Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Welcome to the 2015 school year.

We especially welcome our new students and families to St Mary’s. Our Kinders made a wonderful start to school on Monday. Parents and carers, my hope for your partnership with us is that you feel welcomed and included and that your child(ren) enjoy their considerable learning, deepen their understanding and trust in Jesus and establish wonderful friendships.

We warmly welcome the new children in Years 1-6 who also commenced at our school this year: Layla C (4 Gold), Isabella C (2 Blue), Savio D (2 Gold), Ethan G (3 Green), Sapphire K (6 Blue), Declan P (4 Green), Koby Sl (2 Green), Lewis S (6 Blue), Indianna J (2 Blue) and Tanner J (4 Blue).

Homework Meeting
Our teachers have been discussing the place of homework in our school. Do you like your child to have homework? Does homework cause stress in your family? What is the purpose of homework? What are the benefits of homework?

I’d like to invite you into that discussion. I’d like to meet with as many parents as possible to examine how our school approaches homework. Please join us tomorrow morning to discuss the place of homework at our school. Our meeting begins at 9.15am and will conclude within an hour.

Opening School Mass
Please join us for our Opening School Mass at 9.15am on Friday 13th February. Our School Captains, Student Parliament, Sports Captains and Vice Captains will be invested during the Mass.

Staff Development Day
A reminder that our next Staff Development Day (administering Mathematical Assessment Interview) is on Friday 20th February.

Mobile Phones
A reminder that mobile phones are not permitted at our school. If a parent believes their child requires a mobile phone please contact me to discuss the situation.

Please Join Us
On Wednesday 11th February we invite you to join us for our Parent Teacher Meetings. The evening is designed to meet your child’s teacher and learn about the expectations and routines that are important to your child’s year. From 6.30 – 7.00pm parents of Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 children are invited to meet in the classrooms. From 7.00 – 7.30pm all parents will meet in the church. Parents of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are then asked to move to their child’s classroom for the primary section of the evening.

Understandably, some parents may move within sessions to hear from more than one teacher. I strongly encourage your attendance because it is such occasions that help build partnerships and share important information that will support your children’s learning.

Adelle and Liam S

P&F Meeting AGM
Our P&F AGM is on Wednesday 18th February at 7.00pm in the school’s library. You are most welcome to join us. Our P&F Meetings are run efficiently and conclude by 8.15pm.

Kind regards,

Kevin Williams
Welcome back to the 2015 school year! I hope that your Christmas break was a happy time for you and your family.

**Thank you!**
A big thank you to the parent team who organised the Christmas Eve Mass, particularly Shannon E and Tash and Wayne M. The Mass was a big success and your organisation was truly appreciated. Also, a big thank you to the children and families who participated. The children’s presence makes these significant occasions even more special.

**Opening School Mass**
Our K-6 Opening School Mass is next week, 13th February. We welcome parents, grandparents and new families to celebrate our first school mass for 2015 with us in the church. Mass begins at 9.15am.

**Sacramental Program**
Last week I visited every Year 2-6 class and distributed all of the information regarding dates for the 2015 Sacramental Program. The Sacramental Program includes children in Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4, as well as children in older grades who may have previously missed one of the sacraments. If you have any questions, please contact the school office and I can discuss your individual circumstances. A copy of these dates is also on our school website.

**Sunday Mass with Bishop Comensoli**
This Sunday evening, February 8th, Bishop Comensoli will be celebrating mass with us at our 6pm St Mary’s Parish Mass. Some of our students will be joining students and teachers from St Brendan’s and St Brigid’s for readings and presentations. It would be fantastic to see many students and families from our school community attend.

**Sacred Space and Assemblies**
This term, the classes who will have a Sacred Space item to share with the school at assembly time (Thursdays, 1.50pm) are 6 Gold, 6 Green, 2 Green, 4 Blue, 4 Gold and Year 3. You will find the complete timetable with the dates on our website. Please join us.

Emma Sellars
*Religious Education Coordinator*

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**From Our REC**

Welcome back to another great year at St Mary’s. In my role as Family Liaison Officer I am available to provide support to parents/ carers in times of need with family issues such as family breakdown, death in the family, sudden unemployment, etc, through either practical support or referral to appropriate service providers.

I can also assist with practical day to day issues such as getting the children organised for school, managing challenging behaviour, how to engage with your children’s learning, building resilience, etc.

Please feel free to call the office on 4396 5100 to speak with me or I am available in the school office all day Tuesday, Monday and Wednesday afternoons 12pm-3.30pm. Otherwise, feel free to pop in to the canteen and I can make time to see you privately.

Donna Falzon
*Family Liaison Officer*
KidsMatter

St Mary’s is proud to be a KidsMatter School since 2007. For those families new to St Mary’s, KidsMatter is an Australian mental health and wellbeing initiative set in primary schools and early childhood centres.

Funded by the Australian Government and beyondblue it is a partnership between education and the health sector bringing together all of the most important people in children’s lives, particularly families.

Each week we will have links to KidsMatter articles relevant to school and family life. You can also visit the website at any time - click here where you can also register for regular email newsletters.

The theme for Term 1 will be “Developing Friendships” for children at school. This week’s article is “Helping children learn positive friendship skills”. A hard copy will also be available on our Parent Resource Library stand. Positive friendships are important for children’s mental health, as they provide a means of support and help to develop their social and emotional skills. You can access the article by clicking here.

Something We’ve Noticed

The ‘little things’ in our school count. One of them is our school uniform. Parents and carers, we appreciate the considerable lengths to which you have gone to ensure your child is dressed in the correct school uniform. It certainly makes a difference to our place. Thank you.

Piano Tuition

There are currently vacancies for piano tuition during school hours. Please contact Chris Hochkins for further details.

Ph. 0414 186 044

A Kinder’s Thoughts

When asked how was your first day in Kinder, Eyli told his Mum, “I was there for a long time and I didn’t even learn how to read.”

From Our Librarian

Please click here for Miss Gray’s Library Blog

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<td>keep my book in a safe place</td>
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<tr>
<td>have clean hands when I am reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>not eat or drink while I am reading</td>
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<td>always use a book mark</td>
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<td>never dog ear the pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>always hold the book by its spine</td>
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<td>turn each page carefully</td>
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<tr>
<td>ask mum or dad to help me with tricky words.</td>
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<td>bring my books back on time</td>
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From Our Office

This week requests were sent out for updated medical action plans. If you didn’t receive a request and your child has a medical condition could you please contact the office on 4396 5100.

A reminder that we are unable to administer medication at school without the appropriate documentation completed and signed by your doctor.

Thank you

Lyn and Jacqui

Noah D and Adam Q
From Our PE Teacher

Our Swimming Carnival

Monday 16th February

Thank you so much to the parents who have returned permission notes – I have been able to get over half of the program completed already! Any remaining notes need to be returned by tomorrow as the last of the program will be put together next weekend.

Also thank you to the many parents helping – I would love a few more to go in with their child’s class for Novelties from 11.30 – 12.30. Please let the office or your class teacher know if you can assist. It helps smaller children who cannot stand up in the pool feel secure.

Click here to view this term’s sporting dates.

Rose C and Dimity M

Canteen Roster

- **Thursday 5th**
  - Deb C
  - Nicky A 9-11.20

- **Friday 6th**
  - Chris B
  - Shari A
  - Melissa P
  - Jessica B 12-2
  - Emma D 9-11.20

- **Monday 9th**
  - Amanda N
  - Sara W 9-11.20
  - Tiffany R 9-11.20
  - Jess H 9-11.20
  - Bronwen H 12-2

- **Wednesday 11th**
  - Rebecca R 9-11.20
  - Carley B 9-11.20
  - Gail R 12-2pm

- **Thursday 12th**
  - Leah B
  - Melissa L 9-11.20
  - Megan B9-11.20
  - Jenny I12-2

- **Friday 13th**
  - Leesa S
  - Fiona F
  - Craig W
  - Bianca C
  - Angie H 12-2

Uniform Shop News

Changed Shop Hours for Week 2

Mon, Wed Fri 8.30am-11.00am

For appointments outside these hours call or text between 9am-6pm Cathy Whitmore 0406 535 166.

A big thank you to Donna Falzon for helping out in the Uniform Shop on the open day in the holidays.

Please visit our school website for more Uniform Shop News.

Olivia R, Tom H, Issy H, Joel C and Steven K

458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263

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**Website:** www.smtdbb.catholic.edu.au