



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



3 March 2025

PRINCIPAL NEWS



Digi Tech Community Action Team

Merciful God, you called us from the dust of earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes. Bless us as we journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love now and forever.

Amen.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

Dear Families,

Ash Wednesday 5th March

This week we mark the beginning of our Lenten period. Our staff and students will be attending Mass at 9.15am. We will be explicitly teaching our students about Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent leading to the Triduum, Holy Thursday (the Last supper), Good Friday (the Death of Jesus) and Easter Sunday (the Resurrection of Christ). Most importantly it is about living this calling out in life and our interactions with one another. As my prayer states, we want this important liturgical season to teach our students that our fasting is hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

Shrove Tuesday 4th March

Thank you to Mel and the PA for organising Pancake Tuesday for our students. Our gratitude is also extended to all the parents/carers who are assisting in any way on Tuesday. I am sure the students will enjoy the treat. Just a reminder to any parents with a child with allergies to provide an appropriate alternative so your child does not miss out.

Watsonia RSL ANZAC Day Service 25th APRIL 2025

Watsonia RSL will be holding two (2) ANZAC Day services on the 25th April 2025. Both Services will be held at Watsonia RSL, Morwell Avenue, WATSONIA.

The program for the day is the traditional Dawn Service at 6.00AM and the Morning Service at 10.00AM. Location for both Services will be at the Memorial in front of the Watsonia RSL, Morwell Avenue, Watsonia. We will supply a wreath to be layed. If there are any families who would like their child to be involved in the wreath laying please let me know and I will pass your details onto the Watsonia RSL.

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Student Podcasts

Our first student podcast for 2025 was released last week. I hope you have had a chance to listen to the podcast as it provided important reminders for parents as well as sharing information about teachers. I was extremely proud of the Digi Tech Community Action Team for leading this initiative. Thank you to Lief and Fran from KidsCast for making this possible. You can find the podcast located on Compass under School Favourites>KidsCast Podcast and website under the tab; Current Parents>Communication>St Mary's KidsCast Podcast "button".

At the end of each month, St Mary's students will be providing class/level updates via podcasts/newsletters.

- class/level updates

We are excited that the students have some responsibility in delivering news to our families. We are so grateful to KidsCast, a podcasting company designed by one of our families, for supporting this initiative.

I would love to hear feedback from our parents to ensure we continue to meet your needs regarding communication.

St Mary's Communication Survey 2025

email Jen Baker if you're unable to access the survey: jbaker@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au



School Advisory Council Membership

St Mary's is seeking interest from two parents of our community in becoming a School Advisory Council member. The following information is from the SAC Terms of Reference.

Expressions of interest

Generally, expressions of interest in becoming a council member are made in advance of the set annual appointment round devised by the council. The process of applying for membership of the St Mary's Primary School – School Advisory Council is publicized to the community, through the school newsletter. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the St Mary's Primary School – School Advisory Council may seek advice from the principal, chair or parish priest on the process of appointment. Consideration will also be given to succession planning through staggered renewal of members to ensure continuing institutional memory.

The following is a list of some of the key qualities and skills for members of the School Advisory Council:

- commitment to the MACS Statement of Mission
- commitment to Catholic education in the parish and school
- commitment to the vision and mission of the parish and school
- understanding of the role of parish priest as the custodian of mission, principal as the leader of the school and council members
- willingness to ask questions and seek clarification
- ability to think strategically
- willingness to support the contributions of other council members
- capacity to listen in an active and meaningful way
- willingness to work cooperatively with others
- commitment to always maintaining confidentiality.

The St Mary's Primary School – School Advisory Council meets at least once a month in the school terms with a maximum of six–eight meetings during the year.

- [Working in Mission](#)
- [School Philosophy Statement](#)
- [School Advisory Council Manual](#)
- [School Advisory Council Terms of Reference](#)

Please address your expression of interest via an email to the Principal principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au by Wednesday 5th March.. Should there be more than two parents who apply, Fr Steve and I will discern the outcome.

Reporting to parents

Just a reminder that learning is a partnership between the school, the students and parents. St Mary's Leadership Team has assessed the opportunities available to share your child's progress with you. We believe it is important that you know how your child is tracking so that we can work together to ensure your child's progress. Therefore, in Term 1 on the 24th March we will be holding Parent/Teacher/Child Conversations. This will provide an opportunity for you to share vital information about your child and the teacher will have an opportunity to share your child's results from the assessment days, with you and your child. This will be a school closure day instead of the July P/T/C conversation date previously advertised. Reports will be shared in Term 2. In Term 3 on September 9th the second Parent/Teacher/Child Meeting will take place. The reports will be shared in Term 4.

Infrastructure Update

Basketball Court

The Basketball Court rebuild has been ratified by the ABFC. MACS requested a geotech report and in the last few weeks we have ensured extensive underground investigation to establish exactly where the stormwater pipes and pits are located. The outcome restricts us from landscaping towards the classrooms however we can extend the length of the court. The next step is meeting with Grassports to identify exactly where the obstacles are located and to receive a revised drawing of the court with the geotech information we have acquired.

Adherence to St Mary's Uniform

Please support the school as we tackle the issue of incorrect [school uniform](#). St Mary's has a beautiful uniform and we expect our students to wear the correct uniform. By doing so, we stop competition and students influencing others to look a certain way. It also ensures that parents do not need to purchase clothing, jewellery nor make-up for their child to wear to school. I am cognisant of financial hardship cases when it comes to purchasing our uniform. Should you be in a position of financial hardship please let me know so that we can assist you. We have a wonderful second hand uniform shop at our school. We also understand that for some children exemptions will apply due to physical needs. Please write to the classroom teacher with medical evidence should this apply to your child.

Working Bee

Congratulations on the turnout for the inaugural twilight working bee on the 21st February. Laurina informed me of the incredible support from parents and students. Approximately 80 people attended. Wow! That is wonderful. If the numbers keep up all year there will be no need to implement a maintenance levy. Huge applause goes out to the MaD Team for attending and for organising the tasks

Long Service Leave

I am taking three weeks long service leave to travel around Tasmania in my caravan. My husband and I had planned this journey for some time. We delayed it for our School Review and due to my father's illness. I leave on the 17th March. Laurina and Belinda will be in charge in my absence. I look forward to sharing my adventures with you upon my return in Term 2.

CCTV Installation Notification

Just informing everyone that we have installed CCTV cameras to ensure our school is safe from break-ins and vandalism. The signage and cameras are in various places around the school grounds.

Policy Updates

Each month I will provide updated or new policies to our community for your perusal. Please ensure you read the student dress code and uniform policy as it requires your support to ensure we sustain pride in our school uniform.

New/Updated Policies: all Policies can be found [here](#):

- [Closed Circuit Television Policy \(CCTV\)](#).
- [Student Dress Code and Uniform Policy](#).



Condolences

Our prayers and thoughts are with Kiara DI and her family on the passing of her beloved grandmother. We pray for comfort during this sad time.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Maddie and Noah Harwood (past student of St Mary's) whose father, Daniel passed away in the school holidays.

Thank you to all parents/carers of St Mary's who have provided condolences on the passing of my much loved father, Harry. Your thoughts and kind words have been most uplifting and greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,
Marisa Matthys
Principal

