Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

We’d like you to join us over the next few weeks.

Our next Maths Parent Workshop is on at 9.15am and 6.30pm on Thursday 27th August. Free coffee and child-minding is available.

Our celebrations for Book Week are in Week 8. Our Book Fair runs from Monday 31st August to Friday 4 September. Our annual Book Week Parade begins at 9.15am on Thursday 3rd September.

Our Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast begins from 7.15am on Friday 4th September. Most importantly, we invite you to join us for our Father’s Day Mass, commencing at 9.15am.

Soon after Mass, our annual Dads vs Year 6 Netball Match lights up the top playground. You think the Diamonds were good. Wait till you see our Dads.

The culture of celebration and learning at our school is reflected in the above occasions. Your participation and presence emphasises such a culture.

Farewell Miss Lovelock

After 7 years of quality teaching at our school Miss Lovelock leaves us this Friday. We thank Monique for the great care and compassion she has shown the many children in her care. Monique, your positive attitude and the importance you place on the wellbeing of each child has been noticed and valued by our families. You have also been a great friend to many on staff.

Confirmation Children

Please keep the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in your prayers.

Congratulations Mason and Luka

At yesterdays’ Cluster Public Speaking Final Mason F and Luka P performed with distinction. Luka received third place and Mason was awarded second place. Mason now proceeds to represent our school at the Diocesan Public Speaking Final at Asquith next Tuesday evening.

Your Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep the Armstrong family (Georgia 4 Blue, Lucy 2 Blue) in your thoughts and prayers. The girls’ great grandmother passed away last Thursday. Please also keep the Sheridan family (Darcy K Gold, Bailey 3 Green) in your thoughts and prayers. The children’s great grandfather passed away recently.

May your special memories and Our Lord’s strength give you all considerable courage during this difficult time.

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.

Kind Regards

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- Year 4 Excursion Laycock St Theatre Friday 21 August
- Broken Bay Athletics Wednesday 26 August
- Year 2 Excursion Wetlands Thursday 27 August
- The Language of Maths Parent Workshop 9.15am + 6.30 Thursday 27 August
- Book Fair Monday-Friday 31 August - 4 September
- Father’s Day Stall Tuesday 1 September
- Book Parade 9.15am Thursday 3 September
- Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast Mass and Netball match Friday 4 September
From Our REC

Confirmation
Many students in our school (Year 2-6) are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Children’s Liturgy
A reminder that St Mary’s now celebrates Children’s Liturgy at the 9.00am Mass on the first Sunday of every month. Parents, this is a great way of connecting the church and parish with your family. Fr Stephen would love to see many families making this a regular Mass you attend.

Father’s Day Mass
Parents, especially our dads, step dads, pops and uncles; please join us for our Father’s Day Mass on Friday, 4th September. We would love for you to join us on this special day. Mass will begin at 9.15am, after our Father’s Day breakfast (which is from 7am). Dads, after mass please stay around for our annual Dads vs Year 6 netball match - it’s always a much anticipated and competitive game. Please join us, whether it’s to play or cheer on your team.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

There are some great programmes and seminars for parents coming up. As well as our own Numeracy Workshop at school next week, MacKillop Catholic College is presenting an important seminar for parents entitled “How To Talk To Your Children About Drugs”. It is a free seminar being held at MacKillop on Wednesday September 2, at 6.45pm. This is something all parents need to discuss with teenagers, but it’s an important conversation to have with children in the upper Primary years as well. Please click on the link above to find out more details and RSVP.

CatholicCare Warnervale will also be holding their great “Tuning in to Teens” programme at the beginning of Term 4. If you would like to find out how to minimise conflict with your teen, help them to manage strong emotions, make talking with your teen easier and help them maintain a positive outlook this is for you. Again, this programme is also appropriate for parents of children in the upper Primary years, as well as those with teenagers. Details are on our school website.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

Building confidence in children was an important part of the discussion of our recent Wellbeing Parent workshop.

Children need opportunities to try new things and test themselves to learn skills, whether that be academically, socially or emotionally. As parents we can support our children by getting them to do things for themselves.

When we do everything for children or constantly make adjustments in their environment because they seem to be having difficulty, it robs them of the chance to learn and develop. They need to be able to make mistakes and keep trying so they learn how to succeed.

When parents trust and encourage children, the pride they feel when they finally succeed at something that has challenged them does so much for their confidence. What message are we sending our children? Do they know that you see them as capable or do they get the feeling that you don’t believe they can do things on their own?

Please see the KidsMatter article [Supporting Children’s Confidence](#) for more information about building confidence in children.

**From Our Librarian**

**BOOK LIGHT UP OUR WORLD!**

12 days to go until Book Week!

What will you be wearing for our Book Parade?

Part of our annual Book Week celebrations is our Scholastic Book Fair. This will run throughout Book Week.

In 2013 our Book Fair helped us to purchase 1500 new levelled readers K-6.

In 2014 our Book Fair helped us to purchase new books for our tired classroom libraries. Each class received approximately 90 new books. The response from the children, especially our older students, has been phenomenal with many requests to have these books on our library shelves...which I have done.

In 2015, our [Book Fair goal](#) is to continue building our classroom library shelves so that our children have an even wider selection of books to read in their leisure time.

Reading is an essential lifelong skill and here at St Mary’s we build not only the skills in learning to read but also a love of reading. Books certainly do light up our world!

Miss Gray
Librarian

**From Our Office**

A reminder that account statements are emailed after the end of each month. If you change your email address please notify the office as soon as possible so that you do not miss your monthly statement. The bottom of your statement indicates if there are any overdue instalments, please check your statement each month and contact the office if you have any questions.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

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**Something We’ve Noticed**

Our STARS Competition witnessed highly creative presentations reinforcing the meaning of STARS. Although the Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 entries were strong, our competition was won by the Year 5 entry. All of Year 5 now receive free pizza and a movie.

But...... Mrs Jones forgot to tell Year 5 that the movie was not at Tuggerah and just in their classrooms.

**Star Awards**

Aedan F
Abby L
Marni R
Elliot H
Chelsea H
Reyes M
Nate M
Malachy B
Liam I
Jack M
Tyson J
Jasmine H
Taalirah G
Kobe Co
Brayden G
Ben W
Emmy I
Isabella G

**STARS**

Share Fun
Think Safe, Act Safe
Act Responsibly
Respect All That God Has Made
Speak With Kindness

Cohen Brakell & Ryan Crowe of 2 Green at the Bulldogs v Titans game last weekend.
The Language of Maths in the Classroom Parent Workshop  
9.15am + 6.30pm  
Thursday 27th August  
In our school library

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.

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 19th August Soup-of-the-day is Chicken Noodle & Vegetable.

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 (next week).

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Mitchell, Josh, Nathan, Jackson & Lachlan - Year 6

Volcano

Shaking earth beneath my feet,  
the fleeing animals are dead meat.  
Dangerous fire, tumbling rocks,  
the echoing explosion teases and mocks.  
Rivers of lava, choking ash,  
many of the buildings are already smashed.

It came and went, killing many men.  
Will anything be ok again?

This is a poem written by Finlay Smith in Year 3 after watching the Year 6 volcano experiments earlier this week.