



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 7th May, 2026

Newsletter No: 7

Term: 2 - Week: 3

School Notices

Yard Supervision:

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

Bell Times:

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

Student Absences:

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

Or mark absence on PAM.



TERM 2

20th April –
26th June

TERM 3

Monday 13th July-
Friday 18th September

TERM 4

6th October -
19th December

MASS TIMES

Myrtleford

Saturday @ 5:00pm

Sunday @ 9.00am

Bright

Sunday @ 11:00am

St Patricks Whorouly

Last Sunday of the
Month @ 6:00pm



Click on the link

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week, St Mary's Primary School celebrated Catholic Education Week from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May. The theme for 2026 is "*Seek Peace and Pursue It*" (Psalm 34:14), a message that sits at the heart of who we are as a Catholic school community.

At St Mary's, we strive to nurture the whole child by supporting learning, wellbeing and faith. Seeking peace is something we live each day through respectful relationships, kind words, thoughtful choices and service to others. Our students are encouraged to grow not only in knowledge, but also in empathy, compassion and a sense of responsibility for one another.

Throughout the week, students took part in prayer, classroom reflection and a whole-school liturgy focused on peace, reconciliation and hope. They also contributed to our Peace Prayer Wall, sharing prayers and reflections about what peace looks like in our school and how we can be peacemakers each day.

Catholic Education Week is a special opportunity to celebrate our Catholic identity and the strong partnership between school, parish and families. I thank our students, staff and families for their ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming, faith-filled community where the peace of Christ is shared.

We warmly invite families and members of our wider community to join us as we celebrate this important week.

Andrea O'Connor



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 NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY

Thursday 14 th	Cross Country 11:30 – 1:30pm
Friday 15 th	2027 Foundation Open Morning 10am
Friday 15 th	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre
Tuesday 19 th	Year 5/6 Wellbeing Presentation EMPAC 2pm
Thursday 21 st	Wellbeing Day (PMP12 - & St Mary's Primary School)
Tuesday 26 th	National Sorry Day School Liturgy 10am
Wednesday 27 th	National Simultaneous Storytime "Luna Roo"
Friday 29 th	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre

JUNE

Wednesday 3 rd	Division Cross Country Wangaratta
Friday 5 th	School Closure Day (Wellbeing: CESL)
Monday 8 th	Public Holiday
Thursday 11 th	School Closure Day
Friday 12 th	Regional Cross Country
Friday 12 th	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre
Monday 15 th	St Mary's Performing Art Festival
Sunday 21 st	Confirmation & Eucharist Mass 9am
Monday 22 nd	Ovens & Mitta Division Winter Sports (Year 5/6)
Wednesday 24 th	Whole School End of Term Mass 11:30am
Thursday 25 th	School Reports Released via SIMON
Friday 26 th	Last Day Term 2

SCHOOL TV LINK

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day originated from humble beginnings in 1908 as a simple tradition to honour all mothers, living and deceased. However, it did not take long for florists, confectioners and card companies to jump onboard and commercialise the day, much to the disappointment of its founder, Ann Jarvis.

Today, Mother's Day is an annual reminder to say thanks to our mum, or other motherly figure, who plays an important role in our lives. It is a day to express our gratitude and love towards the women who have dedicated their time, energy, and love to raise and support us. Whether it's a simple gesture like a card, a bunch of flowers, or a heartfelt message, Mother's Day is an opportunity to show our mothers how much we cherish and admire them. It's a time to reflect on the love, sacrifices, and unwavering support that our mothers provide unconditionally.

This Special Report highlights that Mother's Day is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the vital role mothers play in the developmental growth of her children and the impact this has on shaping our society. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

Here is the link to this topic http://smyrtleford.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/celebrating-mothers-day

JLC NEWS

FOUNDATION

It has been a positive couple of weeks in Foundation. The students are continuing to build confidence with classroom routines and are working hard during our literacy and maths sessions.

WRITING

In writing, our focus has been on building simple sentences. We have been learning to identify the action part of a sentence and to say two-part sentences using who + action. The students have also been drawing pictures to match their sentences and practising saying their sentence before writing or sharing it. This is helping them understand that our writing needs to clearly show who the sentence is about and what is happening.

READING AND SPELLING

In InitialLit, we have continued learning new letter sounds and letter names. We have been focusing on the sounds p, i, f and r, and students are beginning to use the letters they know to read simple words. We have also been sorting pictures by beginning sounds, linking sounds to letters and practising correct letter formation. It has been great to see students starting to notice these sounds in words around the classroom.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, we have been partitioning numbers into parts. Students have been exploring how numbers to 5 and 10 can be broken into three parts while still making the same whole number. We have also been using five-frames and ten-frames to help students see and describe the parts within a number. These hands-on activities are helping students build strong number sense and explain their thinking.

STORYBOOKS

Our storybook lessons have also been a great part of our learning. We are currently reading *Thunderstorm Dancing* by Katrina Germein and Judy Watson. The students have been making predictions, talking about the front cover, and connecting the story to their own experiences of thunderstorms. We have also been discussing new vocabulary such as pounding, twirling and gleaming. After reading, students have been learning to retell the story by talking about the beginning, middle and end. These lessons are helping students build their listening, speaking and comprehension skills.

HOME READING

Term 2 reading diaries have now been sent home in the students' blue library bags. Home reading is a great way for children to practise what they are learning at school and build confidence with books, sounds and words. A short reading routine of 5–10 minutes, a few times a week, is a great place to start.

Before reading, you might like to look at the front cover, read the title and talk about what the book could be about. During reading, encourage your child to have a go at sounding out words using the sounds they know. If a word is too tricky, it is fine to provide the word and keep reading so the experience stays positive. After reading, ask a couple of simple questions about the story and praise your child for having a go.

Families are also encouraged to keep reading picture storybooks to their child. These books can be recorded in the reading diary as well. Please fill in the diary when your child reads or listens to a story, and students can colour in a star for each day they read.

Reminders

- **Sports Uniform** - Sports uniform days for Term 2 are Wednesday and Friday.
- **Jumpers** - Please make sure all jumpers are clearly labelled with your child's name, as they can be easily mixed up during the day.
- **Hats** - We have stored the students' hats away ready for Term 4. However, if students would still like to wear a hat outside, they are welcome to let us know.
- **Blue Library Bags** - Students have begun borrowing and returning books from the library. Please remember to send blue library bags to school each day, as they are also used for information notes, letters and home reading materials.

YEAR 1 - WRITING

Last week our focus was on using joining words in sentences such as 'and' and 'because' eg. 'I like school and I like holidays', or, 'I like school because it is fun'. We have learned that using the word 'because' gives us a reason for what we are saying. This week we are learning about 'nouns' and 'compound words'. Next week we will be learning about writing a recount and the order of the events in our sentences.

SPELLING

We have been learning an action for /OULD/ using our bodies as a kinesthetic way to remember how to spell words such as should, would, could. These are our tricky words we are learning to read and write.

STORYBOOKS

Last week we read and studied the storybook 'Harry by the Sea' about a small dog at the seaside. This fortnight we will be reading 'The Story About Ping' where we will be learning about characters, storyline, vocabulary, reflections and retelling the story in our own perspectives. These storybook studies are covered on a fortnightly basis.

HOME READING

Term 2 reading diaries have now been sent home in the students' blue library bags. We are encouraging students to bring these bags daily and if they have their reader with them, we sometimes can listen to them read at school and change them over more frequently. This is dependent on time and classroom helpers. **No blue bag at school will mean that we are unable to renew your child's library or reading books.**

MATHEMATICS

Last week we continued with counting and place value using Base 10 blocks to represent two digit numbers, ten frames to count 2 digit numbers and bundles of pop sticks with rubber bands to model regrouping (when we have 9 and add one more it moves from the ones column to the tens column).

This week we begin doing measurement beginning with ordering objects based on length and it will continue into next week comparing objects based on mass. Students begin maths sessions with what we call a 'Daily Review' where they do a short revision of counting and place value strategies from previous lessons.

RELIGION, RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS & INQUIRY

We are learning about Pentecost in religion. Students have had some wonderful insights into the story of Pentecost and its meaning. In Inquiry we are learning about Health, Wellbeing, Community and Ourselves. This topic links closely with our RRRR this term where we are learning about Positive Coping. This week we did an activity about coping when we feel like we are being left out in a game of musical paper, scissors rock.

Reminders

- A new timetable has been sent home last week.
- Bluearth will be on Tuesdays this term and Library on Wednesdays.
- **Belongings:** - Please make sure your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, as they can be easily mixed up during the day.

YEAR 2

We'd like to welcome Grace Finco to our Year 2JH classroom. Grace is studying at Latrobe University to become a teacher and will be with us for 4 weeks.

WRITING: Rocket Writing and Picture prompt writing have been a focus for our class, with the students learning to re-read and edit their work to make sure it makes sense. We are also learning to check for punctuation like capital letters, full stops and commas.

READING: This week we have been reading a text, 'Recycling' and learning about how we make connections with what we read to our personal experiences, to other texts and to the world.

Spelling/Grammar: We have been reviewing the doubling and adding ing rule. For example if we want to the word 'run' into 'running', we see if the word has a short syllable (u) and if it is followed by one consonant. If the answer is yes for both, then we double the final consonant and add 'ing'. (run = running) We've been learning about the suffixes 'er', 'ing' and 's' as well as the prefix 'un'. In Grammar, we reviewed our understanding of nouns, pronouns, adjectives and noun groups. See if your children can remember what they are?

MATHS: A short unit this week on Measuring length. The students have been learning about how we can use informal units to measure length. We've been busy using textas, erasers, and pencils to measure items around our room.

Storybooks: Collecting Colour by Kylie Dunstan is our focus text for this week and next week. It's a lovely book about a family who live in the Northern Territory and go looking for pandanus leaves and stringybark to make bags and baskets. They also use natural colours from berries and flowers to dye the baskets.

RELIGION: Pentecost is coming up on May 26th and we have learned that it is 50 days after Easter (pente – Greek word meaning 5). It is also known as the birthday of the church.



Kind regards
 Leigh & Sandra, Sonia, Carolyn, Nicole, Anna and Julie

MLC NEWS

YEAR 3 - Literacy

In Literacy, students have been exploring the structure of a factual recount, learning how to organise events in a clear sequence and use appropriate language features such as time connectives and topic-specific vocabulary. We have also been enjoying our class novel, *Yirra and Her Deadly Dog, Demon*, which has sparked great discussion around characters, themes and comprehension strategies.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, we have been focusing on fractions, with students developing their understanding of parts of a whole. This has included identifying fractions of shapes and collections, as well as working with common fractions such as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$. Students are building confidence in recognising and representing fractions in a variety of ways.

BLUEARTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students have been actively participating in Bluearth sessions, engaging in a range of games including Snowball Tag, Combat and Barry. These activities support the development of teamwork, resilience, spatial awareness and positive communication, while also encouraging students to stay active and engaged.



RELIGIOUS

In Religious Education, students have been exploring a Source of Life unit focused on themes of change, loss and the cycle of life. Through this unit, students consider how people experience and respond to change, including feelings associated with loss, and how families, communities and the Church support one another during these times. Learning in this area encourages students to reflect on empathy, compassion and the importance of supporting others.

Have a great week, Adam and Sonia

EDUCATION

SLC NEWS

This week we take a moment to think and prayer for Regina Reynold-Smith and her family as her mother in England is very sick.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

In the next couple of weeks we welcome several people to our learning area. Charlotte Pople (Second year student teacher). We look forward to working with Charolotte. We also welcome Sarah Ivone (Student ESO). Sarah will complete her placement in the 5/6 area one day a week, on Thursdays. St Mary's has always valued the opportunity to support our student teachers and ESO's, as we know learning theory is consolidated when putting it into practice.



Congratulations to our SLC students on delivering a well organised and successful voting day. As a culminating activity for our Civics and Citizenship unit on Democracy, students conducted a mock election to determine the most popular free-time activity.

The event showcased the full voting process, with students taking on roles such as polling officials and a scrutineer to oversee any questionable votes. A preferential voting system was used, mirroring Australia's electoral process. While 'gaming' received the most first-preference votes, **bike riding** ultimately won after preferences were distributed, finishing ahead by five votes.

A fantastic hands on learning experience demonstrating the vote counting process in Australia.

ENGLISH

We are currently writing an fictional narrative about an event that may have happened in Myrtleford in the early 1800's. The students are practicing writing in the first person. For our Year 6 students this is a little easier as they have lived the school experience when they went to Ballarat.

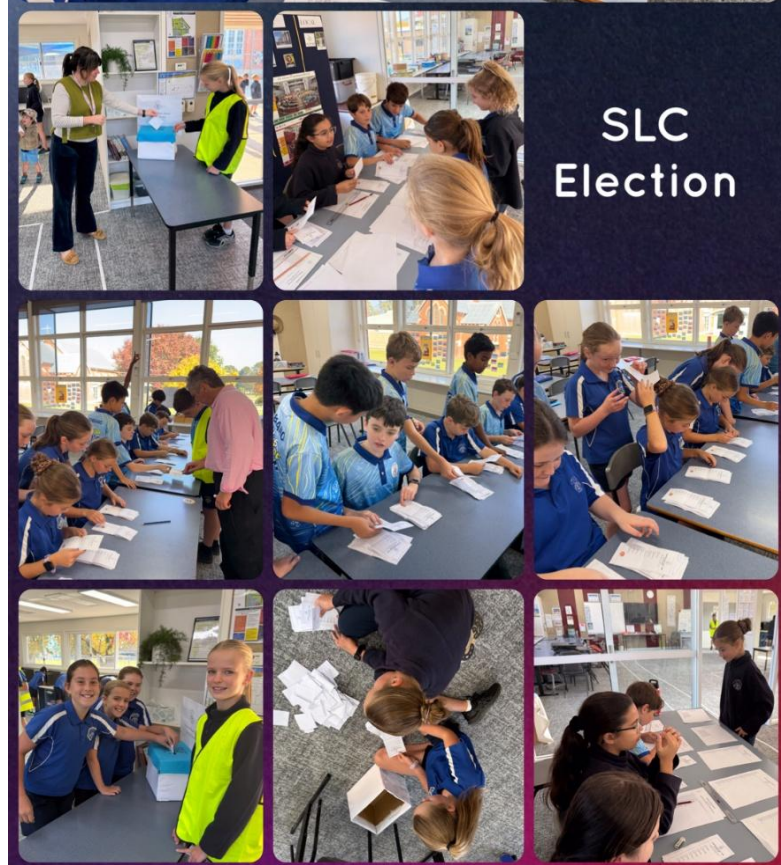
MATH

In math we are currently working on area and perimeter. The works being done on the Creative Hub (library/art/science) building are a perfect example of area and perimeter used in real life situations.

Remember that this great link is available for parents to get tips and ideas on ways to interact or deal with tricky topics with your children.

<https://smyrtleford.catholic.schooltv.me/>

Have a great week,
SLC teachers.



PERFORMING ARTS

Students have been enthusiastically developing their skills in The Arts, with a strong focus on Drama and Media Arts. In Years 5 and 6, students have been exploring the history and conventions of film, experimenting with storytelling techniques and dramatic elements as they create their own scripts. This learning has culminated in the planning of a short film, with students designing storyboards, characters and costumes to communicate ideas and meaning to an audience.

In Years 3 and 4, students have continued to build their drama repertoire by using gesture, movement and expression to tell stories, developing confidence and creativity through performance and improvisation. It has been wonderful to see students engage, collaborate and express themselves so creatively through drama.

MOTHER'S DAY BRAKFAST

Mother's Day Raffle winners

1st Prize: Toni Stone-Herbert;
Load of Wood

2nd Prize: Max Dittko:
Hair in Fashion, Hair care package,
Heavenly Healings voucher
Bunch of Red Roses Donated by
Olinda Zamperoni

3rd Prize: Willow Harvey
Myrtleford Pizza and Pasta Voucher
Bottle of Red Wine

A big thank you to the people who
donated our prizes for the Raffle.

Wish all our mums, grandmas and
special people in our lives a very
Happy Mothers Day on Sunday



Grateful to
have you
as my mother



HAPPY mother's DAY ♡♡



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY ♡♡



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY





Happy Mother's Day!



