

t. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

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Date: 28th November, 2025

Newsletter No: 18

Term: 4 - Week: 8

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 4

6th October 2025
16th December 2025
Students Last Day
17th 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 @ 6:00pm



Click on the link

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

What an incredible celebration of community we experienced at the St Mary's Parish Spring Fling Fete! It was truly heartwarming to see our school and parish come together in such a vibrant and joyful way. This event was more than just a day of fun - it was a testament to the strength and generosity of our shared community.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by donating items, volunteering your time in the planning stages, or rolling up your sleeves to help run the day, your kindness and commitment made this event possible and ensured its success.

The funds raised will go towards replacing the parish hall floor, an improvement that will benefit us all for years to come. Fr Tony will announce the total amount raised at Mass this weekend, so please join us as we celebrate this wonderful achievement together.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our School Swimming Carnival next Wednesday at the Myrtleford Pool. All students will be competing in swimming and novelty events, earning points for their houses - Nagle, Gomez and Romero. It promises to be a fantastic day of fun, teamwork and school spirit. Families and friends are warmly invited to come along and cheer on our students.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. St Mary's truly shines when we come together as one community.

God bless,
Andrea

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENT

It is with great pleasure that I announce April Nannipieri as our new Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching) for 2026, succeeding Ashley Pasqualotto. April brings a wealth of experience from both the education sector and the financial industry. She is an outstanding educator who was recently shortlisted for the Sandhurst Awards - Leader of Professional Practice, a testament to her expertise and leadership.

In her new role, April will have a strong focus on Learning and Teaching, leading curriculum development and delivery, assessment and reporting, and instructional coaching. She will also oversee Inclusive Learning, including intervention programs and the management of NCCD funding.

We are excited to welcome April into this leadership position and look forward to the positive impact her skills and vision will bring to our school community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Ashley Pasqualotto for her exceptional leadership and dedication as Deputy Principal. Her contribution has been invaluable, and we wish her every success in her role as Principal of St Joseph's Beechworth in 2026.

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.

SANDHURST AWARDS

We are incredibly proud of the outstanding achievements of our students and staff who have been recognised in the recent Sandhurst Awards. Congratulations to **Lila Murray** for receiving the Academic Excellence award and **Claye Corcoran** for being honoured for Leadership.

We also commend our dedicated staff members: **April Nannipieri**, shortlisted for Leadership in Professional Practice, and **Jo Bennett**, nominated for Leadership in Catholic Mission. These acknowledgements reflect not only individual talent and commitment but also the strong culture of excellence, leadership and faith that defines our St Mary's community.



STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to share some exciting news about our teaching team for 2026. Over the past few weeks, we have confirmed the following appointments:

Jenna Ivone - Art and Classroom Teacher FTE (0.4)

Shara Knobel - Physical Education Teacher FTE (0.4)

We warmly welcome Jenna and Shara to these roles and look forward to the energy and expertise they will bring to our school community.

Following the recent appointment of April Nannipieri as Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching), St Mary's is currently advertising for a full-time classroom teaching position.

Classroom teacher allocations will be announced once the recruitment process is complete. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support and understanding as we finalise staffing for the year ahead.

PARENT ACCESS MODULE (PAM) UPDATE

The Parent Access Module is now accessible via the web browser. All applications including absences, permissions, first aid and reporting are available. The SIMON Everywhere App is still offline. The school will use email or SMS to as our main communication channel for the time being.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY - TUESDAY 9th OF DECEMBER

The statewide transition day will be held on Tuesday 9th of December. The classroom structure will remain unchanged with straight classes from Foundation to Year 4 and two Year 5/6 composite classes. We will be welcoming our 2026 Foundation students, and our current Year 6 students will be heading to their 2026 secondary schools.

OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM

The Myrtleford Schools' Out of School Hours Care Program will be facilitated by 'Their Care' starting in Term 1, 2026. This program will operate at Myrtleford P-12 College in their Multi-Purpose facilities.

Students from St Mary's who attend the program will be transported by bus to the service each afternoon.

For further details, please refer to the information session slides available here:

[Myrtleford schools OHSC Information Session Slides - Read-Only.pdf](#)

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
- Send an email to absent@smyrtleford.catholic.edu.au

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

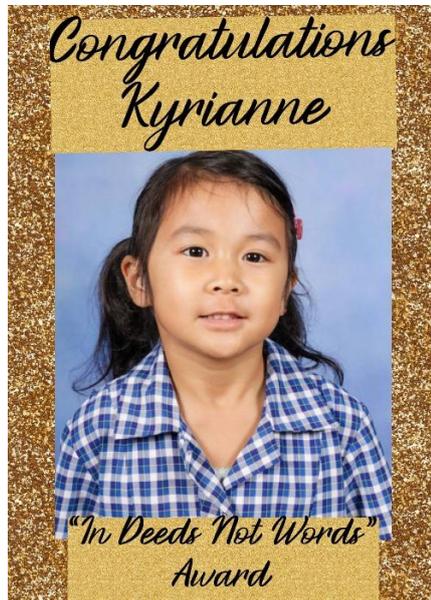
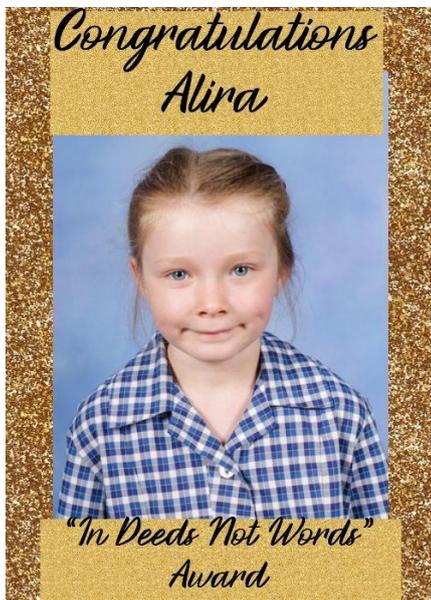
DECEMBER

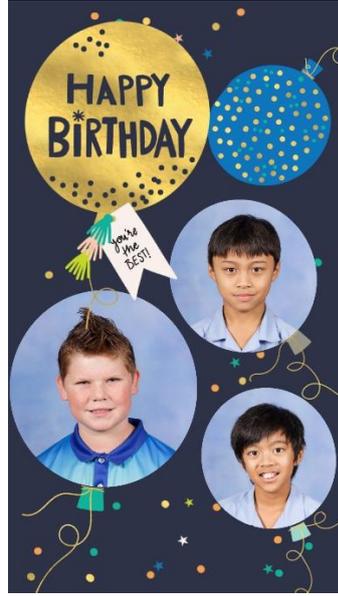
Monday 1 st	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 2 nd	Foundation 2026 Transition 9am to 12:30pm
Tuesday 2 nd	MLC Advent Liturgy 2:30pm
Wednesday 3 rd	Swimming Carnival Myrtleford Pool
Friday 5 th	Swimming Wangaratta Year 2/3 and 4
Monday 8 th	Pupil Free Day (Staff PD)
Tuesday 9 th	Statewide Transition Day
Thursday 11 th	End of Year Mass St Mary's Church 9:30am
Thursday 11 th	Whole School Christmas Sing Along 2:30pm under the Basketball Court
Friday 12 th	JLC Bright Excursion
Monday 15 th	Assembly EMPAC 2:30pm
Tuesday 16 th	Year 6 Big Day Out and Graduation Mass 6pm St Mary's Church
Tuesday 16 th	Last Day of Term 4 (3:20pm Finish)

WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SING ALONG

Thursday 11th December 2:30pm on the basketball court, each class presenting a Christmas carol and a few group sing alongs. Parents are welcome to come along.

Rachel Campbel (Music Teacher)





FOUNDATION 2026 STUDENTS CAME TO VISIT



CATHOLIC IDENTITY NEWS

PRESENTATION DAY MASS 2025

On Friday November 21st, we celebrated Presentation Day at a whole school Mass. Students from Foundation to Year 6 read or had roles in the Mass and performed these beautifully. The Mass was a beautiful way to remember and celebrate our school's heritage and patron, Mary, Mother of God.

The Presentation Sisters, formed by Nano Nagle were given this name in honour of the 'Presentation of Mary at the Temple' at a very young age, where she dedicated her life to serve God with joy. Just like Mary, The Presentation Sisters made it their mission to serve God by going across the world in joyful service wherever it was needed.

In February 1923, a group of Presentation Sisters arrived in Myrtleford to staff the newly formed parish school. On March the 11th, 1923 Bishop John McCarthy gave a blessing to open the newly built school and convent.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL 'SPRING FLING COMMUNITY' FETE



The St Mary's School Community and St Mary's Parish would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support of our 'Spring Fling Fete'.

We had a wonderful fete with lots to eat, do and enjoy. It was heartwarming to see so many come together as a community to enjoy the fete and to support us to raise money for the St Mary's Parish Hall Floor Fund.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated their time and efforts on the day. They set up and ran stalls and completed tasks in the background so things ran smoothly. We appreciate your time, energy and efforts to make the fete a success.

We would like to thank the St Mary's families for your overwhelming support through donations, time, effort and attendance. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The fete also had an abundance of support from community businesses and individuals. We can't thank these businesses and people enough for their generosity.

Please support these businesses who kindly donated goods and services to our fete.

Asahi
Buffalo River Nursey
Chrismont Winery
Dahlsen's Mitre 10
Heiner's Bakery
L'Amour Floris
MPG Real Estate
Myrtleford Pizza & Pasta
Nosh
Pizzolitto Gardening
The Reject Shop

Blooms Chemist
Bynon's Ice
Coles supermarket
Dale's Butchery
HVP Plantation
Michelini Wines
Myrtleford Football/Netball Club
Myrtleford Post Office
Nutrien Ivone Agencies
Reclaim
Jess Ruiz Pottery

Buffalo Hotel
Coffee Chakra
Creature Crafts
Elkemi
Jim Van Geet Framing
Morrison's Moto Garage
Myrtleford Newsagency
North East Pest Control
Pepo Farms
Rina Sacco – Nutremetics
Woof Dog Grooming

Thank you to these community members for their generous donations.

Chirgwin Family
Rachael Frost & Michael Kidman
Malcolm Haddon
Angela Isherwood
Mary Kershaw
Marion Walker

If I have missed anyone, I am terribly sorry. Please let me know as I would like to acknowledge everyone's generosity and support.

The Winner of the Hampers Are:

Dad's Hamper- Milla McAlpine
Rainy Day Hamper- Denise Burskill
Gardening- Mrs Gasperotti
Craft Hamper- Denise Wei

Mum's Hamper- Eileen
Christmas Hamper- Blaize
Foodies Hamper- M. Curtis
Cooking Hamper- Helina Murphy

Thank you,
Jo Bennett (Catholic Identity Leader)

We would like to say a huge thank you to the JLC families for your donations to our class hampers, cakes and mystery jars. Your support and generosity were mind-blowing and we thank you for supporting the Spring Fling Fete so whole heartedly. We hope that you had a wonderful time at the fete and hope that some of the amazing JLC parents put their hands up to help out at our next fete.

FOUNDATION

RELIGION - Our classroom feels very special during Advent. The prayer table is covered in purple, reminding us that this is a time of waiting and getting ready. We sit together and talk about hope, sharing our ideas and questions. Everyone listens and learns from each other, and the room feels full of excitement as we wait for the coming of Jesus. It's a happy place where we can grow in faith and show kindness while we wait with hope.

INQUIRY/LETI

Our inquiry wall is full of amazing creations! There are colourful flowers, detailed animals, skeletons, and drawings of life cycles that show how living things grow and change. The students have worked very hard and spent lots of time making their projects. By exploring these ideas, they have learned so much about the science of life and the world around them. The wall shows their creativity and their excitement for discovering new things in biology.

MATHS

In our classroom, we have started learning all about money. The students have explored Australian coins and notes, noticing their colours, shapes, and special designs. They enjoyed discovering the pictures and patterns on each one, and talked about the value that makes them different. This learning has helped everyone understand how money is used in everyday life, and the students are excited to keep finding out more about how it works.

LITERACY

In our classroom, we have been learning the digraphs **/ng/** and **/ay/**. The students are also practicing new tricky words and writing their own sentences on dotted third paper to get ready for Year One. They have been reading one-to-one with Miss Deith, and it is wonderful to hear how their reading is growing stronger. As they learn new blends, their fluency improves, and it is very exciting to see their confidence shine through in both reading and writing.

YEAR 1

LITERACY - In Literacy, we have read and written multi-syllable words such as: re-mem-ber. We have started to study the Tricky Words: talk, walk, know, other, another, water, animal and always. The children have been reading and writing these on a daily basis and have investigated the 'tricky' bits that we need to remember. The class have used our 'spelling voice' to spell words and our 'reading voice' to read them. For example our spelling voice for people, says pee O ple. We have continued our study of the story 'Dingo' and have found some interesting facts about dingoes, including 'Wandi' from our local area.

MATHS

In Mathematics, the students have been studying the features of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes. We have looked at polygons (a closed 2 dimensional shape with straight sides), the vertices, edges and faces of 3 dimensional shapes and have found 3D shapes in everyday life.

Swimming

The Year 1 students have now finished the 2025 swimming program, except for the Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 3rd December.

YEAR 2

SWIMMING - By the time you get this newsletter Year 2 will have finally been swimming in Wangaratta. We thank our families ensuring that our students are organised and ready to go on these days. Make sure your child has returned their permission form for our Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 3rd December.

LITERACY

We are continuing our reading of The 27th Annual African Hippotamus Race. This story is very rich in vocabulary, so we have focused on learning these new words – SAVAGE, SWAGGER, SLEEK.

We also have been looking at persuasive writing. Our students have developed an advertisement for a toy, trying to convince other kids to buy their toy.

We have also continued our blitz on **tricky spelling words** recently. It's been great to see what strategies students find helpful and how quickly we can put them in our long term memory.

TAKE HOME READERS

Just reminder that although we are coming to the end of the year we do still need to keep up our nightly reading. The students in Year 2 are reading longer books with less pictures but we still want to see what their reading and check in. **Take home reading books should be at school everyday** as we like to spread our check ins throughout the week, **All books are to come in on Friday to see how the week has gone.**

RE - We finished Call to Mission unit last week and now we have begun our Advent unit. We began by talking about the Advent Wreath and lit the first candle – HOPE. We will be continuing to light the candles throughout Advent.

MATHS

We are consolidating our units from throughout the year, with a focus on worded problems. We have also followed up assessments for our reports. We have been really pleased with our class' efforts and progress this year.

INQUIRY/LETI

Our 'It's Alive' Unit

We have been growing bean seeds (and wheat seeds for Italian!) for a week now. As scientists, we have been monitoring, observing and documenting their progress.



MIDDLE NEWS

Congratulations to the committee members who planned and organised the Spring Fling last week. The weather was perfect for the day and it was great to see our school and parish community coming together for a great cause. Thank you to the parents and families who contributed so much in so many ways to make the day a success. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for similar events.

END OF YEAR

Students have completed end of year assessments and reports are in the final editing stages. As we are sure you are well aware, the rest of the year continues to be a busy time for students and teachers as we finish our swimming program, take part in the Swimming Carnival, move up to Year 4 and Year 5 in preparation for 2026 on Statewide Transition Day and continue to complete our requirements for class teaching. Stay informed of any other dates as we have a few more events before the year ends.

THANK YOU

Julie and April would like to say a huge thank you to Nat O'Callaghan for all her work in our unit this year. Nat is well loved by our students and she has done an amazing job working with them each day. In particular, Nat has been running the MacLit literacy support program with students and this has been a huge contributing factor to their growth in literacy.

RELIGION

'The Jesse Tree' is a special Advent tradition that uses symbols and Bible stories to show Jesus' family tree and God's plan leading to His birth. This is our new Religious Education unit and students have been learning about characters in the Old Testament and their stories to help explain the historical family lines leading to Jesus.

Melbourne Footy Club

The Year 2, 3 and 4 students welcomed the Melbourne Demons to our school on Tuesday. What a fantastic opportunity for our students!



YEAR 3

We have finished reading *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate, inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla. This text sparked deep discussions about empathy and resilience. We are looking forward to watching the movie on Tuesday the 16th of December. Please ensure that you have provided permission, as this is a PG rated movie.

Multiplication and Division are being reviewed in class. Please encourage your child to use Times Tables Rock Stars at home.

YEAR 4

ENGLISH - Students finished reading 'His Name Was Walter' and they are to be congratulated for following along with what was a complex and fascinating book to read. We have begun our Poetry unit, focussing on poems by Alfred Lord Tennyson and Christina Rossetti which will take us through to the end of the year.

MATHS

Our year concludes with a revisit of multiplication and division strategies and finishes up with mass and capacity. A huge congratulations to our students who took part in Times Table Rock Stars 'Oz Rocks' which included 549 primary schools from all over Australia. Our school came 89th place, which is amazing! Year 4JH came 68th out of 3,007 classes and out of 76 students who competed in our school, the following place getters were:

1st Place: Javier Banigo-Os

2nd Place: Archie Josipovic Rossato

3rd Place: Lachlan Earl

While we are super proud of our students' achievements, what pleases us most is that our students are fluent in knowing their times tables...a lifelong need! Congratulations to everyone who participated.

Have a great week,
April, Julie and Nat

SENIOR NEWS

DATES: DECEMBER

- 8th Pupil Free
- 9th Statewide Transition
- 11th End of Year School Mass 9:30am
- 16th Year 6 Big Day out
- 16th Year 6 Mass 6:00pm

APRIL AARDVARK PLAY & CYBER SAFETY

What a play! Our senior students really enjoyed April Aardvark, with lots of great discussion afterwards about being safe and respectful online. Students have been finishing off their reflections in Teams – it's been a good chance for them to think about how they use social media and group chats.

We also had an excellent follow up session on cyber safety session with Constable Hayley McDonald. Her presentation was clear, practical and very relevant, especially with the new social media ban coming into place.

Topics discussed:

- How to be safe online
- protecting your personal information
- respecting boundaries
- how to get help
- A.W.A.R.E

A big thank you to Hayley for giving up her time to help our students stay safe online.



SWIMMING PROGRAM & UPCOMING CARNIVAL

Our swimming program in Wangaratta has gone really smoothly this year. Well done to all families and students for being so organised with towels, goggles and gear each day. A big thank you to the instructors and staff for their work in running the sessions and supervising.

Our next swimming event will be the St Mary's Swimming Carnival here in Myrtleford. A letter and timetable was sent home today about events, times and how the day will run.

SPRING FLING FAIR - THANK YOU!

The Spring Fling Fair was a fabulous evening and a real team effort. The SLC students did a great job preparing for the fair, rostering everyone on and working together to run the stall.

Kids' Corner was a big hit – the painting and face painting were busy all night. Footy and Netball Mania were also very popular, and we'd like to say a special thank you to the Millar family for their help with preparation.

Thank you to all the students who donated goods for the hampers and mystery jars for the JLC activity. Everyone had heaps of fun and we were able to raise money for the parish.

Thank you for supporting us in educating your child.
Leigh, Gab and Adam

ST MARY'S SPRING FLING FETE















We welcome parents and friends to attend the carnival to cheer on our students. There's a lovely shady area where spectators can sit on the grass area.

Swimming Carnival Event Timetable - 2025

St Mary's Primary School, Myrtleford

Event	Start Time	Swimming Stroke	Age Group
1	10:00	Freestyle	11yr Girls + Boys 12/13yr Girls + Boys
2	10:30	Backstroke	11yr Girls + Boys 12/13yr Girls + Boys
3	11:00	Breaststroke	11yr Girls + Boys 12/13yr Girls + Boys
4	11:30	Butterfly	11yr Girls + Boys 12/13yr Girls + Boys
5	11:45	4 x 25m Relays	Comez, Romero, Nagle Relay Teams
6	12:00		4 x 25m Student / Teacher / Parent - Relay
7	12:15		Free Swim Time
8	12:45		Change - Pack Up - Clean Up
LUNCH	1:00		LUNCH BREAK + CHEER JLC SWIMMERS
9	1:00	Freestyle*	JLC JLC
10	1:15	Breaststroke*	JLC JLC
11	1:30		MLC + SLC TO WALK BACK TO SCHOOL
12	1:30 - 2:30		Novelty Swimming Races

*Confident JLC students