Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

I trust that the holiday period proved a good opportunity for your children to recover from illness, enjoy the lack of routine and revel in the weather.

Unlike this past week. I genuinely hope that the ferocity of the recent weather has not been too problematic for you. As you may have seen on our Facebook page a number of trees and large branches fell, with the one leaning on Year 6 being the most difficult to remove.

I sincerely thank all parents and carers for your flexibility, understanding and patience while we made sure our site was safe for your children.

Winter Uniform

The formal changeover to winter uniform is Monday 11 May (Week 4). If the weather turns cooler earlier, the children are welcome to change to their full winter uniform.

Enrolling for Kinder 2016

We are currently enrolling for Kinder 2016. If you have not yet collected an enrolment package, they are available at our office. For those who have forms, could you please return them shortly and organise your child’s meeting time.

ANZAC Day Liturgy

Last Friday we witnessed a moving and special 100th Anniversary ANZAC Day commemoration reflected in our school’s liturgy. We thank Toukley RSL for kindly laying a commemorative plaque to mark the significance of the anniversary. We thank Miss Johnson, Mrs Kyle, Miss Dunn, Miss Lovelock, Mrs Grech and Mrs Sellars for so capably organizing our liturgy. Special thanks to our children whose reverence and respect was befitting of such an important occasion.

Staff Development Days

No Staff Development Days have been planned for this term.

NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 5 sit for NAPLAN on Tuesday – Thursday (12-14 May) of Week 4.

Year 1 Meeting

A reminder that our Year 1 meeting for all parent and carers is at 6.30pm on Thursday evening. We will meet in the library. We value your presence.

Contract Renewal

A panel visits our school soon for my Contract Renewal. We sent, via email, a survey to a wide range of parents across the school yesterday. I appreciate parents taking the time to complete the survey. The data feeds into the Contract Renewal process. If there is anyone else who would like a survey, please contact our office.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that your Easter break was restful and enjoyable.

Welcome Fr Stephen!
During the school holidays Fr Peter left our parish and Fr Stephen joined us, moving from the parish of Woy Woy. Please join me in welcoming Fr Stephen, who will celebrate mass with us for the first time as a school community next Friday for our Mother’s Day Mass.

ANZAC Day Liturgy
Last Friday morning our school community remembered all those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a free and safe country. Our ANZAC Day Liturgy was a very special liturgy. Thank you to the teachers who helped prepare the morning and also the members from our local Toukley RSL Branch who attended.

ANZAC Day March
St Mary’s students once again participated in the ANZAC Day March to Toukley RSL and our captains laid a wreath on behalf of our school community (donated by a family who wish to remain anonymous - thank you). Thank you to the 50+ students and Ms Johnson, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hartge, Mrs Perell and Mrs Bain for their attendance. Your behaviour was outstanding.

Stations of the Cross

First Eucharist
Students have this term received the forms and dates for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. This involves students in Years 4, 5 and 6. Please note, the enrolment meeting is tomorrow afternoon (April 30th) at 4pm in the church. Please take your enrolment form with you.

Masses in Term 2
This term we have a few masses, we warmly welcome your attendance at any you are able to. Mother’s Day Mass: 9.15am, 8/5/15, Mary Help of Christians Mass and Feast Day: 22/5/15, Sacred Heart Mass: 9.15am, 12/6/15.

Mother’s Day Photo Slideshow Mums, you can’t read this!
Boys and girls, we are now collecting photos to use in our Mother’s Day Mass Slideshow. The photo can be of yourself with mum, nan, grandma, auntie or another significant woman in your life. The photo must be emailed by Monday May 4th to Stephanie.Burns@dbb.edu.au Late submissions will not be included.

Project Compassion
Thank you to all of the children who put money in the Project Compassion boxes in classrooms throughout the Lenten Season. We raised almost $700 which will now be sent to Caritas Australia. Great job, everyone! 1 Blue and 2 Gold both raised over $60 dollars each, the most out of all of the classes in the school - wow, what an amazing effort!

Parent Reflection Morning - a date for the diary!
I’m very excited to announce that we have arranged another Parent Spirituality Morning for Wednesday June 17th, 9am-11am. The theme of the morning will be ‘The Spirit of Motherhood’ and I highly recommend coming along. The morning will be run by Virginia Ryan and Fr John Frauenfelder from the Catholic Schools Office, who are both amazing presenters. An invitation will be sent home with more details in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions as the term progresses, please don’t hesitate to call the office. I am always happy to discuss matters with you.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator
**KidsMatter**

Our own thoughts about our abilities and achievements can have a profound affect on how we feel and behave. This is especially true for children who are still learning to self regulate and negative self talk can take a very big toll on their emotions and self esteem.

This week’s newsletter article, “How thinking affects feelings” has some very useful information about how the significant adults in children’s lives can help them learn to identify and then overcome negative thoughts.

For children, learning how to see situations as learning experiences or an immediate challenge to be overcome rather than as catastrophes or “always” situations is a significant part of their social and emotional development.

Having positive thoughts and being able to see the bright side of a situation leads to better mental health outcomes for children and adults alike. Having adults around them modelling positive self talk and behaviour is the best way for children to learn these skills.

**From Our Family Liaison Officer**

**Seasons for Growth Parent Program**

I’m sure we would all like our children to be able to just enjoy being carefree kids, but challenging family circumstances mean that doesn’t always happen. Children take in much more than we realise sometimes and can personally take on the burden of worry and stress that adults may be experiencing, particularly during family breakdowns.

Children may not be able to talk about how they feel but it can show in their behaviour—withdrawn, angry, aggressive, anxious, etc.

Tonight our Seasons for Growth Parent Program begins as a child focused workshop to help parents/carers support their children during and after times of family breakdown. If you have experienced separation or divorce and would like to discover ways to help your children manage this challenging time in their life please contact the office for further information or to register your interest in participating.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

**Star Awards**

Mia P
Max H
Jack M
Mia J
Sienna C
Brendan T
Layla H
Jye S
Summer H
Noah S
Tanner J
Brendan H
Zander F
Ben R
Kirra B
Noah D
Jackson T

**From Our Office**

If you have picked up an enrolment pack for Kinder 2016, you can now drop them back to the office. We have already started to organize interview times for you and your child to meet with Mr Williams. Please remember we need to sight the original of your child’s birth certificate.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui
From Our PE Teacher

CCC Cross Country postponed until Tuesday 5th May
Adcock Park is closed for the rest of the week. The Cross Country will now be on Tuesday 5th May at Mount Penang Gardens, Kariong. If parents need to change transport details there will be an opportunity to do so.

Catholic Independent Cup Rugby League also postponed - No new dates

Athletics Carnival Tuesday 26th May
All notes due back by Friday, I am doing the program this weekend. Thank you to the large number of parent helpers - you are wonderful!!

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

English Parent Education
This term’s Parent Education session is on Tuesday 2nd June. Practical ideas for how to help your child is a focus. The repeated sessions are at 9.15am and 6.30pm. Free child minding is available.

Canteen News
The Term 2 canteen roster is now on the website. Winter lunch specials begin this week. Friday May 1st Soup of the day—Chicken and Sweetcorn

Seasons for Growth
Seasons for Growth Parent Program begins tonight. It is designed to help parents understand how divorce/ separation effects children and what they can do to support them. Please note that you will need to register beforehand as it is run as a small group programme and places are limited.

On Our Website
- Optional Homework Suggestions
- Canteen Roster
- School Newsletter
- Permission Notes
- Term Calendars
- Medication Policy
- Sporting Dates
- News and Events

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