

# St Mary's News



*The Educational Ministry of St Fergal's Catholic Parish*

## School Calendar

### DECEMBER

- 12th—Mini-Vinnies Day
- 13th—Year 6 Christian Living Day
- 14th—Year 6 Mass/Dinner
- 15th—Last day for students
- 19th—Last day for staff

### FEBRUARY

- 5th—Staff return
- 6th—Students in Yr 1 to 6 return

## Term Dates 2018

Term 1	6/2/18 to 13/4/18
Term 2	1/5/18 to 6/7/18
Term 3	24/7/18 to 28/9/18
Term 4	15/10/18 to 19/12/18

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## From the Principal

### 2018 Class Structures

The 2018 staffing and classroom structures have been finalised. Next year, we will have 3 classes;

Kindergarten/Year 1—Mrs Kath Baird

Year 2/Year 3—Mrs Veronica Tripney and Mrs Melissa Hill

Year 4/Year 5/Year 6—Miss Emily Gusman

The K/1 and 2/3 classes will work during Literacy and Numeracy time in similar fashion to this year with a collaborative approach allowing for a continued focus on individual learning plans. This will take place each morning from 9.00am to 12.30pm. In the afternoon, the two classes will split into their respective groups for other Key Learning Areas such as RE, History/Geography, Science, Creative Arts and PDHPE.

The 4/5/6 class will have two teachers for Literacy and Numeracy activities. The other class teachers will be Miss Kate Buckmaster (Monday and Tuesday) and Mr Nick Baird (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). This allows for greater collaboration between teachers to ensure that each student is getting targeted interventions in the important areas of literacy and numeracy.

Mrs Tripney will continue in her role on the Executive as Religious Education Co-ordinator. Mrs Janet Low will continue in her role as Literacy/Numeracy Co-ordinator and will also take on the EMU specialist teacher role. Mrs Hill will take on the extra roles of Additional Needs teacher and ICT teacher.

### 2018 School Dates

All staff will return for the 2018 school year on Monday 5 February. Students in Year 1 to Year 6 will return on Tuesday 6 February whilst new Kindergarten students will commence school on Wednesday 7 February.

### Friday Pool Party

This Friday will be our last day of the school year for students. We will be heading to the pool at 12.00pm to participate in a pool party. We will provide a free sausage sandwich for lunch and play some games in and around the pool. It is predicted to be very warm, please ensure your child has their school hat and a water bottle. Normal sports uniform is to be worn.

### Thank you!

A sincere thank you for your support in the 2017 school year. I am extremely proud of the achievements of our students this year. They have once again proven to be wonderful ambassadors of our school and they have been rewarded for their hard work and perseverance with outstanding results. Today, reports will go home reflecting the vast improvement of our students and they demonstrate the amazing commitment of everyone involved to give our students the best educational opportunities possible.

**Have a safe and restful Christmas!**

**Mr Nick Baird**

**Year 6 Mass**

The Year 6 Mass will be held this Thursday 14th December at 10am. All parents and family members are warmly invited to attend.

**St Fergal's Church Christmas Services**

**\* Sunday 17th December 7pm**

Ecumenical Christmas Carols Service  
and Pot Luck Supper

**\* Monday 18th December 7 pm**

Reconciliation

**\* Saturday 23rd December 6 pm**

Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

**\* Sunday 24th December 9 am**

Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

**\* Sunday 24th December 7pm**

Christmas Vigil Mass

**\* Monday 25th December 9am**

**NO CANTEEN FRIDAY**

***5/6 Excursion to Bendigo/Ballarat***



## **2018 School Committee Nominations**

Applications are being sought from interested parents to nominate for the St Mary's School Committee in 2018. The School Committee is an advisory board designed to give the parent voice to initiatives in and around the school. They meet once a term and successful nominations result in a two-year position appointment. No committee member may sit more than two consecutive two-year appointments.

If you are interested in nominating for a position on the School Committee but would like further information, please contact Committee President David Hill (0427 784 837).

Nominations for the 2018 Committee close on Friday 15 December 2017 and nomination forms should be handed in to the front office.

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### **2018 School Committee Nomination**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to nominate for the St Mary's School Committee in 2018.

I understand that Committee meetings are held once a term and that successful nominations result in a two year appointment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Presentation Night Farewell Speech – 2017 by Miss Wade

Good evening distinguished guests, parents, friends and students,

I appreciate the opportunity to express my thanks to the community, the staff and the students at St. Mary's school for the past 26 years of teaching. A big thank you to Nick and the team for including a space for me to share this address tonight at your Presentation Night.

In 1991 I had a phone call from my Mum with the news that St. Mary's had a part-time teaching position advertised for one year only. Thinking this would be a good 'stepping stone' to gather up some experience then go out into the bigger world of teaching, I applied and was appointed the position. At the end of '91 the principal, Mrs Janette Moore, offered me full-time employment. What's another couple of years I thought? Good opportunity to gain a little more experience I thought. Well, that was the start of a very long and rewarding teaching career at St. Mary's School. Secretly, I don't think my Mum & Dad ever wanted me to take up position anywhere else as they were happy to have their one and only daughter home. They have been my 'rock' throughout my entire teaching career, always proud of everything my students had achieved and always supportive, of which I am truly grateful.

Now, 26 years have flown by as I stand here for the last time to formally address my colleagues, parents and my wonderful children. It has been a happy time spent at St. Mary's giving guidance, sharing expertise and imparting knowledge and skills while you all learn and grow. I have been fortunate enough to have received ample guidance from predecessors gone before me which has helped me to grow in my role as educator and I hope that I have given useful insight to all my colleagues to the best of my knowledge and ability through my time here as well.

It is with mixed feelings that I have taken up another role with Trinity Catholic School, however, the additional experience may well open doors for me for future ventures in education and who knows? These ventures may even bring me back to this wonderful community in the future.

Hay is and always will be my home – my experiences in Hay where I have coached, nurtured, supported and led hundreds of young people from the community in preparation for their educational journey, preparing and leading them into secondary education, have been unbelievably rewarding – I can't walk up the street without some young man or woman approaching me and reminding me of the experiences we had in the classroom. It makes me very proud to be associated with the community in such a way.

I am also very appreciative of the opportunity to be part of the production of several successful school musicals in conjunction with the whole community – St. Mary's school is a vital cog in the wheel of the total community. Our involvement with community sports, Carols by Candlelight, Senior Citizens Week and Haydays reflects the school's commitment to the community.

You can't beat seeing the enjoyment in a student's eyes on achieving an understanding of a concept or realising hidden potential through a production or on the sporting field or through some other endeavour. And having a student say thanks is priceless.

I have been privileged to have had in my classroom many, many fine young people, 26 years ago some of them began to teach me how to teach.

They helped me build the first bridges. From them, I learned true teaching is a special partnership. It only really works when the teacher reaches beyond the outer image, looks into the heart, understands and respects what they see. The student's role is to allow themselves to be seen, not just for who they are, or have been, but also for who they could be.

Despite the many changes in the curriculum over the years and the countless challenges we have all faced, there has always been and always will be a constant. That is the inner need to strive for what is true and right.

I look back with gratitude that I entered a profession dedicated to assisting young people achieve their potential, to revealing or finding their best selves and that I chose St. Mary's school as my starting point. As I leave it, I am taking many of you with me. You will live on in my memories. I'll always remember the things we achieved together: the many successful musicals we put on, the choir performances, the speeches you gave, the sporting achievements, the masses, the graduations and end of year concerts.

As I leave Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese, I would like to thank the CEO staff for your dedicated support of all your teachers. Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese continues to provide excellent opportunities for the education of our children and the professional development of teachers. The opportunities the CEO has provided me as a teacher is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank Father Chris for your support and guidance you have provided me in the years you have been at St. Mary's School. I wish you every bit of happiness and blessings for next year.

I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues for their support, friendship and exemplars of what it is to serve faithfully and with humility. I will always remember our shared laughter, our joys, our success stories as well as our struggles. Thank you for the many shared ideas, the social outings and the Friday afternoon 'milkshakes' over the years.

To the parents of St. Mary's both past and present, thank-you for the many times in which you have all supported me as a teacher and friend. Thank you for the many notes of appreciation, words of encouragement, sharing of resources, and time but mostly for your sincerity and trust. Many of you have been invaluable leaders in our school community through the School Board, P&F and generally 'being there' when needed. A school cannot function without the help of a dedicated parent body. I am truly grateful to all the parents who over the years have fit this mould. Words cannot convey the appreciation.

To the students, my beautiful students. Thank you for the most wonderful times we have had in and out of the classroom, on stage, on sporting fields, on excursions. Thank you for your smiles and genuine love of life. Thank you for 'stepping up' when I have challenged you and for 'reaching for the stars' when I have encouraged you to go above and beyond. May your future be full of many success stories and may you continue to climb the rungs of that ladder to reach your greatest potentials.

And lastly, I leave you with this thought. We are unique. We are neither better nor less than anybody else but rather the best or least of ourselves. I am still working on finding the best of me. It is an exciting on-going journey. Thank-you for being my traveling companions along a large and important part of my way. I am forever grateful for your stimulating company and the enormous collection of shared experiences indelibly printed on my mind.

A big thank you to all who have supported and assisted me over the years – I extend my most sincere best wishes to Nick and all St. Mary’s staff, students and parents for 2018.

I will leave you with a quote by Robert Louis Stevenson – “Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant”. May you be successful in planting a beautiful garden.

Take care and God bless.

Thank you

Miss Donna Wade

