

12 December 2024



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Gracious God,

As we enter this season of Advent,

*May our hearts be open to the hope, peace,
joy, and love that your Son, Jesus Christ,
brings into our lives.*

*Prepare us for His coming with anticipation
and reflection.*

*Help us to share this message of hope with
others.*

Amen.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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



Dear Families,

Farewell Year Sixes

As another year ends for St Mary's Parish School we are grateful to have had an opportunity to stop, reflect and express gratitude for the many achievements of our school community in 2024. Thank you to Tienielle Pereira, Grace Gibbons, Taylor Leslie, Rob Williams and all staff for their support and care of the Year Six students throughout the year. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for and proud of this year.

For the Year Six students, and staff, we look forward to a wonderful celebration of St Mary's in our Church and hall with our graduating class of 2024. Thank you to Mel Mayne and the Parents Association for supporting the event.

In Appreciation

This time of the year for us is an ending and a beginning. The school year ends, the holidays commence and for some students, parents and staff the new year will bring a new beginning at a different setting. We feel some sadness as we say goodbye to students, parents and staff who have been a part of our school community, a part of the St Mary's story. We thank them for their generous spirit and what they have contributed to our school and wish them all the best for the next stage of their lives:

2024 Leaving Parents

Ersilia Fini, Walter Fini, Jodie-Anne McKelson, Justin McKelson, Jackie Moloney, Luke Moloney, Michelle O'Rourke, Krystal Warburton, James Warburton, Ann Adams, Dean Adams, Elvio Del Papa, Christine Di Pasquale, Mark Di Pasquale, Sharon Ganter, Gregory Ganter, Blessy Thomas, Gini Kodiat, Bernadette Reading, Belinda Lafranchi, Matthew Lafranchi, Bianca Murray, Ryan Murray, Lauren Norris, Campbell Norris, Melissa Siccita, John Siccita, Maria Sterich, Antonio Sterich,

Rebecca Stevens, Mark Stevens, Michelle Sweeney, Yu Man Yuen, Lianxia Qiao, Shiwen Guo, Bianca Andrew, Richard Andrew, Himali Bilimoria, Dikesh Billimoria, Amanda Muller, Patrick Corboy, Maria Ramirez, Diego Giraudo, Carley Hartigan, Daniel Hartigan, Megan Harwood, Daniel Harwood, Celeste Ritchie, David Houlihan, John Lee, Rachael Livy, Daniel Livy, Vicki Yates, Airlie Noort, Jasper Noort, Rhiannon Smyth, Luke Smyth, Belinda Thomas, Derek Thomas, Lovena Yendall, Luke Yendall, Natalia Merheb, Ziad Merheb, Wayne Taylor, Leah Taylor, Tom Bagala, Lauren Bagala, Sunny Bhatti, Kaur Narendra, Avinash Mudaliar, Arvina Singh, Shehan Shakoor, Stephanie, Gouskos-Shakoor, Stewart McLean, Fiona McLean

Leaving Students

Chloe AW, Selina B, Henry C, William D, Isaac F, Ivy K, Kiera K, Madeline K, Oliver M, Nate M, Madison M, Georgie M, Molli O, Archer R, Gabriella S, Oliver T, Noah T, Sebastian T, Adele U, Lyra W, Isabella Z, Hudson A, Seraphima B, Chelsea C, Dante C, Lucia D, Alexis D, Lily G, Isabel G, Jack H, Levi J, Grace L, Luca L, Addison M, Caitlin N, Aurelia S, Marco S, Hannah S, Harper W, Jackson W, Ava Y, Alice Z, Cooper A, Soham B, Aurora B, Michael C, Jack D, Chloe F, Losalia F, Carmina G, William H, Madeline H, Layla H, Charlie J, Grace L, Finn L, Tyson L, Indie N, Leo N, Savannah O, Elizabeth S, Blake S, Isla T, Darcey T, Isabella Y, Liam M, Alice T, Mason B, Japneet B, Ayush M, Emmy S, Ariya GS, Reece Y, Aleisha M, Nate G, Abigail M

Congratulations to all of our students on the achievements of 2024. All Year 6 2024 students have been an absolute pleasure to teach and to get to know and I wish each and every one of them every blessing for the future.

St Mary's Year 6 Graduation

Just a reminder that all family members of the Year 6 graduates are welcome to attend the Prayer Service in the Church at 11am. A guard of honour will be formed throughout the school at approximately 12.15pm to farewell our Year Sixes and leaving staff.

Final Orientation Day

The students had their final orientation day on Tuesday December 10th. It was wonderful to see the students happy and settled in their classes with their new peers and teachers last Tuesday. We look forward to supporting the students to flourish in 2025.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Christmas Carols

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Carols last Thursday. It was wonderful to come together as a community to sing, reflect and listen to the sounds of Christmas. Thank you to Kurt Geyer, Chantelle Alvaro and our staff and students for sharing their talents and for providing joy at this important time of year. A huge thank you to the Parents Association for organising the raffle, drinks and icy poles and the MaD Team for organising the sausage sizzle, so appreciated.

St Mary's Feast Day

Congratulations to all families of St Mary's for raising approx \$8000 towards the school and Benevolent Fund. We know the students had such fun running through bubbles, water and puffs of colour. Thank you to Ana Amorim for organising the event. Congratulations also to the staff for supporting the students. A huge thank you to Fr Steve and Ana Amorim for also organising the beautiful Mass and subsequent activities. Thank you to the Parents who assisted on the day.

Congratulations to Student Leaders

Throughout the last few weeks students from Years 4 to 6 and staff have been listening to the speeches of our students who have applied for a position on the Community Action Teams for 2025. I wish to applaud all students who applied and congratulate every child for their maturity in success and disappointment. The following students have been voted in the Community Action Teams (CAT) by staff and peers.

- **PBL and Wellbeing CAT:** Regan F, Charlotte J, Gemma H, Elsie W, Christelle A
- **Digital CAT:** Nate L, Jasper S, Hendrix H, Max C, James B
- **Sustainability CAT:** Kiara D, Lewis V, Caleb H, Lucas B, Aaria M
- **Languages CAT:** Cara S, Gabby B, Julianio S, Xavier L, Harry C
- **Liturgical & Social Justice CAT:** Nicholas B, Charlotte S, Dante L, Lucy P, Sam BH
- **Arts CAT:** Alora P, Zoe K, Ethan B, Max TB, Mimi B

House Captains:

- **Bosco-** Olive M, Josh F,
- **Loyola-** Tahli d, Cohen S
- **McAuley-** Dakota I, Will Si
- **Mercy-** Billie D, Oliver Se

I explained to all Year 6 2024 students, you do not need a badge to be a leader. All leaders will sign a contract agreeing to a standard of behaviour and the expectations of St Mary's Catholic School.

School Leaders

Last week Laurina Van der EL and I interviewed students for the positions of School Leader and Deputy School Leader. These students were announced at the Whole school Assembly on Monday 9th December. Thank you to all 28 students who applied for the captaincy positions. Congratulations to Regan Feehan and Lucas Bitzilis who were voted as School Captains and to Dante Lattanzio and Charlotte Sproats who were voted as Vice Captains. I look forward to working with all leaders in 2025.

Farewell to Staff

At the end of 2024 we will bid farewell to our leaving staff. Throughout the term I have kept the community up to date with the Staff who for varying reasons, like in any industry, have chosen to leave St Mary's and share their knowledge, skills and experience with a new community of students. We farewell Marguerite Jones who has been unwell since June and Anne-Marie Sukkar. We thank both for their support of St Mary's throughout the last few years. Thank you to the Parent's Association for acknowledging all leaving staff with a gift at Tuesday's assembly. The Staff will be farewelled appropriately by their colleagues on the final day of school. I wish them every blessing for the future.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome New Staff

We welcome our new staff to St Mary's; Allison Luff (Literacy Leader), Larissa Napoli (Yr 1), and Annie Fitzgerald (Yr 4).

We also welcome Michelle Polifiore (Yr 6) back from Parental Leave.

We are delighted to be working with such amazing practitioners and we look forward to getting to know them and supporting them to flourish at St Mary's.

Staffing 2025

Prep: Carolyn Smith (PS), Sally Kerr (PK), Ashleigh Musig (PM)

Year 1: Kirin Geale (1G), Cris Brewer.6/Lisa Cusack.4 (1BC), Larissa Napoli (1N)

Year 2: Annabelle Robertson (2R), Angie Varvaris (2V), Emma Maerz (2M)

Year 3: Eliza Free (3F), Taliah Postans (3P), Cassie Lia (3L)

Year 4: Olivia van Raay (4V), Vesna Bosnjak (4B), Annie Fitzgerald (4F)

Year 5: Nichole Sorockyj (5S), Ella Ryan (5R), Amy Buckley.6/Leah O'Shea.4 (5OB)

Year 6: Taylor McMahon.6/Michelle Polifiore.4(6MP), Rob Williams (6W), Grace Gibbons(6G)

LSO's: Maggie Bradley, Daniel Burston, Ritu Charles, Bernadette Degiorgio, Linda Doherty, Kathryn Dwyer, Maria Fernandes, Maca Franco, Chloe Holmes, Renee Indovino, Daniel Marasco, Nancy Marino, Stephanie Nativio, Keshela Perera, Samantha Sankey, Peter Shuttlewood, Holly Spicer, Sharyn Trenou, and Karyn Weaver.

Specialists:

Science & Digi Tech: Lisa Trinh

Visual Arts: Jan Tivisini

Performing Arts: Kurt Geyer .6 /Chantelle Alvaro.4

Physical Education: Fergal O'Reilly

Library/Enrichment: Fiona MacIsaac

Literacy Coach: Taylor McMahon

Maths Coach: Karen Watson

PBL Coach: Jane Bennett

Italian Coordinator: Cris Brewer

Level Leader Release: Karen Watson

Exec Team

Religious Education Leader: Ana Amorim

Learning Diversity Leader/Wellbeing: Rachel Perissinotto

Learning Culture Leader: Laurina van-der-EL

Literacy Leader: Allison Luff

Maths Leader: Belinda Cheong

Deputy Principal HR: Belinda Cheong

Deputy Principal Curriculum: Laurina van-der-EL

Principal: Marisa Matthys

Administration Team

Administration Manager and IT Coordinator: Jen Baker

Administration Assistant: Sharyn Ryan

Finance Manager: Rochelle Mietus

School Nurse: Jen Lim

Maintenance Team

Maintenance Manager: Michael Falzon

Maintenance Coordinator: Gary Collings



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Candela Update

Due to the on-going feedback we have received we have decided to restructure our Candela.

A weekly bulletin will be posted every Friday on Compass (Via Classpage and from the Admin Team) with

- Upcoming Events
- Important Dates & Deadlines
- Relevant Community Notices

A monthly Principal update (the first school day of every month)

- High level school news
- Major Events
- Policy/Procedural Updates
- Staffing

A monthly Student Newsletter (created by students)

- Student led information (written and recorded)
 - Wrap up of learning
 - Student standouts
 - Student Learning

Condolences

To Carolyn Smith and her family on the loss of her beloved mum Lesley. We pray for peace and comfort during this sad time.

Thank You

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Fr Steve, staff, students and parents for your support. This year our community has experienced loss and sadness, joy and hope. I am deeply appreciative of this welcoming supportive community. I commend all of our community leaders and members i.e. the SAC, Parents Association, PPC, MaD Team, Finance Committee, Faith Development Team and any other committees or groups that enhance our Parish and School.

I am deeply grateful to Laurina, Belinda and my Leadership team for their vision and hard work.

I wish everyone a safe, holy and peaceful Christmas and I am looking forward to an exciting wondrous New Year.

Kind Regards,

Marisa Matthys

Principal





17th October 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to advise you of the School Fees and Levies for 2025. The Principal, in conjunction with the MACS FBP following the MACS Budget Guidance, has reviewed the level of School Fees and Levies and recommended the level of fees and levies for the following year.

There are three components of fees payable by parents as listed below.

School Fees (Charged per Family):

The School Fees for 2025 will be **\$2240**. The reason for this increase is noted below.

- This will assist the ongoing increased costs of running the school; electricity, water, gas, air conditioning, rates, increased expenditure in ICT, wages, levies and maintenance of our buildings.
- The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) is a measure of a school's ability to recover tuition fees based on the three-year average Direct Measure of Income (DMI) score of the school.
- To maintain the ability to keep up with the Capacity to Contribute which continues to increase therefore, our increase year on year is endeavouring to cover the cost.

The costs of running a school constantly increase and we want to provide the highest quality learning and teaching possible. We also believe in educating the 'whole child' that is spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical. The increases to our School Fees are necessary to meet these challenges and continue to run a school which seeks excellence and keeps up with the rising costs of education.

We have ensured our fees still remain low compared with neighbouring Catholic schools.

As part of our mission as a Catholic school we hope that no student is disadvantaged because of the inability of parents to pay tuition fees. The **Concessional Fee Policy** is available to all Health Care Card/CSEF recipients. Please refer to the website regarding this Policy. <https://www.smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au/school-fees/>

Student Levy (Charged per Child):

The Student Levy provides the funding to allow St Mary's to implement and support programs to ensure we are continuing to educate the whole child in a personalised and engaging manner.

The per student levy for 2025 will be \$560 which assists payment for;

Intervention, Enrichment, Teaching of Italian Language for Years Prep to Year Six, Sacramental Program, Curriculum resources, Consumables, Photocopying, The ability to provide specialist programs and resources, including e-Smart Digital Licences for each student, Audio visuals, Transport for interschool sport, all classroom equipment, resources and stationery, some IT devices, programs and apps, essential assessment tools, Compass and our Website, Footsteps and the Resilience Project.

All curriculum charges, including sports, activities and stationery items.

(All stationery items will be purchased and distributed to your child in class as required through a bulk order).

In addition, a new levy:

Excursion / Incursions (\$60 per student per year)

Swimming (\$75 per student)

In line with the MACS Budget guidance, direct levies (e.g. camps, excursions) must be set to recover the costs incurred in full.

The total student levy for 2025 = \$695

Capital Levy (Charged per Family):

In 2025 the Capital Levy will increase to **\$580** to service the current loans plus saving for the planned future project.

We were successful in our 2023 submission for a capital grant to renovate the two-storey building. We are putting provisions in place to build the flexible learning spaces with smaller class sizes to ensure students experience the arts and science in improved comfortable and collaborative learning environments,

As a matter of justice to all parents, we must mitigate the problem of unmet financial obligations for those who can afford to pay. The school community cannot carry the burden of unpaid Fees and Levies. MACS has endorsed the need, when necessary, for Debt Collection for any unpaid fees.

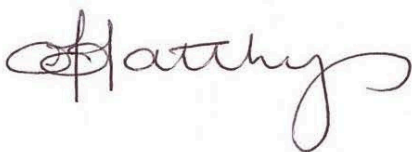
Options to pay in full, instalments, or payment plan are offered. Payment in full is due by the 15th June. Three instalment dates are the 15th March, 15th June and 15th September. Payment plans for 2025 need to be submitted by the 1st of December 2024. The forms can be downloaded on the above link. All payment plans will be set as ongoing unless an end date is specified. St Mary's requests that a new form is submitted for existing payment plans to ensure all details are up to date.

Please note that if a payment plan set up, you must ensure that sufficient funds are available. A dishonour fee of \$20 will be added to accounts should a payment bounce, as St Mary's cannot continue to bear these costs.

Annual Accounts for School Fees, Levies and Camp will be sent out early February 2025.

The payment of fees is obligatory and part of acceptance by the school to educate your child. A copy of the 2025 Fee Schedule is included.

Your sincerely,



Marisa Matthys
Principal

2025 School Fees & Student Levies

Fees (per Family)	\$ 2,240
Capital Levy (per Family)	\$ 580
Student Levy (per Student)	<u>\$ 695</u>

TOTAL ANNUAL FEE FOR ONE CHILD **\$ 3,515**

***Families of children in Grades Five and Six will be invoiced separately for School Camp (approx \$450)

Payment Options (all payments will be rounded up to the nearest dollar)

OPTION 1 Full payment by 15th June

	1 Student	2 Students	3 Students	4 Students
	\$ 3,515	\$ 4,210	\$ 4,905	\$ 5,600

OPTION 2 **DIRECT DEBIT BY CREDIT CARD OR BANK ACCOUNT**

Calculated over 10 months (Feb-Nov). Monthly payments processed 15th of each month.

	1 Student	2 Students	3 Students	4 Students
Fortnightly (20 Fortnights)	\$ 176	\$ 211	\$ 245	\$ 280
Monthly (10 Months)	\$ 352	\$ 421	\$ 491	\$ 560

OPTION 3 3 Instalments due 15th March, 15th June, 15th September

	1 Student	2 Students	3 Students	4 Students
3 instalments	\$ 1,172	\$ 1,403	\$ 1,635	\$ 1,867

A payment plan can be set up by filling in one of the forms found on the school website.

<https://www.smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au/school-fees/>

Payments will be set as ongoing unless an end date is specified.

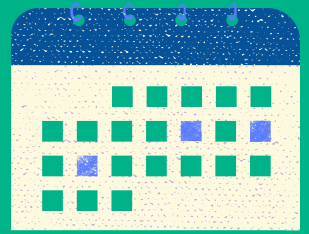
Please submit forms at the office or email accounts@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Should you wish to set up your own payments, please use your surname and account number as the reference.

*The Per Student Levy covers all curriculum charges, excursions/incursions or other curriculum activities such as swimming and sports activities and stationery items. All stationery items will be purchased and distributed to your child in class as required through a bulk order. Some small items will be requested via your child's classroom teacher. This will be communicated at your child's orientation session or at the end of each school year.

*Family fees help cover the cost of salaries, rates, utilities, ICT equipment, maintenance of buildings and grounds, learning spaces and equipment.

IMPORTANT DATES



**16-December: LAST DAY
OF TERM 4, STUDENTS
RELEASED AT 12:30PM**

Year 6 Graduation Details

- 8:45am - 9:45am: Yr 6
Student Breakfast
- 11am: Yr 6 Prayer Service
- 12:10pm: Guard of Honour

Congratulations to our PBL Champions



School Sports Victoria (SSV) 2025 State Teams

If you have a child that will be in Year 5 or 6 in 2025 please read the following information.

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA STATE TEAMS 2025 **State trials are open to 10,11 & 12 year olds**

School Sport Victoria state team registration has opened for 2025 (or will be opening soon). Individual students, aged 10, 11 or 12 and in Year 5 or 6, who demonstrate highly developed skills and are considered gifted and talented in their chosen sport may wish to trial for Victorian State team selection. Parents need to gain approval from the Principal or Sport Coordinator before registering their child for the State trial process. Please check the School Sport Victoria website for all information required on sports, the registration online process and closing dates. (Trial pathway- Division, Region, State.) Each school is only allowed a maximum of three (3) students to attend each trial so it's important that as a school, we acknowledge the capacity and ability of these nominated students to be able to participate well in these trials. It needs to be emphasised that these trials form part of the School Sport Victoria's Gifted and Talented program and are not "come and try" opportunities. Please note a fee is payable online when registering your child.

If your child(ren) is successful, fees involved with State teams are borne by the family of the student.

"Participation in a Team Vic state team is self-funded. As a guide, it may cost between \$1,000-\$2,000 to participate. Costs may include uniforms, host state levies, and Team Vic levies. Costs will vary depending on the location of the Championship requirements." (Source SSV Website)

The School Sport Victoria website has all the information that you need. [http:// www.ssv.vic.edu.au](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au)

Those students who are interested in applying for State Team Trials, need a parent/caregiver/guardian to email their expression of interest to

foreilly@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

by 2pm on February 5th 2025, prior to registering on the SSV website. Or come and speak to Marisa Matthys (Principal) or Fergal O'Reilly (Health & PE, Sport Coordinator) regarding applications.

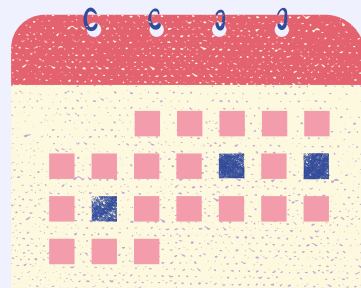
Very Important: If more than 3 applicants email their interest in a particular sport, I will contact outside coaches, team managers etc about that student in order to gain more insight into the applicant's abilities. A decision on who will try out for a particular State team, will then be based on the information I receive and/or the necessity to hold in house school trials.

Kind regards,
Fergal O'Reilly
Health & PE
Sports Coordinator



2025

IMPORTANT DATES



TERM DATES

Term 1: 28 January - 4 April

Term 2: 22 April - 4 July

Term 3: 21 July - 19 September

Term 4: 6 October - 17 December

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Term 1

- 28 January: Staff Induction
- 29 January: Staff Induction
- **30 & 31 January: Years 1-6 Mandatory Testing Days ONLY.**
- 28 February: Professional Learning - Student Free Day
- 10 March: Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Term 2

- 21 April: Easter Monday PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 22 April: Staff First Aid Training
- 25 April: ANZAC DAY
- 9 June: King's Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 3 July: Parent/Teacher/Child Conversations (PTCC) - Student Free Day

Term 3

- 21 July: Professional Learning - Student Free Day

Term 4

- 3 November: Professional Learning - Student Free Day
- 4 November: Melbourne Cup PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 28 November: Staff Planning for 2026 - Student Free Day
- 17-19 December: Staff Handover

EVENTS OF NOTE (MORE ON THE PARENT CALENDAR)

Term 1

- 3-Feb: Group A - Prep Parent Morning Tea
- 4-Feb: Group B - Prep Parent Morning Tea
- 5-Feb: School Sports Victoria (SSV) 2025 State Teams
- 20-Feb: Prep Buddy Picnic
- 31 March to 2 April: Year 6 Camp
- 5 May to 7 May: Year 5 Camp
- 15 May: School Photos



WHAT IS THE PARENTS ASSOCIATION (PA)?

Although our name is the Parent's Association, we also welcome aunties/uncles/grandparents of current students - we're very inclusive.

Our primary role is to raise money for the school - spent on items/equipment at the discretion of the Principal. We raise money through the running of events and various fundraisers throughout the year.

Our 'other' and much more important role, is to create a community - we bring you events that allow families to get to know each other across the grades.

Over 2023 and 2024 we have raised funds to upgrade an outdoor multi-purpose sport area with new basketball rings which will be going ahead in the near future.

The Important Part:

The PA meet twice a school term, with the AGM in February. At each meeting there is a representative of the St Mary's teaching staff, School Advisory Council and the Parish Pastoral Council.

We rely on both the small and large commitment of volunteers throughout the year. We welcome all new members - as with any volunteer group, we rely on a constant influx of people. If you've been involved in any committee in the past, or if this is your last child coming into the school, please take the time to consider becoming involved.

The Best Bit:

While we raise money for the school, being part of the PA introduces you to parents of different grades, experiences, and a wealth of knowledge. The best part of the Parents Association is becoming part of a community and filling up your bucket by giving service.

Come to a meeting,
Sit silently at the back if you'd prefer, but come anyway!

**NEXT
MEETING
(AGM)**

25TH FEBRUARY, 2025
(7PM)



Some of the events we run during the year which offer volunteer opportunities:

- Shrove Tuesday
- Prep Welcome Morning Tea
- Easter Raffle
- School Discos
- Mother's Day Stall and Raffle
- Winter Woolies
- Father's Day Breakfast
- Footy/Sport day





Save the Date



**70 YEAR CELEBRATION
OF ST. MARY'S PARISH
AND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Sunday, September 14 2025

DETAILS TO FOLLOW
IN THE NEW YEAR

5 tips for a safer internet



1

Create a kinder world

Practice respect, empathy, and kindness online.

Start the conversation

“So...how do you keep safe online?” ask your friends, family and community!

2



3

Be mindful

Balance your time online and be smart about the content you watch and share.

Speak up

Tell a trusted adult and report online abuse and harmful content.

4



5

Get support

There's a young people's section just for you. Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

Together, let's make the internet a safer, more positive place.

Summer Reading Loss

"I know my students covered important reading skills last school year, but I still need to spend so much time reviewing those same skills at the start of the new school year." Comments like this reflect the all too common laments of teachers who, after having worked so hard during the academic year to establish a solid foundation for continued literacy learning, find that when a new school year begins too many of their students seem to be starting from scratch.

Often, it is the students who can least afford to lose the reading gains they've achieved during the school year who fall the farthest behind when they return to the classroom after a summer break away from formal literacy instruction.

How does summer loss affect students' reading achievement?

Summer reading loss refers to the decline in children's reading development that can occur during summer vacation times when children are away from the classroom and not participating in formal literacy programs (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2003). Far from being an intuitive perception in the minds of educators, the reality of summer reading loss is well documented – and it is more persistent among students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who are already at risk for academic failure. Between grades 1 and 6, the potential cumulative impact of this achievement gap could compound to 1.5 years' worth of reading development lost in the summer months alone (Cooper, Nye, Charlton, Lindsay, & Greathouse, 1996).

Our research with 116 first, second, and third graders in a school in a middle class neighborhood found that the decoding skills of nearly 45% of the participants and the fluency skills of 25% declined between May and September. Lower achieving students exhibited a sharper decline than higher achieving students.

Why does summer reading loss occur?

Access to reading materials has been consistently identified as a vital element in enhancing the reading development of children. Of all the activities in which children engage outside of school, time spent actually reading is the best predictor of reading achievement – the more students read, the better readers they become (Allington, 2006; Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding, 1988). The research indicates also that students, on average, spend pitifully little time reading outside of school – about 10 minutes (Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding).



Literacy advice for families

Literacy tips for primary school readers

- Point out print in the child's environment: on cereal boxes, food labels, toys, restaurants, and traffic signs.
- Encourage older children to read with younger children.
- Encourage your child to write messages such as grocery lists, to-do lists, postcards, or short messages to family members or friends. Don't worry about conventional spelling at this point but, rather, encourage your child's first efforts at authorship.
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading. Ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think about that story?" "What would you have done if you were that character?"
- Make reading and writing a regular part of your daily home activities. Let your child see you using reading and writing for real purposes.
- Visit the public library. Help your child to get his or her own library card.
- Read to your child regularly, even after your child is able to read some books independently.
- Praise your child's efforts at reading.
- Play word games such as thinking of different words to describe the same things.
- Support your child's writing. Have writing materials such as paper, markers, and pencils available. Read what your child writes.
- Set reasonable limits for television viewing.
- When watching television, have the captioning feature enabled so that the children view the words while hearing them performed aloud.
-

By: Maryann Mraz, Timothy V. Rasinski, *Summer Reading Loss, Reading Rockets*, <https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/summer-reading/articles/summer-reading-loss,2/12/2014>



Student of the Week

All of Prep M

Prep M

For all of your kindness and thoughtfulness you have shown in Prep M. You have made the classroom a welcoming and safe space to be in. Thank you for all of your effort in your learning, you should be so proud of yourself. I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I wish you all the best in Grade One!

Prep S

Lewis B

For always trying your best in everything you do and being a great role model to your peers. Bravo Lewis!

Natalia B-H

For your positive attitude in class, you are a great friend to those around you. Brava Natalia!

Prep K

Arthur L

For your enthusiastic participation in all our classroom activities over the last few weeks. Arthur, you have shown great resilience to cope in a positive manner when class games have not always gone the way you had hoped. Awesome effort Arthur!

Chloe P

For all your hard work this year. You are an inspiration to your peers with your dedication and commitment to learning. Well done on writing a beautiful Christmas acrostic poem. Awesome effort Chloe!

1MH

Hudson S

For always being such a thoughtful and inclusive member of 1MH. You are a positive role model to those around you in the way you demonstrate Respect, Responsibility and Safety. Well done!

Isabelle M

For enthusiastically taking on challenges with your learning. You work well as part of a team and demonstrate consistent focus during learning time. Keep it up!

1ZB

All of 1ZB

For being such inquisitive learners this year! Your curiosity, eagerness to ask questions, and dedication to discovering new things have made this year truly special. You've shown great enthusiasm in your learning, and we can't wait to see how you continue to grow in Year 2. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!

1G

Patrick T

For being a responsible and respectful member of our classroom. You are an enthusiastic learner and always strive to do your best. Keep up the great work Patrick!

Daphne J

For listening and following the teachers instructions and for being a good role model for your peers. Congratulations Daphne!

2V

Josh T

For always being such an enthusiastic participant in class activities. You always try your best in all you do. Your efforts and respect are always appreciated. Well done!

Lucas C

For being such a respectful member of our class all year. Thank you for consistently following all teacher instructions and showing active listening. You are a star!

2M

All of 2M

For your fantastic efforts throughout the year. You should be extremely proud of all of the work that you have achieved. I wish you all the best in Grade 3 next year and in your continued learning journey.

2R

Alexander

For your helpful participation in our classroom activities and assisting children who required your expertise. Awesome effort!

Indigo

For enthusiastically taking on challenges with your learning. You work well as part of a team and demonstrate consistent focus during learning time. Keep it up!

3P

All of 3P

For being such respectful, responsible and dedicated learners throughout this year. As a class, you have approached every challenge with open minds and demonstrated love and respect to each other along the way. I am so proud of how you have all soared with the Spirit. Keep up your journey of faith, learning and love as you move into in Year 4. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

3L

Indi P

For the kindness and respect you show to all members of our school. You are a valued member of our classroom.

Evie K

For the beautiful poems you have written this week and the effort you have put into all of your learning. Well done Evie!

3F

All of 3F

For being such respectful, responsible and dedicated learners throughout this year. I am proud of how you have all soared with the Spirit. Keep up your journey of faith, learning and love as you move into in Year 4. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

4V

To 4V

For your incredible effort, kindness, and growth throughout 2024. You have made our classroom a joyful and inspiring place—may you continue to share God's love with others, and have a safe and Merry Christmas 🎄

Student of the Week

4C

Greta M

For your resilience after fracturing your arm and your persistence with learning tasks. Well done for continuing to put in your best efforts!

Alessia B

For your dedication to your singing and leading our year level singing at Carols Night. You were so brave and did a wonderful job!

4B

Pippa T

For challenging yourself in mathematics and for being resilient in your efforts. Keep up the great work!

Santiago BC

For striving to do your best with all learning tasks and taking on feedback with a positive mindset to move forward with your learning. Well done!

5R

Caleb H

For your dedication and attentiveness to your work. Caleb you have worked hard to get all of your tasks completed and to a high standard. Well Done!

Mimi B

For stepping out of your comfort zone by publishing chapters from your creative writing piece in the Candela. This is a huge achievement Mimi and you should feel very proud of yourself. Well Done!

5OB

Jasper S

Jasper, you have demonstrated exceptional effort in your work, particularly in reflecting on yourself as a learner. You have shown a remarkable ability to write with honesty and sincerity, which is a testament to your growth and self-awareness. Well done, Jasper.

Jackson S

Jackson you have finished the year with great respect and consideration for your peers and teachers. We appreciate your work ethic and ability to complete your work independently. Well done Jackson.

5S

Cienna B

For always striving to complete your best work. You are a natural leader and lead by example each day. Your hard work and consistency is very much appreciated and noticed by everyone around you. Keep up the great work!

Nicholas P

For asking questions in order to be able to complete your work to a high standard. You have persevered through challenges and have demonstrated great focus with all your school work. Well-done!

6W

All of 6W

For all your hard work, leadership and fun we have had this year. You have all made wonderful growth this year. You have shown kindness and respect to all and I am excited to see you all graduate and what you all accomplish in the future! Well done all 6W! Good Luck!

6PG

All of 6PG

For your dedication, hard work, and leadership. You have all consistently demonstrated a commitment to helping others and have made wonderful growth this year as Seniors. You have been role models in teamwork and have shown kindness and respect in all interactions. Congratulations! We are excited to see all that you will accomplish in the future!

6L

All of 6L

For your incredible effort, dedication, and growth demonstrated by each and every one of you throughout the year. You know what it means to work together and lift each other up. Whether it was sharing a laugh, learning from mistakes, or celebrating each other's successes, you've made this year unforgettable. Good luck for your next chapter!

Italian

Grazie a Tutti for all your hard work this year. Keep it up, Bravo!

PE

Thank you to all the students for participating so enthusiastically in the Fun Run organised by Mrs. Amorim. Your dedication to running even in the hot weather was remarkable. Great job everyone!

Visual Art

Annie A, 4B

For demonstrating amazing creativity and great teamwork to design a beautiful Christmas collage. "Star of Wonder" reflects the travels of the Three Kings and is definitely a worthy selection for the MACS Arts Exhibition in 2025. Congratulations!

Chelsea M 4B

For demonstrating amazing creativity and great teamwork to design a beautiful Christmas collage. "Star of Wonder" reflects the travels of the Three Kings and is definitely a worthy selection for the MACS Arts Exhibition in 2025. Congratulations!

Science & Digi Tech

Max C, 5R

For creating an interesting and well presented Kahoot about Year 5 science. Well done, Max!

Jack L, Prep S

For creating interesting and creative animations using coding on ScratchJr. Great work, Jack!

Performing Arts

The Hands On Band

For dedication, passion and application to playing music on Carols Night

The PML Queens

For composing and performing their own fantastic Christmas song on Carols Night

To Alessia M in 5R

For doing a brilliant drumming performance on Carols Night

To Will S in 5OB

For showing great responsibility and helping out to

Colour Run



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Please vote for St Mary's Community Christmas Tree

- visit Greensborough Plaza,
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- keep your docket from your shopping
- take it to the customer service desk for a token
- place your token in the slot to vote for St Mary's tree

**Help us win \$1000 dollars for
St Mary's school.**



Library **NEWS**

As we prepare for 2025, there will no longer be borrowing from our school library. We ask that all borrowed books please be returned to the library as soon as possible.

If any families leaving St Mary's Primary School would like to donate their St Mary's Library Bag, please do so by bringing into the School Office.

**A huge thank you to Tina Mortero for donating quality books to our library.
Our students thank you!**

Monopoly DREAMS



On Friday, November 22nd a group of our Enrichment students visited Monopoly Dreams. We experienced a range of fun events designed to raise our awareness about the role of money in our day-day lives.

Read our comments from the day-

I really enjoyed the waterworks, fixing pipes and then trying to grab as much fake money possible when I entered the money zone. I enjoyed calculating my expenditure and planning a party for six people. We had to calculate and budget precisely. My favourite experience was the 4D theatre, when we were sprayed with water and rocked around in our chairs.

William S.

It was interesting learning about currencies used in different countries. I enjoyed all the interesting activities based on money.

Cohen

I enjoyed the photo booth and movie. I learnt how to add costs, when planning to host a party.

Nate

I enjoyed talking to my friends during the train ride. The excursion was a blast!

Thomas S.

My favourite activity was dodging the laser beams. Monopoly dreams is expensive.

Willow G.

We learnt about spending and saving money.

I learnt about finance. I enjoyed the laser maze and the 4D movie. I really enjoyed discovering all the different versions of monopoly. Mark J.

Jimmy T.

I enjoyed the 4D movie. I learnt how to play lots of things. I like playing Monopoly.

Lucas

I didn't know that Monopoly has been around for nearly 90 years.

Oliver S.

There is a cat token in Monopoly. My favourite activity was the beanbag toss. The laser beams were actually just lights. Poppy

I got to relax with my friends during the train ride. I didn't realise that Monopoly has been around for ninety years. Harry

I learnt that it cost at least \$500.00 to throw a party with lots of special effects. I hadn't been to a 4D cinema before. There are lots of different Monopoly games based on different cities and places.

Nic B.

I learnt about finance. I enjoyed the laser maze and the 4D movie. I really enjoyed discovering all the different versions of Monopoly. Mark J.

I liked the water works and had crazy ride.

Annabelle

It was fun planning for the party. Money chambers are harder than they look.

Maddie K

I didn't realise that Monopoly was invented in 1935.

Ethan

I enjoyed Monopoly. I didn't expect to have laser room. The train trip was lots of fun.

James

I learnt about the different forms of money called currency, in other countries. Jason

I enjoyed the Monopoly movie and train ride to the city.

Parker

I really enjoyed the laser activity and 4D movie. Alexander

I found out that money chambers are harder than they look! The photo booth was fun. Gemma

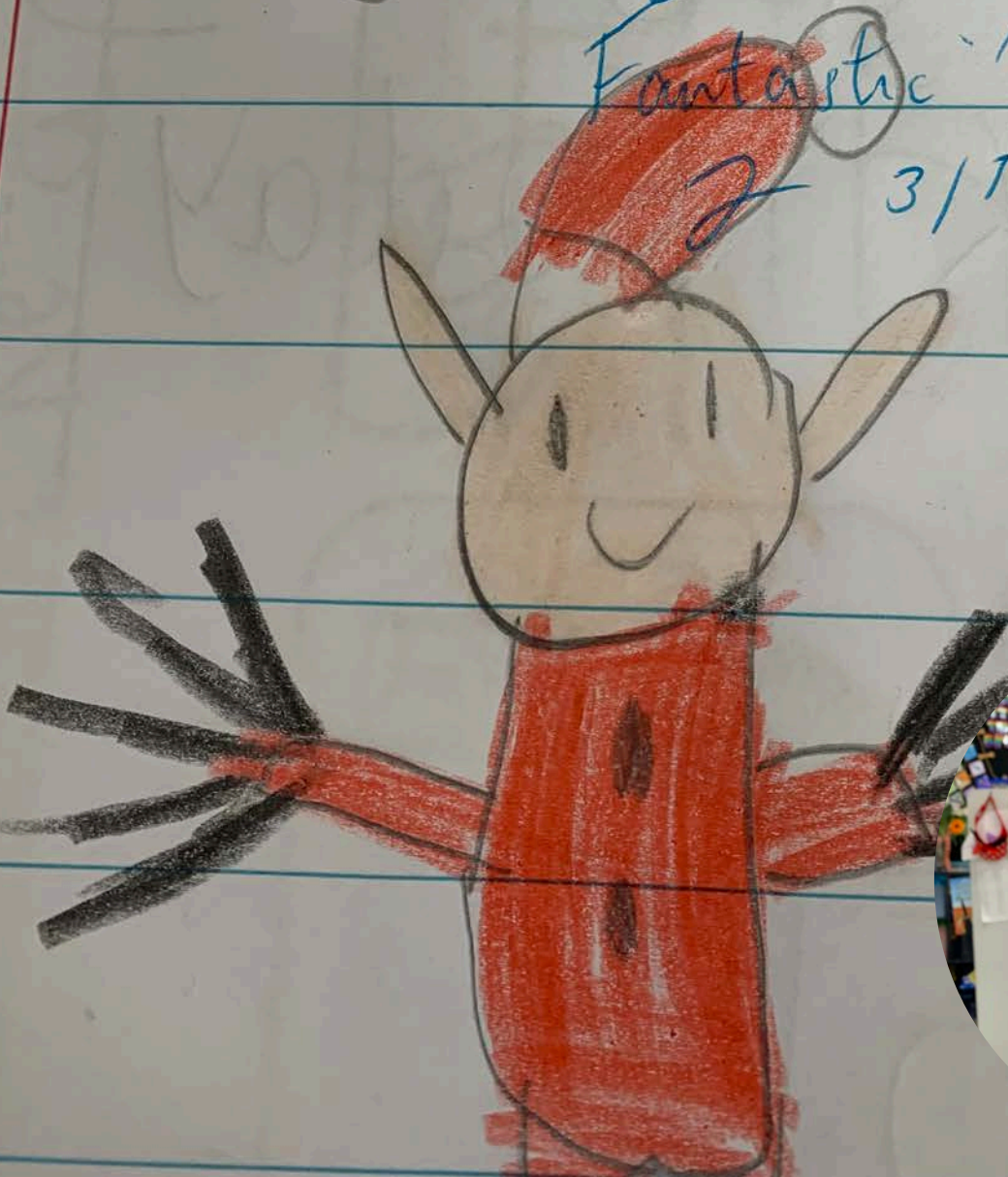
I thought that the pipe game was great and I liked the laser maze. Hudson

The 4D movie was my favourite activity. I learnt that parties are expensive. Nick P

The movie and jail were cool. Harvey

At Christ mas
time Theelf
are making^{elves}
toys. ✓

Fantastic!
2 3/12



Thank you to the MaD Team and PA for the Carols Evening BBQ





On Wednesday the 27th of November, Grades Four, Five and Six completed a St John First Aid School Program. Following on from the Prep to Grade 2 modules, students revised the 'DRS' action plan, which involved assessing for dangers, obtaining a response, and calling Triple Zero. The main focus of this module was demonstrating how to check a patient's airway and breathing and how to place them into the recovery position. Students applied the knowledge they had learned through an interactive game based on the DRSAB action plan.

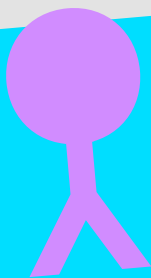
In Grade Five and Six, students were introduced to a practical CPR component. Students were guided through how to perform CPR and learned when it is required in a First Aid situation. They also participated in group problem-solving scenarios, tackling a variety of first aid situations to

apply their knowledge in practical, collaborative ways.

By the end of the course, students had gained valuable hands-on experience, building their confidence and understanding of essential first aid skills.

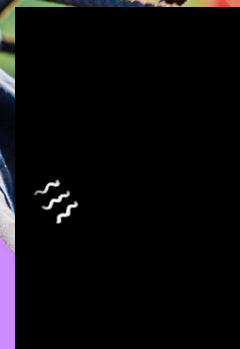


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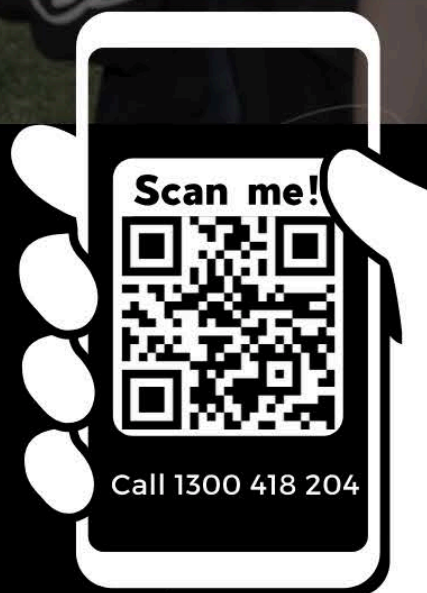
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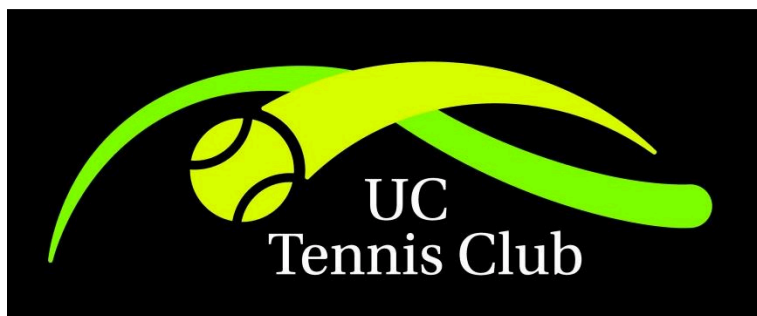
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