Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

All is now in readiness for a wonderful day of celebrations and fun. We will begin with a lovely liturgy led by Fr Stephen at 9.15. After that the children will all participate in a range of age appropriate activities that will include fun and games and will also provide some quiet reflection time to focus on Mary. A free sausage sizzle will be provided for the children. Remember it’s always a good idea to pack some additional food just in case.

After lunch we will all gather on our lovely oval for the Annual Teachers Vs Students Touch Footy Game. This is always a fun event played in the true St Mary’s spirits that we all know and love. Special thanks to the team of teachers who have organised the day and to the P&F for providing the bbq. Fingers crossed for good weather.

Welcome to the Curphew Family. Mia has joined 3 Blue and Maddi is in 1 Gold. We hope you are enjoying being a part of our St Mary’s community.

This week Mrs Sellars has been distributing Maths Packs to support Numeracy learning. These packs are for the parents who requested them when they attended the recent Numeracy Workshop. We hope the activities are a catalyst for lots of positive Maths learning at home.

Coming up very soon we will be offering another opportunity for parents to attend a workshop. This will be on June 2 and will be focusing on Literacy. The workshop will be run at 9.15am and also at 6.30pm in our Library. It will be practical and most beneficial and we look forward to seeing you there.

Our Athletics Carnival will be held at Mingara next Tuesday for all students from Kinder to Year 6. We are so blessed to have Mrs Bain to organise the day and, in anticipation, we thanks the parent helpers for their support. All children are to be in their sports uniform on Tuesday. The carnival is due to end at approximately 2.15pm and we ask that all children please remain at Mingara until they have had their name marked off by their teacher at the conclusion of the carnival. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Repairs have begun to the roof and walkway areas that were damaged by the recent storms. Once again we thank the children for their great common sense and maturity in steering clear of that area. For safety reasons the Uniform Shop will probably not be able to open on Friday morning. Sorry for any inconvenience but please bear with us while we get that area back to normal.

Car Park safety has once again come to our attention. We implore you to please proceed slowly in the carpark and be extra vigilant when reversing. There are particular car spaces that are very close to the pedestrian crossings and it is all too easy for children to wrongly assume they are safe just because they are on a crossing. Drivers please slow down and take the time to have an extra look. It gets very busy out there in the mornings and afternoons but none of us should lose sight of our children’s safety.

Very recently children in the Norah Head area have been approached by a man in a purple car. Whilst we have spoken with all the children to remind them about this danger it would be very timely for you to discuss with your child or children what to do if they are approached. It’s important that they are calm but alert.

Kind Regards,

Julie Baker
Assistant Principal
From Our REC

We recognise Oscar S (Year 5) who was recently received into the Catholic Church. We warmly welcome you to our Catholic Faith.

Winter Appeal
Our 2015 Winter Appeal is in full swing. We ask for families, before the end of Term 2, to please donate any tinned goods, jumpers and blankets. If you or your children have outgrown anything that is still in good condition, please donate! Although we ask for donations of clothing items that have been pre-worn, please ensure that they do not have rips or stains, as they will be new clothes for people in our local community. Your donations are appreciated.

School Feast Day
Mary is known by many titles: ‘Holy Mother of God’, ‘Mother of the Church’, ‘Queen of Peace’ and ‘Mystical Rose’ are just a few. A few years ago, the staff of St Mary’s chose the feast day of Mary under her title, ‘Help of Christians’ to become our school’s feast day. We will be celebrating our feast day this Friday 22nd May with a Mass and activity day. Mass will begin at 9.15am, followed by recess before students move to some fun activities around the school. Activities will include novelty games, sporting activities and Mary reflection areas. Activities will be followed by a BBQ lunch provided by our fantastic P&F. This will be follow by our traditional Staff vs Year 6 Touch Footy match.

The Seasons for Growth Children’s Programme will begin next week.

First Eucharist
Please remember the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who are currently preparing for their First Eucharist.

From Our Family Liaison Officer

The Seasons for Growth Children’s Programme will begin next week.

If your child has experienced loss and grief as a result of death, separation or divorce, the programme is a great way for them to learn to understand that change is a part of life and that they are not alone in how they feel.

They will also have the opportunity to learn strategies to help them cope with change. It is not a counselling service. Both parent/carer and child need to agree that the child is happy to participate and that the loss occurred more than one calendar year ago.

The significant adults in their lives can help them by being aware that children’s challenging behaviour could be the result of them not being able to understand or cope with changing or difficult family situations. They can then show more patience and understanding when dealing with children.

Unacceptable behaviour is not to be excused, but can be dealt with more sensitively when we consider what children are going through.
KidsMatter

Recently our KidsMatter space has focused on how warm, caring, responsive relationships with supportive adults helps children learn to cope with their emotions. The focus on the importance of the family is very timely as May 15 to 21 is “National Families Week”

Developing strong families, where everyone feels connected, is one of the biggest protective factors against future mental health difficulties for children.

Simple things such as regular family meals at the dinner table, special family rituals and making time to talk with children help build those trusting, caring and fun relationships within a family.

Both the KidsMatter and Raising Children Network websites have many fantastic ideas and resources on building strong families. They are available for anyone to access, at any time.

At school you can find a “Family Meal Kit” on the Parent Resource Library trolley. Unfortunately it doesn’t include a home cooked meal, but it does have some great ideas on how to make mealtimes a way of reconnecting with each other and further information about the benefits to the family.

From Our Librarian

Today we hosted Round 3 of the Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools Debating Challenge. The topic for this round was

That violence has no place in entertainment.

St Mary’s was up against McKillop College Warnervale. Representing St Mary’s in this round was Isabella, Rose, Abby and Abbi. The team has been working hard over the last few weeks to prove the affirmative case: that violence has no place in entertainment. We found that there is violence in sport, television, music, movies, and video games. Have a talk at home and see what your family thinks about this topic.

From Our Office

If you would like to purchase an entertainment book, they are available to purchase from the school office for $60. Fantastic value!

Please remember to call the office on 4396 5100 if your child/ren are going to be absent from school.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

Something We’ve Noticed

The children are very respectful. They seem to know when and how to have fun, and when it’s time to be settled. Thanks. It makes everybody’s day enjoyable.

ICAS Dates 2015

Digital Technology - Tuesday 19th May
Science - Wednesday 3rd June
Writing - Monday 15th to Friday 19th June
Spelling - Tuesday 19th June
English - Tuesday 28th July
Mathematics - Tuesday 11th August

Star Awards

Abel B
Harry M
Yumi S
Myah L
Candice B
Brock S
Mia C
Megan M
Holly C
Gabrielle A
Indianna C
Seth O
Odessa C
Tahliia P
Tanisha K
Ellee B
Charlotte D
Seth A
Reese C
Elyse S
Olivia R
Paris J
Minh T
Anna R
English Parent Education
Our next Parent Education session is on Tuesday 2nd June. Practical ideas for how to help your child with spelling 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. Friday May 22nd Soup of the day—Chicken Noodle

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

Uniform Shop News
The uniform shop will not be open this Friday morning due to the repairs being made to that area. Sorry for any inconvenience caused. Remember you can always contact the office to place an order.

Leah H and Pania P with local member Karen McNamara

Mini Vinnies Winter Appeal
Mini Vinnies is running our 2015 Winter Appeal that hopes to provide many people within our community with cans of food. They need your help! Please make sure that any food donated is in date.
WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child’s school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s level of adjustment
- the student’s broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and
programme improvement for students with disability.

**WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

**WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

Teachers and school staff will identify the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

**HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?**

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available from [www.education.gov.au/](http://www.education.gov.au/)

**IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?**

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and report information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child’s school principal and the relevant education authority or association of independent schools.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, the school is still required to provide support to your child with education needs.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may involve your child.
