Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

We trust you were able to enjoy the summer like weather in the second half of the holidays.

In conjunction with our Leadership Team, a crucial part of my role each year is to lead the process of employing quality teachers for the children at our school. What do we look for in a potential teacher for our school? A positive, faith-filled person who is happy to put others before themselves, is open to life-long learning and is passionate about teaching the children at our place. A person who values relationships, is able to connect with the children and have that ability to make each child feel valued and important. A person who will impact positively on the students’ faith, learning and wellbeing. A person who works in partnership with others, collaboratively determining how to get the best for the students in our school.

We are currently interviewing to employ teachers of the above calibre. Please pray that the discernment of our Leadership Team’s is guided wisely by Our Lord.

Year 6
We wish Year 6 well as they commence the last term of the Primary school life. Repeatedly, Year 6 have ‘risen to the occasion’, setting a fine example for younger students in their attitude to their classwork and behaviour. We are now looking closely at our Year 5 students. They have big shoes to fill but it is clear to me that they have the makings of an excellent Year 6.

Staff Development Days
The first of two Staff Development Days for Term 4 will focus on the new History syllabus and be held on Friday 23rd October. The second Staff Development Day is on Friday 4th December.

Thanks Russ and Bernie
We thank Russ and Bernie for helping make our school look great for the return of students and staff. The K-2 Girls and Boys’ toilet blocks were freshly painted by Russ in the holidays.

School Uniform
Full summer school uniform is expected to be worn from Day 1. With Term 4’s warmer weather no child will be allowed to play in the sun if they do not have a school hat on their head.

Term 4 Dates
On our school’s website you will find Term 4’s Calendar. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter as, periodically some late changes do occur.

Maths Corner
Please check out our school website! We have new links under ‘Teaching and Learning’ with short video clips explaining different Mathematical Terms. We will be adding more throughout the term. We would also love to hear your feedback and ideas.

2016
We have a number of families wishing to enrol their children at our school for 2016. If you know that your child will not be with us next year, please let us know in writing. It is a requirement that a child’s destination school be included.

Term 4 is an exciting term. Beautiful liturgies, Christmas Carols, Year 6 Graduation and our Awards Ceremony are some of the highlights.

Enjoy the term.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed some time with your family and were able to take full advantage of the beautiful weather from the second week.

Catholic Mission
October is Mission Month. This week and next week we conduct the biggest fundraising of the year for Catholic Mission (http://www.catholicmission.org.au/) and we’re going to help ‘Sock it to Poverty!’
The focus nation this year is Madagascar. Many of us recognise this country from the movies. Although Madagascar is surrounded by water, it lacks access to clean water for washing, cleaning, cooking and most importantly, drinking. This forces the community to use dirty water, which is making them seriously ill. Alarmingly, each year, thousands of children die from preventable diseases like diarrhoea because of the lack of clean water and proper sanitation. Our children are watching the following clip in class this week (https://www.cm.org.au/WMM2015/home.html), you might like to too. During the next two weeks we encourage our St Mary’s children to bring in donations, all which will go to helping the children of Madagascar. Some of our Year 6 Mini Vinnies students will present our donations to representatives from Catholic Mission at the Mission Mass on October 21st.

School Prayer
Recently, our teachers and students have been focusing on saying our school prayer reverently and correctly each day at morning assembly. Morning prayer is an important part of our school. The way we say it each morning is important to us. It would be terrific if you can read over the words with your child and talk to them about what the words mean to you.

Children’s Liturgy
St Mary’s now celebrates Children’s Liturgy at the 9.00am Mass on the first and third 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.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

St Mary’s School Prayer
Watch over us all at St Mary’s today,
As we work and play.
Thank you for our school and all
The gifts you give us each day.
Strengthen our faith in you
As we grow and learn.
Help us to love and care for
others as you do,
and become the person
you call us to be.
May we always be
children of Faith,
Love and Understanding.
Amen

From Our REC
Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed some time with your family and were able to take full advantage of the beautiful weather from the second week.

From Our Family Liaison Officer
Welcome back. October is Mental Health Month in NSW. Promotion of Mental Health Month is a positive way to break down any stigma still attached to mental illness, bring awareness to how prevalent mental illness is in the wider community and start conversations around the importance of developing and maintaining positive mental health.

In any one year in Australia 1 in 5 adults will develop some kind of mental health challenge. If the stresses and circumstances in our lives become too much, it’s not hard to see how illnesses like anxiety or depression can affect any one of us. Posters around the school and hints and tips on maintaining positive mental health will be available during October.

Please RSVP by this Friday, Oct 9 if you are interested in attending the upcoming 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching Parent workshop.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

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

Merit Awards
Kiara C
Zoe R
Maverick E
Will M
Alex W
Mia C
Charlotte F
Bridie M
Riana S
Izac Cl
Jeremy B
Broc C
Ella H
Mia D
Summer H
Thomas L
Ebony A
Sapphire K
Lewis S
Maths Corner

This fortnight, your children will be learning about the following concepts.

Kinder: make and describe things that are half, more than half or less than half, to add by counting two groups of objects and use monetary language such as coins, notes, dollars and cents.

Year 1: describe position using left, right, give simple directions, and look at how different shapes hold different amounts (capacity).

Year 2 are learning to tell the time using the words o’clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to and learning the months of the year. They will also be using half, quarter and eighth to describe shapes and groups of objects.

From Our Librarian

This term, in the library, all classes will be learning about the importance of being safe and responsible online. It is not enough that we consider ourselves Australian citizens. In 2015 we are now digital citizens of a global society.

We will learn that whenever we are online we create and leave digital footprints that can be tracked back to us. It is important to think safe and act safe whenever we are using any device that is connected to the internet. When and how you connect with someone on another device means that your ‘digital conversation’ can never be erased. You may have deleted it from your device but it is stored on that and every other device and hard drive to which it is connected. Always share and show what you are doing or have received with a trusted adult.

From Our Office

Important Information Regarding Student Medication

Please note that medication of any kind cannot be brought to school by students. Where possible the administration of medication should be done at home rather than school. If medication must be administered during school hours a “Request for Administration of Medication Form” must be completed by both the parent and the student’s doctor before school staff are able to administer medication. This is a Catholic School’s Office requirement.

Year 3 are learning how multiplication and division are linked using arrays, skip counting and equal groups to solve word problems.

Year 4 are learning about equivalent fractions (eg 2/4, 10/20, 15/30 are all equal as they show half, we call this equivalent). They will also be learning about decimals that show tenths (3.4, 0.7) and hundredths (0.12, 2.65).

Year 5 are learning to order fractions on a number line, write an amount as both a fraction and a decimal and discuss the volume and capacity of certain objects.

Year 6 are learning to read timetables and timelines, use 24 hour time, solve word problems involving length and describe position on a map.

Something We’ve Noticed

Our teachers have noticed how settled and calm the children have been on their return to school. We appreciate parents’ efforts in ensuring their child(ren) is dressed correctly in their full summer uniform.

Star Awards

Bree E
Abbey T
Tallin K
Marcus W
Isabella W
Ellie W
Jack H
Leah H

Uniform Shop News

Year 5 students….please remember to return your completed design templates this week so we can progress to the next stage for the Year 6 2016 sports shirts.

Uniform Shop Hours for Term 4

Mon, Wed & Fri
8.30am - 11.00am.

For appointments outside these hours please call or text Julie on 0402 311 749.

Piano Tuition

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

Ph. 0414 186 044

K-2 Swimming last term
It’s time to get fit and healthy for summer!! Don’t miss out...

The Go4Fun Program is a FREE healthy lifestyle program aimed at helping children 7-13 years, above their healthy weight become fitter, healthier and happier!

The once per week program runs during school term for 10 weeks at Mingara Recreation Club, Wyong Pool, Gosford Olympic Pool and the Peninsula Leisure Centre. It is completely free of charge to participants. Registrations are now being taken for Term 4 2015, and places are filling fast.

For information contact Amanda on 4394 7974 or to register for the program:
Free call 1800 780 900 Register online at www.go4fun.com.au

Please note: A parent or carer must accompany each child to every session

Mingara Recreation Club Saturdays 1.30pm–3.30pm Start Date: 10/10/15 End Date: 12/12/15
Wyong Olympic Pool Thursdays 4pm–6pm Start Date: 08/10/15 End Date: 10/12/15