



**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 - 24 NEW STREET, DANDENONG, 3175

*"Educating for Life Since 1912"*



## Term 2, Issue 7

**Tuesday 16th May 2023**

Dear Families,

I was so proud of two girls from our senior community last week. You may have seen on Dojo that they received a prize of recognition for their fantastic leadership skills. There was an issue where one of the children was upset and was being encouraged by others to engage in behaviours that don't match up to our expectations. Atiel and Kelly both stood up to the behaviour and actively discouraged it. This is an incredible thing! In a world where people are increasingly becoming bystanders, these two girls safely stood up to help the person out who was feeling angry and also spoke out against the people who were encouraging them. At school, we call that, *poking the bear*, and it's a saying that really just means you are encouraging bad behaviour in others, deliberating making them angry or upset so they lose control. This behaviour is something we don't tolerate at St Mary's and something that we have been actively discouraging in our children. We have also been working on being an "up-stander" rather than a "by-stander". This means that if you see or hear someone doing something they shouldn't, you stand up against that behaviour. It is something that is sometimes very hard to do because sometimes it is our friends who are making bad choices. That is why we were so **IMMENSELY PROUD OF KELLY AND ATIEL** as they stood up to people displaying bad behaviour.



### Mother's Day Breakfast - Another success!

Thanks so much to all families for coming and celebrating yet another wonderful Mother's Day with us! The breakfast was, as always, a great opportunity to get together with each other and socialise and spend time celebrating how wonderful our Mother's and Special women are. A huge thanks to all of the staff on the Mother's Day Committee lead exquisitely by Yvette Silva...as always, a huge effort to organise but so worthwhile! Thanks also must go to the Rena Walsh and Cris Gostimir for organising our beautiful choir and to Kathy Siwek for spearheading the gifts for our families.

**Special thanks to Charnjit and Sukhpal for their decorations - you can contact them online at Neet's Decoration or on 0404 024 566 for all of your party needs**

### School Closure Day June 9th - Focus on Religious Education

Please mark the date on your calendar!!! We have one of our gazetted school closure days this coming June the 9th. The focus for the day will be RE. The school will be closed for students but Shereen will be running an after care program should you need to use it (see further along in the newsletter).

### St John's Enrolment Information Session - Thursday 25th @3.30pm

A good opportunity to ask questions, fill out the enrolment form and find out a bit more about St John's Regional College. This is not just for Year 6 families. If you have a child in Year 4 or 5 and would like to come along please do.

Have a wonderful week, Terry

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

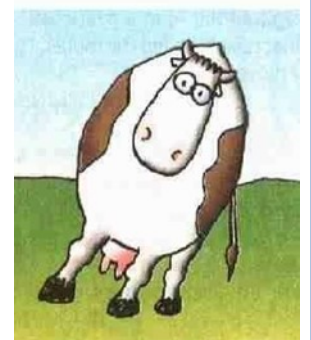
Mr Gardiner: Mrs Dielemans...what do you call a cow with 2 short legs on one side?

Mrs Dielemans: Ummmmm... I don't know, what do you call a cow with two short legs on one side?

Mr Gardiner: Lean beef...get it? Lean Beef??? Because it has to lean over, and lean beef is a type of meat??? Get it???

Mrs Dielemans: Oh no...I think you need to mooooooooo-ve on from these terrible jokes Mr Gardiner.

Mr Gardiner: Ba ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!



### **MAY**

**Thurs 18th @8.30am**

**Uniform Shop open**

**Fri 19th**

**District X-Country**

**Fri 19th**

**Year 1&2 Excursion to Scienceworks**

**Fri 19th @ 2.40pm**

**Assembly**

**Thurs 24th @8.30am**

**Uniform Shop open**

**Thurs 25th @3.30pm**

**St John's Enrolment Information Session**

### **JUNE**

**Thurs 1st**

**Open Day**

**Fri 9th**

**School Closure Day**

**Mon 12th**

**King's Birthday**

**Holiday**

## 5/6 STUDENTS FACE CHALLENGES AND PROBLEM SOLVE!

In 5/6 this term, we are focusing on facing challenges and problem solving. We have been very lucky to have been part of two sporting days already that have allowed us to showcase these skills. In Week 1 of Term we participated in Gala Day where students played either Basketball, TBall or Netball. We demonstrated great sportsmanship and persevered through challenges we faced. It was a fun and engaging way to meet students from other schools and showcase our new problem solving skills.



On Monday the 8th of May we went to Soccer Gala Day at St John's. We had many intense games against many different schools, we had a lot of fun, especially when one of our teams made it into finals. There was also a special guest to give out the trophy named Majak Mawith. He attended St Mary's and then St John's and is now a very successful soccer player who plays professionally. St John's provided us with an awesome lunch of sausages and juice boxes. Playing soccer was very fun but we faced a challenge of a very slippery turf after all of the rain, this meant we fell over lots! St John's was handing our special awards to those people who showed great sportsmanship so we were all very supportive and encouraging of one another.













# 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



Friday 9th June 2023  
(School Closure Day)



Join in the fun at St Mary's OSHC Program!

## Enjoy a "BIG DAY IN"

### We will get Crafty with:



Rock Painting  
Felt Board Art  
Calico Wall Hangings



### Fun & Games Include:



Table Tennis  
Nintendo Wii  
Target Challenges  
Pokemon, UNO & Skipbo Cards



Operating Hours are from: 7.00am – 6.00pm

(Please provide a Healthy Packed Lunch, Snacks & a re-fillable drink bottle for your child/ren)

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Contact Shereen on: 0422 803 717



Over 60 years of Catholic Co-Education in the Lasallian and Presentation traditions.

Enrolment Information Session  
Thursday 25th May @3.30pm  
here at St Mary's

2023 College Theme: "Known and Loved"

...ect, we acknowledge the elders and people of the Kulin Nation.

## STEM is HERE

Book your tour today.



**May**

17th Tiffany

18th Sherly

19th Hayden

19th Alfred

21st Rhotta

### Fees

If you would like to pay by direct debit please come to the office to fill out a form.

### Enrolments 2024

If you have a child turning 5 by 30th April 2024, they may be eligible to enrol at St Mary's school for Prep next year. Please come to the office for an enrolment form.



FROM  
*Awe*  
TO  
*Art*

- Kids 7 - 12 years
- Saturdays, 10am-12pm
- All materials supplied
- \$20 per child, per class

Paint, draw, collage and create, inspired by the wonders of the natural world

Contact Kate for bookings or enquiries:  
✉ [fromawetoart@gmail.com](mailto:fromawetoart@gmail.com)  
☎ (03) 9798 4122 (Little Bits)

Location: Unit 7, 29-39 Kirkham Rd West,  
Keysborough, 3173

Instagram Facebook

Fully qualified & experienced teacher (current Working with Children's Check)

### 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](mailto:principal@smdandenong.catholic.edu.au)**

Website: **[www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smdandenong.catholic.edu.au)**

### Parish Contacts

Parish Priest: **Fr Brendan Lane** Parish Office: **9791 4611**