Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Our Parent-Teacher Meetings are an excellent opportunity to engage in open, honest dialogue about your child’s progress in the first half of the school year. Just your presence at the Parent-Teacher Meetings gives your child the message that “school and learning are important to our family.”

**First Eucharist**

On Sunday many children from Years 4, 5 and 6 will celebrate their First Eucharist. We wish the children well as they receive the third of the Sacraments of Initiation. To receive Jesus for the first time in the form of Holy Communion is a very special moment. It helps bring us closer to Him.

Children, enjoy that amazing feeling of coming closer to Jesus.

**School Photo Day**

Our annual school Photo Day is this coming Monday. All envelopes (regardless of whether you’re purchasing photos or not) need to be returned to your child’s teacher. Full winter school uniform (no sports uniform) is required to be worn.

**Sacred Heart Mass**

You are more than welcome to join us as we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart with Mass at 9.15am on Friday.

**Year 6 in Canberra**

This morning we wished our Year 6 well as they departed for their annual excursion to Canberra. We had many excited students. As we were loading the luggage on the bus it became evident to me that some students had packed for three weeks and not three days. Our Year 6 are due back at 5.30pm on Friday evening.

**Year 2 Assembly and Sacred Space**

An invitation to join us as Year 2 lead their Assembly and Sacred Space on Thursday afternoon. We commence at 1.50pm.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
First Eucharist
Please keep the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who this Sunday (14th June, 11.00am) make the Sacrament of First Eucharist here at St Mary’s church. This is a particularly special time for these children and I ask you to please keep them in your prayers.

I thank the siblings who have volunteered to do a reading and the children who have volunteered to be in our choir on the day. Please return your note to assist if you have not already.

Parent Reflection Morning
Our Parent Spirituality Morning, themed ‘A Spirit of Motherhood’, is on Wednesday 17th June, 9-11am. Please return RSVPs if you can attend. It will be a lovely way of having some time out and finding a space for quiet and reflection. Our presenter, Robyn Gallagher from the Catholic Schools Office, and I imagine the morning will be a worthwhile experience that fits with your own personal experiences. There will be no pressure: you can participate as much or as little as you would like and whether you are Catholic or not, attend church or not or regard yourself as ‘Spiritual’ or not, I encourage you to come along. We’d love to see you there. A coffee van will be on the premises from 8.30am to provide a coffee for those who are attending. We encourage participants to bring a small plate to share for morning tea afterwards if you can stay for a chat and opportunity to connect with other mums and grandmothers at our school. Please return the RSVP if you can attend.

Winter Appeal
Our 2015 Winter Appeal is almost over! 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.

Sacred Heart
This Friday 12/6/15 we celebrate the Mass of the Sacred Heart at 9.15am. We invite parents to attend. Representatives from our local St Vincent dePaul will be present to accept the donations of the children and thank them for their effort.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our REC

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Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

St Mary’s Parent Library is a resource available for all parents/carers. There are many books on a wide range of topics covering parenting, raising boys, raising girls, developing optimism and positivity in children, puberty for boys and girls, plus many more. There is also a range of DVD’s and children’s relaxation CD’s. Please feel free to come and see me about borrowing any of the resources. The upcoming school holidays may be a time when you can relax and get some reading done.

In the classroom next to the undercroft area, I have gathered a number of information sheets on things such as helping your child with reading, children’s mental health and wellbeing and children’s behaviour. Again they are available for all parents/carers.

Both the resource library and information sheets will be available next Tuesday evening, during the time of parent/teacher interviews.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

The family unit, no matter what form it takes, is the key to children learning how to build and maintain healthy relationships in their lives. The keys to developing strong and caring family relationships include making relationships a priority, communicating effectively and respectfully and providing support for each other.

For parents/carers, two main dimensions of parenting have been found to have important effects on family relationships and children’s development

- Communicating warmth and care
- Establishing clear & appropriate limits for children’s behaviour.

Each member of a family has different needs and at times this can cause tension within the family, but children can cope with these tensions and thrive when they experience strong feelings of belonging and affection that come from having caring and supportive families.

Please follow the KidsMatter link, “About Family Relationships”, to find out more about how to build strong family relationships.

**Something We’ve Noticed**

We like how the boys and girls at St Mary’s are genuinely happy for each other when they do well. This was evident at our Athletics Carnival Presentation yesterday. Well done boys and girls.

**Something We’ve Noticed 2**

Once again we’ve noticed how settled and well prepared our Year 6’s were this morning. We wish them, the teachers and parent helpers well this week in Canberra.

**Parent Literacy Workshop**

For those parents unable to make the workshop’s last Tuesday, there are booklets available at the office.

**Parent Literacy Workshop**

**CALLING ALL LIBRARY BOOKS!**

This is the last week for borrowing books from our school library. In the last two weeks of the term it is important that we all help get library books returned and shelved before the holidays. There are a number of books overdue because of the ‘busy’ness of the last few weeks. Please help in our end of term library book hunt. Check under beds, in cupboards and on bookshelves. You never know where those library books are hiding!

Miss Gray
Librarian

**From Our Librarian**

**From Our Office**

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.

Entertainment Books for 2015/2016 are available for purchase at the school office. Great value at $60.00.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

**Star Awards**

Savannah T
Liberty C
Bree E
Alex W
Zoe M
Bridie M
Laura E
Jordan C
Alexi C
Josh B
Liam S
Obi M
Amber R

Our Year 6 kids excited for Canberra
From Our PE Teacher

CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT CUP RUGBY LEAGUE GALA DAY
Congratulations to our 10’s and 2 Opens teams who played last week. Our boys played with skill and great sportsmanship.
Congratulations to the 10’s who were Champions at the end of the day – Mr Merlino thanks for coaching the boys and girls.
Congratulations to our Open A team 3 wins and a loss – very unlucky not to progress to the finals – Thanks Mr Whiteford for coaching the boys.
Congratulations to our Open B team who were made up primarily of Year 5 boys – you stood up extremely well to the big kids – we can’t wait to see you next year as Seniors of the school.
Thank you as always to Wayne Hancock for coaching the boys so well over the last few weeks.

GOOD LUCK AT POLDING CROSS COUNTRY JOEY, ZANDER, MIA T AND ZAC B
Enjoy running the challenging course at Eastern Creek Raceway.

THANKYOU WYONG LEAGUES CLUB and WAYNE HANCOCK - 3 SETS OF RUGBY LEAGUE JERSEYS AND SHORTS
We are so lucky to have received 3 full sets of jerseys and shorts for our school. This is a major financial saving for the school and even better they are in our school colours!!!!!!

For Year 6 Parents
The next MacKillop transition day has been confirmed as the 24th June (Wednesday Week 10). Only MacKillop accepted students are to attend - all others (St Brigid’s, St Peters’s, Gorokan High etc) will be expected at school.

Reunion
For St Mary’s Catholic Primary School Tuckshop Ladies. Dinner at Canton Beach Sports Club on the 25th July at 6pm. Expressions of interest to Helen Davies on 0431 218 858

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

You're invited to St Mary's Reflection Morning,
'A Spirit of Motherhood'

Parents and carers, you are all warmly invited to attend a morning of discussion, blessing and reflection. If you can stay for morning tea and a chat afterwards, please bring a plate to share.

Everyone is Welcome
Take time out from the busyness of life to connect with what is important to you.

Wednesday June 17th
9.00-11.00am in our School Library

RSVP Please return the slip below to the school office or call on 4396 5100

I __________________________________________ will be attending the Parent Reflection Morning on Wednesday June 17th. My child is in class ________________________________. Contact number ________________
I will/will not (please circle) require child-minding. My child(ren) are aged ________.