

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

43 O' Donnell Ave.
(P.O. Box 320)
Myrtleford Victoria 3737
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Date: 8th February, 2024 Newsletter No: 1 Term: 1 - 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 1

Wednesday 31st January
Thursday 28th March

Term 2

Monday 15th April
Friday 28th June

Term 3

Monday 15th July
Friday 20th September

Term 4

Monday 7th October
Friday 20th December

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

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning.

Watch over all who learn replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and joy in serving their students in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Welcome!

It has been a wonderful start to the new year with many smiley faces amongst children, parents and guardians and staff. Children are very settled and Foundation and new students are developing routines for their best learning.

I am excited by the enthusiasm that has been demonstrated by staff in their preparation for their students and planning for learning experiences.

We warmly welcome the new families (Alhayaley, Brett, Carroll-Downing, Curtis, Donaldson, Dyball, Howman, Masin, Neylon, Phillips, Revrenna Haw, Reynolds-Smith, Barry, Herbert and Hellebrand) to St. Mary's school community and remind them to access TEAM App for information for current events and to tune into emails for newsletters. All families should have received an email prompt to log in and set up your PAM account. If you need any assistance with any of these, call into the office and see Lucia or James.

Please contact your teachers for initial concerns via their school email and, of course, via the school office.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

I warmly invite parents to join the School Advisory Council. The St. Mary's Advisory Council is the leading consultative and advisory group for the Principal and is an active forum for parent and community participation, providing support and advice principally in strategic planning and school improvement. The St. Mary's Advisory Council is intended to:

- Provide a voice for members of the school community.
- Actively support, in collaboration with the local Parish, the Vision and Catholic Identity of the school.
- Provide input and support for strategic planning and directions for the future of the School.
- Provide input and contribute advice in the processes of school improvement and school Review.
- Support the Principal in meeting responsibilities and accountabilities for educational outcomes, effective stewardship of resources and annual reporting.
- Actively support the Principal in the encouragement of parent/guardian engagement.
- Support the ongoing sustainability of the Council and its members in its succession and learning.

All members of the Advisory Council must hold a current Working with Children Check. Members of the Council are bound by the School's Child Safe policies, and Child safe Code of Conduct. Council members are also required to complete a Fit and Proper Statutory Declaration. The meetings are once per term. If you would like to be a member on the Advisory Council please e-mail me on merlo@smmyleford.catholic.edu and I will contact you to discuss this further.

The St Mary's Advisory Council members will elect a chair at our first meeting on the 12th March. We thank Brendan Wood, Anissa Griffiths and Kate McLean for their leadership and service to the St Mary's Advisory Council.

Best Wishes,
Trish Merlo (Acting Principal)

St Mary's Primary is committed to students experiencing a sense of inclusion that is respectful of their giftedness, abilities, culture and contexts. Our student's experience learning and teaching in a child safe environment that is engaging and liberating.

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



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

You can access information about the Child Safe Standards and St. Mary's commitment to the implementation of these standards, including resources, policies, procedures and links, via the school website (www.smmmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au).

SCHOOL NEWS

Our fortnightly newsletter is available on:

- St Mary's Team App
- Via e-mail
- Hard copy on request
- St Mary's Website at <https://www.smmmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au/>

Please let Lucia Southern know if you are not receiving the newsletter via email. (southern@smmmyrtleford.catholic.edu.au)

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2024

Tuesday 13 th	Pancake Breakfast
Tuesday 13 th	Parent Teacher Interview's 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Wednesday 14 th	Ash Wednesday Mass 9am St Mary's Church
Wednesday 14 th	Parent Teacher Interview's 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Wednesday 14 th	No Foundations at School
Thursday 15 th	Parent Teacher Interview's 3:30pm to 6:00pm
Monday 19 th	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 21 st	No Foundations at School
Tuesday 27 th to Thursday 29 th	SLC Camp Canberra
Wednesday 28 th	No Foundations at School

MARCH 2024

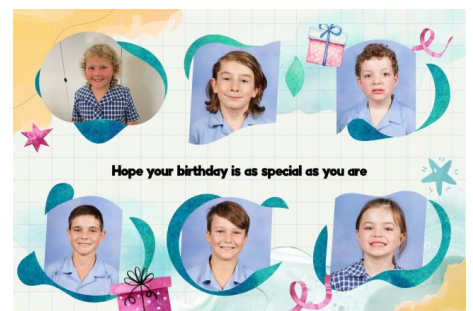
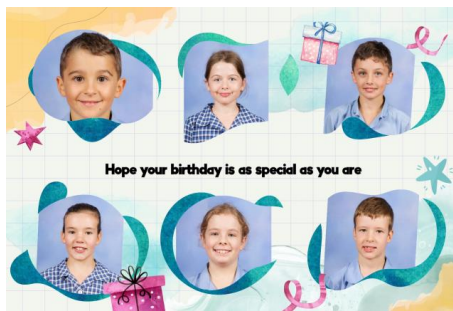
Friday 1 st	O & M Division Swimming - Wangartta
Monday 4 th	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 6 th	No Foundations at School
Monday 11 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday 18 th	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Tennis (Singles) O & M Division Wangaratta
Wednesday 20 th	School Photos
Tuesday 26 th	End of Term Whole School Mass 9:15am
Thursday 28 th	End of Term 1

SCHOOL APP

The school Team App allows us to inform parents about events that are happening in our school and to send reminders to families about upcoming excursions or notes required to be returned to school.

Follow the steps below to access St. Mary's Team App:

- 1 - Download Team App (<http://teamapp.com/app>).
- 2 - Launch Team App and search for St Mary's Primary School.
- 3 - Sign-up to Team App. You'll be sent an email to confirm your registration.
- 4 - Search for St Mary's Primary School and request access to group(s) that apply to you.



St Mary's School Uniform



Girls Summer Uniform



Boys Summer Uniform



Girls Sports Uniform



Boys Sports Uniform

St Mary's Primary School Uniform

All Uniform items will be available from 'Billy and ME'

Girls Summer Uniform

- Blue Check Dress
- White Socks
- Black Leather School Shoes
- Navy Blue Wide Brimmed Hat with School Logo worn in Terms 1 & 4

Boys Summer Uniform

- Grey Shorts
- School Blue Short Sleeved Shirt
- Grey Socks
- Black Leather Lace up shoes
- Navy Blue wide brimmed Hat worn in Terms 1 & 4

Sports Uniform - Girls and Boys

- Navy Blue Sports Shorts with Logo
- Royal Blue Polo Shirt with Logo
- Navy Blue Track Pants (in colder weather)
- Runners
- White Socks

Book Club

Book Club has arrived! Look out for your copy of Book Club coming home in your child's schoolbag! It's packed with hundreds of books from just \$3 to help you on your child's reading journey.



CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS



OPENING SCHOOL YEAR MASS FOR 2024

On Tuesday 6th February, we celebrated the start of the school year with our Opening School Year Mass. The Mass was a lovely yet exciting way to start the school year. This is the first year that we have had the Foundation students attend Mass so early and they were wonderful. Father Tony even asked the Foundies to join him on the altar during Mass.

SHROVE TUESDAY/PANCAKE TUESDAY

We are having our traditional 'St Mary's Pancake Breakfast' for Shrove Tuesday on February 13th from 8:15am- 8:45am. Families are invited to join us for a delicious breakfast together. You can purchase Pancakes for a gold coin donation. This special breakfast is also the launch of Project Compassion at our school. All money raised from the gold coin donation will be collected for Project Compassion. More information about Project Compassion will be in the next newsletter.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS



THE MEANING OF THE ASHES

Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads with the words: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return." OR "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."



Did you know that the ashes used are made from last year's Palm Sunday palms?

ST MARY'S PS, MARIAN COLLEGE AND THE PARISH COMMUNITY

We will be having our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 14th February at 9.00am. This is a Parish Mass and students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be joined by students from Marian College and the Parish Community. All families are welcome to attend this important Mass for the start of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season within the Church. This is a time of preparation for Easter when Jesus died on the cross for us. We prepare through prayer, reflection, giving and self-discipline. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays.

Jo-Ann Bennett (Catholic Identity)

JUNIOR NEWS

The students have started the school year full of enthusiasm and energy, and have settled in well.

All the JLC students attended the Opening of the school year Mass on Tuesday and participated eagerly in the singing and Mass itself. The Mass was an exciting start to the year and the Foundation students were even invited up onto the altar with Father Tony during Communion. This is the earliest that we have had a Foundation class attend Mass and they did an amazing job of listening.

A reminder that we are a Sun Smart School so Term 1 is a hat term and all students must have a hat on to play outside during recess, lunch and sport ("NO HAT, NO PLAY"). If you could please ensure your child's hat is clearly labelled, we would greatly appreciate it.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher Interviews are next week and this has been sent out to you via PAM. Please take this opportunity to get to know your child's teacher.

LETI - LEARNING EXPERIENCES THROUGH INVESTIGATION

The JLC students started LETI last week and were able to explore the amazing LETI space.

Our key understandings for LETI this term are:

- We are all connected to special places in our lives.
- We are all different and we show respect to everyone.
- We can see places on maps.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

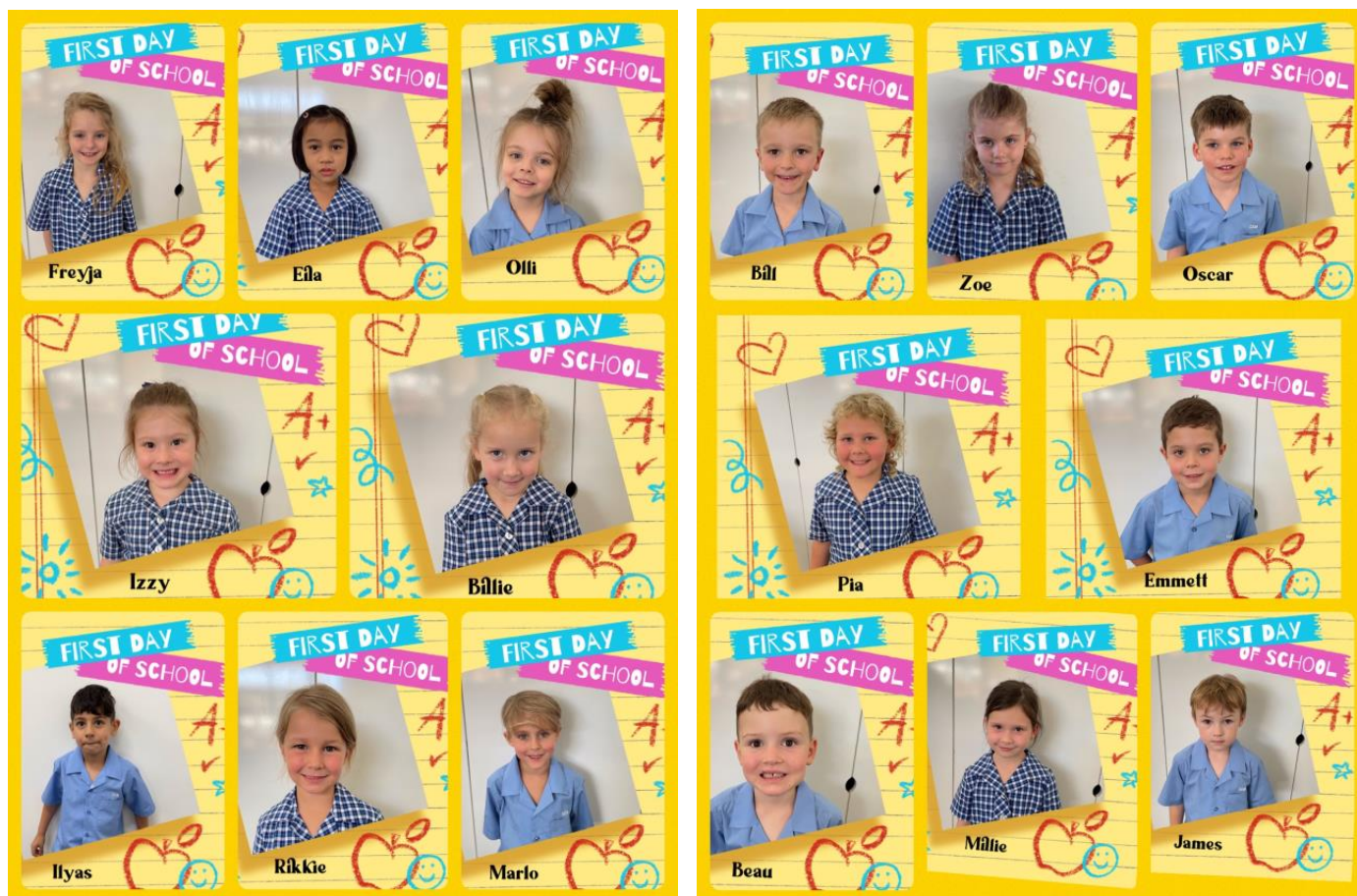
In Religion, the students in Year 1 and 2 have been exploring the ways we can pray, and they have written a prayer of thanks or a petition prayer.

TAKE HOME READERS

The JLC readers are ready for our take home reader program to begin Monday. Please ensure your child is bringing their reader bag each day and the expectation is that all students change their reader in the morning from 8:30am and read before going out to play.

FOUNDATION

Congratulations to the Foundation students and their families on a wonderful start to the year. The students have settled into their new classroom environment and are beginning to learn all about life as a big school person.



Foundation First Day





We have started the year with some getting to know one another activities and some free choice activities from a selection of construction, lego, playdough, puzzles and home corner. It is lovely to listen to the quiet chatter between students as they play alongside each other and build on their social emotional skills in a safe environment. We have also spent time outdoors enjoying the beautiful garden we have. The sandpit and water has been a hit! Miss Deith even got out the hose for a shower in the hot weather!

Some of the routines we have been practising this week are lining up and moving safely, eating fruit at our table and putting the scraps into the compost bin. Eating our lunch outside under the basketball shelter with our buddies and wearing a hat outside to protect us from the sun. We are learning to sit on the floor with our legs crossed and our back straight when we listen to the teacher. Finally, after recess, we come inside and cool down with some relaxing meditation music.



In Maths we have been learning about the days of the week and we have been counting objects, playing games and making the number '2' with playdough.

In Literacy we have been learning about the letter 'S' and the sound that it makes. We use an action to help us remember the 'sssss' sound. Your child may be able to demonstrate this to you at home. We have been reading in small groups and the focus book is about 'S' words.

MESSAGES

Reading - Your child will have brought home their blue reading bag with a book to read with you at home. This is to encourage the love of reading shared between your child and their loved ones. Please sign the yellow reading book each night so that your child has a record of how many nights they read. They will also be bringing home copies of the letter/sound book they read at school to practise their new learning with you at home.



YEAR 1

The Year 1 students have started the year so well and have been learning the routine in the Year 1 room. I have loved their wonderful handwriting and enthusiasm to learn new things.

We have been studying 'The Day The Crayons Quit' and have been writing about the storyline. For their first Big Write, the students wrote to the topic 'I am me.' It was lovely to read all the different responses to this prompt. This week the students are writing on the topic of 'Family'. The students have brainstormed ideas such as telling us about their family to 'made up' stories about families swimming with sharks. I can't wait to read these!!!

In Maths, we have been completing the Daily Review each day and are focussing on place value, especially writing the number, the word for the number and drawing the amount.

YEAR 2

In Year 2 Miss Martyn and Miss Richardson have had fantastic start to the year with our students. We have been getting to know each other through our 'Newshare', it has been awesome to see the things that are special. This week we have been reading the book 'Drover' by Neridah McMillian which is about droving cattle in the 1950s from Western Australia to Queensland. We have been exploring some interesting vocabulary from this book and enjoying the 'yarns' that have come up about grandparents and the outback.

In Maths, we have been revising and practising our counting skills and looking at place value with numbers into the hundreds (the thousands are coming), days of the week, months of the year and the seasons and times of the day.

Please keep your eyes out for a 'Get to know you' questionnaire in preparation for interviews. We would like you to please bring this along to share information about your child. While we are looking forward to these interviews, please be aware that both teachers will be present on Wednesday only. This is due to the way our staffing is laid out. Tuesday interviews will be with Kelly and Thursday with Nicole.



Have a fantastic week,
Carolyn, Jo, Kelly, Nicole, Sandra and Sonia.

MIDDLE NEWS

We've had a great start to the 2024 school year and the MLC area has been a busy and exciting place to be.

A note went home last week, detailing Library, Bluearth and Sport days as well as a reminder for students to bring their **blue reader bag** each day. Thank you to the families who are ensuring their children are reading daily and getting their books signed.

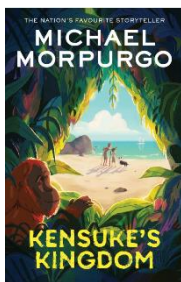
INQUIRY

Our Inquiry topic this term is **Civics and Citizenship**, with a focus on the following questions:

Year 3: How do people contribute to their communities, past and present?

Year 4: How have laws affected the lives of people, past and present?

We began our unit last week, talking about how as community members, we have rules and laws to keep us safe.



LITERACY

Each of the classes has a text that we are focussing on this term. Year 3 are reading *Matilda* by Roald Dahl and Year 4 are reading *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. There will be opportunities for your child to read this at home and we'd love it if you could encourage, listen to them and ask them about what they have read, to get the most out of these books.

Year 3 AN



Year 4 JH



MATHS

Students have been enjoying the daily review questions that they complete at the beginning of each maths lesson. We have begun our mental maths questions this week. You will find these mental maths questions coming home to be completed as homework at a future date. More information will come when this begins.

RELIGION

We attended our first Mass this week and are currently scheduling Mass dates for Term 1 and Term 2. Once these dates have been locked in we will share them with you.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you for booking a Parent Teacher Interview. The interviews will run for 10 minutes and allow you, your child and their educator an opportunity to get to know one another. If you have any concerns or questions, no matter how small, please raise them to allow us to work together to assist your child's learning journey.

Here are a few photos of the first week of school in Year 3 and 4!

Have a great week.
April, Julie and Anna



SENIOR NEWS

Welcome to 2024 and the SLC. This year our teaching staff include:

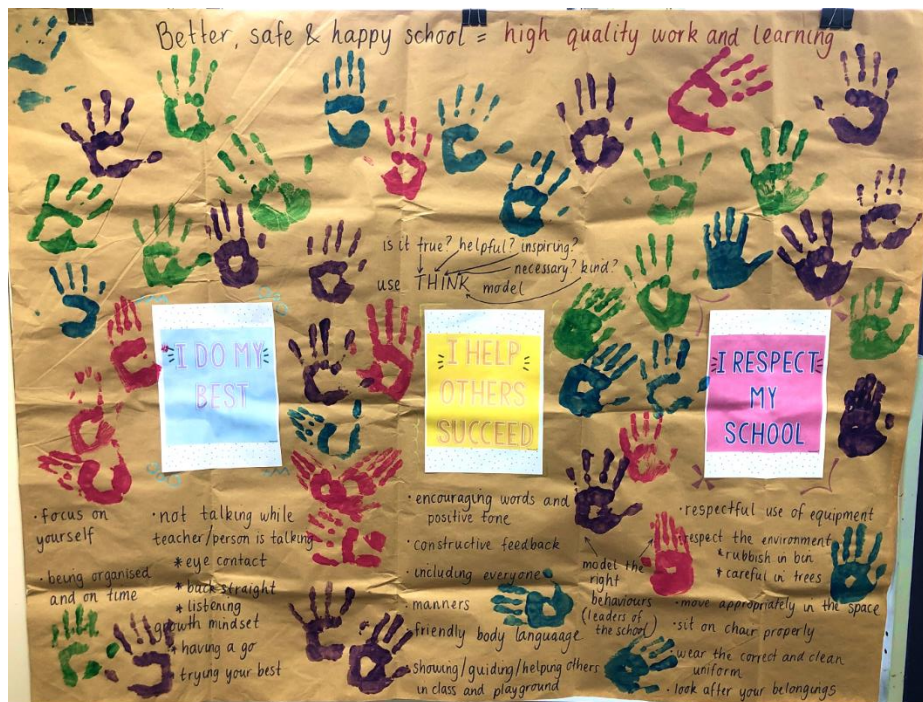
5/6 WD: Ms Hannah Wall - Monday to Thursday and Mr Davis on Fridays

5/6 JI: Mrs Gab Jackson - Monday to Thursday and Mrs Jenna Ivone on Fridays.

Mr Corcoran will be working in the unit each day Monday to Thursday, supporting students and on Fridays Mrs Merlo will assist when she is available.

SLC EXPECTATIONS

In our class groups students came up with a list of expectations, in line with the school behaviour matrix, to guide our learning and make our school a happy and safe place. These were then compared and drawn up onto a large poster that every student and Miss Wall, Mrs Jackson and Mr Corcoran committed to, in the form of a hand print.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR SLC MEMBERS

During the first week students filled in and decorated a piece of pizza with details about themselves. We have another artwork we are finishing off and will show this in the next newsletter, about an individual focus for 2024.



INQUIRY

We are very excited to start the year with our unit on Civics and Citizenship - Democracy.

The Key Understandings for this unit include:

- We belong to a diverse multicultural society.
- Citizens have the opportunity and should be informed and active decision makers, who contribute to a healthy society.
- Our democratic values provide us with freedom, equality and the rule of law.

And our outcomes:

- identify the values that underpin Australia's democracy.
- explain the importance of the electoral process.
- Describe the purpose of key institutions and levels of government.
- Explain the role of different people in Australia's legal system.
- Explain the role of parliaments in creating law.
- Identify various ways people can participate effectively in groups to achieve shared goals.
- Students explain what it means to be an Australian citizen and how people can participate as global citizens.
- Analyse contemporary issues and use evidence to support a point of view about civics and citizenship issues and possible solutions as part of a plan for action.

The students will explore different aspects of our and other countries political systems and will run their own election. This whole unit will be supported by a three day camp to Canberra.

CANBERRA CAMP

A note went home on Monday outlining the itinerary for our Canberra Camp. Students also brought home a medical form, please fill this out and send it back in as soon as possible. This form is different from the regular medical form. If your child doesn't have any medical issues, please still fill it in as we require all medical details.

TIMETABLE

Please see our timetable below. Students have Bluearth on Wednesday and Sport on Fridays.

SLC Timetable - Term 1, 2024					
9:00	Reading	Maths	Maths	Spelling	Novel - Holes Activities (Homework)
9:30				Reading/Writing	
10:00	Writing	ART 10-11 HW	Maths	MUSIC - HW ITALIAN - GJ	Adam - Maths (measurement/geometry/graphing)
10:30	Spelling	Big Writing - GJ			
11:00	Recess Eating time: 11:00 - 11:10 11:10 - 11:25				
11:30	Reading Holes (10-15mins)	ART 11:30-12:30 GJ	Novel (10-15mins) Reading/Writing Religion	MUSIC - GJ ITALIAN - HW	SPORT 11:30-12:30 GJ 12:30-1:30 HW
12:00	Maths	Reading Holes (10-15mins) Big Writing - HW			
12:30	Maths	Spelling/ Reading	Inquiry / Sport	Inquiry	Technology 11:30 - 12:30 HW 12:30 - 1:30 GJ
13:00					
13:30	Lunch - Eating time: 1:30 - 1:40 1:40 - 1:55				
14:00	1:55 - 2:15				
14:30	Times table practice/Silent Reading	Times table practice Religion	Sport/ Inquiry	Silent Reading (10-15mins) Inquiry Choir	BTN/finishing off/Technology Teacher discretion
15:00	Assembly - fortnightly				

Have a great week

Hannah, Gab, Jenna, Adam and Leigh



YEAR 6'S HELPING THEIR BUDDIES IN ITALIAN.



WOOLWORTHS CRICKET BLASTERS PROGRAM

It is a five week program that starts Thursday 8th February. It's completely free for all participants. All ages and skill levels below junior cricket are welcome.

When: Every Thursday for 5 weeks starting 8th Feb

Where: Memorial Park, Myrtleford

Time: 4.30pm to 5.30pm

What to bring: Hat, sunscreen and water!

Here is a link to the Facebook post as well.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/661237861049721/permalink/1738362570003906/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



Shrove Tuesday



St Mary's Pancake Breakfast

Tuesday February 13th

8:15am- 8:45am

Gold Coin Donation

St Mary's basketball courts.