



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 20th February, 2025

Newsletter No: 2

Term: 1 - Week: 4

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 2025

28th January 2025

Staff Return

4th April 2025

TERM 2

28th April 2025

4th July 2025

TERM 3

21st July 2025

19th September 2025

TERM 4

6th October 2025

16th December 2025

Students Last Day

19th December 2025

Staff Last Day

MASS TIMES

Myrtleford

Saturday @ 6:00pm

Sunday @ 9:00am

Bright

Sunday @ 11:00am

St Patricks Whorouly

Last Sunday of the

Month @ 5:00pm



Click on the link

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we embark on another exciting term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the significance of the lantern in our school community. The lantern is more than just a symbol; it represents the guiding light of the Presentation Sisters, who have been an integral part of our school's history and values.



The Presentation Sisters, founded by Nano Nagle, have always been dedicated to education and service. Nano Nagle herself was known as the "Lady of the Lantern" because she would carry a lantern through the streets of Cork, Ireland, to teach and care for those in need. This lantern symbolizes hope, guidance, and the unwavering commitment to nurturing and educating young minds.

At St Mary's Primary School, we carry forward this legacy. The lantern reminds us of our mission to provide a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can shine. It represents our commitment to illuminating the path for our students, helping them to grow academically, spiritually, and socially.

This was evident at our Beginning of School Year Mass last Tuesday when we saw our Year 6 leaders light their lanterns and process out of the St Mary's Church in front of our school community. This shows that together, we can ensure that the light of the lantern continues to shine brightly for all.

As we continue our journey together through the school year, let us keep the spirit of the lantern alive in our hearts and actions. Let it inspire us to be beacons of light in our community, spreading kindness, knowledge, and compassion.

God Bless,

Andrea O'Connor (Principal)

BUS TRAVELLERS

To ensure the safety of our students as they travel to and from school, an extra roll will be taken to ensure that students are boarding the correct bus. Students are only permitted to travel on their assigned bus. If students have arranged after school play dates with other bus travellers, the students will need to be collected from school.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th February

To ensure smooth coordination, we have arranged an online booking system. To secure your preferred interview times, please click the following link:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/ptbvix>

and navigate to 'Parent Teacher Interviews - Meet & Greet Term 1, 2025' to book your appointment if you haven't done so.

PARENTS & FRIENDS THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 3:30PM

To all our families we'd love for you to join us for our Parents and Friends meeting in the staff room. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents, share ideas and discuss ways we can continue to support our students and school community. At this meeting we would like to get some ideas for some fundraising and plan some fun events for our families. This will be a short meeting with no pressure.

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

SIGNING YOUR CHILD IN & OUT & LATE TO SCHOOL PROCESS

All Children who arrive at school after 8:55am or leave school before 3:20pm MUST be signed in/out at the office. If for any reason, you need to take your child out of school during school hours, please come to the office to sign your child out.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school for any reason, it is vital that you notify the school prior to 9am, giving the reason for the absence (e.g. If your child is sick, attending an appointment, family holiday etc). This can be done via a few ways:

- Mark absence on PAM.
- Send a note with your child on their return to school, or beforehand if you know in advance
- School answering machine is on out of hours, so you can leave a message on 57521808

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

- Learn
- Make friends
- Build skills through fun

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight	= 4 weeks	= Over 1 year missed
1 day per week	= 8 weeks	= Over 2.5 years missed

SCHOOL NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 25 th	Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday 26 th	Parent Teacher Interviews 2:30pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday 26 th	Foundation Rest Day
Thursday 27 th	Parents and Friends Meeting 3:30pm St Mary's Staff Room (Everyone welcome to come along)

MARCH

Tuesday 4 th	Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Breakfast 8:15am to 8:45am Gold Coin Donation
Wednesday 5 th	Foundation Rest Day
Wednesday 5 th	Ash Wednesday Mass 9am St Mary's Church
Monday 10 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 18 th	School Advisory Council Meeting 6pm
Tuesday 25 th	Athletics Day
Wednesday 26 th	School Photos

APRIL

Wednesday 2 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY – (Staff Professional Learning Day Wangaratta)
Friday 5 th	Last Day Term 1
Monday 21 st	Easter Monday Public Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd to Thursday 24 th	Staff Professional Learning Days - PUPIL FREE DAYS
Friday 25 th	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Monday 28 th	Start Term 2





St Mary's Community Communication Survey

This short survey is for our school community to provide feedback on how we can improve our communication and engagement. This survey is anonymous.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ijzJx6PFWR>



CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS



SHROVE TUESDAY/PANCAKE TUESDAY - MARCH 4th 8:15 - 8:45am

We will be having our annual 'St Mary's Pancake Breakfast' for Shrove Tuesday on March 4th from 8:15am- 8:45am.

This special breakfast is also the launch of Project Compassion at our school.

Families are invited to come and join us for a delicious breakfast to start the day. Pancakes can be purchased for a gold coin donation.

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

St Mary's PS, Marian College and the Parish Community will be having our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday March 5th at 9.00am.

This is a Parish Mass and St Mary's students 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.



2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES

Reconciliation: Parent Information Night: Tuesday 4th March at 6:30pm

Reconciliation Celebration: Tuesday 1st April at 6:30pm

Confirmation and First Eucharist Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 29th April at 6.30pm

Sacramental Masses: June 14th 5pm and June 15th 9am

Jo-Ann Bennett (Catholic Identity Leader)

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/ Teacher Interviews are being held on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th February, this has been sent out to you via PAM. We encourage you to participate and take this opportunity to get to know your child's teacher.

LETI

This term we have not been having our usual LETI (Learning Experiences Through Investigation) sessions. Instead, students have been doing a more theory-based approach to learning about Geography and their local surroundings.

TAKE HOME READERS & LIBRARY BOOKS

Please ensure your child is bringing their reader bag to school each day for their reader, library sessions and to take home notes.

FOUNDATION

Next week, the Foundation students will be taking home a reading diary. For term one, students and parents will read a storybook at home together and fill in the diary. This is in preparation for our term two diaries that will be accompanied by a take home reader.

Uniform - Please note that our school uniform requirement is that students wear grey socks for boys and white for girls. Jewellery is to be kept to a minimum of small earrings. Watches are acceptable (watches with internet access need to be disconnected under parental controls during school hours). All uniform items must be clearly labelled with your children's name.

Wednesdays - Thank you to those who have been accommodating to our testing schedule on rest days. This week we will be doing Maths Assessment Interviews and the following week will be PAT-R Reading assessments.

Drinks - Please note that WATER is the only drink to be consumed at school. A UHT carton of plain milk or Yakult is acceptable. Students who bring flavoured drinks will be asked to take them home after school.

Fruit - Students have a 5-minute fruit break at 10am. Please ensure that you pack your child one whole piece of fruit that they can easily take out of their lunchbox and quickly eat at this time.

Sunscreen - Please make sure your child has got sunscreen on prior to coming to school, or alternatively, leave a tube in your child's bag and the teacher will supervise your child putting it on their face, neck, arms and legs.



YEAR 1 The Year 1 have been reading Jackie French's 'Josephine wants to dance' and the students have enjoyed the associated lessons. We have also been working on our handwriting and continuing with our daily phonics and phonemic awareness lessons. We have looked at the difference between consonants and vowels, and are learning new the tricky words each week. In Maths, we have been completing our daily reviews of concepts taught and have learned about tally marks and collecting data.

YEAR 2

Literacy - In Year 2 we have been reading the story 'The snail and the whale' by Julia Donaldson, what fun we've had with this. We have also been learning about the structure of informative texts where we've read information about Kookaburras and Emus. Our spelling has been taking off with major focuses on 'oa' as in boat and 'ow' as in slow, 'ee' as in tree and 'ea' as in leaf.

Maths - Students are loving Numbots - An online program which encourages students to work on understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, with the goal of moving students from counting to calculating. Year 2s have login cards that were sent home a couple of weeks ago and are welcome to practise from home however it is not expected. If you have not received these please email us or contact the office.

We have our leader board up in class now to track our progress and each Monday we do a check in of levels and a mini presentation of level progressors.



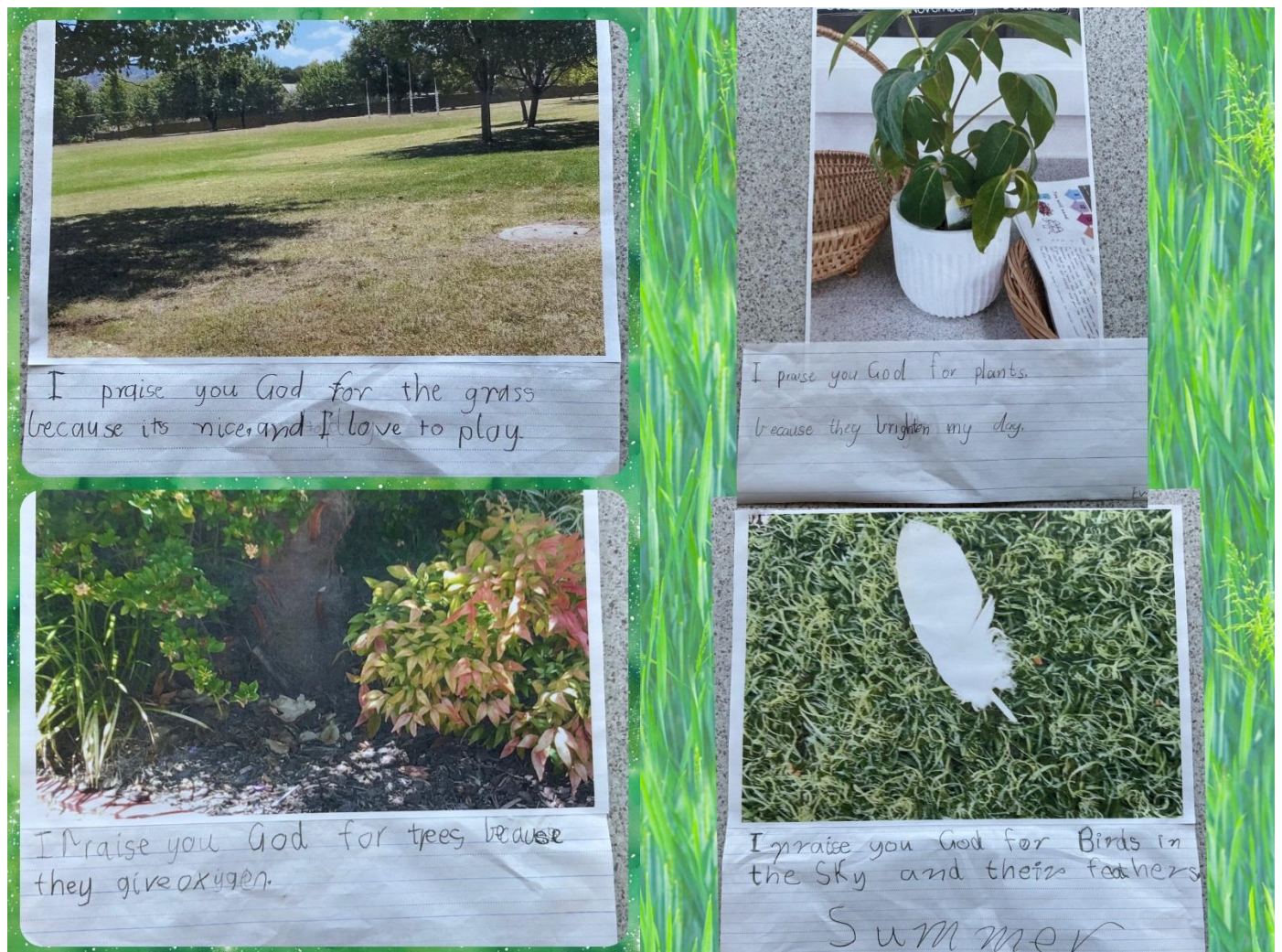
NUMBOT LEADER BOARD



TABLE POINT WINNERS

RE - Pray in different ways

We have been exploring the ways we can pray. We have looked at Praising Prayers, we developed prayers that praise God's gift of creation and investigated the formal prayers such as the Lord's Prayer.



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

The students are certainly well into their working routine and have been doing some wonderful work in class.

YEAR 3

Thank you for your support at home with reading Matilda. Students are enjoying 'tummy time' on Wednesday afternoons, where they simply get to lose themselves in the world of Matilda as they listen to Mrs Richardson and their peers read. Here are some of our thoughts about Matilda:

Luca: The book tells you if someone puts you down, you can always stand up for yourself.

Ed: Matilda likes books and she sticks the super glue onto her dad's hat.

Lara: It's very fun to read and it is a great story.

Sophie: I like how Matilda is really into books. It's fascinating to know how she learnt how to cook when she was only three.

Isabel: I enjoyed when she met Mrs Honey and Matilda answered a really hard question.

Students have been busy planning narratives based on different prompts. I am so proud of the growth in the student's ability to now plan a narrative within ten minutes. Ask your child about it!

We have just begun writing our narratives with a focus on engaging our readers within the first few sentences.

*Dad! Jake yells. I'm going to a river. Okay? Dad yells back. **By Molly***

*Ding Ding yay it's floating day I jump up and put my swimmers on and I grab my kayak. **By Tom***

*I went for a river float with my dog coco. It was smooth for a bit after an hour it started to get bumpy. **By Milla***

*Matt is a member of the CEO they let him go camping for a day, the first thing he did was to go canoeing in the river, but the tide pulled him in. **By Isabel***

*I was kayaking in the river and there were waterfalls crashing so hard I could not hear a thing. **By Lewis***

*Tomato is fishing and struggles to catch a fish. **By Linuk***

*I wake up yes, I get to go on my boat. **By Lara***

*Beep beep! Get out of the road. **By Mya***

*Splash I jump into the water. **By Jack***

*When I woke up, I was excited to go kayaking. **By Noah T***

*Hi, my name is Miley and today I am going canoeing down a wild creek. **By Sophie***

*Dan goes kayaking in the steam with bears and crocodiles. **By Hudson***

*Beep Beep. My alarm rang and I woke up. **By Matilda***

*Dan was in his inflatable kayak at the magic animal waterfall. **By Mavis***

*The man flows down the river until a fish tries to jump at him. **By Ed***

*Swish I am in the kayak, it got really windy I was going down the river so fast. **By Madelyn***

*I was with my friend and I got my canoe and was going through the mountain. **By Luca***

*Beep Beep Beep! Oh time for breakfast. **By Noah C***

YEAR 4

The students have settled into routines and have shown some great learning behaviours over the past few weeks. Our **PBS (Positive Behaviours)** schoolwide focus on transitions has been a reminder for students to be thoughtful of how they move around the learning area and to be respectful of other learners in our classroom.

We were very excited to be handed our new laptops on Tuesday! We can't wait to start using them!

We are enjoying **reading** Kensuke's Kingdom each day and reading about the adventures Michael and his dog, Stella get up to. Ask your children about the book.

MATHS - Homework sheets went home this week and are due back each Monday, when a new handout will be given. Answer sheets were sent home with the students so that these can be corrected together at home.

We've seen some great progress with students recording their home reading details in their diaries! To help support your child's reading journey, we encourage you to continue listening to them read and read aloud to them as well.

Here are some reflections about our start to Year 4:

Ivy: *I love Year 4 because we have the best teacher Mrs. Humphreys. I love learning about regrouping, I love Kensuke's Kingdom because it has so much emotion and Michal goes on the best adventures.*

Lachy: *I love Year 4 because we get to use computers and the book we are reading is Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo.*

Poppy: *In Year 4 we have been introduced to new technology types like tablets and laptops. We are reading 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. It is about a young 12 year old boy named Michael, whose family went blue water sailing (sailing around the world) on their boat the 'Peggy Sue'.*

Pippa: *So far, I love Year 4 because we have an awesome teacher Mrs. Humphreys, and I'm enjoying English because we are reading Kensuke's Kingdom. So far we're up to Chapter 5 almost 6.*

Maddie S: *Today my classmates and I got our new laptops. We are reading Kensuke's Kingdom.*

Zoe: *I love 4JH, we have an awesome teacher and our book Kensuke's Kingdom is cool. We got laptops today and they are amazing!*

Heidi: *I am loving Year 4, we get computers this year they are so cool. Our book this term is Kensuke's Kingdom.*

Archie: *I love Year 4 because Mrs Humphreys is the best teacher in the world. She helps you when your stuck. We are reding Kensuke's Kingdom and it is a great book.*

John: *4JH is amazing because I am writing this on a computer! WOOHOO!!! We also have the most interesting class novel called Kensuke's Kingdom.*

Maisie: *The best thing in year 4JH is the book that we are reading. It is so amazing. It is about a boy name Michael; he and his family are travelling around the word in a boat, but Michael and his dog Stella Artois have fallen of the boat. Michael fell asleep and he woke up on an island.*



Harlow: 4JH Is amazing. I love English and math. We are reading a book named Kensuke's Kingdom. The names of the characters are Michael, Stella the dog the Mum and Dad. Today we got our computers. Computers are so fun to go on to write things on.

Javier: I've enjoyed reading Kensuke's Kingdom. It is so exciting! It's about a boy named Michael who gets lost on an island with his dog Stella or Stella Artois, his mum, the skipper and his dad the right-hand man. Then a mysterious man named Kensuke helps Michael survive unless he follows his rules. We've been reviewing fractions so far in maths.

Brodie: I like Year 4 because our teacher Mrs Humphreys and we are reading a book called Kensuke's Kingdom.

Spence: I love Year 4 because we have a great teacher, Mrs Humphreys. We are reading Kensuke's Kingdom. It is great.



SENIOR NEWS

What a busy two weeks it has been, with the introduction of computers, we are now able to cover and access a greater range of information.

COMPUTERS

The students have been introduced to Microsoft and their new school computers. They were taken through the policy and procedures regarding caring and using a laptop by Mr Corcoran. This document was then signed and pasted onto their folders for easy reference. We have explored the different use of Teams and some of the options available in Microsoft. This has been both amusing and at times frustrating, but we are getting there.

NO MORE MARKING

The Year 6 students have completed a narrative writing task in No More Marking. At the same time, the Year 5 students have also completed a writing task that we will also assess. Teachers will utilize this writing to assess what strategies they are using and areas they can continue to work on.



MATHEMATICS

Last week, we explored how data is represented in graphs and how to interpret it. Now, we're moving on to multiplication and division, focusing on using factors to solve multiplication problems and learning how to multiply two-digit numbers.

WRITING

We are working on the structure of persuasive writing. Room 10 students explored the arguments for and against: Soft taco shells are better than hard ones. Who would have thought this topic would be so contentious! Which do you prefer and why? We are also researching and discussing the importance of knowing about your family tree.

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

We have now been able to log onto Times Tables Rock Stars. This is a platform that helps students improve their knowledge of their times tables.

PE & BLUEARTH SPORT UPDATE

On Fridays, students have been participating in PE sessions focused on athletics disciplines. In Bluearth, they've been working on coordination activities, skill development in overarm throwing, and game challenges that involve throwing and catching. Students have enjoyed games like Target Ball and Sting using our gator-skin balls. These sessions have been great fun, and it's been fantastic to see students supporting each other throughout.



Have a great week,
SLC Teachers

COMMUNITY NEWS

COME PLAY FOOTBALL!
JOIN THE WANGARATTA FEMALE ROVERS

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING AUSSIE RULES?
ALL SKILLS AND ABILITIES WELCOME.
CHECK OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR TRAINING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

UNDER 12S AND UNDER 14S -
CONTACT BRON 0408 522 001
UNDER 17S - CONTACT JESS 0405 992 392

