



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 31st July 2025 Newsletter No: 11 Term: 3 - 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 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

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

Welcome back to Term 3, despite the wintery weather we have had a great start to the term.

As we begin the term, the Gospel message that one person's kindness can make a big difference resonates with me. I am constantly seeing our teachers and students live the Gospel value of being kind and caring to one another. This message is also a powerful reminder that standing up for what is right, caring for one another and praying for others can help bring hope and healing, even in difficult situations. It is this kindness that makes St Mary's such a special community.

I have had an exciting and active few weeks attending the Myrtleford Combined School Ski Program with 17 of our adventurous Year 5 and 6 students. Despite the early start and my skiing ability being a little rusty, it's been terrific seeing our students challenging themselves to learn a new skill, working as a team to carry ski gear and being friendly and polite to new students and teachers.

On Wednesday the Year 5/6s represented St Mary's at the Winter Inter-school sport competitions. All our students demonstrated great sportsmanship, competing in either soccer, netball and football, and for some students it was the first time that they had played the sport. The students encouraged one another and were willing to take themselves out of their comfort zone and try something new.

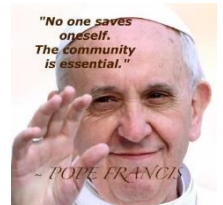
Have a terrific Term 3.

Andrea O'Connor

NAPLAN REPORTS

The Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN results were released last week and were sent home to parents following the NAPLAN Data parent session Wednesday after school, facilitated by April Nannipieri. St Mary's has performed extremely well in the 2025 NAPLAN tests and it is testament to the great efforts of our students, teachers and families.

It was also terrific to have so many parents attend the NAPLAN Data parent session as it reflects the high level of engagement our families have in their children's learning. We will be sharing some 'Big Picture' data sets with our school community later in the term.



CYBERSAFE WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday the 28th and 29th of August, e-safety expert Hayley MacDonald will be facilitating workshops for our students and parents. The parent workshop will be held at school on Thursday the 28th of August at 5:30pm. I would encourage all parents attend to ensure our students are safe online at school and home. Further information promoting the workshop will be circulated in the coming weeks.

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

SIMON EVERYWHERE APP

In response to the St Mary's Communication survey and the recent pilot of the SIMON Everywhere app, we will commence the integration of this app from the beginning of Term 3. The app allows access directly to PAM via your mobile device, allowing the reporting of student absences, access to student assessment, medical and travel information.

The school will communicate notifications that were previously communicated via Teams App through SIMON Everywhere from the beginning of Term 3. Instructions on how to download the app are attached at the back of this newsletter.

If you require additional support, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST	
Tuesday 5 th	Day 3 Ski Program
Wednesday 6 th	Albury Eisteddfod (Choir Leaving 8am from the Bus Stop)
Thursday 7 th	Book Fair 3:30pm - 5:00pm (In the Italian Room)
Friday 8 th	Book Fair 3:30pm - 5:00pm (In the Italian Room)
Friday 8 th	Region Winter Sports - Benalla
Monday 11 th	Book Fair 3:30pm - 5:00pm (In the Italian Room)
Monday 11 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Monday 11 th	Dr Horvath Parent Information (Stress, Tech and Sleep) 6pm
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"
Tuesday 19 th	Parent Teacher Interviews 2:30pm - 6pm
Wednesday 20 th	Parent Teacher Interviews 2:30pm - 6pm
Thursday 21 st	Book Week Dress Up Parade 9am Under the basketball court
Monday 25 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Monday 25 th	Dr Horvath Parent Information (Surviving Study – Understanding the three keys to learning and memory)
SEPTEMBER	
Monday 8 th	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 10 th	St Mary's Athletics Day – Marian College Oval
Friday 19 th	End Of Term 2:20pm





31st July, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd is pleased to announce an exciting partnership with world-renowned educational neuroscientist, Dr Jared Cooney Horvath, who conducted our diocesan wide three days of professional learning at the beginning of term 2. Jared is a global leader in the Science of Learning, and his work offers powerful insights into how students learn and how we can best support them to thrive at school and beyond.

As part of this partnership, Dr Horvath has developed a special series of presentations specifically for parents and carers, focusing on how to understand and support children on their learning journey.

We are delighted to be able to share these three informative recordings with our school community as we continue our shared mission of helping every student reach their full potential.

Please see below for the presentation topics. Further details and links on how to access each session will be shared closer to the date.

Recording	Presentation Mode	Date and Time
Recording 1 Stress, Tech and Sleep	Online Click here for video link	11 th August, 6pm
Recording 2 Surviving Study – Understanding the three keys to learning and memory	Online Click here for video link	25 th August, 6pm
Recording 3 Brain Development – Why we act like we do	Pre-recorded video session.	To be circulated to families following Session 2.

We are excited to bring Jared's expertise into our school community and thank you for your ongoing support and engagement.

Yours sincerely,

MUSIC NEWS

At the end of Term 2 all classes performed for the school and some parents. Each class performed an item that they had learned throughout the term. They performed so well, and it was a lovely way to finish the term.

- Foundation sang, Climbing up the Rainbow.
- Year One and Two each performed a piece of the Boomwhackers.
- Year Three and Four each performed a piece on the Ukulele.
- Year Five and Six performed a medley on the guitars.

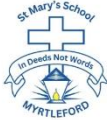


ST MARY'S SCHOOL 'SPRING FLING COMMUNITY' FETE NEWS

The Fete committee met last Wednesday, and the fete planning is underway!!




DUE TO CLASHES OF DATES THE FETE'S DATE IS NOW FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21st from 2:30pm - 6:30pm (PRESENTATION DAY)



**St Mary's School
Firewood Raffle**

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS MONEY RAISED TO REPLACE THE ST MARY'S PARISH HALL FLOOR.

\$5.00 per ticket
Drawn Friday 5th September
 Please return tickets and money to the
 St Mary's School Office by Wednesday September 3rd.



THE ST MARY'S WOOD RAFFLE

This raffle is the first stage of raising money for the St Mary's Parish Hall floor replacement. Our school was established through the St Mary's Parish and was built on the parish lands. We are raising money through this wood raffle and our 'Spring Fling Community Fete' for the parish hall floor.

HVP has generously donated 3 cubic m of mixed hardwood and the Chirgwin Family have kindly donated 3 bags of kindling for the raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each

Please support this amazing raffle to warm your home and to warm our hearts.

Raffle tickets will be going home next week!!

Our fete is a combined effort between St Mary's School, St Mary's Parish, and the Myrtleford Community. Our vision is to see everyone come together as one community to raise money for a great cause. Replacement of the Parish Hall floor!!

We have representatives from the St Mary's staff, Parish, and St Mary's Parents/Grandparents on the committee. We would dearly love to have more parent/grandparent representatives on the committee.



We have many stalls or activities that we need people to help run. We are asking for volunteers to run a particular stall/activity.

- Lucky Dip- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Dunk Tank- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Mystery Bottles- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Footy handball competition- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Gumboot toss/ chuck the chicken- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Plant Stall- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Local produce stall- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Flower stall with donated flowers- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- Drinks and hot chips stall- Organiser/ coordinator needed.
- BBQ- selling sausages- Organiser/ coordinator needed.



If you can help with any of these stalls/activities, please email Jo Bennett at:

jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au

If anyone is involved with a community group that would like to help or contribute in some way, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you,
 Have a wonderful week.
 Jo Bennett

Welcome to Term Three!

Students have come back from holidays with a spring in their step and are ready to pick up their learning where they left off!

FOUNDATION

In **Literacy**, we have continued learning sounds and letters and are now more than half way through the alphabet. We have been learning ‘tricky words’ that have tricky parts that we can’t sound out and just have to memorise. This has helped students improve their fluency whilst reading. We have read storybooks about cows using typewriters and a book about a gorilla. Students have made cutout creations about cow characters and gorillas to improve their fine motor skills.



In **Maths**, we have been learning about parts of a number. Students have been using counters to calculate combinations of ten.

Bluearth was so much fun last week with a special visit from Miss Martyn from grade two who came along to teach Miss Deith how to play ‘Samurai’. Students had turns of dressing up in a satin robe and leading the game.



LETI began last week with enthusiasm. This term we are learning about history and students have recorded their wonderings about the subject.

We have participated in groups that introduced the subject in our first WOW Session, Mrs Bennet’s group was led by Mrs May and students learned about technology, Miss Deith’s group learned about time capsules and Miss Richardson’s group learned about games.



In **Religion** we are learning about the Bible and have read The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Students enjoyed discussing the meaning of this story, learning about how everything begins small and grows GREAT!

The Parable (Matthew 13:31–32, NABRE):
 “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.”



YEAR 1

The Year 1 students have been studying split vowel digraphs and the 'Bossy e' over the last two weeks. We have been reading and writing words that have a split vowel digraph such as a-e (cake), i-e (bike) and o-e (home). We have also listened to and explored a book of poetry called 'Now we are six' by A.A. Milne.

We have just started to study the 'Tricky Words' - children, work and baby. We have been reading and writing these words to learn them.

In Mathematics, we have finished our work on addition and subtraction and are now studying durations of time for measurement. The students completed a post test on the addition and subtraction work and have all done well.

In Religious Education, we have been looking at the importance of stories for our study of 'Jesus' Stories'. We brought in our favourite story book and presented this to the class, explaining why we like it, what the story is about and what we learned from the book.

Home reading: This is just a reminder that the students need to keep up with their nightly reading at home and to fill in their reading diary each time they read. The students are asked to bring this in each day, and I will be checking them all on a Thursday morning.

** Don't forget that **TUESDAY IS OUR LIBRARY DAY** and all library books need to be returned on this day, so the students can borrow new books to explore.

YEAR 2 - LITERACY

'You and Me, Murrawee' has been our past fortnight's storybook text. This book fits in beautifully Inquiry unit - 'My Story. Your Story, Our Stories' as it tells a parallel story of two girls who explore our country but two hundred years apart.

Conjunctions – We have been exploring how conjunctions can join two to sentences together and add meaning. So far, we have been using the conjunctions- and, so, but, because, or.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In Religious Education, we have been looking at the importance of stories and recalled some of our favourites about Jesus in the Bible. Have a chat with your child to see what their favourite story from the bible might be. We also completed our beautiful classroom prayer cloth, made with everyone's handprint. It brings a special touch to our prayer time and reminds us how we're all connected.



MATHEMATICS

This week, our Year 2 students have been exploring multiplication and division through the magic of arrays. We took our learning beyond the classroom by heading outdoors to create arrays using nature's treasures sticks, stones, leaves, and more. Students then participated in a gallery walk to proudly present and explain what they made. Arrays help us solve problems and visualise numbers in neat rows and columns, making maths both fun and meaningful!



We have also continued our work on identifying and sorting regular and irregular polygons. It's been great to see students being able to use the criteria and sort these shapes correctly.



INQUIRY/LETI

As mentioned before our Inquiry (and LETI) topic this term is 'My Stories, Your Stories, Our Stories'. This unit is a chance to explore the history of ourselves and the community. Below are our key understandings.

- My Story, Your Story, Our Stories Key Understandings.
- Things Change and Stay the Same Some things in life change, others stay the same. We use pictures and stories to learn about the past. .
- Our Stories Matter We can talk about our life, family, and community.
- Technology Changes Life New inventions change how we live.
- Why Things Change We learn why changes happen and what they mean.

We encourage the students to bring in any artefacts, pictures, stories or information about their history from home. This unit is a great opportunity to have discussions with parents, grandparents and great grandparents and share our stories.



HOME READING – Week Two and all students should be regularly changing their readers in the morning before school and reading to the teacher on their assigned check in day (ideally before school from 8.30am when the classroom is open). New home reading record books have been sent home.

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

MIDDLE NEWS

Welcome back to Term 3! It's certainly a chilly and wet start—Winter is making its presence felt! This term is a short one, with just 9 weeks, but it's packed with lots of events and important dates. We're looking forward to Book Week, Parent-Teacher Interviews, and diving into plenty of meaningful learning and work.

Hopefully you are getting some ideas together for our annual Book Week dress up parade on Thursday, August 21st. Our amazing Book Fair will be held next week.

Our Inquiry topic is Australian Celebrations and Commemorations. Students will explore the history and diversity of our community through symbols, emblems, and national celebrations, and investigate the origins of Australian flags and commemorations like Anzac Day or Sorry Day.

YEAR 3

We have finished reading *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and have begun planning an information report on Iron! I have heard that robots are being built at home, and I am excited to welcome them into our class.

Here are some photos of the student's handwriting and working on their grammar and sentence structure.

Bar models! Ask your child what a bar model is and how to apply it to multiplication and division? It is great to see students supporting others with their learning, showing resilience and taking on challenges.

YEAR 4

English: We have begun our new text which is a favourite of mine from when I was at school-Storm Boy by Colin Thiele. As part of this unit, we are studying some facts about the setting of this text which is the Coorong in South Australia. Your students have learnt a great deal already about why this area is such an important place. We will be making some 'humpies' such as the ones featured in Storm Boy later in the term.

Maths: We've had another student 'Go Green' this week, which means they have mastered their times tables in 4 seconds or less. Please continue to encourage your children to learn their times tables at home as well. Using Times Table Rock Stars or learning to recall them orally are both great ways for your children to learn them.

We are finishing our 2-week unit on Multiplication this week and will be beginning a one-week unit on Angles next week.

Here are some photos of the Year 3 and Year 4







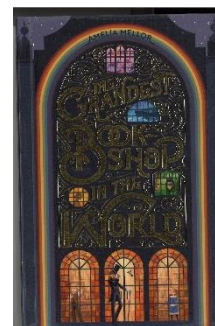
SENIOR NEWS

Welcome to Term 3, we look to consolidate learning and new concepts this term. The calendar is full this term as we have students participating in the MART Ski Program, Winter Sports Day, Book Week, Athletics, a student free day, REAP Day (emergency services activity day), and it is only a nine week term!

NOVEL STUDY - THE GRANDEST BOOKSHOP IN THE WORLD

Our Year 5/6 students have made a strong start to our latest novel study, *The Grandest Bookshop in the World* by Amelia Mellor. We've just finished Chapter 3 and already the students are hooked.

Set in 1893 Melbourne, the story follows siblings Pearl and Vally Cole, whose family owns the extraordinary Cole's Book Arcade – a real-life historical place many parents might remember hearing about. But this story takes on a magical twist. The arcade is no ordinary bookshop – it's filled with wonders, riddles, and a mysterious game set in motion by a shadowy figure named Obscurosmith. The stakes are high, and already the students are beginning to realise that the game may be far more serious than it first appears.



As we read, we've been diving deep into vocabulary, grammar, and sentence-level writing. Students have been developing their descriptive language and exploring how authors use words to build atmosphere and tension. It's been a great opportunity to link reading with rich writing practice.

We've also taken time to explore the fascinating history behind the real Cole's Book Arcade – a Melbourne landmark that aimed to be a place where books, imagination and joy came together. This has added another layer of interest, helping students make connections between fact and fiction. We're looking forward to seeing how the story unfolds – there's a sense that big things are just around the corner for Pearl and Vally!

MATHS UPDATE - FRACTIONS AND FLUENCY

Over the past few weeks, our Year 5/6 students have been working solidly on fractions in Mathematics. It's been great to see the level of focus and persistence as we've moved through a range of concepts, gradually building up their understanding and confidence. We've explored:

- Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator
- Finding equivalent fractions using related denominators
- Adding and subtracting fractions with related and unrelated denominators
- Working with mixed numerals and tackling addition and subtraction with more complex fractions

The students have really stepped up to the challenge and are becoming more flexible and accurate in their thinking.

In addition to our work on fractions, we've also placed a strong emphasis on fluency—particularly multiplication and division facts. Regular practice of times tables has helped build speed and confidence, and students are starting to apply these skills more automatically during problem-solving.

As always, a friendly reminder about the importance of practising times tables and reading at home whenever there's an opportunity. Even a few minutes each day can make a big difference and really help boost confidence back in the classroom.

We're proud of the effort students are putting into their learning and we'll continue to build on these core number skills as the term progresses.

MAX'S CANADA TRIP

Thank you to Max on your excellent presentation of your holiday to Canada. Max did a great job presenting a PowerPoint of some of the beautiful places he visited and discussed some of his favourite experiences.

Presenting to the class after a holiday not only gives students the opportunity to share their experiences but also give them another forum to present an oral presentation to the class, projecting their voice, speaking about the slides and answering questions.



INQUIRY

This term our inquiry unit is about adaptations. The students started last week, looking at the ways we have adapted in order to survive and live productive lives. One experiment had the students assessing whether opposable thumbs make a difference in our lives. From the look of the results, most of the time, yes they do! The students were to look at writing a hypothesis and recording data. Working with partners, they proceeded to try to tie shoelaces, zip up jackets, write their name, pick up counters etc with their thumbs taped down.



WINTER SPORTS DAY

Congratulations to the students on their excellent sportsmanship at the Winter Sports Day. Students participated in netball, football and soccer. It was great to see the kids organising themselves, supporting their team members and embracing the spirit of competition.



WINTER SPORTS DAY - FOOTBALL REPORT

Both of our St Mary's football teams did a great job representing our school at Winter Sports Day.

Team A played three pool matches and made it through to the semi-final on percentage. They won two of their pool games and narrowly lost the third by just one point. In the semi-final, they came up against a strong Sacred Heart Yarrowonga side and, despite their best efforts, went down by five goals. The players showed outstanding teamwork and resilience across the day, never giving up and constantly encouraging one another.

Team B had a solid day as well. They started with a great win against Glenrowan and then fought hard in their remaining two pool games. Even in defeat, their effort and teamwork never dropped. The players supported each other really well and kept playing hard all day.

It was a fantastic day of sport, and we're proud of how all our students played and conducted themselves. Well done, St Mary's!



BOOK FAIR 2025

It is that time of year again. The Book Fair will be held on Monday 4th August to Monday 11th August. It will be held in the Italian Room. The students will get to have a look through the Book Fair on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th August with their class. They will get a chance to do a wish list with their favourite books on it to bring home to share with you.

The Book Fair will be open to all families to come and look and purchase books on:

- Thursday 7th August 3:30pm - 5:00pm
- Friday 8th August 3:30pm – 5:00pm
- Monday 11th August 3:30pm – 5:00pm

You're invited to our
SCHOLASTIC Book Fair

OCEAN ADVENTURE
Mr Luke's class opened a magic book and found themselves under the sea!
100144570 | HB PICTURE BOOK | AGES 3+

\$10

TWO CRANKY BEARS
Can two cranky bears learn to share?
100144522 | HB PICTURE BOOK | AGES 3+

\$10

WOMBAT
A funny look into the life of a wombat.
100141320 | PB PICTURE BOOK | AGES 3+

SPECIAL VALUE \$6

THE PUPPY PARADE
A new series all about Ella and Olivia's puppy, Bob.
100144370 | CHAPTER BOOK | AGES 5+

\$6

NINJA SUPERSTARS!
Can Ninja Girl and Karate Kitten save the town from evil lizards?
100145003 | CHAPTER BOOK | AGES 7+

\$10

DARE TO BE SCARED!
Pizza and Taco go Ghost Pepper hunting!
100145054 | GRAPHIC NOVEL | AGES 6+

\$10

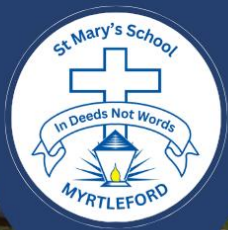
SLEEPOVER BFFS: BIG DREAMS
These BFFs make a business out of planning sleepover parties for people!
100145640 | PB NOVEL | AGES 9+

\$10

EVERY DOLLAR EQUALS RESOURCES FOR OUR SCHOOL

SCHOLASTIC REWARDS

SCHOLASTIC




ST. MARY'S OPEN MORNING

All 2026 Foundation families are invited to join us for our next Open Morning. During our tours, families will have an opportunity to visit classrooms, ask questions, and discover all that St. Mary's Primary School can offer your child and family.

- ✓ Open Day - Friday, 15 August 9-11am
Meet at the St Mary's office
- ✓ Transition Days for enrolled students
will begin in late Term 3

**Every day is an Open Day at St. Mary's.
Please feel free to organise an individual
visit at any time.**



 (03) 5752 1808

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