

# Newsletter

## Thursday 20 February 2020



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Yesterday, you should have received a letter from Christine Bulger and Georgie Peel in relation to two exciting initiatives that we are implementing at St Mary's in 2020.

The wellbeing of the children is always a major area of focus at St Mary's. As an educator, I am all too aware of the connection between the success of children at school and their wellbeing. Children who are experiencing difficulties in relation to their wellbeing and mental health tend to have greater challenges successfully navigating the demands of school and consequently making the same level of progress as their peers. This is the reason why we have a dedicated Wellbeing Leader, Georgie Peel, and why we provide a school counsellor once a week for our students (Deb Wilson, who works with us on Tuesdays).

The implementation of these two new social-emotional learning programs does not reflect that wellbeing has been an area that has not been explicitly taught by the school in the past - indeed this has been an important aspect of the learning at St Mary's over many years. For some time, our school has been using the Bounce-Back social-emotional program and there are many great ideas and teaching practices that can still be gained from this highly researched program. The reality is, however, that all programs have a life span in a school and from time to time, schools need to reflect on what they are doing and identify if there are new ways in which we can teach the content more effectively.

The Resilience Project is a really exciting development not just for St Mary's but for the Ararat community as a whole as this has been taken on by schools, sporting clubs and businesses throughout Ararat (see the Facebook and Instagram pages Resilient Ararat. Our involvement ties in really effectively with our focus on building our community engagement. As mentioned last week, there is an information session for parents at Ararat Town Hall next Monday (February 24 @ 7.00pm). If you are interested in attending you can register via <https://resilienceprojectararat.eventbrite.com.au>. It would be great to see our parents there and having engaged in one of these sessions in the past, they are well worth attending.

Likewise, the Relationships and Sexuality program we are developing is an exciting new initiative that has been carefully developed by the Catholic Education Office Ballarat over a number of years. It has been thoroughly researched and trialed in schools and it will be a fantastic new tool for our school to use to support the wellbeing and social-emotional learning of our children. If you have any questions about these new programs, please make time to come and talk to myself, Christine or Georgie.

God Bless, Bill

### School Closure Dates

Please note the dates as advertised for our School Closure Days next week - Thursday, February 27 and Friday, February 28. Students are not at school on these two days.

A key priority of St. Mary's Annual Action Plan for 2020, is Writing; specifically, school-wide consistent practice, teaching strategies and assessment processes in Writing. All staff are participating in two days of Professional Development in OLSAL (*Oral Language Supporting All Literacy*). This Professional Development is facilitated through Catholic Education Ballarat and is a Diocesan strategy to enhance strategies and skills of teacher practice in literacy to provide high levels of learning to all.

### Resilience Project Student Sessions

All students will be attending the Resilience Project Student Sessions next week, Tuesday, February 25. We ask that permission forms are returned by Friday this week.

Please note the session times:

Session One: 10 am -11am: Foundation, Y1, Y2, Y3

Session Two: 11:30 - 12:30: Y4, Y5, Y6

## TERM 1

### DATES

#### TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

Shrove Tuesday  
Pancakes available for Gold  
Coin donation

#### WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Foundation Rest Day  
Ash Wednesday

#### THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Student Free Day—Staff PD  
school closed

#### FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Student Free Day—Staff PD  
school closed

#### THURSDAY 5 MARCH

School Photos

#### FRIDAY 6 MARCH

Assembly @ 2.40pm  
Senior Learning Community

#### MONDAY 9 MARCH

Labour Day Public Holiday

#### TUESDAY 10 MARCH

Book Club Orders Due

#### WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

Foundation at school  
No more rest days for the  
remainder of Term

#### FRIDAY 13 MARCH

Assembly @ 2.40pm  
Junior Learning Community  
LAST LUNCH ORDER DAY  
FOR THE TERM

#### FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Athletics Carnival  
NO LUNCH ORDERS

#### FRIDAY 27 MARCH

Last Day of Term 1  
NO LUNCH ORDERS

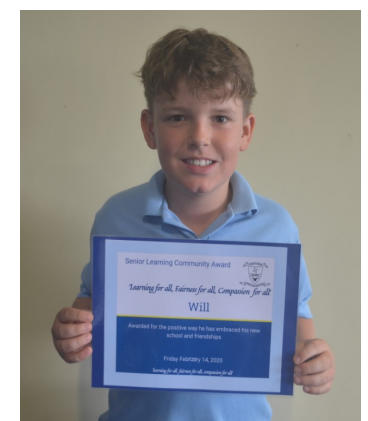
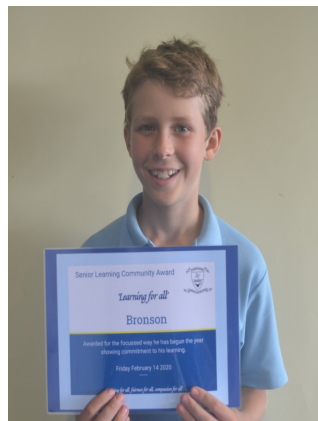


**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**  
to the following  
students who  
celebrate their  
birthdays this week:

**Jasper H  
Sophie B  
Hunter N  
Grace B  
Josh D  
Rachel**

## STUDENT AWARDS

**Congratulations to the following  
students on their awards last assembly!**





*Learning for all, Fairness for all, Compassion for all*

## **SHROVE TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEB**

*Kicking off St Mary's Lenten Appeal – Project Compassion  
Gold coin donation for pancakes*

*9.30 – 10.30am - Gr 4,5,6 group*

*2.15 – 3.00pm - Foundation, Gr 1,2,3 group*

*If you are available to assist with preparing batter, cooking,  
serving, cleaning up with either session please advise Office,  
Christine Bulger [cbulger@smararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cbulger@smararat.catholic.edu.au) or  
Community team [community@smararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:community@smararat.catholic.edu.au)*

# say cheese!

School Photo Day is fast approaching.  
*Have your child's school memories captured forever*  
on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Your photo order envelopes will arrive shortly. Please start planning your purchases and payment options.

Remember these helpful points:

- Read all relevant instructions for your preferred payment method.  
**All payments are due on photo day.**
- You may pay online using your credit card. Each child will have an individual 'shootkey' listed on their envelope. This will help identify your child's order.
- You may pay by cash using the individual envelope provided.  
Please enclose correct money as no change will be given.
- *Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request. THESE PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN DURING SCHOOL, ON PHOTO DAY, USUALLY AT RECESS*
  - Please instruct siblings to attend the photo studio during this time. Photographers are unable to search for students who do not attend.
- Do not seal envelopes inside each other. You may include payment for all children in one envelope, however, please indicate on this envelope the names of all the children you are paying for.
- All students should wear their correct school uniform.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact

MSP Photography

P: 03 5333 5577

e: [ballarat@msp.com.au](mailto:ballarat@msp.com.au)



# RELIGION MATTERS

## **SHROVE TUESDAY - Tuesday February 25**

We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday as a whole school community next Tuesday February 25th.

Children are invited to bring a gold coin donation which will go directly to our Project Compassion Lenten Appeal. Please note, pancakes using egg free batter and dairy and gluten free batter will be available for students. If you have any questions regarding the provision of dietary requirements please email [cbulger@smararat.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cbulger@smararat.catholic.edu.au).

Please also note, the Pancake sessions will work around student attendance times at the Resilience Project Sessions on the same day.

**Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry for the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confession on the day before. This became known as Shriven Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.**

**The other name for this day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes.**

## **ASH WEDNESDAY - Wednesday February 26**

The Middle and Senior Learning Communities will share Ash Wednesday Mass in the Church at 9:30am.

The Junior Learning Community (Years 1 and 2) will share a liturgy together in MPR 10:30-11:00am.

Parents and friends are welcome to attend.

## **GODLY PLAY**

Eliza Griffiths and Christine Bulger completed the three days of Godly Play Core Training last week in Melbourne.

Godly Play is a Montessori inspired storytelling method of bringing Scripture to life for children and adults alike.

Our school community was led through an introduction to Godly Play throughout 2019 with the support and modelling of Jim Waight (Catholic Education Office Ballarat Religious Education Advisor). Jim will continue to support Eliza, Christine and all staff in delivering Godly Play to our children in 2020.

Eliza and Christine are pictured with Godly Play Trainers Jeanette and Brenton.

Christine presented the Story of the Exodus. Eliza presented the Parable of the Mustard Seed

Christine Bulger  
Co-Deputy Principal/Religious Education Leader







# FEE ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

## CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) FORMS

CSEF forms are now available at the office for all eligible state concessions card holders. Forms need to be returned by Wednesday 19 February. Where an eligible application is received the CSEF benefit is \$125 for primary school students. This benefit will be paid directly to the school and will offset it against the applicable student Fee account, thus reducing the total fees payable. Family Fee Assistance is also available from the school for eligible families (parents/carers holding a HCC/Pension card).

## CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

2020 Conveyance Allowance forms are now available from the office. These are for Country Bus Travellers that are required to travel more than 4.8km to their nearest bus stop. This does not include town bus travel.

THE  
EDUCATION  
STATE

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students

### ELIGIBILITY

Must be a current health care or pension card holder & in the parents name, not in a students name.



# Resilient Ararat

## IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY...



@ResilientArarat

### St. Mary's Catholic Church Mass Times

	Ararat	Lake Bolac*	Glenthompson**
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Saturday	6.00pm		
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Sunday	10.30am	8.30am	8.30am
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\* Lake Bolac Mass 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays

\*\* Glenthompson Mass 2nd Sunday

### CONTACT US

**PHONE:** 03 5352 5460

**ADDRESS:** PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

**EMAIL:** [ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**WEBSITE:** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

*(Download the Church Bulletin from the site above)*

**PRIEST:** Fr Andrew Hayes

[adrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:adrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Parish Centre

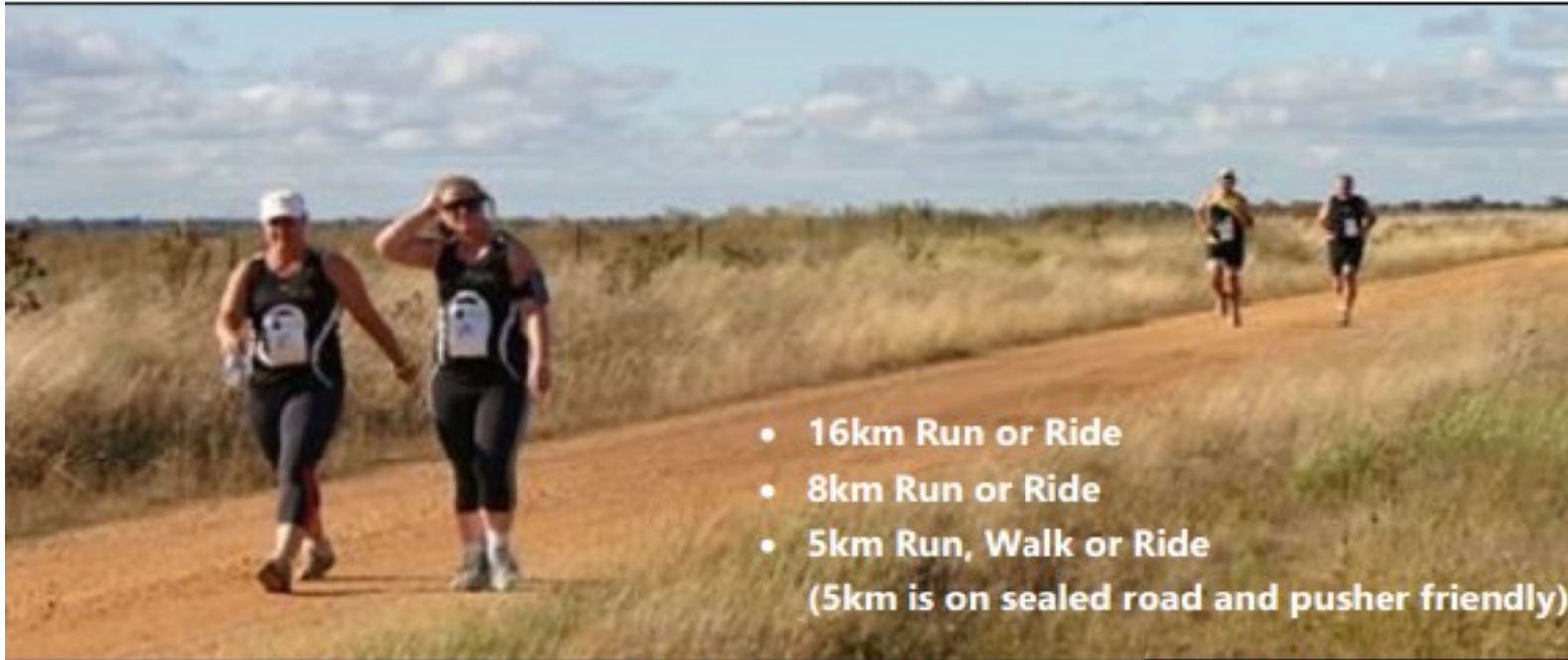
St. Mary's Parish Centre is available for hire Monday-Sunday and is ideal for Conferences, Meetings, and Family celebrations, large or small gatherings. It also boasts an Industrial Kitchen. Ring Joyce at the Parish Office to organise a tour 03 5352 5460. Rates are as low as \$100 for the whole day.





# WILLAURA Farm To Pub

RIDE · RUN · WALK




- 16km Run or Ride
- 8km Run or Ride
- 5km Run, Walk or Ride  
(5km is on sealed road and pusher friendly)

*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020*

- *A family friendly event concluding with a free Jumping Castle & Mini Golf at Willaura Recreation Reserve*
- *Children 14 Years and Under- \$10*
- *Adults- \$20*
- *Bar open at 4pm*
- *Meals available from 5:30pm*

**For full details and to enter go to: [www.farmtopub.org](http://www.farmtopub.org)**

— *Profits to Red Cross Bushfire Appeal*

— *Raffle proceeds to*  *beyondblue*







# ARARAT EAGLES FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING:**

## JUNIOR PLAYERS FOR ALL TEAMS

**Junior Football Age Groups:**



**Under 16.5  
Under 12**

Junior Football training  
begins Wednesday 19th  
February @ 5pm Alexandra Oval  
Contact: Laurie Moyle or  
Ned Hutchinson on messenger

**Junior Netball Age Groups:**

**13 and Under  
15 and Under  
17 and Under**



Junior netball training and  
try-outs begin Wednesday  
4th of March @ 4.30pm  
Contact: Melissa Murnane on  
messenger



Follow us on Facebook @ Ararat Eagles Football Netball Club  
for training times and updates.



## WILLAURA HEALTHCARE OUTDOOR MARKET

**Sunday March 1 2020, 10am-2pm**

Grounds adjacent to Willaura Healthcare, Delacombe Way



The Willaura Market is a charity event run by the Willaura Healthcare Auxiliary, with funds raised going towards improving the lives of residents and patients at Willaura Healthcare, East Grampians Health Service.

This boutique country market offers goods from local and regional artisans and is set in Willaura, surrounded by fertile farmland, which lies 34 kilometres south of Ararat on the south-eastern edge of the Grampians in Victoria's Western District.

### Local producers and local artisans:

- Homewares
- Cards
- Jewellery
- Giftware
- Condiments
- Art and craft
- Soaps and skincare
- Olive oil
- Clothing
- Plants
- Handmade chocolates
- Candles
- Metal art

### Variety of food vendors including:

- Gourmet food vendors
- Willaura Auxiliary Tea House
- Lions barbecue
- Coffee
- Icecream



Musical entertainment and children's activities including jumping castle, mini golf and trackless train.

For more information: [willauramarket.com](http://willauramarket.com)



Visit: [facebook.com/willauraoutdoormarket](https://facebook.com/willauraoutdoormarket)

We thank the following sponsors of the market:

