



# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2025

Newsletter No: 6

Term: 2 - Week: 2

## School Notices

### Yard Supervision:

Morning: 8:30 - 8:55am  
Afternoon: 3:20 - 3:35pm

### Bell Times:

School Begins 8:55am  
Recess: 11:10-11:30am  
Lunch: 1:30 - 2:20pm  
Finish: 3:20pm

### Student Absences:

Please phone the office by 9:00am if your child will not be at school on 57 521808.  
Or mark absence on PAM.



### **TERM 2**

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2025

### **TERM 3**

21<sup>st</sup> July 2025  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### **TERM 4**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
**16<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**Students Last Day**  
**19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
**Staff Last Day**

### **MASS TIMES**

#### Myrtleford

Saturday @ 6:00pm  
Sunday @ 9:00am

#### Bright

Sunday @ 11:00am

#### St Patricks Whorouly

Last Sunday of the  
Month @ 5:00pm



Click on the link

Welcome back to Term 2 at St Mary's. I hope that you all had a lovely break enjoying the autumn weather and spending time with family and friends over Holy Week and Easter.

It is with deep sorrow that as a community we acknowledge the passing of Pope Francis, a beacon of pastoral leadership and compassion. Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis was renowned for his unwavering commitment to the poor and marginalized. His humble approach and dedication to social justice inspired millions around the world. He tirelessly advocated for the dignity of every human being, emphasizing the importance of mercy, love, and care for those in need. His legacy will continue to guide and inspire us to live out these values in our own lives. To celebrate Pope Francis' life, we came together as a Catholic community with Marian College on Wednesday.

I would like to thank the students, teachers and families who attended the ANZAC Day ceremony representing both St Mary's and their community association. I would like to especially acknowledge the St Mary's School choir, led by the dedicated and talented Mrs Campbell, for their beautiful performance at Myrtleford's ANZAC Day ceremony. I felt a sense of great pride, as the choir performed at the ceremony, the choir's performance truly enhanced the spirit of the day, and as a school we are deeply grateful for your talent and commitment.



God bless,  
*Andrea O'Connor*  
Principal

*St Mary's Primary is committed to students experiencing a sense of inclusion that is respectful of their giftedness, abilities, culture and contexts. Our student's experience learning and teaching in a child safe environment that is engaging and liberating.*



*On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life, and ideas! For all of us are children of God!*

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Easter Message 2025

*Dear Lord,*

*We thank you for your servant, Pope Francis. He was a true disciple of Christ, who shone light on those who were in the greatest need in our world. He guided us to show compassion, generosity and kindness to all, no matter who they were.*

*Pope Francis showed us the importance of peace and solidarity, and that we need to work together to make our world a better place for all.*

*We know that you have welcomed him with open arms, and that he is now at rest surrounded by peace and your love.*

*Lord, please give us the strength to be more like Pope Francis, that we are disciples of Christ and that our actions bring peace and justice in our world.*

*Amen*

### MEMORIAL MASS FOR POPE FRANCIS

On Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>, the students and staff from St Mary's and Marian College, along with parishioners joined together in prayer to celebrate the life and mission of Pope Francis. This beautiful mass was heartfelt and had a deep impact on many within the church.

Thank you to Father Tony for leading us in celebrating Pope Francis' life in such a meaningful way.

### CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

**Sacramental Masses:**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 9am St Mary's Church.

The Parent Information Evening for those wishing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist was held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of April. The evening provided information for the Sacramental preparation program.

If you or your child wish to participate in the Sacramental program preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, please contact Jo at school or at:

[jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au)

If you know of anyone who does not attend St Mary's who would like to participate, please pass on this information.



**PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOXES WITH ANY DONATIONS BY MONDAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>.**

We thank everyone for their phenomenal support of Project Compassion for 2025.

We will publish the final amount raised in the next newsletter.



## SIGNING YOUR CHILD IN & OUT & LATE TO SCHOOL PROCESS

All Children who arrive at school after 8:55am or leave school before 3:20pm MUST be signed in/out at the office. If for any reason, you need to take your child out of school during school hours, please come to the office to sign your child out.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school for any reason, it is vital that you notify the school prior to 9am, giving the reason for the absence (e.g. If your child is sick, attending an appointment, family holiday etc). This can be done via a few ways:

- Mark absence on PAM.
- Send a note with your child on their return to school, or beforehand if you know in advance
- School answering machine is on out of hours, so you can leave a message on 57521808

## SCHOOL NEWS

### DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>MAY</b>	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day Breakfast 8am Under the Basketball Court
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Cross Country
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's School Advisory Meeting
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Foundation Open Morning 9 - 11am
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
<b>JUNE</b>	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Division Cross Country – Wangaratta
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Kings Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dental Van
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5/6 Camp Ballart
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Regional Cross Country – Benalla
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation and Eucharist Mass 5pm St Mary's Church
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation and Eucharist Mass 9am St Mary's Church
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Winter Sports Wangaratta
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term 2

## JUNIOR NEWS

The JLC students have returned from Easter holidays with great enthusiasm! All students have settled back into their classes well and are very eager to learn.

Our Autumn Walk has been moved, and notes will come out regarding this soon.

### FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the Foundation students on the completion of their first whole term at school! We welcome two new class members, Aurora Ransley and Eve Matthew. Aurora joined us from Euroa late last term and Eve joined us from the UK at the beginning of this term.

This week has been a week of revision for students in both maths and literacy. We have practised our entry and exit routines and revised the classroom expectations.

There were three birthdays during the holidays and we have celebrated these also.

Foundation students attended a whole school mass with Marian College to commemorate the life of Pope Francis. Students were very reverent. Well done to Oscar Howman who carried the offertory alongside his buddy Connor Toohey.



**Drinks** - Please ensure that your child only brings water to drink at school. Fruit juice and cordial etc. Is not permitted.



### YEAR 1

The Year 1 students have settled back into the classroom routine well after their three week break. We welcomed Miss Emmerson Collins into our class this week and have the privilege of working with her this week and next week. Miss Collins is a second-year teaching student from La Trobe University and is completing her first teaching placement with our class. Welcome to St Mary's Miss Collins!

### YEAR 2

#### Welcome Back – A Fantastic Start to Term!

Our Year 2 students have returned to school beautifully this term, settling in with enthusiasm and a great attitude toward learning. We've already made an exciting start to our mathematics and literacy programs, with students engaging in some fantastic learning activities.

On Wednesday we attended Mass to celebrate and reflect on the inspiring life of Pope Francis—a meaningful moment for our class community. We've also launched our new Inquiry topic for the term: **Weather Patterns and the Sun, Moon, and Stars**. The students are already buzzing with questions and curiosity, and we're excited to explore the wonders of our natural world together. It's shaping up to be a brilliant term ahead!

As part of our InitialLit Program, we've been reading the book *Chooks in Dinner Suits* by Dianne Jackson Hill. The students have enjoyed this fun and thought-provoking story, which introduced them to the remarkable work of Maremma dogs who have played a key role in protecting the penguin population on Middle Island, near Warrnambool, Australia. It's been an exciting way to learn about both the book's characters and the real-world impact of these animals in conservation efforts.

### HOME READING PROGRAM

Our Home Reading Program is now in full swing, and we want to thank families for their ongoing support and encouragement at home. This week, students received a new Term 2 Reading Log, which includes a 'Check In' day for their home reader with the teacher. This note is stapled inside the cover of the log. We kindly remind families to ensure that reading logs and readers are brought to school each day, especially on your child's 'Check In' day and Fridays, when we celebrate the progress and effort made throughout the week. If you are unsure, please email, call or pop in to see us.

Have a fantastic week,  
Carolyn, Jo, Kelly, Nicole, Anna and Sonia.

### MIDDLE NEWS



Welcome back to Term 2...our magical weather has continued well into Autumn. We have enjoyed hearing about everyone's Easter, holidays and relaxing times.

We'd like to welcome our new students to the MLC: Lexi and Ethan have settled in well to the Year 4 class. Here is a photo the

### RELIGION

Our new topic is 'Celebrating the Gift of the Spirit'. This is very fitting as some of our Year 4 students begin preparing for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist this week and prepare for Pentecost in June.

Congratulations to the Year 3 students who did their Reconciliation at the end of last term.



### SWIMMING IN MELBOURNE - YEAR 4 STUDENTS

A huge congratulations to Maisie Fitzpatrick, Ivy Lewis, Heidi Murray and Spence Reynolds who have gone to represent St Mary's today at State level in Melbourne. They will be swimming a Freestyle relay. What an awesome achievement!



Music Lesson



Freestyle Relay Team

### ART GALLERY AND LIBRARY VISIT

At the end of last term, we had a wonderful visit to the Wangaratta Art Gallery and the Wangaratta Library. We are grateful to Inga and the Art Gallery who provided transport to enable this excursion to happen.



Art Gallery

### ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

Our new texts for this term are 'Yirra and her Deadly Dog, Demon' (Year 3) and 'Uncle X Box' (Year 4).

**Year 3:** Students are enjoying our Indigenous novel about a mischievous dog, Demon. We have started expanding sentences with a focus on verbs and adjectives. In mathematics, we are learning about fractions, including identifying halves, quarters, thirds, fifths and tenths of shapes and collections.

**Year 4:** In spelling, we have been reviewing the soft 'c' and soft 'g' rule as we will be learning about when to use a ck or a k at the end of a word - (back, sink, lock, make). In mathematics, we are learning about decimals, in particular how to represent tenths as decimals.

Have a great week,  
Julie, April and Natalie

## SENIOR NEWS

Welcome back everyone, what an excellent break it was. The weather was lovely, the students had an extra week, everyone looks well and rested. It seems quite a few families took advantage of this time and travelled long distances to have a holiday or be with family.

We welcome new students to our unit this term: Max and Kaydence. The students were lovely in welcoming them to our school.

### **SCHOOL CAMP - SOVEREIGN HILL**

We will be heading to Ballarat – Sovereign Hill in Week 8 of this term, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and returning Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The students will leave early Wednesday morning and return late Friday afternoon. A note with specific times and requirements will be sent home on PAM. We will be attending the costumed school while we are there. The students will be immersed in life on the goldfields from the perspective of a child in the 1850's. As this experience is a lived experience, the students are required to dress accordingly. The Sovereign Hill school will provide clothing, however there are a few requirements that the students need to follow in terms of footwear and socks. Please see the flyer that will come home with your child on Friday.

We will be working on this topic prior to the camp, giving the students an insight into life on the goldfields.

### **ENGLISH**

#### **Literature Focus – Term 2**

This term, our Year 5/6 students will be exploring two powerful novels: Black Cockatoo and Durrum by Carl and Hakea Merrison. In Black Cockatoo, students follow Mia, a young Aboriginal girl from Jaru Country in Western Australia, as she navigates the challenges of family, identity, and culture. Mia's story highlights the strength found in standing up for yourself, protecting what's important, and staying connected to family and heritage.

We then move into Durrum, the sequel, where Mia continues her journey, adjusting to life at a boarding school far from her home. Through this story, students will explore themes of resilience, staying true to yourself, and the importance of cultural connection, even when faced with unfamiliar environments.

These novels offer rich discussions around family, culture, identity, and the idea of 'home' – all of which will be central to our reading and writing work this term. If you would like to learn more about the authors and the stories, you are welcome to visit their website: <https://carlandhakea.com.au>.

### **MATHS FOCUS - FRACTIONS**

Over the next few weeks, our Year 5/6 students will be working on building a stronger understanding of fractions, particularly mixed numerals and improper fractions.

Students will consolidate their earlier learning about equivalent fractions and then move on to comparing, ordering, and converting mixed numerals and improper fractions using multiplication and division. We'll continue using visual tools like fraction walls and parallel number lines to support understanding, helping students to see the relationships between fractions clearly. (In Year 6, they will progress to using single number lines for comparisons.) A key part of this unit will be making sure students really understand the roles of the numerator and denominator, as this helps avoid common misconceptions.

This work will set up important skills for our next unit, when students will learn how to add and subtract fractions and find new equivalent fractions using strategies like doubling and halving.

Fractions can be tricky, so a big focus in our classroom will be taking the time to break things down clearly and making sure students have lots of opportunities to practise and build confidence.

We look forward to a busy term.

SLC Teachers

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **GREAT NEWS!!! MYRTLEFORD AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**

Time to get your friends, workmates & family together and make a team! Our competition is fun, social and mixed. Played on a Wednesday night at the Myrtleford Stadium.

Males & females both play in a mixed team with ages 12+.

(For those new to the competition, 6 x players in a team with no more than 3 men allowed on the court at once. Men considered over the age of 16. The competition welcomes beginners to more experienced players. It is targeted to be more fun and social with a bit of competition).

Registrations are now open for the Myrtleford and District Volleyball Association (MDVA) 2025 Mixed Social Competition. We hope the competition will start on Wednesday 21st May. A 2 week break will take place over the July School holidays with games and finals being played into September. Each player is to complete the form below. If you don't have a team please select no team and we will try to put you in a team. Registration Fees are \$125 for Adults and \$105 for Students, which includes your stadium entry fee. Payments can be made by Cash or direct deposit.

In the form is the list of rules last updated April 2021 which will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

If you have any questions, you can email the club at [myrtlefordvolleyball@gmail.com](mailto:myrtlefordvolleyball@gmail.com) or phone Elisha on 0409507042.

Please Register Before Saturday 10th May 2025.

Link to register - <https://forms.gle/qNF4XZ4jmgNNTLY28>

We have the Dental Van coming to School on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. Forms will come home today with all students. If you wish to participate fill out form and return to the office by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.

## School Dental Initiative

# Get ready for a healthy smile!

Our school is thrilled to welcome the Dental Health Van, providing dental care and education to our students.



- ✔ **Boost Your Confidence**  
 A healthy, happy smile can make a big difference to how you feel about yourself.
- ✔ **Fresh Breath, No Worries**  
 Good oral health means you can say goodbye to bad breath and feel confident in your daily life.
- ✔ **Take Control of Your Health**  
 Your smile is an important part of your overall health. By prioritising it, you'll be investing in a healthy, happy you.

**Our Program**  
 Funded by Australian Dental Health and the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) - a Medicare initiative.

- ★ **CDBS-eligible students:** Bulk-billed dental exams, cleaning, teeth remineralisation, preventative and restorative treatments.
- ★ **Non-eligible students:** FREE Dental Health Screening and report.
- ★ **Students with Private Health Insurance:** Receive comprehensive checkups, clean, and X-rays (if required) with your insurance details - no gap fees.



Please return this form to school this week to enroll your child in the free dental program.

# MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST

(Mum, Grandmother, Aunty or Special person)

**When:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
**Time:** 8:00am to 8:45am  
**Place:** Basketball Court

Happy Mother's Day

- ❖ Bacon and Egg Roll
- ❖ Cereal for Students
- ❖ Tea and Coffee

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**Mother's Day Breakfast Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CLASS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Adults Attending     Children Attending  
 Gluten Free         Lactose Free    Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bacon & Egg Roll

**RSVP:** Please return the order form by **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May** for catering purposes.

Mark if you have any allergies on this form.

# 'Every Day is Open Day'

## 2026 Enrolments Now Open



'Smaller Community - Big Opportunity'

Confident Engaged Learners | Personalised Pathways | Building Community | Learning for Life



Generosity - Share It | Respect - Give It | Ownership - Take It | Wholehearted - Be It



**Contact our team to arrange a personalised tour and enrolment interview**

9 Prince Street, Myrtleford | [www.mcm.vic.edu.au](http://www.mcm.vic.edu.au) | [info@mcm.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@mcm.vic.edu.au) | (03) 5752 1596

Due Back  
Friday 9th May

# SCHOLASTIC Book Club

ISSUE 3 2025

READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY!

See back page for registration details



**001 HALF PRICE! \$11**  
**NEW! The Cabbage Juice Crime**  
 Two tiny heroes try to stop a dung beetle's evil plan!  
 128 pp. AGES 6+ \$23.98



**002 NEW! I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919**  
 A tank full of sticky molasses explodes and floods Carmen's town!  
 160 pp. AGES 8+ \$16.99 **\$13.00**



**003 SAVE 41% \$10**  
**NEW! Karen's Prize**  
 When Karen wins every spelling bee, will she become a show-off?  
 144 pp. AGES 7+ \$16.99



**004 NEW! The Cartoonists Club**  
 Malaysia and her friends create a club for comic artists.  
 288 pp. AGES 10+ \$19.99 **\$13.00**

**005 SAVE 47% \$9**  
**NEW! Cat on the Run: Hidden Layers!**  
 Brains washed Internet wiped! This cat is in trouble!  
 192 pp. AGES 7+ \$16.99

**006 SAVE 44% \$9**  
**NEW! Weird Power!**  
 Dad helps Weir and his friends train for the athletics carnival.  
 160 pp. AGES 7+ \$15.99

**007 NEW! Tippy (Classified) Lockbox**  
 Everything you need to become the ultimate spy!  
 AGES 7+ \$24.99 **\$15.00**

**008 NEW! Pizza Taco**  
 Pizza and Taco decide to form their own band.  
 72 pp. AGES 6+ \$20.99

**009 HALF PRICE! \$10**  
**NEW! Rock Out!**  
 Pizza and Taco decide to form their own band.  
 72 pp. AGES 6+ \$20.99

**010 NEW! Gotcha!**  
 Spot the clues to find the burglars!  
 32 pp. AGES 4+ \$19.99

**011 Wombat**  
 A rhythmic and hilarious burrow into the unseen world of a wombat.  
 32 pp. AGES 3-5 \$16.99 **SAVE 82%**

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BOOK \$3

Take the 31-Day Challenge!