



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

"Educating for Life Since 1912"



Term 2, Issue 6

Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Dear Families,

As you may be aware, I was on Long Service Leave for the final three weeks of term (give or take a few days at Year 5/6 Camp and some Professional Learning Days). As always, not having to get up and get to work is quite lovely, and I did enjoy seeing the kids off to school in the morning, but it is also lovely to be back at St Mary's! There is so much going on at school and when you've been away and come back, it feels just like you slip straight back into the gear of working...there really is no down time in a Primary School anymore. It is only when you get a bit of time away that you realise just how dynamic they really are. A huge thank you to our leaders Bryan, Rena, Rose, Yvette, Jennifer and Jack who stepped up in my absence. It's great to be able to go away and know that the school is in safe hands!

Mother's Day Breakfast - Book your numbers in!!!

Next week on Thursday the 11th of May, we celebrate our Mothers and the Special People in our lives by

having our Annual Mother's Day Breakfast! There are so many significant women in our lives and they do so much for us! I always like to think about this day in relation to my mum, Pamela, and my wife, Katrina. As mothers, each of them are very different but they both have worked so hard to give their children every opportunity to succeed in life and are committed to being their best for their children. I hope that on Mother's Day they both get to feel the love and appreciation that they so rightly deserve. I hope you can do the same for the special women in your lives!

As always, we need to know numbers for catering purposes so please complete the form that was sent home.

If you have any dietary requirements for Mother's Day Breakfast, please write them on the form!

Family Holidays

Having such an amazingly diverse community means that we have families who need to travel back to their home country for many various reasons. This is often an amazing opportunity for the children to become acquainted with their culture and learn about their origin from their family. If you are heading overseas, can you please let the Office know as there is a form that we need to have signed with the dates. Appreciation in advance!

Have a wonderful week,

Terry

Mr Gardiner's Rib Ticklers...

Mr Gardiner: Ms Mati, do you know why kangaroos really hate rainy days?

Ms Mati: Ummmmm...no, I don't know why kangaroos hate rainy days.

Mr Gardiner: Well, its because on rainy days, their joeys...thats a baby kangaroo...well, they have to play inside. Get it? Play inside? And that means they're in their mum's pouch?

Ms Mati: Oh no...that is just AWFUL! I liked it better when you were on Long service Leave!!!

Mr Gardiner: Ha ha!!! It's good to be back!!!

May

Thurs 4th @ 8.30am

Uniform Shop open

Fri 5th @ 2.40pm

Assembly

All welcome! Y5/6

camp reflection

Mon 8th

Soccer Gala Day

Tues 9th @ 9.15am

Y3/4 Mass

Thurs 11th @ 7.45am

Mother's Day

Breakfast in the Hall

Thurs 11th @ 8.30am

Uniform Shop open

Fri 12th @ 2.40pm

Assembly

All welcome!

Fri 19th

District X-Country



Visual Arts

We have had a very productive start to the year and all students have produced fantastic works of art. Our theme throughout the school was “Under the Sea”. Please feel free to come into the Art Space any morning from Tuesday to Friday before school to take a look around at all the beautiful work on display. I am very proud of St Mary’s students and all they have achieved. Mrs Ono



2023 Art Leaders- Aliyana, Amylee,
Ajamour, Martiria, Akwak
and Shamira

A big thankyou to my Art Leaders for
always helping me with displays and
various other jobs in the Art Space. I
really appreciate all you do. *Mrs Ono*



School is better when your child is here

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day.

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and parental involvement can support your child's regular school attendance and prevent chronic absence patterns.

When your child misses just... they miss



5 mins
per day

=



3 days
per year

When your child misses just... they miss...



1 day
per fortnight

=



4 weeks
per year

and over

= 1 year missed
over their school life

When your child misses just... they miss



30 mins
per day

=



18 days
per year

When your child misses just... they miss...



1 day
per week

=



8 weeks
per year

and over

= 2.5 years missed
over their school life

Adapted from material © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023

1. Establish positive habits to promote attendance

- Set good bedtime and morning routines to make the process of getting to school smoother for everyone. Try to prepare as much as possible the night before, e.g. school uniform, school bag packed.
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep and exercise to support their physical and mental health.
- Talk positively about the importance of school attendance with your child. Explain that it is an important part of growing up, a legal obligation and that you expect them to attend every day.
- Show an interest in your child's school and become involved where possible. Keep notes, newsletters, etc. in a place where they are visible reminders of school news for the whole family. Talk about school activities in a positive manner.
- Discuss any changes to usual routines in advance with your child, such as alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements, to ensure clarity and minimise anxiety.

2. Changes in your child's attitude towards school

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your child needs support. Early intervention is vital to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school avoidance before it progresses to chronic absence problems and on to school refusal.

Signs of school avoidance to look out for

- feeling sick before school, e.g. waking up with a headache, stomach-ache or sore throat
- tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school – struggling to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car
- complaints about attending school and reluctance to talk about school
- missing classes and being late for class.

What is happening at school?

Early signs of school avoidance may be identified at school through observations and insights by your child's teachers. Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance and wellbeing.

Further Resources

[Anxiety about going to school](#) – Victorian Government

[Attendance and missing school](#) – Victorian Government

[How can I get my teenager to school?](#) – Victorian Government

[Early Signs of School Avoidance/Refusal](#) – Travancore School

[Tips for Promoting School Attendance](#) – Travancore School

[Understanding School Avoidance and School Refusal](#) – Travancore School

[School refusal: children and teenagers](#) – Raising Children Network

[Understanding school refusal](#) – Headspace

[School refusal](#) – Be You

[Everything you need to know about school refusal](#) – ReachOut

3. What can you do when you see the signs?

- Work with your child to understand what is happening and so that they feel supported and empowered. Listen with compassion but be consistent in expectations.
- Speak with your child's teacher(s) about your concerns.
- Consider taking your child to the GP to rule out or address any physical or emotional health problems.
- Request and attend school meetings with your child and their teacher to develop strategies to support increased attendance.



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

New Uniform Items Coming Term 2



Bomber Jacket
Child \$47
Adult \$51



Short Sleeve Polo
Child \$36
Adult \$38



Long Sleeve Polo
Child \$38
Adult \$40



**Navy Slouch or
Bucket Hat**
\$11

Thursdays 8.30am – 10am

Big News!

Parts of our School Uniform are changing.

We will begin phasing in the new polo shirts, bomber jackets and hats from next term.

Students can still wear the old uniform until they need something new, then you can purchase from the new range.

We hope you like the new colours and styles!

Clearance Specials

Sky Blue HATS
now \$8.00



**S/Sleeve &
L/Sleeve Polos**
now \$25.00
Limited stock

**Fleecy V-Neck
Jumper**
now \$25.00



Thursdays 8.30am - 10am






JUNIOR PROGRAMS @ SPRINGERS LEISURE CENTRE

Junior Programs are now available at Springers Leisure Centre, offering participants the chance to enjoy Basketball, Soccer, Netball and Tennis!

JUNIOR PROGRAM SCHEDULE





Tuesday – Basketball

4:15pm–5pm (4–6 Years) 
5pm – 5:45pm (7–9 Years) 
6:45pm – 6:30pm (10–12 Years) 





Wednesday – Soccer

4:15pm – 5pm (4–8 Years) 
5pm – 5:45pm (9–12 Years) 



Friday – Netball & Tennis

4:15pm – 5pm (4–12 Years) 
5pm – 5:45pm (4–8 Years) 
6:45pm – 6:30pm (9–12 Years) 

Only \$10 per session!

✉ springers@southeastleisure.com.au

☎ 9701 5900

🏠 400 Cheltenham Road,
Keysborough 3173

GO SOCCER MUMS



WHAT IS IT?

GO Soccer Mums is an introductory football program designed specifically for women, where participants can have fun, meet new people, and learn basic football skills in a social, judgement-free environment.

Monash Health in partnership with Centre for Multicultural Youth and City of Greater Dandenong welcome women of all ages and backgrounds to a GO Soccer Mums Come & Try for Free Session



WHERE

Ross Reserve
44 Memorial Dr
Noble Park VIC

WHEN

Wednesday
10th May 2023
10:30am - 12:00pm

COST

FREE



SCAN TO REGISTER

Fees

Term 2 Fee Statements
went home yesterday.



May
6th Delvin
8th Myrah
9th Lydia
11th Cosimo
12th Angel

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**