Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

During this week I have randomly ‘popped into’ many Parent-Teacher meetings across our entire school. It has been a privilege to sit and listen to the progress the children are making. A few things stood out to me:

- The genuine passion and interest that you have in your child’s education. It was so exciting to see. Such an interest becomes obvious to your child and it gives them the messages, “Learning is important”, “School is important”, “I am important.”
- That the teachers know your child. Teachers regularly provided ample evidence of ‘where your child is at’ in both a learning and a social sense.
- The positive relationships between parents and teachers. The respectful dialogue reaffirmed for me that, together, both parents and teachers have the best interests of the child at heart.

Your Thoughts and Prayers
I ask you to kindly keep the Devereaux family in your thoughts and prayers. Mrs Rhonda Devereaux was our school’s previous Principal and earlier this week her husband, John, passed away. We pray that our Lord’s strength provides great comfort to the Devereaux family in their time of loss.

Congratulations 1
We are proud of our Year 6 students for the pleasing behaviour and attitude they displayed during their Canberra excursion last week. Well done girls and boys—a sign of good leadership. We also appreciate our teachers and parents who generously gave their time to lead our students. Thank you Mr Whiteford, Mrs Jones, Mrs Walker, Miss Baker, Mr Wall, Mrs Slattery, Mr Riley and Mrs Eldridge.

Congratulations 2
On Monday, amidst increasing inclement weather, we had our annual school photos. A School Photo day can be quite an intense day for the photographers. However, repeatedly the head photographer came to me to express his appreciation of how wonderful our children behaved. Congratulations girls and boys. I like it when someone from outside our school notices how good you are too.

Leadership Program
On Thursday and Friday Mrs Sellars, Mrs Burns and Miss Baker are participating in the “Call to Leadership” program run by an independent company at our Catholic Schools Office.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events
- Parent-Teacher Meetings 15-19 June
- Parent Reflection Morning Wednesday 17 June
- MacKillop and St Brigid’s Transition Days Wednesday 24 June
- Kinder Fairytale Fun Day Thursday 25 June
- Term 2 Finishes Friday 26 June
- Term 3 Begins Monday 13 July

Something We’ve Noticed

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Year 6 - Canberra
First Eucharist

Thank you to the children who were able to attend to read and sing in the choir.

Confirmation
This week, enrolment forms went home to all children in Year 2 and those students in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are Baptised but have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is the first Sacrament that children complete during their school years and is a prerequisite for completing Reconciliation and First Eucharist. If you believe your child should have received an enrolment form, please contact the school office for a copy or download one from our school website.

Confirmation dates to add to your calendar:

**Compulsory Parent Information**
- **Afternoon** - Thursday 16th July, 4.00pm (Week 1),
- **Compulsory Parent and Children Classes** - at St Mary’s 7-8pm on the 5th and 12th August or at St Brendan’s 4-5pm on the 6th and 13th August,
- **Baptismal Promises** - at St Brendan’s 5.00pm 8th August or at St Mary’s 9.00am 9th August,
- **Commitment Family Mass** - at St Brendan’s 5.00pm 15th August or at St Mary’s 9.00am 16th August,
- **Practice** - at St Brendan’s 4-5pm 27th August or at St Mary’s 4-5pm 26th August,
- **Celebration of the Sacrament** - at St Brendan’s 9am 29th August or at St Mary’s 12pm 29th August.

**Parent Reflection Morning**
This morning we held our Parent Spirituality Morning themed ‘A Spirit of Motherhood’. Thank you to the mums who were able to attend. The morning was a great way to take some time out of our busy schedules to stop and relax, connect with other mums and also reflect on the very important role of motherhood. Thank you to our presenter Robyn Gallagher from the Catholic Schools Office.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our REC

**Merit Awards**
Silongo K
Dakota L
Theresa D
Marley B
Patrick C
Florence M
Elle R
Edan R
Lacee B
Lucy N
Max C
Brayden C
Shaylah H
Skye P
Connor M
Leah K
Connor L
Grace J
Kourtney F
Kodie C
Brendan T
Nate
Marlee S
Keegan F
Jaxon P
Ellie N
Tre J
Ethan G
Zach B
Max H
Lachlan M
Jayla S
Marcus W
Joseph M
Georgia A
Kyah J
Charlotte D
Mia D
Tahlee M
Natasha H
Beth F
Katie G

From Our Family Liaison Officer
Mid year is report time and a good time to think about how we can support our children in both their educational achievement and wellbeing.

A great way to approach their report with a child is to focus on their effort and improvement, rather than achievement. If children learn that through hard work and perseverance they can keep improving, that sets them up well for the future. High achievers in life aren’t necessarily the most talented or brightest, but those with grit, who will keep plugging away until they succeed.

What messages are our children hearing from us parents, the most important people in their lives? Do we take the time to listen to them read, answer the never ending questions they have about anything and everything and positively encourage them? Spending time supporting our children, engaging in their education and giving them our attention while they are young, not only builds our relationships but instills in them a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards life long learning.

Donna Falzon
Something We’ve Noticed
Such were the positive relationships at the Parent-Teacher meetings this week, that there was so much laughter coming from one room, it caused me to think that one of our parents must have been a comedian.

Pope Francis
During Week 10, you will notice an addition to our front foyer. Pope Francis will be visiting St Mary’s next week and also in Week 1 of next term, when he will visit classrooms.

Star Awards
Shelby M
Peyton B
Ty J
Oscar P
Samantha W
Kahlil G
Alex S
Timothy V
Sean S
Zach M
Indi B
Sarah L
William G
Jessica B
Joshua H
Tahla M
Sienna C
Ryan C
Brydie G
Maya B
Christian W
Jacob W
Jasmyn S
Natalie R
Hannah M
Zac W
Tyarna G
Declan C

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

Positive family relationships are based upon caring and commitment as well as respectful communication between all members of a family. Parents/carers speaking and acting respectfully towards each other, as well as towards the children, provide a perfect example for children to follow. The example the adults around them display is the most important factor in how children learn to behave and treat others. Send clear messages to your children by trying to match what you say, with what you do.

Making the wellbeing of family members a priority and showing you care about one another, is a really positive way to strengthen family relationships. Identifying and building on the strengths you have within a family can help when times get tough.

This week’s KidsMatter article, “Building Better Family Relationships”, offers some simple, practical tips to strengthen relationships within a family.

From Our Librarian
We are now winding down for Term 2 and already gearing up for Term 3. Every term has something special to look forward to and this one will be no different. Throughout Term 3 we will view some of the books shortlisted by the Children’s Book Council of Australia in the lead up to Book Week. During Book Week the winning authors and illustrators are announced. Book Week is always a much anticipated event here at St Mary’s. The theme for 2015 is Books Light Up Our World. As usual we will be dressing up in our favourite book character costume. Why not use the holidays to start making plans! Watch this space for Book Week updates in Term 3.
Zac’s team of 5 Broken Bay runners also came first in 10yrs. A big Good Luck to Joey and Zander who will now compete at All Schools Cross Country in a couple of weeks.

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

RUGBY UNION GALA DAY – NOW FRIDAY THIS WEEK
We have had some very late changes with Rugby Union and due to unforeseen circumstances the gala day will now be on this Friday 19th June. I am sorry for the inconvenience I know this will cause

New details
CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT RUGBY UNION GALA DAY
WOONGARRA OVAL - Friday 19th June 2015

POLDING CROSS COUNTRY EASTERN CREEK
Congratulations Zac B for finishing 7th, Mia T for finishing 11th, Joey F for finishing 3rd and Zander for finishing 2nd in their respective divisions. This is an awesome result from our students – they competed against the best runners from Catholic schools all over NSW.

From Our PE Teacher

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

Canteen News
Term 2 roster is on the school’s website. Friday 19th June Soup-of-the-day is Chicken Noodle.