Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Early in February we sought the opinions of parents, teachers and senior students regarding the homework practices of our school. The attached document details the conclusions from our consultations. As it was a trial for 2015, it is now time to determine, as a school community, whether it works for our school or not.

Accompanying the newsletter is a survey that seeks your current opinion. You are welcome to complete the survey and return it via your child or via email. We are also offering another meeting as a forum to seek your thoughts.

The Homework Meeting is scheduled for 9.15am on Wednesday 4th November. Your input is valued.

P+F Meeting
Our term’s P+F Meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 21st October. You are welcome to join us.

Maths Corner
Every second week in the newsletter you will notice a piece entitled “Maths Corner”. Mrs Sellars’ section will detail the current content being taught in your child’s class and note some of the key terms being used by our teachers. You may then like to use some of those terms in conversation with your child during the week, e.g. ‘left’ and ‘right’ in Year 1.

Maths Videos on Our Website
Please check out the new Maths video clips under “Teaching and Learning” on our school’s website. The instructional videos illustrate how we teach various elements of Maths, e.g. the jump strategy. They are practical videos that help parents help their children. Over time, we intend to grow the number of videos available to you.

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

Food for Thought
The viability of our Canteen being open for four days per week in 2016 is under threat. Our regular volunteers are fantastic but due to work commitments and changing family circumstances the reliability of some has reduced.

Class Parents Meeting
Our term’s Class Parents Meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 21st October in the staff room.

Kinder 2016 Orientation
A reminder that our Kinder 2016 Orientation (for parents and children) is on Wednesday 21st October commencing at 9.30am.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

• Year 6 Assembly
  Thursday
  15 October

• Kinder 2016 Orientation
  9.30am
  Wednesday
  21 October

• P+F Meeting
  7.00pm
  Wednesday
  21 October

• Class Parents Meeting
  2.30pm
  Wednesday
  21 October

• Staff Development Day
  Friday
  23 October

• All Saints Mass
  9.15am
  Friday
  30 October

• 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching Parent Workshop
  Fridays
  16 + 30 October
  6 November
  9.15am - 10.45am

Yumi, Linsey & Tayla

Patrick, Harrison & Toby
Catholic Mission
October is Mission Month, a time where we participate in our largest fundraising opportunity of the year for Catholic Mission (http://www.catholicmission.org.au/). This is the last week that children can bring in donations, all which will go to helping the children of Madagascar. As we’re helping to ‘Sock it to Poverty!’, this Friday we have our ‘Crazy Sock Day’ where children can wear any colourful, crazy or mismatched socks with their usual sport uniform. Some of our Year 6 Mini Vinnies students will present our donations to representatives from Catholic Mission at the Mission Mass on October 22nd.

A reminder of some Term 4 dates
Masses and Liturgies
All Saints Mass 9.15 am Friday 30th October
World Teachers’ Day Liturgy Friday 6th November
Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am Friday 11th December (Led by Year 6)
Week One Advent Liturgy 1.50pm Monday 23rd November (Led by Kinder and Year 2)
Week Two Advent Liturgy 1.50pm Monday 30th November (Led by Year 1 and Year 3)
Week Three Advent Liturgy 1.50pm Monday 7th December (Led by Year 4)

Week Four Advent Liturgy 1.50pm Monday 14th December (Led by Year 5)

Other Events
Year 6 Assembly and Sacred Space 1.50pm Thursday 15th October
Year 1 Assembly and Sacred Space 1.50pm Thursday 29th October
2 Blue Sacred Space 1.50pm Thursday 12th November
Award Ceremony Wednesday 9th December
Christmas Carols Tuesday 15th December

From Our REC

From Our Family Liaison Officer

A flyer has been sent home with the Year 5 and 6 children today about a parent/carer workshop dealing with the challenges and demands of parenting pre-teen and teenage children. It is designed to help parents and teens get through their teenage years safely and happily. It is open to all parents/carers and if anyone is interested you can find out more at the following link - Headspace Lakehaven RAP-P. It is sure to be very worthwhile.

As part of Mental Health Month, Week 4 will be “Wellbeing Week”. There will be activities for parents/carers to get active, get involved, meet others and hear about what everyone can do to understand and look after their own wellbeing. If the important adults in children’s lives make their own mental health and wellbeing a priority it has a positive flow on effect for the children. A timetable of activities will be sent out next week.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

As a school, St Mary’s prioritises the mental health and wellbeing of all members of our community and with current research indicating that for adults with mental health difficulties 50% of those showed the first signs of ill health before the age of 15, and 75% before the age of 25, it is important that as a community, we support and develop positive mental fitness in the children in our lives.

Building protective factors in children, such as resilience, connectedness with others, positive social and emotional skills and having a safe and supportive family environment, are key attributes that set children up to positively deal with the challenges of adolescence and young adulthood and helps to reduce the risk of developing mental ill health. It’s important for both adults and children alike to feel safe and comfortable with those around them to be able to speak about how they are feeling and ask for help when it’s needed.

One of the most common mental health concerns for children is anxiety. Please see the KidsMatter article **Stress and Anxiety in children** for more information about how stress affects children, the signs of stress in children and what we can do to support them to deal with it.

From Our Librarian

In the library this week we are learning that personal information makes us unique. It is important information that can be used to identify us.

Personal information includes our: name address telephone number birth date name of our school photo of myself

If we get lost our personal details can help a police officer find our parents. Our personal details are so special we should be very careful who we share them with when we meet people offline and online.

We can be online when we use a computer, mobile phone or game like Xbox, Playstation, iPad or tablet. We should never share our personal information online without asking dad, mum or a teacher first. It is important to create a nick name that we can use to sign into games. A nick name does not give any personal information away.

Miss Gray
Teacher Librarian

Think ...... before you post!

From Our Office

Thank you to all parents who have honoured their 2015 school fees 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. The Catholic Schools Office monitors our fee collection rates and have requested that families be reminded that unless an alternate payment arrangement is in place, all fees should be paid in full by 13th November 2015.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

Something We’ve Noticed

Our Year 6 continue to set a wonderful example for the younger children. We are also excited about the great potential of our current Year 5 as they prepare to step up to be the senior leaders at our place.

Star Awards

Darcy N
Edan R
Iszac M
Mia C
Tayte B
Koby S
Charlize P
Nate M
Tre J
Liam H
Izaak O
Ethan L
Aaron D
Jasmine S
Brae E
Sheridan S
Conner F

Uniform Shop News

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.

Canteen News

Volunteer forms have gone home today. Could they please be returned by Friday 13th November.
Term 4 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.
TERM FOUR TO-DO LIST:
- pay for Amy’s school excursion
- buy James new cricket shoes
- find out more about Saver Plus!

Match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500. The Smith Family is looking for new participants in your local area.

To be eligible you need to have:
- a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular household income, e.g. you or a partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work.

Contact Geoff Hynd your local Saver Plus Worker:
4322 2900 / 0428 282 900 or geoffrey.hynd@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

Mackenzie, Harry & Reif

Malaya & Evie

Joey, Hudson & Tyson

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