Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

The importance of Grandparents in a child’s life has never been more obvious than in today’s world. A Grandparent’s role can often involve so many varying aspects: carer, child-minder, support structure, fan, spoiler, comedian, confidante, counsellor, listener, advice-giver …… the list could go on. Through their wisdom and vast life experiences Grandparents are significant role models to the children in our school. When we have various events at our place, it’s always fun to see how many Grandparents can join us and enjoy being with their grandchildren. We’d like to celebrate the importance of Grandparents by inviting them (parents welcome too) to a special Liturgy on Thursday 30th July. Our Liturgy will commence at 1.50pm and following it we invite all Grandparents to an Afternoon Tea. After a quick cuppa you are most welcome to visit your grandchild’s class to see how clever they are.

The ‘Pope’ is Visiting Our School
Pope Francis (actually, a life-size cardboard cut-out) is currently staying at our school for the week. He has just begun his tour which will see him visit every diocesan school. Ask your child if they have seen him around?

Staff Development Days
The two remaining Staff Development Days for the year will be gazetted during Term 4. As soon as these dates have been confirmed by Catholic Schools Office personnel I will inform you.

Your Thoughts and Prayers
Please keep the Sweeney Family (Sheridan 6 Green, Cooper 4 Blue) in your thoughts and prayers. The children’s Grandmother passed away recently. May your treasured memories help sustain you during this difficult time.

Summer Uniform
Although seemingly a long way away, the changeover date to our summer uniform is Monday 7th September (Week 9). I think I’ve just put this in so we can look forward to some warmer weather.

Year 1 Excursion
We wish Year 1 well for next Wednesday’s excursion to the Reptile Park. Enjoy and have fun.

Kinder 2016
On Friday letters regarding placements for Kinder 2016 will be mailed.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
Welcome to Term 3! I hope you were able to stay warm and enjoy spending time during the school holidays with your children.

**Confirmation**

Tomorrow afternoon, 4.00pm, there is a compulsory parent information afternoon for Confirmation. This is the first Sacrament that children complete during their school years (Years 2-6) 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.

It is becoming increasingly crucial that children who apply for Catholic high schools have completed the Sacraments prior to the end of Year 6. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me.

**Confirmation dates to add to your calendar:**
- **Compulsory Parent Information Afternoon** - Thursday 16th July, 4.00pm,
- **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.

**Grandparents Day Liturgy**

The Thursday of Week 3, 30/7/15, we will be holding a Grandparent’s Liturgy at 1.50pm, afternoon tea to follow at 2.30pm, then an opportunity for grandparents to visit their child’s classroom. This is a great chance for children who have a grandparent nearby to show their Nan, Pop, Grandma or Grandpa their classroom and to celebrate them in a liturgy. An invitation went home yesterday. I would like some parents (or grandparents) who will be present at the liturgy to do some of the readings. If you are interested in this, please let me know and I can send you home a copy of your reading.

Other masses this term include the Assumption Mass, Friday 14/8/15 at 9.15am and Father’s Day Mass, Friday 4/9/15 at 9.15am. Please join us.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

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**From Our REC**

Welcome back to Term 3! There will be lots happening this term, with plenty of opportunities for parents/carers to be engaged with your child’s learning and wellbeing.

From our special Grandparents Day Liturgy, parent workshops on Wellbeing and Maths, the Book Week parade and activities, our annual Father’s Day breakfast, mass and netball game and the many sporting activities on offer, there is something for everyone.

Making the most of the opportunities on offer and taking the time to participate not only shows your child how much you value the school and what happens here, but also helps build a strong school community. Even for those parents/carers whose work commitments can prohibit them from physically being at school, knowing what is happening and talking with your child about the activities reflects a positive approach to school and learning, which is what we want to develop in all children.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

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Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

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**Parish Details**

4396 4455
www.toukleycatholic.org.au

**Mass Times**

- **Saturday** 6.00pm
- **Sunday** 7.30am, 9.00am, 6.00pm

Father Stephen Parish Priest
Father Michael

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**Piano Tuition**

There are currently vacancies for piano tuition in Term 3 during school hours. Please contact Chris Hochkins for further details.

Ph. 0414 186 044

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**Uniform Shop Hours**

Current shop hours are: 8.30-11.00am Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For appointments outside these hours, please call Julie on 0402 311 749.
**KidsMatter**

Children aren’t born knowing how to get along with others and develop positive relationships. The skills they need for their social development progress as they grow. As they experience different situations, interact with a variety of people with different personalities and receive guidance from parents/caregivers, they refine how to behave in social groups.

Limited social development and poor social skills can affect children’s ability to get along with others – they can either try to dominate groups, or have confidence problems which can hamper their ability to join in with others and develop friendships. This can have a negative effect on how they see themselves in relation to other children.

As parents/carers we can find ways to help children develop their social skills from a very young age.

Please take a look at this week’s KidsMatter factsheet, *Encouraging Children to Get Along* and to find out more about children’s social development.

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**From Our Librarian**

Welcome back to Term 3. Here in the library we journey towards Book Week. This week we are sharing our favourite books and discussing why they have become important to us. I have so many favourite books that I have lost count.

Some of my favourite books are funny or the author has used descriptive language that brings the story to life. Others have beautiful illustrations. Some of my favourites have such exciting storylines and characters that I feel I am part of the adventure too. Do Mums and Dad, Nans and Pops have a favourite book? Why not share your favourite book with your family this week.

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**From Our Office**

Thank you to the parents who are phoning the office of a morning to advise the school that their child will be absent. Please remember to phone the office on 4396 5100 before 9.00am if your child/ren are going to be absent. By doing this you will not have to send in a note.

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

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

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**Something We’ve Noticed**

When visiting the Office on Monday, a Kinder child, noticing the life-size, cardboard cut-out of ‘Pope Francis’ was overheard commenting to his mate, “I think this is our new Priest”.

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**Something We’ve Noticed 2**

The manner in which your children have returned to school with the correct winter uniforms and bright, welcoming smiles has been fun to observe.

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**You’re warmly invited to our Grandparents Day Liturgy**

This will be an afternoon to celebrate grandparents and share our school with them.

Thursday 30th July (Week 3):
1.50pm - A K-6 Liturgy will be held in the church. Parents and grandparents are invited.
2.30pm - A small afternoon tea will be held on the top playground for those adults in attendance, before grandparents are invited to go into their grandchild’s classroom to share in their learning.
From Our PE Teacher

**NSW NETBALL GALA DAY**
Good luck to our 5 teams of Year 5 and Year 6 girls competing next Thursday at Adcock Park.

**CCC ATHLETICS – FRIDAY 31ST JULY MINGARA**
All children have received their notes and they need to be returned by Friday please.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**
Rugby Gala Day – Year 5 and Year 6 no new date as yet.
Year 3 Touch Football Gala Day – Friday 14th August – Doyalson – All Year 3 attending and we would love some Parent coaches.

Year 4 Rugby Tag – Monday 17th August – no venue as yet – All year 4 to attend and we would love some parent coaches.

Year 5 and Year 6 Soccer Gala Day – Thursday 10th September – EDSAC North and South – All Year 5 and 6 - all details as per last term with new transport note in the future.

CCC Netball Gala – Tuesday 15th September – Baker Park Wyong – Any children both boys and girls from Year 3 – 6 can choose to attend.

Year 5 and 6 OZTAG – Wednesday 2nd August – Morrie Breen, Wyong – selected children to attend due to limited entries.
Year 3 and 4 OZTAG – Tuesday 8th September – Morrie Breen, Wyong – selected children to attend due to limited entries.