Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

We enjoy offering Parent Education and Reflection sessions for you. Keeping this in mind, here are two opportunities that, if you have the time to join us, I am convinced that you will find them very beneficial.

Firstly, our Literacy Parent Education session is being offered at 9.15am and 6.30pm on Tuesday 2nd June. The focus of this workshop will be on Spelling and how you can help your child at home.

Secondly, you’re warmly invited to St Mary’s Reflection Morning, ‘A Spirit of Motherhood’. It involves a morning of discussion, blessing and reflection and allows you to take time out from the busyness of life to connect with what is important to you. Our morning is from 9.00-11.00am on Wednesday 17th June.

For both of these sessions child-minding is kindly provided by our P&F team.

Class Parents Meeting
Our next Class Parents meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday 2nd June.

My Contract Renewal
On Monday a small panel met with me for my Contract Renewal. Every four years Principals are involved in a process that fosters a culture of review and reflection. I particularly wish to thank the staff and parents who were able to provide input, either through the online survey or through the interview process. I certainly appreciate your contribution and support.

The overall findings from the process are summarised and included with today’s newsletter. I have been offered (and happily accepted) a new four year contract at our school (2016-2019). I like our school. There’s nice people in it.

Kind Regards

Kevin Williams
Principal

Thank You 1
We thank the generous volunteers who helped with the BBQ at our feast day celebrations last Friday. They braved the inclement weather and cooked hundreds of delicious sausage sangas.

Thank You 2
Sincere thanks also to the many parents who were able to attend and, particularly those who ably assisted Mrs Bain in the running of our Athletics Carnival yesterday. Your willingness to help is noticed and certainly makes a difference to the culture of our school.

Athletics and Swimming Carnivals
At our Athletics and Swimming Carnivals each year the children are required to remain until the finish of the particular carnival. The reason we do this is to help create the wonderful atmosphere and culture of support and encouragement of every child’s contribution. If one family were permitted to leave early then that sets a precedent and then any family should be able to do the same thing. If that happened, we could quite possibly have very few children left for the afternoon events; the end result being that the school spirit of everyone fully participating and supporting each other is severely diminished. And we don’t want to do that.

Tyson J & Maddi W 4 Gold
School Feast Day

On a rainy and cold day, St Mary’s students had smiles on their faces as we celebrated our school’s feast day, Mary Help of Christians. We started our feast day with the celebration of a beautiful and peace-filled Mass with Fr Stephen. Children and choir, your singing was outstanding! While most of our organised activities had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather, some were able to go ahead. Kinder and Year 1 participated in some fantastic dancing in their classrooms, led by Cathy Brown and Bianca Lomaz. Our Year 2-6 students kept warm with some fun dance/aerobics, led by Rebecca Stewart and Katie Lane. I even saw some teachers having a go! A big thank you to our volunteers for sharing your dance expertise - we had a great time.

Immediately following Mass we had a hardworking team of parents who were preparing, organising and cooking the BBQ lunch for our children. This team of volunteers included Kristina Sprohar, Jim Sprohar, Kim Heinemann, Julie Anderson, Melanie Jefferson, Wayne McFadden, Nikki Laugwitz, Rodney Bedford, Kelly McKay, Iriana Cash, Bronwyn Behan and Shannon Elwell. Thank you for your effort and patience, it is greatly appreciated.

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.

Parent Reflection Morning

Last week, an invitation was sent home today with details of our Parent Spirituality Morning, themed ‘A Spirit of Motherhood’ on Wednesday 17th June, 9-11am. Please return RSVPs if you would like to attend. It will be a lovely way of having some time out and finding a space for quiet and reflection. Why not bring a friend!

First Eucharist

Dates to remember:
Practice and Reconciliation: 4-5pm Tuesday 9th June at St Mary’s or 4-5pm Wednesday 10th June at St Brendan’s. The Celebration of the Sacrament is on Sunday 14th June, 11.00am.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our REC

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From Our Family Liaison Officer

Susan Mclean Parent Seminar

Australia’s foremost expert in the field of Cybersafety and young people, former police officer Susan Mclean, is presenting a FREE parent seminar at Mackillop Catholic College, Monday June 1st at 7.30pm.

It is aimed at parents of children 10 to 18 years of age but all parents are welcome to attend. Having heard her speak previously, I can highly recommend Susan’s presentation which is “no nonsense” and very informative. I encourage all parents of children in Years 5 and 6 to attend.

A Win-Win

Lake Haven Shopping Centre are currently running a promotion to support ASPECT the not for profit provider of Autism services that have satellite classes within St Mary’s. Simply shop at any 3 stores, show your receipts at the customer service desk and as well as going in the draw for one of four $100 gift cards each day, Lake Haven will make a donation to ASPECT.
KidsMatter

In their early years, children are just beginning to learn about feelings and how to manage them in their relationships with others. From time to time most young children may display behaviours such as aggression, emotional outbursts and inattention. These are usually due to them feeling overwhelmed for some reason.

Many adults often overestimate the ability of young children to manage their emotions on their own. It’s important to remember that they are still young children, not mini adults. Just like so many other things in their life, managing their emotions takes skills which they develop over time, with experience and with guidance from the supportive adults around them.

Please take a look at the KidsMatter website here - “How to help children manage their emotions” - for more information about what parents/carers can do to help support their children develop those skills.

Something We’ve Noticed

The ‘have-a-go’ participation attitude of the children at our school is great! It was fun to witness so many children supporting and encouraging their mates at our Athletics Carnival.

Something We’ve Noticed 2

The ‘competitive’ nature of our Kinder Blue parents was obvious as sensing their children were about to beat them at tug-of-war, they soon rectified the situation with our poor, little Kinders finishing up sprawled all over the track.

Thank you to everyone who has been keeping up to date with their school fees. Please remember to check the bottom of your monthly statement to see if your payments are up to date, any overdue amounts will be highlighted. If you have fallen behind we ask that you catch up as soon as possible.

Thank you

Lyn and Jacqui

From Our Librarian

Spalding Quibble ruled the roost.
He shared it with no other.
But then his parents introduced...
A brand new baby brother
Uh oh!

Today St Mary’s celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime. This event is an annual campaign to encourage and promote the value of reading and literacy using an Australian children’s book. Every class stopped and viewed Aaron Blabey’s new text The Brothers Quibble. Blabey is also the author of Pig the Pug and now Pig the Fibber which you may be familiar with. The Brothers Quibble is a great discussion starter about bullying, acceptance, feelings and change. We celebrated reading in our school today with this great new picture book. How can you celebrate reading in your home this week?

Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Office

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Thank you

Lyn and Jacqui

Cahill L KBlue at his first Athletics Carnival
From Our PE Teacher

**ST MARY’S FEAST DAY**

THANKYOU Rebecca Stewart mum of Marlee and Jasmine from **Central Coast Fitness** for her wonder Jazz fitness classes with Year 3 – 6. On a horrible windy day it was a welcome break. The kids loved it. Rebecca runs classes at Lakes Surf Club, us teachers are on our way!!!

THANKYOU Cathy Brown mum of Josh, Isaak and Bede from **Cathy Makin School of Dance**. The Kinders and Year 1 children loved your Hip Hop Classes.

Catholic Independent Cup Rugby League – June 4th

**VENUE CHANGE – NOW AT DARREN KENNEDY OVAL**

**ST MARY’S ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Blue reigns supreme yet again! Congratulations Blue!

Although I can see a change of colour soon – scores were so close and our numbers in every colour are equal!!! What a beautiful day!

Thank you to all of the helpers – it cannot happen without you.

A special thankyou to those people who ran the two tracks and the Long Jump. I totally appreciate what a huge commitment it is. You spend all day there timing/ judging and scoring and get little time to support your own children.

As you would realise there is no way the staff could run the Carnival! We need and appreciate you!!!

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator