



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 20th June, 2025 Newsletter No: 9

Term: 2 - Week: 9

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 3

21st July 2025

19th September 2025

TERM 4

6th October 2025

16th December 2025

Students Last Day

19th December 2025

Staff Last Day

MASS TIMES

Myrtleford

Saturday @ 5:00pm

Sunday @ 9.00am

Bright

Sunday @ 11:00am

St Patricks Whorouly

Last Sunday of the

Month @ 5:00pm



Click on the link

Over the last few weeks, I have had the privilege of being part of some amazing experiences at St Mary's. I was fortunate to step back in time with our Year 5 and 6 students at Sovereign Hill Camp. The students and teachers immersed themselves in what it was like to be in an 1850s classroom. Dressed in traditional clothing, the students were taught copperplate handwriting, panned for gold, and visited the blacksmith and Company Mine. Over the three days, all of the students represented St Mary's with great pride and were complimented by the Sovereign Hill staff on their behavior and manners.

Last weekend, nine of our Year 4 students took the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. It was wonderful to come together as a school community to be part of these special Catholic sacramental traditions. Fr. Tony's homily recontextualized the Sacrament of Confirmation to be like joining a footy team, where Jesus Christ is the captain and the Holy Spirit is the trainer, supporting the players throughout the game. This certainly resonated with me and why my faith is so important.

This week, we had a visit from Ochre Education co-founders Reid Smith and Caroline Read at St Mary's. The purpose of the visit was to film two of our expert teachers, April Nannipieri and Leigh Corcoran, teaching the Ochre Curriculum. St Mary's has implemented the Ochre Curriculum as part of the Magnify Sandhurst learning and teaching initiative. The videos will be shared with schools across the diocese as instructional coaching videos to support the implementation of the curriculum. This is testament to the excellent teaching and learning across all our St Mary's classrooms.



Leigh Corcoran, April Nannipieri, Caroline Read, Andrea O'Connor, Ash Pasqualotto, Reid Smith

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE OF LEARNING?

In Week 1 of Term 2, all staff across our diocese took part in three days of rich professional learning with Dr Jared Cooney Horvath, focusing on the Science of Learning. Throughout 2025, we will be sharing regular insights and reflections for families to consider, with the hope that these shared understandings can strengthen the partnership between school and home in support of each child's learning journey. CESL Magnify Update 22 (June 11, 2025) Page 3 To begin, it's important we clarify what we mean when we say the Science of Learning. The Science of Learning is a growing field of research that helps us – as educators and parents – understand how human beings learn most effectively. Drawing on evidence from neuroscience, psychology, linguistics, education, artificial intelligence and philosophy, it offers us practical, research informed strategies that support learning, build memory, and develop expertise. These “best bets” can be applied not only in classrooms, but in homes and everyday life – supporting children and adults alike to keep learning, growing and thriving. In the meantime, if you would like to learn a little more about the science of learning, please see the following link - Science of learning basics in 3 minutes - [Science of learning basics in 3 minutes - Science Of Learning](#)

Have a lovely week,
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.



18 June 2025

Appointment as Archbishop of Brisbane

I am deeply honoured by Pope Leo's decision to appoint me as Archbishop of Brisbane – a diocese that has such a strong tradition of fostering the liturgical, spiritual, evangelising and educational endeavours of the Catholic community, both within the Archdiocese and more broadly.

I am particularly pleased that I will be following Archbishop Mark Coleridge, who has been a friend and mentor to me for many years. In his thirteen years as Archbishop of Brisbane, he has led the Archdiocese with great conviction and generosity, as well as making a very significant contribution to the Church beyond the Archdiocese. In particular, I see the Action Plans that he promulgated after last year's Archdiocesan Synod as providing a clear direction for the Church in Brisbane, as we seek to develop a more synodal Church that effectively proclaims Jesus' good news in our contemporary world. I look forward to working to implement those plans, in collaboration with all who contributed to the process of developing them.

Since I became the Bishop of Sandhurst nearly six years ago, I have been greatly encouraged and inspired by the lively faith and commitment of the people, priests and communities of the Diocese, and by the generous friendship and welcome they have offered to me personally. I am grateful to have shared in the pilgrim journey of the People of God here, where we have together begun new initiatives in living out our mission as Jesus' disciples. While I will be sad to move on from the Sandhurst Diocese, I am excited by this opportunity to serve the broader Church in a new way.

I ask for your prayerful support for me, for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, and for the Diocese of Sandhurst, as I prepare to take up this ministry.

MOST REV. SHANE MACKINLAY
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



bishop@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Phone 03 5441 2544

PO Box 201, Bendigo VIC 3552

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

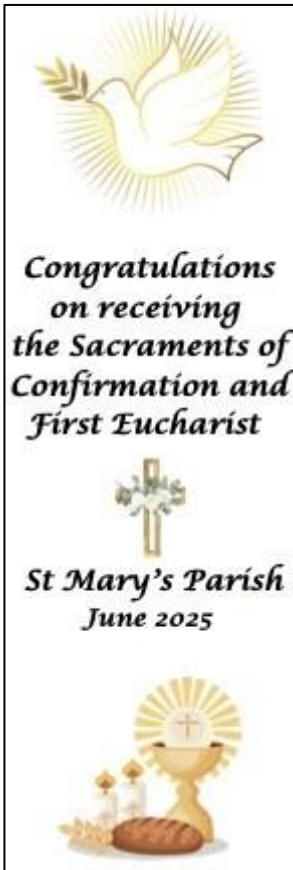
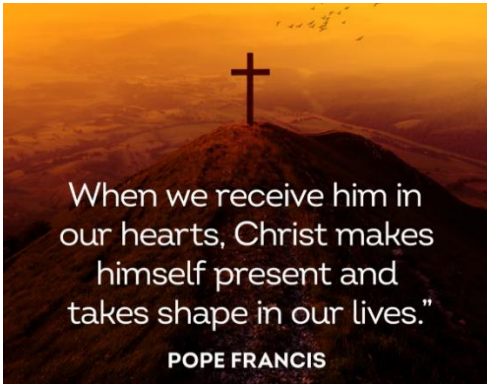
1 day per week = 8 weeks = Over 2.5 years missed

SCHOOL NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE	
Wednesday 25 th	Winter Sports Wangaratta
Thursday 26 th	JLC Mass 9:30am
Friday 27 th	MLC Liturgy 2:30pm In the year 3 & 4 Classroom all families invited
Monday 30 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
JULY	
Friday 4 th	End of Term 2 - 2:20pm finish
Monday 21 st July	First Day Term 3
Wednesday 23 rd	Fete Organising Committee Meeting 3:30pm
Thursday 24 th July	Day 1 Ski Program
Monday 28 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 29 th	Day 2 Ski Program
AUGUST	
Tuesday 5 th	Day 3 Ski Program
Wednesday 6 th	Book Fair 3:30pm -5:00pm
Thursday 7 th	Book Fair 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Friday 8 th	Book Fair 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Friday 8 th	Region Winter Sports - Benalla
Monday 11 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 13 th	PUPIL FREE DAY (Staff Spirituality Day)
Thursday 14 th	Day 4 Ski Program
Friday 15 th	Foundation Open Morning 9:00am – 11:00am
Monday 18 th	Day 5 Ski Program
Monday 18 th – 22 nd	CBCA Children's Book Week "Book an Adventure"
Monday 25 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday 2 nd	St Mary's Athletics Day – Marian College Oval
Monday 8 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Friday 19 th	End Of Term 2:20pm





SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST

Congratulations to the following candidates, who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on the 14th and 15th of June.

Javier Banigo-os, John Carroll, Pippa Carroll, Lachlan Earl, Maisie Fitzpatrick, Antonio Iaria, Emilia Iaria, Lui Iaria, Brodie Pozzan, Spence Reynolds, Zoe Richter and Archie Josipovic Rossato.

The candidates showed true joy and reverence at such an important time in their faith journey. The candidates all chose a Saint to take the name of. Each candidate put a lot of thought into their chosen Saint's name, as it is someone they wish to be like and that they would like to watch over them.

During the homily Father Tony spoke about the Catholic community as being a team with God as the manager, the Holy Spirit as the trainer and Jesus as the team Captain. This truly connected to the candidates and every aspect of the homily had a strong impact on everyone in the church. Both Masses were beautiful and a joy to be a part of.



ST MARY'S SCHOOL 'SPRING FLING' FETE - 17th OCTOBER 2025 (2:30pm - 6:30pm)



We are asking for any parents or parishioners who would like to be a part of the organising team for the fete to contact either Andrea or Jo over the next week please. aoconnor@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au
jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au

Thank you
Committee Meeting - Wednesday 23rd July 2025 at 3:30pm



DONATIONS OF TILES

We will be starting to complete a mosaic of the first of our school totems, the Bogong Moth- Bugung. If you have any broken or unwanted earthy toned tiles that you can donate, we would greatly appreciate them. Black, various browns, greys, oranges, yellows and white tiles would be ideal. Thank you

The FIRE Carriers will be organising activities for the last week of term to celebrate NAIDOC Week. We will keep you updates about this.

Have a wonderful week
Jo Bennett

JUNIOR NEWS

JLC Mass at St Mary's Church – Thursday 26th June 9:30am families welcome to come.

The JLC

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.

STAFF PD INITIALIT OBSERVATION DAY AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, MILL PARK

Last Thursday, Miss Martyn and Miss Deith had the opportunity to visit St. Francis of Assisi Primary School in Mill Park to observe their implementation of the InitialLit program. As part of the Melbourne Diocese, St. Francis of Assisi has been leading the way with InitialLit since 2021, and their commitment to evidence-based literacy instruction was evident in every classroom.

Although we couldn't send the entire Junior Learning Community team, our two staff representatives soaked up a wealth of ideas and inspiration. They returned to St. Mary's feeling encouraged and confident about the progress we're making in our own InitialLit journey. It was especially valuable to see how the program has evolved over four years and the positive impact it's having on students' early literacy development. We're excited to build on this momentum as we continue to deliver high-quality reading instruction at St. Mary's.

FOUNDATION

LETI - In LETI students have been making rockets, solar systems, farm dioramas, lego space stations and weather charts.



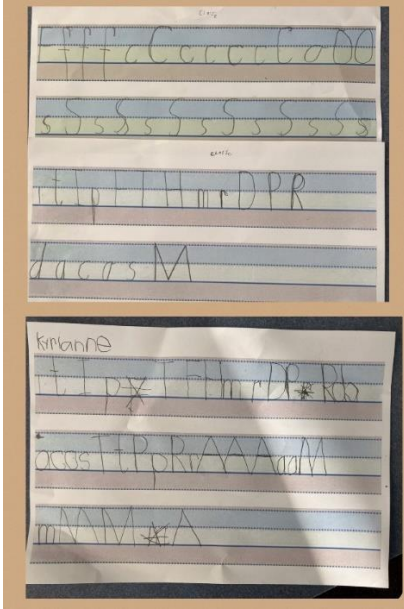
RELIGION

In Religion this week we have been discussing the meaning of the word 'generous'. Students have been brainstorming ways that they have been generous to others. They have been looking at their fingerprints and handprints and using magnifying glasses to look at their individual prints and lines. We have discussed how God created us and gave us each our own prints.



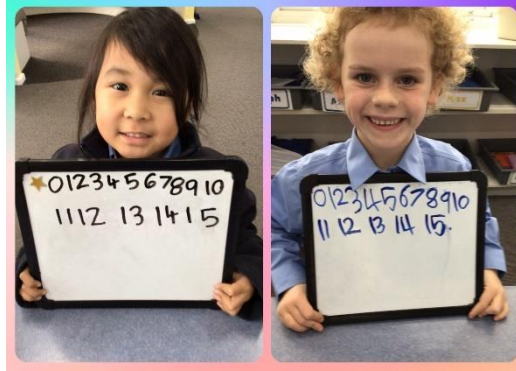
Literacy

In writing, we have been using coloured and lined paper to write uppercase and lowercase letters correctly.



Maths

In maths, we have been learning to write numbers to 15. We have been counting to 20 and back to zero.



YEAR 1

Positive Behaviour Points Winner Year 1

The Year 1 students have continued to explore verbs, plurals, suffixes, the digraph 'or' and trigraph 'ore' this week. We have studied the vocabulary in 'Harry goes to the beach' and created a 'Missing' poster for our pet monster. The students have been learning more tricky words and have been reading and writing them each day.

In Maths, we have investigated mass and are now exploring measuring and comparing capacity.

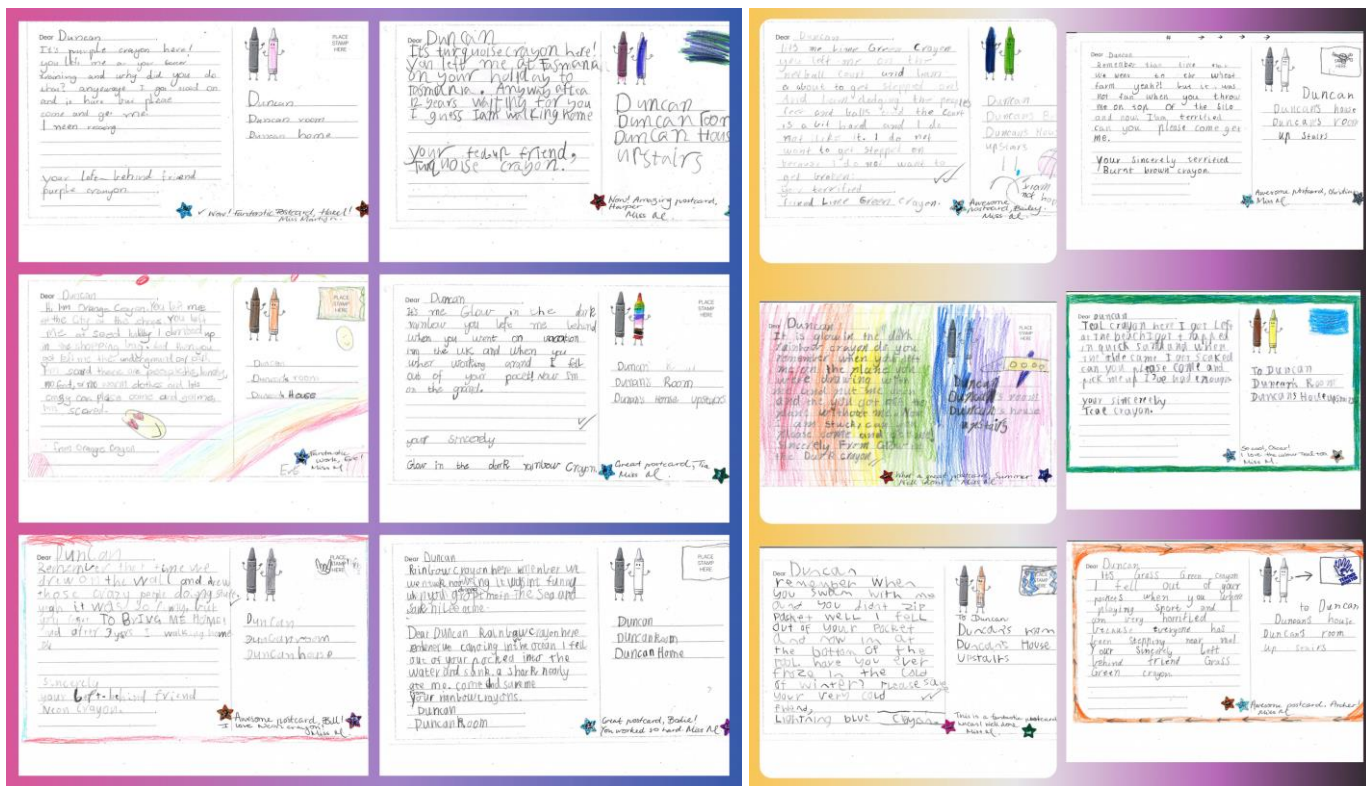
We have had a large number of students away due to illness this week. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope that they return soon.



YEAR 2 - ENGLISH

As part of our InitialLit Storybook sessions, Year 2 recently enjoyed the entertaining story *The Day the Crayons Came Home*. The students were thoroughly engaged with the story and loved following Duncan's adventure as he received postcards from his missing crayons.

To wrap up the unit, the children took part in an imaginative writing activity where they created postcards written from the perspective of one of Duncan's lost crayons. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to plan creatively, explore character voice, and have fun with their writing. The results were thoughtful, expressive, and full of personality. Check them out for yourself.



INQUIRY/L. E. TI.

Our inquiry unit of the 'Let's Explore Our World' has well and truly been a hit. There's been a lot of excitement and new discoveries made throughout the term by our Year 2s. If you peek into our classroom, you'll notice a growing collection of papier-mâché planets and space creations lining the back bench, our creativity and curiosity is in full flight!

Last week, we took a closer look at the patterns of sunrise and sunset and learned how the Earth's rotation creates day and night. These big ideas have sparked some wonderful questions and conversations. There's so much more to explore, and we can't wait to keep learning!

HOME READING PROGRAM

Thank you to all families for helping with reading at home this term. We are in the process of adding more extension books to our home reader library in the JLC. Most of the Year 2 students have been organised and ready with their reading log (white booklet) on 'Check In' day and on Fridays. With only two weeks of term left keep up the great work! Remember next term we get a fresh reading log booklet. If you are unsure, please email, call, or pop in to see us.

MATHS

It's been a busy time in Year 2 Maths, with plenty of assessment happening across the term. We're so proud of our students for showing great resilience and focus.

Lately, we've been diving into measurement, exploring length, mass, and capacity using real-life tools and hands-on activities. Students are learning to estimate, compare, and order using familiar metric units, all in line with the Victorian Curriculum.

Alongside this, we've been strengthening mental maths skills by focusing on doubling numbers from 0 to 10. It's been great to see students developing fluency with their number facts, and some have even taken on the extra challenge of doubling numbers into the teens!

This solid foundation will support our upcoming focus on multiplication and division, where students will explore repeated addition, equal groups, and sharing strategies. We're looking forward to helping them make these exciting connections in the weeks ahead.

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



MIDDLE NEWS

BLUEARTH

Monday is our regular Bluearth day and last Monday, we had some great yoga activities led by Mrs Nannipieri. The children are becoming great team players and are doing such a wonderful job of self-umpiring during our activities.



YEAR 3

ENGLISH - We have finished reading 'Yirra and her Deadly Dog, Demon' and have begun reading and exploring a beautiful picture story book on 'Finding our Heart' by Thomas Mayo. Students will now work on writing a book review.

MATHS - In Maths, we have been looking at questioning, collecting and collating data. We have also explored addition and subtraction with the use of base 10 blocks to assist in regrouping, from ones to tens or tens to ones.



YEAR 4

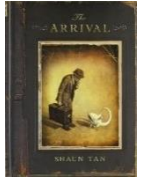
MATHS - 2D SHAPES/SYMMETRY

Last week, the students really enjoyed creating mandalas, symmetrical pictures and finding rotational symmetry of shapes. Here are some of us with our great maths creations.



ENGLISH

Over the next two weeks, the Year 4 students are discovering the book *The Arrival*, by Shaun Tan, which is a wordless graphic novel that tells the story of an immigrant's journey to a new land. It captures the challenges and emotions of starting over in an unfamiliar place. I'm very impressed by the children's ability to grasp and discuss the profound themes presented in this book.



TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS

The Year 4 students took part in Times Table Rock Stars - 'Victoria Rocks' Event in May. We are very proud of everyone in our class as the results we had were outstanding.

There were 227 schools who took part (primary and secondary) and St Mary's came 4th place, which is just amazing! There were 1569 classes (primary and secondary) who entered, and our class came 37th place.

Congratulations to the top 3 students in our class: 1st - Lachlan Earl, 2nd - Archie Josipovic-Rossato and 3rd - Pippa Carroll.



CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Maisie Fitzpatrick and Spence Reynolds who qualified for the State Championships for Cross Country and will run in Melbourne on July 24th. This is a wonderful result and we are very proud of them both. We wish them all the best!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Thank you to Mrs Bennett for all the time and care she put into not only preparing our students for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, but also for the beautiful Masses she prepared last weekend. Thank you to Fr Tony for his beautiful ceremony and sharing of God's Word in such a relatable way to everyone.

Have a lovely weekend,
April, Julie and Nat



This will be held in the Year 3 and Year 4 classroom area.

SENIOR NEWS

The SLC students were amazing at Sovereign Hill. They fully embraced the role of a student in the 1850's. Teachers from both schools, The Ragged School and The Red Hill National School, had nothing but praise for the St Mary's students, commenting on their attentiveness, their handwriting and their 'can do' attitude. I'm sure this was an experience they will never forget.

We have included some of the student's camp reflections. We will add some more in the next newsletter.

Costume Photos - Carlos

On the second day of camp, we dressed up and acted like we were living in the 1850s. We played games like grace, skipping rope, and more. We went into the classroom and split into groups of three for different activities. The activities included flag making, coin making, and sewing. I did flag making with Thenuk, Jayden, and Harry.

The Interesting Aura Sound and Light Show - Jhett

One cold night, we put on 3D glasses to watch a scene about how the Earth was made. It lasted about five minutes and looked realistic. Then we took a Jurassic Park-looking tram to a platform where we watched a short Indigenous performance that went for about two minutes.

Post Camp Reflection – Zoe

On day two of camp, we had to dress up in old costume for school it was fun. We got to dress up in 1850s clothes and go to a little school. The clothes were made from thin fabric and had only buttons—no zips! First, we put on a dress, then an apron, and finally a cape.

When we arrived at our school, it was very different to what we're used to. We learnt how to act when visitors arrived, and then we did some reading from a red book. It was a prayer about being kind to our neighbor's. Next, we did writing on a chalkboard to practice before using ink. It made a horrible sound! The boards had lines on them to help keep our writing neat. We also learnt a song called London's Burning and then did something called a musical round. The class was split into boys and girls. The girls started the song, and after one line, the boys joined in. We all kept singing through the song together.

Post Camp Reflection – Straw Plaiting - Iza

After we had been at costume school for approximately an hour, we were divided into four groups: sewing, straw plaiting, flag making, and coin making. The sewing and straw plaiting were traditionally for girls, as we were required to know these skills to help around the house. The boys were expected to learn skills that could help them earn money for their families. I participated in the straw plaiting. The type of straw we used was called raffia. We used this type because it was slightly thicker and less likely to snap. Each raffia bundle had about six to nine strands, and we had to divide it into three parts. After that, we tied a loose knot at the top and hung it over a hook so it wouldn't get tangled while plaiting. Once we finished plaiting, we tied another loose knot at the opposite end and used a strand of raffia with a thick needle as thread. After all that work, I finally finished—and in the end, I made a practical little coaster that I'm definitely going to use around the house.

The Crazy Doctor Visit - Lucy

In the middle of class, a man who claimed to be a doctor came in loudly with a thud. He was reading from a book that told him who was sick. He told one student to put rotten apples on their eyes when they slept to help them see better and told another to rub cow poo on their chest to get rid of a cold! Ma'am didn't think he was a real doctor, and I thought he might be deaf because he spoke very loudly. He was very funny and carried a hat, a cane, and a doctor's bag. The door monitor collected his things and handed them in at the front.

Aura Sound and Light Show – Kaylee

When we left for the Aura Sound visit, we put on 3D glasses and watched a presentation about how gold and the planets were made. It was exciting to see all the 3D images—it looked like the meteors and gold were flying straight at us!

On the way to the light show, we entered small vehicles. The gates closed and lights appeared under the lake. It was very cold. We saw scenes from the Eureka Hotel showing fights and arguments about who found gold first. Once people discovered there was gold in the area, they told others, and soon everyone started gold panning and collecting as much as they could.

Chamber Mine Tour - Jasper

The Chamber Mine Tour was a very fun and engaging activity. At the start, our guide led us to a tram that took us down into the mine. It was pitch black—I felt like my eyes were glued shut. After a two-minute tram ride, we arrived deep inside the mine. It was eerie, and our guide told us we were 20 feet underground. We walked through the maze of tunnels until we reached a chamber. There, a projector played a story about two Chinese brothers who came in search of gold for their father. When the story finished, we began our walk back to the surface. Along the way, our guide told us about quartz deposits where gold could be found, the Welcome Nugget—a giant gold nugget—and the miners' break room. It was a fascinating experience that gave us a better understanding of what life was like underground during the gold rush.

Aura Sound & Light Show – Lachlan McDonald

We walked from our cabin down to watch a 3D movie about how the Earth was formed. It was quite cool seeing all the little asteroids fly past our heads and learning how the Earth was created by something so big, yet so small. After that was finished, we hopped on a Jurassic Park-looking vehicle. When we arrived at the outdoor light show, they told us about the Aboriginal people who once lived on the land we were standing on. Then we went to watch the Eureka Stockade story. It was amazing. There was a canvas tent that the projector shined on, showing the civil war between the miners and the troopers. The gunshots were made using firecrackers. After the battle, 22 miners and 8 troopers had died. The troopers went around shooting any injured miners from the Eureka Rebellion. While the war was happening, some miners were in court in Melbourne, fighting against the license system. At the time, miners had to pay four shillings a week to dig for gold. After several weeks in court, they finally won the case. From then on, miners only had to pay one shilling a year for miner's rights.

The Gold Pour Demonstration - Harry

First, my group started to walk into the building where we found the blacksmith heating up the gold. After it was hot enough, he poured it into the mold. He explained that once you pour the gold, you only have about 15 seconds before it hardens again. After he poured it, he got out some large tongs and picked up the gold. The gold was melted in the furnace, which needs to reach 1006 degrees Celsius. After the pour, the tongs were dipped in water to cool them down. The gold bar was worth \$500,000—that's half a million dollars! They said the same piece of gold has been used in the demonstration for over 20 years.

Free time: Ben McLean

The free time on the Sovereign Hill camp was a memorable experience, as there were so many fun activities to do there such as gold panning, candle making, exploring the shops and experiencing it with your friends. My friends and I started off by going to the old fashion lolly shop and buying sour grapes, and raspberry drops, they were delicious. I nearly ate the whole thing. We wanted to see if we could find any gold, so we set off to the creek with our hopes high. I really liked the gold panning; the gold really stood out amongst all that dirt. We also bought two-dollar jars to put the gold into. It was amazing to see as soon as the gold touched the liquid it would fall right to the bottom of the jar. Earlier in the day me and Claye found this gift shop selling gold, so we headed back there to have a look. I didn't buy anything, but Claye bought a cool souvenir that had a shovel and a pickaxe on it. After that we went to the candle store to buy and color our candles. Claye, Enzo and I got matching colors then headed out to the park and sat down to see what we had bought. I really enjoyed this camp, and I rate it a 4/5 stars.

The Aura Lightshow: Hazel

The Aura light show was absolutely one of a kind! The light show was at night, and it included three different parts: a movie theater, an outdoor projection area and an outdoor movie theater. Another school came with us, and it looked like they enjoyed it too.

There were three parts to the show; the first part was a cool three-dimensional movie about how gold first came to earth and how it was formed. We needed to wear these 3D glasses that really set the mood.

The second part needed transportation, these buses that took us from one part of Sovereign Hill to the other to watch an outdoor projection about this aboriginal guy who created a son and a daughter by using mother nature. It explained to us how people's lives were practically ruined by European settlement and the gold rush.

The third projection was in an outdoor movie theater and the projection screen moved. Little did we know that there was a mini figure of Sovereign Hill with projections on the Meccanized tents. It showed us why the miners did certain things such as why they burned down the Eureka Hotel and their mining licenses. Fire effects were used, and it felt like I was in a gold rush watching everybody's every move.

After the light show had been completed, the buses took us back to the accommodation on Sovereign Hill. I enjoyed the light show, discovering more gold was created and more about what it was like in the 1850s.

Eureka! - Lexi

On the third day of camp, Ma'am took us to get changed back into our 1850s clothes from the day before. The girls wore frilly pantaloons, a dress, apron, and a cape on top, along with plaits in our hair, long white socks, and black boots on our feet. Today we were learning how to write using nibs. First, we dipped the pen into the ink, dabbed it onto blotting paper, and started to write. When we finished a sentence, we would wipe the blotting paper over our work so we wouldn't get ink on our hands.

Role as door monitor: Claye Corcoran

As part of the Ballarat Benevolent Asylum Ragged School, we were required to dress up in costume and as I was the tallest boy, I was expected to be the door monitor. My role included opening the door, greeting the Ma'am or sir and taking their hat or cane. 'Good afternoon, Ma'am/sir, would you like me to take your hat and cane?' That's what I had to say. It was difficult keeping an eye on my school's tasks and on the door, especially when I was doing my handwriting. A few times I was really engrossed writing with ink and pen, and I missed attending to my door job. Oh boy, was I told when I missed the door, Ma'am would go nuts." Haven't I told you Master Claye, when you see someone at the door you open it, understand me?" She would say in a stern voice. Even though it was a challenging job, I enjoyed every single bit about it.

The Ragged School – Lila Murray

On day two of camp, the 5/6's were all very excited to go to the ragged school and dress up in 1850's school.

In the morning to prepare for the school all the girls were expected to plait their hair with ribbons on the ends and everyone needed to wear black leather shoes. We were required to wear 1850's dresses and undergarments, even though it was cold in Ballarat, our old clothes kept us warm.

My favorite part of dressing up was using an ink pen to write. Although it was very annoying to have to keep dipping the pen in the ink, I enjoyed it, and I felt that my writing was better in ink pen than what it is when I normally write with pen.

I also enjoyed it when the doctor came in and was urging us to use ridiculous remedies for coughing, itching, and poor eyesight. He was very funny and loud making us all laugh.

Kristina

This is what happened at Sovereign Hill (camp)

The day before camp, my dad had to teach me how to fold the sleeping bag which was very hard. The next day I woke up and went to school and then to Sovereign Hill which took 4 hours. We put our bags in the accomodation and then had a tour. We saw the Chinese camp and then took a mine tour and my favourite part was the ride. Then I saw horses leading carriages near the water fountain and the horses were gigantic. The next activity was the gold panning, and for me, it was really hard to find gold, so I never got to say Eureka. Then we had dinner at the cafe and went to bed. The people in my cabin were Kellie, Kaylee, Mia and Camie and they were all loud except for Mia and Camie.

The next day we had breakfast and then went to the costume place where we changed into kids from 1851 and my dress was actually really comfortable because it wasn't too hot. Then we went to school with our role play teacher, but she never told us her name because we only called her Ma'am. School was actually really fun. I was the line leader for all the girls because I was the shortest. Then we went to our cabin after getting changed into casual clothes. Then I had free time which was fun because I got cool stuff. After free time I had dinner then went to the light show and it was very cold. Then I went to bed and I got in trouble for no reason because Kellie and Kaylee kept talking.

Mia

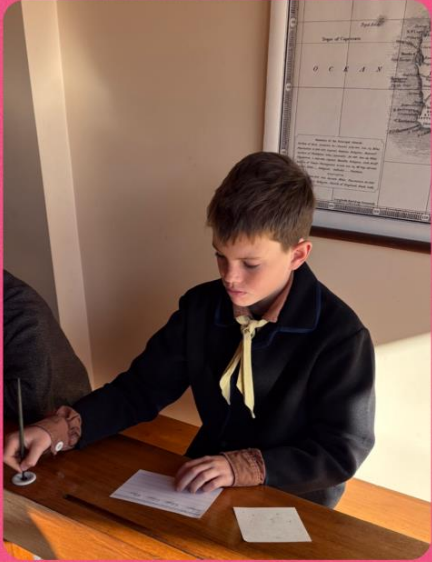
Our camp when we arrived from the bus to Sovereign Hill. We went to a gold mine tour, when I went inside we got to go onto a little train, it took us underground. It was so scary some people screamed because it was pitch black. When the ride finished, we got to watch a short movie about the Chinese brothers. It was a bit sad, but after that we went gold panning most of the people found some speck of gold. After we finished, we got into our cabins. The people in the cabin was Emme, Kellie, Kaylee, Kristina, and me it was fun.

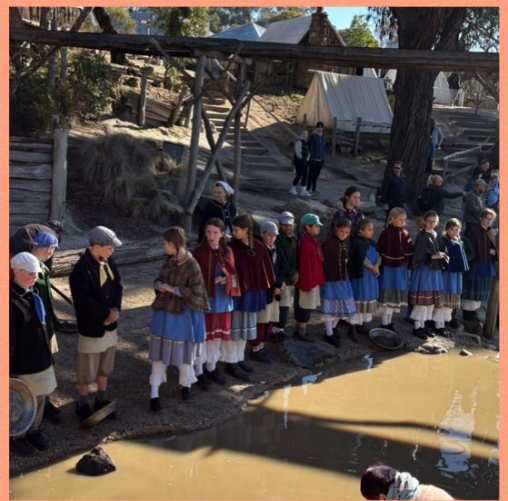
The next day we got to go to an 1860 school but we had to get changed into our costumes. It was fine but it was warm at least. After getting changed it was always girls first witch was amazing. After costume school we got an hour of free time. I got a candy jar a chocolate bag and another candy bar. It was so fun. After that we went to have dinner and went to bed.

The last day we went to costume school again for just in white, but after that we went to a night show it was amazing but cold. A while later we went to bed and went to sleep.

At the end of the end of the day we went on the bus and traveled 5-6 hrs. When we arrived back to school we saw our parents and went back home.

















WELFARE NEWS

Dear Parents,

Children experience the world in unique ways, and their sensory needs can greatly impact their learning, social interactions, and overall well-being. As parents, understanding these needs is crucial in helping them thrive both at school and at home.

What Are Sensory Needs?

Sensory needs refer to how children process and respond to sensory input - sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and textures, as well as movement and balance. Some children may seek more sensory stimulation, while others may be sensitive to certain sensations.

Recognising Sensory Differences

Every child's sensory experience is different, but common signs of sensory sensitivities or needs include:

Sensory Seeking: Constantly moving, touching objects, or enjoying loud noises and bright lights.

Sensory Sensitivity: Avoiding certain textures, foods, or sounds, becoming overwhelmed in busy environments.

Movement & Balance Challenges: Difficulty with coordination, feeling uncomfortable with activities like swinging or climbing.

How Sensory Needs Impact Learning

Sensory processing affects focus, emotional regulation, and participation in school activities. A child who struggles with sensory overload might find noisy classrooms overwhelming, while a child with sensory-seeking tendencies may have trouble sitting still.

Supporting Your Child at Home & School

Understanding your child's sensory needs allows for adjustments to help them feel comfortable and engaged:

Create a Sensory-Friendly Environment: Offer quiet spaces, use soft lighting, and provide sensory tools like fidget toys or weighted blankets.

Encourage Movement Breaks: Allow time for physical activity to help with regulation and focus.

Work with Teachers: Collaborate with educators to identify strategies that support your child's sensory needs in the classroom.

By recognising and embracing your child's sensory needs, you empower them to engage confidently with the world around them. If sensory challenges significantly affect your child's daily life, speaking with a paediatrician, occupational therapist, or educator can help identify effective support strategies.

As a school, we aim to meet your child's sensory needs in a range of ways, but please feel free to call or come see me at any time if you need further support or have any questions.

Ashley Pasqualotto
Deputy Principal, Learner Diversity

PE NEWS

OVENS & MITTA DIVISION AND HUME REGION

On Wednesday 4th of June the twenty-four St Mary's students attended the Ovens & Mitta Division cross-country in Wangaratta. We were blessed with great weather on the day and had some fantastic results, with five students qualifying for Hume Region cross-country. Well done everyone and good luck Ed Millar, Phoebe Cresswell, Maise Fitzpatrick, Spence Reynolds and Hunter Harris at Hume Region cross-country in Benalla!



On Friday 13th June four of the five students who qualified for Hume Region cross-country competed in Benalla. There was an unfortunate clash between the SLC camp and this event. Of the four St Mary's students who were available to compete at Benalla regional cross-country two students were successful in qualifying for Victoria State Championships, which will be held in Melbourne on the 24th July. Well done Maise Fitzpatrick who came 7th, and Spence Reynolds who came 5th, what an amazing effort!

Adam Davis (PE)

COMMUNITY NEWS

#BeKindToYourMind Mental Wellbeing Week

**21st - 27th
June**

Saturday 21 st June	Monday 23 rd June	Tuesday 24 th June	Wednesday 25 th June	Thursday 26 th June	Friday 27 th June
Wellbeing activities with primary school students.					
Week launch: Mental wellbeing dinner with Sharni Layton Book here	Inspirational talks from Lance Picoane with students from year levels 5 - 12, as well as teachers and parents		Wellbeing workshops with secondary school students Wellness workshop with Lee Couch & Arkeria Rose Armstrong Book here	Week close: Community presentation by Dr Jodie Lowinger Bright Pavilion at 6pm Community Bank Bright and Myrtleford Bendigo Bank	

The organising committee would like to thank and acknowledge the sponsors and funders who have made this week possible:

North East Civil Construction
 Myrtleford Combined Services Club (Lions, Rotary, RSL)
 Murray PHN
 Community Bank Bright

An evening with Dr Jodie Lowinger

Bestselling author, Podcast Host,
Executive Coach, Keynote & TEDx Speaker.

Dr Jodie will discuss strategies for coping with anxiety and how to support those closest to you. This promises to be an inspiring evening for the whole community.



- Friday 27 June - 6:00pm
- The Pavilion, Pioneer Park, Bright
- Bookings not required ● Light supper provided ●



Proudly sponsored by



mfnc



M.F.N.C ALPINE SAINTS
WELLBEING
TEAM

Mental Wellbeing Dinner

Everyone welcome!

GUEST SPEAKER:



SHARNI
LAYTON

DATE: Saturday 21st June
(following Rd 10 vs Raiders)

TIME: 6pm

VENUE: Ablett Pavilion

TICKETS: Early bird tickets
on sale now until 13th June
\$35 per person
(includes Paella dinner)



Facilitator
Lee Couch

FREE Wellness Workshops Myrtleford



When

Wednesday 25 June 2025
4.30pm - 6:30pm

Where

Myrtleford P-12 College
Multipurpose Room

Register online

Scan to
register for
the FREE
event



UMFC Therapy Services

Spotlight Sessions



Focused Support When You Need It Most

Sometimes, you just need meaningful support in the moment. Our Spotlight Sessions shine a light on what matters most to you by providing dedicated time to address a specific goal or topic.

What are Spotlight Sessions?

- Short-term, focused sessions designed to meet your needs in the here and now
- Get the support you need with minimal wait times
- A flexible, goal-driven approach tailored to your specific situation

Session Details:

- 15-minute intake call – Understand your needs and set your focus
- Brief pre-session questionnaire – Gather insights to maximise your session
- 60-90 minute focused session – Dedicated time to work through your goals
- 15-minute follow-up call – Reflect and discuss next steps
- Short post-session questionnaire – Measure progress and feedback

Looking for Deeper Reflection?

Ask about our Spotlight Sessions with a Reflective Team, where a team of therapists collaborates to offer insights, ideas, and personalised suggestions for your journey.

Visit our [website](#) for details and to make an enquiry



Scan Me

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Therapy Services

Supporting children, individuals and families on their journey to healing, growth, and connection

At UMFC, we celebrate and support families as they define themselves. We believe in your strengths and insights, walking alongside you to shape a path toward healing, growth, and deeper connection.

Why Choose Us? What Makes Us Different?

- **Tailored Therapy** – Talking, play, expressive arts and nature-based therapy.
- **Family & Systemic Lens** – Understanding individuals within their family and social context.
- **Experienced & Professional Therapists** – Compassionate and skilled professionals.
- **Trauma-Informed & Inclusive** – Client-centered, safe and empowering approach
- **Community Connections** – Strong links to local services and supports.
- **Flexible Therapy Options** – In-office and telehealth sessions available.

Services for Children, Individuals and Families:

- **Family Therapy:** Strengthen or repair relationships and improve communication
- **Relationship Therapy:** Tools for connection, intimacy, and healthy dialogue.
- **Parent Therapy:** Explore your parenting journey and achieve meaningful goals.
- **Child and Adolescent Therapy:** Supports emotional regulation and personal growth.
- **Individual Adult Therapy:** Navigate life stressors and personal healing.
- **Spotlight Sessions:** Focused sessions to address specific goals or challenges.
- **Family Violence Counselling:** Specialised, trauma-informed counselling. - **Coming soon**
- **Group Programs:** Bringing people together to learn, grow, and enhance wellbeing.

Additional services upon request (care team meetings, travel, external system work).

For more information or to make a referral, visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code below.



Scan Me

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Therapy Services

Services for Professionals and Organisations



UMFC offers tailored professional support to enhance practice, build capacity, and foster professional growth. We are committed to sharing knowledge and skills with professionals in the field.

What We Offer:

Consultation Services

One-time targeted professional support for practitioners, counsellors, and professionals.

- **Case Reflection** – Gain new perspectives and strategies for client cases
- **Reflective Practice** – Explore theories, models, and frameworks
- **Recommendations and Advice** – Receive informed suggestions for your work

Supervision, Coaching and Reflective Practice

A collaborative space to enhance skills, promote best practice, and support professional well-being.

- Enhance skills and knowledge, and deepen your application of theory to practice
- Engage in clinical reflection and ethical problem-solving
- Build self-awareness and insight
- Explore workplace roles, team dynamics, self-awareness, and professional relationships
- Promote self-care, well-being, and early intervention to prevent burnout and address vicarious trauma

Available as Individual or Group sessions tailored to your needs.

Tailored Training

Custom workshops and professional development training to meet your specific needs.

Our Team and Expertise

Our team is made up of experienced, compassionate therapists with diverse expertise across all our services.

Check out our [website](#) or scan the QR Code for More for further information about these services and our areas of expertise, passion, and knowledge.

Make an enquiry today!



'Every Day is Open Day' 2026 Enrolments Now Open



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

Contact our team to arrange
a personalised tour and
enrolment interview



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