Monday’s Storm

Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

From 2.35pm on Monday a violent electrical storm lashed our school. As 3.15pm hit, the storm intensified. Just before bell time, we lost all power. Just a few comments:

- Naturally, a number of our children who were to catch buses were upset. The thought of walking home from the bus stop was concerning to them and me.
- Our parents were great. Upon receiving the text message, all children were picked up by 4.30pm and, although a possible inconvenience to them the parents, carers and grandparents were most understanding.
- Our teachers were great. Teachers stayed around helping supervise all the bus children, feeding them some biscuits and generally taking care of them. Good people, our teachers.
- The Catholic Schools Office was great. As our power was out, the CSO was able to send the text messages to parents, notifying them of the situation.

Special thanks to our Leadership Team, Miss Baker, Mrs Sellars, Mrs Burns and Mrs Hartge for their considerable initiative and ‘on the spot’ troubleshooting. In our office, Mrs Gale and Mrs Sternbeck were tremendous in their efforts to communicate with parents.

Catholic Mission

Last week Mrs Sellars shared with you the amazing news that our school community raised $2700 for Catholic Mission. We sincerely thank you for your generosity. The money raised was presented to Bishop Peter at last Thursday’s Mission Mass at Waitara.

Congratulations to the Clarks

We congratulate Kristi and Greg Clark on the birth of Taj, their second son and another baby brother for ‘big’ sister, Sienna (2 Green). Dad reckons it’s inevitable that Taj will end up a backrower.

2016 School Fees

Attached to the email version of our newsletter is the Diocesan School Fees for 2016.

All Saints Mass

Please join us as we celebrate the Feast of All Saints with Mass at 9.15am on Friday.

World Teachers’ Day

On Friday 6th November our school celebrates World Teachers’ Day. What little thing can you child do to express their appreciation of their teacher’s efforts?

Kinder Transition Sessions

Our three Kinder 2016 Transition sessions are on Wednesday 11th, 18th and 25th November commencing at 9.30am.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams

Principal
From Our REC

All Saints’ Day Mass
This Friday (October 30th, 9.15am) we have our All Saints’ Mass, led by Year 5 students. Please join us.

World Teachers’ Day
Next Friday (November 6th) we celebrate the wonderful teachers who make up our school and say thank you to them for the nurturing support, humour and genuine dedication they provide, daily.
A huge thank you to the class parents and other parent volunteers who are coordinating a liturgy (10am TBC) and a morning tea to follow. Parents, we would love for you to join us next Friday.

Parish Prayer
The St Mary’s Rosary Prayer Group meet in the church on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning at approximately 8.15am (following the 7.45am Mass). If anyone in from our school community would like to place forward and special intentions for prayer, please ring Carmen Chetcuti on 4390 9559.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

Mini Vinnies members Elyse, Reese, Molly, Emily and Sascha at our Catholic Mission Mass last week.

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Thank you to one of our parents, Tracey Gillis-Sinclair, for her presentation “How our thoughts affect our feelings” yesterday afternoon. It was very worthwhile and well received by all attendees.

A gentle, relaxation Yoga session for parents/ carers will be presented by another of our parents, Kristie Clemow, tomorrow morning at 9.15 in the hall. No previous Yoga experience is needed and everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

A reminder that any parents/ carers planning to attend the RAP-P, Resourceful Adolescent Program at Headspace Lakehaven on Wednesday November 4th, need to RSVP today. You can access more information via the following link -Headspace Lakehaven RAP-P.

The next 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching Session is on this Friday, 9.15am.
A very big THANK YOU to the P&F for their support of our Wellbeing Week activities.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

Merit Awards
Charlotte B
Harrison R
Kiara C
Isaac R
Zane S
Abby L
Flynn R
Zander F
Luke W
Jessica B
Alex W
Megan M
Zoe M
Brydie G
Alexis C
Fletcher M
Ari S
Broc C
Brandon W
Brendan H
Lachlan O
Lily R
Daniel D
Kirra B
Liam S
Cailin G

Headspace Lakehaven on Wednesday November 4th, need to RSVP today. You can access more information via the following link -Headspace Lakehaven RAP-P.

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A very big THANK YOU to the P&F for their support of our Wellbeing Week activities.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**KidsMatter**

**Resilience**
Resilience is the ability to cope with life’s ups and downs and bounce back from adversity. It is an important protective factor in developing positive mental health and wellbeing.

An individual’s resilience is a combination of both pre-set characteristics a person is born with and the environment a person grows up in, including the support networks around them.

Key to developing a child’s resilience is the relationship they have with at least one adult in their life. Parents and carers are vital supports in developing a child’s resilience. Positive parenting is a delicate balance between protecting children from adversity and letting them experience hardship so they can develop resilience and positive mental health and wellbeing.

The KidsMatter article, “Resilience is an essential skill for life”, provides a great explanation of resilience and what parents/carers can do to foster resilience in their child.

**School Bus Travel**

Parents, please be advised that current Year 2 students moving into Year 3 next year who have an existing bus pass need to reapply for 2016 as they do not automatically roll over.

Please collect a bus pass application from the office or call us and we will be happy to send an application home with your child.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

**From Our Office**

**Reminder:** Family Registration Forms for 2016 were sent home to all families this week. We ask that you complete and return the form to school by 20th November 2015. Both parents must sign the back of the form for it to be valid. The information on this form is used to apply sibling discounts for 2016. No discounts will be applied unless a completed form is received by the due date.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

**Something We’ve Noticed**
We like the way the children line up at the canteen and say please and thank you.

**Star Awards**
Savannah T
Mia J
Mikayla M
Nicholas L
Abbey T
Joshua H
Cooper M
Kyan C
Odessa C
Ethan M
Ebony A
Joel C
Mia M
Sapphire K

**Canteen News**
Volunteer forms for 2016 were sent home in week 2. If you have some time available and can commit to helping out, could the forms 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.

**STARS**
Share Fun
Think Safe, Act Safe
Act Responsibly
Respect All That God Has Made
Speak With Kindness
From Our PE Teacher

DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY SPORTS COUNCIL
SUMMER SPORTS SELECTION TRIALS 2015/16

Selection trials for students to represent the Diocese of Broken Bay at the Polding Area Summer Team Sport selection trials in Lismore (5 Feb 2016) will be held during term 4 this year (2015). See below.

All teams are open age and it is expected that most children selected will be in year 6 or year 5 in 2016.

Any students wishing to be considered to attend a sport trial must return the ‘Player Profile’ to school BY MONDAY 9 November. Students should be of representative standard in their chosen sport.

Each school will determine which students will subsequently be invited to attend the trial. This will be confirmed by the return of the 'Invitation to attend Broken Bay Sport Trial' to the student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>TRIAL DATE</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CO-ORDINATOR</th>
<th>No. to be selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TENNIS</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 November</td>
<td>Pennant Hills Park Brittania St Pennant Hills</td>
<td>12.00-4.00pm Girls from 1pm</td>
<td>Mark Merlino St Mary’s Toukley</td>
<td>4 boys 4 girls</td>
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<td>BOYS/GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL</td>
<td>Thursday 26 November</td>
<td>Northern Beaches Indoor Sports Center Jacksons Rd Warriewood</td>
<td>1.00-3.00pm</td>
<td>Chris Petry OLGC Forestville</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIRLS</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL</td>
<td>Thursday 26 November</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.00-3.00pm</td>
<td>Luke Spencer St Agatha’s Pennant Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOYS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOFTBALL</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 November</td>
<td>Leo’s College Woolcott Ave Wahroonga</td>
<td>4.00 – 5.30pm</td>
<td>Kristen Vella St Agatha’s Pennant Hills</td>
<td>9boys 9girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOYS &amp; GIRLS</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRICKET</td>
<td>Thursday 19 November</td>
<td>Hassell Park Cnr Palm St and Mona Vale Rd St Ives</td>
<td>12.30-3.30pm</td>
<td>Anne Neems St Brendan’s Lake Munmorah</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOYS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRICKET GIRLS</td>
<td>Thursday 19 November</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.00-3.30pm</td>
<td>Angela Wark St Joseph's Narrabeen</td>
<td>7</td>
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Wellbeing Week

Come along to meet other parents/carers & learn about taking care of our own health and wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9.15am Cuppa &amp; Chat Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9.15am Mums &amp; Bubs Walking group Meet in top playground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9.15am Gentle, relaxation Yoga Meet in the hall (childminding available)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9.15am All Saints Mass Yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9.15am Afternoon Tea Top playground</td>
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All parents/carers are invited to come along to all activities
MESSAGE TO PARENTS
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

At this time each year, following endorsement by the Diocesan Schools Finance Committee and approval by the Bishop of Broken Bay, I write to advise you of school fees and charges for next year.

TOTAL ANNUAL SCHOOL FEES

Total annual school fees are made up of three components:

Diocesan Tuition Fees which are principally used to contribute to salary costs. The majority of salary costs are met by Commonwealth and State Government grants. Increases in Diocesan Tuition Fees will range from 2% to 6% across different schools.

Diocesan Building Levy to assist with the upgrading of school buildings and the construction of new schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay. The levy will increase by 3.4%.

School-Based Charges to meet many of the expenses at your school. In most schools these charges will increase by 2% - 5%.

Regrettably it has been necessary to increase fees. However, the CSO has limited the increase in the Total Annual School Fees to a maximum of 5.5%. For some schools the increase will be less.

WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT DIOCESAN TUITION FEES FOR DIFFERENT SCHOOLS?

In essence, to comply with the Australian Education Act, parents from communities that have a higher socio-economic status are required to make a greater contribution to their children’s education. Across the Diocese the Diocesan Tuition Fees will increase by between 2% and 6% in 2016. Fees at your child’s school will rise by 2%.

Diocesan Tuition Fees for 2016 will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>K – 6</th>
<th>7 – 8</th>
<th>9 – 10</th>
<th>11 – 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Child</td>
<td>$1,492.00</td>
<td>$2,035.00</td>
<td>$2,157.00</td>
<td>$2,601.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Child</td>
<td>$1,193.00</td>
<td>$1,628.00</td>
<td>$1,726.00</td>
<td>$2,081.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Child</td>
<td>$746.00</td>
<td>$1,017.50</td>
<td>$1,078.50</td>
<td>$1,300.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Child</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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DIOCESAN BUILDING LEVY

The Diocese currently receives very modest levels of support from government for the building of new schools and the upgrading of schools to meet current needs. The Diocesan Building Levy is used to build new schools and renovate existing schools. Most schools in the Diocese have loans relating to renovation work that need to be serviced. The current level of this debt is $104 million. So that this work can continue, in 2016 each family will be asked to contribute $910 per annum.
SCHOOL-BASED CHARGES

In addition to the Diocesan based tuition fees each school sets its own school-based charges. These vary across the Diocese and cover such items as excursions, sport and other school needs. In light of the need to raise diocesan tuition fees, I have requested principals, as far as practical, to contain school-based charges and to provide information to parents about charges in 2016.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

I recognise that for some families this change in fees may pose a significant challenge, and should this be the case, I encourage you to discuss your situation with your principal. The Diocesan Schools System has a commitment to supporting families experiencing financial difficulties. No child will be excluded from access to a Catholic systemic school due to genuine family financial hardship.

Fee payments are due at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3. Parents can apply to the school to arrange smaller, more frequent payments.

I acknowledge the generous support by families of our Catholic schools through their financial contributions to the school.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Peter Hamill
Director of Schools