



St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

43 O' Donnell Ave.
(P.O. Box 320)
Myrtleford Victoria 3737
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Date: 27th March, 2025 Newsletter No: 4

Term: 2 - Week: 9

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 MESSAGE

As we journey through the season of Lent and prepare for the celebration of Easter, it is a time for reflection, renewal, and growth. During Lent we are invited to engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices help us to deepen our relationship with God and to become more aware of the needs of others.

Easter, the most significant event in the Christian calendar, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a powerful reminder of hope, new beginnings, and the triumph of love over darkness. As we prepare for this joyous occasion, let us consider how we can embody the spirit of Easter in our daily lives.

Our students and teachers have been focussing on Lent in RE and the Easter story, as well as engaging in Project Compassion to learn more about the daily experiences of others in the world who are less fortunate.

To raise awareness and funds for Project Compassion, we will also have a **Casual Clothes day and Easter Bonnet parade** on the last day of term Friday 4th April. Students are asked to bring a Gold coin donation for casual clothes.

I would also like to invite our school community to prayer for our Year 3 students who are currently undertaking the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I had the pleasure of running a couple of sessions last week, focussing on the importance of forgiveness. The children will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday the 1st April at St Mary's Church.

This season encourages us to treat one another with kindness, compassion, and understanding. By practicing forgiveness, showing empathy, and offering support to those in need, we can create a more loving and inclusive community. Let us use this time to reflect on our actions and strive to be better versions of ourselves, inspired by the teachings of Christ.

OPEN MORNING AND WHOLE SCHOOL WALK THROUGH

Last week St Mary's opened its doors for parents to walk through our classrooms and see our amazing teachers in action. Despite the rain we had many parents, grandparents and some old St Mary's friends walk through our classrooms. St Mary's is committed to providing opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning. We will continue to provide opportunities for the St Mary's community to visit our school during 2025.

Unfortunately, due to the heavy rain, we postponed the School Meet & Greet Picnic to tonight Thursday 27th. We look forward to meeting new and existing families at Cundy Park from 5:30pm.



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.

2026 FOUNDATION ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for the 2026 Foundation classes have already started to roll in. To support our planning for 2026, we would encourage any existing families with 2026 Foundation students to contact the school administration so we can place your child on the class list.

VOLUNTEERS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Thank you to the families who have already responded to the Volunteer Survey. We will be in contact with you this week. If you haven't completed the survey and would like to volunteer please respond on the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/wLnZSWNn2X>

God Bless,
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

APRIL

Tuesday 1 st	MLC Excursion to Wangaratta
Tuesday 1 st	Reconciliation Celebration 6:30pm St Mary's Church
Wednesday 2 nd	PUPIL FREE DAY – (Staff Professional Learning Day Wodonga)
Thursday 4 th	Easter Raffle Drawn
Thursday 4 th	End of Term Mass 9:15am St Mary's Church (Families welcome to come)
Friday 5 th	Casual Day Gold Coin Donation & Easter Bonnett Parade 9am
Friday 5 th	Last Day Term 1 School Finishes 2:20pm
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
Tuesday 29 th	Confirmation and Eucharist Parent Information Evening 6:30pm

MAY

Monday 5 th	JLC Autumn Walk 11:30 – 1:30pm
Tuesday 13 th	Cross Country

JUNE

Wednesday 4 th	Division Cross Country – Wangaratta
Wednesday 11 th - 13 th	Year 5/6 Camp Ballart
Friday 13 th	Regional Cross Country – Benalla
Saturday 14 th	Confirmation and Eucharist Mass 5pm St Mary's church
Sunday 15 th	Confirmation and Eucharist Mass 9am St Mary's Church

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS



EASTER RAFFLE DUE MONDAY 31ST MARCH

Raffle tickets are due on Monday 31st. Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 3rd April. Thank you to all the families who have purchased tickets and donated to the Easter Raffle. There are lots of prizes to be won, so get your winning tickets in.

Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser



Collect orders with friends
and family!

Scan QR code to submit
& pay for all orders online.



Orders close Friday 28th March
Collection Thursday 3rd April

NAME:
CLASS:

We are having Hot Cross Buns next Friday 4th
April.
Please return this order by tomorrow Friday
28th March
with money.

- Plain Hot Cross Bun \$2.00 each
- Chocolate Hot Cross Bun \$2.00 each
- Butter

Hot Cross Bun orders need to be in by tomorrow.

We are also having a Hot Cross Bun day next Friday. If students wish to order a Hot Cross Bun they need to return the order form that went home today with money by tomorrow.

Thank you to our families for supporting our Fundraising this term with Easter Raffle, Hot Cross Buns and Caritas.

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2025 - ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual school photos have been taken by Arthur Reed Photos.

To view the images of your child and order photos, you will need to first register online.

1. Go to <https://order.arphotos.com.au> and enter the 2025 image code for your child (from their personalized flyer).
2. Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings.
3. Fill in your email and mobile details and then review all details before confirming your registration.

That's it!

When 2025 photos are ready, you will be notified by email and SMS.

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

To ensure you are ordering school photos for the current year, please wait for notifications that 2025 images are online before placing orders.

In the webshop you can view photos and customize your photo package; Choose ANY layout, ANY image and purchase multiple digital image downloads.

All photo orders will be sent directly to the address you provide when ordering.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW to be notified when 2025 school photos can be viewed and ordered.

Register online now to be notified when images are ready to view!

School Photos - easy as 1 2 3

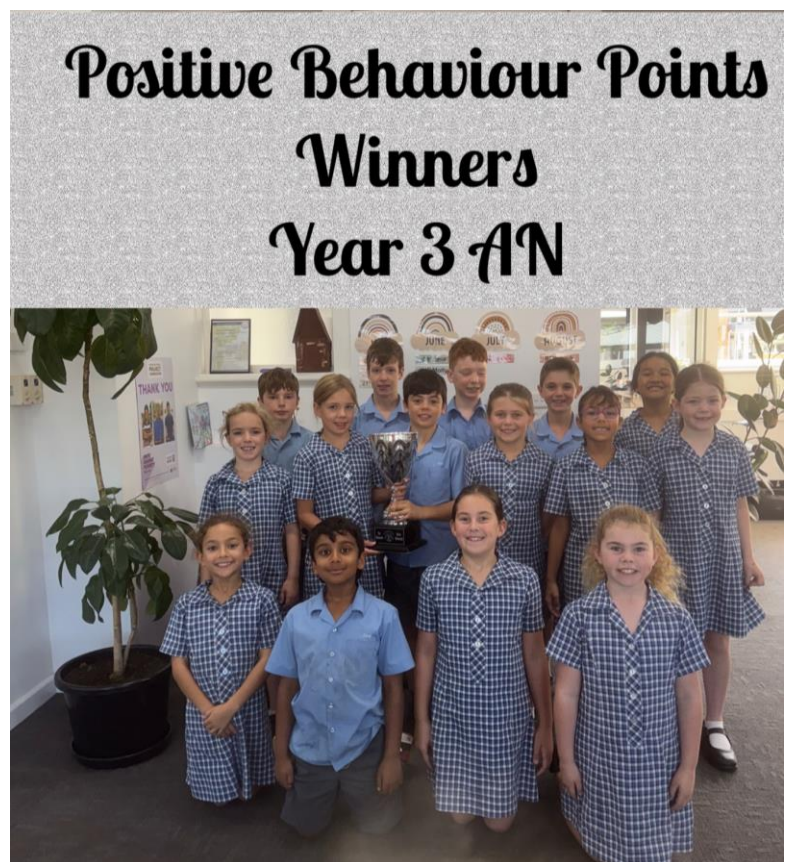
- 1** Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's 2025 image code
- 2** Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings
- 3** Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration*

That's it! You'll receive an email and/or SMS when images are ready to view in our secure webshop
Registration is required each year to link student images for the current year with your contact details.

- View photos online & customise your photo package
- Any layout, pose or image
- Multi image Digital Downloads

TO ENSURE YOU ARE ORDERING 2025 PHOTO PACKAGES, please wait to receive notifications to view 2025 images before placing

orders Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.
A.B.N. 48 528 494 530 Telephone: (03) 5243 4390 Enquiries: customerservice@arphotos.com.au



JUNIOR NEWS

FOUNDATION - SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

Your child has now participated in all of the subjects for Term 1. They have enjoyed learning Italian with Signora Rinaldi (not to be confused with Mrs Rinaldo, our classroom Learning Support Officer), Art with Mr Davis, Sport with Mr Davis, Music with Mrs Campbell and Library with Miss Deith and Mrs Southern (our school Librarian).

MATHS

We have been practising writing numbers 0-10 and counting. This week we began learning about 'Location' and talking about where something is on a map e.g. Beside, in front of, behind and underneath. This matches nicely with our Inquiry/LETI subject 'Geography'.

ENGLISH

Students have been refining the art of handwriting. They are forming letters 's, t, m, a, p' beautifully. We have read picture story books and done artworks to reflect the story too. (photos)

YEAR 1

The students have been working on nouns and verbs this week and adding to the tricky words that we have been studying. Our tricky words are: would, could, should, come, again and home.

In Maths, we have been working with three digits and place value with hundreds, tens and ones. We have been completing hands on tasks to be able to visualise and make these numbers in hundreds, tens and ones. The class have continued the daily review of concepts taught and the students are progressing well with this.

In Religious Education, we have studied the events of Holy Week and what Jesus did each day before the Last Supper.

YEAR 2

LITERACY

We have been working hard with our new IntiaLit Program. Our Storybook work has been around the book 'The Stone Lion' by Maragaret Wild. This story has lots of emotional and strong words. We continue to work on new sounds and tricky words each week. If you happen to be in the classroom, check out our 'Tricky Word Tree' it's really growing!!!

LETI

Our explorations of maps and our world has continued, as we have finally begun our whole unit LETI sessions. These sessions are an opportunity for our students to find out, create and explore. The students have been busy creating maps and models of our local and global communities. PHOTOS

MATHS

The Year 2s have been working on addition and subtraction strategies like bridging to 10 on number lines and partitioning into tens and ones. We've also been working on adding and subtracting multiples of ten within one hundred.

We have also been learning about time. We have been practising identifying the o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to on an analogue clock. We are getting pretty good, and this is something that the students can continue to practise at home.

RE

Our Lent and Easter Unit has been a great time to reflect on the meaning of Lent. Recently, we have explored the seasons of the Church, and how Project Compassion is a way we can contribute to Alms giving to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Have a fantastic week,

Carolyn, Jo, Kelly, Nicole, Anna and Sonia.

MIDDLE NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are into our second last week of term. Being our last newsletter for the term, we would like to wish all of our Year 3 and Year 4 families a very special Easter and restful holidays. Enjoy your extra long break this year! Here is a sneak preview of our class photos taken today (the funny photo edition!)



EXCURSION

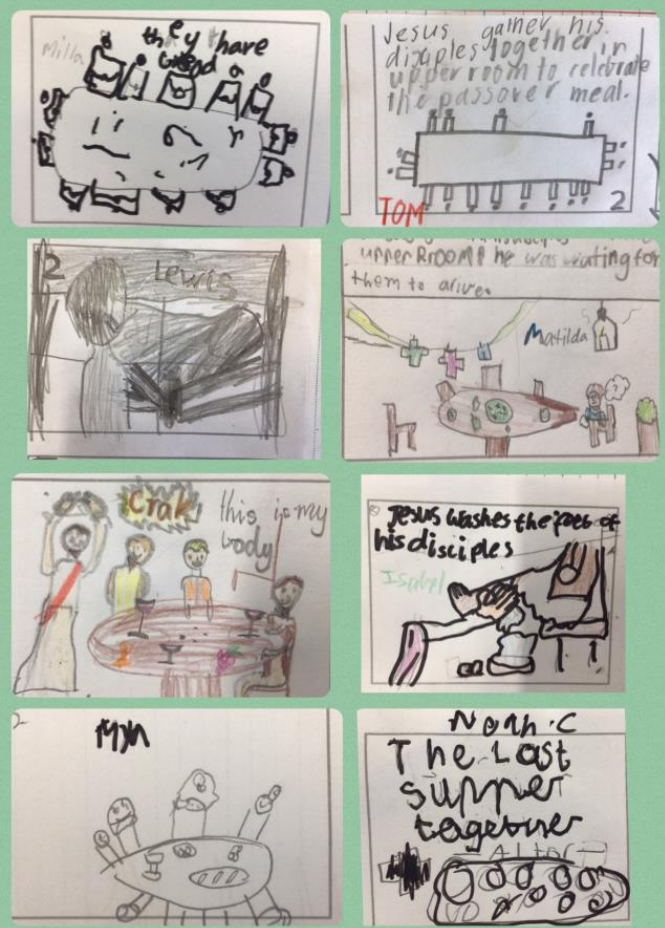
A reminder that next **Tuesday, April 1st** the MLC have an excursion to Wangaratta. We will visit the Wangaratta Art Gallery and the Wangaratta Library, finishing up with lunch and a play at Apex Park. We are very thankful to Inga Hanover from the Wangaratta Art Gallery as they are providing the bus for us to attend this excursion.

Please ensure students have their water bottle! We'll be viewing the exhibition by Elizabeth Willing, titled Crystalline and Juanita McLauchlan's 'Barra' exhibition at the gallery.

Students may wear their sports uniform if they wish as we will be at the playground after lunch.

RELIGION

As part of our topic on Lent, we have been looking at the events of Holy Week and the students completed a comic strip depiction of Jesus on Holy Thursday as he shared the Last Supper with his disciples.



YEAR 3AN

Students enjoyed watching Matilda today as a special treat after reading the novel in class. Once again, thank you to parents for supporting us in reading Matilda at home. It is quite a large novel, and we appreciate the joint effort.



During Prayer, students have been using playdough to create symbols for **Lent**.

Luca – I made a cross because Jesus gave up his life.

Tom – I made a marshmallow and a cross for Lent to represent Jesus and Easter.

Noah T – I made a chocolate bar because last year I gave up chocolate.

Jack – I made a temple with Jesus praying in it because people pray for Jesus during Lent.

Sophie – I made an Easter bunny to represent Easter.

Madelyn – I made an easter egg, easter bunny and a cookie because i gave up easter eggs and cookies.

Isabel – I made an Easter bunny.

Milla – I made the top half of a caritas box and a twenty-cent piece to go in as a donation.

Mya – I made a lantern for Lent because that is what Nano Nagel carried around.

Ed – I did a chocolate bar because I gave up chocolate for Lent.

Linuk – I created a calendar made out of playdough for Lent.

Lara – I've created an easter bunny because the easter bunny comes at the end of Lent.

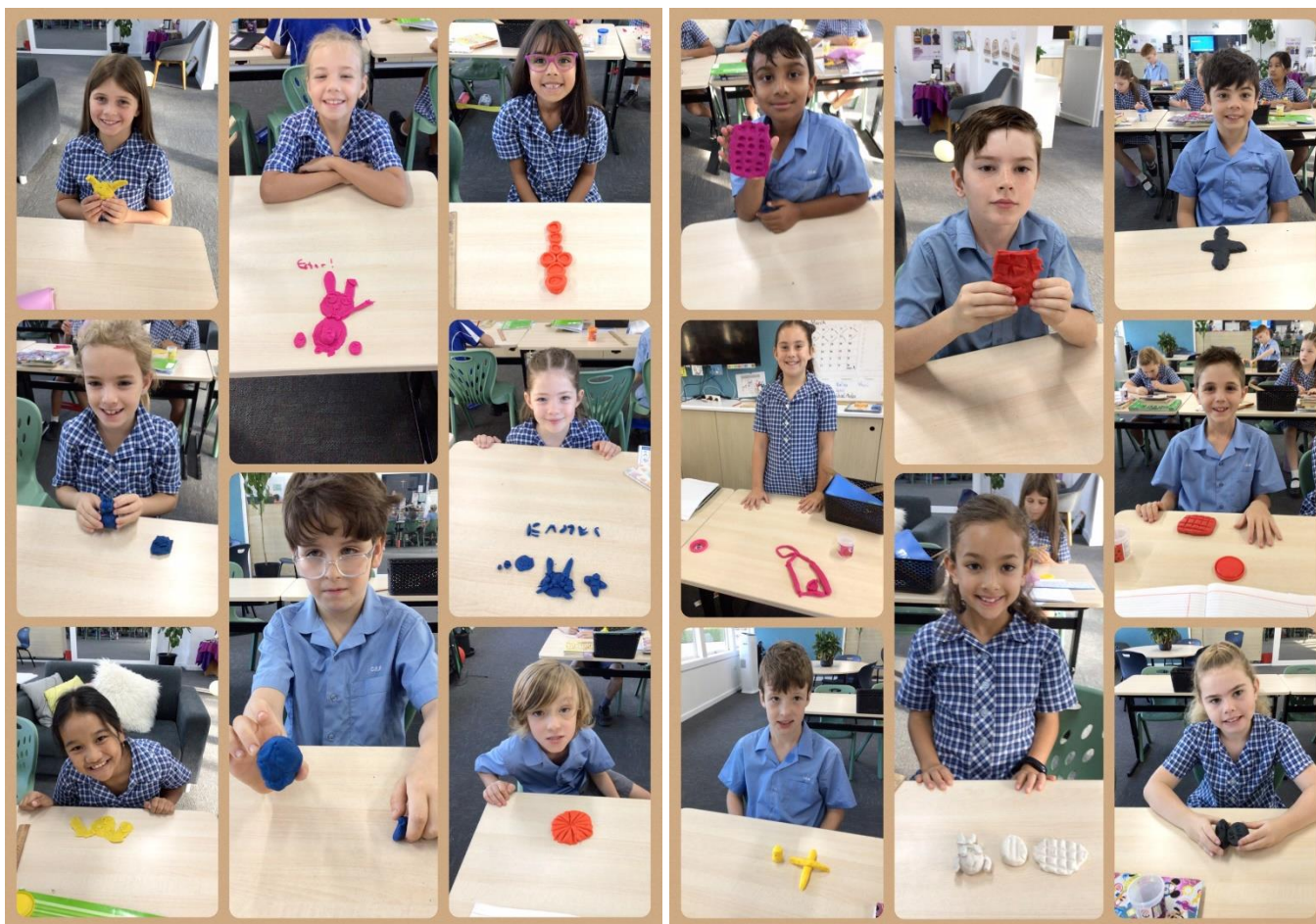
Lewis – I made a pizza because I gave it up for Lent.

Matilda – For my Lent creation, I made an easter bunny, easter eggs, an easter sign, a cross and Lent badge.

Anna – For Lent, I gave my Bluey Hopscotch to the people across the road.

Mavis – I made an Easter bunny because it represents Lent.

Noah C – I made an easter egg because it is nearly Easter.



YEAR 4JH

READING/WRITING

‘Leo and Ralph’ is the new text we have started reading and we are hoping we can get it finished in time by the end of term! We have been looking at ways to improve sentences by adding **adjectives**, **adverbs** and substituting more interesting verbs. In our spelling, we are learning about adding the **suffix ‘ure’** meaning ‘state of’ as in the words creature, pleasure, feature and texture.

MATHS

We’re continuing to review Multiplication and Division and using arrays, number lines, and other visual tools to help students understand and solve multiplication and division problems.

NAPLAN

Congratulations to all Year 3 and 5 students for completing NAPLAN. We are so proud of the effort and mindset of our students and look forward to viewing the results and supporting our student’s learning.

OUT OF SCHOOL SPORTS

Congratulations to Maddie and Archie who played in the Grand Final round of basketball last weekend and also won their games! A great achievement.

Congratulations to Spence, Heidi and Maisie who went to Melbourne as part of the Myrtleford Swimming Club and competed in events on the weekend. Spence then made it through to finals on Sunday and was placed 3rd and 7th in events and got a 1 second PB in freestyle. Heidi got a 6 second PB in freestyle and 3 second PB in backstroke. Maisie got a 5 second PB in butterfly and a backstroke PB. Awesome work for all!

Have a great week and enjoy the holidays.
Julie, April, Nathan, Sandra and Nat

SENIOR NEWS

LITERACY - THERE'S A GHOST IN MY SUITCASE

We have finally finished our novel, "A Ghost in My Suitcase" The students thoroughly enjoyed the story and were captivated to the very end. This book has sparked engaging discussions about sentence structure and the use of a strong vocabulary in order to get the greatest impact. Alongside reading this book, we have worked on structuring a persuasive piece of writing, focusing on whether knowing your family history is important or not.

The students are currently working on a book report, some are reporting on the class novel and others are writing about a novel they have read in silent reading and at home.



SPELLING: Our focus on phonics, word families, and affixes has paid off, with students making steady progress.

RELIGION

Currently we are discussing How Lent Transforms our Lives and preparing for the end of term school Mass. Our focus for Mass will be "Be Compassionate". How do we support others and how do we help ourselves? The students worked beautifully creating a visual display about compassion.

MATHS

We've been working on the four operations, with a special focus on the order of operations within equations. The students have also been practicing division with remainders and decimals, showing great progress in their automatic response to times tables and multiplication facts.

UNIFORM

We have noticed that many of the students are wearing sport uniform on the wrong days. Our sport and Bluearth days are Friday. The only days that runners and blue sports shorts are permitted are on Friday. Students will be pulled up if they have the wrong uniform on and parents will be notified. A reminder that they are to wear grey or white socks with no logos and black leather type shoes.

Thank you for your support in maintaining our uniform policy. Should anyone be having difficulty with uniform, please notify your child's teacher.

BLUEARTH

Blue Earth Sports Program: Students have been focusing on ball handling, coordination activities, and skipping, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. These sessions take place on Fridays and have greatly contributed to their physical and mental well-being.

UPCOMING EVENTS: We're excited about our upcoming camp at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat, which will take place in Week 8 of next term.

WIGS4KIDS

Hello everyone,

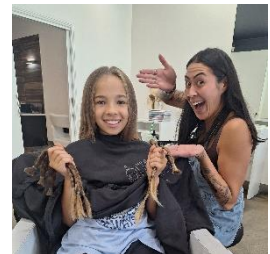
I cut my hair last Saturday at a hairdresser to donate my hair to Wigs4Kids for kids with cancer. Thank you so much for your donations. I think this will make a big difference in a child's life. My hair that I donated was thirty-five cm long.

All the donations go to making the wig that cost two thousand seven hundred and sixty-five dollars and that's where the donations come in. Kids with cancer don't have to pay for the wig. My first goal was five hundred dollars, and I reached it. I then changed my goal to one thousand dollars. I am on one thousand five hundred and seventy-five dollars. If you would like to donate, please go to <https://fundraise.kidswithcancer.org.au/phoebecresswell>

Any amount helps.

Kind regards,

Phoebe Cresswell



A wig that goes to a child will put a smile on their dial!

We are so proud of Phoebe for organising and participating in such a worthy cause.

Thank you for your continued support!

SLC Teachers

CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS

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



The Reconciliation Parent Information Night was on Tuesday 4th of March at 6:30pm. 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.



Irene lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic of the Congo (DRC) Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family.

Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills.

Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.

Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.

PLEASE RETURN ALL BOXES WITH DONATIONS TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS
BY NEXT TUESDAY 1st APRIL.



Click here for the 'St Mary's School - Myrtleford • Project Compassion 2025 page on the Project Compassion Website.

If you would prefer to donate online to this page, then please use this QR code to do this. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much, let's make a big difference in others' lives.

Jo Bennett
Catholic Identity

MUSIC NEWS

In music this term all classes have been learning about drumming. Today all classes performed a drum piece for each other on the basketball court.

Year 1 and 2 performed on the djembe (African drum), Year 1 played in a drum round and Year 2 played three different African rhythms.

Year 3 to 6 have been bucket drumming and each played a 4 part piece to demonstrate the skills they have learned this term.

It was great to see each class presenting a piece they have worked really hard on throughout the term. Thank you to all teachers for supporting the kids in their performance.

Rachel Campbell (Music Teacher)





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_austrack



Open Magical Garden and miniature Fantasy scene display

Come see a display of various fairy gardens, Garden art, and miniature fantasy dioramas. Also, a display and sale of various quilting and needle craft by awarded quilter, Julie Evans, as well as other items of interest for all ages.

Activities for children, with prizes



All proceeds to the Good Friday Appeal

April 10th to 13th

10am to 4pm (9am Sat 12th)

33 Elgin Street, Myrtleford



Myrtleford Fire Brigade

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2025

FRIDAY 18th APRIL 2025

We are again asking for volunteers for this special day. Children under 12yrs must be accompanied with an adult and everyone who is participating must sign in at the Myrtleford Fire Station from 8.15am for a 9.00am start.

****CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES. THEY MUST BE BEHIND CFA TRUCKS AT ALL TIMES WHEN COLLECTING MONEY****

PLEASE HELP TO HELP OTHERS

ARE YOU AN AUTISTIC ADULT, OR CARER TO AN AUTISTIC PERSON?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS LIKE YOU?

AUTISM COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Alpine Valleys Autism Community is being established to support autistic individuals and their carers across the Alpine Shire.

Founded by those with lived experience, we're dedicated to promoting neurodiversity and enhancing the wellbeing of our local autism community.

- Autistic Peer Support Group
- Autism Carer Support Group
- Social & Recreational Activities
- Educational Events
- Learning Resources
- Community Advocacy



Proudly supported by



Interested in joining us?

Take our short survey to tell us what you'd like to see offered & opt-in for email updates



bit.ly/avac_wel

Follow us on Facebook for updates or email AlpineValleysAutismCommunity@gmail.com



MARCH CARER CRAFT & CONNECT

JOIN WITH OTHER AUTISM CARERS FOR A FREE MOSAIC CLASS

Take time out with other carers who get it, enjoying a relaxing afternoon as we create mosaics in a safe and supportive space.



Autism Carer Support Group
Myrtleford P-12 Art Building
Sunday March 23, 1pm - 4pm

