

Important Dates

Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday 13 February 2024

Meet the Teacher Evening - 2 Sessions
6.30pm-7pm/7.10pm-7.40pm
Tuesday 13 February 2024

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 14 February 2024

Feast of St Valentine
Wednesday 14 February 2024

Term 1 - Pupil Free Day
Friday 8 March 2024

Adelaide Cup Long Weekend (No School)
Monday 11 March 2024

Sports Day - Families Welcome
Friday 5 April 2024

Term 3 - Pupil Free Day
Friday 23 August 2024

Term 4 - Pupil Free Day
Thursday 12 December 2024

Term 4 - Pupil Free Day
Friday 13 December 2024

From the Leadership Team

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2024 school year. I hope that you have had a great break and have enjoyed spending the extra time with your children. As children entered the gate on day one it was obvious many were excited to be back at school (and many parents seemed happy too!) We look forward to sharing in this important journey with you of educating your children, helping them to build positive relationships and having some fun along the way.

We welcome our new staff, teachers Becky Hill (Reception), Leah Dickson (Year 4/5), Angela Rose (Year 4/5), Sarah Storrie (STEM), Rosemarie Villano (Performing Arts) and CoEducators Denise Sawyer and Max Monaghan. We especially welcome our new students:

Reception: Achan, Achilles, Austin, Awak, Emily, Freya, Garang, Ilya, Ivy, Kosi, Lily, Lucy, Luka, Mikaylah, Phoenix, Scarlett, Selina, Sophie, Temilouluwa, Thea, Vadhanak.

Year 1: Elika, Ettore

Year 2: Ayan-Ali, Chiagoziem, Kamsi, Reign

Year 3: Nelson, Summer

Year 4: Kamsi

Year 5: Angelina, Kaelan, Mason

May your time with us be full of learning, friendships and fun. We warmly welcome you and your families to our school community.

During the holiday we had some renovations done in the Library building, with the open spaces being converted into classrooms in order to accommodate an increase in numbers. At the moment our enrolments are 168 children from Reception through to Year 6. Thank you

to those in our community who obviously speak positively about our school to others. Most of our enrolments come due to the effect of 'word of mouth'. With the renovations now complete we have moved our senior students across into the Library building. I want to thank our staff for their patience in waiting for these rooms to be complete before they could move in. I also want to thank them for the great deal of work they had to do in the move, relocating furniture and other items.

On Tuesday 13th February (Shrove Tuesday) we will hold a 'Meet the Teacher' evening. This is the opportunity for our teachers to outline their expectations, routines and plans for the year ahead. They will run two sessions and you can choose which one you go to, enabling those families with two children to get to at least two classes. The first session will be from 6:30pm to 7pm and the second session will be from 7:10pm to 7:40pm. We will provide creche facilities in the Yarning Place for those who require it. Please complete the return slip below to enable us to provide sufficient staffing to cater for the number of children attending. Remember that this is an information session only, it is not the time for a one to one discussion or interview with the classroom teacher.

Please note that we have the following dates set aside as Pupil Free Days for the staff to undertake professional development, staff reflection, complete hand over activities, etc. There are still two more dates to be set for later in the year: Fri 8 March, Fri 23 August, Thu 12 December and Fri 13 December. Please mark them in your diary.

Shrove Tuesday is just over a week away. It is the last day before the season of Lent in our Church year and is traditionally the day when people used up their eggs and milk and made pancakes. We will have fun sharing pancakes with your children again on that day. Please let your child's teacher know if there are any dietary requirements!

I look forward to working with you and your children again this year.

Kind regards

Peter Mercer

Head of School

Recent News

From the APRIM

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

A very big welcome to our new families, new staff and all families who have returned to our school community for 2024. This week we joined across our two schools (St. Thomas More and St Mary Magdalene's) for our Community Teams Prayer. We will continue to do this each week throughout the year with a different staff member leading us in prayer each week. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces on the screen this morning.

Today we focused on the gifts each of us brings to our school community. Students and staff have been challenged to recognise the gifts they have within them and share them with us throughout the year. As part of our prayer, we took some time to pray for people in our world, in our families and in our school communities.

We look forward to sharing snippets of our prayer with you as we move through the term.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR INFORMATION

A Liturgical Calendar shows the cycle of seasons in the Catholic Church. The Church year consists of six liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time after Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time after Pentecost. In each newsletter we aim to highlight different events in the Liturgical Calendar that we might be focusing on or celebrating in our school.

Special celebrations that we focus on during classroom and whole school prayer throughout term 1 and those that come up in our liturgical calendar include:

Week 3

13/2 Shrove Tuesday

14/2 Ash Wednesday

14/2 Feast of St. Valentine

17/2 Random Acts of Kindness Day

Week 6

9/3 Ramadan begins.

Week 7

17/3 Feast of St. Patrick

Week 8

19/3 Feast of St. Joseph

21/3 Harmony Day

Week 9

24/3 Palm Sunday

28/3 Holy Thursday

29/3 Good Friday

Week 10

31/3 Easter Sunday

SHROVE TUESDAY, ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

In week 3 we enter a new liturgical season in the Catholic Church, the season of Lent. This season lasts for forty days and forty nights. We begin with Shrove Tuesday. This day is celebrated by Catholics around the world in different ways. Some refer to it as Pancake Day, Mardi Gras or Carnevale. In preparation for Lent, Catholics would use up foods which they were not permitted to consume during Lent. This included eggs, fat, and rich foods.

This year, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes. More information will be sent to families via Seesaw in the coming weeks.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We then celebrate Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. The marking of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a reminder for us all to walk with Jesus during the season of Lent, to say sorry for the times we have hurt others and aim to become more loving as we work to put others needs before our own. It is a special time when we stop and think about how we can play our part in God's hope for a world that is fair, just, and peaceful. We will celebrate Ash Wednesday with a liturgy. More information will be sent to families via Seesaw in the coming weeks.

ELIZABETH CATHOLIC PARISH SACRAMENT PROGRAM

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist form the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. If your child is 7 years of age (or older) and would like to be involved in the program for 2024, you might like to come along to an **Information Session on Friday 9th February at 6:00pm in St Thomas More Church, 19 Laverstock Rd, Elizabeth North.**

Please contact Melissa Musolino for more information.

Phone: 82556144

Email: mmusolino@smm.catholic.edu.au

Year 5/6 News!

Year 5/6 Class News!

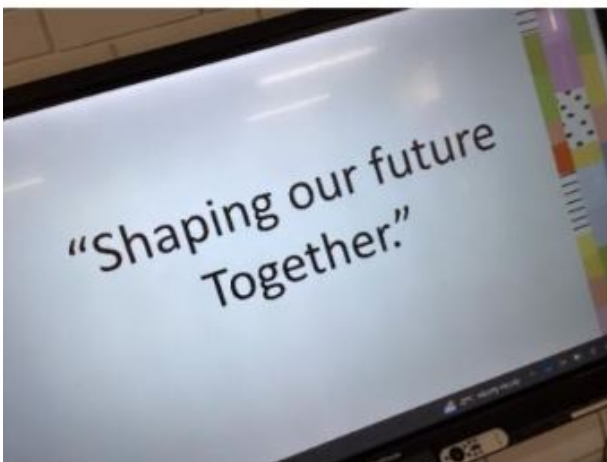
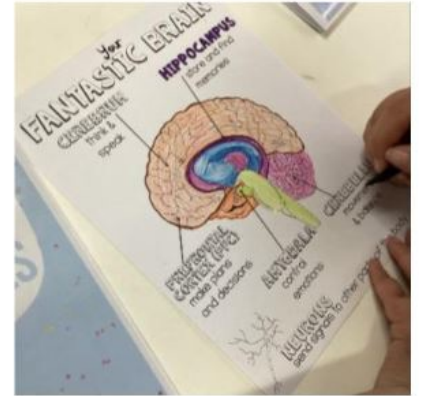
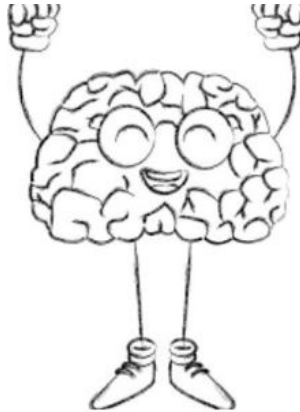
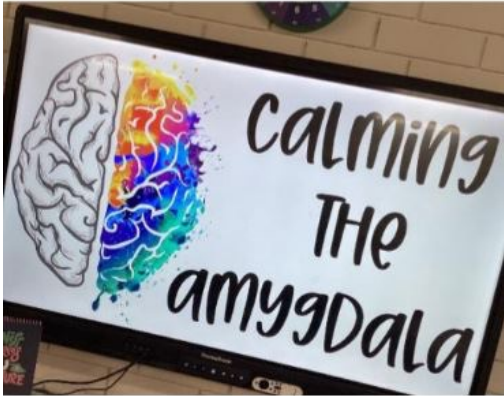
The Year 5/6's have been exploring, 'What it means to have a great learning community'. We have begun to discuss what elements help our learning community to be successful through the lens of our learning vision:

“Shaping our Future Together”

We are also beginning to look towards the Mercy Values as a way to guide us in our conduct in the classroom. In conjunction with this, we have begun our journey with the Mind Up Curriculum. This looks at setting the foundation for success by looking at how our brain works, our triggers, and what strategies we can utilise to help calm our brains, which helps with our self-control and self-regulation skills.

Why is this important?

These learning opportunities provide students with the keys for a successful year in 2024 and later in life, teaching them personal awareness and relationship skills which increases our students’ personal, social, and emotional competence. This gives us a strong foundation that permeates the rest of the year.



OSHC Welcome Back!

OSHC Newsletter Week 1 Term 1

Welcome to OSHC 2024!

I'm very excited to be back at OSHC this year and looking forward to working alongside you all after welcoming baby Brooklyn into the world and enjoying some much-needed time full of family, rest, and relaxation. Term 1 is such a busy time as we adjust to big changes, get into routines, and welcome our new and returning children and families in our community. I thank you in advance for your continued cooperation, patience, and kindness as we all settle back into things, and I know that it's going to be a great term!

With my return you may notice some staffing changes in OSHC this Term. These changes mean that there will be more regularity and predictability in staffing OSHC each week with OSHC staff primarily consisting of myself (Jenn Firth) and Sally Winters. You may also see from time to time any of our other wonderful Co-Educators in the OSHC space.

A few quick notices from OSHC:

- If you need to contact OSHC or OSHC staff regarding bookings or enrolments, please contact the OSHC mobile. This goes direct to OSHC and can be reached on 0437 609 630.
- Please be sure to return your enrolment updates and booking confirmations by the 9th of February to secure your bookings.
- If you require an enrolment form for OSHC please speak to either me or Front Office staff.
- This year we will once again be utilising the Seesaw platform. At this stage the class is not yet active, and we are in the process of getting that back up and running for 2024.

Thank you!

Jenn Firth

OSHC Director



LEARN TO COOK EASY & HEALTHY MEALS



OzHarvest's NEST program teaches you new skills for better health in just six weeks.

- Save money on your food budget
- Store food safely
- Understand food labels
- Plan meals and reduce waste
- Cook easy and healthy recipes



NEST[™]
NUTRITION EDUCATION
& SKILLS TRAINING

NEST will be held at:

THURSDAYS

Date(s): 8th Feb, 15th Feb,
22nd Feb, 29th Feb
7th March & 14th March

Time: 9:30am - 12pm

Location: **St Mary Magdalene's School**
Community Hub & Kitchen

82 Fairfield Road, Elizabeth Grove
*Enter through Harvey Road Gate
*Sign in through the front office

SIGN UP TO NEST FOR FREE

CONTACT KERRYN - 0437 609 976



Community Hub

St Mary Magdalene's School - 82 Fairfield Road Elizabeth Grove
(Enter through the gate on Harvey Road. Please sign in at the Front Office)



Term 1, 2024 TIMETABLE

All sessions are FREE and open to the Community - Everyone is welcome!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	IMPORTANT DATES
COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS 9:30am - 11:30am *FREE CHILD MINDING *BOOKING REQUIRED NO COST - FREE CLASSES ALL LEVELS WELCOME 5th Feb - 8th April	Little Maggies Playgroup 9am - 10:30am FUN ACTIVITIES + MAKE NEW FRIENDS CHILDREN FROM BIRTH - 5 YEARS 30th Jan - 2nd April	PLAYGROUP SPECIAL EVENT JOINT EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE WORDS GROW MINDS CAMPAIGN TERM 1 THEME: PLAY 9:30AM - 11AM PLAYFORD ALIVE WATER PLAY AREA *BOOKING REQUIRED 27th March	OZ HARVEST COOKING PROGRAM 9:30am - 12pm *FREE CHILD MINDING *BOOKING REQUIRED NO COST - FREE CLASSES *LIMITED SPACES 8th Feb - 14th March	FREE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHECKS INFO SESSION: TUESDAY - 19th March DEVELOPMENT CHECKS: TUESDAY - 26th March
PARENTS, CARERS & FRIENDS 2pm - 3pm POP IN FOR A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE, CHAT TO OTHER FAMILIES AND BROWSE OUR OP-SHOP! 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 4th March & 25th March	CRAFT GROUP 11am - 12:45pm JOIN THE GROUP ACTIVITY OR BRING YOUR OWN CRAFT 30th Jan - 2nd April	ONE BOX COLLECTION 3pm FORTNIGHTLY BOX OF FRESH FRUIT, VEG & BREAD *See Kerryn to join the waiting list	COMMUNITY ENGLISH CLASS 12:30pm - 2:30pm *FREE CHILD MINDING *BOOKING REQUIRED NO COST - FREE CLASSES ALL LEVELS WELCOME 1st Feb - 4th April	

www.facebook.com/CommunityHubSMM



Ready, Set, Progress

Playgroup SA has partnered with the Office for the Early Years (Department of Education) to provide free development checks for children aged 12 months to 4 years. The checks provide an important opportunity to monitor your child's development, identify any concerns and celebrate milestones. A development check helps to monitor whether a child is meeting the milestones for their age (such as dressing or talking). Please note this is not a health check.

What does the check screen?

The development check looks at the following areas: communication, movement, problem solving and personal-social skills.

Why do a developmental check?

When concerns about a child's development are identified early and appropriate support is given, children have the best chance of developing the skills they need for playing, interacting and learning. This gives them the best chance of reaching their potential.

How will you screen my child?

We will be using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3) to monitor your child's developmental milestones. This questionnaire is parent friendly and will be sent home to be completed over a 1 week period. A child development facilitator will talk with you individually about the questionnaire on the following visit and will be able to help you answer any questions if you were not able to complete it.

What do I need to do?

- Attend playgroup on given date
- Sign a consent form and take home the questionnaire provided at play group on given date
- Complete the questionnaire at home
- Attend the playgroup with completed questionnaire on given date
- Follow through with any referrals or recommendations, if needed.

FREE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHECKS
Little Maggies Playgroup
INFO SESSION: TUESDAY - 19th March
DEVELOPMENT CHECKS: TUESDAY - 26th March



60TH BIRTHDAY EVENTS | 2024

FEB 23	BIRTHDAY PARTY 5 - 8PM
QUIZ NIGHT 7PM	MAR 22
MAY 25	60'S NIGHT 7:30PM
A CLASS ACT (PRESENT & PAST STAFF)	JUNE 28
AUG 25	MASS/MORNING TEA/OPEN DAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GREENACRES FACEBOOK PAGE



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