



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 1, Issue 3

Tuesday 28th February 2023

Monday's - Flag raising in the new Quadrangle @8.40am

Playgroup in the Auditorium @9am - 10.40pm

Thursday's - Uniform Shop open 8.30am - 10am

Friday's - Assembly. All welcome!

Dear Families,

We have hit the half way point of the term and everything is really coming along quite well! We had our first School Advisory Council Meeting and have identified that we have LOTS of good work to do to make sure that St Mary's is the best place it can be for our families. We've also had our Family Gatherings for the Junior, the Middle and Senior School students, with each having an amazing turn out, so thank you. We've also had our 3 Way Conversations, which are always a phenomenal event for our community; a great way for our families to see their classroom teachers and have their initial meeting to discuss the start to the year. Our new staff have made comments about the warm and welcoming environment that they have felt upon their arrival as part of the St Mary's family. Its always great to hear the feedback from new people to our Community, especially when it is positive! So well done St Mary's...

Breakfast Club is BACK!!! From 8:10am til 8:35am

Yes!!! As the building has been handed back over to us, we have regained access to our wonderful kitchen! That means that Breakfast Club is back up and running the way that it used to! The front door will be open at 8:10am for kids who are coming to eat some breakfast with us and the gates on the car park will continue to be opened at 8:30am (we don't officially go on duty until then) but children who would like to be part of breakfast club can be dropped at the front door and head straight towards the kitchen through the new deck in front of the offices. Come and have a chat!

Setting the example of being kind to each other...

At St Mary's, we are constantly talking about being kind to each other and making sure that we all feel safe. That means that everybody in the school feels like they can come onto the school grounds and feel like they will be welcome, included and respected. Yes, while there things that can happen that annoy us individually, everyone has the right to feel safe at St Mary's. That means we talk to each other respectfully and don't do anything that may embarrass or humiliate others. I was made aware that someone was made to feel embarrassed by a conversation that occurred in front of other families in relation to something that they had done. Please, I ask you to make sure that you are speaking to each other respectfully and in a way that you would be happy being spoken to. My door is always open and if you feel a Community member needs to be reminded about some of our social or school rules, please come and discuss that with me.

Have a wonderful week,
Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Gardiner: Hey Mr Handasyde, did you hear about the Factory that makes products that every body said were only just ok?

Mr Handasyde: Um, no..I didn't. What is it called?

Mr Gardiner: It is called the Satis-Factory...get it??? Satisfactory?

Mr Handasyde: Oh no...that is just AWFUL! Your jokes are definitely LESS than SATISFACTORY!!!!

Mr Gardiner: Loving it...

March

Wed 1st

Preps away

Fri 3rd @9am - 3pm

Whole school dance workshop

Mon 6th

Preps fulltime this week

Thurs 9th - Fri 10th

Whole school dental visit

Mon 13th

School Closed Labour Day

Fri 17th

Mass @ St Patrick's

Sat 18th @9am - 11am

Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

Mon 20th

NAPLAN begins

Fri 24th @11am

Harmony Day

Twilight school

Literacy News at St Mary's

This year we have many exciting experiences for the students at St Mary's in Literacy.

Our book club run by Dandenong library has begun every Monday with a group of 3/4 students. The students share a book and discuss it with Anh, our Dandenong librarian and then get to borrow books from the library.



Our focus on Writing

Writing is an art, we paint with our words

This year we will be having a specific focus on writing. We will be engaging the staff and students in the wonderful world of storytelling and making our writing even better!

We will also be hosting an 'Author' in residence program during term 2 or 3. This special guest will share the experiences and skills with students of being a published author.

Check out these descriptive passages from two of our year 6's.
They certainly allowed me to visualize the person being described!

2/23 Descriptive Passage
The boy was wearing a shirt as red as a rose,
joined by deep blue pants and dull grey pair of shoes.
His hair is as bright as the sun and he is known for
being as stubborn as a mule, by poking faces at people,
even when told not to. His eyes shined like ^{the} moon, and
his arms were as thin as a rake, making him as
weak as an insect when stepped on. His voice is
as smooth as ~~the~~ silk which helps him sing like
an angel.

2/23 Descriptive Passage
There was once a girl named Cynthia. She was just
beautiful. She had silky, white hair, just as white
as snow. She also had rosy, red lips. But the most
beautiful thing about her was her big blue eyes.
Her eyes always ^{shone} bright, like the glimmer
of the sun, and as blue, like the ocean blue.

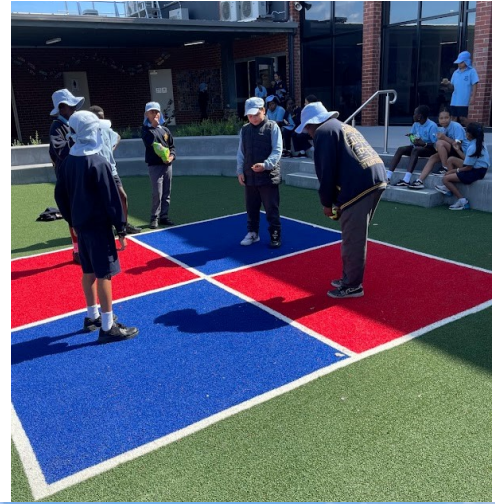
We will be sharing the writing of our students through the news-
letter, dojo and our socials. We would also love to see writing from
our parents and families, so feel free to email or pass on to the
office or myself.

Happy writing!

rwalsh@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au



Some photos
of our
beautiful
new school!



**Starting the school year can be very tiring for kids.
Here are some tips from the Fathering Project.**

Top Tips

- 1. Create a calm and relaxing space** for them to chill out when they return home from school.
- 2. Sleep, sleep, sleep.** It's very important, make sure they are getting ample sleep. You might need to adjust their bedtime to a little earlier than normal.
- 3. Show them unconditional love.** Even when they are testing your patience. "I know it's been a very long day. I love you. Let's take a breath and start over."

Dad joke of the week

"When I get into work I immediately hide...Good employees are hard to find."



Breakfast Club

**8:10am - 8:35am
Every Tuesday
Wednesday,
Thursday
& Friday**



Harmony Day

Friday March 24th

All families are invited to be a part of our
Harmony Day Celebrations

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.



School starts at 11:30 am and finishes at 5:00pm.

Our community celebrations finish at **6:30pm.**

Please wear your cultural dress or orange clothing!

11.30am	School begins - Students go to their classroom
11.40am	PARALITURGY in the Auditorium. All families are welcome to attend.
12.20pm - 1.30pm	Cultural infusion incursion (Prep - Year 2) 3-6 families are encouraged to talk to their class teacher if they would like to share an aspect of their culture with a class during this time.
2.15 - 3pm	Cultural infusion incursion (Year 3 - 6) Prep - 2 families are encouraged to talk to their class teacher if they would like to share an aspect of their culture with a class during this time.
3pm	Whole school cultural incursion
4.15pm	Family Activity Families are directed to specific classrooms for the family activity
5pm	Dismissal All students must be picked up from their classroom
5pm - 6.30pm	Shared dinner and dance After you have picked up your child/children you can join the shared BYO dinner in the new Courtyard Families can share their cultural dances.



March
2nd Chloe
6th Harry

FREE **Second Hand Uniforms**

We have a lot of stock.
Come and help yourself in the
Auditorium

Fees

Fees statements for 2023
have gone home.

If you have a Health Care Card
and sign up for a direct debit
(or pay your fees in full) you
will receive a significant
discount.

Come and see us in the office.

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.

A PLUS
SCHOOLWEAR
AGS PRINTS PTY LTD
PROUDLY AUSTRALIAN OWNED

UNIFORM SHOP

Summer Specials

Sky Blue HATS
now \$8.00



**Boys Light Grey
Shorts**
\$10.00
various sizes

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



Thursdays 8.30am - 10am

Subway Fridays (order on Thursday)



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**



ALL NATIONS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Saints Academy, in conjunction with Moorabbin Airport, are providing Multicultural boys and girls the opportunity to gain assistance during their junior football pathway, through the Moorabbin Airport Scholarship Program.

To qualify for the program you must:

- + born in or have at least one parent born in Asia or Africa
- + Be 13-17 years of age (born between 2006-2010)
- + Be passionate about your AFL

Registrations close Tuesday 28th February

For more information contact Matthew Crozier:
Matthew.Crozier@saints.com.au or 0415 533 668