



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

*"Educating for Life Since 1912"*



## Term 1, Issue 4

**Tuesday 14th March 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 @2.45pm. All welcome!**

Dear Families,

We have Harmony Day coming up in a couple of weeks and Mrs Silva has posted a video on Class Dojo outlining what will happen across the course of the day. Make sure to watch it to find out all the details!

### Double Congratulations are in order!!!

What a fortnight it has been for our families! Jamal in Year 5/6 received the gift of a bay brother a couple of weeks ago! Joice (mum) is doing well and Jamal is going to be a WONDERFUL big brother to Baby Isiah as he grows up. Also, Lorena and James Kelsall were married last week! The photos looked amazing and we hope you have many years of joy ahead of you...well done!

### Flying the Flag of our represented countries!

As part of the new build, we have had three flag posts installed: one flies the Australian flag, another the Indigenous Flag and the third is going to fly a different flag every week, the flag of one of the countries represented here at school. We think this is a fantastic way to celebrate the Diversity that we have represented here at our school, a trait that not all schools are fortunate enough to have! While we think that this is a great way to be inclusive, we are also aware that for some of our families, a Flag can be a trigger for some challenges, memories or ideologies. By flying flags at a Primary School, we are not recognising particular political agendas, nor are we endorsing past behaviors or actions by various governments. We are simply acknowledging that our school is made up of various nations on earth who are represented here as part of the family of St Mary's. People have always come here for many different reasons. In recognition of the fact that some nation's flags may be quite challenging for some of our families, we will always advertise which flag will be raised on Monday at Flag Raising so that you can choose to avoid the ceremony should you need to do so. Of course, the whole purpose behind this is that we want to recognise and be inclusive of our families. For example, when we fly the Irish Flag, I would love to see our Irish families standing under the flagpole and taking the opportunity to get a photo. The flags once up will fly all week, as not all families can get to Flag Raising on a Monday Morning. We hope to see you there!

### Long Service Leave

After being here at the school for 12, yes...12 years, I am taking three weeks Long Service Leave beginning next week which I am very much looking forward to! I am going to be doing some work around the house that has been neglected and spending some time with my in-laws (I am even going to try and fit in a bit of relaxing!!!), so I am looking forward to taking the time. I will be on Year 5/6 Camp as an additional set of hands. While I am away, Bryan Handasyde will be stepping in as Acting Principal, so if you have any queries or concerns or celebrations, don't hesitate to ask him!

Have a wonderful week, Terry

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

**Mr Gardiner:** Mrs Tout, did you hear what the flag said to the pole?

**Mrs Tout:** Ummmm...no, I didn't hear what the flag said to the pole...Maybe Hello?

**Mr Gardiner:** No, he didn't say hello, he just waved...get it? He waved? Because flags wave!!

**Mrs Tout:** Oh no....that is awful! You really do need better jokes Mr Gardiner!



## March

**Wed 15th @3.30 - 4.15pm**

Family Session

Reconciliation

**Thurs 16th**

5/6 Incursion

**Thurs 16th @3.30 -**

**4.15pm**

Prep parents - reading  
information session

**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

**Wed 29th - Fri 31st**

5/6 Camp Rumbug

## April

**Thurs 6th**

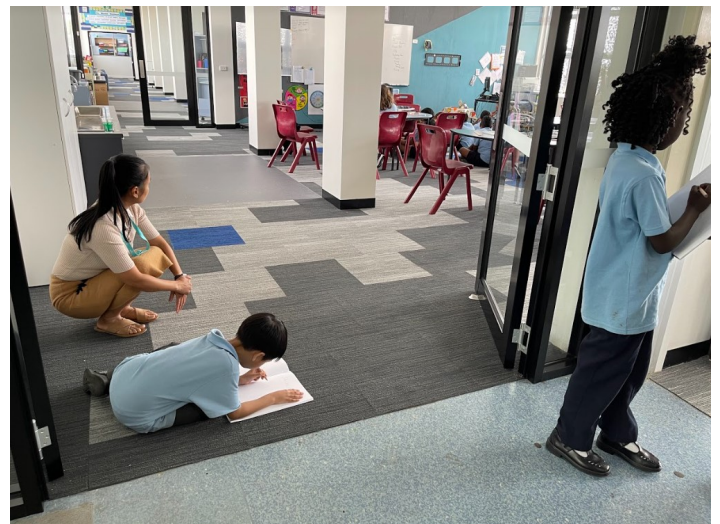
School Closure Day

Staff Learning Day

# *Year 2 Community Explores Class Culture*

During the first half of Term 1, Year 2 students have been visiting classes across the school to observe classroom culture. The students noted down what they saw, heard and felt. Here are some great observations:

- we saw students working together
- we saw students listening closely
- we saw students focusing on their learning tasks
- we heard students speaking to each other when working on a group task
- we felt students were calm and safe
- we felt students were confident in their classrooms



Year 2 Presents...



# St Mary's Who am I?

**Florian (2AR)**

I am the boss of the school.  
I work in the new building.  
I play guitar.  
I do flag raising.

**Can you guess?**

**Avitaj(2AR)**

I am next door to 1RS.  
I am getting married.  
I eat Shapes for snack.  
I work at St Mary's.

**Can you guess?**

**Maxwell(2RS)**

I smile a lot.  
I am a good teacher.  
I play football.  
I like to go to the beach.  
I am an ICT leader.

**Can you guess?**

**Pitia(2AR)**

I have black hair.  
I have left the school.  
I taught the 5/6s.  
I was an LSO.

**Can you guess?**

**Sam(2RS)**

I like 1RS.  
I am a wellbeing teacher.  
I send messages on Dojo  
I am not always in the class.

**Can you guess?**

**Jasneet(2RS)**

I am funny.  
I guide our school.  
I am in the office.  
I go to meetings.  
I gave you a new quadrangle.  
I cooked sausages.

**Can you guess?**



# 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	<b>School begins</b> - Students go to their classroom
11.40am	<b>PARALITURGY in the Auditorium.</b> All families are welcome to attend.
12.20pm - 1.30pm	<b>Cultural infusion incursion (Prep - Year 2)</b> 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	<b>Cultural infusion incursion (Year 3 - 6)</b> 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	<b>Whole school cultural incursion</b>
4.15pm	<b>Family Activity</b> Families are directed to specific classrooms for the family activity
5pm	<b>Dismissal</b> All students must be picked up from their classroom
5pm - 6.30pm	<b>Shared dinner and dance</b> 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  
17th Octavia  
18th Eldin



**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.

Dear Families,

Just a reminder that we are holding an  
information session on  
how to read with your Prep child on:

**Thursday 16th March**  
**@3.30 pm in Prep FC.**

All are welcome to join us

Thank you,

Rena Walsh, Faye Canty and Jhazmine Elmido

**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**