

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*"Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts."
Pope Francis*

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

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas and the well-deserved school holidays, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for each and every one of you.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, a time of hope, peace, love, and new beginnings. These values are core to our Catholic education and are evident in our Dominican Pillars and everything we do at St Mary's Memorial School.

- **Hope:** Hope shines brightly in the curious and eager eyes of our students as they learn (study), grow, and discover their potential. It is reflected in the resilience of our families and the unwavering dedication of our staff. I hope you find rest, renewal, and joy this holiday season.
- **Peace:** Peace is found in the quiet moments of prayer and reflection that bring us closer to God and each other. It is evident in the respectful interactions between students and the nurturing presence of our staff. Peace be with you and your families this Christmas.
- **Love:** Love is shared through acts of kindness, compassion, and service to those around us. It is the foundation of the strong relationships within our school community and the care we show to one another. Let us extend love to our neighbours and share generously with those in need.
- **New Beginnings:** New beginnings are embraced with every challenge we face and every opportunity we welcome. They are seen in the creativity of our students and the passion of our staff. I look forward to the new beginning of 2025, walking together as a unified school community.

Class Placements

Last week, a class teacher shared some excellent information with their families about the process of assigning students to their classes for the upcoming year. I found it to be clear, well-written, and helpful, and thought it might be useful when discussing your child's placement in their new class next year.

Class placements is one that teachers and school leaders' approach with great care and thoughtfulness. Our teaching team has collaborated extensively to ensure that every child has been placed with one or more of their nominated learning friends for 2025. While our Year One students may feel some sadness about leaving familiar classmates behind, the opportunity to meet new friends and form fresh connections is a positive aspect of this change.

It's important to remain optimistic and confident about these changes, as your attitude will help them feel more at ease and excited about the upcoming year.

Christmas Musical Treat

A special thank you to Marie Heinrich, mum of Ellie (Reception) and Jack (Year 2), who, along with guitarist Matthew, filled our school library with Christmas cheer! Their delightful performance of beloved children's songs and Christmas classics had students and teachers joyfully singing and dancing along to every tune.



Carols By Candlelight

WOW, what a night! Our incredible school community came alive in Christmas colours last Friday for our much loved Carols by Candlelight event. With a few extra prayers, we were blessed with perfect weather, setting the stage for a magical evening filled with music, joy, and Christmas spirit.

Our gorgeous students shone brightly as they performed their well-rehearsed songs on stage, spreading smiles and festive cheer to everyone in attendance. We couldn't be prouder of them!

A sincere thank you to our St Mary's Memorial School families and everyone who joined us to celebrate the festive season, you truly made the night special. A huge shoutout to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts leading up to the event and on the night itself. Thank you to our SMMS Community Group for distributing candles and batteries, creating that beautiful candlelit atmosphere.

A special acknowledgment goes to Jo Dyson for her patience, dedication, and creative energy in teaching the children their songs and moves. Thank you also to Tamara Smith for supporting Jo and co-planning this successful event.

Special thanks to Charles and Charlie (Year 6) for their witty commentary as our hosts for the evening, they kept us entertained and made the night even more memorable. We are also grateful to Fr John for joining us and leading us in prayer to open the evening with a sense of faith and community.

Most importantly, to our students, you were the absolute stars of the show, lighting up the night with your talent and Christmas spirit. Congratulations to all involved, it was truly an unforgettable evening!



2025 School Fees

We are pleased to inform our school families that there will not be an increase in school fees for the 2025 school year.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

No increase in school fees for 2025

Farewell and Best Wishes to Our Year 6 Graduates

It's time to say goodbye to our Year 6 students and congratulate them on completing their primary schooling. We wish them every success as they embark on their new journey in secondary school. Go with our blessings, love, and best wishes, knowing you will always hold a special place in our hearts and minds as valued members of our St Mary's Memorial School community. Shine brightly, Year 6's, we are so very proud of you!



A few key dates for 2025:

Holiday Uniform Shop Opening Hours

- *Friday, 17 January, 9:00am – 12:00pm*
- *Tuesday, 21 January, 9:00am – 12:00pm*

School Office Opening Hours

- *Monday, 20 January – Friday, 24 January*

Australia Day Public Holiday

- *Monday, 27 January*

Term 1 Commences

- *Tuesday, 28 January*

Community Welcome Evening

- *Wednesday, 5 February*

Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday

- *Monday, 10 March*

End of Term 1

- *Friday, 11 April*

Easter – Good Friday

- *Friday, 18 April*

We extend warm gratitude to the families who are leaving St Mary's Memorial School. Your time, support, and contributions have meant so much to us. We wish you all the very best in whatever comes next on your journey and know that you will always hold a special place in our hearts. Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

As we conclude another wonderful year at St Mary's, I want to thank you for your partnership, trust, and unwavering support. Together, we continue to build a community that reflects our values and nurtures the potential of every child.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts and homes with joy, peace, and love. May you find comfort in your faith, inspiration in your family, and blessings in the year ahead. I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy, and restful New Year.

With gratitude and blessings

Sonja Smith
Principal

FROM THE APRIM

What an explosion of joy for us to end the year with.

Our little Receptions began the Advent season for us here at school by putting together our front office Nativity scene. Everyone keeps asking, "Where is baby Jesus?!" Jesus has not been born yet – we need to wait for Christmas. And that is what Advent is all about; waiting in joyful anticipation for the coming of baby Jesus. (Having said that, baby Jesus will be placed in our Nativity scene for the last two days of school so they can see Him).

Our Year 1s have been busily making Nativity scenes in their classrooms and on Sunday a number of them came to Mass here at Our Lady of Victories where their creations were blessed by Fr John as part of the Blessing of the Cribs.

The Blessing of the Cribs is a beautiful little ritual that takes place in Catholic Masses all over the world, where people bring in their Nativity scene and have it blessed as part of Mass. The Cathedral in the City will have their ceremonies on the 14th and 15th of December: Saturday: 6pm or Sunday: 9am, 11am, and 6pm Masses. You could also search up other parishes for when their Blessing of the Cribs will take place.

A highlight of the year was Friday's Carols By Candlelight. There was so much uncertainty around the weather, and we haven't done it here at the school in this format before, so we were quite nervous, but we needn't have been. Oh what a night! Thank you all so much for coming out and celebrating with us; it was an absolute joy.

If you would like to give us some feedback, please get in touch.

Our End of Year Mass was a beautiful blessing for the end of our year and a special way to say good bye to children and staff leaving. I thank Fr John for his blessings, both for this final Mass and for all the ways he has blessed us throughout 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank all those families who contributed to our Christmas Appeal. You should feel so proud to know that on Christmas Day you will have made someone smile. Your generosity is much appreciated over what has been a financially challenging year for more people than ever before.

As our school year ends for 2024 may you have a joy filled and blessed Christmas. Stay safe and share your love generously.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



And that's a (Christmas) wrap!

Joy and blessings,
Tamara Smith



PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

We thank you God for...

Every prayer we have prayed
 Every song we have sung
 All the things we have learned
 All the laughter and fun

Thank You for all the joy You bring
 and our wonderful times together
 May we walk with You as each new day begins
 This moment and forever

AMEN

SUNDAY GOSPEL QUOTE



SACRAMENT PROGRAM

If your child is in Year 3 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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has now been celebrated and completed. Congratulations to all those children involved.

If you missed it and would like for your child to join the sacramental program for 2025 please let Fr John know asap.

If you would like your child to be Baptised please let us know.

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



Dominican Awards

For an excellent attitude towards the
 Community Pillar of Prayer
 6-12-24



Mason Neumann
 Jessica Higgins
 Indy Thompson
 Oscar Lively
 Ivy Walker
 Matisse Halemba
 Harry Clarke
 Harper Stewart
 Noah Clapp
 Scarlett Wojcik
 Sophie Kelly
 William Angus

Elijah Lively
 Grace Zimmermann
 Ruby Barclay
 Alfie Hazelwood
 Joshua Vale
 Isla O'Brien
 Ariana Scott
 Freddie Blowers
 Mabel Daley
 Billie Williams
 Daphne Daley
 Oscar Norman

Frances Jaensch
 Azura Delbello
 Eliana McMillan
 Lewis Woolley
 Parker Williams
 Sophia Durante
 Zara Rasheed
 Charley Gerritsen-Hale
 Miriam Abdelmalak
 Lily Lomas
 Jayden Jackson
 James Evans

Bodhi Hillman
 Maya Alksne
 Sienna Delarozza
 Harvey Talbot
 Harry Coleman
 Angelo Rrotani
 Maeve Maddigan
 Nola Martin
 Pia Kothari
 Eoghan Oglesby
 Chloe Sonnors
 Josie Murphy

CAROLS By Candlelight



JAPANESE



HISTORY

Our learning in history lessons this term has been interesting and fun. Here are some comments from some of our students.

We really enjoyed learning about Burke and Wills. We worked with Vanessa to read and write about this explorer. We made a PowerPoint presentation. We put in some really interesting pictures and some good information. I think everyone liked listening to our presentation.

Leni and Jayna (4A)

We really enjoyed learning about the Remembrance Day traditions, symbols and ceremonies this term. Remembrance Day is a very important event in Australia as we take time to remember those soldiers who fought in all wars for the peace and freedom of Australians. We are very grateful to them. We found it interesting that different countries have different names for this special commemoration such as Armistice Day and Veteran's Day.

Sam and Lily (3 Moules)

We really liked how we learnt about Remembrance Day this term because we got to hear the Flanders Field poem. It was a bit sad, but it told us why the poppy is used as a symbol for this day. We wrote our own Remembrance Day acrostic poems which was good fun. It is so good to learn about Australia so we understand more about our country and what is important to us.

Daniel F and Wren (3 Munro)

It was so much fun doing our research on James Cook and Joseph Banks. We worked really hard to get our research finished early so we could spend time practising our presentation. Even though one of us made a mistake in the presentation we still enjoyed this work and received very good feedback from the class.

Mailie, Emanuella, Hudson and Oliver D. (4B)

Our groups researched George Bass and his expedition around the east coast of Australia. He found Bass Strait which is the strait that separated Tasmania from mainland Australia. It was fairly good working as a group because we didn't have to do everything on our own and so we could rely on each other to get us through. Our presentation went really well, and we received very good feedback from the class.

Elijah, William, Amelia and Grace (4B)

As a group we researched Burke and Will and where they went while searching Australia. They travelled to the Barcoo River and up to northern Queensland. It was very dramatic as one of the men passed away. Burke and Wills died on their return trip. I really liked working with Luke. He was very helpful with getting the information and it was good to work as a group as we could support each other.

Xavier, Chloe Harper and Cassie (4B)

Working as a group to complete our research project on Thomas Mitchel was challenging but also a lot of fun as we got to work with people we wouldn't normally work with. Everyone offered really good ideas about information, planning our PowerPoint and presenting to the class. It was so helpful having extra eyes to look over our work to find and correct errors. Working this way helped us to achieve more than we could on our own. We received some very good feedback from the class which made us feel good about the work we had done.

Ivy Q, Zoe, Aari and Seb (5P)

**COMMUNITY WELCOME
EVENING**

SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY



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, will expire on December 31, 2024.

To continue volunteering in 2025, all Registered Volunteers must complete the updated RRHAN training by the end of this year 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.



UNIFORM SHOP

2025 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
OPENING HOURS

Friday, 17 January 2025

&

Tuesday, 21 January 2025

9:00am - 12:00pm

Please contact Christine on:- 0424 776 381

Email: ccoombe@belgraviports.com.au

or

Or visit the St Mary's Memorial School [Online Uniform Shop](#) to make an online order.

AfterPay is available with delivery information detailed on the online shop home page.



Wishing all our families a
joyful Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.

See you in 2025!