Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Our Parent Information Evening is on Wednesday. Please take the time to meet your child’s teacher and be informed of class expectations for the school year.

6.30pm K-2
7.00pm K-6 Church
7.30pm Years 3-6

If you have children in multiple classrooms, please feel free to wander from one room to another.

Homework Meeting
We appreciate the overwhelming interest with 70 people in attendance and 40 email responses regarding our meeting reviewing our homework practices. After much discussion with parents, teachers and senior students, it was decided that we trial (2015) the following format:

1. K-6 Reading (compulsory)
2. Incidentals
3. Online (optional)
4. Assignments (compulsory)

Details of the above format will be shared at tonight’s meetings.

Opening School Mass
Please join us for our Opening School Mass at 9.15am on Friday. 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.

Our Swimming Carnival
You are welcome to join us as Years 2-6 enjoy our annual Swimming Carnival at Mingara on Monday. It is an expectation that all students remain at the pool until the carnival is finished.

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.

Our Leadership Team
Our school’s Leadership Team for 2015 includes:

Principal: Kevin Williams
Acting AP: Julie Baker
REC: Emma Sellars
Coordinators: Debbie Burns
             Liz Hartge

Kind regards,

Kevin Williams
From Our REC

Opening School Mass
Our Opening School Mass will be held this Friday morning, 9.15am. It is during this mass that all Year 6 students and those holding a leadership position in 2015 make their pledges to the school community. We welcome parents, grandparents and new families to celebrate our first school mass for 2015 with us in the church.

Ash Wednesday
This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th, which is next Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of reflection, reconciliation and turning away from sin. This day is marked by fasting and the use of ashes. We will be coming together for a Year 2-6 Mass at 9.15am and a Kinder/Year 1 Liturgy at 10.30am, both in the church. Parents, we invite you to both of these occasions.

Sacramental Program
Information regarding dates for the 2015 Sacramental Program have been distributed and are also on our school website. This is for 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. Please note a change of date: First Eucharist is now 14/6/15, not 7/6/15, as printed in the handout. If you have any questions, please contact the school office and I can discuss your individual circumstances.

Sunday Mass with Bishop Comensoli
Last Sunday evening Bishop Comensoli celebrated mass with us at our 6pm St Mary’s Parish Mass. Thank you to the families and teachers who were able to join us at mass. Well done to Elyse S, Luka P, Sheridan S, Mason F, Abby F, Leah H, Tessa H, Layla H, Pania P and Mia W who all had jobs at the mass. Well done, you were great representatives for St Mary’s.

Catholic Schools Week
Catholic Schools Week is Week 7 (March 9th-14th) of this term. Upcoming newsletters will detail times and dates of liturgies and open classrooms. Watch this space!

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

A part of the parent discussion about homework last week included some interesting comments regarding understanding what the children are actually learning at school. Do you know what an algorithm is? An exposition? A narrative?

Having a good understanding of the language of school is important to support and connect with our children’s education. Teachers speak in these terms and that’s what the students understand. Very different to what we know as sums, a written argument or a story from our own education years ago.

On our website we have a file of School Jargon Busters. You might also want to take a look at the School AtoZ website which is a great resource for parents with many more definitions of school terms as well as help sheets for maths and tips for parents. The free School AtoZ app also has some great English and Maths games.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

This week we have a link to a KidsMatter information sheets titled *Everyone Needs a Friend*.

Making and keeping friends require skills that children develop with time and experience. However, some children seem to find it difficult to develop and maintain friendships, which can be a cause of concern for parents/carers.

Social and communication skills are important, as are the ability to cooperate and empathise with others. Parents/carers are the most important role models for children to learn these skills. They see how we behave with those around us and how we react to the ups and downs of relationships and tend to model their behaviour on our own.

Giving children opportunities to play with others outside of school provides them with chances to continue to develop friendship skills. Positive guidance from parents/carers can also help them deal with some of the trickier aspects of friendship.

We all want our children to have fun, build confidence and have positive emotional wellbeing and children’s friendships provide avenues for this.

**Something We’ve Noticed**

Our Kinders are beautiful. They’ve made such a positive start to school. Our Kinders are attentive, polite, good listeners and their size makes the Principal feel (ish).

“I like it at school when we join our hands in prayer.”

Bailey F

“I like school because my teacher says that mistakes are good. It means I’m learning and I am learning so much.”

Mackenzie W

**Star Awards**

Adelle S  
Sinead H  
Annabel R  
Zoe R  
Gemma S  
Chelsea H  
Megan M  
Lucy A  
Brodie S  
Sophie H  
Carissa M  
Brooke E  
Hannah G  
Charlotte B  
Alexi B  
Ariel C  
Julianna S  
Rose C  
Tom W

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**From Our Librarian**

**Reading For Pleasure**

Reading is a lifelong skill. Being an effective reader is now more important than ever given the wealth of information that is available at the click of a button. Here at St Mary’s we recognize the importance of reading. You can support your child by making sure reading is a priority at home. Every child will bring home readers and library books throughout the year. It is important that reading is a necessary pleasure rather than a necessary chore. Visit our St Mary’s E-Library to read more on our Library News page and watch the video clip of helpful tips.

http://stmaryse-library.weebly.com/library-news

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**From Our Office**

A reminder that your first instalment for your school fees is due shortly, depending on your payment schedule, the due dates are as follows:

- Weekly: 13th February
- Fortnightly: 13th February
- Monthly: 15th February
- Per Term: 23rd February
- Annual: 23rd February

If at any time you wish to change your instalment plan please let us know and we will make the necessary adjustments.

Thank you

Lyn and Jacqui

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**Piano Tuition**

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

Ph. 0414 186 044

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Nathaniel A

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Jack B and Lily T
St Mary’s Swimming Carnival Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00-9.30am</td>
<td>100m Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30-11.00am</td>
<td>50m, 20m &amp; 10m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00-11.30am</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30-1.00pm</td>
<td>Novelty Events, 50m &amp; 200m Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00-1.45pm</td>
<td>Lunch, 200m IM, Relays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45-2.00pm</td>
<td>Presentation &amp; Finish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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From Our PE Teacher

**Car Park Safety**
For the children’s safety, when parking please reverse into the designated space.

**Our Year 6**
Our Year 6 have had a sensational start to the school year. They’ve provided a good balance of support and care for their Kinder buddies without being overbearing.

The example they’ve been setting for all students is excellent. Keep up the great work, Year 6.

**Uniform Shop News**
Changed Shop Hours for Week 3
Mon, Wed Fri 8.30am-11.00am
For appointments outside these hours call or text between 9am-6pm Cathy Whitmore 0406 535 166.

Recorders are available at the shop for $10
Please visit our school website for more Uniform Shop News.

**Canteen News**
Canteen closed on Monday due to the Swimming Carnival

Please visit our school website for the canteen roster.

Elly S and Ava C