



Newsletter

St Mary's Catholic School Wellington

22 November 2024
TERM 4 WEEK 6

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“

THE FUTURE DEPENDS
ON WHAT YOU DO
TODAY.

”

-MAHATMA GANDHI

“ The future will depend on what you do today.”

Dear St Mary's Families,

Congratulations to students who presented nomination speeches today for Primary and Secondary School captains for the coming year. Your reflections in these speeches were inspirational. We will be announcing our 2025 Captains in the coming week.

Our Year 10 students are finishing up their St Mary's journey and will have a change of leadership ceremony, Year 10 Mass and Graduation dinner next week. Students will then embark on work experience to complete the term.

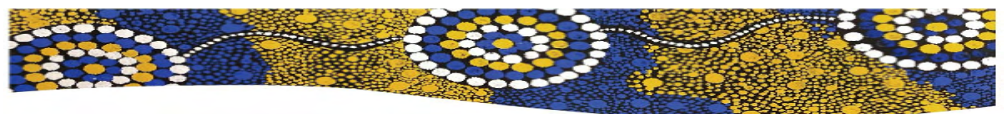
Congratulations to students who participated in the recent Maths Challenge day in Mudgee where our students returned with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies across the age categories. We are extremely proud of your achievements.

This week we celebrated with our Little Saints at their Graduation which was followed by a Kindergarten information session. We are excited to be welcoming these children into our 2025 Kindergarten class.

Thank you to our families for your continued support of your child's learning at St Mary's.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Leanne Clarke
Principal



VISION STATEMENT

St Mary's Catholic School is a Christ centred, inclusive community where individuals are supported to learn at high levels and to grow spiritually, socially and physically.

“We have gifts that differ, according to the grace given to each of us.”

(Romans 2:6)

DIARY DATES

Term 4 Week 7

Mon 25 Nov Year 7-8 Burrendong Excursion | Years 9-10 Sydney Elective Excursion | Year 6 Maranatha House Visit 2pm

Tues 26 Nov Year 7-8 Burrendong Excursion | Years 9-10 Sydney Elective Excursion

Wed 27 Nov

Thur 28 Nov Year 7 Diocesan Religion Test | K-6 and 7-10 Assemblies

Frid 29 Nov 10am Change Of Leadership | 6pm Graduation Mass and Dinner

Term 4 Week 8

Mon 2 Dec Work Experience | K-2 Intensive Swimming | 2pm Maranatha House Visit

Tues 3 Dec Life Education Van K-6

Wed 4 Dec Year 6 into 7 Transition Day

Thur 5 Dec Movember Wellington High Touch Game

Frid 6 Dec Newsletter



COMPASS APP

Please ensure you have Compass, the school app, on your phone as this is where alerts and important information is posted.

2024 School Term Dates

Term Dates 2024

Term 1	Thursday 1 February - Friday 12 April
Term 2	Tuesday 30 April - Friday 5 July
Term 3	Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September
Term 4	Tuesday 15 October - Friday 20 December



Students Last Day

Students last day is Wednesday 18 December.

Student Enrolments 2025

We are currently finalising our student numbers and staffing for 2025.

If you know of any families who are intending to enrol at St Mary's, please encourage them to enquire at the school office next week.

If your family will not be with us in 2025 please notify the school office next week so that we can organise exit forms and the transfer of school records.





St Patrick's Church

Wellington

Weekly Mass Times

9am Monday to Friday

6pm Saturday

8am 2nd & 4th Sunday

10am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

*"Kind words can be
short and easy to
speak, but their echoes
are truly endless."*

Mother Teresa

Religious Education

It was a busy time at St Mary's recently with the Bathurst Diocese Office holding two diocesan events at our school.

Fr Rob Galea - Secondary Praise and Worship

On Thursday of Week 5, 200 students from Years 7-10 across the Diocesan schools gathered in the Infant De Prague hall for a day with Fr Rob Galea. Our Year 9 and 10 students participated in this activity. Fr Rob has an amazing life story that saw him struggle as a teenager in Malta. A rebellious teenager, he managed to find support from those around him and strength in the Lord. Fr Rob is a musician and engages children with his musical talent and positive attitude. St Mary's students had a wonderful day, many commenting on how good Fr Rob was.

iRise

On Friday of week 5, 150 Year 11 leaders came together for a day of leadership inspiration. Our Year 10 students were invited to this day also. Bishop Michael McKenna attended and spoke with the students about Christian leadership. Fr Rob again engaged the students with music and personal stories. There were breakout sessions across the school that allowed a focused participation on topics such as indigenous perspectives, the environment and social justice. Congratulations to these students for their amazing participation and interaction with the Year 11 students from across the Diocese: Lara Gersbach, Millie Jones, Lily Stevens, Gam Kaewket, Joshua King and Lennox Bennett.

Thank you to all staff for your support of these events and particular thanks go to Mrs Rebecca O'Donnell and Mrs Kristy Hawkins for cleaning and preparing the hall area and classrooms for the functions and to Ms Sarah Doherty for her barista skills in providing coffee for the staff attending.

Year 2 Reconciliation

Fifteen St Mary's children from Year 2 made the Sacrament of First Reconciliation recently. Congratulations to the students on the preparation and reverence for this sacrament. Following the service, families gathered for a pizza supper in the hall COLA area, enjoying a chance for social interaction. Thank you to Mrs Liz Carberry for her support of the children and preparing them for the sacrament, to Mrs Sara Stevens for so beautifully decorating the COLA area and to Fr Carl MacKander and Fr Paul Devitt from Bathurst.

Year 5 and 9 Leadership Days

Year 5 and Year 9 participated in retreat days this week to focus on student leadership. These two classes will be the seniors in the primary and secondary sections of the school and this brings particular leadership responsibilities for all students in these classes next year. They also considered the qualities desired for students seeking leadership positions, particularly as we look to elect our School Captains for 2025.

Mr Christopher Stevens

Leader of Ministry and Mission



Learning Matters

K-6

Year 5 Leadership Day

Year 5 had a great day at their Leadership Retreat this week. The day focussed on the different styles of effective leadership, the reviewing of different leaders and role models from Australia and around the world, as well as some time for self-reflection of their own unique leadership qualities. The day concluded with voting for the nominees for primary school captain.

As the Year 5 teacher this year, I am extremely proud of every single member of the class and consider each and every student as leadership material. They all have their own unique qualities and characteristics that would make them great leaders in a wide range of fields. Congratulations and best of luck to those students nominated for the Primary Captains roles for 2025 and all the best for the upcoming speeches on Friday.

Little Saints Graduation / Kinder Orientation

The Little Saints had their graduation ceremony last Thursday. This was a memorable event, as students reflected on some wonderful moments throughout the year. The graduation ceremony was followed by a Kindergarten Parent Information session for parents of students beginning in 2025.

Thanks to Mrs Prendergast and Ms Hibberd for their fantastic efforts throughout the year with the Little Saints.

Mr John Nugent

K-6 Team Leader

7-10

Exams have been rolling along very well. Year 9-10 are all complete and now they will be preparing for their excursion to Sydney next week and then work experience. Year 7-8 are finishing up Exams today then heading to the Sport and Recreation Centre at Lake Burrendong on Monday.

Please remember the bus leaves the school on Monday at the following times:

Year 7/8 Burrendong 8am

Year 9/10 Sydney 6am

Mr Alistaire Thompson

Year 7-10 Team Leader

SCHOOL Information

Year 7-10 Exams

Semester 2 exams concluded today with Year 7 and 8 students sitting their Technology and Music exams. Teachers are now busy marking exams, providing feedback and compiling grades for Semester 2 reports which will be released in Week 10.

Primary and School Captain Speeches

Year 5 and Year 9 students participated in leadership days earlier this week. Part of the day involves the nomination of 2025 Primary Captains and School Captain candidates. Today, students and families gathered in the school hall to hear speeches composed by the nominated students, with the theme being 'Leaders that Inspire You'.

Students will now have the opportunity to vote for their preferred Primary and School Captains, with our leaders for 2025 being announced early in Week 7.

Year 6 into 7 Transition Day

On Wednesday 4 December, Year 6 students will have the opportunity to experience a day following a secondary timetable. Please keep an eye on Compass for further information on the transition day.

Mr Allan Jones

Assistant Principal



School Wide Positive Behaviour for Learning “SPB4L”

SPB4L Focus - ‘Respecting Others’

Respecting Others continues to be our SPB4L theme in Term 4. Our initial focus was on respecting the learning needs of others. Next week we shift our focus to treating others with respect, to help ensure that everyone feels safe at our school.

SPB4L Cub Credits Shop

Students are reminded to check the Cub Credits shop regularly for new items to purchase using their Cub Credits. Some of the recently added basketballs and footballs are still available to purchase using Cub Credits (get in quick before they sell out!).

Mr Allan Jones
Assistant Principal

Farewell to Geert

Geert has been on extended leave for the past 18 months and will be officially retiring from St Mary’s next week. Geert gracefully declined our offer to come in for a special morning tea, however Leanne did meet with him this week and gave him the card along with a gift from St Mary’s to thank him for his many years of service as groundsman at St Mary’s. If you see Geert around Wellington please extend your thanks to him as well.

Thank you to Rachael Whiteley

Rachael has been on leave this year and has decided to move on from St Mary’s in 2025 to continue her journey in education. We thank Rachael for the years she has invested in our school and students and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



Draft Sporting Events 2025 Term 1:

-14 February School
Swimming Carnival

-27 February Primary
Western Swimming
Carnival

-28 February Secondary
Diocese Touch Football
Trials

-4 March Diocese
Secondary Soccer Trials

-10 March Secondary
Diocese Swimming
Carnival

-11 March Primary
Diocese Swimming
Carnival

Sport

Summer Trials

Well done to all students who competed in the Bathurst Diocese Summer Trials in Dubbo last week.

Will Carney, Jasper Telfer, Billy Mitchell, Oliver Spradbrow, Braxton Webster, Jackson Reid, Evie Whiteley, Pippa Horton, Stephanie Frogley, Sophie Brown, Lily Nugent, Ruby Mace, Sophie Finn (Touch Football) and Jackson Angell (Cricket).

Well done to Jasper Telfer who made it into the Possible Probables game and congratulations to Evie Whiteley, Pippa Horton, Stephanie Frogley, Sophie Brown and Will Carney who have gained selection into the Diocese Touch Football Teams for 2025 to play in the Polding Trials in Port Macquarie.

Well done everyone.



November

In Week 8, St Mary's will be playing a friendly mixed touch football match against Wellington High School. The match is a fundraiser to help gain more awareness for men's prostate cancer, testicular cancer, suicide awareness and prevention.

Mr Alistaire Thompson
Sport Coordinator



Intensive Swimming

K-2 Intensive Swimming will be held in Week 8 and Week 9 (Monday 2 December to Friday 13 December 2024 - school days only). Lessons will be conducted from 11:45am - 2:45pm.

Students are asked to bring the following:

- a rashie or T-shirt (to wear over their swimmers when in the pool and to walk down/back)
- thongs/crocs or slip on style shoes to walk down to the pool
- swimmers
- towel
- bag for swim gear (wet towel/swimmers to go in)
- school hat
- towel
- sunscreen



Please make sure all your child's items are **clearly labelled**.

Students wear their **school sport uniform** to school each day (with sneakers) and change into their swimmers at school. Do not wear swimmers under uniform.

Students will walk to and from the school supervised by staff.

K-2 Staff

Year 9 Leadership Day



Maths Challenge

Students attended a Maths Challenge Day in Mudgee. Stage 3 third, Stage 4 second and Stage 5 first showed determination, perseverance and great team work to achieve these remarkable results.



Little Saints Graduation



Congratulations

Diocesan iRise Leadership Day



Secondary Praise and Worship



Library News

Thank you to those students who have shared their favourite books in the library over the past few weeks. We are nearly at the end of the year, and all students should have had a turn sharing their book. If your child missed out on their turn or is keen to share another favourite book, please have them bring it to their next library lesson.



As we approach the end of the year, it's time to start rounding up all outstanding library books. Over the next couple of weeks students will be bringing home overdue forms, if parents could please assist their children in finding these books and returning them before the end of the year it would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

In library lessons we have been looking in more depth at the bat data collected from our school and ways we can use this research, plus the knowledge we have gained from studying bats this term to come up with an action plan for our school. Students have identified that they would like to-

Educate others about the importance of bats

- Keep our playground tidy, so bats don't eat something they shouldn't
- Plant more trees, especially fruit trees around the school to give bats a home and food
- Plant more plants and flowers to encourage insects to flourish
- Look at getting some bat boxes made to put around the school to give bats a home

Year 2 students wrote the following letter to Mrs Clarke proposing these ideas for our school-

Dear Mrs Clarke,
 We found out there are 9 different species of bats in St Mary's school. Two of these species are vulnerable to extinction. We would like to help the bats by planting trees, especially fruit trees, putting more

flowers around the school and getting some bat boxes made for the bats. All these things would be great for our school and for the bats too! From Year 2
 12/11 HJ

Kindergarten and Year 1 students created some bat posters to put around the school to educate others about how amazing bats are-



Year 4 created some amazing Bat artworks.



Year 5 and 6 have created information reports on various bat species found in our local area.

Inland broad-nosed bat

Scientific name: *Scotorepens borealis*

Location
Inland broad-nosed bats are distributed widely throughout inland Australia, including arid (very dry) and semi-arid regions.

Threats
Inland broad-nosed bats are a common species but are decreasing in numbers. Further research is needed to identify the specific threats to this species. Likely threats to roosting sites, their feeding grounds include agricultural and forestry activity and clearing for housing.

Behavior
Researchers or wildlife rescuers should be aware that the species are known to be aggressive and their strong jaws deliver a painful bite. Due to their aggressive nature it is also advisable to carry and house them separately to other bats. It is a species of vesper bat, which is one of the largest and best-known families of bats. They eat a lot of beetles, bugs and ants. They also eat things like Moths, Termites, Cockroaches, Katydid, Crickets, Flies and Lacewings. They drink while they flight and known to be angry - they have been observed preying on moths their own size in size they are 50mm from head to tail

EASTERN BENT WING BAT

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *MIMOPTERUS SCHREIBERII OCEANENSIS*

LOCATION
These bats inhabit tall timbered forests and open grasslands, primarily found in New South Wales, particularly in forested regions.

DIET
Their diet consists of moths, beetles, and various flying insects.

APPEARANCE AND THREAT
The Eastern bent-wing bat is characterized by its chocolate or reddish-brown fur on its back, with a lighter shade on its underside. The main threat to these bats comes from human disturbance.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS
These small Australian animals weigh around 13-17g and can reach speeds of up to 50 km per hour. They use both sight and echolocation to catch small insects mid-air.

Eastern Coast Free Tailed Bat

Scientific name: *Mormopterus Norfolkensis*

Species: The Eastern coast free tailed bat family is Molossidae

Appearance: The Eastern free tailed bat can grow up to 3-4 cm and weighs 10 grams with dark brown to reddish brown fur on back and is slightly paler underneath, these bats are also known as mastiff bats, having hairless faces with wrinkled lips and triangular ears.



Location / Habitat: The Eastern Free tailed bat is found along the east coast from south Queensland to southern NSW. Dry forest, woodland, swamp forests and mangrove forests mainly in tree hollows but will also be found under bark or in man-made structures.

Diet: Diet is mostly moths but Eastern Free tailed Bats less frequently consume a large amount of invertebrates including cockroaches, beetles, flies, wasps, and ants.

Interesting facts: The Eastern free tailed bats are excellent fliers, capable of reaching average speeds of over 60 miles per hour, and a maximum recorded speed of just under 100 mph.

Inland Free-Tailed Bat

Scientific Name - *Ozimops Petersi*

Appearance

The Free-Tail bat is a small and flat with white black fur at the bottom with grey tips, its face and nose is a pink to pale grey. The bats lip overhangs the lower one and has a fringe in stiff hairs. The tail extends approximately 12 mm and ranges in size from 45-56 mm long (nose to tail). It weighs from 75 - 11.8 g



The Inland Free tailed bat flying at night.

Location

They are located in parts of NSW including Cobar, Sandy Creek and Nyngan. Scientist has also predicted that they might be found in Coonamble, Wee Waa and Moree.



The location of the Free tailed bat.

Habitat

Inland Free-Tailed Bats like to roost together in colonies that are usually less than ten but can be up to one hundred. They like to live in small tree hollows and crevices between roof beams. They also share with microbat species.



The Free tailed bats in their environment

Diet

The Free-Tailed bat only likes to eat insects like moths, beetles, bugs and larger flying insects. Because the bats are small they are really fast flyers and can catch insects while flying in mid air. They can land and crawl quickly over the ground or tree trunks chasing and eating prey.

Interesting Facts

- Can fly up to 100 miles round trip in an evening looking for food.
- Able to tolerate temperatures up to 3.3 °C to as high as 45.8 °C.
- A baby Free-Tailed Bat called a "pup" is born between November and December.
- Its predators are the Hawks and Owls.
- Can fly up to 60 miles per hour with a tail wind.

Gould's Wattle Bat

Chalinolobus Gouldii

Appearance

The Gould's Wattle Bat is a small furry bat it's primary colour is a dark black with transparent wings and a pudgy like face. It has a mane like tuft of fur on it's neck and really sharp claws. It's also the largest species in it's bat group with it's average length being 70mm and weighing 14 grams.



Location

Gould's Wattle Bat is pretty much all over Australia with just the top of Queensland it doesn't inhabit.



Habitat

Gould's Wattle Bat roosts in hollow trees, ceilings, basements, buildings typically only tree hollows though. They roost together in groups of about 30 per group but that's variable. This also leaves them vulnerable to habitat loss due to clearing out of older trees which a typically more hollow than other trees.

Diet

The Gould's Wattle Bat like most other bats eat mostly insect and bugs like crickets, scarab beetles, caterpillars, moths you name it almost any insect or bug that fly is is susceptible to echolocation pretty much get's eaten.

Status

Gould's Wattle Bat is slightly threatened due to the fact that the clearing out of hollow trees clears out their homes and giving them no place to live similar to the koala which is also threatened to habitat loss but much more of it. The Gould's Wattle Bat is very abundant though.

Interesting facts

- The Gould's Wattle Bat can travel over 10km from their roosting place a night searching for insects.
- In colder areas Gould's Wattle Bat hibernates during the winter.
- Gould's Wattle Bat is the most widespread bat across Australia.
- Some of the most prominent predators include carpet Python's, hawks, owls, cats and butcher birds.



During our Book Week celebrations last term all K-6 students were given the opportunity to enter **Macquarie Regional Libraries Bookmark Design Competition**. There were over 800 designs submitted by students right across the region and from this 12 winners were chosen to have their bookmarks published. A HUGE congratulations to Eli and Cooper on receiving first place in this competition. I had the privilege of taking the boys down to Wellington Library this week to be presented with their prizes. They both received a book pack and their bookmarks have been published and are available from Macquarie Regional Libraries. This is a great achievement. Well done Cooper and Eli!!



Book Club Issue 8 should have been sent home with students this week, if you missed out please ask class teachers for a copy. The School gains free resources from any purchases made from Book Club by families. You are under no obligation to buy, although if you would like to place an order you can either register online or send your order into the school office. Details to order online are on the back page of the catalogue. If you are having any difficulties with orders, please contact the school. Issue 8 orders are due next Wednesday, 27 November.

Mrs Hayley Jones
Librarian



Remembrance Day

Ode of Remembrance...

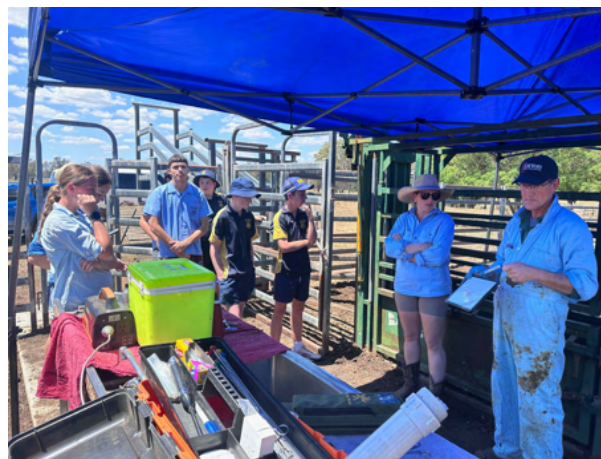


Cattle Showing

2024 and 2025 Elective Agriculture Classes part take in AI (Artificial Insemination) of Cattle

On Tuesday afternoon Mr Doherty and Mrs Gibbons took the 2024 and 2025 Elective Agriculture classes out to Mary's farm where they witnessed the Artificial Insemination of cattle. This term, we have been studying the unit of Beef Production and a part of the unit is about technology used in the industry and different ways we can breed cattle. The offspring of the cattle that have been Artificially Inseminated will be used by the school cattle showing team next year and the years to come. A massive thank you goes out to Jesse Atkinson from Stirling Pastoral, Miss Crean and David Crean from Mountain Valley and James Sutton from Sutton Breeding Services who allowed us to witness the exciting moment for our school and the future of our cattle showing team. During our visit AI technician James provided students with a drawing on the whiteboard of the process of Artificial Insemination and how it works. Students were able to see first hand the process of removing the frozen semen in the straws, loading the applicator and then inseminating the semen into the cow or heifer. Students in the coming weeks will be learning about this process and reproduction in more detail. Again thank you to everyone involved and allowing the agriculture classes to witness this process first-hand.

Mr Hamish Doherty
Agriculture Teacher



Kinder Creating Christmas Art Work

This week Kindergarten students have been very busy creating their Christmas artworks.

Ms Kellie Rich
Teacher



Cybersafety

We are increasingly dealing with social media and cybersafety issues at school with **over 90%** of these incidents occurring out of school hours. We ask you as parents to regularly check your child's social media access and to monitor the Apps accessed and who they are contacting. **Please note that Snap Chat and Tik Tok (and numerous other sites) should not be used by children under 13 years of age in Australia.**

If your child is a victim of misuse of technology this is what we recommend that you do:

- Save and store the offending material on your computer, mobile phone or other device
- Print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the school
- If the material is pornographic or sexualised immediately report this to the police
-

<https://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/parents/>



EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS

Attendance below 90% puts a child's academic achievement at risk.

Continuous Learning. *Continuity is essential for effective learning, as concepts build upon each other over time.*

Development of Learning Skills. *Skills are developed through active participation in the learning process.*

Establishment of Routine. *Consistent attendance helps establish routine, promotes organisational skills and time management.*

How missing school adds up 📌

1 day
per fortnight

equals to

4 weeks
per year

equals to

Over 1 year
missed across K-12

Year 4 Visit Maranatha House

On Monday 21 November Year 4 students descended upon Maranatha. We had a very busy afternoon with the students bringing some Christmas cheer. Many of the students helped fill out a 'Dear Santa' letter with the elderly bringing back memories, good times and some fun. You would be very proud of these students who so kindly and gently help the elderly share in the activities. Well done Year 4.

Ms Louise Hennessy
Community Wellbeing Program Manager



School Student Travel



School student travel information for parents and students

School Travel Passes

Applications are now open for 2025 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel.

Students living in rural and regional areas will receive their travel pass from their nominated transport operator. It may be issued via their school or be sent directly to them at home. Note: Some rural and regional operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Terms of Use

All students are required to comply with the [Student code of conduct](#). The code of conduct aims to ensure the safety and well-being of school children and other passengers. It is important that parents ensure their child is aware of this, as failure to comply with the code of conduct can result in a suspension from travel.

School Uniform - **Reminder hats are back!**

- **All students should be wearing full summer uniforms in Term 4.**
- SMCS blue bucket hats for all students (**no maroon hats please**) / Year 7-10 only optional SMCS baseball hat.
- Sport uniform will be worn 3 days a week / official school uniform 2 days a week as below:
K-6 wear sports uniform on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
7-10 wear sports uniforms on Monday, Thursday and Friday

CSPA 2024 NATIONAL PARENT SURVEY



CLOSING SOON



**What works
for your child
and your family
around wellbeing
and learning?**

Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) acknowledges the funding received from the Australian Government to support this work.

What works for your child and your family around wellbeing and learning?

Do you have a few minutes to share what works for your child around wellbeing and learning? A positive school experience shared is something we would like to hear. CSPA is listening so go ahead and tell us.

Scan the QR code or click on the survey link: <https://bit.ly/3MQTXM4>

Thank you from CSPA!

Reminder - Parking At The Front of School

We ask that all our parents, carers and visitors to the school adhere to our parking regulations to keep our children safe.

- **Avoid parallel parking/ double parking or asking your child to cross the road unassisted**
- **Do not park across or in the disability parking spaces unless you display a disabled permit**
- **Do not park in bus zones during bus service times**

These restrictions are required to maximise parking opportunities for everyone and to keep children safe.

During the school holiday we are hoping to have a new gate installed near the K-2 play equipment for parents to have access for drop offs and pickups. This will ease the congestion at the front of the school.



St Mary's Community Google Calendar - Keep up to date with upcoming School Events

Compass Portal

St Mary's School has an online calendar. It syncs with the Compass portal. You can see school events on Compass. Click the calendar icon at the bottom of your screen (Phone App version), or top of your screen (web browser version of Compass). As is often with mobile devices, things can be difficult to navigate. The online version is better.

Webpage

To access a more user-friendly version of our school calendar, online users can click this link: [St Mary's Catholic School Community Calendar](#). (<https://tinyurl.com/ybyu5qs6> if you're using a paper copy of the newsletter).

It would be a good idea to save it/ bookmark it/ favourite it.

Add to a Google Account

For those that have a Google account (G-mail), you might like to add the calendar to your Google calendar. Use this link: [Google Account Link to School Calendar](#) (online users only)

If you would like assistance, pop in and see Mr Chris Stevens next time you're in the school.

Mr Chris Stevens

ICT Support

2024 School Fee Information

Fee relief remains available for those parents who are facing financial hardship. If you have not done so already, please contact your school for a Fee Relief Application. There are also Health Care Card / Pensioner Concession Card concessions for eligible parents. You may also contact the School Principal or Fees Liaison Officer at Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst at floedb@bth.catholic.edu.au for assistance with concessions. Thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Education at St Mary's.

Active and Creative Kids Voucher

The new Active and Creative Kids voucher is now available, helping to make activities more affordable for eligible NSW families. Families of eligible school-aged children will be able to use two \$50 vouchers per calendar year.

- Vouchers are available to those receiving **Family Tax Benefit Part A**, or **Family Tax Benefit Part B**, or both.
- Vouchers can be downloaded as a QR code and used toward either an eligible physical or creative activity.
- The \$50 vouchers will be issued in school term 1 and school term 3.
- Vouchers must be redeemed before their expiry date.

For more information, visit [Active and Creative Kids](#).

P&F Canteen

Canteen Menu

Pie \$4.50
Sausage Roll \$4.00
Pizza Roundas \$4
Ham & Cheese Toastie \$3.50
Butter Chicken & Rice GF \$5
Fried Rice GF \$5.00
Lasagne \$5.00
Yummy Drummy \$1 each
Mac & Cheese \$5.00
Banana Bread \$2

Drinks

Apple Juice 375mls \$3.00
Apple Juice 200mls \$2.00
Orange Juice \$3.00
Strawberry Milk \$2.50
Chocolate Milk \$2.50
Water \$2

Treats

Icy Cups Apple/Orange \$1.00
Frozen Yoghurt \$2
Lemonade Ice Block \$2
Chips Small Plain or Honey Soy \$1.50
Chips Large S&V, Plain or Chicken \$2.50

Canteen Information

We have now joined Flexischools online ordering system. Please place orders by FRIDAY 9am. All menu items can be ordered using the app however students can still bring in money to purchase TREATS & DRINKS on the day.

Volunteers are warmly welcomed. If you can spare a few hours once a term for canteen duty please contact Sally Mostyn or Emily Redfern.

The P&F meets every third week of the month at 5.30pm. If you are interested in raising funds to assist with additional resources for your own child's education, get involved in our P&F.

"In supporting our school community,
St Mary's is a nut free zone"

Join the clubs

Breakfast Club	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 8.30am - 8.50am School Canteen - free for all students Donations welcome
Lunchtime Clubs	Lego Club: Monday and Tuesday Chess Club: Friday Creative Club: Thursday (Cooking, Art, Garden)
SPB4L Cub Credits	SPB4L Club Credit Shop: Wednesday and Thursday
Cattle Showing	Tuesday 3.30pm - 5pm

Lowes Online Uniforms



Lowes would like to remind the school community that parents can still access uniform purchases via our Schools Online in the comfort of their home with delivery. All orders over \$100 include free delivery and orders under \$100 incur a \$10 delivery charge. Visit <https://www.lowes.com.au/schools-online> and sign up at <https://www.lowes.com.au/schools-online/st-mary-s-school-wellington>

Secondary Girls Skirts



Secondary girls' skirts in sizes 8,10,12,14 are available to try on at the school office. These skirts are a stock standard size. If you would like to purchase one, please contact: **Kingfisher School Gear, 151 Summer Street Orange. Phone 02 6361 2252** for orders and payment.

You can organise to pick it up or to pay for postage. Please allow 2-3 weeks for it to be made. The cost of the skirts is \$62 for standard sizes. If you require a skirt to be made to measure and any sort of alteration there will be an extra charge. All correspondence regarding organising and purchasing of skirts is to be between yourself and Kingfisher School Gear, **NOT** the school office.

COMPASS APP

Please download the Compass App, search for Wellington and select our school

Login to the Compass Parent Portal where you can:

Monitor your child's attendance and enter an explanation for absence or lateness

Get alerts including the school newsletter, information about events and P & F Minutes

Communicate with your child's teachers

Update your family contact information

View your child's timetable and the school calendar

Download and view your child's Semester Reports and Progress Reports



www.stmaryswellington.catholic.edu.au



<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWellingtonNSW>

THANK YOU TO OUR MILK SPONSOR





A Different Kind of Dairy Company founded in 2012

Hello,

Welcome to The Little Big Dairy Co.

The Little Big Dairy Co is donating milk weekly to our Breakfast Club.

Family owned, The Little Big Dairy Co delivers high quality milk from one dairy, traceable down to the very cow that made it. It's the smallness of their process combined with their ability to supply in large quantities that allow them to share their milk with many.

Please show your support by purchasing their products, available at the following:

Retail

Woolworths Wellington and Coles Wellington

Cafes

Maliyan Cafe, Downtos Family Meats, Milky Daze, Jespresso, The Mallee Hen's Nest and Four Cats Coffee



Some facts on your school fees:

1. The 2025 School Fee increase equates to an average of \$1.48 per week for a primary student and \$2.81 per week for a secondary student for the 42 weeks of the school year. The Capital Works Levy has increased by \$0.34 per week for a family.
2. Fee instalments are billed over 3 Terms not 4.
3. For those parents who face financial hardship for any reason, fee relief is available. If you have not done so already, please contact your school for a Fee Relief Application. There are also Health Care Card concessions for eligible parents. Please do not hesitate to discuss with your school principal the concessions available.

You may also email the Fees Liaison Officer at Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst floedb@bth.catholic.edu.au or phone 6338 3067 for assistance with concessions.

School Fee Changes from 2024 to 2025:

The Diocesan School Fee increase has been kept consistent with recent CPI trends of 3.8% for 2025, whilst the 2025 Capital Works Levy per family has been limited to an increase of 2.5%.

Year Group School Fee	Annual Total	Additional Information	Term Total	Weekly Direct Debit*
Kindergarten	\$1,473.00		\$491.00	\$35.08
Year 1	\$1,473.00		\$491.00	\$35.08
Year 2	\$1,473.00		\$491.00	\$35.08
Year 3	\$1,473.00		\$491.00	\$35.08
Year 4	\$1,473.00		\$491.00	\$35.08
Year 5	\$1,747.00		\$582.33	\$41.60
Year 6	\$1,534.00		\$511.33	\$36.53
Year 7	\$2,790.00		\$930.00	\$66.43
Year 8	\$2,668.00		\$889.33	\$63.53
Year 9	\$3,123.00	Includes 2 x Electives fees	\$1,041.00	\$74.36
Year 10	\$3,340.00	Includes 2 x Electives fees	\$1,113.33	\$79.53

The 2025 "School Fee" covers all compulsory and curriculum based charges for your child's specific year group and will include costs of excursions/retreats for the year group and year group activities.

The 2025 "School Fee" includes a base elective fee.

*Please add \$13.96 per week for eldest child (Capital Works Levy). Weekly direct debit is based on 42 weeks covering from the date of the 1st billing instalment up to the last week of term 4.

Sibling Discount applies only to the "School Fee": 2nd Child 15%, 3rd Child 30%, 4th and over 45%

Other Charges:

Diocesan Capital Works Levy:

The Diocesan capital works levy will appear on the invoice of the eldest child.

2025 Levy	Annual Total	Additional Information	Term Total	Weekly Total
Capital Works Levy 2025	\$586.00	per family	\$195.33	\$13.96

Not included in the "School Fee" is elective specific materials and excursion costs which will be billed separately.

These fees do not include optional and ad hoc activities such as music and representative sport. These will be charged separately.

Elective specific materials and excursion costs are additional as per the table below.

Instalment amounts are billed over the first three terms of the school year.

Payment plans are available as indicated on your invoice.

Direct Debit payment plans are recommended - please contact school administration for information on how to set up a periodic direct debit.

User Pays Elective Charges

	Year 9	Year 10
Distance Education	\$240.00	\$240.00

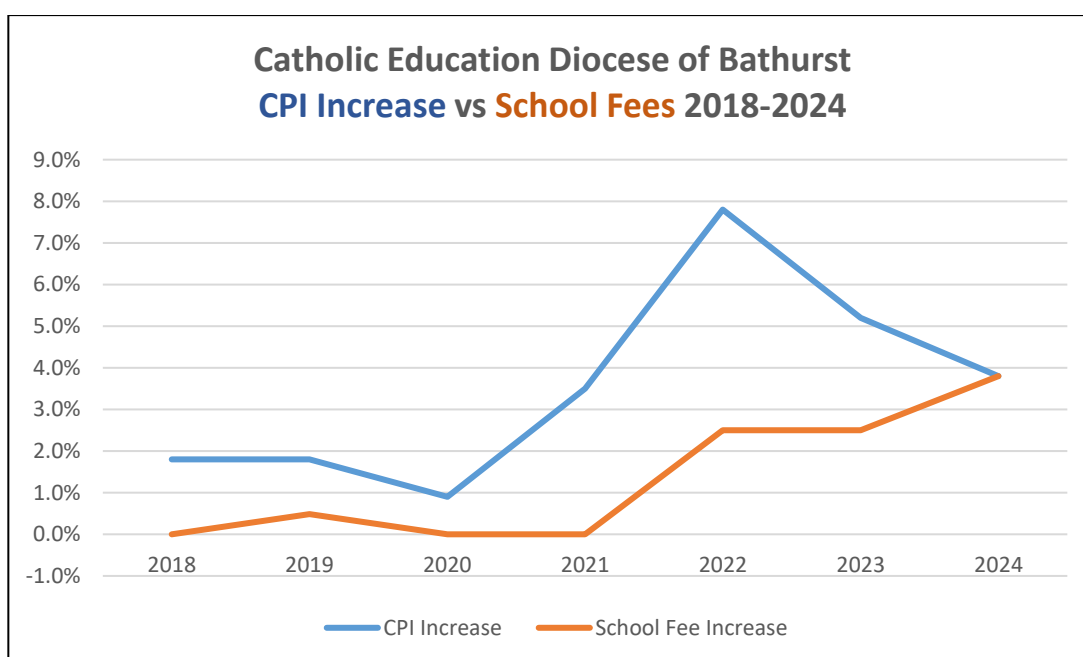
Dear Parent/Carer,

The Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst is committed to providing quality Catholic education to all students in Diocesan schools.

The Diocesan School Fee increase has been kept consistent with the recent CPI of 3.8% for 2025, whilst the 2025 Capital Works Levy per family has been limited to an increase of 2.5%.

The School Fee increase has been set at a level that is consistent with current inflation rates but below significant cost increases experienced over recent years, particularly in the areas of materials, construction and wages.

The graph below illustrates the historical Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst annual school fee increases against the CPI.

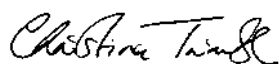


The 2025 School Fee increase equates to an average of \$1.48 per week for a primary student and \$2.81 per week for a secondary student for the 42 billing weeks of the school year.

Fee relief remains available for those parents who are facing financial hardship. If you have not done so already, please contact your school for a Fee Relief Application. There are also Health Care Card concessions for eligible parents. You may also contact the Fees Liaison Officer at Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst at flocedb@bth.catholic.edu.au for assistance with concessions. Please do not hesitate to discuss with your school principal the concessions available.

I thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education in the diocese of Bathurst.

Yours sincerely,



Christina Trimble
Executive Director of Schools

Fruity berry frappe

★★★★★ (1)

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 0 minutes

Serves: 2

Vegetarian, Gluten free, Dairy free, Nut free



Easy to freeze

Quick and easy

5 steps or less

Ingredients

2 cups frozen mixed berries
225g can pineapple in juice, undrained
1 cup water
¼ cup mint (optional)

Savvy swaps

You can swap:

Blender	+	Stick blender or food processor
Frozen mixed berries	+	Frozen raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or mango
Canned pineapple	+	2 oranges, peeled

Method

Step 1

Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.

Step 2

Divide between 2 glasses and serve.

Tips

Nutrition tips

- Making your own frappes and frozen drinks at home allows you to reduce the fat and sugar content and increase the fruit content.
- One serve of this recipe is a good source of fibre. Eating a diet high in fibre can help reduce your risk of bowel cancer.
- Berries are a good source of vitamin C.

Nutrition Snippet

HOW TO PACK A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX



A good lunch gives children energy and nutrients to learn, play and grow, and sets them up with lifelong healthy eating habits.

But what does a healthy lunch box look like? Find out in our short video.

healthylunchbox.com.au



Cancer Council
Healthy Lunch Box

Spaghetti Day

\$5

SUPPORTING STEPPING OUT
CAMBODIA



**Wednesday 27th November
2024**

ORDERS OPEN MONDAY 25TH

Via Flexi School App