**Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,**

In order to help our school systematically plan for the future, we will be conducting surveys with our parents, staff and students to obtain research based feedback. Later this term MMG Education will email you regarding the comprehensive survey.

We welcome your input and ask that you take the time to reflect on your experiences with our school.

The window for the surveys is Weeks 8 and 9, 31st August—13th September.

“The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing”

9.15am + 6.30pm tomorrow

An important Parent Education Workshop that addresses the following—What is wellbeing? What difference can I make to my child’s wellbeing? I want my child to be happy and settled—what can I do? How is wellbeing linked to my child’s learning? I want to know more about positive thinking. What can I say and do to help build resilience and independence? How can I help my child manage feelings of nervousness and anxiety? Free child-minding is available.

**Your Thoughts and Prayers**

Please keep the Webb family (Ethan 5 Green, Ryan 3 Gold) in your thoughts and prayers. Ethan and Ryan’s youngest sister, Aria, is currently receiving treatment at Westmead Children’s Hospital. We pray that Our Lord gives you all great strength during this difficult period.

**School Zones**

A reminder to all our parents that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families. School zones operate on all gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days. School zones outside our school occur from 8.00am—9.30am and from 2.30pm—4.00pm.

**Fundraising Levy**

To date our school’s Fundraising Levy has collected approximately $11,000. With those funds we have purchased 20 iPads which shortly will be in circulation, mainly in the Kinder and Year 1 classrooms.

**Staff Development Days**

Our final two Staff Development Days will be held in Term 4. On Friday 23rd October our professional learning will focus on the new History syllabus. A Spirituality Day for staff will be the focus on Friday 4th December.

**Summer Uniform**

The changeover date to our summer uniform is Monday 7th September (Week 9). If the weather turns warmer earlier, your child is welcome to wear their full summer uniform.

**Children’s Liturgy**

Children’s Liturgy will now be occurring on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month during the 9.00am Mass at St Mary’s Church.

Kind Regards

Kevin Williams
Principal
Grandparents Day Liturgy
Last Thursday was an amazing afternoon for celebrating Grandparents Day and all that these special family members mean to us. The church was packed full of mums, dads, grandmas and grandpas who came to help us celebrate. I know from walking around the classrooms afterwards that it was a truly special opportunity for grandparents to look around classrooms and share in their grandchild’s learning. We look forward to next year!
A huge thank you to the parents who supported the afternoon by providing a plate for afternoon tea, we appreciate it!

Confirmation
Many students in our school (Year 2-6) are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these children in your prayers. Compulsory parent and children classes begin this week.

Term 3 Masses
Our first school Mass for the term will be the Assumption Mass, next Friday 14th August at 9.15am. Our Father’s Day Mass will be on Friday 4th September at 9.15am. Please add these dates to your diary, we would love for you to join us!

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer
A very special thank you to those parents who participated in the FLO focus group last week. The evaluation team commented on how articulate, thoughtful, compassionate and insightful you were. A true reflection of the wonderful St Mary’s parents.
I hope everyone is coming along to our Wellbeing workshops tomorrow. It will be very informative and helpful. Following our own workshop, next Monday and Tuesday evenings the Diocesan Parent Council is hosting a FREE parent seminar with Dr Justin Coulson. Dr Coulson is a well respected specialist on children and families, as well as a father of six daughters. He often appears on TV and in print media when issues concerning families arise.
It would be well worth the time and effort to attend his very practical seminar and build on our own workshop to help our children’s wellbeing and build happy families.
Information on our website or posters around the school.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

What is bullying?
Bullying or being bullied are terms that are often used when children are having difficulties with their peers, either at school, sport or online but bullying behaviour is quite specific. Bullying involves deliberately and repeatedly attempting to hurt, scare or exclude someone. The two most important words there are deliberately and repeatedly.

All children have spats with their peers sometimes and they may not always be nice to one another but does the occasional action constitute bullying? As parents/carers it is important for us to see the bigger picture and help our children maintain perspective with what is happening and learn how to handle conflict and identify when they need outside support from a teacher or parent.

If a child is being bullied then the support of parents and teachers is vital in helping to resolve the situation and provide a safe environment for the child.

There is great information on the KidsMatter website about bullying, which you can access by clicking on the link Children and Bullying.

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**Something We’ve Noticed**

On Fridays it’s so lovely to see lots of our grades out enjoying the fresh air and sunshine, actively participating in their sport, gross motor and karate sessions. We all know the benefits of physical activity and it’s such a bonus to see the genuine enjoyment on the children’s faces. Our Infants Parent Helpers are doing a fabulous job. Thank you.

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**From Our Librarian**

This week Kindy, Years 1 and 2 have been enjoying the story of *Pig the Pug* by Aaron Blabey. I know this was popular at our Book Fair last year and the next title Pig the Fibber will be available this year. We have lots of Pig the Pugs hanging up in our library this week!

Years 3-6 have examined the book *My Two Blankets* by Irena Kobald and Freya Blackwood. Life is never easy for a refugee trying to settle in a new country. The experience can seem like a *noisy, cold waterfall* as described in the book. The children have responded by drawing symbols that represent their life. These have made a wonder display of patchwork blankets in our library.

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**Star Awards**

Myah L
Isaac R
Bree E
Andre Z
Zander F
Mia J
Grace J
Eve M
Isaac B
Indianna C
Jayla S
Mia C
Hilton M
Nate H
Charlotte D
Lily R
Khalil M
Maddy W
Lachlan R

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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.

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**From Our Office**

Please be reminded that any form of medication cannot be brought to school by students. Where possible the medication should by administered at home rather than school. If medication must be administered at school a “Request for Administration of Medication Form” must be completed by both a parent and the student’s Doctor before school staff are able to administer the medication. You can find a copy of this form on our school’s website or pick one up at the office.

This is Catholic Schools Office requirement.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

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Jessica L with her grandparents
From Our PE Teacher

POLDING NETBALL – CONGRATULATIONS Panea, Mia and Maddie!!!!
We have had some great netballers come through St Mary’s over the last few years.
Demi E has made the Under 17 NSW team, Milla E and Shae S both made the NSW Primary Schools team.
Mia, Panea and Maddie are having a fabulous year being a part of the Polding Netball team which competed in Tamworth recently. The Polding team came 9th and all three girls have had a wonderful experience they will always remember.

NSW NETBALL HUNTER FINALS – MAITLAND
Good Luck today to Leah, Taliah, Anna, Mia, Panea, Brae, Maddie, Megan, Maddie and Paris who are competing in the Hunter Region final of the NSW Netball Schools Cup.
Thank you Leesa Sternbeck and Kellie Walker for coaching the girls.

CCC ATHLETICS – ST MARY’S SCHOOL 2ND PLACE
Congratulations to our wonderful team of Athletes on your fabulous efforts and sportsmanship it took all of you to get that great result!!!
Thank you Mr Merlino for coaching our shotput and discus throwers we have a fearsome reputation!
Thank you Cath Kyle for your invaluable assistance in organising the carnival paperwork and looking after our athletes and also thanks to our parent helpers Vanessa Freeman, Mrs Wade and Mrs Lorusso.

Year 4 Rugby Tag Gala has been postponed until Term 4.
Thank you for the return of Netball and Touch notes so far – please return any outstanding notes by Friday.

The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing Parent Workshop
9.15am + 6.30pm Thursday 6th August
In our school library

The Language of Maths in the Classroom Parent Workshop
9.15am + 6.30pm Thursday 27th August
In our school library

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 7th August Soup-of-the-day is Chicken and Sweet Corn

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

You’re Invited
Workshop: The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing

We would like to warmly extend an invitation to all mums, dads and carers to attend our Parent Workshop on The Importance of Your Child’s Wellbeing.

When: Thursday 6th August, 2015 at 9:15am and 6:30pm
Where: St Mary’s Computer Lab/Library.

I ______________ will be attending the Wellbeing Workshop on Thursday August 6th.
I will be at the 9:15am / 6:30pm session (please circle). My child is in ______________.
I will/ will not require child-minding. My child(ren) are aged ______________.

458 Main Road, Norville NSW 2263 Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101 Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtdbb.catholic.edu.au