Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

After a courageous battle with cancer, Mrs Rhonda Devereaux passed away on Sunday. Mrs Devereaux was the previous Principal at St Mary’s.

Mrs Devereaux was passionate about student learning, always maintaining high expectations of herself, the staff and the students. Mrs Devereaux was also a proud Catholic. Her faith was fundamental to her being.

It was only 6 weeks ago that Rhonda’s husband, John died. They wanted to be together again.

I ask that you keep Rhonda, John and their family in your thoughts and prayers. May Our Lord’s strength give great comfort to their family.

Mrs Devereaux’s funeral is at 11.00am on Friday 14th August at MacKillop Catholic Church.

School Survey
On Monday we sent home a letter outlining the upcoming survey regarding our school. You will receive an email in a couple of weeks, inviting you to complete the online survey. The window for the survey is 31 August—13 September. The greater the number of people who complete the survey, the richer the data is for our school.

Public Speaking Competition
We congratulate all of our Year 6 students for preparing and delivering many fine speeches during the past two weeks. The two representatives chosen by the many teacher judges are Luka P and Mason F. Congratulations boys. Mason and Luka will represent our school in next week’s Final.

NAPLAN
Student NAPLAN reports should arrive at our school during next week. As soon as they arrive, we will account for each one and forward them to our Year 3 and Year 5 families.

“The Language of Maths”
Our next Parent Education Workshop focuses on the Language of Maths. What does Maths look like in my child’s classroom? What do some of the terms used in Maths mean? How are addition and multiplication taught now? How is problem solving encouraged at school?

The workshops are offered at 9.15am and 6.30pm on Thursday 27th August. An invitation and note with RSVP accompanies today’s newsletter.

Staffing
Mrs Heidi Murphy will begin teaching 3 Green on Monday 24th August.

Mrs Tiffany Lynch and Mrs Amber Hodgson will class share the teaching of 2 Green for Term 4.

Mrs Elizabeth Shearwood and Miss Rebecca Dunn will class share the teaching of 4 Gold for Term 4.

Transition meetings will be occurring for all of the above positions in which the ‘established teacher’ and the ‘incoming teacher’ discuss the learning needs and wellbeing needs of the students.

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.

Kind Regards

Kevin Williams
Principal
Confirmation
Many students in our school (Year 2-6) are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these children in your prayers. A reminder that the final preparatory classes are this week (St Mary’s 7-8pm Wednesday 12th or St Brendan’s 4-5pm Thursday 13th). Attendance for both adult and child is a compulsory requirement for your child to complete the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This weekend: Commitment Family Mass - St Brendan’s 5pm 15th August or at St Mary’s 9am 16th August. As part of each Year 2 child’s journey learning about Confirmation in class, we ask for all Year 2 children to attend the St Mary’s Commitment Mass (16th August, 9am). We would love to see every Year 2 child attend this Mass, including those not being Confirmed, to show support for their fellow class and grade mates.

Assumption Mass
After Mary died, God took her to heaven to be with the risen Christ. This Friday we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. Please join us for Mass this Friday at 9.15am.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer
Parents/carers have been very positive in their feedback regarding last week’s Wellbeing Workshop. An opportunity to come together to learn more about matters concerning children and the sharing of ideas results in positive outcomes not just for our children, but for parents/carers wellbeing as well.

Parents/carers can sometimes feel alone in what they are dealing with in their families. A safe environment where we can talk and share ideas, or even just listen to others, can be very supportive. Sometimes that reassurance of knowing that we are not the only ones feeling that way, or dealing with that issue is just what we need to give us the strength or boost of confidence to stay positive and persevere.

Tuesday mornings after assembly, all parents/carers are invited to join me in a cuppa and a chat in the library. Come along to meet other parents, learn more about school, discuss children and parenting or find out more about last week’s workshop.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

Cyberbullying is a mental health concern because it causes distress and can lead to loneliness, anxiety and depression. It is particularly nasty because it is often done in secret, shared with others and difficult to remove.

It can have a big effect on families through the stress it can cause. We touched on bullying and cyberbullying in our Wellbeing Workshop for parents last week.

Helping children develop social and emotional skills to build confidence, resilience and deal with conflict can help prevent children either becoming victims or bullying others. Having technology in common areas of the house, not in bedrooms behind closed doors, means parents can observe and monitor what is happening. Setting limits on the time and type of technology available to children is also important.

Developing open and supportive relationships with children where they feel comfortable coming to you with problems of any kind is the most important thing parents can do to support children. Please see the KidsMatter factsheet *What to do about Cyberbullying* for more information.

**From Our Librarian**

**What are you wearing for our Book Character Parade?**

19 days to go until Book Week

This week Kindy, Years 1 and 2 have been discussing cubby houses. We have read *A House of Her Own* by Jenny Hughes and Jonathan Bentley. Audrey decides she needs a bigger house and asks her dad to build her a house in the backyard tree. She decides that her house needs a staircase, a place to play, a spot to sip tea, a bed and chairs for guests and a kitchen in which to cook. We have designed rooms that could be added to Audrey’s tree house.

Years 3-6 have examined the book *The Stone Lion* by Margaret Wild and Ritva Voutila. There is a stone lion statue outside the library. The stone lion wishes he was alive so that he could run, pounce and leap. Such a wish can come true just once and when it does happen all that the lion dreamed of doing changed to save the life of a small baby and little girl.

Thanks everyone for your hard work this week in the library. We are certainly creating an exciting learning space this term!

Miss Gray
Librarian

**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

**Star Awards**

Adelle S
Matthew P
Harry M
Toby S
Natalia S
Maddi C
Erin N
Tara T
Nicholas L
Isabella P
Conor L
Marlee S
Scarlette S
Ruby E
Jye S
Ava R
Tanner J
Natasha H
Kalin H
Maddison S
Joel C
Chloe M

**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.

New style girl’s winter ties (with Velcro fastening—much better quality) are now available at the shop for $15. Once again the lost property bin is overflowing with sport jackets and fleeces. If your child is missing an item of uniform please check the bin located in the undercroft area.
$1177.87 raised through School Banking!

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our volunteer mum and student bankers we have raised $1177.87 for our school through School Banking commissions for FY14-15. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Marys!

Canteen News
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 14th August Soup-of-the-day is Pumpkin.

Year 1 Parents
The Year 1 assembly has been postponed until early in Term 4. Date to be advised. The 1 Green Sacred Space will go ahead as planned on Thursday 20th August (Week 6).

P&F Father’s Day Stall
Just a reminder that if your child wants to select a gift from the Father’s Day Stall then notes and money must be returned by Friday 28th August (2 weeks).

Gorokan Preschool
Celebrating 40 years. Sunday 18th October 10am-2pm at 8-12 Balmoral Drive Gorokan. Past & present families all welcome. Fun, games, lucky dips, raffles, cake stall, BBQ, entertainment. Consider buying a Commemorative Paver.