**Annual Book Fair:**

The annual bookfair has been running this week. Thank-you to the students and their families for your support. The fair will finish tomorrow afternoon after school.

There are a wide variety of books available and they would be a great addition to any Christmas gift.

**BluEarth:**

This week the students have had two very enjoyable and learning filled sessions. There will be two sessions in the coming week on Monday, December 5th and Thursday, December 8th.

BluEarth is a physical education program which focuses on teaching students skills, fitness and increasing the student’s awareness of themselves. This involves being calm, taking responsibility of your role in the game and catching your breath.

These four sessions are in preparation of the Physical Education focus during 2017.

**Seedbank Horsham:**

The day started off with a bus trip. Once we arrived we couldn’t wait to stretch our legs and get started. When we got inside we were welcomed by staff directing us to a presentation about the AGG (Australian Grains Genebank). There were 4 stations including:

1. Seed Spotting.
2. Seed Survival.
3. Seed Saving.

Once each group completed the 4 stations we went into the main building to inspect the Litchfield seed art they had on display and watched a short video of them creating it. For lunch we went to the Horsham Botanical Gardens and had a play around on the playground. As a special treat at the end of the day, Jessica, Jestine, Jade and Mrs. Hogan went into McDonald’s to buy the class ice-cream Sundaes.

By Jessica, Noah and Grace

**Santa Mail:**

The Foundation/1 class have been busy writing their letters to Santa this week. The students were all very eager to post their letters yesterday and are looking forward to receiving a letter back from Santa. Pictured are Zachariah Clapham and Lexis Pratt.
Advent: This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am at St. Mary’s.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: This morning the Grade Five and Six students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Church with Fr. Eugene. This sacrament is a time to reflect and make a new start as we finish the school year and prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas.

Let’s Read Donald - Pop Up Libraries to Come to Town!
In an effort to bring more books to the community both the Donald Primary and St Mary’s Primary Schools are combining forces and planning to launch a number of Pop-Up libraries across the Donald Township.
Both schools are now sourcing new and donated books appropriate for pre-school and primary school aged children. Any books may be dropped into the school as there is a box in the Office Foyer. Donated books can also be left in the black tubs at both schools and at the Donald Newsagency.

Pastoral Care Worker: Anne Boadle
Works at St. Mary’s each Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm.
Contact Details: Through the school 5497 1116 or by ringing directly on 0409 598 481.
Email: Anne.Boadle@centacareballarat.org.au

The Bounce Back! Program
In our remaining sessions before the end of term, we will be continuing to consider what makes people laugh and the positive impact humour can have on our friendships and relationships with one another.
Ideas from the BounceBack Program that parents may like to use.
Read funny stories or poems with your child and enjoy the humour together. Encourage your child to think of ways to have fun with friends.

Grade 5 & 6
The Grade 5/6 class are gratefully accepting donations of magazines for Christmas craft projects. Glossy pages are best, for example magazines from ‘Better Homes and Gardens’ and ‘Women’s Weekly’ would be great.
Please deliver to Mrs Hogan’s room. Thank-you.

Principal’s Award: Congratulations to Ethan Clapham.
Dates To Remember:

Friday, December 9th: Reports go home. If any parent would like an appointment to discuss their child’s report please contact the Office and make the appointment during Week 11 – Monday, December 12th – Friday, December 16th.

Monday, December 12th: End of Year Mass at St. Mary’s Church at 6.30pm. This Mass is to give thanks for the School year, to acknowledge the Grade Six students and families leaving St. Mary’s this year. All students and their families are requested to attend if possible.

After Mass there will be an early supper in the Multi-Purpose room. All students, families and parishioners are invited to attend this Christmas get together.

Tuesday, December 13th: Grandparents and Special Friends Day will be held commencing at 9.00am with a Liturgy and Nativity Play. There will be Christmas activities followed by morning tea at 11.15am. All families are very warmly invited to attend.

Visiting the Johnson Goodwin Village: The students will be visiting the residents at the Village to wish them a Christmas greeting and perform a short Nativity Play and some Christmas songs during the last week of school.

Friday, December 16th: Students finish school for the 2016 school year at 3.25pm. On this day there will be swimming in the afternoon from 1.50pm. Students are required to bring their bathers, swimming vest or T-shirt.

Tuesday, December 20th: The staff finishes for the 2016 School year and the Office will be closed for holidays.

St Mary’s Weekly Tuck Shop Order:
Due back with payment – Wednesday the 7th of December.

Family Name

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please use a separate column for each child’s order.</th>
<th>Name:</th>
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Friday, December 9th

Helpers:

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<tr>
<td>Pie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sausage Roll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prima Juice</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddle Pop</td>
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Total Enclosed
Australian Grains Genebank

On Wednesday, the 30th of November, the Grade 5/6 class including, Mrs Hogan and Mrs Drum (teacher & bus driver), boarded a bus to visit the Australian Grains Genebank in Horsham. The Australian Grains Genebank is a building that stores more than 150,000 plant seeds. They keep the seeds to freeze and ship them to people that need them in the future. During the day we joined in four activity stations.

By Jade, Ebony & Erika.

Station 1: Types of Plants.
At station one, we were asked to look at a diagram of monocots and dicots and then had a look at some seeds. Some of us learnt new types of seeds. Then we were told to do a worksheet on what grains do when we consume them and other animals eat them too. Then we did another worksheet on what grains can be used for in cereals and what legumes are. Both the worksheets were very interesting. After everybody in our group had finished their worksheet we played a fun, made up card game about which grains are used in which food. Some questions were easy but some were very hard.

By Daniel & Zac.

Station 2: Identifying Seeds.
At station two, we had to find out the range of structural features that seeds have and how these are useful in surviving different environments.
We found out all the different grains and pulses, how they work and how they germinate and survive in the wild. Did you know? The oldest seed to have ever been germinated was 32,000 years old! It was found under permafrost in Siberia.
We had to use magnifying glasses to find out the features on the seeds or grains and how important they are and how to keep them alive for millions and millions of years. We had two scientists talk to us about many of the grains that are important to our world.

By Jestine and Petria.

Station 3: The ‘Dry Room’.
First, we went into the ‘dry room’. This room was designed to dry the seeds so that they would not freeze in the ‘freezer’.
This room was 15 C and was exactly at 15% humidity.
In the dry room we milled the seeds out of a husk using two cork boards which had rubber on the top. After that we were presented with a bag of seeds which had rogue seeds mixed in with them. We then sorted the seeds so that only the normal seeds remained and then put them in bags which were then vacuum sealed. After that we went to store our seeds in the freezer. THIS ROOM WAS COLD. VERY COLD! To be exact, negative 22 degrees Celsius! Our guide, who took us into this room to store our seeds, was wearing nothing more than her normal Summer uniform. After standing in the freezer for a good 5 minutes we were forced to go out.


Station 4: Survival.
At station four, we learnt about what humans and plants need to survive.
The five most common things plants and humans need to live are: air, water, food, shelter/sun and someone to look after them.
After we looked at survival we made a paper pot plant made out of newspaper and planted wheat seeds in them and we also received a small bag of all sorts of seeds to take home and plant.

By Liam and George
BLUEARTH

Students trying to improve their hand-eye coordination.