



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 4 Issue 19

Tuesday 15th December 2020



Dear Families,
It is done...

May the Joy of Christmas be with you all...

Well...the most incredible school year in living memory is just about over. We wait once more for the birth of Christ through the Advent season and use this time to reflect. I think back over the course of this year, and rather than seeing it as a difficult year to be put behind us, I see it as an absolute year of wonder and awe. I am filled with admiration for the families of St Mary's. What you have dealt with this year has been truly remarkable and you have done so with courage and endurance. I am filled with awe for our staff. All of them went well and truly beyond the call of duty this year, making sure that your children had access to the best of everything educational during the lockdown.

I wish you all a safe holiday. One in which you will hopefully be able to spend some wonderful family time together, but not be cooped up indoors! May you all continue well on your journey.

Farewell to some EXTRAORDINARY people..

Sandra Higginbotham

Well...Sandra takes the cake this year...eleven years she has been at St Mary's and this will be her last (if you discount the long service leave..). Sandra is the heart and soul of St Mary's. As the lovely face of the office for over a decade, she has welcomed more people into this school than everybody except for Jean Claude. Always ready to share a story and enjoy the company of the staff around her, she has had a direct impact on every family of this school. Her work ethic is truly second to none, and her capacity for learning and implementing accounting knowledge well above her pay grade are a testament to her tenacity and to her intelligence. Sandra...I wonder how we will run the school without you? At least we know you are only a phone call away. We wish you every success as you relax at home on your couch and enjoy many long lunches with your friends in your retirement!

Michael Glennon

While it has been a brief stint for Michael here at St Mary's, it has certainly been a wonderful one with a large impact. Michael has invigorated in his students a love of volleyball and a very dry sense of humour. One of the most decent men you will ever meet, his love for his job and his passion for improvement show through in his work. Michael, we will miss you greatly and wish you every success at your new school.

Steph Prince

The lovely Steph Prince has been here for six years and what a teacher she has become. From a nervous interviewee sitting down with a jovial Fr Declan, she has truly blossomed into a confident educator with a true talent in the junior school. Her ability to connect and engage with families is a true inspiration and is evident when everyone in the car line stops to give her a wave. We will miss your dance clubs and the moves at the staff Christmas parties Steph...we wish you every success at your new school

Anissa Benson

Just pipping Steph by a year, Anissa came to the school seven years ago as an Office Admin Officer. Greg White just saw something in her that he thought we can't miss out on, we need her at our school. He was right! While Anissa can appear to be quite quiet and reserved, she is very firm but fun with the children and has a wicked, wicked sense of humour. I will never forget seeing Sandra's office space draped in Hawthorn's brown and gold before the final against her beloved Geelong Cats, courtesy of Anissa. Your care, compassion and humour will be missed and we wish you every success at your new school.

New Opportunity for Lunch Orders next year

Meals by Mum is the brainchild of Irina Fletcher and is a new organisation launching next year. Meals by Mums will provide healthy options for food which can be ordered and delivered to your child's classroom. The mums involved will be cooking the food daily in the kitchen upstairs to begin with, and we look forward to seeing the menu! Instead of being a variety of food, there will be one option every day and it will repeat each week. More details will be available next year, we just thought we'd let you know that there is something in the pipelines to replace the canteen next year!

And finally...there aren't enough thank you's to go around at this time of year, but I do need to add a few here. As I said earlier, the staff have been truly remarkable this year, I am forever grateful for what they have given.

I must make special mention of my two co-leaders this year: Bryan Handasyde and Rena Walsh. Their capacity to problem solve, to be flexible and to simply make it all work throughout the COVID pandemic has been without fail this year, and St Mary's would not have functioned anywhere as smoothly this year without them. They gave me the space to be able to deal with and assist my own kids at home through remote learning, for which I am forever grateful.

To a successful year which saw us all challenged and all grow and develop in ways we thought we would never have to...here's to a happy, holy holidays, and hopefully a year we will never have to repeat!

All the best
Terry

Mr Fagan's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Fagan: Mr Gardiner, Do you know who brings presents to all of the sharks every year?

Mr Gardiner: Hmmmm, I don't know Mr Fagan...who brings presents to all of the sharks every year?

Mr Fagan: Santa Jaws! Get it? Santa JAWS!!! Ba-ha-ha-ha-a!!!!

Mr Gardiner: Well Mr Fagan...I shall miss our jokes!

ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG
CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE 2020

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 22nd December 7.00pm

Reconciliation(2ND RITE) service with individual confession

CONFESSION

Individual confession will be available after mass each weekday and
before Saturday evening mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24th December

6.00pm (Family Mass)
8.00 pm (Chaldean Mass)
11.00pm (Christmas Carols)
Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25th December

8.30am & 10.30am
12.30 pm (Chaldean Mass)
2.30 (South Sudanese Mass)
No 5.30pm Evening Mass (Today)



Prep Art Competition

I am so very proud of all our fantastic Prep students who participated in an Art Competition which was run by Gabrielle Williams, State Member for Dandenong. Their drawings were about the Summer holidays and they were all amazing. Akshayan's drawing from Prep D was selected for the cover of a Christmas card which has been distributed throughout the region of Greater Dandenong. Well done to Akshayan and to all our beautiful students. A wonderful and proud moment for St Mary's school.

Tania Strangers



Akshayan's Winning Drawing 'Going for a Drive'



Oneli 'Christmas day'



Lourdes 'Play at the Park'



Shayne 'Country'



Janette 'Beach'



Joffrey



Senanayake 'Waterpark'



Delvin 'Playing Sport'



Aker 'Playing outside'



Sara 'Beach'



Rumi 'Friends'



Eve 'Beach'



Nathaniel 'Playstation'



Lucas 'City'



Atheeng 'Family'



Yiyi 'City'



Brahmjot 'Beach'



Have you seen our unique
Christmas Tree?

St Mary's Upside Down Christmas Tree

(for an upside down kind of year)

All students at St Mary's school were given a plastic cup to decorate during Visual Arts. Children used permanent marker to create original designs. The teachers melted down the cups in the oven and assembled them into a chandelier to replicate the shape of a Christmas tree.

Well done to all the students of St Mary's.

St Mary's Uniform Shop

**Will be open in January on:
Wednesday 27th 8.30 - 10am, and
Friday 29th from 8.30 - 10am**

December

Wed 16th

Students final day

School finishes @ 1pm

January

Wed 27th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Friday 29th 8.30 - 10am

Uniform Shop open

Friday 29th @ 8.40am

Term 1 begins

Preps go home at 1.30pm



BIRTHDAYS

December

15th Sara

18th Abby

19th Mary

21st Braven

21st Siena

22nd Teshan

30th Daniel

31st Akwak

January

1st Jhanvi

1st Leo

1st Akshayan

7th Ebony

8th Lateisha

9th Deng

10th Nyayeah

13th Oneli

14th Darcell

17th Ghani

25th Divine

26th Novell

27th Shahana

31st Kevin

Fees

The fees for 2021 have been kept the same as for this year.

School Contacts

Principal: **Mr Terry Gardiner** Deputy Principal: **Mr Bryan Handasyde**

Family Engagement Leader: **Mrs Yvette Silva**

School Secretaries: **Ms Sandra Higginbotham, Ms Jane Merchant**

School Office Hours: **8.30am - 4.15pm** 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: **Kathy Gottliebse**