

NEWSLETTER

29 JANUARY 2025
TERM 1, WEEK 1

ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"Gracious and loving God,

You give us special days and seasons to attune our minds and hearts to the nuanced rhythms of our mission to bear your love to the world.

Be with us as we welcome the Jubilee for Consecrated Life and deep our awareness of your presence and calling in our lives.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.



Dear Members of our St Mary's Memorial School Community,

Welcome to a brand new school year! We are so excited to begin 2025 together and look forward to all the learning, growth, and memorable moments ahead.

The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities to connect, support, and celebrate our wonderful school community. Whether you are a returning family or joining us for the first time, we warmly welcome you and look forward to getting to know you.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the newest members of our school community, our delightful 30 new Reception children and their families!



We are also thrilled to welcome Charlize, Moneli, Lara, and Isla in Year 1, Tobias, Amber, Gareth, Ari, and Alice in Year 2, Zara, Poppy, Gray, and Audrey in Year 3, Charlie, Daisy, and Thomas in Year 4, and Jasmine and Nysha in Year 5. We look forward to getting to know you all and working in partnership to support your children on their learning journey at St Mary's Memorial School.

We are especially excited to gather as a community at our **Community Welcome Evening** on **Wednesday, 5 February, from 5:00pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers, reconnect with friends, and enjoy the sense of belonging that makes St Mary's Memorial so special. We hope to see you all there!

We began the 2025 school year as a whole staff on Wednesday, 22 January, with a focus on wellbeing, aligning with our School's Annual Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Together, we engaged in an inspiring presentation by **Courtney Quigley, The Wellbeing Consultant**, titled 'The Sacred, The Science, and The School – Wellbeing and Mental Health in Education.' This session set the foundation for our ongoing commitment to fostering a positive and supportive environment for our staff, students, and families.

Throughout the year, we will partner with Courtney to enhance our understanding of the Science of Wellbeing and implement key practices that positively impact our staff, students, and families. By embedding these strategies into our daily work, we aim to strengthen the practices and strengths that help our community flourish.

NEW BEGINNINGS 2025

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our staff teams for 2025 and warmly welcome them to our school community. A special welcome to our new teaching staff, who bring with them a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, joy, and a deep passion for learning and teaching. We look forward to the year ahead, working together to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our students.

Leadership Team

Sonja Smith (Principal), Desiree Henthorn (Deputy Principal), Tamara Smith (APRIM and Yr 5-6 Teaching & Learning Coordinator)

Quality Performance Team

Sonja Smith, Desiree Henthorn, Tamara Smith, Tammy Patterson (Leader of Learning), Cathy Regester (Inclusive Education Coordinator), Laura Watt (R-Yr 2 Teaching & Learning Coordinator), Madeleine Wigg (Yr 3-4 Teaching & Learning Coordinator)

Reception – Year 2 Team

Nicola Ciuffini, Renee Marrollo, Louise Sincock, Lynda Pope, Amber Norman, Laura Watt, Lily Scott, Tammy Harris, Luke Slattery, Samantha O'Malley

Year 3 – 4 Team

David Anderson, Leah Moules, Madeleine Wigg, Isabella Sladic, Tammy Patterson, Stefan Scuteri

Year 5 – 6 Team

Paul Thomas, Meredith Smith, Rebecca Churchman Hope, Rita O'Leary

Specialist Team

Joanne Dyson, Hayley Horskins, Tracey Tolley, Tristan Sharrock

Curriculum Education Support Officers (ESOs)

Lisa Hill, Carolyn Honeychurch, Vanessa Kay, Gabrielle Madigan-Manuel, Lily Maisey, Natasha O'Dea, Nicole Ross, Maria Sanz Salas, Luke Staley, Jessica Stones, Joanne Wyman, Sarah Smith, Paul Robinson, Hannah Croft

Administration ESOs

Jenni Ashfield (Finance), Rachel Hewitt (Enrolments/School Office), Ingrid Clough (Front Office), Angela Maisey (Marketing & Communications, Community Engagement), Ruth Tipping (Library), Sarah Burns (Work Health & Safety)

We also have Callan Forgan our ICT Support Officer and Sandy Altmann, Centacare School Counsellor.

At St Mary's Memorial School, we are extremely fortunate to have such excellent teaching staff, including classroom and specialist teachers. Their expertise as educators ensures all children are supported every day with their academic, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth.

In addition to this, Curriculum ESO's support teachers, sometimes by working with small groups, or working amongst the class and supporting all children. Our ESO team develop positive relationships with students, while supporting and responding to the needs as guided and directed by the teacher. This is a collaborative model to help develop every child's independence flourish as a capable, thriving learner and leader for the world God desires. At times, the support may be more intensive for specific identified needs. This may include students with disabilities, students identified through learning and/or well-being data that require intervention and at times, students who require adjustments due to unforeseen traumatic experiences.

Commitment to Learning & Wellbeing

At St Mary's Memorial, we are deeply committed to every child's learning and wellbeing growth and development, ensuring we maximise learning opportunities while also prioritising their social and emotional wellbeing. To support this, we are focusing on minimising interruptions to learning time and fostering positive peer relationships through meaningful social interactions during our daily 20-minute shared recess break.

With this in mind, our 2025 school timetable is structured to maximise learning time while also fostering social connections and active play opportunities for all students:

8:30am – School Gates Open

8:45-11:00am – Student Learning

11:00-11:20am – Recess

11:20-12:50pm – Student Learning

12:50-1:00pm – Lunch Eating Time

1:00-1:40pm – Year 3-6 Lunch Play

1:45-2:25pm – R-Year 2 Lunch Play

3:10pm – End of School Day

This schedule ensures a strong focus on uninterrupted learning while also providing dedicated time for students to develop positive peer relationships through a range of engaging play opportunities.

We are excited to work with our students to gather their input on providing a variety of fun, engaging activities that cater to diverse interests. These include possible options such as skipping, asphalt chalk drawing, handball, water painting, dress-up play, hula hoops, quiet library time, and, of course, our much-loved playground, sandpit, oval, and hard court spaces for creative play. Together, we aim to create an environment that supports both learning and joyful connection.

Enhancing School Communication in 2025

We have reviewed our school communication channels to ensure a streamlined, efficient, and engaging way to share news, celebrate achievements, and provide regular updates to our school community.

This year, we have introduced Seesaw across all classes. Seesaw offers interactive lessons, digital portfolios, and two-way communication, giving families valuable insight into their child's learning journey. If you haven't yet connected, please reach out to your child's teacher.

To keep families informed:

- The School Newsletter will now be published three times per term.
- With the support of Catholic Education SA, we will soon launch an official school Facebook page to quickly share updates and celebrate all things St Mary's Memorial School.

A parent recently shared some lovely feedback, expressing appreciation for the clear and organised communication that has helped set a positive tone for the 2025 school year. They also suggested a Yearly Planner to help families plan ahead for events such as Pupil Free Days—a fantastic idea that we are working on and will provide soon! While dates may be subject to change, we hope this will assist with forward planning.

The Term 1 School Calendar is included in this newsletter to help families prepare.

Lastly, we are aware that some class email groups may not yet include both parent contact addresses. This is a priority, and we appreciate your patience as we finalise the setup for 2025.

Connecting with Your Child's Teacher

We encourage parents to reach out to their child's teacher directly in the first instance regarding matters such as learning, homework, uniform, and day-to-day school life. This can be done via email, allowing 24-48 hours for a response. At times, teachers may extend an invitation to meet in person, as important information can sometimes be lost in email correspondence.

For urgent messages (e.g., a change in pick-up arrangements), please contact the School Office on 8294 4580 so the information can be passed on promptly.

Thank you for your ongoing support—we look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

A few key dates for your diaries to begin our year include:

Please note that our school will celebrate Community Prayer each Friday morning in the Church at 8:45am and all families are invited to join us and sit with your child/ren.

- Thursday 30 January – Whole School Mass at 9:00am
- Wednesday 5 February – Community Welcome Evening from 5:00pm
- Wednesday 12 February – St Mary's Memorial School (SMMS) Community Group gathering 7:00-8:00pm
- Tuesday 4 March – Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday 5 March – SAPSASA Swimming Carnival
- **Friday 7 March – Pupil Free Day**
- **Friday 10 March – Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday**
- Week 7-8 NAPLAN
- Monday 17 -Thursday 20 March – Parent Teacher Interviews
- Wednesday March 19 – St Mary's Memorial School Annual General Meeting, 6:30pm
- **Friday 21 March - School Sports Day at Sacred Heart College, early finish at approx. 1:00pm**
- Monday 24 March – SACPSSA Swimming Carnival Years 3-6
- Friday 4 April – SAPSASA Swimming State Championship
- Friday 11 April – Holy Week Presentation and Easter Raffle Drawn
- Friday 11 April – END OF TERM 1

Wishing everyone a fantastic start to the year, we can't wait to share this journey with you. I wish every student and their families the very best for 2025.

Mrs Sonja Smith
Principal

FROM THE APRIM

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope the break from school gave you many opportunities to celebrate with family friends and enjoy some glorious summertime weather and activities. I enjoyed going to the cricket and walking with my husband and dog on the beach in the cooler evenings.

The Pope has designated this year as the Jubilee Year of Hope. A Jubilee is a time to reflect on God's mercy and generosity, inviting believers to deepen their faith and strengthen their commitment to justice, peace and love. It gives us a chance to rediscover God's love, reconcile with others, and contribute to building a more just and merciful world. And doesn't our world need this right now?! We need to think of ways we can commit to justice, peace and love in our St Mary's Memorial School community and in our own lives.

I will finish here with the prayer we shared on our staff day:

*God, who gathers us and unites us,
we give you thanks for drawing us together in this community.
May we remember that we spread your Good News
through our kind words and positive actions.
Each of us has the potential to set the oppressed and captive free,
and give sight to the blind.
In this Jubilee Year of Hope
may we offer justice, peace and love to each other
and for those in our care.*

The Gospel chosen for this Jubilee Year of Hope

Joy and blessings,

Tamara Smith
tsmith@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au



**Are you able to help with selling ice-blocks?
Monday - Friday 12:40 to 2:15pm
Please contact Tamara Smith with the days
and weeks you are able to assist.
tsmith@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au**

PRAYER

Our School Prayer

This is our school. Let peace live here.
Let the rooms be filled with happiness.
Let love be felt here;
love of God, love of our fellow humans,
love of one another, and love of life itself.
Let us remember, that as many hands
build a house,
so many hearts make a school.
Lord, we ask you to bless all of us
involved in St Mary's Memorial School,
children, parents, priests and teachers.
Help us to work together to continue to
make our school
a place where everyone is welcomed
and supported
in the true spirit of God's love for us.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM

If your child is in Year 4 or above and has been Baptised they are invited to join the Sacramental program this year. Each Term children will learn about then celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Some children began this program last year with Reconciliation and the program will continue in Term 2.

***** If you missed the opportunity to attend this Reconciliation Program Fr John may repeat the program this term. Please contact Fr John asap using his email (below) or email Tamara Smith and we will confirm if there is enough interest for this to go ahead.*****

The program then continues with Confirmation in Term 2 2025 and first Holy Communion in Term 3.

If you have any questions about the sacramental program feel free to contact Father John. Father John would also love some parents to help out with activities - if you are willing and able please email him: jdherd@hotmail.com

MASSSES

Masses and liturgies are celebrated regularly and we warmly invite family and friends to join us.

Changes to the calendar regarding Masses and their times will need to be made occasionally as the needs of our parish and our priests come up. The newsletter will publish the most current times.

Apologies for any inconvenience.



SUNDAY GOSPEL QUOTE

Luke 4:17-18

He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:



MASS & LITURGY CALENDAR

Term 1 is always our busiest term. Here is an outline of some of the main celebrations on our school's Church calendar.

- Week 1 Whole School Welcome Mass on Thu 9:00am
- Week 2 No Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 3 Year 6 Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 4 Year 5 Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 5 Year 4 Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 6 Shrove Tuesday (Pancakes for children)
Ash Wednesday
Years 3 to 6 Mass on Wed 9:15am
Reception to Year 2 Liturgy on Wed TBC
- Week 7 No Mass
- Week 8 Year 3 Mass on Tue 9:30am
- Week 9 Rec, R1 & Yr 2 Liturgy on Tue 11:30am
- Week 10 No Mass
- Week 11 Holy Week Presentation TBC

**PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE OF DAY**

COMMUNITY PRAYER

**ALL FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US
FOR COMMUNITY PRAYER
8:45AM EVERY FRIDAY**

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH



We invite your family to join us at our annual

COMMUNITY WELCOME EVENING

**WEDNESDAY
5TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

5:00pm - Meet the Staff

Join us on the courts as our Principal, Sonja Smith, welcomes families to the evening and introduces the wonderful team at St Mary's Memorial School to the community.



5:30pm - Classroom Visits Begin

Parents are welcome to visit classrooms at the designated times below. Teachers will provide a brief overview of the year ahead and then children can show families around their rooms.

5:30 - 6:00pm: Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 classrooms open

6:00 - 6:30pm: Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms open

6:30 - 7:00pm: Year 4 and Year 5 classrooms open

A complimentary sausage sizzle will be available to enjoy throughout the evening.

7:00 PM - Evening Concludes

The event will finish with gates closing promptly at 7:15pm.



FROM THE FINANCE MANAGER

The 2025 school fee statements will be sent home in the week ending Friday 7th February. Please contact me if you have not received your statement by this date.

The first school fee instalment is due by Friday 28/02/2025. The amount due is one third of the total charges on your account, with the remaining balance to be paid in Terms 2 and 3, to be finalised by the end of term 3, unless on a payment arrangement (ie Direct Debit/BPay).

The school has multiple payment options, please refer to your statement for further information.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOOL CARD IN 2025?

School Card is a South Australian Government initiative to assist low to middle income earners with education costs.

Please see the table below to see if you may be eligible. Income limits are based on 2023/24 financial year unless a change in circumstances has occurred.

NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN	GROSS ANNUAL SCHOOL CARD INCOME LIMIT	GROSS WEEKLY SCHOOL CARD INCOME LIMIT
1	\$74,189	\$1,426
2	\$75,514	\$1,452
3	\$76,839	\$1,478
4	\$78,164	\$1,504

If you believe you may be eligible for School Card, please complete the online application through the link below:


<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme>

Once completed, send a copy of your form to the email address listed, or contact the front office if you need a paper application.

Please contact me if you have any queries in relation to school fee accounts, direct debit arrangements or 2025 School Card. I am available by email at finance@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au, by phone on 8294 4580 or in person on Monday – Friday.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Ashfield
Finance Manager




For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr! you can:

- Pay for a variety of school items;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!
on your Android phone or iPhone, iPad users can download iPhone app

Step 2 Register
Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school
Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school, or search for our school by name.



Step 4 Register your children
When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

Search for our school name



Add your children's details in Student Profiles

Select 'Add student profile'

Add each child's details

Manage each child's details in Student Profiles

Purchase school items

Select a menu from our school

Select child you are ordering for

Select your items

Tap 'Checkout' then confirm and pay

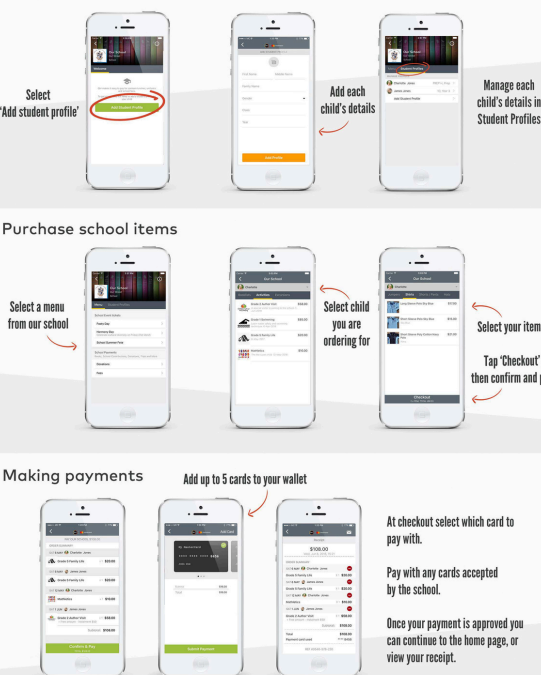
Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet

At checkout select which card to pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted by the school.

Once your payment is approved you can continue to the home page, or view your receipt.



Wine & Cheese Gathering

You are warmly invited to an evening where we'll explore how you can become more actively involved in the St Mary's Memorial School community. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parents, exchange ideas, and learn about ways to contribute to our school's success.

Wednesday, 12 February
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow parents, share ideas, and learn how you can make a positive impact.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to strengthen our school community!



ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL
COMMUNITY GROUP

Please enter through the Staff Carpark Gate



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

We remind you of a mandatory requirement for all volunteers at St Mary's Memorial School. All RRHAN (Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse, and Neglect) training undertaken before early 2024, expired on December 31, 2024.

To continue volunteering in 2025, all Registered Volunteers must complete the updated RRHAN training and forward your certificate to the school at volunteers@stmarmem.catholic.edu.au.

Please visit the RRHAN training platform using this [PLINK LINK](#). Once there, register or log in under "Non-Department for Education Staff" to access the required modules. We sincerely appreciate your time, commitment, and dedication to our school. Your participation in this training is vital to creating a safe and supportive environment.

If you have any queries, please contact the Front Office.



ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL

ST MARY'S MEMORIAL SCHOOL 2025 TERM 1 CALENDAR



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY SUNDAY
Week 1	January 27 Australia Day Public Holiday	January 28 FIRST DAY TERM 1	January 29	January 30 Whole School Mass 9.00am	January 31 – Newsletter 8.45am Community Prayer	February 1 February 2
Week 2	February 3	February 4	February 5 Year 6 Formation Day Community Welcome Evening 5-7pm	February 6	February 7 8.45am Community Prayer / Assembly – Year 6 Year 3 Social Night	February 8 February 9
Week 3	February 10	February 11 Mass – Yr 6	February 12	February 13	February 14 8.45am Community Prayer	February 15 February 16
Week 4	February 17	February 18 Mass – Yr 5	February 19 School Board	February 20	February 21 8.45am Community Prayer / Assembly Principal's Tour – 10am Reception Welcome Social Night - SMMSCG	February 22 February 23
Week 5	February 24	February 25 Mass – Yr 4	February 26	February 27	February 28 Newsletter 8.45am Community Prayer Yr 1 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 1 March 2
Week 6	March 3	March 4 Shrove Tuesday	March 5 SAPSASA Swimming Carnival Ash Wednesday - Mass	March 6	March 7 PUPIL FREE DAY	March 8 March 9
Week 7	March 10 Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday	March 11	March 12	March 13	March 14 8.45am Community Prayer / Assembly Yr 6 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 15 March 16
Week 8	March 17 St Patricks Day Parent Teachers Interviews	March 18 Parent Teacher Interviews Mass – Yr 3	March 19 Parent Teacher Interviews School Board - AGM	March 20 Parent Teachers Interviews	March 21 SPORTS DAY Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park Yr 2 Social Night – SMMSCG	March 22 March 23
Week 9	March 24 SACPSSA Swimming Carnival for Yrs 3-6	March 25 Liturgy R-2 9.00am	March 26	March 27	March 28 8.45am Community Prayer Yr 5 Social Night - SMMSCG	March 29 March 30
Week 10	March 31	April 1	April 2	April 3	April 4 Newsletter 8.45am Community Prayer SAPSASA Swimming State Championship Yr 4 Social Night - SMMSCG	April 5 April 6
WEEK 11	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11 LAST DAY OF TERM 1	April 12 April 13

* PLEASE NOTE, EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE CURRENTLY FINALISING OUR 2025 EVENTS AND WILL SHARE KEY DATES WITH THE COMMUNITY SHORTLY

29 JANUARY 2025