



St. Mary's School, Altona Newsletter 2019



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Wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



No. 40 18th December, 2019

Dear Parents,

THANK YOU! THANKYOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
From the bottom of my heart. Your cards, presents and well wishes have been overwhelming. St Mary's School, its parents, children and staff will always have a special place in my heart. There aren't any words that could express my gratitude for the last week or so in particular, but also for my entire 17 years here. I will and have shed many a tear. I will miss you all. Love David.

Tuesday night we had a wonderful Graduation Mass and celebration afterwards. What a fantastic evening it was and what a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults these Year 6's are. We sincerely thank them for their contribution to St. Mary's and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary's.

I would like to especially thank Olive, Matt, Stefanie, Marg M, Angela, Cathy, Maree and Nicole for all the planning and organisation that went into the mass, speeches and the celebration afterwards as well as the End of Year Mass on Wednesday with our school choir and all the awards and certificates that have been presented. As well as my farewell Thursday afternoon and the Assembly on Monday. It is an enormous amount of work and I would also like to congratulate and thank other staff that have assisted in one way or another.

There are a large number of people that make St. Mary's School such an outstanding school to be part of that I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contributions and sincerely **THANK** them.

To all the parents: Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children's education. Especially those parents that have their youngest child leaving St. Mary's and therefore have been involved for at least 7 years or in many cases a lot longer.

To all the parents that help around the school: For e.g. our Book Club organiser (Beryl Henry who, even though she no longer has any children at St. Mary's, continues to run the Book Club which benefits the families and the school enormously). Also to the many other ways parents assist around the school; the Parents & Friends Association, the Uniform Shop, the book coverers, classroom helpers, laminators, excursion helpers, sport helpers, etc. **THANKYOU!**

To all the children: Thank you for your enthusiasm to learn, to improve, to have fun, to compete, to be friendly, to be welcoming.

To the STAFF & I'm including: All Teachers & Learning Support Officers, Katrina & Carolyn from the Office, Amy & Catherine from the Canteen & Tony our maintenance person.

Each year the demands on your time and what you are expected to cater for and offer in your roles seems to increase unreasonably however you continue to respond to these ever increasing demands with enthusiasm and expertise. Thank you & Congratulations.

To Margaret Masseni: What an outstanding educationalist and person Marg is but what you don't know is the amazing work Marg does behind the scenes. We have an amazing working relationship based on respect and friendship. Kerin Thorneloe for the first two terms next year and then hopefully the new Principal don't know how fortunate they will be to have Marg as their Deputy Principal and Wellbeing Leader. I HAVE BEEN and YOU ARE very fortunate to have someone with her talent, patience, calmness, organisational ability and sense of fairness and fun. THANKS MARG!

To our School Captains: Kiani Howell, Zed Didenkowski, Shannon Williams & Zaii Pittas for their co-operation and wonderful leadership throughout the year and especially over the last couple of weeks as they have had to prepare for their involvement in our end of year celebrations: Final Assembly and my Farewell, Graduation and End of Year Mass. Well done to you all and Thank you. You've set the bar high for the 2020 Captains but knowing who they are I'm sure they're up to the challenge.

To all our other School Leaders: House Captains, Wellbeing, Social Justice & Choir Leaders thank you for your outstanding efforts throughout the year.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to the following Year 6 children who received awards at Tuesday night's Graduation Mass:

Mary MacKillop: Alana Vuleta

Academic Excellence: Zed Didenkowski

Academic Persistence: Eliza Pelnis

Sports & Values Award: Anna Adani

Performing Arts Award: Shannon Williams

Creative Arts: Mai Nguyen

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2020:

The staff will commence on Tuesday 28th January.

ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS commence at **8.50 am on Wednesday 29th January.**

Children assemble with their bags on the netball court. We will have a short assembly.

Year One – Six then move to their classrooms with their teachers.

Once all other levels have moved out of the area our preps will then follow their teachers to their classrooms.

The Parents and Friends on behalf of the school invite all parents to the hall for a cuppa, a chat and some scrumptious food.

Our Prep children WILL NOT attend school on the next four Wednesdays in February. They will be timetabled to attend for a half hour or so on some Wednesdays to complete some testing but parents will be notified of these times next year.

SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2020

Girl Captains for 2020 are: Jasmine De Thierry & Jessica Le

Boy Captains for 2020 are: Jeremy Cassar & Lucas Giardina

Our House Captains for 2020 are:

Blue: Zali McAvoy & Jordan Fenton

Green: Isabella Armeri & Hugo Fischer

Yellow: Keely Williams & Adrian Bond

Red: Amber Steinhardt & Oscar Devetack

Our Wellbeing Leaders for 2020 are: Isabelle Nelson & Amelia Papal

Our Social Justice Leaders for 2020 are: Sunniva Mullins & Angus Herd

Our Choir Leader for 2020 is: Alyssa Tizzani

SCHOOL STRUCTURE FOR 2020:

Prep - 2 classes Yr 1/2 - 3 classes

Yr 3/4 - 4 classes Yr 5/6 - 3 classes

POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:

Deputy Principal & Wellbeing Leader - Ms Margaret Masseni
Religious Education Leader - Mr Matthew Taylor
Learning & Teaching Leader - Ms Stefanie Harvey
Junior Literacy Leader - Ms Cathy Sims
Senior Literacy Leader - Ms Stefanie Harvey
Maths Leader - Ms Lisa Said
Learning Diversity Leader - Ms Cathy Sims
Digital Technologies Leader - Veronica Tucker

STAFF CHANGES FOR 2020:

The following staff are not returning:

Ms Erin Mithen – Year 3/4 Classroom Support
Ms Melysa Cathcart - Intervention
Ms Hayleigh Davis – Year 1/2D
Mrs Alyce Myszka – Year 3/4M
Mrs Katheen Smith – Learning Support Officer
Mrs Sarah King – Learning Support Officer
Mrs Karen Aston – Year 5/6H
Mr Ethan Tartaglia – Year 1/2T

We welcome our new Acting Principal and three new teachers to St. Mary's:

Mrs Kerin Thorneloe – Acting Principal
Ms Brenda Lycke – Year 3/4L
Ms Nicole Barnes – Year 3/4B
Ms Melanie Bubevich – Year 1/2B

IMPORTANT: Beginning of the year Parent / Teacher 5 minute “Getting to Know You” interviews will be held between 3.20 – 5.30 pm. on Monday 3rd February.

The purpose of this meeting is to learn as much as we can about your child from you. It is NOT a progress report but rather a sharing of information meeting.

We ask ALL parents to attend. If you are unable to make this meeting we ask you to arrange with your child's teacher another mutual date and time to meet in the near future

If your child has the same teacher as this year and circumstances haven't changed you do not have to make an appointment. You can book interviews at times that suit your family best.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions or click on the icon on our school website. The booking code is **up65v**.

BOOKINGS OPEN – Friday 20th December 2019 and close Sunday 2nd February 2020.

I would like to wish all our families a very happy and holy Christmas and a peace filled New Year.

David Kelly
PRINCIPAL



UNIFORM SHOP 2020

We urgently require someone to assist Patrice Cassar in the Uniform Shop. Times are negotiable. Don't leave it to someone else.

Uniform Shop opening times for 2020:

Tuesday 8.30am – 9.00am

Thursday 2.30pm to 3.00pm

Orders via email (found on uniform order form) can still be placed at any time. Please remember the Uniform Shop is Cash or Direct Debit ONLY

PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING CLEARLY ESPECIALLY ITEMS THAT MAY BE REMOVED e.g. hats and jumpers.

The Uniform Shop will also open for 2 hours ONLY between 11am – 1.00pm on Tuesday 28th January 2020, the day before the children start school. Thank you to Patrice and her helpers who have made this possible.

EDUCATION IN FAITH

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

2020 Sacrament Dates

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Individual Reconciliation. Appointments to be made with Archpriest Michael Kalka during Term 2 of 2020.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

- Saturday 12th September, 2020 at 6:00 pm – Bishop Mark Edwards

(The Sponsor must be a baptised Catholic over the age of 16)

Workshop and commitment mass dates and times for all Sacraments to be communicated in Term 1, 2020.

Special Dates

23–30 Dec Chanukah – The Festival of Lights
(Interfaith: Judaism)

24 Dec Christmas Eve

25 Dec The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)

26 Dec Feast of St Stephen

26 Dec Boxing Day

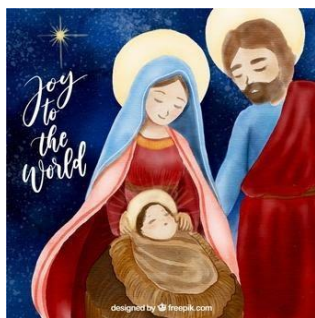
27 Dec Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist

28 Dec Feast of the Holy Innocents

29 Jan Term 1, 2020 begins for students

Advent Liturgies

We wanted to thank all of the parents, grandparents and families that came out to support our school Advent liturgies. We aim to make these an annual feature of our school calendar in Term 4 each year and hope to see many more of you there in 2020.



As we celebrate Christmas day
With presents, trees and lights.
We play fun games with loved ones
And eat food that's really nice.
For this day is the birthday of
A precious little boy,
Sent to save the world forever
Sent to bring us joy.
Jesus



We would like to thank all of the people in our St Mary's school community for supporting us and donating to our Advent appeal this December. All of your donations are greatly appreciated and will be used by Joseph's Corner and our local St Vinnie's to make people's Christmas a little brighter than they might have been. We also packaged up a hamper to deliver some Christmas cheer to our local Sisters of St Joseph.

Thank you for all your support of our Social Justice initiatives this year.

**Grace & Noah
Social Justice Leaders**

A message from Joseph's Corner:



**A very special thank you for your very generous donations towards our Christmas hampers. I know they will brighten up someone's Christmas.
Wishing the blessings of Christmas
Sr. Jeanne
Joseph's Corner**