



NEWSLETTER No. 3

Friday, 4th March, 2022



DIARY DATES

TERM 1

MARCH

Saturday 5th	Reconciliation Commitment Mass
Thursday 8th	Wellington Division Swimming
Saturday 12th	Reconciliation Commitment Mass
Monday 14th	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 17th	Gippsland Division Swimming
Friday 18th	National Day of Action Against Bullying
	Enrolment closing date CCS
Saturday 19th	Reconciliation @ Mass
Monday 21st	Mary MacKillop Online Session 5/6

Please note: Dates may change due to COVID regulations. Updates will be placed on the school app. and on the website.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Gradually we are edging closer to our 'new normal' as restrictions are easing and we are learning to live with Covid. I am happy to say that parents are able to come on site now although there are still certain restrictions we need to stick to if you wish to enter the school building. I will outline these in more detail on the next page of the newsletter. The good news is that we will be able to get together as a school community and maybe there will even be a handover of the trophy in our 'Big Bootball Challenge' if we can squeeze in our Welcome BBQ towards the end of the term.

I'd like to personally thank everyone for being so understanding as we ride the Covid wave and hit the troughs along the way. From a school administrative perspective it is not always easy to cover extended staff absences and keep up with the ever-changing rules but we are doing our best. Our focus is always on student and staff wellbeing and maintaining the continuity of learning for our students. We will keep doing our best!

TERM DATES 2022



- TERM 1** - 28 January - 8 April
TERM 2 - 26 April - 24 June
TERM 3 - 11 July - 16 September
TERM 4 - 3 October - 20 December

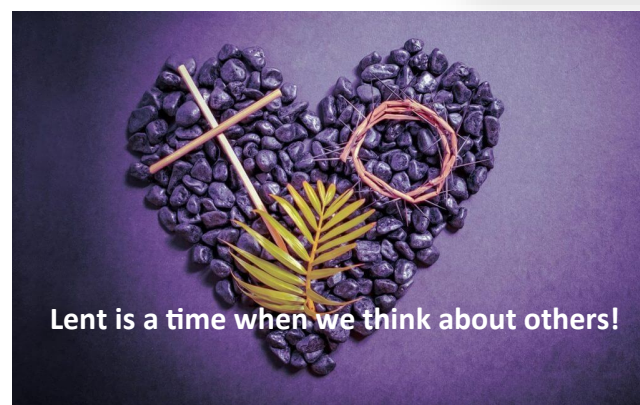
27th May - Reconciliation Week

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- Term 1 - Monday 14 March (Labour Day)
*Friday 15 April (Good Friday)
Term 2 - Monday 25 April (ANZAC Day)
Monday 13 June (Queen's Birthday)
Term 4 - Tuesday 1 November (Melbourne Cup)

SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

Hello everyone, welcome to the end of week 5. We hope everyone is following the 3 Rs of Respect. If we follow the 3Rs we are being the best person we can be. We are very excited to be able to do assemblies together again and look forward to lots of times where we gather together again.



Lent is a time when we think about others!



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.



CHANGES TO COVID ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

Parents/carers/visitors are now able to come on site and be on school grounds. If you wish to enter the school buildings restrictions will still apply. I will try to outline the rules below in dot points for ease of reading:

Entry to school grounds (outside)

- No restrictions or other requirements

Entry to school buildings

- Check in at office
- Sign Visitor Book and Declaration
- Show proof of vaccination status to office staff unless an exemption applies
- Wear a face mask unless an exception applies
- Observe healthy practices (eg handwashing, sanitiser, social distancing).

The following limited exceptions also apply:

- When attending to administer medical treatment to own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- When attending to collect a child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer
- When attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project, collecting a packet of rapid antigen test or similar.

When volunteering or working at school

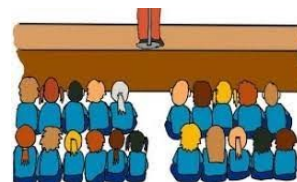
- Any visitor or volunteer performing work in schools (including parent helpers) must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a valid medical exception to attend on-site. **Please note: fully vaccinated in these circumstances refers to having had a booster by 25th March.**
- This proof needs to be collected and retained at school for our records.

WHAT WE ARE NOW ALLOWED TO DO:

- Excursions and incursions
- Camps
- School assemblies
- School concerts/productions



- Interschool sport
- Parent teacher interviews
- Pupil Support Groups
- P & F Meetings on site



- School Advisory Committee meetings on site
- School photos
- School tours



These are subject to our Covid Safety Management guidelines but it is certainly a step forward for our school community.

SCHOOL CAMPS FOR 2022

This year the 5/6 Camp will be held on 2nd to 4th May and will be at Phillip Island. Information will come out about this towards the end of term.

The year 3/4 Camp will be at Coonawarra on the 3rd and 4th of November.



Our prayers are with Luke, Morgane, Poppy and Solveig on the sad loss of Luke's uncle. We hope you have many cherished memories to lift your spirits.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch Orders can now be ordered from Heyfield Pizza and Take Away as well as the Corner Store and the Heyfield Bakery. Parents are required to place orders for their children at the shop.



MORNING SUPERVISION

This is a reminder that there is no yard or student supervision until 8.25am. Staff need to use the time before this to get ready for the school day. Please be aware that once students arrive at school we have a duty of care to supervise them. Please be mindful of this when you drop your children off and monitor the time they leave for school so that they are not arriving before 8.25am.

DUCK CUP

P & F are busy getting ready for the Duck Cup. If you are available to help, please get in touch with Pip Killeen. The aim is for the Duck Cup to be a family fun day, with a sausage sizzle, sideshow alley and, of course, the Duck Cup Race. Make sure you save the date and come along.



Five tickets per family will be sent home soon. We ask that you try to sell these to your family and friends. The Duck Cup is our major fundraiser for the year and the funds raised support the school in lots of different ways.

HAIR

Please be aware that students' hair that is past the shoulders needs to be tied back. This is for health reasons, in particular preventing the spread of nits. This rule applies to both boys and girls, so some of those beautiful 'mullets' may need to be tied back!



ISOLATION/QUARANTINE RULES FOR HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

I just thought I would bring to everyone's attention the quarantine rules from the government website for when you are a household contact and someone else in your house tests positive.

If another person in your household tests positive:

- If another person in your household tests positive during your 7 day quarantine period as a household contact (in addition to the initial case) your 7 day period doesn't start again.
- You can complete the rest of that 7 day quarantine period, and you are cleared from quarantine if you have a negative result from a test taken on Day 6.
- However, if you test positive on Day 6 (or on any day of your 7 day quarantine period) your quarantine period will start again, because you are now infectious with the virus. You must isolate for another 7 days following your positive result.

This is the official health advice but please use your own discretion in these circumstances.

HEYFIELD TIMBER FESTIVAL PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to Poppy, Elliot and Mikayla for their winning drawings in the Heyfield Timber Festival student display. They received some terrific prizes that I'm sure they'll put to good use.





Truth

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday in the last two weeks

Ruby H	24th February
Charlotte	25th February
Cooper H	3rd March



CHECK OUT OUR ENTHUSIASTIC CHOIR

Our school choir began singing together yesterday and they already have their sights set on a repeat performance of last year's choir with a win in the Sale Eisteddfod. However, this year they should be able to go to Sale to compete against all the other schools. We applaud them for their commitment and dedication as choir happens in their own time. Thank you to Mrs Cheshire for being our choir master again!



25th February

Lilli-Rose - neat handwriting.

Marshall - focused concentration during learning time.

Evie - always working hard on all tasks! Keep up the great work.

Alex - his great working habits this week. Keep it up!

Archie - trying hard to stay on task when completing his school work.

Poppy B - swimming a fantastic race at the HDSSA. Awesome effort!

Yvette - being organised in her learning - well done!

Tayla - always being attentive in classroom activities. Fantastic effort.

Poppy M - excellence in her creative writing.

Miriama - great work in her language subjects, especially her writing.

4th March

Ged—being organised in the morning.

Alex S—doing her best work in class.

Solveig—always being a friendly and helpful class member.

Elliot—for his story writing 'Hattie and the Tiger'. Well done!

Emmy—showing perseverance in her numeracy work. Well done!

Lottie—her acts of service in helping those who were away catch up with making their robots.

Michael—his acts of service in helping his peers with tricky robot construction.

Charlotte—settling in to St Michael's and being an asset to our class.

We are so
proud of you

VISUAL ARTS

We are getting some wonderful drawings and portraits from our students at the moment and we are very impressed with the graffiti names from the older students. These are displayed around the school.



PROJECT COMPASSION & HELPING OTHERS

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The theme of Project Compassion 2022 is 'For All Future Generations' and reminds us that the good that we do to-day will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. It invites us to make the world a better place by working together now and finding long-term solutions to global issues.

Each classroom will have a Project Compassion box in it and we have asked the children to think about ways they can donate money. It may be that they contribute some of their pocket money or they do jobs around the house to earn money. I know that in recent times we have become a cashless society and we don't have much loose change sitting around but every little bit helps.



As in previous years we will hold a class competition to see which class can raise the most money for Project Compassion. The winning class will receive a chip lunch.

SRC will organise a fundraising activity to support this campaign.

CARITAS deliberately focuses on supporting people through empowerment. You will never see Caritas portraying people as victims or as being objects of pity. Their aim is to support families and villages with projects that equip them to live a better life through sustainable change. Caritas also has an excellent track record of making sure that the donated money goes to the people who need it and not into unnecessary administration.



PANCAKE DAY

All the classes had fun making their own pancakes this year. There were certainly a lot of students who couldn't eat their playlunch or lunch because they took on the 'mardi gras' theme with gusto!



YEAR 5/6 STEM CHALLENGE

The 5/6 students are working on a Global Challenge, travelling the world in search of iconic cultural features. This week it was Italy and the 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'. The challenge was to build the highest tower using 20 cups and nothing else. Teamwork, strategy, test and design were all part of the process. Next week they are off to America.



LENT IN OUR LIVES

I always remember the time when the principals in the Sale Diocese were given a beautiful Turkish bowl. Each one was handcrafted and had an individual and intricate pattern. The Bishop likened these bowls to us. He said they were a reminder that although we are all the same, we are unique and different. He asked us to value diversity. And like the empty bowls, he said that Lent is a time when we can be renewed and filled again.

Lent is a season for all of us, no matter what we believe, it is a time where we can reflect, re-choose, and re-shape ourselves and our futures.

Here are some powerful reasons to observe Lent:

Because it will help you be a better person.

What's cool about Lent is that it falls just about the time that our New Year's resolutions have fallen to the wayside. Use Lent as a reminder of all the things you wanted to do to make 2022 a better year. It's your second chance.

Because grief can be good.

One of the biggest issues people don't even realize that they have is a lack of grief. You lost a job, a spouse, a friend, or even a period of time in your life that you enjoyed is over. Did you properly grieve it? A lot of times, we walk around still carrying the weight of something we've lost.Share any hurt or pain its loss has caused... Then throw it away. When you do that, you release yourself from its weight and you can truly move on.

Because repentance means saying, "I'm sorry".

Lent is a good time to apologize to anyone you've wronged. None of us are perfect and we've hurt people in our lives. It takes a brave person to admit he or she is wrong. Be that brave person this season.

Because it's also about forgiveness, and we all need to forgive someone.

Just like you need to apologize, chances are that you also need to forgive someone else's offenses. Lent is a time of forgiveness, so let go. The bitterness you hold in your heart for that person hurts no one but yourself. Release it this season; make the conscious effort to do so (every day, if you have to).

Because sacrifice is good for the soul.

Many religions (in fact all of the major ones) require and/or advocate fasting. Religions that differ vastly on the creation of the world or morality issues often times agree that sacrifice is good for a human being's spirit. It expands you somehow on the inside.

Why? Because it gives your body and brain a vacation. You get to operate out of something bigger that's on the inside.

Adapted from <http://www.beliefnet.com/>

