



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 30th July, 2026

Newsletter No: 12

Term: 3 - 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 3

Monday 13th July-
Friday 18th September

TERM 4

6th October -
15th December Students
Last Day
16th December 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

JUST A REMINDER THAT NEXT

WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST IS A PUPIL FREE DAY

STAFF WILL BE IN WODONGA AT A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

As we move through another busy and rewarding term, I would like to acknowledge the many opportunities our school community has to connect with the wider Church and Catholic education community.

On Thursday 30th July, Julie Humphreys, who is currently acting as Religious Education Leader, and I had the privilege of attending the Installation Mass of Bishop-Designate René Ramirez RCJ at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. It was a significant and joyful occasion for the Diocese of Sandhurst as Bishop René formally commenced his ministry as our new Bishop.

The celebration brought together clergy, Catholic education leaders, parish representatives and members of the wider diocesan community. It was a wonderful opportunity to witness this important moment in the life of our Diocese and to join in prayer for Bishop René as he begins his leadership and pastoral service to the people of Sandhurst.

We look forward to supporting Bishop René's vision and mission in the years ahead and sharing in the faith-filled journey of our Diocese.

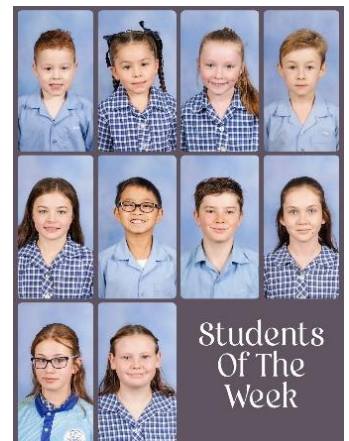
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Andrea O'Connor

NAPLAN RESULTS

We are pleased to share that our NAPLAN results continue to demonstrate strong growth across the school, reflecting the hard work and dedication of our students, staff and families. Of particular note, 94% of our Year 3 students achieved Strong or Exceeding results in Writing, an outstanding achievement that highlights the significant progress being made in literacy learning. Similarly, 88% of our Year 5 students achieved Strong or Exceeding results in Numeracy, demonstrating excellent growth and confidence in mathematics. These results are a credit to our committed teachers, who work tirelessly to provide high-quality learning opportunities, and to our wonderful families, whose ongoing partnership and support play a vital role in their children's learning journey. Together, we continue to create the conditions for every student to thrive and achieve their personal best.

ART AWARDS



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

AUGUST

Monday 3 rd	Book Fair Open 3:30pm to 5:30pm to Families in the Hub
Tuesday 4 th	Ski Day 4
Tuesday 4 th	Book Fair Open 3:30pm to 5:30pm to Families in the Hub
Wednesday 5 th	School Closure Day (Staff Spirituality Day)
Thursday 6 th	Book Fair Open 3:30 to 5:00pm to Families in the Hub
Friday 7 th	Book Fair Open 3:30 to 5:00pm to Families in the Hub
Friday 7 th	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre
Wednesday 12 th	Assumption of the Blesses Virgin Mary Feast Day & Pasta Day
Monday 17 th	Ski Program Day 5
Tuesday 18 th	School advisory council Meeting 6pm
Friday 21 st	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre
Monday 24 th	Year 5/6 Family Puberty Info Night 5pm
Friday 28 th	Book Week Dress up Parade 9am

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1 st	School Swimming Wangaratta
Wednesday 2 nd	School Swimming Wangaratta
Thursday 3 rd	School Swimming Wangaratta
Friday 4 th	Fathers Day Breakfast 8:15am to 8:45am
Friday 4 th	Assembly 2:20pm Nagle Centre
Tuesday 8 th	JLC Excursion
Monday 14 th	Athletics Day (Marian College Oval)
Tuesday 15 th	Respectful Relationships Student Forum (Year 5)
Friday 18 th	Footy Colours Day
Friday 18 th	End of term Liturgy/Assembly 11:30pm
Friday 18 th	Last Day Term 3 (2:20pm Finish)

JLC NEWS

FOUNDATION

The students have made a great start to Term 3 and have settled back into our classroom routines well. We have already been very busy with our learning and are continuing to build on the skills developed during the first half of the year.

Thank you to all families who attended our recent Parent-Teacher Interviews. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, discuss your child's progress and celebrate their learning so far. Your ongoing support at home is greatly valued and makes an important difference to each child's learning.

LITERACY

In InitialLit, we are continuing to learn the letters and sounds in Phonic Set 5. The students have been revising k and u and learning the new sounds b and j. We are practising recognising each letter, saying its sound, blending sounds together to read words and segmenting words into sounds to help with spelling.

We are also learning and revising tricky words, including his, her, them and there. Regular practice of the sounds, words and tricky words sent home will continue to support the children's confidence and reading development.

Our storybook focus has been, 'Superworm' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. The students have enjoyed listening to and discussing the story, learning new vocabulary such as mope, mutters and cunning, and sharing their ideas about the characters and events. We have also enjoyed reading, 'My Two Blankets' and discussing its important messages about friendship, belonging and welcoming others.

WRITING

In InitiaWrite, the students are continuing to develop their ability to say and write a complete sentence. Our focus has been writing three-part sentences that tell us who, what they are doing and where it is happening.

We have also been drawing and writing about the beginning, middle and end of stories, orally retelling events before writing, and learning how information reports can be organised into different parts. The students are continuing to work on capital letters, finger spaces, full stops, careful letter formation and rereading their writing to check that it makes sense.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics, we are beginning to explore addition and subtraction through practical and pictorial number stories to 10. The students are creating addition stories, using pictures and ten-frames to represent what is happening, and counting to find the total. We are also exploring subtraction stories by drawing and counting objects that are taken away. These activities are helping the students understand that addition involves joining groups together, while subtraction involves taking part of a group away. We are encouraging the children to explain their mathematical thinking using clear words and pictures.

OTHER LEARNING AREAS

In Religious Education, we are learning about God's creation and discussing the many things in our world for which we are thankful. The students are also continuing to participate in Science, Physical Education, Italian, Performing Arts and Bluearth sport. During Bluearth, our focus includes relay races, catching, throwing and working together during games.

100 DAYS OF FOUNDATION

We are very excited to celebrate 100 Days of Foundation on Friday 31st July. Students are invited to come to school dressed as 100-year-olds.

We will begin the day with our 100 Days Parade at 8:55am, and families are warmly invited to attend and watch the students show off their costumes. The children will also enjoy a 100 Days Celebration Cake for morning tea and participate in a range of fun activities throughout the day. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate how much the students have learned and grown during their first 100 days of school.

REMINDERS

Please continue to listen to your child read at home and sign their home reading diary regularly. Reading together, revising the sounds and words sent home, and talking about the story will all make a valuable difference.

YEAR 1

MATHEMATICS

Measurement - Units of Length - Students have used textas as an informal unit of measurement to measure tables, people, books and other objects.

Number - Students have been practising their 'friends of ten' looking for pairs of digits that make ten. We then moved onto 'friends of twenty'. This is a good activity to do with your child at home to build automatic recall.



Grammar - A big part of our learning has been choosing the right joining words: **is** and **are**. We've learnt a simple rule:

- **Is** is for **one** thing. The loud mouse is hiding.
- **Are** is for **more than one** thing. The colourful clouds are dancing.

Spelling - We have been learning the digraph sounds /ou/ and /ow/ as in 'cloud' and 'cow'
We have discussed what a base word is and how the suffix changes the word meaning.

READING - Students have had a focus on fluency in their reading. We have been using expression when we read and working on not sounding out individual sounds, but blending them together to improve pace and smooth out the sentences.

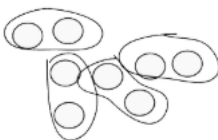
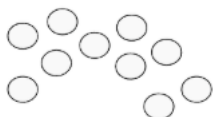
YEAR 2 - MATHEMATICS



Multiplication and Division: Students are loving using Numbots to master their automatic recall of addition and subtraction facts. We use Numbots at the beginning of each Maths lesson for 10 minutes and students are encouraged to use at home as well. They are all very proud of the levels and understandings they are achieving!

TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK: MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION

Our focus this week has been on using Arrays, Bar Models and the difference between sharing and grouping. Here are some examples of the types of activities students are completing:

Make an array with 12 counters and skip count in 2s to find the total  2 4 6 8 10 12 There are <u>12</u> in total	 There are <u>4</u> groups of 2. Half of <u>8</u> is <u>4</u>. $8 - 4 = 4$	 There are <u> </u> groups of 2. Half of <u> </u> is <u> </u>. <u> </u> - <u> </u> = <u> </u>
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SPELLING

Tricky Words: decided, know, were

Silent letters – k, b, w (knock, knees, knife, limb, numb, write, wren)

Comprehension and Fluency: Inferring – We are learning how to infer which means we can find out information from reading something that is not clearly stated in what we have read. For example:

Liam walks into the classroom with wet hair, water dripping from his jacket, and muddy shoes. We can infer that It was probably raining outside, and Liam walked to school without an umbrella.

Grammar: We are continuing to learn about Prepositions such as in, on, under, near, above, behind.

Storybook: The Day the Crayons Came Back by Drew Daywalk and Oliver Jeffers. This has been a funny and clever book to listen to and we have had lots of laughs enjoying the adventures of the crayons!



INQUIRY - FOUNDATION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2

In Inquiry, the JLC are looking at 'Design and Technology'. Students will explore how materials are used and modified to create products that meet people's needs. They will investigate where things come from, learn about designing and problem-solving, and discover how digital technologies help us collect data, follow instructions, and solve simple problems safely and responsibly. Through hands-on activities, students will develop creativity, critical thinking, and digital skills.

RRRR

Our topic for Respectful Relationships is 'Help Seeking'. We have discussed different scenarios of when we might need help and whether the problem is big or small. We have also discussed the importance of not keeping secrets as this can become a problem that we might not know who can help us with it.

MLC NEWS

We pray for Mrs Bennett as she continues on the road to recovery. I know she is missing the children and looks forward to returning when she is well.

At school we are having a blitz on the times tables (2's, 4's, 5's and 6's) There are a number of children who are struggling with this, and your support and direction at home would be greatly appreciated. It is absolutely vital to know the timestable before entering Year 5.

We continue working on the book "Storm Boy" and all students are writing an information report on "The Coorong" where the novel is set.

In maths this week we are working on angles. Recognising and naming different angles, such as acute, right angles and obtuse. I continue to enjoy teaching your beautiful children and love watching their growth, in particular their spelling growth.

Mrs Hancock

SLC NEWS

Congratulations to Maisie and Spence on their achievements in the State's Cross Country event, great to see kids enjoying their passions and talents. We are very proud of the achievements of our students, their courage, perseverance and dedication to achieving their best.

Well done to our students who have been skiing and catching up on missed work. This shows a real maturity.

CARE BOXES

During the holidays, I dropped off the Care Boxes the students made for children affected by fires in Longwood and Ruffy, at the Recovery Hub in Euroa. The organisers were touched by the generosity of the children, their attention to detail and some of them had written lovely messages of hope and support. Many of the children in these areas are still affected and organisers expressed the need to continued support for families and mentioned that often the children are forgotten in the need to rebuild farms and homes.

BLUEARTH

These last couple of weeks in Bluearth we have concentrated on team work and participation. In week one we played Untie the Knot, where students have to unravel themselves. Last week we played Team Tag, Dodge Ball and Hunter. We have been fortunate with the weather and this is a great opportunity for the students to have a good run. Just a reminder that runners are only to be worn on Tuesday and Friday.

RELIGION

We continue to work on our Religion topic of In God's Image. We are celebrating our gifts and talents, who can helps us, who do we trust, who can we ask for help? As part of this unit you will have received a letter informing you of the Puberty Information night. This will be held on Monday 24th August at 5:00pm at EMPAC. It is important that all students attend with an adult, this way we can ensure they all hear the same information. Following the night, parents will also receive a information, access to clips and the students will have a workbook that may answer any questions they have.



YEAR 6'S

As the year moves on, we begin to start organising things for Term 4. In order to put our powerpoint together and a year book, can the Year 6 students please send in by email or bring the actual photo in of when they were a baby/young toddler, a first day of school or prep photo and we will have a year 6 photo. Photos can be emailed to reynolds-smith@smmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au or jackson@smmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au or jivone@smmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au Please let us know if you are having any difficulties.

Have a wonderful week,
SLC Teachers

CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS

JLC Mass – Friday, August 7th at 9:15am



FEAST DAY – SAINT MARY MACKILLOP

St Mary's students and families are warmly invited to the JLC Unit Mass where we will celebrate the Feast Day of Australia's first Saint, Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop.



Wednesday, August 12th: Feast of the Assumption of Mary– St Mary's and Marian College Liturgy.

We will celebrate this important Feast Day with Marian College and this will be followed by a shared Pasta lunch at lunch time. This is always a wonderful day to celebrate.

The Feast of the Assumption of Mary is an important feast in the Catholic Church. On this day, we remember our belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life. The Assumption reminds us of Mary's deep faith and trust in God and gives us hope in God's promise of eternal life. As a school community, we will reflect on Mary's example of saying "yes" to God and consider how we can

follow Jesus through our words, actions and care for others.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

We are very pleased to be launching the introduction of Catholic Social Teaching to our students this term. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) – is a set of values and principles that help us put our faith into action in everyday life. It is grounded in the teachings of Jesus and encourages us to respect the dignity of each person, care for creation, work for justice and support those in need. We will introduce this to the students at our assembly next week.

Through age-appropriate learning experiences, students will explore important ideas such as:

Human Dignity – Every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with respect.

The Common Good – We all have a responsibility to contribute to communities where everyone can flourish.

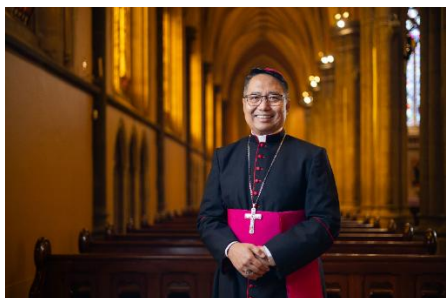
Care for Creation – We are called to care for the Earth and use its resources responsibly.

Solidarity – We belong to one human family and are called to support one another.

A Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable – We pay particular attention to those most in need.

Rights and Responsibilities – Everyone has rights, and we all have a responsibility to respect the rights of others.

We congratulate our new Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ. He is from Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. He will be officially installed into his new role this Thursday, August 30 in Bendigo. We welcome him to the Sandhurst Diocese.



Julie Humphreys
(REC while Jo Bennett is on leave)

YEARS 3-6 VISUAL ARTS 🎨

Last week, our Years 3-6 students began creating their Surrealist sculptures! We explored the fascinating art movement of Surrealism, looked at the work of famous Surrealist artists, and discovered what makes this style of art so unique.

Ask your child if they can remember the three key ideas of Surrealism:

- Dreamlike
- Irrational (things that don't normally make sense)
- Subconscious (using your imagination and ideas from your mind but not consciously planning it)

In Surrealism, anything is possible! Imagine a lemon with a dragon's tail, or an elephant with a book for a body and pizza slice arms...the more unusual, the better!

Students sketched and labelled their imaginative designs before beginning to build the wire armatures (skeletons) for their sculptures.

This week, they'll be adding newspaper to bulk out their armatures, preparing them for the exciting next stage of covering them with clay! We can't wait to see these incredible creations come to life!!

Mrs Ivone

SCIENCE

Our senior students have been investigating the topic of 'Plant Survival'. In pairs, they have planted seeds in various environments to see how the growth process occurs. They have documented this process with a hypothesis and labelled diagrams to track the growth.

Our younger students are also learning about 'Living Things' and the photographs represent living things created out of plasticine.

Not only are students creating living things they are improving their fine motor skills, patience and perseverance along with a dash of creativity.

Mrs Noble





BOOK FAIR 2026

It's Book Fair time again!

Our annual Book Fair will be held in the **Creative Hub** from **Tuesday 4th August to Tuesday 11th August**.

Students will have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their class and create a **wish list** of their favourite books to bring home and share with their families on Friday 31st July.

Family Opening Hours

Families are welcome to visit the Book Fair after school on the following days:

- **Monday 3rd August:** 3:30pm - 5:30pm
- **Tuesday 4th August:** 3:30pm - 5:30pm
- **Thursday 6th August:** 3:30pm - 5:00pm
- **Friday 7th August:** 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Purchasing Books

Students may purchase books throughout the Book Fair period, from **Monday 3rd August to Tuesday 11th August**. Additional copies of popular titles will be available to order if stock sells out.

Payment Options

An EFTPOS machine will be available during family opening times. We accept:

- EFTPOS
- Credit card
- Cash

Every purchase helps support our school library and encourages a love of reading. We look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair! 📚✨

Lucia Southern

Librarian