



# St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

43 O' Donnell Ave.  
(P.O. Box 320)  
Myrtleford Victoria 3737  
Phone: 03 5752 1808  
e-mail: [principal@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au)

web: [www.smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au)

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 Newsletter No: 13 Term: 3 - Week: 6

## 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**

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

### **TERM 4**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
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

## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

On behalf of St Mary's, we extend our heartfelt prayers and support to the families and loved ones of Senior Detective Neil Thompson and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart, who tragically lost their lives while protecting our community. We also stand in solidarity with the Porepunkah and broader communities as we continue to navigate the situation. We acknowledge the deep emotional impact such tragedies can have—especially in close-knit regional areas like ours—and encourage anyone in need of support to reach out to our wellbeing team, who are here to offer care, guidance, and a listening ear.

*Loving God, We thank You for the gift of our St Mary's school and parish community. For the strength we find in one another, For the kindness shared in classrooms and playgrounds, And for the care shown in both small and great ways— We give You thanks.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

St Mary's has been abuzz with activity the last couple of weeks celebrating the Feast of the Blessed celebrating our Feast Day of the Assumption of our Lady with Marian College and Book Week.

We began our Feast Day with a beautiful Mass led by Fr Tony. Once again, our students were prayerful and participated beautifully in Mass. It was the first time we had gathered as a school community and shared Eucharist since our Year 4s had celebrated their Sacrament of First Eucharist. Following Mass we attended a musical performance by Tella Scuola- Musica. This concert provided our students with an opportunity to engage in the Italian language and perform, with some of our students revealing their musical talents. This is further testament to the excellent language and Performing Arts programs and the teaching of Mrs Rinaldi (Italian) and Mrs Campbell (Music). We finished the day in the sunshine enjoying a lunch of pasta and gelato catered by the St Mary's Parish ladies. A big thank you to Mrs Bennett, Mrs Rinaldi and Mrs Fin (Marian) for organising the day.

Last week was Book Week and I was completely blown away how our teachers and students embraced the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book characters. My favourite was Mr Corcoran's take on the magician from The Grandest Bookshop in the World, Obscurosmith closely followed by Mrs Humphreys and Mrs Jackson's Willy Wonka and the Golden Ticket. Following the parade each class visited each classroom to read the shortlisted Book Week picture story books and look at the amazing displays each class had put together focussing on their book. Year 5/6 Jackson had even found an old bicycle for their 'The Wobbly Bike' display.

God bless,  
*Andrea*

## CESSSES SURVEYS: PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Last week, 80 randomly selected families received letters inviting them to complete the CESSSES Parental Engagement Survey. Completing the survey is vital as it provides valuable insights into the St Mary's family school experience and how they perceive the school supports the needs of their children. The anonymous survey data will help to inform school improvement and to develop strategies to better meet community needs.

## CYBERSAFE WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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. To register please [Click here.](#)

*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.*

## SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES AND BEFORE SCHOOL CLASSROOM ACCESS

St Mary's duty of care to our students is extremely important. Student supervision commences each morning at 8:30am on the asphalt area. Students are not to arrive at school before 8:30am.

Although teachers arrive at school at 8:30am, they are not expected to open the classrooms until 8:50am as the first 20 minutes of the day provides teachers time to prepare for the day and they are not expected to supervise students as per their workplace agreement. Students are not allowed to be in classrooms without teacher supervision for their safety.

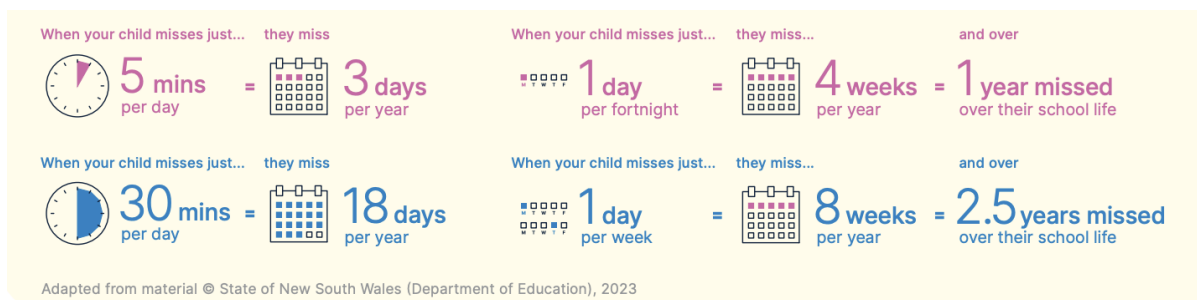
We appreciate your understanding and contribution to ensuring St Mary's provides a safe environment for our students.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness.

The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day. If your child misses even 30 minutes of school a day, that adds up to 18 days a year!

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your child needs support. Early intervention is vital to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school absences before it progresses. Please get in touch with us and we will work together to support you and your child.



Ashley Pasqualotto  
Deputy Principal

## 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.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> September  
Please return tickets and money to the St Mary's School Office by Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The St Mary's Wood Raffle will be drawn next Friday at the Father's Day Breakfast. Please support this raffle by selling your tickets and returning them with the money collected by next **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	JLC Father's Day Mass
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day Breakfast 8:00 - 8:30am Under the Basketball Court
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly at EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	School Advisory Council Meeting 6pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary's Athletics Day - Marian College Oval
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	MLC Mass St Mary's Church - 2:30pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	End Of Term Mass St Mary's Church - 9:30am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	End Of Term 2:20pm Finish
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	First Day Term 4
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Division Athletics Wangaratta
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Regional Athletics Day - Albury
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Regional Basketball Shepparton
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pupil Free Day - Report Writing Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Public Holiday
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	MLC Beechworth Camp
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	MLC Wonga Wetlands MAMA Museum Albury
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Regional Cricket Shepparton
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Presentation Day Mass St Mary's Church 9:30am
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Statewide Orientation Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	End of Year Mass St Mary's Church 9:30am
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Graduation Mass



### SKI PROGRAM

What an amazing return to the Myrtleford Ski Program for 2025! We were very blessed with excellent weather and skiing conditions on all 5 days of the program this year. Well done to all participants, especially those who had never skied before - it was fantastic to see the quick progression from these students. Thank you to all staff across St Mary's and P-12 for their involvement, without you this program could not run. We look forward to engaging in this fun and beneficial program again in 2026.

Thanks,  
Mr Davis  
PE Coordinator

God, our refuge and strength, please lift all those who have been affected by this recent tragedy. Grant them your peace and protection amidst the turmoil and provide them with the help they need. Strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and help those suffering. Bless those who are engaged in the search efforts with safety and courage. Fill us with compassion and inspire us to respond with generous hearts. In Your name, we pray. Amen



### THE MASS FOR THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, PERFORMANCE & PASTA LUNCH.

St Mary's Primary and Marian College came together to celebrate this important feast day for our Patron Saint, Mary Mother of God on Wednesday August 20<sup>th</sup>. It was a lovely Mass to celebrate Mary, Mother of God, and all the students participated beautifully and respectfully.



### ITALIAN PERFORMANCE AND LUNCH

The performance 'STELLA SCOULA- Musica Maestro!' was an amazing celebration of Italian music and all the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The pasta lunch cooked by the Parish Ladies followed the performance. The students absolutely loved the whole experience and food.



### ST MARY'S SCHOOL 'SPRING FLING COMMUNITY' FETE NEWS - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025 - PRESENTATION DAY 2:30PM-6:30PM



We are still looking for any helpers to run stalls or offer some time to help out!!!! Please contact Jo Bennett on [jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au) if you are able to help out in any way. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Thank you,  
Jo Bennett



Bill and Oscar competed for St Mary's at the Victorian Snowsports Interschools Competition last week at Mt Buller.

This is Bill's second year competing for St Mary's and Oscars first. They were the only two representing St Mary's. The competition brings together around 220 schools from Victoria to compete over the course of the week and is in fact the biggest inter school sports competition in the southern hemisphere!

Both boys skied extremely well and had a lot of fun challenging themselves.

Bill competed in GS, SkiX and Moguls. In both GS and SkiX he was middle age and in Mogul he went up a division, competing against students from years 3 and 4!

He just missed out on making the finals for SkiX coming in 34th place out of 124 competitors (top 32 make it through to finals).

In GS he placed 35th out of 143 competitors

In Moguls he placed 73rd out of 113 competitors

Oscar competed in GS and SkiX and he was bottom age in these events up against students from Prep-Year 2

In GS he placed 91st out of 143 competitors

In SkiX he placed 103rd out of 124 competitors.

## JUNIOR NEWS

### FOUNDATION - RELIGION

In Religion we have been talking about our own personal journeys in life...some mentioned starting school, going to Disneyland, going on holidays and becoming older siblings. This has led into reading about Moses and his journey with the Israelites through the desert to greener pastures and freedom.

### INQUIRY/LETI

In Inquiry we are learning about history. Students have been creating old telephones, feather ink pens, old cars and old houses.

### MATHS

In Maths we have been learning about measurement. Students have worked together to measure one another's 'short' pinky finger, their 'tall' bodies and their 'long' legs. There was lots of laughter during this exercise!

### LITERACY

In reading groups students are proud of themselves reaching higher levels of books to read. Most of the students are familiar with all their tricky words which has helped them.



## YEAR 1

In Literacy, the students have continued to review split vowel digraphs as in hope, cane etc which change the vowel sound to the long vowel sound. We have studied the digraphs (two letters that make the one sound) that make the 'ow' sound: ow and ou. We have also been reading and writing our new set of 'Tricky Words': fast, last, I'm, about, ask, our.

We have just finished our study of 'The day the crayons quit' and the students have written a letter to 'Duncan' from a crayon. Please see below.

Dear Duncan,  
Red Crayon here. We need to talk!  
How will you feel if you had to work so much each year?  
It feels exhausting! Let me have a break.  
Your overworked friend,  
Red Crayon(Rikkie)

Dear Duncan,  
Dark Blue Crayon here.  
You should use me more than the other crayons because I can colour in everything you want to.  
Your friend Dark Blue Crayon (Logan)

Dear Duncan,  
You should use my pink more!  
Your friend,  
Pink Crayon (Izzy)

Dear Duncan,  
Green Crayon here. I suppose you need to use me more because if you look at your colouring book, you see there is one bit on green on only one page.  
Use me more!  
From  
Green Crayon (Marlo)

Dear Duncan,  
Aqua Crayon here. You make me work so, so hard.  
I'm one inch tall and don't get me started on the dinosaurs, cars and blue berries.  
Your short friend,  
Aqua Crayon. (Emmett)

Dear Duncan,  
This is Pink Crayon. Hi, OK listen here kid. Give me some time! Use me!  
You think that I am a girl's colour. Please, please, please use me some time.  
Your unused friend,  
Pink Crayon (Freyja)

Dear Duncan,  
Now this is Grey Crayon. I love being your favourite colour for writing, but you really need to start staying in the lines. But if you don't, that's fine.  
From your friend,  
Grey Crayon (Bill)

Dear Duncan,  
This is Pink Crayon. I hate that you do not use my colour and I want to congratulate your sister for using my colour.  
Is it because you think that I am a girl's colour?  
From Pink Crayon (Billie)

Dear Duncan,  
This is Green Crayon here.  
I am glad to be your best crayon, I love my work.  
Your happy friend,  
Green Crayon (Beau)

Dear Duncan,  
I have two reasons for writing.  
I like my work, but I work so hard. BUT I have to do more.  
Please, I need a break!!  
Your friend,  
Pink Crayon ( Elia)

Dear Duncan,  
Peach here!  
O.k. listen. Can you give me a break?  
You have used me all year and I'm tired.  
From Peach Crayon (Zoe)

Dear Duncan,  
Please start using me for an occasional pink dinosaur, a car or perhaps maybe a crane!  
My point is, please start using me more for your colouring.  
Your best friend,  
Pink Crayon (Oscar)



In Mathematics, we have continued our 'Daily Review' where we review the concepts taught. In our daily lessons, we have been studying repeated patterns. The students have explored AABB and ABAB patterns as well as counting patterns using 2s, 5s and 10s.

In Religious Education, we have continued our study of the stories about Jesus in the Bible. The students have enjoyed exploring the story of 'The Good Shepherd'.

For LETI, we have been looking at how people change over time. The students have also enjoyed creating work to respond to the key understandings in relation to History. We have students making old cameras, historical buildings and telephones, they look amazing!

## YEAR 2

Well we've had some busy weeks. During our literacy sessions we are enjoying reading 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and what a fantastic book this is! We are loving it. We've been learning lots about speech marks and how to use them correctly and how speech marks can make our writing more exciting and engaging. We've also been learning some new tricky words – minutes, great, remember and these!



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

## MIDDLE NEWS

What a huge week we had last week! Footy Colours Day with hot dogs, Feast of the Assumption, Italian Performance and Lunch, Book Week, Parent-Teacher Interviews! Our students coped really well with so much going on and it was wonderful to see so many parents come along to our Book Week Parade.





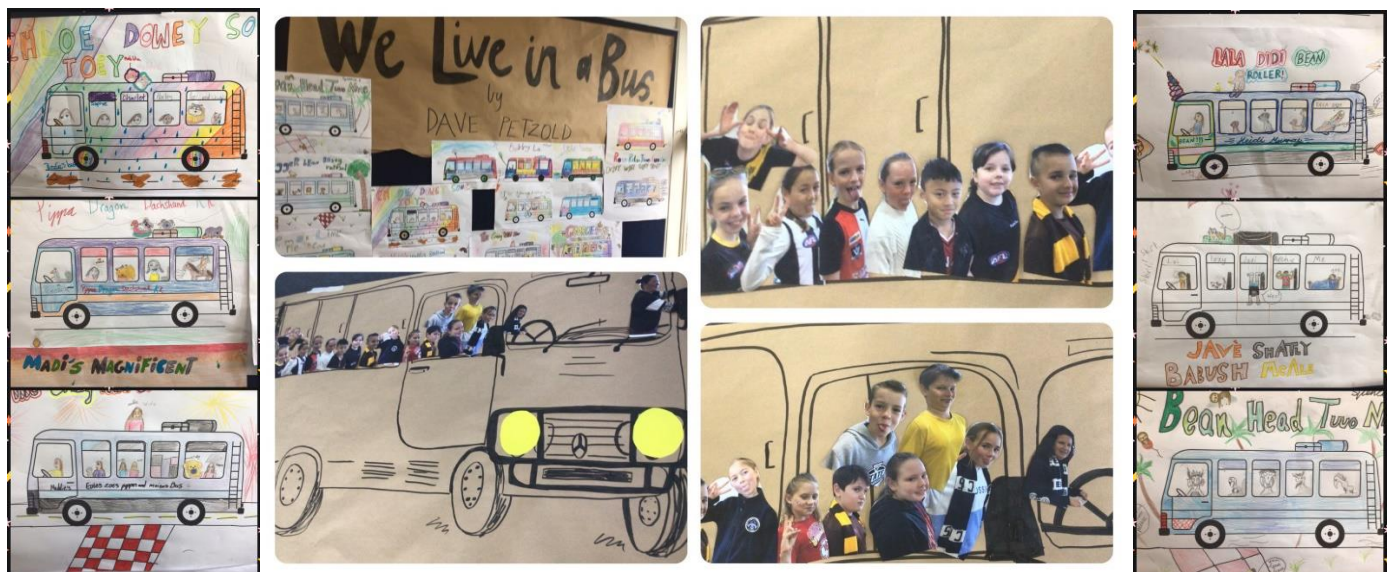
### BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES

As part of Book Week, our classes walked around to read the Short-Listed books chosen by each class and to see their art activity on display.

The Year 3 students had a beautiful display of memories created by each student which was related to their chosen book, 'These Long Loved Things'.



The Year 4 students were inspired by 'We Live on a Bus' to create our own big travelling bus which we became travellers on. The children also created their own special bus (which they named) and decorated beautifully!





This week in Bluearth, our Year 3/4 students focused on the skill of jumping. Through fun and active games, they practised different types of jumps to build strength, coordination, and confidence in movement. We had fun seeing how high and how far we could jump!

**YEAR 3AN  
THE IRON MAN**

Last week, we celebrated the end of our class novel *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes with a special movie screening. Inspired by the story, students have been busy designing and building their own robots. Our classroom now proudly displays eleven unique and imaginative creations! We'd love to see even more, so please keep them coming in!





### YEAR 3 NOVEL CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Students have begun reading Charlotte's Web by E. B. White and have just met the clever and kind Charlotte. As part of our literacy focus, students are practising the use of talking marks and taking turns reading aloud as different characters. This has helped bring the story to life while building fluency, expression, and understanding of dialogue structure.

### YEAR 4JH LITERACY/LITERATURE

We have started to read our new focus text, The Wild Robot by Peter Brown, about a robot named Roz who wakes up alone on a remote island after a shipwreck. The story explores themes of nature versus technology, empathy, survival and what it means to be alive.

Have a great weekend, April, Julie and Nat

## SENIOR NEWS

### INTERVIEWS

Thank you parents for your active involvement in the parent/student/ teacher interviews. The students have been working well this term and this was an opportunity to discuss new learning goals and to celebrate their achievements.

### ITALIAN DAY

What a wonderful day celebrating Italian day and sharing the celebration of the Assumption Mass with Marian College. This gave our Year 5's and 6's the opportunity to mix with Year 7's at lunch. The Italian performance allowed the students to actively participate in activities, practicing their Italian.

### SKI PROGRAM

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the MART ski program. This experience has offered a valuable opportunity for personal growth, requiring students to take initiative, stay organised, and develop or refine their skiing skills along the way.

### LITERACY

Throughout this term, students have been actively honing their narrative writing skills. Most recently, they applied their understanding of sentence structure while crafting a story titled The Boy in the Attic.

Below are some examples of their writing:

*She understood his worries and found ways to get through tough times without becoming frustrated. Heidi*

*They took a deep breath and entered the school gates. The sound of chatter faded away as they walked through the corridor. Phoebe*

*Violent dark clouds appear in sky, as the sound of rain hits the tin roof. I walk on the cold wooden floorboards. They crackle underneath my feet. Cameron*

*My favourite place is my attic, my dusty, old attic. Lots of kids at my school think it is either weird, creepy or spooky. But I don't really care what they think, because my attic is like my bedroom but way better. Lexi*

*Waves of power from the gem shot through the sky, creating a portal to a different world we had never seen before. I clenched the small gem from my necklace in my hand. Amelia*

*They came in the night. Connor, a small, agile boy, was just playing video games in his room alone, when suddenly, he heard the front door swing open with a BANG! **Ben***

*Jack's cheeks were becoming red, as they went deeper into the forest. It started smelling and looked slimy, there were dead animals around the area. **Thenuk***

*He climbed up and the door slammed shut behind him. As he dove at the door, he realized that he was too late, he was trapped in the attic. **Luca***

*As the clouds rumble and the wind starts to pick up, they drive more carefully to the local airport. **Connor***

## BOOK WEEK

Congratulations SLC on embracing the fun of book week. It was great to see so many students dressing up to celebrate some of our favourite books. Families and students did an excellent job creating their costumes using resources from home, they were very innovative. You have certainly set the bar high for the up coming students in the next few years.





Have a great week,  
SLC Teachers



## COMMUNITY NEWS

Alpine Shire Council is looking to recruit another School Crossing Supervisor in Myrtleford.

The below ad has been on our website for several weeks, and no applications have been received to date. We are going to extend the ad for another 3 weeks and we'd be grateful if the school could place a notice in the school newsletter.

[School Crossing Supervisor – Myrtleford](#)

OVENS VALLEY UNITED CC

# JUNIOR REGISTRATION



## COME & TRY DAY

**SUNDAY** 14/09/2025  
● 3PM - 5PM

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO

- HAVE A BAT, BOWL, AND FIELD
- MEET JUNIOR COACHES
- FIND OUT MORE INFO AROUND BLASTERS & JUNIOR PROGRAM
- AGES 5 +
- FOLLOWED BY COMMUNITY DINNER AT THE SAVOY CLUB AT 6PM



FURTHER INFO EMAIL  
[OVUCC.MAIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OVUCC.MAIL@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.OVUCC.COM.AU](http://WWW.OVUCC.COM.AU) @ MEMORIAL PARK MYRTLEFORD



Ready to try something new?

## Join Scouts

**1st Myrtleford Scout Group is looking for young people to join their Group!**

Scouting actively engages and supports young people aged 5-25 in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Section meeting nights are

- Joeys | ages 5-8 | Monday 4:30pm - 5:30pm
- Cubs | ages 8-11 | Monday 5:30pm - 7pm
- Scouts | ages 11-14 | Tuesday 6pm - 7:30pm
- Venturers | ages 14-18 | Wednesday 6:30pm - 8pm



**1st Myrtleford**  
Scout Group

We meet at 183 Buffalo River Road, Myrtleford





For more information or to join, please email  
[gl.1stmyrtleford@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:gl.1stmyrtleford@scoutsvictoria.com.au)

**1800 SCOUTS**  
[scoutsvictoria.com.au](http://scoutsvictoria.com.au)

# ALPINE SHIRE CHILDREN'S WEEK


JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL STORY TIME WITH SPECIAL GUESTS AND FACEPAINTING TOO!

- BRIGHT LIBRARY TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 3-5PM.
- MYRTLEFORD LIBRARY WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 3-5PM.
- MOUNT BEAUTY LIBRARY THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 3-5PM.

ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL


VICTORIA State Government





INDEPENDENCE CONNECTION OPPORTUNITY

WELLBEING EMPOWERMENT INCLUSION CONFIDENCE

# IMPACT THROUGH COMMUNICATION



Speech Pathology Australia

2025 Speech Pathology Week

Impact through Communication

#SPWeek25 | #ImpactThroughCommunication

[speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPWeek](http://speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPWeek)

# What is a speech pathologist and what they do?



## What speech pathologists do

Speech pathologists help you communicate, or when you have trouble eating and drinking. They are university educated allied health professionals. Speech pathologists work with people of all ages.

They help you when you have trouble understanding and talking with other others. They help with reading, spelling and using technology or other ways to communicate.

Speech pathologists also help people who have trouble swallowing, which can make eating and drinking difficult.

## Who can see a speech pathologist?

Anyone can see a speech pathologist for an assessment. The speech pathologist will work with you to find out about treatments and services that are right for you.

You don't need a referral to see a speech pathologist. However, you might need one to access Medicare funding.

## Types of people who might see a speech pathologist

People who might see a speech pathologist include:

- babies born with a cleft lip and/or palate
- preschoolers who are having trouble communicating, or have speech that is difficult to understand
- people who have a developmental language disorder that affects their ability to talk and understand others
- people who have difficulties with their speech, including childhood apraxia of speech (CAS)
- neurodiverse people, such as those who are autistic
- people who are finding it hard to learn to read and spell
- people with hearing loss, and those who communicate with them
- people who stutter
- people who use their voice professionally, such as teachers, singers or call centre workers
- people with an acquired brain injury, for example due to a car accident or stroke

- people at risk of choking or who have difficulty eating or drinking safely
- people with physical, cognitive, and/or sensory disabilities
- people who find it hard, or are unable, to communicate through speech and use alternative or augmentative communication (AAC) methods instead (for example, an electronic communication device, communication board)
- people with neurological conditions that increase over time, such as motor neurone disease, Parkinson's or dementia
- people who need surgery to remove cancer of the tongue or voice box/larynx
- people with communication or swallowing difficulties related to a mental illness (or related to the medication taken to treat a mental illness)
- young people and adults in contact with the justice system who find it difficult to communicate effectively
- children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties who have underlying communication needs that may be masked by concerning behaviours.

# What is a speech pathologist and what they do?



Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) has **position statements** and there are **fact sheets** on the Communication Hub website that include information about the role of a speech pathologist and the specific communication and swallowing needs they treat.

More information for people with communication and swallowing needs, their communication partners, and the wider community can be found on the **Communication Hub** website.

## Where speech pathologists work

Speech pathologists work in many settings, including:

- kindergartens, primary, and secondary schools
- residential aged care facilities
- hospitals
- universities
- rehabilitation services
- mental health services
- community health centres
- the justice system
- private practices/clinics
- people's homes
- services for people with complex communication needs due to conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, and intellectual disability

Speech pathologists also deliver services via telepractice. Visit the **SPA website** to find out more.

## How to become a speech pathologist

Speech Pathology Australia accredits university programs that offer speech pathology training. Currently, speech pathologists can gain a recognised qualification at either an undergraduate or Master's level. Both courses are equally recognised by the Association and employers.

To learn more see SPA's Position Statement on **Dual Entry to the Speech Pathology Profession**. To find out about how to become a speech pathologist see the **SPA website**.

## How to find a speech pathologist

Use the 'Find a speech pathologist' search on the **SPA website**.

This is a list of members of Speech Pathology Australia who have agreed to have their contact details made available to the general public. It is not a full list of all speech pathology services throughout Australia.

For further information contact **Speech Pathology Australia**—the national peak body representing speech pathologists, the professionals who work with and advocate for people who have a communication disability and all Australian consumers of speech pathology services.

[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)