



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST MARY'S GREENSBOROUGH

4 August 2025

CANDELA



Dear Lord,

In times of weariness, renew our spirits.

In moments of doubt, anchor us in hope.

In seasons of change, ground us in purpose.

*May our lives be a reflection of Your grace—
steady, compassionate, and bold.*

We ask this Christ our Lord

Amen

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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



Dear Families,

Term Three Begins

Welcome back to Term 3. We have certainly hit the ground running. Our staff began the term in deep learning with Professor Br David Hall, and our partnered schools, learning about Catholic schools and our role as educators to unlock hope in our students, families and one another. Our theme was "Living Lives of Hope: Reclaiming the Heart of Catholic Education". We completed our day working with Anthony Hurst a psychologist on the topic "Reset to Resilience". This learning supported our staff to begin the term in a positive direction.

Website Update

So much has changed in education in the past few years that it necessitated the update of our website. In Week 1 and 2 Digital Schools videoed many staff, a parent and students to ensure our website truly reflects the learning that occurs every day at St Mary's. We will inform all families when the website displays the updates. We look forward to receiving your feedback in regards to the current website and any improvements required.

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our Grandparents and Special Friends tomorrow. Thank you to Ana, Jen B and all staff for their planning and organisation, thus ensuring a fun-filled day for all.

St Mary's Fete 2026

The Fete Committee has met several times already and their enthusiasm is infectious. It is wonderful to once again experience a community of volunteers akin to pre-covid times. Our parent engagement is on the increase which builds great lasting relationships. Thank you to everyone involved. The fete email address is fete2026@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Save the date – St Mary's Fete
Saturday, 14th March 2026

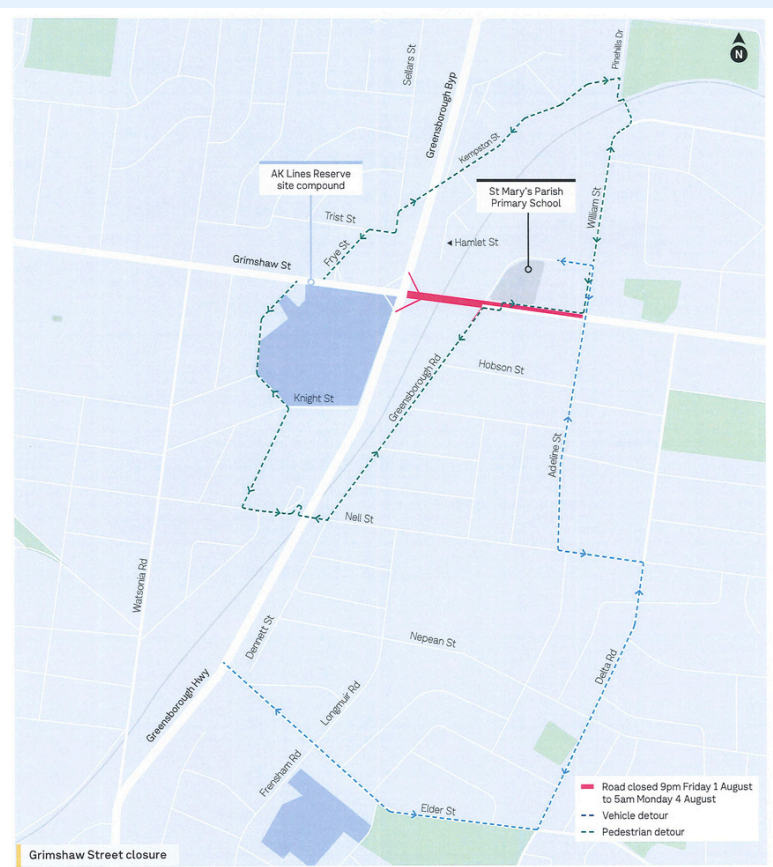
Prep 2026 Interviews

The Prep 2026 interviews are in full swing. The interviews are a wonderful time to get to know the students and their parents. I look forward to welcoming the students to our great community. It is an absolute pleasure getting to know the prospective St Mary's families. We have 75 Preps for 2026 with a waiting list.

Closure to Grimshaw St Updates

I thought it would be useful for our community to once again be aware of the night and weekend works occurring on Grimshaw from August 2025. In October, for four weeks there will be full

closure of Grimshaw St from the Greensborough Bypass to William Street. NELP has advised the school that the major interruption to traffic will be one week of the four weeks. We have devised a contingency plan for entrance into the school via William St. Attached is the map and clear directions that must be adhered to for clear traffic flow. We also request everyone to be patient and understanding as drop off and pick up may take longer than usual.



Sign up for updates
bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads-subscribe

Australian Government
BUILDING AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA
State Government



Enter via
William St.

Grimshaw St



exit only

William St.

Infrastructure Update

Presently we are in the tender process for the refurbishment of the two storey building. Approximately forty-five companies showed an expression of interest in our refurbishment. Of those forty-five building companies, six companies have been shortlisted. They all completed a reconnaissance of the build last week. We are awaiting the permission to decant the building in readiness for the program to begin.

Traffic Safety

Once again, I have noticed of late that some parents are coaxing their children to get in the car prior to the *kiss and drop* area. Be patient! This is a dangerous activity as there is no staff supervision and then the drivers are becoming frustrated that it is taking so long to exit the car park. Please remember, when supervising the entrance into cars we notice who the children are leaving with and that they are safe because they are leaving in the designated area. Please remind your child/ren they are to wait at the front of the school admin area if being picked up at the '*Kiss and Drop*'. Please get into the habit of collecting your child at the '*Kiss and Drop*'

Front of Admin Drop-Off Procedures

Just a reminder that all students must exit their vehicles on the left hand side of the car at the Admin drop off area. This is a safety issue due to cars occasionally overtaking at that time and thus compromising the safety of our students.

Meditation time

Parents/Carers, please remember to be still and silent during meditation time. We encourage you to stay for meditation as we know of the benefits for everyone. If you must leave, we ask that parents/carers refrain from speaking and walking through the admin building as our students are silently meditating with me and the Admin team. This will support all involved to focus on meditation and be less distracted. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Child Safety

Signing in is required of all visitors and volunteers at school. This process is essential and ensures the safety of all students and visitors to St Mary's. We must know who is present at St Mary's at all times. Please remember to carry your VIT or Working with Children's Check cards with you when volunteering at the school as the Admin Team may request updated paperwork upon signing in.

Vandalism of Toilets

Please speak with your child/ren about the importance of respecting school property (all property). It pains me to inform you that some or one of our students are costing the school money (your money) due to vandalising our toilets. Every time we need to call on a plumber it is costly and causes disruption. The shelter shed toilets in the have been vandalised and needed to be closed for repairs due to the vandalism. Michael, our maintenance man spent hours repairing the damage and now they are damaged again. This disrespect for property is certainly not what we would expect of a St Mary's student. I ask you to support us in helping our students understand how we care for proper use of facilities.

Policy Updates

Each month I will provide updated or new policies to our community for your perusal.

- [Attendance Policy](#)
- [Homework Policy](#)
- [Student Extended Holiday Procedures](#) - (Absent for 3 or more consecutive days).

Condolences

Condolences to Sharyn Trenou on the passing of her loving father, Walter. We pray for Peace and Comfort during this sad and difficult time.



School Attendance : Everyday Counts

Dear Parents and Carers,

In 2025 St Mary's has had 323 students taking extended holiday leave (three or more days absence) away from school learning time. In all my years as an educator I have never seen so many children missing vital school time. I understand that a vacation in school holiday time is extremely expensive, however the loss of learning is really impacting your child's achievements both academically and socially. I understand severe illness and I also understand that for some children engaging in school life can be a difficult journey for a variety of reasons.

Before considering taking your child out of school or allowing them to have a day off please understand the ramifications for learning. Naturally illness is a legitimate reason to be absent.

Even missing one day can impact knowledge attainment. I was recently observing in a classroom. A child requested to go to the toilet. In the time that the student was absent, the teacher taught a new aspect of the river system. By the time the student returned to class she had already missed a whole chunk of learning necessary to build on the next block of learning. Fortunately that particular teacher was able to support that child to catch up on their learning. When you multiply in-attendance, the loss of learning is compounded and nigh impossible to catch up on every aspect taught.

A student absence learning plan goes some way to addressing the issue however it can never replace what a student learns throughout the day.

At St Mary's we teach using a coherent knowledge rich curriculum which means that one piece of knowledge supports the understanding of the next piece and builds a strong schema for the brain to attain and store that knowledge in the long term memory.

The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Vision for Engagement highlights the importance of daily attendance. Student engagement encompasses attendance, behaviour, belonging, learning, mental health and wellbeing, and motivation.

MACS recognises that improving engagement involves knowing our students academically, socially and emotionally so that teachers can attend to the needs of each student across the breadth of school life.

For students at MACS schools, engagement includes:

- attending school every day, on time
- feeling safe and connected at school
- receiving instruction that is targeted to need, and supports growth and achievement
- adopting classroom routines that ensure everyone understands expectations
- receiving a coordinated and effective system of increasingly intensive tiered interventions and supports across all areas of their learning
- feeling they belong in the school environment
- listening intently and paying attention
- persisting with complex tasks and being motivated to learn
- behaving respectfully towards others
- being supported with mental health and wellbeing
- being part of stronger partnerships between the school and family
- experiencing caring relationships with teachers and school staff.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important message. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of punctual attendance. Please read the linked everyday counts document.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Kind Regards,

Marisa Matthys
Principal

Student of the Week

Class	Week 1	Week 2
Prep K	Harry L For beginning Term 3 with a 'ready to learn' attitude. Well done on completing some wonderful writing in class. Terrific effort Harry!	Amelia A For being a responsible worker. Well done on listening carefully to instructions to complete your work. It has been great to see you working hard on writing independently. Keep it up Amelia!
Prep M	Isla N For your thoughtful and considerate approach to your learning. You have been a great role model for our first week back!	Franc C For your focus and 'can do' attitude when practicing your handwriting. You have been working so hard! Keep up the great work Franc!
Prep S	Patrick S For displaying full participation during learning sessions. I am so proud of the hard work you are completing. Keep it up Patrick.	Juliette M For the outstanding work you are creating everyday. Your perseverance to complete work that is presented with quality and accuracy is commendable. Keep up the exceptional work you are doing.
1BC	Nathan For showing great effort in all learning tasks. Your persistence and positive attitude are helping you make great progress. Well done!	Alexia For working hard to improve your writing by taking your time and applying spelling strategies we have learnt. We are so proud of you! Brava!
1G	Braylen For demonstrating great focus and a wonderful work ethic so far this term. Well done Braylen!	Ava For demonstrating improved focus and concentration to complete tasks carefully and sensibly. Well done Ava!
1N	Raymon For starting Term 3 calmly and participating in class activities! Bravo	Louie For showing responsibility by consistently participating in Daily Review sessions with enthusiasm and leading by example. Bravo!
2M	James B For your positive beginning to Term 3 and your hard work during whole class learning. Keep up the amazing work James!	Olivia P For all your hard work during our whole class learning. We love hearing all of your amazing contributions to class discussions. Keep up the fantastic work Olivia!

Student of the Week

Class	Week 1	Week 2
2R	Amanda T For your positive attitude towards the new term. You are ready to learn and you've been a great role model to your peers. Brava!	Cael M For your curiosity during our Inquiry learning sessions. It's great to see you showing your interest by asking questions and posing wonderings. Keep it up!
2V	Mila B For a wonderful start to Term 3. You consistently demonstrate respectful classroom behaviours and engagement in learning. Your hard work never goes unnoticed. Keep it up!	Stefania U For your excellent dedication towards learning. You have shown such improvement and growth in your reading this year. Keep up the hard work!
3F	Atticus Well done for building your knowledge about Vikings and contributing your great ideas	Charlotte T Great work on worded maths problems keep up the fantastic effort!
3L	Annie J For being an enthusiastic learner and always trying your hardest in every lesson	Ethan V For being a motivated learner and sharing your knowledge of Vikings with the class!
3P	Alex C For always using our new vocabulary in your writing and reading responses.	Levi D For bringing your wonderful knowledge of history and Vikings to our classroom discussions
4B	Owen MK For always sharing your ideas and insights with the class, and for being a great assistant to your teammates! Keep up the great work!	Emily J For working hard in completing all of your learning tasks and taking on feedback with a positive mindset. Well done Emily!
4F	Asa For always working hard to create presentable work in the classroom, with patience and care.	Jason For always being a kind classmate that shows leadership qualities in the classroom.
4V	Anastasia For having such a positive start to Term 3. Anastasia, you've been so helpful and considerate, and we're really grateful to have you!	Darcy For returning to school with an incredibly positive attitude and a strong determination. Your hard work and enthusiasm haven't gone unnoticed. Keep it up!

Student of the Week

Class	Week 1	Week 2
5OB	Chloe L You are kind, respectful, and always set positive learning examples. You listen carefully and respond with thoughtfulness and consideration. Well done!	Maxwell You work hard to understand our learning and present your thinking with confidence. We appreciate the way you support your peers and listen to others with respect. Well done!
5R	Max N For your positive start back to Term 3. You have come back with a positive mindset and a readiness to learn! Well done Max!	William A For the respectful way you interacted and participated in the Courage to Care incursion. Well done Will!
5S	Lexi S For making a positive start to Term 3 and engaging in all activities with a positive mindset	Luca W For actively participating in Core Knowledge discussions and for eagerly participating in the Footsteps Dance program.
6G	Koby L For being responsible for your own learning and making a great start to the Term.	Josh F For working consistently towards your learning goals and always being positive.
6MP	Nicholas P For an excellent start to the term, always showing respect and being responsible for your learning. Great work Nicholas!	James B For constantly extending yourself to learn at your best during our Mathematics lessons. Well done James!
6W	Harry C For making an excellent start to Term 3.	Max TB For improving all your efforts to complete all tasks.

PBL Champions

"Dear Diamond Valley Basketball Association,

I am writing today to provide some feedback regarding the Rebelz Under 12s B1 team versus St. Mary's Under 12's Boys 3 in the B2 preliminary final held last Saturday (5-July). While I understand that clubs and teams often receive negative feedback (particularly around finals time) I want to highlight an exceptionally positive experience and commend the conduct of the St. Mary's Team and their Coaching Staff.

The match was highly competitive and closely fought game, with both teams employing a similar full-court press style, making for an intense and exciting contest. In the second half, our team managed to pull ahead, eventually winning the game 53-44. Despite the outcome, what truly stood out was the sportsmanship displayed after the game.

Every one of the St. Mary's players walked up to shake hands with me and our team members, offering congratulations and words of encouragement. Several players specifically said to me, 'Congratulations, you deserve this and good luck for the grand final.' Their respectful attitude and sportsmanship were genuinely commendable and reflect very well on their club, coaches and families.

I believe it's important for the association to recognise these positive behaviours. This experience was a testament to the respectful coaching, attitude, and character instilled in the players, and I wanted to ensure that this message is shared broadly.

If possible, we as a club would appreciate if this feedback could be shared with the relevant members and stakeholders at St Mary's this is not only from my perspective but also from Shaun our Club President. It's important to acknowledge and celebrate instances where young athletes display leadership and respect at such a young age.

Thank you for your time, and I hope this positive note reinforces the values we all want to see upheld in the sport we all love."

Kind Regards,
Luke Forbes

Vice President Rebelz Basketball

Well Done



Bravo!

Josh F, Taylor S, Jack R, Lucas F, Maxwell N, Ryan C



SPIRITUAL SPACE

*Wellbeing Chaplaincy items and news,
Term 3, Week 3*

As you may be aware, St Mary's first Coffee Van event was held Monday 28th July, and got off to a great start! It was delightful to see so many families taking advantage of this well-deserved treat.

Sanjay, owner of 'Coffee Ranch,' commented on the impressive turn out. An assortment of warm drinks – from hot chocolates to herbal teas – were served that afternoon. Parents and carers thoughtfully expressed their gratitude as they relaxed in our warm, café-style set-up in the tennis clubroom. We are as equally grateful for your participation. The opportunity to meet and introduce myself to families was well served and, above all, families soaked up some of that promised R & R. Your reviews would gratefully support this initiative, so please feel free to send your comments to the email below. As for families who missed the opportunity, hopefully next time!

Leanne Pereira

Wellbeing Chaplain

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