On Monday, five primary schools competed for the Frank Power Memorial Shield at Bairnsdale Bridge Club. The schools involved were St Mary's, West Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Swan Reaches and Eagle Point with all barings one of the schools represented by two teams. The Bridge in Schools program was introduced about five years ago by the late Frank Power, initially involving two schools. Today the program is being taught in five local primary schools.

The schools involved have given a one-hour session, one day a week as an extension to their maths program.

Bairnsdale Bridge Club has a dedicated group of bridge players who conduct the sessions. The students would normally play about five to six boards during that period. On Monday those students played 27 boards over three-and-a-half-hour period. They are to be commended for their endurance and focus. It is not easy to maintain focus and concentration for that period of time.

The successful team and winner of the shield was St Mary's No. 1 Team, with runners-up Eagle Point No. 2 Team. I would like to sincerely thank all the participating schools, their teachers and our very own bridge players who have taught and tutored the students throughout the year. Your help and dedication to the program is ensuring its ongoing success,” program coordinator, Bev Fisher, said.

“Bridge is a wonderful game for all ages. It’s a great way to keep mentally fit, meet new friends and enjoy playing cards.”

It helps keep your memory active and brain alert. It requires you to use mathematical, strategy and concentration and most of all improves inferential reasoning.

Bridge lessons will be held in the Bairnsdale clubrooms in early 2016.

St Mary’s crosses school bridge first

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