Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

One of the highlights of the school year is celebrating the vital role our Mums have at our annual Mother’s Day Mass. Please join us on Friday as we celebrate, appreciate and thank our Mums with a special Mass at 9.15am in our Church. Immediately following Mass all Mums are invited to Morning Tea in the undercroft area of our school.

We trust that all our Mums, Grandmothers, Aunties and Carers enjoy a special day on Sunday.

A question for our Mums: Please circle your correct answer(s).

On Mother’s Day I love to:
(a) be surrounded by my family
(b) be spoilt with breakfast in bed
(c) smile as I eat the burnt toast in (b)
(d) watch my children’s expression as I open a present
(e) be surprised
(f) enjoy heading out for breakfast, lunch or dinner
(g) smile as the runny egg in (b) goes everywhere
(h) be at Mass with my family
(i) feel my child’s love in a great, big hug
(j) not have to cook
(k) smile as the coffee in (b) goes cold
(l) receive a hand-made card from the kids
(m) enjoy my family making a special effort to please me
(n) smile as I don’t have to take care of the dishes after (b)

Happy Mother’s Day.

P&F Meeting
Please join us for this term’s P&F Meeting on Wednesday 13th May in our school’s Library.

Uniform Shop Coordinator
We congratulate Mrs Cathy Whitmore on her teaching appointment to MacKillop Catholic College. We thank Cathy for her tireless efforts, positive attitude and efficient manner in successfully running our Uniform Shop. We are currently advertising for a new Coordinator. Applications close on Friday.

Winter Uniform
The formal changeover to winter uniform is next Monday 11 May (Week 4).

Congratulations
We congratulate Amber R (5 Gold), Jade R (6 Blue) and Daniel M (2 Gold) on recently being welcomed into our Catholic faith. We trust that your Baptism certainly made you feel special and closer to Jesus.

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. An email version or hard copy is available.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Mother’s Day
I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all mums a wonderful Mother’s Day this weekend. I hope you are spoilt and have a chance to relax. We hope to see many of you this Friday at 9.15am for our Mother’s Day Mass. Mass will be followed by morning tea, provided by our P&F. Please join us.

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.

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 ‘A 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.

Seasons for Growth
Later this term we would like to commence the 2015 Seasons for Growth Student Program at St Mary’s. Seasons for Growth is an Australian Loss and Grief Support Programme that aims to support young people to understand and manage the grief that is experienced because of the loss of a parent or significant other through death, separation or divorce. Today, an expression of interest note has gone home with additional information. Please look out for this note if you think your child might benefit from this program.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Parent Meditation Program
Following on from last Terms’ Monday morning Meditation/Mindfulness sessions, next week we will be starting a FREE 6 week program for all interested parents/carers. Each session will stand alone—you don’t need to commit to the full 6 weeks.

Each Monday morning at 9.15am, parents/carers are invited to make their way to the classroom next to the undercroft area to spend some relaxing and quiet time with a qualified practitioner, Vicki O’Leary. If you’re thinking “I’m just too busy. I don’t have time” then you are the ideal person to come along. You will discover simple, yet very effective ways to feel more relaxed and more in control of your day.

Those who came along last term found it not only enjoyable but the simple techniques they learned proved useful for both themselves and for their children during stressful, anxious times.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

Our student’s Social and Emotional Development is a key part of their education at school. At St Mary’s, “Bounce Back” is the specific programme used as part of the PD/HPE Key Learning Area but Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is evident everywhere, everyday.

From day to day interactions in the classroom, on the playground or through direct instruction, teachers model and encourage the development of SEL skills among the students. Being able to share, take turns, get along with others, see things from another’s point of view and having the ability to “bounce back” from difficult or uncomfortable events (resilience) are all skills that children develop over time.

Having significant adults in their lives who can help them become independent, resilient individuals by actively encouraging their social and emotional growth is a huge advantage for children. Who are the most significant adults in a child’s life? — family members.

While they definitely learn from their teachers, parent/ carers/ grandparents have the most significant impact on a child’s life. At St Mary’s we endeavour to work hand in hand with parents/ carers for the benefit of all students. Please see this week’s KidsMatter article for ideas and information about Children’s Emotional Development.

**From Our Librarian**

There is a huge range of information out there on the world wide web and it is growing exponentially every minute. It is important to check a web site carefully before using it. Help your child apply Kathy Schrock’s Five W’s of Web Site Evaluation to the web sites that come up in his search. This will help her choose and use the most reliable sources of information. It is important that children can read the information on a web page. Refining your search with addition of the words ‘for kids’ helps guide the search results. For example when you type in Federation for kids higher significant of child friendly sites are found.

**From Our Office**

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

All families are required to maintain regular payments towards school fees throughout the year. Please assist by bringing your account up to date. Please disregard this notice if fees are up to date.

Thanking you in advance.

Lyn and Jacqui
Administration

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**Something We’ve Noticed**

We are lucky to have Bernie (Martin) and Russell (Jones) as our groundsmen/cleaners. Bernie opens up at 6.15am, works tirelessly and always has a smile and a greeting for both our staff and children.

Besides his duties, Russ constantly is doing a lot of extra things for our school. And, even though he goes for the Bulldogs, he’s still a good bloke.

**Something We’ve Noticed 2**

Congratulations Pania P, Maddison E and Mia M. All three girls were Recently selected in the Polding Netball Team. An amazing achievement.

**Star Awards**

Vasiliki P
Patrick C
Claire W
Ava C
Herbie G
Zara H
Sarah L
Flynn R
Ben L
Sean S
Savio D
Koby S
Suzie B
Talon T
Isaak B
Ethan G
Aoife Q
Josiah F
Tiffany M
Nikolas K
Georgia A
Luke B
Kyle L
Thomas H
Sarah M
Molly H

Libby T and Jeremy B Year 5

Samuel B - Kinder Gold
ST MARY’S SCHOOL 2ND CCC CROSS COUNTRY – AWESOME!!!!!!!!!
Details next week as I have not as yet spoken to children.

SPORTING SCHOOLS
For millions of Australians, sport is a daily habit. And it’s a habit all Australians should be able to embrace and enjoy.
Sporting Schools will work to capture this connection early. By building the relationship between schools and sports, Sporting Schools will see more children take part in sport based activities - and develop healthy habits to last a lifetime.
The Australian Sports Commission, in partnership with 32 national sporting organisations, has developed the resources to help sporting clubs, coaches and teachers to run these activities.
St Mary’s is a pilot school for this new initiative. This term we have received funding which we are going to use to benefit as many children as possible. We are going to run a 5 week Soccer program for all Year 2 – 6 children. Coaches from Soccer 5’s are going to come in and work with children.
12pm – 1pm – All Year 2, 5 and 6
1pm – 2pm – Lunch Club for interested children
2pm – 3pm – Year 3 and 4

Also a huge congratulations to Mia, Pania and Maddison on making the Polding Netball Team. Well done girls!

Liz Bain
Sporting Coordinator

Issy H, Marlee T, Elyse S and Sarah W - Year 6