Welcome to Week 11 Term 4.

I would like to commence this week’s newsletter by wishing all our families a happy and blessed Christmas and school holidays. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for your contribution to our school life. We are truly blessed to work in such a supportive community.

“May you be blessed ...
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love.”
Christmas Peace and Joy
One and All”

4th Sunday of Advent

This weekend is the Fourth week of Advent. Readings for the Sundays are taken from Year A.

The Advent wreath prepares us for the coming of the Christ Child.

The circle of greenery is a symbol of God’s love without beginning or end. The candles represent the four weeks of waiting time.
Mass time this weekend - Lay Led 9am
GRADUATION - AWARDS

Last evening the Year 6 children celebrated their Graduation dinner. Congratulations to Cody, Laura, Hailey, Jaslyn, Josiah, Seth, Daniel, Chloe and Alyse. We wish you all the best for your various Secondary Schools in 2016. Congratulations to -

Josiah who received the Lions Club Award for Numeracy.
Laura who was awarded the Lions Club Award for Literacy.
Daniel P received the Farmers’ Federation Award.

We thank Maureen (Lions Club) and David (Farmers’ Federation) for giving their time to present these Awards.
Thanks to Miss Henke, Mrs Lewis, and all staff for all that you have done for these children over the time they have been with us at St Mary’s.

Year 6 Graduating Class of 2016.

Ms Henke, Alyse, Cody
Hailey, Chloe, Jaslyn, Josiah, Laura, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Quarrell
Daniel and Seth
Congratulations to all our Year 6 children.

Josiah and the Lions Club Numeracy Award

Laura and the Lions Club Literacy Award

Daniel with the Victorian Farmers’ Federation Award
END OF THE YEAR AND GRADUATION MASS - TONIGHT
This will be held at our church TONIGHT, Thursday Dec 15 at 6pm. All children and families are expected to attend this celebration. We are looking forward to sharing this celebration with you.
The Foundation and Year 6 children are asked to gather in the Church foyer at 5.50pm. All the other students are asked to be in their seats by 5.55pm.
The students are asked to wear correct summer school uniform including clean shoes.

Following Mass - There will be some speeches etc, followed by presentations from each class group. The children do not need to get changed - they will remain in their school uniform for the whole evening.

Supper will be shared in the Anglican Parish Centre following the Mass. Families are asked to provide a plate to share please. The cool room will be open in the Anglican Car Park for food to be left in prior to Mass.

POOL PARTY TOMORROW FRIDAY
There will be a Pool Party tomorrow. The children will be leaving school around 9.30am. They will be at the pool from 10-12noon. The children will be walking to and from the pool. You are welcome to join us. It is essential that the children return to school following the Pool party.
Following this the children will be returning to school for a sausage sizzle. Your child does not need to bring his/her lunch unless they do not like sausages. Thank you to those who have volunteered to cook the B.B.Q.

SCHOOL FEES 2017
Student Levy $160 per student
Family Fee 1 Child $690
Family Fee 2 or more Children $790
Capital Fee $50
Family Contribution Fee $60

CLASSES FOR 2017
Staff have spent much time in discussions regarding class groupings for 2017.
At this stage I can confirm that there will be 5 Learning Groups -
Chickpeas    Miss Schulz    Foundation/Year 1
Wheat        Miss Muller    Years 1/2
Barley       Miss Wilken    Years 3/4
Canola       Mrs Moloney/Mrs Ward    Years 4/5
Lentils      Miss Henke    Years 5/6

I would urge parents to be aware if that, for example, your child is currently in Canola in Year 3 and has been placed in Barley in Year 4 this does not mean that your child has gone backwards, is repeating or any other such thing. We have placed all the children where we believe, in our professional judgement, the children are best suited. This decision has been based on social, emotional, behavioural, academic, data, teacher judgement and much more.
ASSEMBLY
We will be having our final Assembly for the year on **Friday at 2.40pm**. All parents and friends are most welcome.

KRIS KRINGLE
All children will share their KK gift in their class. Please ensure that the gift is at school by tomorrow.

PARENTS’ CLUB NEWS
Thank you to our school & parish community for their ongoing support in 2016. We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a safe break over the holidays. We look forward to another great year working to provide to the school and the wider school community in 2017.

Please join us in the Anglican Parish Centre, following Mass, for a cuppa and something to eat. It would be appreciated if families could please bring a plate of supper to share.

There will be a Welcome morning tea for new and old parents on the first day of Term 1.

Current parents are asked to provide a plate to share please.

2017 Meeting Dates will be published as soon as they are known.

FUN RUN
A very small group gathered last week to discuss a Fun Run Fundraiser for Term 1 next year. A tentative date has been set for a Friday evening Fun Run/Fete type gathering. This will be held on **Friday 17th March** with a St. Patrick’s Day theme. Anyone wanting to join the sub committee are welcome. The next meeting will be held very early in Term 1.

TERM 1, 2017

**Possible dates for 2017.** (Some of these are still to be confirmed but just a little advanced notice).

School will commence for all children on Wednesday Feb 1.

March 23 and 24 may be Closure Days (Bridges out of Poverty). All staff will be attending this Professional Development.

There will be 3 Closure Days for Writing. (These dates are yet to be confirmed however these days will be one day per term).

There will be 2 Closure Days for our PLT journey. The first of these will be March 3 and the next in August.

There will be 2 Closure Days in August for the Northern Zone Conference. (to be determined). **CANCELLED**

There will also be a Closure Day for Religious Education. This date is yet to be confirmed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Dec 15</td>
<td>End of the Year Mass and Graduation 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Dec 16</td>
<td>Pool Party 10-12, BBQ lunch</td>
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<td>Fri Dec 16</td>
<td>School concludes at 3.15pm.</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>Mon Jan 30</td>
<td>Staff return to school.</td>
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<td>Mon Jan 30</td>
<td>Book Collection 8.30-4pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 1</td>
<td>All children, including Foundation, commence school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Mar 17</td>
<td>Fun Run/Fete</td>
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**Expressions of Interest**  
*Warrack Eagles Under 13’s Netball 2017*  
*Discussion between parents, players and coaches in regards to the up and coming 2017 Netball Season*  
*When: Wednesday 21st December*  
*Where: Community Centre*  
*Time: 6.00-6.30 p.m.*  
*Who: Junior Netball Coordinator Elena Fagan and Under 13’s 2017 Coaches Courtney Clough and Tiffany Quinlan*  
*For more information Contact: Elena Fagan 0457 981 063*
## CHICKPEAS

**Religious Education:** We have been getting ready for our End of Year Mass.

**Maths:** This week we have been revising both subtraction and addition.

**Reading:** We have been reading ‘Franklin’s Christmas Gift’.

**Vocabulary:** Our words are donated, rusty, gently, generous and boasted.

**Writing:** We have been doing some Christmas writing.

**Art:** We have been making Christmas gifts for our parents.

## WHEAT

**Religious Education:** We have been learning about ‘The First Christmas’ and practicing for our End of Year Mass.

**Maths:** Our focus has returned to shape for this week.

**Reading:** We have been reading ‘Franklin’s Christmas Gift’.

**Vocabulary:** Our words are donated, rusty, gently, generous and boasted.

**Writing:** During writing we have been making Christmas poems.

**Art:** We have been creating Christmas crafts.

## BARLEY

**Religious Education:** We have been creating our religious Christmas Bon Bons and practicing for the End of Year Mass.

**Maths:** We have been revising the four operations.

**Reading:** We have been reading ‘The Nativity’ and ‘The First Christmas’. We have been comparing the texts and exploring the language used.

**Writing:** We have been working on our narratives and creating a First Christmas storybook.

**Inquiry:** We have been finishing our Australian wordles.

**Sport:** Swimming on Friday.

## CANOLA

**Religious Education:** We are practicing for our End of Year Mass.

**Maths:** We are revising strategies we know to solve problems.

**Reading:** We are reading - A Bush Christmas by C. J. Dennis.

**Vocabulary:** nought, stray, dishevelled, prime, parched

**Writing:** We are completing our narratives.

**Inquiry:** We are completing lots of unfinished pieces of work.

**Art:** We are continuing to work on the construction of our nativity scene.

**Sport:** Possible game and swimming on Friday.

## LENTILS

**Religious Education:** We have been practicing for our End of Year Mass and considering those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Maths:** Revising known concepts and practicing our mental computation.

**Writing:** Preparing for Graduation, writing letters to our buddies for next year and completing oral presentations.

**Inquiry:** Completing our dot paintings.

**Sport:** Due to the hot weather on Tuesday we had indoor co-operative activities.

**Art:** Completing our Christmas gifts.
The light of the Christmas star to you.
The warmth of family and home to you.
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you.
The hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you.
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.
Amen

Christmas Blessings and Peace

From all the Staff at St. Mary's School.