



# Newsletter

St Mary's Catholic School Wellington

6 December 2024  
TERM 4 WEEK 8

- 1 Principal's Introduction
- 2 Diary & Important Dates
- 3 RE News
- 4 Learning Matters | School Information
- 5 SPB4L & Langleys Thank You
- 6 Sport News
- 7 End of Year Events | Change of leadership Mass
- 8 Graduation Mass & Dinner
- 9 School Captains for 2025 | Changes to Mobile
- 10 Middle Leadership & Class Teachers 2025
- 11 Library News
- 12 SRC | P&F Thank You
- 13 Hampers
- 14 Intensive Swimming
- 15 Work Experience
- 16-17 Sydney Excursion
- 18-19 Burrendong Excursion
- 20 Year 6 Into 7 Transition | Wellington Arts & Crafts Donation | Pen Licences
- 21 Life Education Van Visit
- 22 Yr 6 Maranatha House
- 23 Cybersafety
- 24 School Student Travel
- 25 Survey Link | Parking
- 26 Google Calendar | School Fee | Active Kid Voucher
- 27 P&F Canteen | Clubs

St Mary's Catholic School  
St Patrick's Parish  
37 Percy St Wellington NSW  
P: 02 6845 1822  
E: stmaryswellington@bth.catholic.edu.au



***“ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.” John 1:9***

Dear St Mary's Families,

As we come to the end of the 2024 school year we celebrate the achievements of all students. Next week we have our final school assembly and Presentation evening where we will acknowledge student excellence across the school.

Our final K-10 assembly next Tuesday will be our final whole school gathering for 2024. Families are encouraged to join us for both of these special events. We will send out an extra newsletter at the end of the school term with highlights of these events.

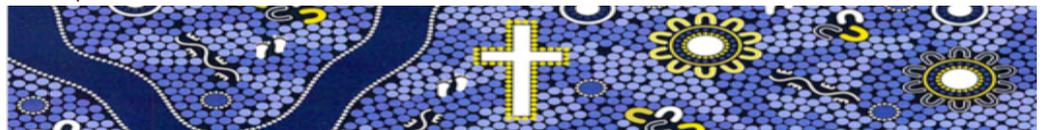
Last week we farewelled our 2024 Year 10 class with a Change of Leadership Ceremony and reflective Graduation Mass and thank Mr Stevens for his preparation of students for these events. These were followed by a shared dinner with Year 10 facilitated by Ms Stewart-Koster, shared with students, their families and teachers. We wish Year 10 all the best for their future life journey.

*As the 2024 school year draws to a close we thank our St Mary's school community for the valued contributions that you have all made to our school.*

*For those students and staff who are leaving St Mary's, may God bless you on your new journeys. Mrs Eagleston, Mrs Courts, Ms Stewart-Koster and Mrs Power are all moving on to new adventures in 2025. Mrs Burnett finishes her contract but will be continuing with casual work. We thank them all for their valued contributions to St Mary's and wish them the very best for the future.*

Wishing you all a safe and blessed Christmas.

**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 9

Mon 9 Nov K-2 Intensive Swimming all week  
Tues 10 Nov 9.15am Final K-10 Assembly | Year 6 Farewell 4.30pm  
COLA Area | Years 3-6 Social 6pm | Years 7-9 Social  
7.30pm  
Wed 11 Nov Little Saints Final Day  
Thur 12 Nov Presentation Evening K-10 6.30pm  
Frid 13 Nov

## Term 4 Week 10

Mon 16 Dec Class Party | Reward Day | K-2 Christmas Social  
Tues 17 Dec School clean up day  
Wed 18 Dec Final day of school for staff and students  
Thur 19 Dec  
Frid 20 Dec



## 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

**Our final day for students is Wednesday 18 December.**

## Term Dates 2025

**Friday 31 January 2025 and Monday 3 February 2025 will be Pupil Free Days.**  
Further Pupil Free days to be advised.

Term 1 Year 1-10 commence Tuesday 4 February - Friday 11 April  
Kindergarten commences Thursday 6 February - Friday 11 April  
Term 2 Monday 28 April - Friday 4 July  
Term 3 Monday 21 July - Friday 26 September  
Term 4 Monday 13 October - Friday 19 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.

## Congratulations Mia

Congratulations to St Mary's Student Mia Stevenson on coming third in the Dugald Saunders Christmas Card Competition.

The theme this year was 'Your Sporting Christmas' and there were over 500 entries submitted. Dugald will be coming to St Mary's to present Mia with her award very soon. Well done Mia, a fantastic achievement!





# Christmas Mass Times

## Christmas Eve Tuesday 24 December 2024

Stuart Town 5pm Mass  
Wellington 7pm Mass

## Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December 2024

Yeoval 8am Mass  
Wellington 10am Mass

**St Patrick's Church  
Wellington**

### Weekly Mass Times

9am Monday to Friday  
6pm Saturday  
8am 2nd & 4th Sunday  
10am 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday



May the joy and peace  
that were present at the birth of Christ  
be present in your home this season.

## Merry Christmas



# Religious Education

## St Mary's Change of Leadership Ceremony

Students, staff and families supported our Change of Leadership Ceremony last week. Year 10 Leaders passed on the Light to our Year 9 Leaders and incoming Primary and Secondary Captains. The ceremony symbolised the passing on of Leadership in our Catholic school, where our mission amongst ourselves and in our community reflects the values that Jesus represented.



## Graduation Mass

Father Carl led our Year 10 Graduation Mass where Year 10 students and their families all reflected on their St Mary's Catholic faith journey. Father Carl spoke about the wonderful young people our Year 10 class have become as they move on beyond our school. Blessings were given to the students at the conclusion of the Mass to send them on to the next chapter in their life's journey. (Photos later in the newsletter).

## The Season of Advent

The season of Advent has begun. On Sunday, we celebrated the beginning of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting, a time to prepare and to reflect on the importance of the birth of Jesus within our lives. It is a time when we prepare and get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Wishing you all a blessed and a Holy Christmas, embracing the gift of giving, remembering that God sent his Son, Jesus, as a gift for us.

### Mr Christopher Stevens

Leader of Ministry and Mission



## SCHOOL Information

### Final K-9 Assembly

Our final whole school assembly will be held next Tuesday 10 December from 9:15am in the school hall. St Mary's families are very welcome to join us as we acknowledge the achievements of our students.

### St Mary's Presentation Evening 2024

The annual St Mary's Presentation Evening will be held on Thursday 12 December from 6:30pm in the school hall. Families of students receiving awards will receive an invitation to attend the event from the school. Students not receiving an award in 2024 are very welcome to attend the presentation evening, but should be accompanied by a parent.

### 3-6 and 7-10 Socials

Our final school socials will be held on Tuesday 10 December following the Year 6 Farewell celebration.

The Year 3-6 Christmas Social will be held between 6:00pm and 7:30pm in the school hall, while the Year 7-10 Christmas Social will be held from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Please see Compass for further details and to provide consent for these events.

### Student Reports

These should be available on Compass Wednesday Wk 10, students' last day at school.

**Mr Allan Jones**  
Assistant Principal

# Learning Matters

---

## K-6

### Life Education Van Visit

Students from Little Saints through to Year 6 have been fortunate this week to have a visit from Healthy Harold and the Life Education team. Students spent time inside the new revamped van, learning about the dangers of things like smoking drugs and alcohol, as well as learning how to deal with things like peer pressure. For our Year 6 group it was the final opportunity for them to experience the Life Education Van and as such, they got a special opportunity to meet with Harold after their session.

### Student Growth

Throughout the year students participate in a number of regular diagnostic assessments to measure their academic growth in skills like reading and spelling. After busily collating a lot of data over the last few weeks I am very pleased with the level of student growth that is taking place at St. Mary's. Quite a number of students across the different grades have displayed remarkable growth in areas like reading fluency, spelling skills and reading comprehension. In some instances students have displayed multiple years of growth within the 2024 calendar year. Well done!

**Mr John Nugent**  
K-6 Team Leader

## 7-10

### Congratulations

Congratulations to all 7-10 students on the completion of your examinations and assessments for the term. Teachers are compiling reports and student growth across all learning areas has been pleasing. We have been proud of the increase in numbers of students handing in assessment tasks in given timelines.

### End of Year Excursions

Year 7/8 had the opportunity to take part in a 2 day excursion to Lake Burrendong and enjoyed the range of activities offered. They practiced teamwork and cooperation in many of these activities. Thanks to the teachers and teacher aides who supported students for this excursion.

Year 9/10 travelled to Sydney and participated in activities reflecting the range of electives in our Year 9/10 classes this year. They are commended on the way that they all engaged in activities and represented St Mary's. Supporting teachers and teacher aides are thanked for their support of students for the elective excursion.

### Thank you

A huge thanks to our families for the support that you have given to your children and St Mary's throughout 2024. Have a safe and happy Christmas with your families.

**Mr Alistaire Thompson**  
Year 7-10 Team Leader



# School Wide Positive Behaviour for Learning “SPB4L”

---

## SPB4L Focus - ‘Respecting Others’

A big thank you to students who have embraced the ‘Respecting Others’ SPB4L focus throughout the final weeks of Term 4. It was wonderful to hear reports from teachers who were impressed with the way that students approached their recent assessment weeks, maintaining a calm and positive learning environment.

A new SPB4L focus will be launched early in Term 1, 2025.

## SPB4L Cub Credits Shop

Week 9 is the final week for students to cash in their Cub Credits in order to purchase items from the Cub Credits Shop. A reminder that some of our items of higher value, such as Rebel and Readings gift cards, basketball and footballs are still available for purchase.

**Mr Allan Jones**  
Assistant Principal

## Thanks from Langleys - Year 9/10 Elective Excursion

---

Year 9/10 were a pleasure to take to Sydney for their Elective Excursion. We had this feedback from Langleys’s bus driver John.

*Good afternoon,*

*I just wanted to pass on our thanks for the behaviour of your group on their Sydney excursion.*

*John said they were all very well behaved and one of the cleanest groups he has ever taken away.*

*We understand that this reflects the values of your school and also your staff and we really appreciate you and your staff.*

*Have a great week & I hope to hear from you in the future.*

*Kind regards*

*Sharon Balmer Langleys*



"If my mind can conceive  
it and my heart can  
believe it - then I can  
achieve it.

**Muhammed Ali**  
American Boxer

Muhammed Ali made his  
amateur boxing debut in  
1954 while attending  
Central High School in  
Louisville, Kentucky, during  
racially segregated times.

He eventually became an  
Olympic gold medalist and  
is widely recognized as the  
greatest heavyweight  
boxer of all time.

## Sport

---

**Draft Sporting Events 2025 Term 1:**

**-14 February School Swimming Carnival**

**-27 February Primary Western Swimming Carnival**

**-18 February Secondary Diocese Touch Football Trials**

**-4 March Diocese Secondary Soccer Trials**

**-10 March Secondary Diocese Swimming Carnival**

**-11 March Primary Diocese Swimming Carnival**

**Mr Alistaire Thompson**  
Sport Coordinator

## Operation Christmas Child

---

Thanks to our St Mary's families who supported us with items for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child - what a terrific response. The Christmas boxes from our school are now on their way to Cambodia.



# End of Year Special Events

---

## **Tuesday 10 December 9.15am: Final K-10 Assembly**

K-2 Item and K-2 certificates

Final achievement awards K-10 for the 2024 school year

## **Tuesday 10 December: Year 6 Farewell - 4.30pm**

Years 3-6 Social at 6.00pm till 7.30pm and Years 7-10 Socials at 7.30pm till 9.00pm

## **Thursday 12 December 6.30pm: Presentation Night**

Kindergarten to Year 10 students will be acknowledged for achievement and effort.

Students receiving awards at presentation night will receive a special invitation letter.

## **Monday 16 December Class Party and School Reward Day**

This is a casual clothes day and further information will be provided prior to this day regarding organisation.

# Change of Leadership Ceremony

---

Students, staff and families joined together for a reflective “Change of Leadership Ceremony” at St Mary’s, to farewell Year 10 and welcome in our 2025 student leaders. Thanks to Mr Stevens for your organisation and preparation of students for this ceremony.



# Year 10 Graduation Mass and Dinner

Congratulations to St Mary's Year 10 graduating class for 2024. We are so proud of all your hard work and achievements but also your growth, resilience and potential. Your Graduation Mass was a beautiful reflection of your Catholic faith and values, followed by a special dinner with your families and teachers.

As you move forward, hold onto the values of compassion, courage, and integrity that St Mary's has instilled in you. The future is bright, and you have the tools to shape it. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zones, to embrace challenges, and to chase your dreams with passion and purpose.

**Miss Helen Stewart-Koster**  
Year 10 Pastoral Care Teacher



# School Captains Announced for 2025

---

Congratulations to our incoming School Captains for 2025. They were congratulated by our 2024 Captains. Secondary Captains: Brydie Chandler and Ella Wykes and Primary Captains: Geordie Mason and Evie Whiteley.



## Changes to Mobile Phone Policy 2025

---

In 2024 Year 7-10 students were allowed to store their mobile phones in their lockers and school bags for the day, turned off. Due to changes in policies across NSW schools and pending Government changes regarding age limits for social media platforms we will be changing our mobile phone processes in 2025. Students are to either leave their phones at home, or if they do bring a phone to the school this will be secured in a pastoral care room locker for the day. Under no circumstances are phones to be stored in personal lockers or school bags or be carried by students.

### Expectations for Students

1. If a mobile phone or mobile device is brought to school, it must be turned off and secured in the student's bag until the Pastoral Care period. During pastoral care each morning, student devices will be collected and secured in the school locker. **Note:** Smartwatches should not be worn to school.
2. As devices are secure students should not have their mobile device with them in a classroom or on the playground during recess and lunch.
3. Students in K-6 who need to bring a mobile phone to school are to hand this to the class teacher each morning and collect it in the afternoon.
4. At the end of the school day, students at the school bus stop may access their phone only to briefly check for a message from parents/carers and to respond appropriately.
5. Students are reminded that they should always adhere to diocesan and school policies regarding bullying and harassment. Bullying and harassment are never acceptable and electronic devices should never be used to bully or harass others.
6. Students are responsible for care and security of their own electronic devices and St Mary's Catholic School is not responsible for damage or theft. Electronic devices are expensive items and each student makes their own choice knowing the risk of bringing them to school.

# 2025 Middle Leadership and 2025 Teachers

---

## **Middle Leadership Team**

We are welcoming a new middle leadership team in 2025 with Leaders of Learning across 3 sections of the school. These school leaders will be responsible for leading initiatives and direction in their areas of the school

**Leader of Learning Junior School (K-2):** Ms Kellie Rich

**Leader of Learning Middle School (3-6 & transition into Year 7 initiatives):** Mr John Nugent

**Leader of Learning Senior School (7-10 & transition beyond Year 10):** Mrs Tammy Nugent

**Behavior Support:** K-6 Ms Mary Crean      7-10 Mr Alistaire Thompson

**Administrative Support:** Mrs Maureen Milgate

## **Changes to Structures in Stage One**

In 2025 we will have a Kindergarten class with an allocation of teacher aide support.

Year 1 and 2 are our Stage One classes in 2025 and these classes will be taught as two Year 1/2 classes.

The Year 1/2 classes will be formed based on social groupings and curriculum taught across both classes will cover Stage One outcomes. The classes will not be ability grouped. There will be some areas of the curriculum, for example sport and fitness, where both 1/2 classes will be combined with teachers co-teaching.

**Benefits:** There will be social and emotional benefits for students, and they will have the opportunity to develop friendships, cooperation and understanding across different peer groups.

Each student will be working at their appropriate skill level and will be provided with support and extension opportunities.

## **Primary Teachers:**

**Kindergarten:** Mrs Nicola Prendergast

**Year One/Two :** Mrs Elizabeth Carberry

**Year One/Two :** Ms Kellie Rich

**Executive Release teachers (K-2)** Mrs Cherie Hughes/Mrs Natasha Redfern

**Year Three:** Mrs Sharon Frogley/ Mrs Kelly Wykes

**Year Four:** Mrs Nicole Aleksandrovics

**Year Five:** Jack Broome / Mr Allan Jones

**Year Six:** Mrs Hannah Brien (Pace)

**Executive Release Teacher (3-6)** Jack Broome

## **Secondary Teachers: (subjects tbc)**

Mr Chris Stevens

Mr Hamish Doherty

Mr John Nugent

Mrs Maureen Milgate

Mrs Abbey Newman

Mrs Tammy Nugent

Mrs Cherie Hughes

Mr Alistaire Thompson

**Learning Support:** Mary Crean

**Teacher Librarian:** Hayley Jones

# Library News

Thank you to everyone who has shared their favourite book this year. It has been wonderful to see the array of books that students enjoy reading and having them share these books with their classmates. I look forward to hearing about any great books that are discovered over the holidays!



As we near the end of the year, it's time for the yearly round up of books!! Over this last week I have been sending home overdue slips with students and I'm asking for all library books to please be returned by the end of next week- I will be awarding a small treat to those students who return **all** their books next week. I understand sometimes books get lost or damaged, however if this happens they need to be replaced with a brand new copy of the book or a brand new similar book. It is important that students learn the responsibility that comes with borrowing and we want everyone to be able to enjoy all the books our library has to offer.

## Book Club

Book Club Issue 8 orders have been finalised and should arrive next week. This year Scholastic used a new delivery company and orders have been coming weeks later. Finally, they have listened to our concerns and are now diverting back to their previous delivery company. So, moving forward into 2025, we should be again receiving orders quickly. I would like to thank everyone who has placed a Book Club order this year, every purchase earns books for our school library- your support is so greatly appreciated!!

## Radical Reader Awards

A huge congratulations to Thato Mocumi, Tommy Stone, Eva Stevenson, Farrah Ridley, Elizabeth Watson, Hannah Justin, Ivy Telfer, Macey Roberts, Levi Hall, Jakobie Bestwick, Aaliyah Martin, Billy Mitchell, Jack Stevens, Willow Dearmer, Stephanie Frogley, Sam Watson, Bella Cummings, Annabel Roberts, Lochlan Salmon, Kobie Sutton and Rukia Dequina, who all received a Radical Reader Award at our recent assemblies. These awards are nominated by teachers for excellent work in any area of literacy. Recipients of these awards receive a special certificate and book prize. This year we have handed out over 120 of these awards, which shows just how much great reading is going on at St Mary's- BOOK-TASTIC!!!

Please keep reading over the holidays, it is vitally important! Research clearly shows that when kids put down school books on their break, their reading ability also drops with it. The term "summer slide" is well established and refers to children dropping in their reading ability following a lack of reading over the break. As all library books must be returned before the end of this term, I encourage students to visit the local library or use our online library platform SORA during this time. SORA is a reading app for students providing access to a large range of ebooks and audiobooks. Simply go to <https://soraapp.com/>. When asked for your school please put ACEN (Australian Catholic Education Network) Students then log in using their normal school email account details. Many of these books are listed on Renaissance, so make sure whenever students finish reading anything they complete the corresponding quiz on Renaissance. Macquarie Regional Library will be once again running their Summer Reading Club throughout the holidays. Lots of prizes up for grabs including a free book for those taking part. Please visit the Wellington or Dubbo Library to sign up or for more information. Happy reading, holidays and Merry Christmas everyone.

**Mrs Hayley Jones**  
Librarian





The Student Representative Council would like to give an enormous thank you to our wonderful St Mary's community for all their support throughout 2024. It has been a busy year for SRC with lots of events including our Easter Eggstravaganza, St Patrick's Day and Blue Day celebrations, Our Let's Glow Crazy Social, Book Week and Teacher Vs Students Fundraisers and the highly loved Colour Run. Coming up next week, we have our Christmas Socials which we hope everyone will enjoy!

We have had a big focus on 'Giving to others' this year, donating to Caritas, Beyond Blue, Operations Christmas Child, St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers and to Father Carl and our local parish some money to help fix termite damage to the church doors. We have also used money from our fundraising to give back to our school. We purchased new play equipment including handballs, ping pong bats and nets, pickleball sets and, more recently, equipment holders for all our playground equipment to go in. On Monday 16 December, SRC will be putting on a bbq lunch for our school as part of our rewards day- a time to celebrate everyone's hard work and achievements from this year. Every student will be receiving a sausage sizzle for lunch and a nice cold drink. Again, thank you to everyone for helping us with all our fundraising this year. We definitely couldn't have done all of this without you and we are truly grateful.

**Mrs Hayley Jones**  
SRC Coordinator



## Thanks to our P&F for 2024

We would like to thank our P&F for your amazing contribution to St Mary's throughout 2024. We appreciate the work that you have done in our K-2 garden area which looks amazing after our recent rain. You have worked tirelessly all year organising our Friday canteen and our tummies are very grateful. Thanks for supporting our projects and the students at St Mary's.



# SRC Hampers Delivered To St Vincent de Paul

A huge thank you to Mrs Jones and Miss Stewart-Koster (SRC Teachers) for undertaking the organising of our hampers this year. We also extend our gratitude to our lovely families who have shown much kindness and compassion with their donations to families in need.



# Intensive Swimming-Reminder

K-2 Intensive Swimming commenced this week and will continue next week (Monday 2 December to Friday 13 December 2024 - school days only). Lessons are being conducted from 11:45am - 2:45pm.

Students are reminded 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 10 Work Experience

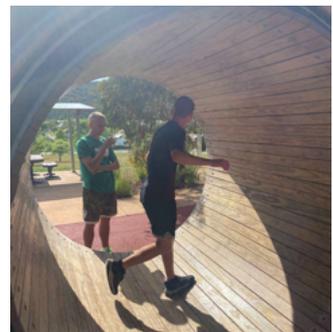
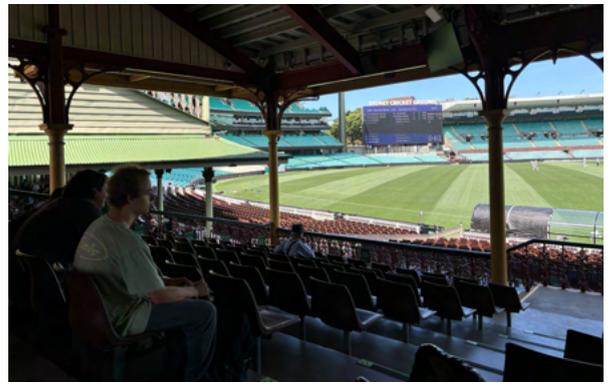
Year 10 students have spent this week out and about experiencing life in the workforce. They have chosen a variety of workplaces including early childhood, electrician, veterinary and occupational therapy. A huge shout out to the following businesses for supporting our students with their school to work journey! It is greatly appreciated.

**Mrs Tammy Nugent**  
Careers Advisor

**Thank you to the following business:** BLK Power Electrical, Coastwide Therapy Services, Jared Wykes Electrical, Maranatha Gunya Preschool, Redfern Power, Ron Stubberfield Toyota, T&N Auto & Ag, Wellington Community Children's Centre Preschool, Wellington Public School, Wellington Public School Preschool, Wellington Veterinary Practice.



# Year 9/10 Elective Excursion - Sydney





# 7/8 Elective Excursion - Burrendong





# Year 6 Into 7 Transition

---

Year 6 students had a fun day following a secondary timetable, learning about the exciting learning and spaces they will be experiencing in 2025. Thanks to our teachers for your support of the transition day.



# Wellington Arts & Crafts Donation

---

This week Mrs Jones attended Wellington Arts and Crafts Club meeting where they presented our school with a donation of \$300 to be used in purchasing books for our school library. A HUGE thank you to the Wellington Arts and Crafts committee for this generous donation which will be used to purchase lots of beautiful books for all our students to enjoy. Thank you Wellington Arts and Crafts Club!!



# Pen Licences

---

Congratulations to the following Year 4 students on achieving their Pen Licences. Frankie McGuire, Indy Taylor, Max Hutchinson, Oscar Sorn, Billy Mitchell, Willow Deamer, Amelia Wiggins, Holly Allen-Sturt and Jack Stevens. Well done!



# Life Education Van Visit

Students enjoyed a visit from the Life Education Van with Healthy Harold in attendance. Since 1979, Life Education has educated more than 7 million children through their innovative and holistic teaching and learning approach. Their mission is to equip the next generation with the fundamental knowledge, skills and strategies they need to thrive.



# Year 6 Visit Maranatha House

On Monday 25 November Year 6 visited the elderly at Maranatha. As we are approaching Christmas our visit helped get into the swing. We had such a fun and busy time. We even learnt how to make Christmas pom poms. Everyone had such a great time. Well done Year 6!

**Ms Louise Hennessy**  
Community Wellbeing Program Manager



# 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

# 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

---

- **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](mailto: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

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Breakfast Club</b>    | Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 8.30am - 8.50am<br>School Canteen - free for all students<br>Donations welcome |
| <b>Lunchtime Clubs</b>   | Lego Club: Monday and Tuesday<br>Chess Club: Friday<br>Creative Club: Thursday (Cooking, Art, Garden)                   |
| <b>SPB4L Cub Credits</b> | SPB4L Club Credit Shop: Wednesday and Thursday  |
| <b>Cattle Showing</b>    | 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](http://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**

ST MARY'S SRC PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY

**10TH  
DEC**

**YRS 3-6: 6-7.30PM**

**YRS 7-10: 7:30- 9PM**

**\$10 ENTRY AT THE DOOR-  
WHICH INCLUDES DRINK, FOOD, LUCKY DOOR TICKET, PRIZES AND MORE!**

*St Mary's School Hall - Dress in your best Christmas Outfit!*

See Compass for more information and permission slip  
(This must be submitted by Monday Dec 9th)



# Kids Craft Club

CHILDREN 5-12 YEARS - PARENTS ARE WELCOME!  
SONGS - DRINKS - STORY - GAMES - CRAFT

9AM - 12PM

TUES 28TH, WED 29TH &  
THURS 30TH OF JAN

RIVERSIDE CHURCH WELLINGTON  
(170 THORNTON ST)

PROGRAM CONTAINS CHRISTIAN TEACHING



COST: \$5 PER CHILD PER DAY (DISCOUNT FOR 3 OR MORE)  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
TO BOOK A SPOT, CONTACT MEG RICHARDS  
0424 029 334 OR MEG.RICHARDS47@GMAIL.COM



Merry Christmas!



Wellington Toy Run & Family Day  
Wellington PCYC 1030am 14-12-24





# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

7th December 2024  
11am-3pm

Kennard Park Wellington

- Enjoy a variety of activities including jumping castles, an obstacle course, slides, face painting, a merry-go-round, soft play, a BBQ lunch, popcorn, snowcones, fairyfloss, coffee van , and much more.
- Santa will be making a special appearance!
- Bring chair or blanket chill out and relax.

**FREE ENTRY**

 **ACEN** | Australia

  
**SQUADRON  
ENERGY**

**Sponsored by**

  
**MISSION  
AUSTRALIA** together we stand

  
**WINS  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE**

  
**REDIE**  
Learn. Employ. Engage.

  
**HIPPY**  
Wellington



  
**JOBLINKplus**



  
**Barnardos  
Australia**



# SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

BOOK NOW



Cost: \$45.00 per day - MUST BE A CURRENT PCYC MEMBER - Ages 6-13 years  
 Time 8:30am - 3:30pm (participants will be transported to Dubbo PCYC and back each day)  
 What to bring: Enclosed shoes, water bottle, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea

| DATE               | ACTIVITY   |
|--------------------|--|
| Mon 13th January   | Futsal skills and drills - Dodgeball - Volleyball - Nerf Wars    |
| Tues 14th January  | Bullrush - Basketball skills and drills - Laser tag              |
| Wed 15th January   | Gymnastics - Ninja Warrior - Free G - Board games                |
| Thurs 16th January | Pickleball - Table Tennis - Puzzles - Painting - Gymnastics      |
| Fri 17th January   | Bubble soccer - Ninja Warrior - Craft - Hockey skills and drills |
| Mon 20th January   | Futsal - Dodgeball - Volleyball - Nerf wars                      |
| Tues 21st January  | Bullrush - Basketball - Laser tag                                |
| Wed 22nd January   | Gymnastics - Ninja Warrior - Free G - Board games                |
| Thurs 23rd January | Pickleball - Table Tennis - Puzzles - Painting - Gymnastics      |
| Fri 24th January   | Bubble soccer - Ninja Warrior - Craft - Hockey                   |
| Mon 27th January   | PUBLIC HOLIDAY *CLOSED*  |
| Tues 28th January  | Basketball - Bullrush - Laser tag                                |
| Wed 29th January   | Ninja Warrior - Gymnastics - Free G - Board games                |
| Thurs 30st January | Table Tennis - Pickleball - Painting - Puzzles - Gymnastics      |
| Fri 31st January   | Bubble Soccer - Craft - Hockey - Craft                           |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |
|                    |  |

BOOK NOW! Limited spots available  
 Email: [wellington@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:wellington@pcycnsw.org.au)  
 PH: 02 6845 2590



Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre

# FAMILY WEEKEND GETAWAY



**Come and create wonderful memories for your family with a weekend of fun-filled activities and adventure at Lake Burrendong Sport & Recreation Centre.**

Wrangle the kids, pick up the grandparents and enjoy an active weekend outing with the whole family! Enjoy the facilities at our Centre such as the tennis courts, 25m swimming pool, sports hall, bushwalking tracks or try your luck with land-based fishing.

If you like a challenge and want get out of your comfort zone, some of our facilitated camp activities will also be on offer at various times across the weekend.

Children under 5 are free to attend but cannot participate in facilitated activities and must be supervised by an adult.

**When:** Saturday 18th January 2025 from 9am – Sunday 19th January 2025 3.00pm

## Accommodation

- Basic dormitory style rooms with ensuite and air conditioning.
- Sleeps 10 people, single bunk style beds. One room per family!
- BYO linen/pillows/towels



**Book now:**



## Inclusions

- One night accommodation
- Full use of Centre facilities\*
- Optional facilitated program activities
- Full catering for entire weekend#

\* No boat launching

# Dietary requirements can be accommodated

## Registration Details

**\$116.50 per family member**

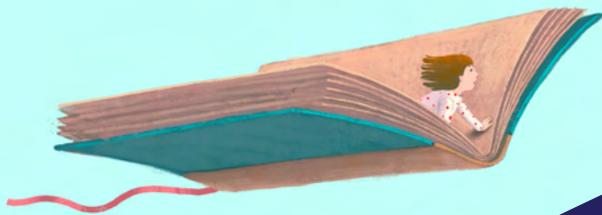
Register all family members using the registration link to secure your booking.

**Closing date:** 4th January 2025, places are limited!





**FREE**



**ACTIVITIES  
FOR KIDS**

## DIY TREASURE CHEST

Ages 5 to 12

Follow a treasure map to find a treasure chest to decorate

Tuesday 14 January

10:30 am - 12 pm

## TREASURE ART

Ages 7 to 13

Let your creativity escape!  
Create a mixed media artwork

Tuesday 21 January

10:30 am - 12 pm

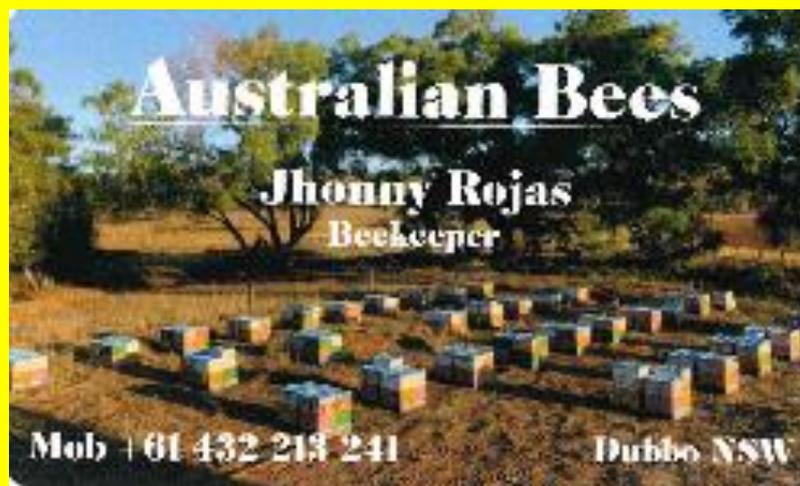
**WELLINGTON LIBRARY**

Bookings required

(02) 6840 1780 | [MRL.NSW.GOV.AU/KIDS](http://MRL.NSW.GOV.AU/KIDS)

 **MACQUARIE**  
REGIONAL LIBRARY

**Thank you to Beekeepers, Corban Rojas and Jhonny Rojas for their very generous donations of delicious honey for our Breakfast Club!**



**They are on the lookout for properties to put their bees**