Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

“While involving parents in school activities may have an important community and social function, the key to facilitating positive change in a child’s academic attainment is the engagement of parents in learning outcomes in the home.”

(Emerson, Fear, Fox & Sanders, 2012, p.8)

Parents support and interest in their child’s education is fundamental to their academic success. Children who see Mum or Dad become engaged in their learning receive the message that ‘school is important’, ‘learning is important’. At our school, we understand that to optimise student learning gains, all three groups—teachers, students and parents—need to be growing and learning. One of the most effective ways for parents to be learning is to become involved in our Parent Education Workshops. Consequently, we offer the two following sessions:

“The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing”
9.15am + 6.30pm Thursday 6th August

“The Language of Maths in the Classroom”
9.15am + 6.30pm Thursday 27th August

Free child-minding and hot coffee will be available.

In recent years, you have been fantastic in the number of parents who have joined us for Maths and English workshops. We hope to see you at one, or both, of the upcoming Parent Workshops.

Grandparents’ Day Liturgy
Our Grandparents’ Day Liturgy commences at 1.50pm on Thursday 30th July in the Church. Following the liturgy, our grandparents (and parents) are welcome to join us for a cuppa and a visit to their grandchild’s class.

Congratulations Netballers
We congratulate our senior Netball team for their undefeated progress through the Newcastle division of the NSW State Cup. The girls now qualify for the next level of the competition. Good luck and have fun.

2nd National Conference for Primary School Leaders in Maths
On Friday, Mrs Sellars will be presenting at the 2nd National Conference for Primary School Leaders in Maths in Melbourne. The session is titled “Rethinking the Power of Parent Engagement: the Role of School Leaders”. We congratulate Emma and wish her well for the Conference.

Confirmation Candidates
Please keep the children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in your thoughts and prayers.

P&F Meeting
Please join us for our term’s P&F Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 29th July at 7.00pm.

Kind Regards

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- Year 1 Excursion
  Wednesday 22 July

- Year 1 Gross Motor Program
  commences
  Friday 24 July

- P&F Meeting
  Wednesday 7.00pm
  29 July

- Grandparents’ Day Liturgy
  1.50pm
  Thursday 30 July

- CCC Athletics
  Friday 31 July

- The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing Parent Workshop
  9.15am + 6.30pm
  Thursday 6 August

Senior Girls Netball Team
Grandparents Day Liturgy
Next week we will be holding a special Grandparent’s Day Liturgy. This will be held in the church at 1.50pm on Thursday 30th. Afternoon tea will follow at 2.30pm, along with an opportunity for grandparents to visit their grandchild’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. The children always enjoy seeing you there, so mums, dads and grandparents, we hope you can join us! I also still need some parents (or grandparents) who will be attending 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.

Confirmation
Many students in our school (Year 2-6) are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please note, the compulsory classes begin in Week 4. Please keep these children in your prayers. 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 5pm 8th August or at St Mary’s 9am 9th August.

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.

Commitment Family Mass - at St Brendan’s 5pm 15th August or at St Mary’s 9am 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.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator
KidsMatter

Everyone, adults and children alike, all have periods of ill health, both physically and mentally. Our mental wellness or ill health may not be as obvious as our physical health but it is just as important. Developing positive, strong mental health in our children sets them up to better cope with challenges in their lives.

There are Risk Factors such as family conflict or separation, trauma, experiencing natural disasters, extremely stressful events or a lack of supportive relationships which increase the chance of mental health difficulties developing in children. The good news though is that these Risk Factors can be somewhat mitigated by building Protective Factors in children.

Protective Factors help balance out the risk of developing mental health difficulties and build resilience – the ability to cope with life’s difficulties.

Protective Factors include things such as a stable and warm home environment, supportive parents/ carers, routines and consistency in life and support from a wide circle of family and friends. Please follow the KidsMatter link, Risk and Protective Factors to learn more about building Protective Factors in children.

From Our Librarian

This week we have begun viewing the shortlisted texts for the Children’s Book Council of Australia Competition. Years 3-6 have examined the text Fire by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley. The author and illustrator have captured Australia’s bushfire experiences through poetry and illustration. The children have responded by composing and writing rhyming couplets of their own.

Kindy, Years 1 and 2 have discussed the message of friendship in Stephen Michael King’s book Snail and Turtle Are Friends. We have learnt that it is okay to be different and that our differences make friendships a richer experience. Kindy have been busy making flowers, Year 1 have been busy making swirly snails and Year 2 have been making turtles for our library display. And I must say it looks pretty terrific!

Thanks everyone for your hard and creative work this week in the library.

Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Office

Thank you to all parents who have honoured their fee payment arrangement. The payment of school fees assists the school in its obligation to pay bills and the ongoing purchase of resources for your children. To those families who have fallen behind with their payments - we ask that all arrangements be brought up to date as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

Something We’ve Noticed

Our Year 3 teachers have noticed that their children are genuinely interested learners. The children have a thirst for knowledge and such an inquisitive approach to learning is an excellent lifelong trait.

Something We’ve Noticed 2

Our Year 2 children repeatedly take care of each other. We like the manner in which they continually share and support one another.

Star Awards

Tayla B
Makenzie W
Lacee B
Gemma S
Cody B
Rianna B
Ava E
Shontalia D
Layla H
Cooper M
Mia C
Tyler J
Thomas W
Isla A
Wil T
Jasmine S
Hayden F
Madeline C

Charli M Year 1

Tristan W & Jack B Year 1
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In our school library

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Canteen News
Please Note—The price of Fandangles Ice Creams has increased to $1.60.
Term 3 roster is on the school’s website. If you are unable to come in on your rostered day, please remember to contact Donna or the school ASAP.
Friday 24th July Soup-of-the-day is Chicken Noodle & Vegetable.

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.

Nicholas W, Brock S & Candice B
Year 1

’Pope Francis’ image, currently visiting schools in the Broken Bay Diocese, visited many St Mary’s classes last week. Students reflected on his leadership and how he spreads messages of joy and mercy. Here is Pope Francis with Kinder Green.