



## WEEK 1 TERM 4 NEWSLETTER Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 4 everyone. I hope everyone is well and rested and that you have all enjoyed the recent break from remote learning over the holidays. I look forward to another productive term at St Mark's packed with opportunities for our students.

Congratulations to everyone in our community for the courage and persistence you have shown over recent months as we have worked together to keep everyone safe, and to make the best of the situation. The children of St Mark's have continued to embody optimism and resilience throughout. Thanks to our staff for all the great work that has gone into remote learning. And thank you so much to all the families who have worked with us and trusted in us. We have seen once again how our wonderful community, united in partnership, can achieve so much for the children of St Mark's.

**The St Mark's Virtual Arts Show** was a lovely community event and a great way to finish Term 3 on a positive note. It was a fantastic presentation where we were able to celebrate the learning and talents of our students in the Visual, Performing and Creative Arts. A heartfelt thank you to the many people who worked so hard behind the scenes to make this such a positive experience for everyone. Thank you in particular to the following people – our Visual Arts Teacher Ms Tara Rubenstein, our Performing Arts Teacher Ms Lara Beltrame and the Art Show Committee for planning and preparing the event. If you have not viewed the Virtual Arts show as yet, I encourage you to do so - [https://smfawknercatholiceduau-my.sharepoint.com/:p/q/personal/daniela\\_lazzaro\\_smfawkner\\_catholic\\_edu\\_au/EXxwhDhXzndPhX5ZHr7Gk30BpvbOrN1WB MnqlzWue\\_jk\\_Q?e=S0Sf5t](https://smfawknercatholiceduau-my.sharepoint.com/:p/q/personal/daniela_lazzaro_smfawkner_catholic_edu_au/EXxwhDhXzndPhX5ZHr7Gk30BpvbOrN1WB MnqlzWue_jk_Q?e=S0Sf5t) Alternatively, you can view the virtual show through our St Mark's website. Simply head to <https://www.smfawkner.catholic.edu.au/>. Once there, click on the **NEWS AND EVENTS** tab. Scroll down to '**Recent News**' and click on the '**St Mark's Art Show**' text. Please give the presentation time to load on your device. When it has loaded, simply press the **PRESENT** button on the top right of your screen. You can navigate throughout the different galleries by clicking inside the frames and using the next and back buttons.

**The Gr 5/6 Virtual Camp** was also a great experience for our senior students, and a great way to finish of the term. I know that the Virtual Camp wasn't the same as actually being at The Ranch, but I have no doubt it was an engaging and memorable experience for the students. Thanks to our dedicated Senior Team of teachers and support staff who made this event possible.

Following is an extract from a lovely email we received from a parent of one of the 5/6 students:

*Just wanted to send a quick note to say it has been so lovely listening to the kids having such a fun time at the virtual camp today. I know my child had reservations about it all over the week but I think from the sounds of laughter and noise coming from the group, it has been a success!*

*So nice to hear considering how much the kids were looking forward to camp. All teachers have done an amazing job to get this together.*

I am conscious that for some children and their families the coming weeks, as we transition back to onsite learning, may be difficult due to safety concerns. Please know that all recommended safety measures will be in place when students return. The wellbeing of all children, staff and community members remains the number one priority. Listed later in this Newsletter are a number of strategies you can begin using to assist your child for a smooth transition back to school. A comprehensive outline of the phased return to onsite learning will be shared with all families via SeeSaw and Skoolbag in coming days. Please contact me or your child's teacher if you have any questions.

For the foreseeable future many restrictions will remain in place at St Mark's. I will continue to keep families informed over coming weeks so that we can continue to work together to ensure the safety of our children and each other. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support.

I encourage everyone to remain vigilant and to follow the Government and DHS guidelines we currently have in place. I am aware that there have been a number of exposure sites in the Fawkner area, and surrounding suburbs in recent days/weeks. A full list of exposure sites and requirements can be found at - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites> It's so important that we all do the right thing to keep each other safe and to enable the return to onsite learning as soon as possible.

**2021 School Fees & Curriculum Levies** – As advised in the final Newsletter of Term 3, the school is offering each St Mark's family a credit to their outstanding Curriculum Levy balance, in light of the cancellation of many excursions, incursions, the P-2 Swimming Program and 5/6 Camp this year. Statements will be going out to all families soon, and will incorporate a credit of \$150.00 per P-2 student, \$100.00 per 3/4 student and \$350.00 per 5/6 student, **to those families who request it**. These figures are directly proportional to the Curriculum Levies collected for each level, minus money spent in the first half of the year and money required for the remainder of the year.

Families are invited to fill in the form below and return it to the office via email **by Friday October 8<sup>th</sup>** – [accounts@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au) Statements will then be sent out to all families **incorporating the credit to those families who have made a request**.

**MACSSIS School Improvement Surveys** – Throughout each year, we pause to listen to our students, families and staff to gauge how our learning community is travelling. This feedback is invaluable to our progress as effective school communities and is backed by evidence-based research and best practices. This year we are participating in the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS). MACSSIS is a set of surveys that have been built specifically for Catholic schools in Melbourne by the Learning Services team at MACS, in partnership with researchers at Learning First and in wide consultation with principals in our schools.

One of the main goals of the family survey is to identify the strengths and areas for improvement in our school. MACSSIS data benefits everyone within our school and provides valuable community insights on areas that we can focus on. We believe it is important to encourage families to have a voice and contribute to shaping the ongoing improvement of the school.

**The survey is only available online, can be accessed from tomorrow, Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> and needs to be completed by Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>. This survey may only be completed once.**

**All participation is invited, welcomed and 100 per cent voluntary.** The surveys are not a test; they are an inclusive way to support the work we are already doing to improve our school. Everyone has the right to refuse to participate, or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during or after completion of the survey.

Gr4, 5 & 6 students will be provided with supervised sessions to complete the survey when they return, where teachers are on hand to help and answer any questions. Please notify the school if you do not wish your child to participate. Families can complete the survey anytime over the three-week window.

The survey is available in English, Arabic, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese. To complete the survey you will need access the following link: <https://orima.com/macsfamily> (you may need to copy & paste the link, or type it directly into your browser).

**Each family will receive an email soon containing a unique PIN which will enable your family to access MACSSIS. Please keep an eye on your emails (and your SPAM Folder). Please contact the Office if you do not receive the email, have any questions, or would like assistance in completing the Survey. We thank you for your participation and value your feedback.**

**Chicken Care Over the Holidays** - A big thank you to Jack (LA1) and Charlie (LA5) and their families for looking after the chickens over the holidays. They looked well fed and very content on our return on Monday.

**School Closure Day in Term 4 – Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>** will be a school closure day. Staff will use this day for Semester 2 Report writing. If we are back onsite, it is our intention for Youth Leadership Victoria to run Out of School Hours Full Day Care on the day. Bookings at – <https://ylv.com.au/>

**Intentions for 2022** – It's hard to believe that we are currently in the process of preparing our class structures for 2022. To assist, we need to know if any students (other than Gr 6's) will be leaving St Mark's at the end of 2021. If your child will not be returning to St Mark's in 2022 can you please inform me in writing as soon as possible.

**Update on New COVID Restrictions** - All staff and visitors to St Mark's are required to wear a face mask while onsite, unless there is an exemption. If for any reason you need to enter a school building while onsite, **you must sign in using our QR Code**, wear your face mask and continue to socially distance. We ask that parents minimise their time onsite and continue to sign in and out using our Passtab if there is a need to enter school buildings. Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your patience, understanding and support.

As a community we continue to follow all the procedures and protocols of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). Advice from the DHHS is that if a student or member of the community is unwell for any reason, **they should get tested and then remain at home until they receive their results. Please do not leave your house for any reason until you receive your results.** Further information on COVID-19 is available on the DHHS Website - [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) and the CECV Website - <http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents>  
 Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

**2021 Sacrament Dates**

**First Eucharist –Grade 4’s – To be advised**

**Confirmation – Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm – CANCELLED – New date to be advised**

**Our Condolences** – We offer our heartfelt condolences to 2019 St Mark’s Graduate, Hayley Laskowski and her family on the recent passing of her dear Father, Roger Laskowski. Please keep Hayley and her family in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. May perpetual light shine upon him, May he rest in peace.

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to the following people who are celebrating their Birthday.

Date	Name	LA	Date	Name	LA
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Paulina	7			



**2021 Curriculum Levies Credit Request**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) would like to be credited the above mentioned 2021 Curriculum Levies for my child/ren and request that my account be credited accordingly.

Child 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Gr Level \_\_\_\_\_

Child 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Gr Level \_\_\_\_\_

Child 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Gr Level \_\_\_\_\_

Child 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Gr Level \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this Form to the Office by Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> – [accounts@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Learners Of The Week

Learning Area	Name
<b>Prep</b>	Scarlett - for being a persistent and courageous learner when writing. You did a brilliant job at writing sounds you hear in words as well as including lots of detail in your story plan. You should be very proud of your writing. Well done Scarlett.
<b>LA4</b>	Patrick - for being a persistent and courageous learner. You consistently complete the class learning tasks and attend all Google meetings. It has been great to see you share your thoughts and ideas. Well done!  Sahaj - for being a curious learner and asking questions about your learning. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm you show when learning new things. Keep up the great work!
<b>LA5</b>	Charlie - for being a persistent and respectful learner. It is fantastic to see the way you turn up to all Google Meets on time and ready to learn. Congratulations for always putting in your best effort. You should be very proud.
<b>LA7</b>	Daniel - for being a resilient learner. You are always on time for meetings and come prepared with the materials which you need for learning. Congratulations on the consistent effort you have been putting into completing all of the set learning tasks at such a high standard. Keep up the fantastic work!
<b>LA8</b>	Antonia - for being a persistent and courageous learner. You have worked extremely hard attending all your google meets and working solidly on your inquiry presentation. Congratulations!
<b>LA9</b>	Diyenka - for beginning the term positively with your persistence to understand and tackle new concepts, such as Geometry and Shapes. Your 'have-a-go' attitude is excellent.
<b>LA10</b>	Sofia Field - for your persistence during Remote Learning. You diligently complete all set tasks each week. You should also be commended in the way that you always participate so well during Google Meets. Keep up the great work!
<b>ITALIAN</b>	Sienna S LA5 - for tackling your Italian clock activity with swiftness and you submitted your response on the very first day of the week. This fine dedication shows that you are positive about your learning: molto positivo! Brava!

God Bless,

**Peter Wilson, Principal**

**'The St Mark's Catholic Primary School, Fawkner Community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.'**

**TERM 4, 2021****OCTOBER**

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.45am	Term 4 Commences
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #1 - CANCELLED
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd School Improvement Surveys Opens
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Confirmation Retreat Day - CANCELLED
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #2 - CANCELLED
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Celebration of Confirmation @ St Mark's - CANCELLED
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>		Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd School Improvement Surveys Close
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #3 - TBC
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #4 - TBC
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Day For Daniel

**NOVEMBER**

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>		School Closure Day – Report Writing
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Melbourne Cup Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #5 - TBC
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Steps 2 Prep Session #6 - TBC
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>		Remembrance Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.40am	St Mark's Remembrance Day Service – Details to be advised
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Mercy College Transition Evening
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	2021 Preps Orientation Session #1 - TBC
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	2021 Preps Orientation Session #2 - TBC
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>		1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**DECEMBER**

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Christmas Carols & Family Picnic – TO BE CONFIRMED
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Penola Catholic College Orientation Day
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>		Parade College Orientation Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Academy of Mary Immaculate Yr7 2022 Orientation Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Government Secondary Colleges Orientation Day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Simonds College 2022 Yr7 Orientation Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>		Semester 2 Reports go home today
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>		3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Step Up 2022 Classes Orientation Session
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>		Yr6 End of Year Excursion
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Graduation Mass & Celebration
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	End of Year Mass – Details to be advised
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11.50am	Yr6 Farewell Assembly – Details to be advised
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>		Final Day of Semester 2 - Students Dismissed @ 1.30pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## **Returning to school: 7 tips for parents/carers to help children cope (Primary) Adapted from: Parent zone**

After months of remote learning and a range of COVID19 restrictions, children will be returning to school routines, classrooms, classmates, teachers, expectations and, in some cases, even new school settings. Amid the anticipation and excitement many children are feeling, for some, leaving the home learning routine and environment may create anxiety for a range of reasons including: the ongoing uncertainty of COVID19; social distancing and hygiene measures in place; family circumstances related to health; grief associated with a recent loss; or economic circumstances.

To prepare and support students' return to onsite learning and the school/classroom environment, consider the following tips:

### **1. Talk to your children about how they feel**

- It is important to encourage children to discuss their feelings about returning to school.
- If they feel anxious or worried, help them understand this is perfectly normal, and that you and their teachers are there to support them.
- **Although difficult, try not to share any anxiety you may be feeling with your children.**
- Bear in mind that your child may be returning to a pre-existing issue from before remote learning – for example, a bullying or relationship issue, or difficulty with school work or staff – or they may be preparing for the transition to secondary school.
- Try to give them a non-judgemental and supportive place to share any worries. Younger children, in particular, may not always have the words to express their feelings, so try to find a way of bringing up the conversation without putting pressure on them – for instance when you're playing with them or going for a walk. This can help them to open up naturally and identify what they're worried about.

### **2. Pack right, pack light**

- Your school will have been in touch to let you know what your child should and shouldn't bring on their return. Eg. bring an individual water bottle.
- Make sure you have checked with your school about what they need in order to make your child's day easier.

### **3. Support children to understand the school procedures**

- Your school will also have been in touch to explain various procedures in place – such as entry points, break times and hand washing routines.
- If you haven't received this information or are unsure you should contact your school office.
- It will be important for your child to understand social distancing and hygiene rules and, importantly, why they are in place.
- Read school communications with your child and make sure they are prepared and know what to expect when they arrive at school.

### **4. Familiarise yourself with school procedures**

- You'll need to know where and when to drop children off and pick them up, as well as what parts of the school you can access.
- If your child travels to/from school independently, including on public transport, you should talk to your child about getting to and from school, including observing the directions of Victoria's Chief Health Officer (ie. social distancing, group gatherings).
- Your child will be expecting you at the end of the day so make sure you, or whoever is collecting them, are there in the right place at the right time.
- If your child travels home independently, make sure you, or another carer, is there to welcome them home and check-in about their day.

## 5. End of day emotions

- For younger children in particular, a school day can require a lot of self-regulation or compressed behaviour, which can lead to tired and emotional outbursts later on in the day.
- Given the length of remote learning and new school safety procedures in place, these emotions may be hard to cope with when they return home.
- It is a good idea to keep this in mind, and allow some time for 'letting off steam' by encouraging children to unwind and play outdoors.

## 6. Stay informed

- Given the long absence from school, there may be a period of readjustment.
- Discuss and affirm familiar routines and school expectations regarding uniform, grooming, attendance and participation to help your child reconnect with their school community.
- There may be fresh challenges for your child, from working with new classmates and teachers, to coping with their work and school expectations / 'rules'.
- Try to stay informed about how they are getting on – but if you are concerned, contact the class teacher.

## 7. Sleep and rest

- Your children may have been getting used to some unusual hours during the remote learning period and that may have extended into the school holidays.
- Make sure children are getting a good night's sleep for their return to school.
- It might mean introducing some earlier bedtimes than they have had recently and limiting screen time.
- A good night's rest will help them cope with the return to school and the new routines they will be adapting to.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus is asking us to "come, follow me." We can be true followers of Jesus by being good people- through showing our love for others, working together to do what is right and giving thanks and being grateful for what we have in our lives. We know that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit each day as we strive to do the best for ourselves so that we can also support others when they need it.



### **Gospel- Mk 10:17-27**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.



Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### **Celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist**

Due to the current lockdown restrictions, the Celebration of Confirmation scheduled for Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

We are aware that the cancellation of both Confirmation and Yr 4 First Eucharist is disappointing for the children and families involved. We will provide further details and information at a later date.



### **Month of the Rosary**

By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. The best way to celebrate the month is to pray the Rosary. The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament, with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. This Thursday our Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.



### **The Mysteries of the Rosary**

- **The Joyful Mysteries** are taken mostly from Saint Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus' childhood.
- **The Luminous Mysteries** (Mysteries of Light) bring a deeper understanding to the public life of Jesus. From the childhood of Jesus and His ministry
- **The Sorrowful Mysteries** remind us of how much Jesus loves us. They recall how He suffered and died for us.
- **The Glorious Mysteries** tell us what happened after Jesus died-His Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the love Jesus had for his Mother.

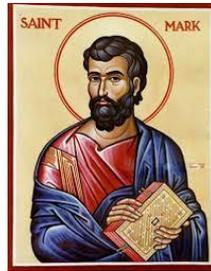


## Prayer for Beginning of Term 4

*Lord,  
as we enter into a new term of learning,  
we thank you for the unique gifts of every child.  
Fill them with fresh enthusiasm  
and a heart that is excited to learn and grow.*

*We give thanks for the parents and families,  
who work hard to educate their children  
in partnership with our school staff .*

*Let your light shine through all that we do  
in our St Mark's Parish Primary School,  
especially during this time of Remote Learning.  
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen  
St Mark, pray for us*



**Ms Dot Mash**  
RE Leader