 26th May at 3.30pm in the Auditorium.**



*We see families as partners in education and would love our  
families to be involved in the classroom.*



*For more information please contact Rena Walsh or Yvette Silva*



# Do you want to learn how to play basketball?

Learn with a basketball coach from the Dandenong Basketball Association.



**FREE** for **ALL** students on  
Tuesdays during Term 2 for 6 weeks.

**Starts: Tuesday Week 2 (May 3rd - June 7th)**

**Where: Basketball courts**

**Time: 3.30 - 4.15pm**



May  
24th Maverick  
26th Victoria  
26th Achal

## Fees

Fees statements for 2022 have gone home. If you had a direct debit last year and paid your fees in full, you will need to complete a new direct debit form this year.

## Enrolments 2023

If you have a child turning 5 by 30th April 2023, they may eligible to enrol at St Mary's school for Prep next year. Please come to the office for an enrolment form. We are also taking enrolments for other year levels.

## 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**  
Pastoral Associate: **Father Aurelio Fragapane**