



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 1, Issue 1

Tuesday 31st January 2023

Dear Families,

We are back and we are beginning to be able to utilise elements of the new building!!! It's been an amazing start to the year with many fresh new faces in the school, both amongst the staff and the students! While we are in the new building, there are still many finishing touches being taken care of. The landscaping around the front of the building and around the quadrangle (now the Amphitheatre!!!) are taking place over the next few weeks and will bring a nice natural touch to the building. I have had a meeting with the architect and the builders today and they believe we should have almost all trades off site within a fortnight, which is music to our ears! We cannot wait to get to the point where we can have an official opening and have you all in to have a proper look through the building!

We hope you all had a wonderfully restful break after what was a pretty challenging year. My family have had a pretty good start to the year, with three of my four children now at Secondary School! I tell you what, sometimes it feels like the years just disappear...I can't believe that I only have one at Primary School! Noah, my eldest has hit Year 11 so we will be undertaking VCE this year...should be very interesting.

Start of the Year Commissioning Mass & Feast of St Bakhita - Wednesday 8th February

We have a whole school mass next Wednesday at 9.15am to celebrate the start of a new school year and also the feast day of St Bakhita. Families are welcome to join us for the service and your children would love to see you there. Let's see if we can fill the church!!

New Staff - Welcome!!!

We have welcomed six new staff members for 2023: Jhazmine Elmido (Prep Teacher), Ama Prabhasha (Prep LSO), Jude Clarisse (4 days in Year 3/4), Kasey Dielemans (2 days in Year 5/6), Andrew Thomson (Year 5/6) and Sue Gleeson (sharing with Anna White). We hope they enjoy their time at St Mary's as much as we all do and we know you'll welcome them to our extraordinary community when you come across them in your travels. We hope they've all had a fantastic start to the year.

Fortnightly Newsletter - Sign up to the Class Dojo

The whole purpose behind the Newsletter is to communicate with our families about the ins and outs of school life and to share our learning journey with you. It's a way of keeping you all abreast of what is going on in the school. With the advent of Communication Apps like Class Dojo, families are generally kept up to date with what is going on through our online communication, so we have decided to follow many other schools and make our Newsletter a Fortnightly edition. This then becomes a pertinent time to remind you all to make sure you are subscribed to your Class Dojo page and that you are checking a couple of times a week as this is where a great deal of Communication will be done.

If you need help accessing Class Dojo just ask your child's teacher.

Have a wonderful week, Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Gardiner: Mrs Silva, do you know why I love elevator jokes?

Mrs Silva: Oh...here we go...is it because they are uplifting? Is it because people are afraid of them and take steps to avoid them?

Mr Gardiner: No, its because they work on so many levels! Get it? Elevators?

Mrs Silva: Oh no...that is just AWFUL! Thanks goodness we're switching to a Newsletter every second week! That's only half as many bad dad jokes we have to put up with!

February

Wed 1st

Preps away

Thurs 2nd

8.30am - 10am Uniform Shop open

Mon 6th

9am - 11am Free Playgroup in Auditorium
5/6 Leadership Incursion

Wed 8th

9.15am Commissioning Mass & Feast of St Bakhita. All welcome!

Thurs 9th

3.30 - 4.30pm 5/6 Family Gathering



**January**

1st Jhanvi
1st Akshayan
8th Lateisha
9th Japneet
10th Nyayeah
13th Kiden
13th Oneli
15th Ayan
17th Nyamal
20th Ella-May
26th Vasalisa
26th Novell
28th Nyamuch
31st Kevin

February

1st Yousif
1st Sahar
3rd Patrick
4th Abigail
6th Florian

Uniform Shop

Open every Thursday morning from 8.30am till 10am

Subway Fridays (order on Thursday)

Lunch orders will start again this week Friday 3rd February.

Collect an envelope from
your classroom teacher.



Here is a timetable of
how the school day
works.

It's very important that
students arrive on time
each morning so they
feel settled and can
begin the day smoothly.

8.30am	Students Arrive
8.40am	Prayer and Welcome
8.50am	Learning Time
10.50am	Eat Snack
11.00am	Recess Time
11.30am	Learning Time
1.30pm	Eat Lunch
1.40pm	Lunch Time
2.10pm	Learning Time
3.20pm	School Finishes

Fees

Fees statements for 2023 will go home shortly. 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

We are still taking enrolments for this year.

If you have a child turning 5 by 30th April 2023, they may eligible to enrol at St Mary's school for Prep this 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**