



## NEWSLETTER No. 1

Friday, 31st January 2020



### DIARY DATES

#### TERM 1

#### JANUARY

Wednesday 29th **Compulsory Assessments**  
Thursday 30th **Students commence Term 1**

#### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 5th Prep Rest Day  
Thursday 6th Welcome BBQ & Bootball  
Monday 10th Swimming Yrs 2,3,4,5 & 6  
Wednesday 12th Swimming Yrs 2,3,4,5 & 6  
Prep Rest Day  
Thursday 13th Swimming Yrs 2,3,4,5 & 6  
Friday 14th Swimming Yrs 2,3,4,5 & 6  
Monday 17th Swimming Yrs 2,3,4,5 & 6  
Wednesday 19th Swimming Carnival—Whole School  
Prep Rest Day  
Tuesday 25th Parent Teacher Interviews  
Wednesday 26th Ash Wednesday Mass  
Prep Rest Day (last one)  
Thursday 27th Interschool Gymkhana  
Friday 28th HDSSA Swimming Carnival

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had an excellent start to the school year despite the excessively hot weather. Everyone has settled into the routines very quickly and our new grade structure seems to work exceptionally well. I'm looking forward to seeing some great learning happening—already I have been reading students' writing and have been impressed with the quality of their content. The energy is palpable. The school is buzzing, with lots of enthusiasm, friendly chatter and happy faces; we couldn't have asked for a better start to the school year.

I'd like to welcome our new preps and our new students for 2020. We have Harper, Kaylee, Cooper, Alex, Lily,

### TERM DATES 2020:

**TERM 1** - 30 January - 27 March  
**TERM 2** - 14 April - 26 June  
\*Please note 13 April is Easter Monday public holiday  
**TERM 3** - 13 July - 18 September  
**TERM 4** - 5 October - 18 December

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Term 1 - Monday 9 March (Labour Day)  
Term 2 - Saturday 25 April (ANZAC Day)  
Monday 8 June (Queen's Birthday)  
Term 4 - Tuesday 3 November (Melbourne Cup)

Thomas and Arthur all starting in Prep. They have settled in extremely well. In Room 4 we have Max, who I hear has a great knowledge about planes and vintage cars, and Tori in Room 3 who just so happens to celebrate her birthday today. We hope they all love being at St Michael's as much as we do!



### SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

Welcome everyone to a new year at St Michael's. We hope you had a great holiday and are ready for school. We can't wait to lead the school and welcome the new preps. We are proud to be your 2020 school captains and hope you have an awesome school year!



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



## WHOLE SCHOOL FOCUS

We believe that it is very important for students to experience a sense of belonging, especially outside of their family unit. Belonging means acceptance, something that we all crave. We intend to focus on where we all belong, whether it is through our family, team sports, our Heyfield community or most importantly in our school community. Each week we will be getting together in multi-age groups on a Thursday afternoon to focus on community building and belonging. This will be a great opportunity for our older students to mentor the younger students and help everyone get to know each other, especially our new preps.

When our kitchenette is completed, we are aiming to have a whole school sit down lunch once per term. This will be planned, shopped for and made by one grade. Our shared luncheons sit well within our 'building community' theme.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our student leaders for 2020. Our school captains are Chloe and Lachlan and our vice-captains are Airlie and Keiffer. I am sure they will be fantastic role models and leaders of our school. I am looking forward to working with them all.



The Student Representative Committee is still to be decided—each grade elects a class representative who will attend meetings and be involved in the decision making. Our SRC plans at least one social justice activity per term in keeping with our Catholic social responsibilities. Our House Captains have not been announced to the students yet but they will be: Noah and Phoenix (Yellow), Keiffer and Airlie (Red) and Oakley and Chloe (Blue). All our student leaders will be presented with their badges at our first formal assembly next Friday. Assemblies will be at the same time of 2.20pm.

## ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite sisters set up schools in Australia and New Zealand. They also set up houses for elderly women, young girls and women without jobs. They gave their life to people in need often giving comfort to the sick and dying and even visiting people in jail to give them whatever help they could.

To start the year, students are looking at the life and work of Mary MacKillop and the Josephite sisters (who founded our school). St Mary of the Cross is a terrific role model for our lives. She was the model of an independent woman who showed great strength and persistence, dedicating her life to the promotion of justice for all and education for everyone, especially in small towns that might not otherwise have a school.

**This year we want to be on track with Mary Mac and...**

*"Never see a need without doing something about it"*



A big thank you to Kate Berry for getting our vegetable garden up and running—it looks amazing and we can't wait to start cooking our home grown produce. Put this with the eggs from the hens and we should be able to make something pretty tasty. We appreciate your time and effort Kate!



## UNIFORM & SPORTS DAYS

Last year we noted that non-uniform items (especially footwear) were creeping into the uniform. Please note that the nominated sports days for this term are **Monday** and **Wednesday** so these are the only days where students can wear their sports uniform (unless it is the swimming week). If your child is out of uniform, please notify their classroom teacher of the reason. Just a reminder that in terms 1 and 4 hats are compulsory, although we would encourage students to wear their hats all year.

## SWIMMING

Swimming commences on Monday 10th February for students in years 2-6. Your child will have been given a permission form yesterday, which will need to be sent back to school. Please make sure your child is 'Sunsmart' for this activity and wears sunscreen and a rash vest. We will be doing swimming at the beginning and end of the year as we did in 2019.

The swimming carnival is on Wednesday 19th February between 11.30am and 2pm.

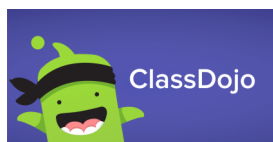
We are always looking for helpers with this so please contact Kellie Hole if you are available. This is a prep rest day and we will give parents the choice of whether they want to bring their prep child along.



## CLASS NEWSLETTERS

Early next week, you should receive a class newsletter. Each newsletter will outline important features and expectations of your child's class. For example, information about homework, helping in the classroom, specific class structures, classroom rules and consequences, behavioural expectations, learning topic for the term, and so on. Please read this information carefully and get in touch with your child's classroom teacher if you require additional information.

You should already have received a request to join Class Dojo if you are not on already. Class Dojo is a very easy and effective way for parents and classroom teachers to communicate with each other in this busy world.



## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

This is a 'heads up' that parent teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday, 25th February from 1.00pm. This is an important opportunity for you to come and talk with your child's teacher about his/her progress and to share any information that you think it is important for your child's teacher to know. You are the expert on your child and the more complete our picture is, the better we can work together to improve his/her learning and development. The emphasis at this stage is less on the academic and more on the social, emotional and work skills. Any 'red flags' that are noticed with your child's development will be raised at this meeting, if it hasn't been already, and an alternate time organised to come in and discuss this in more depth (interview times are too short to deal with major concerns). Interview times will be sent home in the next week or so; fitting everyone in is a juggling act, so if the time doesn't suit please come and see us and we will make alternate arrangements.

**REMEMBER:** In most cases, the classroom teacher is your first point of contact if you have any concerns or issues. They have the most information about your child and can often clarify any misunderstandings.

## BUILDING WORKS

We are nearly finished with the renovations to the toilets—there are just a few minor things that need to be done but they are up and functioning. Jim Graham and his team have done a great job—we especially like the new windows that have been put in between each of the classrooms. It's amazing how much more light these create. Our kitchenette is almost finished as well—thank you Rohan for giving up your family time to get the electrical work done.

## WELCOME BBQ & BOOTBALL CHALLENGE

We'd like to welcome everyone to a new year by having our annual BBQ and Bootball Challenge on Thursday, 6th February starting from 5.30pm. We hope everyone will be able to come and join in (we especially need some sporting talent on the adults' team for the bootball). School will provide bread, meat and drinks. We ask that families bring a salad to share. Make sure you wear sports shoes!



NOT YET BUT THERE WILL BE!

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday during the holidays.

Cooper W	3rd January
Tahlia	7th January
Mrs Miller	9th January
Harper	28th January
Tori	31st January



## PARKING ZONE REMINDER

At drop off and pick up times, please make sure not to park in the area between the sign posts at the Davis Street entrance to the School. **This area is reserved for School buses only** and if a car is parked there it makes it difficult for the bus to pick up and deliver the students in a safe manner.



If you park on Davis Street to collect your children, it is also important to park on the school side of the road. Davis Street is far too busy at pick up time and children should not be crossing the road on their own. Children are to remain inside the school grounds until they are collected by a parent/carer.

## MASS TIMES



MAFFRA:	Sunday	9.00am
HEYFIELD:	Tuesday	9.30am
	Saturday	6.00pm
COWWARR: 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	11.00am
NEWRY: 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	11.00am
DARGO: 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	12 noon

## HELPING AT SCHOOL AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Research shows that children whose parents pitch in at school have a better attitude and higher academic achievement. Teachers who have classroom support do their job better and parents who participate in the classroom are better equipped to support their child's schoolwork. So even if your time is tight, squeezing in some school volunteer work can make all the difference in your family's school success.

<http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/volunteering-in-the-classroom>

Helping at school can be a very rewarding experience for both you and your child and we strongly encourage you to participate in your child's learning. See your child's classroom teacher to find out how you can help. We also have school guidelines for helping in the classroom, which are available from the office. Take the time to read this information as it may give you a fresh insight into how you can work alongside your child and your child's classroom teacher. In saying that, all parents/guardians who work within our school must respect the confidentiality of all who are a part of our school community; we will ask volunteers to sign a confidentiality agreement to acknowledge the importance of this and expect them to have a Working With Children (volunteer) check.

## CHOIR

Choir will be starting next week and Louise has some great sessions planned, including participating in the Boite Choir again this year. Choir will not be held at lunchtimes this year unless extra practice is needed—it will be for half an hour before lunch on a Thursday.

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS FACT SHEET

Please find attached to the newsletter a fact sheet on the virus from the Dept of Health and Human Services.