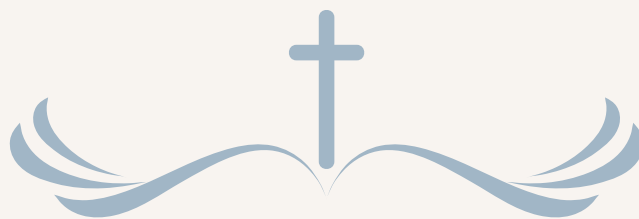




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*This new year, like a new born child,
is placed in our hands.
The old year has gone.
The days and weeks and months to come are pure gift;
They carry God's blessing.
Bless us, O God,
and bless the time and seasons yet to come.
Fill this New Year with your grace and
compassion so that all who come into our lives
may see a reflection of your Spirit.*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's is a dynamic Catholic community of empowered learners engaging justly in the world.



Dear Families,

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2024

I warmly welcome you back for the 2024 school year. I hope that you all had an enjoyable and refreshing break, particularly as once school begins your life becomes extremely busy. We experienced some summer weather during the holidays and definitely in our first week of school.

As is usual for Term One, the term promises to be a busy one. I hope all families feel extremely welcome and I am very excited about beginning the 2024 school year. Please contact me if I am able to assist in any way as I will always do my best to assist. It is my hope that you all have a rewarding and happy year. I have faith that everyone will be enriched by our school community.

Congratulations Prep Students and Parents

Congratulations to our Prep students who have settled in so beautifully. It has been a joy getting to know the students and you, their parents. We welcome all new families to St Mary's and I look forward to many years learning together. Huge thank you to Katie Field and the Parents Association who supplied the little tissue packs (just in case). I hope you enjoyed the morning tea today. If there is anyway we can improve Prep

transition into St Mary's please don't hesitate to let me know. Your feedback is always appreciated.

Welcome to New Staff

Over the holiday period I interviewed and appointed a new Learning Support Officer (LSO), Jacob Krins. Jacob is studying teaching and comes highly recommended. We are delighted to welcome him to St Mary's.

Financial Assistance

All families that hold a valid means tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, may be eligible for financial support provided by the Victorian Government. There is a special consideration category for asylum seekers and refugee families. For those eligible, a grant of \$125 per primary school student and \$225 per secondary student is payable to the school. This money is to be allocated to costs associated with sport activities, excursions and camp. If you are eligible, you are encouraged to apply. The \$125 will be deducted from your School Levy. Please contact Rochelle in the Office for a CSEF application form. We also offer a Concessional Fee arrangement to any family suffering true hardship. It is our mission that no family be prevented from having a Catholic Education due to financial reasons.

School Closure Days 2024

Term 1

8th March: Science of Learning

Term 2

15th April: First Aid Training

27th May: Languages Conference (TBC)

27th June: Parent/Teacher/Child Conversations

Term 3

15th & 16th July: Review Dialogue

Term 4

4th November: Professional Learning

25th November: Staff 2025 Planning

13th December: Staff Handover Day

Working Bee

The first Working Bee for the year is on Saturday 17th February (Year 4). Hopefully the weather will be conducive to achieving a great deal around the school. I look forward to seeing many names on the involvement form survey which was sent home. Many hands make light work. There is much to be achieved.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT.

Prep Yr. 6 Buddy Picnic

Just a reminder that the Prep Yr. 6 Buddy Picnic is on Thursday the 29th February on the school oval at 5pm. We look forward to gathering together and enjoying each other's company. These events are a wonderful way to build relationships and to relax and have fun as a school community.

FIRE Carrier Program

At our Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday 14th February, students and staff will be inducted as our new FIRE Carriers. These people will lead the FIRE Carrier program in 2024. "FIRE Carriers," an acronym for "Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education," is an initiative through the Catholic Aboriginal Ministry of Victoria. Through this program, the FIRE Carriers are commissioned to raise awareness of reconciliation for the wrongs of the past and to promote peace and justice for all, along with learning about and appreciating the rich culture of the Aboriginal peoples. Over the coming weeks, the students will be painting the Totem Poles that stand in our Reflection Garden. There is a Totem Pole for each Level, one for the teachers and one for our community. Each year these are painted to reflect our story for the year. The Totem Poles will be blessed and the FIRE carriers commissioned in a ceremony after Mass on 14th February. Confirmation of times and further information will be forthcoming.

Arrival/Dismissal Time

Supervision of the school grounds commences at 8.30am. Students therefore should not arrive prior to this time. Any student needing to be dropped off any earlier must be booked into our Before School Care Program. School begins promptly at 8.50am. If you are using the Kiss and Drop at Admin, please ensure your child/rens bags are not in the boot, but rather with them. Students exit cars on the left at the Admin Kiss and drop and they exit the car on the right at William St and Roadway. Please ensure you follow these important safety procedures. Just a reminder students are dismissed at 3.15pm. A staff member will be on duty until 3.25pm. Any student needing to be picked up later must be booked into our After School Care Program.

School Camp

On Monday 19th February our year 5 students will be departing for Billabong Camp in Echuca. They will be supervised by our Year 5 teachers; Ella Ryan, Amy Buckley, Leah O'Shea and Nichole Sorockyj. Teachers and LSO's also in attendance are; Olivia van Raay, Kirin Geale, Cassie Lia, Rochelle Lopez, Marguerite Jones, Renee Indovino and Jacob Krins. Laurina (DP) will be visiting for the day on Monday. We wish them great weather and a safe and exciting time on camp and look forward to hearing about their adventures. Please ensure you have completed all documents for your child to attend.

Latecomers

Just a reminder that any student who arrives after 8:50am must sign in to the Kiosk in the school office. It is essential that these protocols are followed to ensure all students are accounted for and safe. Please assist your child to be punctual thus providing time for them to settle in and socialize.

Communication/Compass

All communication in 2024 is via our website, and Compass. This ensures a streamlined approach which was feedback received from parents. Learning will be shared through Seesaw and Google Classrooms. It is vital that all families have logged in to Compass as you are missing vital school information if you have not done so. Having the Compass App on your phone means you are receiving real time information. If you are having difficulty logging in please contact our IT Co-ordinator Jen Baker. ict@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Congratulations to past student Jessica Boek on becoming the year 12 College Captain at OLMC

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT.

Principal Conference

I am attending the North East Zone Principal conference in Flinders today and tomorrow. The conference is being facilitated by Maria Roberto from Salutegenics Psychology. Whereby I will be completing Resilience First Aid training along with my colleagues. I look forward to sharing my learning with you. Laurina van der EL and the Leadership Exec will be in charge in my absence.

Sacraments

The Sacramental and Liturgical Calendar for 2024 has been placed on the school Website so that you can access dates for the entire year. In Term One we begin with a general faith night. All Year 3, Year 6 and Year 2 parents are encouraged to attend The General Faith Night is on Tuesday 13th February. Ana Amorim, our Religious Education Leader, will send a link to register.

Meditation

Just a reminder to all parents and carers that we are meditating as a whole school at 8.55am. This means that for 5 minutes the Admin team will not be able to greet you at the front office. If you are in the Admin foyer we ask that you sit in silence, listen to our students and join us in our prayer time. It is a great way to begin our day and thoroughly supports our Resilience Project work as well as our spiritual growth.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Michael Falzon and family at the sudden passing of Cecilia his beautiful wife. Our hearts are hurting and we send them peace and healing. May God's light shine upon you and may Cecilia rest in peace.



Thank you to Staff, Michael Azel, Johnny Trinh & Dan Ryan who assisted us with maintenance in Michael's absence.

Marisa Matthys

Principal

Student of the Week

Prep M

To all of Prep M, for such a great start to the year. Your excitement for learning is fantastic to see. Well done on trying new things. I am so proud of you!

Prep S

For all the amazing Prep S students. You have started the year with great enthusiasm. I am so proud of the manner in which you listen and complete your learning. Well Done!!

Prep K

To all of Prep K, for the wonderful start to your Prep year. Well done for showing such enthusiasm and excitement for your learning. Welcome to our St. Mary's community.

1MH

Archie C

For making a fabulous start to the year and for making responsible choices during learning time. Keep it up!

Mila B

For the effort you put into your descriptive Holiday Snapshot. You used your planner efficiently and worked independently. Great writing!

1ZB

To the wonderful students in 1ZB for a successful start to 2024. Well done on demonstrating independence and resilience during this transition. Congratulations!

1G

Alessia C

For a sensational start at St Mary's. Your friendliness and kindness towards your peers set a wonderful example for others. Keep up the fantastic work Alessia!

Alexander K

For a wonderful start at St. Mary's. It was lovely to see your enthusiasm and confidence throughout your first week! Fantastic start Alexander!

2V

Eve O

For excellence in following our classroom routines and expectations. Thank you for showing such responsibility and respect. You are a star!

Lucas C

For a wonderful start at St Mary's. You have demonstrated fantastic whole body listening and responsibility in following our class expectations. Well done Lucas!

2M

Ayush M

For settling into 2M and St Mary's with ease. You have set a wonderful example by following our classroom routines and expectations. Fantastic Work Ayush!

Olivia P

For following our school behaviour focus and setting an excellent example for our class by following class expectations and routines. Keep up the amazing work Olivia!

2R

Ruben K

For having such beautiful manners and respectful behaviour when speaking to teachers and your peers. Grazie Ruben!

Aria G

For being such a kind and caring person. It's been lovely to see you looking out for others in the class. Well done Aria!

3P

Jeremy M

For demonstrating positive approaches to learning and listening by responding to feedback. Keep up your amazing respectful behaviour.

Leila T

For having a wonderful start to the school year at St Mary's and contributing to our positive class environment. I can't wait to see everything you achieve this year!

3L

Massimo R

For being such a respectful and polite member of our class. I appreciate the way you always take the time to say hello to everyone and ask how we are! Grazie Massimo!

Evie K

For being such a responsible member of 3L by volunteering to help out when needed. You have made such a positive start to the year. Grazie Evie.

3F

Nicholas P

For being a respectful and organised student and for always following the classroom expectations. Keep up the amazing work!

Evie H

For being a respectful student and for always listening to classroom instructions. Keep up the amazing work Evie!

4V

Beatrice N

For beginning the school year with a positive attitude. Your behaviour and efforts this week have been terrific. Well done and keep up the fantastic work Beatrice!

Raffaele B

For demonstrating the value of Respect by following our school routines. You have done a brilliant job of demonstrating our behaviour focus this week. You should be very proud, Ralph!

Student of the Week

4C

Savannah B

For enthusiastically sharing your thoughts and ideas with the class and for sharing school routines with new students. Grazie!

Isaac E

For following all school routines respectfully and responsibly. Thank you for being a good role model Isaac.

4B

George S

For beginning the year with such positivity and enthusiasm. Thank you for always being focused on your work and helping your peers. Keep it up! Keep up the fantastic work, Will!

Natalia B

For beginning the year in a very positive manner and ensuring you are organised. Thank you for completing your work to the best of your ability and always trying your best. Well done!

5R

Mimi B

For settling in and becoming a positive and confident member of our Community! Welcome Mimi, we are so happy to have you!

Mikey K

For settling in and becoming a friendly and hardworking member of our Community! Welcome Mikey, we are so happy to have you!

5OB

Dante L

For his confident start to Year 5. Dante respectfully listens and participates in class discussions. Well done Dante!

Lucy P

For demonstrating great responsibility in the classroom and school when fulfilling her school role as a Fire Carrier. Keep it up Lucy!

5S

Jayden A

For starting the 2024 school year with a positive attitude. You have set a great example for others to follow. Keep up the amazing work!

Eadie L

For beginning the year as a positive member of 5S. Your respectful manner is something to be proud of. Keep up the fantastic work!

6W

Charlie J

For being a responsible and respectful class member. You have made a wonderful start to your last year at St.Mary's. Well done, Charlie!

Madeline H

For beginning the year with a kind and generous heart. You are inclusive and welcoming of others. Great start, Madeline!

6PG

Marco S

For being a responsible and respectful class member. Thank you for being such a great role model. Keep up the awesome attitude!

Alexis D

For taking her time and putting her best effort into the presentation of her work. Well done!

6L

Henry C

For beginning your St Mary's Journey with such enthusiasm, you have settled in to our class so well.

Will D

For being a kind and generous class member. You are inclusive and welcome others with such kindness, keep it up Will!

Italian

To all our Students for your enthusiasm for the Italian language. Grazie!

P.E.

SWIM TRIALS-STUDENTS IN YEARS 3-6

Congratulations and well done to all 67 students in Years 3-6 who attended the St. Mary's Primary School Swim Trials at Watermarc on February 7th. Each swimmer performed to the best of their abilities, displaying resilience and determination. A big shout out to our students from Year 3 who participated in their first, off site, school sporting event. Well done everyone!

Visual Art

Alessia B 4C

For starting the year with confidence in the Art Room. Thank You for being flexible with arrangements and for creating a beautiful name tag.

Daniel P 4P

For starting the year with a positive approach to Art . Thank You for listening to instructions and focusing on your task. Keep up the great work.

Performing Arts

For All students who have been in Performing Arts this week and have shown great enthusiasm and respect in our brand-new space.

Science & Digi Tech

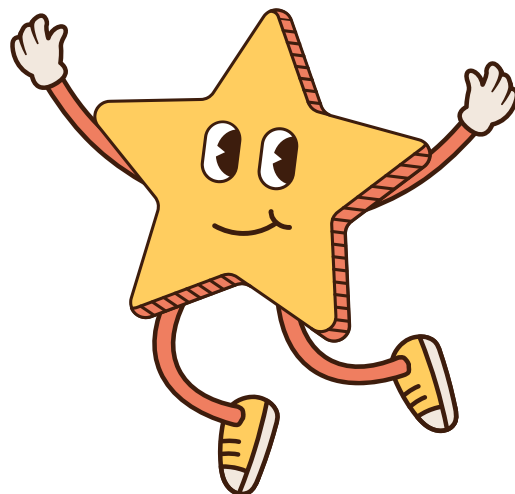
Dante C 6W

For being an amazing scientist by helping out your classmates when they need support! You ROCK! Keep up the great work Dante!

Jasmine V 3P

For being a wonderful scientist by ensuring that our Science and Digital Technology room is clean and tidy. You are a true leader! Keep up the great work Jasmine!

Will YOU be our
next PBL
Champion??





Parent and carer webinar schedule

2024

eSafety's free webinars provide parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe, positive online experiences.

Term 1

Safer Internet Day (6 February)

eSafety 101: How eSafety can help

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and secondary school.

Understanding how to support your child with online gaming

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.

Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary school.

Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram

Suitable for parents and carers of children and young people in primary and early secondary school.

Register Here

esafety.gov.au/parents

5 tips to keep your family safe online



Parents and carers can use a combination of strategies to help young people build their digital technology skills and have safer experiences online.

1. Start the chat

Get into the habit of talking about online safety as a family, so your child feels comfortable coming to you if they ever need help working out an issue. It's never too early to introduce [good online habits](#) such as respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience. As your child grows older, eSafety's advice about [hard to have conversations](#) will help with some of the tricky topics like sending nudes, online pornography and contact from sexual predators.

2. Create a family technology agreement

Creating a Family Technology Agreement can help you and your kids decide together when and how digital technology will be used at home. As a family, brainstorm easy-to-follow rules and display them where everyone will see them. Your agreement could cover things like: time limits, apps your kids are allowed to use and online behaviour. Families with younger children can [download](#) a template to guide the conversation.

3. Set up parental controls

Parental controls let you monitor and limit what your child sees and does online. It's best to use them in combination with the other online safety strategies listed here. [Taming the technology](#) can help you understand your options. Grab a device and get started with our guides to setting up parental controls on [devices and accounts](#) or in [social media, games and apps](#).

4. Choose games and other apps carefully

Use eSafety's [App checklist for parents](#) to think about the positives and negatives when your child asks to download a new game or other app. The checklist covers things like age ratings, managing privacy settings and reporting abuse in-app. You can also use [The eSafety guide](#) to check and set up safety features with your child.

5. Use digital technology together

Exploring or playing on devices or online with your child can be a positive experience that promotes learning and development. Ask questions, be curious and get involved. To learn more, read our blogpost [How to encourage good screen practices for your child](#).

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING NEWS



From the Wellbeing Hub

Welcome to 2024.

I am delighted to begin my role as **Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader** at St Mary's. I hope you find this page helpful. If at any time a topic resonates with you or you would like more information please contact me (details below). Parenting is the toughest and most important job you will ever have and here at St Mary's we want to support you on that journey however we can. This time of **transition** to school can be exciting and challenging. I encourage you to read this article from Learning Potential.



Back to school!
Practical tips and ideas to nurture your child's learning...
learningpotential.gov.au



I would also like to highly recommend the podcast Pop Culture Parenting The Latest in a two part episode (077 & 078): **10 Things I Hate About You & School Success** discusses how we can help our children to succeed at school, especially in their social and emotional development. There is so much we can do to set them up or help them get back on track if things have become tough.

I highly recommend this podcast. It is co hosted by Dr Billy Garvey a developmental Pediatrician who works for the Royal Children's Hospital. His advice is much sought after. It is no longer possible to see him privately. He created this podcast as a means to reach more people than he can physically see in a clinic. The purpose of the podcast is to better support child development and mental health and to communicate his knowledge with families and professionals in our community. Be prepared to be entertained AND informed.

| The Resilience Project | Our Supportive Approach | Parenting Courses | Parenting Resources |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |

Pop Culture Parenting
<https://www.popcultureparenting.com>

Instagram · popcultureparenting
57K+ followers
Nick & Billy (@popcultureparenting)

Parenting Support

TheWellbeingHub has been specifically created to support children's learning but also as a gathering space for parents to mingle. Please note the proposed dates for whole school assemblies this year. Mark them in your calendar. All parents are warmly welcome to visit the Wellbeing Hub after each assembly for a cuppa and a chat.

| | | | |
|----|---------------|------------|--|
| 19 | FEB 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 4 | MAR 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 25 | MAR 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 29 | APR 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 1 | JUN 2024, SAT | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 29 | JUL 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 26 | AUG 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly (book week parade) |
| 9 | SEP 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 21 | OCT 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 11 | NOV 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |
| 9 | DEC 2024, MON | ● 9 – 10am | Whole School Assembly |

Contact

For feedback, or further information, please feel free to contact me on mjones@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au or drop into the Wellbeing Hub.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

*Meet
&
Greet*

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET YOUR
CHILD'S CLASSROOM TEACHER AND VISIT
THEIR LEARNING SPACE**

MONDAY **12** **FEBRUARY**
2024

3:25PM-4:25PM



Library News



A HUGE thank you to JAKE ROBINSON, who kindly donated a selection of brand new books to our St. Mary's library. Jake is an area manager at SCHOLASTIC and has been instrumental in introducing SCHOLASTIC Book Club to our school, to enable families to purchase good quality literature at affordable prices, as well as support our school.

Katie F, a parent in our school, ensures that students receive regular Scholastic catalogues which feature a range of books and kits. Students can peruse the catalogue with their families and order online. Katie then sorts and delivers the books to your child's classroom. Now that we are back in the swing of the new year, I am looking forward to seeing our students in our wonderfully resourced St. Mary's school Library. Please help your child to come to the library, ready to borrow new books, with his/her St. Mary's school library bag.

As author Anna Quindlen said "Books are the plane, and the train and the road. They are the destination and the journey. They are home."

Fiona Maclsaac
Librarian/Enrichment Teacher



SWIM TRIALS

2024

On a warm February 7th morning, 67 students from Years 3-6, made their way, by foot, to Watermarc Leisure Centre in Greensborough. These enthusiastic students were getting prepared for the school swim trials which determined who will go on to represent St. Mary's PS at the 2024 Watsonia District Swimming Carnival. Girls and boys from ages 8-13, swam 50m and had their time recorded. Collation of the times and cross referencing ages, assisted Mr. O' in being able to select the swim team for 2024. Congratulations and well done to all students who participated, showing resilience and determination to swim 50m and for putting their hands to try out for the school swimming team. Well done to all those who have qualified for the WDSSA Swimming Carnival on February 22nd at Watermarc. Sincere thank you to Alex our official starter and all the parent volunteers and staff members who put their hand up to assist with the running of this event-without whom events like this would not happen.



Winner! Winner!

Congratulations to the students and families of St Mary's. Your consistent shopping sprees at Greensborough Plaza have greatly benefited our school.

We have been announced as the winners of the Community Christmas Tree awarding our school with \$2000 worth of vouchers for school resources.

Thank you for taking the extra time to visit the Customer Service desk and collect tokens to vote for our tree.

This has been a great community initiative so stay tuned for the Easter event at Greensborough Plaza.

Great teamwork everyone, a true example of "Fellowship"

Grazie,
Jan Tivisini
Visual Arts Teacher

THANK YOU!



Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference. Greensborough

I write on behalf of the Greensborough Conference of St. Vincent De Paul Society, to thank the St. Mary's School Community most sincerely for providing us with 22 Christmas themed food hampers last month, which we delivered to local families a few days before Christmas.



In particular we acknowledge and appreciate the following -

- Principal, Marisa Matthys for allowing St. Mary's to once again be involved.
- Ana Amorim for her superb and enthusiastic co-ordination of the collection of food via the classrooms and the collation of these into individual hamper baskets. At that busy time of year we really appreciate all the effort taken!
- Every Classroom teacher for encouraging their students to take the note home asking their families to donate specific items.
- To the families for generously responding to this request despite other demands
- To the students for remembering to bring the items to school!
- To the wonderful Social Service Team who checked to see that all the hampers were equal in content and also provided hand- made Christmas cards

Because of your kindness and support, you were able to make our families feel like someone genuinely cared and they were especially touched by the personal messages in each hamper.

May God Bless you all for thinking of others at Christmas!

Wishing your school community all the very best for the year ahead.

Maureen Lonsdale
President: Greensborough Conference
St Vincent De Paul Society



Save the Date

**-Prep Parent
Connections: 6th
March**

**-School Photos: 2nd
May**



Alpha - invitation to Staff and Parents

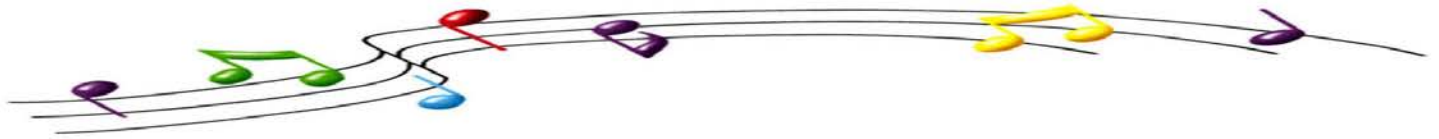
Alpha is a series of interactive sessions in a friendly, welcoming space. Participants explore the basics of the Christian faith through real conversations about life, meaning and purpose. Regardless of your background and faith tradition, there's a seat for you at this table.

Begins 20 February – St. Mary's church foyer

Find out more & register using the above QR code or by clicking this link <https://tinyurl.com/y87kzhj3>

We share a meal
We watch a video
We engage in discussion





'HANDS ON MUSIC' Program 2024



Now enrolling for individual lessons

During school here at **St Mary's Primary School**

We offer a variety of one on one instrumental music lessons in **PIANO, GUITAR, DRUMS , EUKELE, BASS GUITAR and SINGING** and more, during the school day in a nurturing and positive environment. Phone mobile: 0402 910330

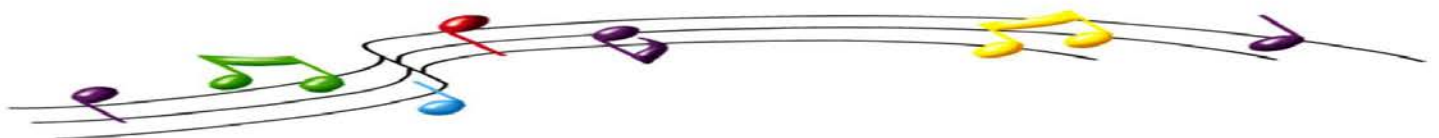


We also provide suggestions on-

- hiring instruments,
- performance piece preparation
- purchase of books
- lunch-time concerts/on line concerts in lockdowns.
- and preparation for AMEB exams (if requested).

Please direct any queries (or text) to mob: 0402 910 330.

or for more information email: handsonmusic.j@gmail.com(note .j) web-site: www.handsonmusic.com.au



Boys & Girls
Welcome from
Under 8s and up.



Registrations
for 2024
Season
NOW OPEN



Registration & Open Day
Sunday 18th Feb. 10.00am – 2.00pm
Whatmough Park Greensborough
A great place to play footy with your friends in a family friendly environment.
Further Enquiries: EMAIL: football@stmarysgjfc.com.au

Saturday
FEB 17

**JACKSON CAR
ENCOURAGEMENT
MEET**

Jackson Car was a DVE Club member for many years. This meet is in memory of Jackson who sadly passed away in 2022. We are raising funds for the Olivia Newton-John Foundation in honour of Jackson.

SCAN TO SIGN UP!

Individual Events

Relay Events

**Olivia Newton-John
Donation Link**



2024
Twilight
SOUNDS

LIVE MUSIC &
FOOD TRUCKS



SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

5PM - 10PM

Heidelberg Park Oval, Beverley Road