



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

43 O' Donnell Ave.
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Date: 7th March, 2025 Newsletter No: 3 Term: 2 - 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 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

As we enter the sacred season of Lent, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the importance of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten period, and how our school community comes together to support Project Compassion.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance leading up to Easter. On this day, many Christians attend church services where ashes are placed on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. This powerful symbol serves as a reminder of our mortality and the need for repentance. It is a time for self-examination, spiritual renewal, and a deeper connection with our faith.

One of the most meaningful ways we observe Lent is through our participation in Project Compassion, an annual fundraising campaign organized by Caritas Australia. Project Compassion aims to support vulnerable communities around the world by providing essential resources such as clean water, education, and healthcare. This year's theme, "Unite Against Poverty," inspires us to come together and make a lasting difference in the lives of those in need.

The St Mary's school community actively engages in various fundraising activities to support Project Compassion including the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast, Easter raffle and making donations to the Project Compassion boxes. Everyone is encouraged to contribute in their own way. These efforts not only raise vital funds but also teach our students the importance of social justice and compassion.

I am incredibly proud of the way the St Mary's school community came together to share breakfast on Tuesday. I would like to thank the teachers for organising the pancakes breakfast and for the generosity of our St Mary's families raising over \$300 for Project Compassion.

PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER

We pray this Lent for a deeper trust in God's plan.

May our commitment to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, awaken within us a hunger for justice and compassion.

May the Jubilee year remind us of our need for a fresh start.

May our work for Project Compassion help us to Unite Against Poverty.

Amen

WHOLE SCHOOL LEARNING WALKTHRU: MARCH 20TH 2:30PM

We will be opening the classrooms for existing families to walk through and see our learning in action. This will be an opportunity for parents and grandparents to experience what happens in our classrooms.

MEET & GREET PICNIC: MARCH 20TH 5:30PM

All families are invited to attend our annual Meet & Greet Picnic at Cundy Park on March 20th at 5:30pm. Families are to bring along a picnic dinner to share with our growing school community and to meet our new principal, Andrea O'Connor.

OPEN MORNINGS

St Mary's will be conducting Open Mornings for new families each term to promote St Mary's and attract enrolments. The first open morning for new parents to visit St Mary's will be on Wednesday the 19th March. The walkthru will be conducted at 9:30am followed by a 'questions and cuppas' in the staff room. We would be grateful for you to share this information with family and friends with pre-school children.

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 ADVISORY COUNCIL

The St Mary's Advisory Council acts as the consultative and advisory group for the Principal, as an active forum for parent and community participation, providing support and advice principally in strategic planning and school improvement. As outlined in the CES Ltd Governance Charter Advisory Council members do not have decision making powers.

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/College.
- Provide input into and support for strategic planning and directions.
- Provide input and contribute advice in the processes of school improvement and school review.
- Support the Principal in meeting her 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.

Our first meeting for the year will be held on March 18th at 6pm in the staffroom. If you are interested joining the St Mary's School Advisory Council please email Andrea O'Connor (aconnor@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au)

Andrea O'Connor

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



SCHOOL NEWS

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

Monday 10 th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 12 th	NAPLAN
Thursday 13 th	NAPLAN
Wednesday 18 th	NAPLAN
Tuesday 18 th	School Advisory Council Meeting 6pm
Thursday 19 th	NAPLAN
Thursday 19 th	St Mary's Open morning walk through 9:30am
Friday 20 th	St Mary's Whole School Learning Walk-Through 2:30pm & Family Picnic 5:30pm
Wednesday 26 th	School Photos

APRIL

Wednesday 2 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY – (Staff Professional Learning Day Wangaratta)
Thursday 4 th	Easter Raffle Drawn
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

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2025 - ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken by Arthur Reed Photos on Wednesday 26th March 2025.

There is no need to return any forms or money to school.

Unique image codes will be issued to all students on/after photo day so families can register online to view images when they become available in the webshop.

Registration is simple, just follow the 3 simple steps on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it and remember to add the codes for all your children attending this school.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do again this year using your child's 2025 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details.

When images are ready to view and in the webshop, all parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email.

Once registered, please wait for notification that 2025 images are online to view before making your purchase.

School Photos 2025 - Important Registration Information

School Photographs will be taken at
St. Mary's Primary School
Wednesday 26th March 2025

There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day

Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day

When you receive your child's 2025 image code **Follow these 3 simple steps**

- Go to the website (links are on your child's 2025 image code)
- Sign in (or create a new account)
- If you create a new account, you will receive a unique image code

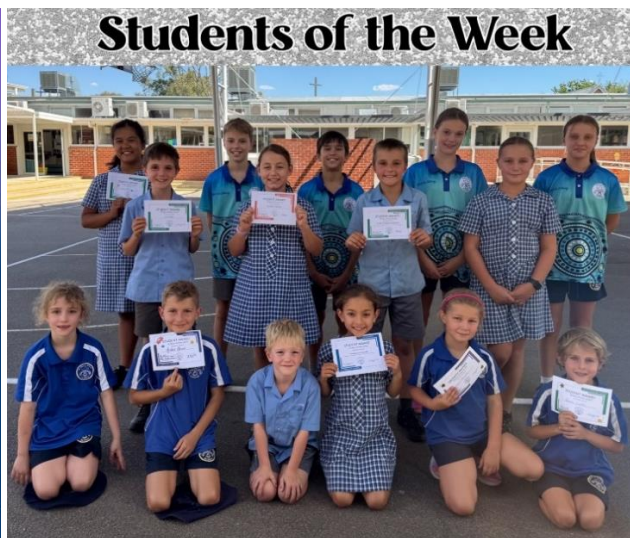
It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details. When 2025 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS

Create photo packages with any layout & YOUR choice of images - Multiple Image Downloads
Order on any mobile device - Share the images with family & friends for FREE

** Please wait to receive notifications that new images are online BEFORE ordering for 2025**

ARPP
Arthur Reed Photos

Arthur Reed Photo Pty. Ltd.
104/124 Street
St. Marys NSW 2760
Lithography & Printing © 2025 ARPP



Students of the Week



NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching. Please refer to the NAPLAN schedule below.

Date	Subject	Year/Time
Wednesday 12 th March	Writing	Year 3 - 9:00 - 11:00 Year 5 - 11:30 - 1:30
Thursday 13 th March	Reading	Year 3 - 9:00 - 11:00 Year 5 - 11:30 - 1:30
Tuesday 18 th March	Conventions of Language	Year 3 - 9:00 - 11:00 Year 5 - 11:30 - 1:30
Wednesday 19 th March	Numeracy	Year 3 - 9:00 - 11:00 Year 5 - 11:30 - 1:30

Please note that if your child is absent and misses a test, it will be made up upon their return, with the last day for catch up being Monday the 24th March.

This may be an anxious time for your child, please assure them that NAPLAN is simply informing their teacher on how we can help them to grow and learn.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

HAPPY EASTER

St Mary's Easter Raffle
Lots of prizes to be won
\$2.00 per ticket
Raffle drawn Thursday 3rd April, 2025

Each family is asked to donate an Easter item for our annual Easter raffle. Easter-themed gifts, chocolate, toys, or other Easter hamper items are most welcome.

Donations can be left at St Mary's office before Monday, 1st April, 2025.

Easter Raffle Tickets will come home next Tuesday.

SHROVE TUESDAY/PANCAKE TUESDAY

Our annual 'St Mary's Pancake Breakfast' for Shrove Tuesday was a huge success this week. It was phenomenal to see so many families and students sharing a lovely breakfast together. THANK YOU to everyone who was able to attend!

There was a wonderful 'vibe' throughout the morning, and we couldn't have asked for better weather. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the amazing St Mary's staff for making the pancake batter on Monday night and then cooking and serving the pancakes on Tuesday morning. The St Mary's School community is such a joy to be a part of. We raised \$334.00 to kickstart our fundraising for Project Compassion, which is an admirable effort to start us off.



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

St Mary's PS, Marian College and the Parish Community

St Mary's church was almost bursting at the seams for our Ash Wednesday Parish mass. Parishioners, students from St Mary's and Marian College, and families came together in a beautiful mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday together.

2025 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM DATES

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 at 5pm and June 15th at 9am

We have 11 candidates so far who will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep these candidates and their families in your prayers.

If you or your child wish to participate in the Sacramental program preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please contact Jo at school or at jbennett@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au

If you know of anyone who does not attend St Mary's who would like to participate, please pass on this information.

F.I.R.E. CARRIER PROGRAM

On Thursday February 27th, the Year 5/6 students who wish to become F.I.R.E. Carriers joined Mrs Bennett and Michael Chisolm from CES in an information session on becoming a F.I.R.E. Carrier. We have 12 students preparing to become a F.I.R.E. Carrier, which I believe is a St Mary's record!

We will be having a commissioning for our new F.I.R.E. Carriers soon, and all families are welcome to attend. Our new F.I.R.E. Carrier candidates are: *Emma Herbert, Kellie Preston, Kaylee Perryman, Isabelle McAlpine, Amelia Gallo, Clare Law, Camie Lockwood, Heidi Barry, Lila Murray, Phoebe Cresswell and Sarai Barnes.*



The aim of the F.I.R.E. (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) Carrier Project is to promote respect, fairness and inclusion for Aboriginal people. The F.I.R.E. Carrier Project promotes enculturation and reconciliation in Sandhurst schools. The F.I.R.E. Carrier project Covenant is like a Reconciliation Action Plan.

What is the role of a F.I.R.E. Carrier?

To be a F.I.R.E. Carrier is to exercise an important leadership role in the school community. FIRE carriers are students and teachers that share a passion for learning about Aboriginal culture and history and are committed to sharing this knowledge and promoting reconciliation within and beyond the school community.



Congratulations to Thomas Mullane-Grant for receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist on Sunday February 23rd at Our Lady of the Snows Church in Bright.



Introducing Project Compassion 2025

Lent is a special time of year. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, a time to be the good news for the poor.

Caritas Australia invites you to put your compassion into action this Lent.

As individuals we can help others, but when we come together through Project Compassion, our good becomes great.

Our combined kindness grows.

And when we unite with each other – and with people living in poverty – we can create BIG, lasting change.

Let's all *Unite Against Poverty!* There is no time like 2025!

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent

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. Our take home reader system is having some updates, and this will hopefully be rolled out next week. We have lots of wonderful new books we need to take care of.

FOUNDATION

FINAL REST DAY - Yesterday was the last rest day for the Foundation students. Next Wednesday, 12th March, Foundation students will be at school all week.

LETI - Last Friday the Foundation students had a LETI session in the classroom. LETI is an acronym for 'Learning Experiences Through Investigation'. Students used boxes to make special places and made posters of their houses. They thoroughly enjoyed the freedom to express their understandings through creativity. (photos)

LENT - On Wednesday we prepared our Prayer Table for Lent, changing the green ordinary time cloth to purple. Students have been fascinated in the Easter story, learning about Jesus.



MATHS - We have been doing maths activities that involve the use of dice, cards, counters and pop sticks. Students have been learning to count one more or one less from a given number and learning to recognise the numbers on the face of a die.

ENGLISH - We have been learning about rhyming words which has been fun! Students have enjoyed listening to the picture storybooks 'Grandpa and Thomas' by Pamela Allen and 'Bogtrotter' by Margaret Wild. We have done activities to compliment these stories; last week we took a pretend excursion to the beach to build sandcastles in our Foundation sandpit.

MORNING DROP OFF - Just a reminder that when the bell goes for the day to begin, parents should leave their child and not linger in the classroom. If your child is having difficulty with separation, please contact our wellbeing officer and Deputy Principal, Mrs Ashley Pasqualotto to seek her assistance during drop off.

YEAR 1

The Year 1 have been reading Mac Barnett's 'Sam and Dave dig a hole'. This story is about imaginative possibilities and what we could find if we just dig in.

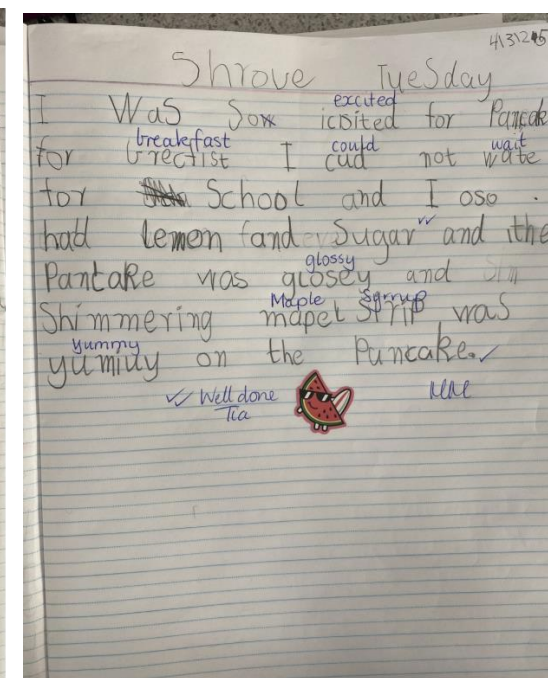
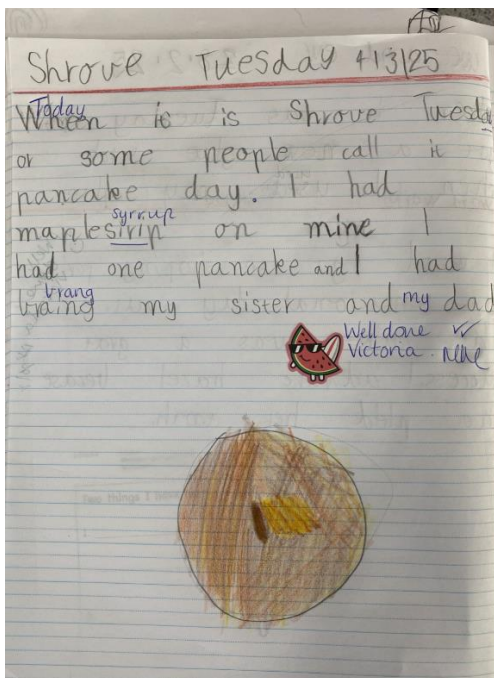
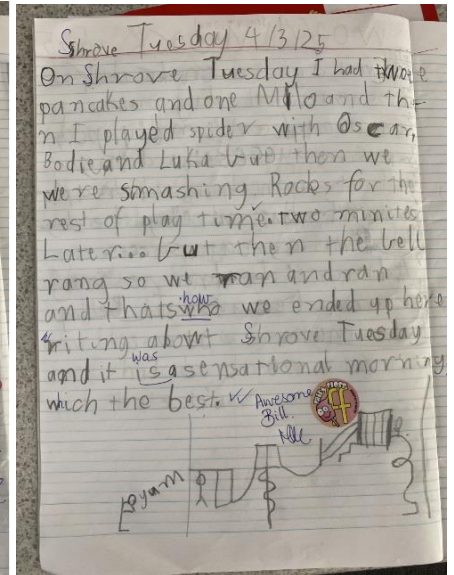
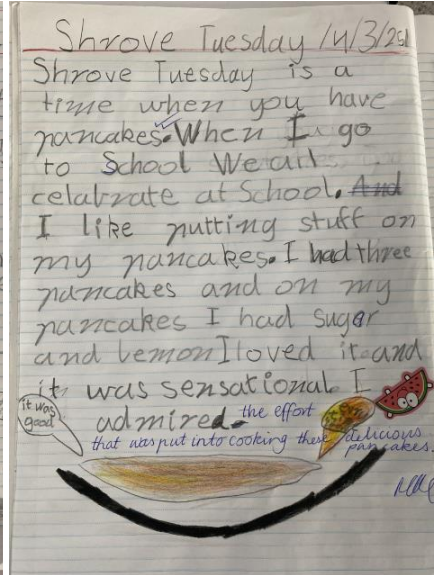
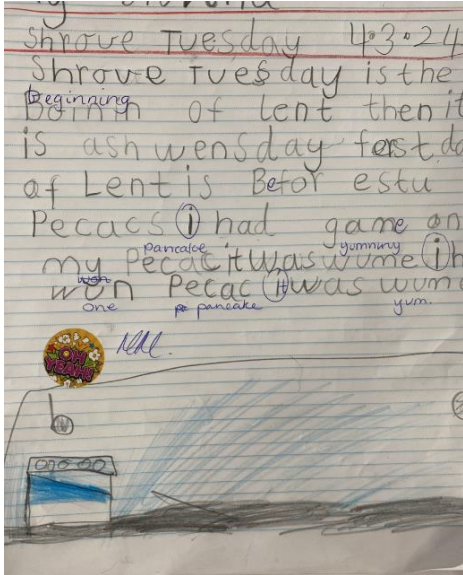
The students have progressed well with our sound deck, phonemic awareness and tricky words this week. We are continually updating our 'Tricky Word Tree' with these new words once we have analysed them. The students have continued to study the construction of sentences and are beginning to write a response to a picture prompt.

In Maths, we are going really well with our Daily Reviews and have been studying place value of two digit numbers

YEAR 2

LITERACY - We've just finished our Shared book 'Pete the Sheep' which was a very fun read. We heard about a 'sensational' shearer named Shaun who instead of having a dog as his trusty helper to round the sheep up, he had a sheep! A very clever sheep named Pete.

SHROVE TUESDAY – PANCAKE DAY RECOUNTS



MATHS

In mathematics we've been focused on place value and identifying numbers up to 1000, using greater than and less than symbols $<$, $>$ and equal to $=$. Next week we move onto addition and subtraction in our number sessions.

RE

LENTEN PROMISES - As we move into Lent on Tuesday this week the Year 2's wrote 'Lenten Promises'. Some of us gave something up and some of us made an action promise. The students did a beautiful job of this. Please ask your child what their Lenten Promise is. The students will be helping Miss Martyn and Miss Richardson stay on track this Lent also.



NUMBOT CERTIFICATES WEEK 6

Tia Barnes – Congratulations Tia who represented St. Mary's at the Interschool Equestrian Sports in Albury last week



THANK YOU
Luka Rivett has raised
over \$100

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

MIDDLE NEWS

Thank you for taking the time to attend your child's parent teacher interview. It was a great opportunity to welcome you to the 2025 year and discuss your child's needs.

We have enjoyed combining the Year 3 and Year 4 students during our Bluearth time. Students proudly divided themselves into two groups for these sessions.

Welcome to Nathan Caponecchia who is working with the Year 3 and Year 4 classes on Tuesday and Wednesdays. Nathan has been a great support to the students and staff.

BLUEARTH



YEAR 3

The Year 3 students are enjoying their laptops. We have setup Touch Typing and Numbots, which can also be accessed at home. Students should have their Touch Typing password stuck in the front of their communication diary, and they know their Numbots password.



Students have been working hard on their persuasive writing, with a focus on introductions.

I strongly believe you
✓ should try doing Swimming.
This is because you can
Jump in the pool, and learn
new jumps and swimming
styles, and you will have
a Lot Of Fun! This is
why I know Swimming is the
best to try.

I strongly believe that you ~~should~~
try swimming, because it
can cool you down, and it's
easy to kick your feet and
you can get out. That
is why you ^{should} try
swimming. ✓

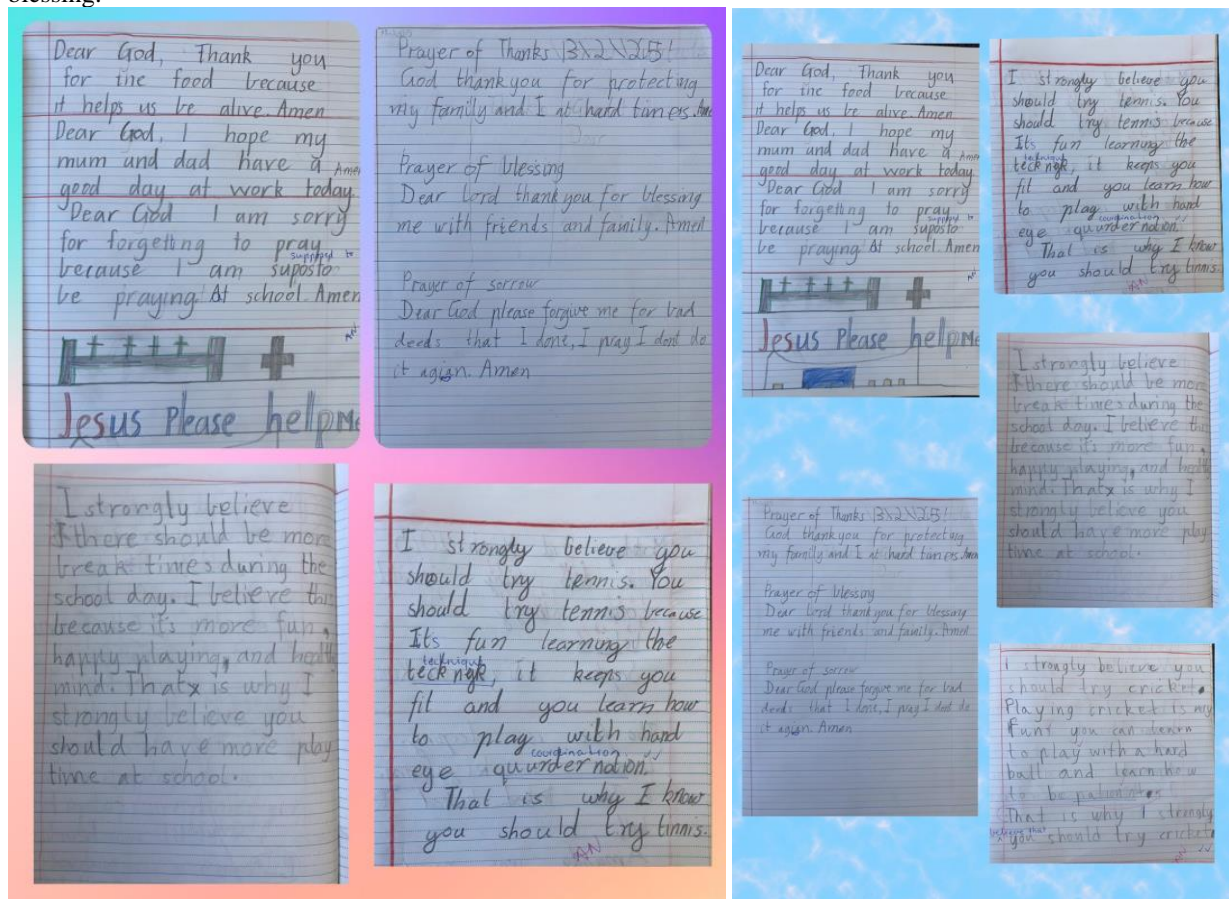
I strongly believe that
you should try Basketball
you should try it because it gets
you motivated, and it's good
exercise and it is fun.
That is why I strongly
believe you should basketball. ✖

Prayer of Thanks (3x2x15)
God thank you for protecting
my family and I at hard times. Amen

Prayer of blessing
Dear Lord thank you for blessing
me with friends and family. Amen

Prayer of sorrow
Dear God please forgive me for bad
deeds that I have, I pray I don't do
it again. Amen

As our Prayer Unit comes to an end, with student creating different types of prayers including a prayer of sorrow, gratitude and a blessing.



YEAR 4 - READING/Writing

We have almost completed reading Kensuke's Kingdom and it has been such a wonderful text to enjoy with the children. Students have been working on writing a Persuasive Text as well as learning about some rich vocabulary, high modality words and dependent/independent clauses. We have also been reviewing concrete and abstract nouns and different types of sentences.

SWIMMING - SHEPPARTON

Congratulations to Maisie, Heidi, Ivy and Spence who not only made it to the next level of swimming in Wangaratta, but also progressed to Shepparton on Wednesday!

MATHS

We've just finished two weeks of learning about fractions. In particular, we've been learning about improper fractions and mixed numerals. This week, we began learning how time helps us understand and keep track of how long things take and the gaps between events.

Congratulations to Archie, Javier and John who have shown the greatest growth in their Times Table Rock Stars over the last two weeks.

RELIGION

Shrove Tuesday was a wonderful morning as was beginning Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass. We began our new topic, titled Lent, this week and we'll also be learning about people from around the world who have been helped by CARITAS as part of our RE lessons. It was also a lovely to attend the Ash Wednesday at the Church with Marian College, families and parishioners.

Have a great week.

Julie, April,

SENIOR NEWS

We are halfway through the term and the students are working well. Thank you, parents, for attending the student/parent/teacher interviews, they are a great way for everyone to be on the same page in working to educate your child.

We welcome Anant Dhumi to our unit. We have quite a few new students to the school in the SLC this year and we commend our current students on their welcoming and considerate nature. It is great to see them inviting and including new people to their games and making sure they feel a part of St Mary's community.

SWIMMING DIVISION WANGARATTA

Congratulations to our swimmers on their feats at the division swimming day. Special congratulations to the relay team: Claye and Lila from the SLC.

NOVEL - A GHOST IN MY SUITCASE

We are well into our class novel and the plot is starting to take a different turn. Through literacy lessons, the students focus on vocabulary specifically from the novel. We look at the meaning of the word, the context within the story and other examples. The vocabulary we have looked at includes craved, drifted, stalking, corrupt, hovered, consistency, cunning, glowers etc. We look forward to them using this new vocabulary in their personal writing.

MATHEMATICS

We are currently working through multiplication and division algorithms. We encourage all students to know their times tables fluently as this definitely helps when working with these operations. Congratulations to the students who are nailing their tables.

Have a great week
SLC Teachers



HUME REGION SHEPPARTON

Well done to this group of swimmers.

Spence - 3rd breaststroke

Open age mixed medley relay

Mackenzey, Claye, Lila & Spence - 2nd place

10&U mixed free relay

Maisie, Ivy, Heidi & Spence - 1st place

OFF TO STATE IN MELBOURNE

Hello everyone,

For the past couple of years, I have been growing my hair to donate it to Wigs for Kids with cancer.

My Uncle Paul inspired me to do this big donation when he did it.

I'm cutting my hair on the 15th March, which is coming up soon. I'm doing this because there are children in the world with cancer and who have lost their hair while having treatment. When children lose their hair, their appearance can suddenly change the way they feel about themselves.

I feel it's a small thing I can do to make a difference in someone's life and hopefully help a child feel like themselves.

I encourage anyone if you are able to one day, to donate a ponytail. The guidelines I was told was 30cm, but longer is better. Below is the link if you would like to donate to this cause.

The money raised in this link will go towards the cost of hair processing and the services to make the wig. Any amount helps.

https://fundraise.kidswithcancer.org.au/fundraisers/phoebe_cresswell

Your sincerely,
Phoebe Cresswell









Scouts Victoria

Give your *Passion a Purpose*

Become a Scout Leader!

Being a volunteer in such a large Movement like Scouts, provides you with a real sense of belonging and purpose, which is associated with improved mental health and quality of life.

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/volunteer-in-scouts



HEALTHY HEARTS COMMUNITY TALK

Thursday 27th March 2025, 6pm-8pm

FREE

- Featuring guest speaker **Dr. Julian Yeoh**, Cardiologist from Austin Health
- **Dr. Justin Donaldson**, GP from Alba Health
- **Exercise and Heart Health**, Exercise Physiologist
- Meet with local health professionals
- Refreshments provided




Scan QR Code to register, **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

📅 THURSDAY 27th MARCH, 6-8PM

📍 ST PAULS CHURCH HALL (next to Bastoni), 14 Clyde St MYRTLEFORD




ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL

EARLY YEARS OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Early Years Outreach Program is a free service that supports families from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background who live, play, work or study in the Alpine Shire.

Our CALD Early Years Officer works directly with families and local service providers to support inclusion and ongoing participation in education.

We can assist to:

- › Enrol children in Kindergarten
- › Connect with other early childhood supports
- › Support families to transition from Kindergarten to Primary School

To find out more contact the CALD Early Years Outreach Officer:

0417 957 627 or shannanw@alpineshire.vic.gov.au




Myrtleford Auskick 2025

Registrations are now open

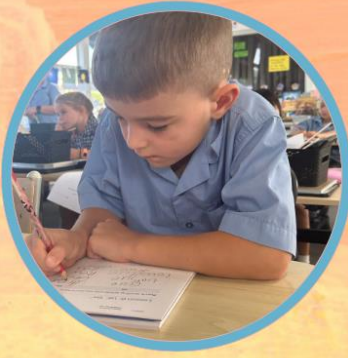
3rd May - 28th June
9am-10am Memorial Oval

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/org/myrtleford-auskick-centre/05120067/register>



Come and follow our socials:
 FB: Myrtleford Auskick
 Instagram: @myrtleford_aukick

St. Mary's Whole School Learning Walk-Through & Family Picnic



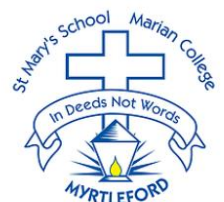
Thursday, 20th March 2025
Walk-throughs starting at 2:30pm
Family Picnic @ Cundy Park from 5:30

All family members are invited to visit and check out our amazing learning in action! Walk through classrooms, ask questions and find out about our excellent learner growth.

Follow that with a Parents & Friends Meet & Greet Picnic at Cundy Park, where all families can get together in a relaxed setting. BYO chairs and dinner!

Choose Teamwork & Achievement

Choose St Mary's School Myrtleford



St. Mary's Open Morning



Wednesday, 19th March 2025
Walk-throughs starting at 9:30am
followed by 'Questions & Cuppas' in
the staff room



We invite all families with children
beginning school in 2026 to join us for our
first open morning. Tour our classrooms,
ask questions, and discover all that St.
Mary's can offer your child and family.



Every day is an open day at St. Mary's.
If this time doesn't suit, please feel
free to organise a visit at any time.
Ph: 5752 1808



Choose Value & Affordability

Choose St Mary's School Myrtleford

