



# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2025    Newsletter No: 7    Term: 2 - Week: 4**

## 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

St Mary's has been a hive of activity over the last couple of weeks. We celebrated Catholic Education with a whole school pilgrimage around the oval and an Easter Liturgy. It was wonderful to see so our school community engaging in worship together.

On Friday we were blessed to invite all the wonderful Mothers, Grandma's, Aunts and special friends to our Mother's Day breakfast. It was lovely to see so many people here and being given an opportunity to chat and get to know more of the St Mary's community. I want to thank Lucia and Rachael for their incredible organising (they literally organised everything), the volunteers who helped with cooking and serving, and of course all the teachers who helped.

It was wonderful to be part of the Friends Igniting Reconciliation Education (F.I.R.E) Carriers commissioning, where 11 senior students and two staff were commissioned. The ceremony was led by Michael Chisholm from the CESL Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander team. Following the commissioning the whole school took part in indigenous games and the senior students engaged in an art lesson led by renowned Aboriginal (Dja Dja Wurrung Man) Troy Firebrace. The students produced beautiful artwork which captured elements of our own Dhudhuroa Country and totems of the Bogong Moth and Koala.

As a new principal, every event is a first for me and on Tuesday I was amazed by the athleticism, resilience and effort of all our students as they competed in the Cross-Country run. From our Year 6 leaders to the Foundation students everyone had a go and did their absolute best. Mr Davis did an incredible job of organising the run to ensure everything went smoothly. Well done, and good luck to those who have proceeded to the next event.

As a school and parish community we were excited to hear the news of the election of Pope Leo XIV, following the recent conclave in Vatican City. He is known for his kindness, intelligence, and dedication to helping others. His papal name honours Pope Leo XIII, who was famous for his teachings on social justice. We pray that Pope Leo XIV inspires people around the world to live with compassion and faith.



God bless you,  
*Andrea*



*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.*

## 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

**Why attendance matters**

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

- Learn
- Make friends
- Build skills through fun

**Days missed = years lost**  
A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight = 4 weeks = Over 1 year missed

1 day per week = 8 weeks = Over 2.5 years missed

## SCHOOL NEWS

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### MAY

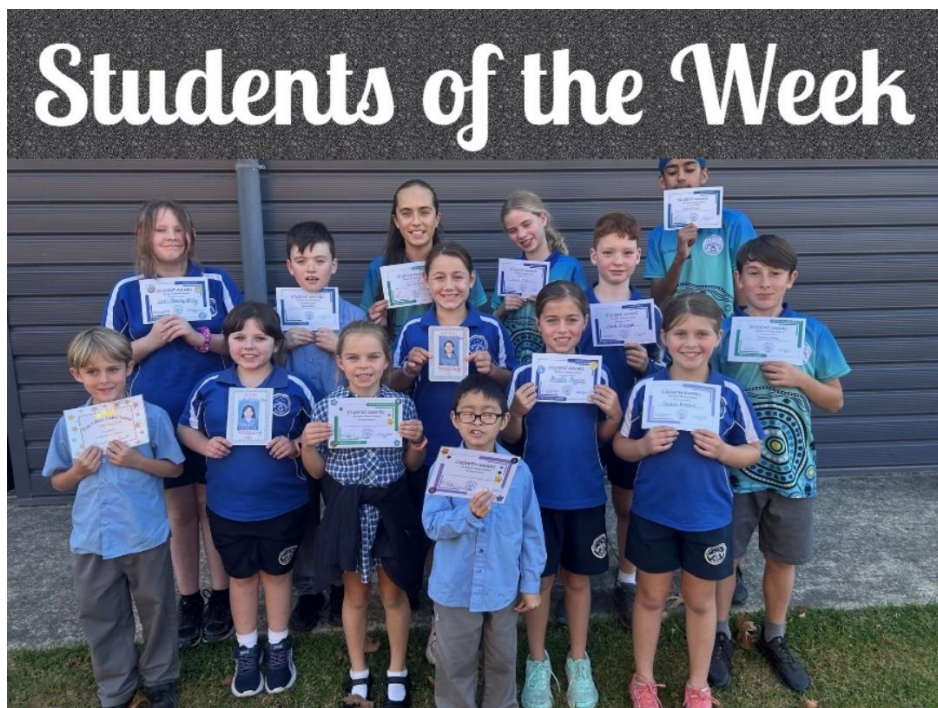
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's School Advisory Meeting
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Foundation Open Morning 9 - 11am
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm

#### JUNE

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>	Pie and Lamington Drive Orders due
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
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pie and Lamington Orders ready to be picked up
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm

#### JULY

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Winter Sports Wangaratta
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term 2



## ST MARY'S SCHOOL 'SPRING FLING' FETE 2025



We are very excited to announce that we will be holding a twilight 'Spring Fling Fete' in mid-October to raise money for the St Mary's Parish Hall floor, which desperately needs to be replaced. The cost of this to the parish is over \$100,000.

St Mary's School has always had an extraordinarily strong relationship with the parish community and was started by the St Mary's Parish over 100 years ago in 1923.

The St Mary's Parish used their lands to build our school on and have had a close spiritual and financial relationship with our school throughout this time.

We would like to continue to build on our interconnectedness with the St Mary's Parish and the Myrtleford community in general by holding this fun community event, for a worthy cause.

To get the fete 'ball rolling', we are asking families and the parish community for a show of interest of those willing to be volunteers to participate in the organisation and/or implementation of our 'Spring Fling Fete'.

We have some fantastic ideas of what we would like to include in the fete but would like to hear from you. Do you have any suggestions for stalls or activities? Can you help us in some way?

Please contact Andrea O'Connor or Jo Bennett at the school if you can help in any way or would like to share some ideas.

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

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

## CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS



*"Peace be with you all! Beloved brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who has given his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, reach your families, to all people, wherever they may be, to all peoples, to all the earth. Peace be with you!"*  
Pope Leo XIV

### A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Heavenly Father, we thank You for guiding the Church in electing Pope Leo XIV. Grant him wisdom, courage, and compassion as he leads Your people. May his papacy be a beacon of hope and unity in our world. Amen.

PRAY.COM

## CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST



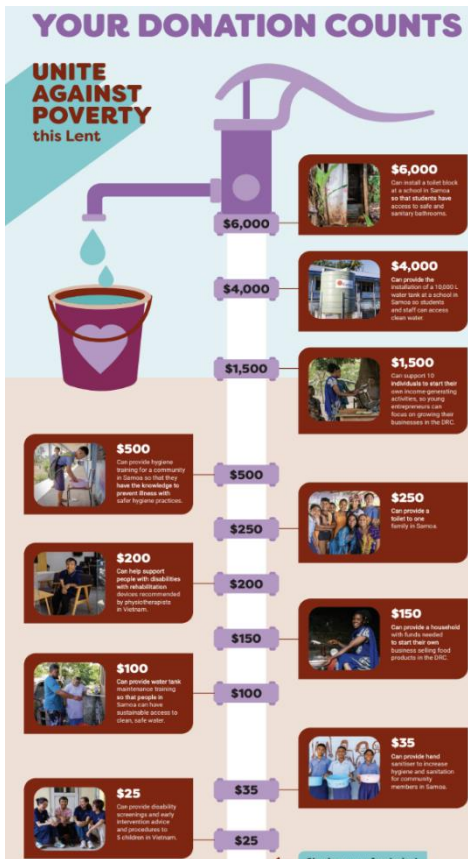
Sacramental Masses: June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am St Mary's Church.

The students preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist have now been preparing for the last two weeks. We pray that their preparation journey is enriching and enlightening.

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.



## CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION - THANK YOU

Thank you to all our wonderful families for your support of Project Compassion for 2025. Every little bit helps to make someone else's life a little easier.

We raised the mind-blowing total of **\$1,572.80** for Project Compassion this year, which is a huge effort and the largest amount that we have ever raised!

Thank you

This is how the money we raised could be spent.

## FIRE CARRIERS COMMISSIONING 2025



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May the whole school came together for an incredibly special ceremony to commission our new FIRE Carriers. The FIRE in FIRE Carriers means Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education.

We started with a prayer from Michael Chisolm of CESL and then moved into EMPAC for the commissioning ceremony. The

following students and staff were commissioned in a meaningful ceremony: Miss Martyn, Mrs Millar, Emma Herbert, Kellie Preston, Kaylee Perryman, Issy McAlpine, Iza Montgomery, Amelia Gallo, Heidi Barry, Lila Murray, Phoebe Cresswell and Sarai Barnes.

Congratulations to all our new FIRE Carriers.

We participated in a Dhudhuroa based relay game and artwork for our totems, the Bogong Moth and koala.

Years 5 and 6 worked with Michael Chisolm to create art to tell a story or draw a map.



## JUNIOR NEWS

The JLC students have been busily working in their classes, and we are now into the full swing of things.

Our Inquiry Unit for the JLC this term is 'Let's Explore Our World.'

Our Key Understandings for this unit are:

- We can take care of our Earth.
- The weather and seasons change.
- The Earth, Moon, Stars and Sun's in the solar system.

**Please note that our LETI time has been changed to FRIDAYS this term.**

## AUTUMN WALK CANCELLED.

The JLC teachers have decided to change the Autumn Walk to a special 'History and Spring Picnic Walk' in Term 3. We will be studying history next term and have decided to take the whole JLC to the Old School Museum to investigate what school used to be like and look at other artefacts from Myrtleford's history. We will follow this with a lovely 'Spring Picnic'.

## FOUNDATION

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

## RELIGION

Congratulations to our students that have already participated in some of our school Mass and Liturgy services. These roles are a wonderful opportunity for your child to build confidence on a whole school level. Amelia McArdle carried a bouquet of flowers for our Easter Liturgy.



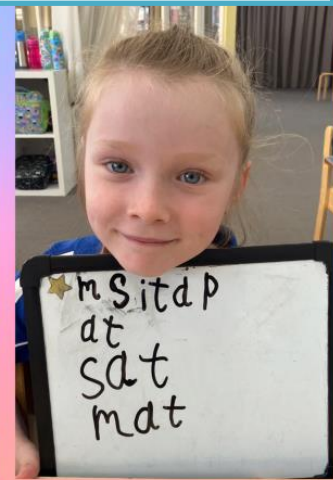
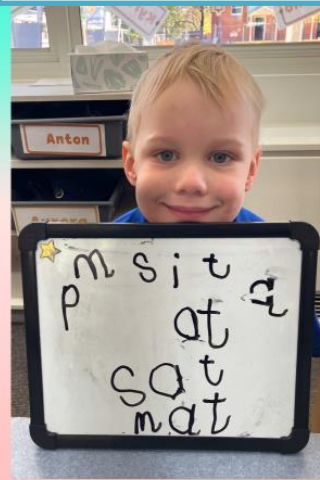
## MOTHERS DAY

The students took great care in preparing their Mothers Day gifts. We recycled some old projector film and coloured tissue paper to make sun catchers. I hope everyone loved their special gifts!



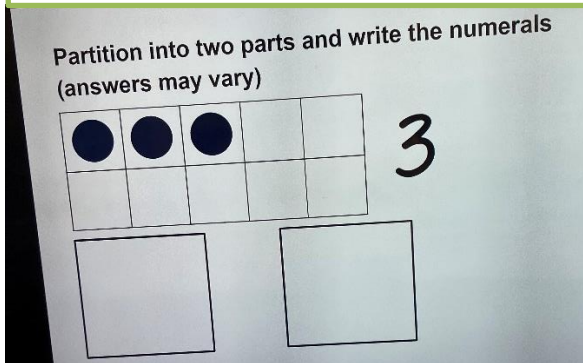
## LITERACY

Students are really moving along quite fast now that they have learned the initial letters and sounds that they require to sound out words which, in turn, allows them to decode text and begin to read! We have been having daily reading with Miss Deith and students all have a password to access online if they want to practise at home.



## MATHS

We have been learning all about partitioning and sharing in maths this term. Students have been using 10 counters to share into two and three parts.



## YEAR 1

The Year 1 students have worked extremely well with our student teacher, Miss Collins over the past two weeks. Miss Collins loved working with the students and said that she learnt a lot during her placement with us. We wish Miss Collins only the very best for her future teaching career.

## ENGLISH

The students have continued to complete phonics and phonemic awareness sessions each day. They are showing great progress in all areas. This week, we have looked at the trigraph 'igh' and understand that it is usually followed by a 't' as in light. The students know that a trigraph is three letters that make the one sound. We have also been reviewing reading and writing the next set of 'Tricky Words' and have worked on 'mother, brother, father, any, many, love'.

In writing, the students have been writing super sentences and are writing a narrative or factual piece in response to a picture prompt. Their sentence writing and narrative writing have improved so much!!!!

## MATHS

We have been completing our Daily Review each day and have been studying place value of 2 and 3 digit numbers. They have enjoyed hands on work with concrete materials to show a set number. The students have also finished their mid-year Pat Maths testing online.

## HOME READING

Most students in our class have been reading for the required 15 minutes each night and then coming in before class to change their readers each morning. There are a few who need to get back into the routine of reading each night.

## YEAR 2

Our Year 2 students have been busily working away. We've had a busy two weeks with Mother's Day celebrations (we hope you enjoyed your presents that the students worked very hard on), Cross Country, an Easter Pilgrimage celebration, and multiple learning opportunities in the classroom!

## ENGLISH

Our InitiLit Literacy program has been going well; we have been focussing on using the comprehension strategy of **CONNECTIONS**. When reading we look for **personal connections** to help us understand (COMPRHEND) what we are reading. For example if I'm reading about a trip to the beach, I can remember the time I went to the beach and what it was like to help me comprehend this story. We encourage you to see if you and your child can find personal connections in your take home reading. We have also been reading 'Turtle's Song' by Kim Michelle Toft, stay tuned for some lovely artwork.

## MATHS

Our Daily Reviews have been fantastic opportunities to keep practising our Maths skills and review our learning. We have noticed that the numbers that we have been dealing with are getting larger as our skills have been increasing too!

*Length* – recently we have been working on measuring length accurately. We have been exploring choosing the appropriate informal units of measurement for the objects we are measuring.

## HOME READING PROGRAM

Our Home Reading Program is up and running, thanks to our families for their ongoing support and encouragement at home. Every student has a **Term 2 Reading Log**, which includes a 'Check In' day for their home reader with the teacher. Reading logs and readers are brought to school **each day**, especially on your child's 'Check In' day and Fridays. Readers are available to be exchanged every day (even if it is not your child's 'Check in' day). 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

It's hard to believe we are in the middle of May, with this warm, sunny weather continuing! We hope all our Mums and Nannas/Grans had a beautiful Mother's Day and we know that you would have loved your special gifts from your children. Thanks again to Jess from Alma Terra Pottery who came and worked with the children to create these.





**RELIGION**

It was lovely to witness the FIRE Carrier's ceremony on Tuesday at EMPAC – Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education. Congratulations to the students and staff who took part in this.

Mrs Bennett is working with the students who will be receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation in the coming weeks.

We continue to learn about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit in our Religion lessons.

**TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS - VICTORIA ROCKS**

The Year 3 and Year 4 students are taking part in 'Victoria Rocks' as part of the Times Table Rock Stars program. There are 152 schools from all over Victoria participating, over 3000 students and it is a wonderful way for the students to improve their Times Tables as well as see students from all over Victoria doing what they are doing! We'll let you know how we went next week!

**CROSS COUNTRY**

What a great event on Tuesday with our annual Cross Country. We are so proud of every one of our students for taking part in this.



### YEAR 3

We have been finding time in the afternoons for students to present a quick show and tell. We have had Sophie, Tom, Lewis and Anna share with us so far. I encourage students to all have a turn sharing in front of the class, however, just be mindful that it will occur around the hectic timetable and over the term.



Mrs O'Connor assigned the Gospel reading to Lara and Jack this week and they read it beautifully at assembly. Well done!



Our indigenous book, 'Yirra and her deadly dog, Demon', continues to be read in class. We are exploring the Australian Aboriginal Flag and are currently writing an introduction to our factual report regarding the history of the Australian Aboriginal Flag.

Our new topic for mathematics is 'Length'. Please explore different units of measure in your everyday lives, such as millimetres, centimetres, metres, kilometres and have a go at measuring objects together.

### YEAR 4

We are continuing to read 'Uncle Xbox' and as part of this, we are writing a factual recount about the impact of colonisation by the British on First Nations People in Australia. The students have been learning about some of the events of 1788 onwards as Australia was colonised as a new settlement for the British people.

In Maths, we are learning about Measurement, in particular – length and metric units. We've had the measuring tapes, rulers and trundle wheels out to measure different lengths.

Have a great week.  
Julie, April and Nat

## SENIOR NEWS

It's been another busy but fantastic week in the SLC. Last week, our students showed great respect and leadership as they led the school in our Mass for Pope Francis.

### RELIGION

We're currently learning about Pentecost and have taken time to reflect on the life and leadership of Pope Francis. Students wrote thoughtful prayers and statements recognising his many contributions. We'll also begin learning about our new Pope—his beliefs and the path that led him to his role.

### SOVEREIGN HILL CAMP

A reminder to return medical forms and any other requirements for camp as soon as possible. For costume school during camp, students with long hair will need to have their hair plaited in pigtails with blue ribbons. It would be helpful if your child could practise doing a basic plait—either on their own hair or someone else's—before camp.

### FIRE CARRIER COMMISSIONING DAY

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, we marked a special occasion at St Mary's with the commissioning of our new FIRE Carriers. Congratulations to the students who were recognised for their leadership and commitment to reconciliation. We started the day with the four Directions Prayer on the oval, then moved into EMPAC for a thoughtful ceremony with guest speaker Michael Chisolm, CESL Aboriginal Education Lead.

Congratulations to our new Fire Carriers: *Lila Murray, Phoebe Cresswell, Isabelle McAlpine, Emma Herbert, Sarai Barnes, Heidi Barry, Amelia Gallo, Kaylee Perryman and Kellie Preston.*

Students took part in cultural art activities during the day, including cross-hatch drawings of the Bawiaka Koala and Bugong Bogong Moth, and some great storytelling through artwork.

A big thank you, on behalf of the SLC students and teachers, to Jo Bennett for all the time and effort she put into organising such a meaningful day.



## **MATHEMATICS**

We've just wrapped up our unit on fractions, and the students did a great job. They worked on comparing, ordering, and simplifying fractions, converting between mixed numerals and improper fractions, and using number lines to represent and understand fractional values.

Over the next two weeks, we're shifting our focus to 3D shapes. Students will explore and design nets for prisms and pyramids, identify cross-sections, and learn to describe and sort right prisms. It's a very hands-on and visual part of maths, and the students are already engaging well with it.

## **UPDATE**

## **ENGLISH UPDATE**

We're almost finished *Black Cockatoo* by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler and are working on our final task—planning and writing a character analysis. Over the term, students have developed their sentence writing skills (including using because, but, so), explored character traits through the DIAL template, and learned how to structure strong topic and concluding sentences.

Next, we'll move into the follow-up text *Dirrarn* by the same authors. This time, we'll be focusing on factual recount writing. The students are enjoying the stories and making great connections with the characters and themes. We're looking forward to getting started on our next piece of writing.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

Congratulations to our Senior Learning Students who modelled excellent sportsmanship at cross country on Tuesday. Well done to those who placed well and will head to Wangaratta on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. It was great to hear the encouragement for all students across all ages. More information on Cross country in the next newsletter.



Have a great week,  
SLC Teachers.



Well done to the St Mary's students who represented our school at the Victorian State Championships in Melbourne recently. Our squad consisted of Ivy Lewis, Heidi Murray, Maisie Fitzpatrick and Spence Reynolds. Together they swam in the Boys 200m Freestyle Relay. You read that correctly, 3 girls and 1 boy. All other teams competing were comprised of all boys, except one other team who had 1 girl. The team finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall, which is an absolutely amazing effort. Their overall time on the day was 14 seconds faster than their seeding time that qualified them for the event, which is an incredible improvement. Well done team!



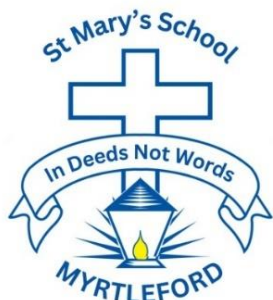
### ITALIAN NEWS

Our Year 3 students worked very hard to make beautiful cards for their mums.

These cards were challenging, but they all did a wonderful job.

Lots of cutting out, pasting & writing.  
Bravissimi.  
Signora Rinaldi.

## Pie & Lamington Fundraiser



Collect orders with friends  
and family!

Scan QR code to submit  
& pay for all orders online.



Orders close Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June  
Collection Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ♡♡





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# Happy Mother's Day!



## ‘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

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING - ATTENDANCE

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 to 17 years unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted.

Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

School participation is important as it maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

Conversely, limited school participation is associated with a greater chance of dropping out of school, disruptive and delinquent behaviour and may lead to a cycle of rebellion against authority. These outcomes have later implications for employment, a range of health risk behaviours (drug and alcohol abuse), homelessness, poverty, welfare dependence, and involvement in the justice system.

**Students learn new material and develop essential skills daily at school. Missing school, even for a few days, can disrupt learning and put students behind. Every day counts, and even small amounts of absence can negatively impact achievement.**

Families with questions or concerns about their child's attendance are encouraged to reach out to the school at any time.

As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else does. You and your child's teachers can work together to support your child's learning, development and wellbeing.

When everybody is working together in the best interests of your child, your child is likely to have a positive attitude towards school and experience other benefits too. These include both regular school attendance and positive school results.

School provides opportunities for students to develop social and emotional skills, such as communication, teamwork, and resilience. They also build friendships and develop a sense of belonging.

Poor attendance can be an early warning sign of disengagement or other underlying issues that may require intervention.

Source: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

## Australian Government mobile service centres

### Serving regional Australia

Visit the mobile service centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

We can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

**Thursday, 29 May 2025**

9 am to 4 pm

Adjacent to Jubilee Park, Myrtle Street

MYRTLEFORD

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)

## Australian Government mobile service centres

If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.

Mobile service centres (MSCs) travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia to provide help and support. During natural disasters and emergencies, they can provide on-the-ground support for disaster recovery efforts.

Services Australia staff travel with the MSCs and can help you with Medicare and Centrelink payments and services. Our MSCs also have disabled access.

Our staff can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the MSC and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the MSCs.

### Information and help you can access on board the MSCs

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians
- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- self-employed people.

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Medicare and Centrelink information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.

**More Information**

To view the latest itineraries for the MSCs, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)

The stopping locations are promoted in each town and on social media before each visit.

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