Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

On Friday 6th November our school celebrates World Teachers’ Day. We thank our Class Parents Network for organising the liturgy and providing our morning tea. Particularly we thank Julie Anderson and Katrina Slattery.

We are blessed with tremendous teachers at our school. On a daily basis, I continue to be amazed at the gifts of our teaching staff. The passion and dedication they repeatedly display is inspiring. The one-on-one chats, the continual encouragement, the genuine interest in the lives of the children and their ability to truly know and understand the needs of the learners in their class means that our community is certainly blessed to have such a group of professional people.

I particularly like how our teachers often put the needs of our school and the children as their priority. Their balanced attitude and sense of fun, coupled with the quiet, humble way they go about things provides excellent role models for our children.

How can you and your child show appreciation for your teachers’ efforts?

Congratulations
We congratulate Herbie G (1 Green). Herbie was baptised on 25th October. Welcome to our Catholic faith, Herbie.

Your Thoughts and Prayers
Please keep the Cross family (Ryan 5 Gold) in your thoughts and prayers. Ryan’s Grandmother passed away recently. May your treasured memories and Our Lord’s strength give your considerable comfort during this difficult time.

Staff Development Day
Our final Staff Development Day is on Friday 4th December. Our focus is Staff Spirituality.

Homework
Thank you to over 100 families who completed the Homework Survey. Your thoughts, views and suggestions were comprehensive and insightful. Your opinions will be the dominant force in shaping what homework looks like from 2016 onwards. On the rating scale, parents/carers nominated an average of 8/10 in support of the 2015 system. I will forward you final details of our homework system shortly.

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

World Teachers’ Day
This Friday 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 which will be held in the church at 10am. Parents, we would love for you to join us as we celebrate the gift of teachers.

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 from our school community would like to place forward and special intentions for prayer, please ring Carmen Chetcuti on 4390 9559.

A reminder of some upcoming dates
Masses and Liturgies
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
Award Ceremony Wednesday 9th December, (10.30am in K-2 classes, 11.00am in the church K-6)
Christmas Carols Tuesday 15th December.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

St Mary’s is celebrating World Teachers Day this Friday with a special liturgy prepared by Class Parents. All families are welcome to join us for the liturgy and show their appreciation for the wonderful job our teachers do.

The final of our three different sessions of the 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching parent course is on this Friday, 9.15am in the library. We will offer an evening session of this same programme in Term 1, 2016 for anyone who missed out this term.

Wyong Lakes Festival begins this Saturday with many free events for families during the next week. From The Entrance, Long Jetty, Canton Beach to Budgewoi and Lake Munmorah there is something for everyone. As part of the festival children from St Mary’s will be joining children from Toukley PS in a special Touch Football Carnival on Friday Nov 13th. The festival is a great opportunity for families to spend time together and connect with the wider community. You can check the event programme on the school website.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
Maths Corner

This fortnight your children will be learning about the following concepts.
Kinder are learning to make equal groups and then adding them together to find a total. They are learning to share a total into equal groups with nothing left over.
Year 1 are collecting information to create data displays, compare the weight of objects (heavier/lighter), and describe the chance of something (will happen, probably, won’t happen).
Year 2 are learning to describe and show position in everyday situations using the words left, right, forward, position, path, direction and location.
Year 3 are learning about chance and expected results compared to actual results.

From Our Office

Reminder: Family Registration Forms for 2016 were sent home to all families last 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.
For your information a schedule of school fees for 2016 is available on the school’s website.

Something We’ve Noticed

I listened to the Year 5 students who have been short-listed for next year’s Student Parliament. The standard of their speeches, the manner in which they delivered them and their substantial content was excellent. Repeated words used by the nominees were responsibility, resilience, respect, leadership and role model. There was definitely a great sense of servant leadership in what they shared. We would be pleased to have any of the speakers as part of our 2016 Student Parliament.

Star Awards

Vasiliki P
Keira-Lee D
Ava M
Myah L
Charli M
Liberty C
Callum L
Indi B
Cody B
Reyes M
Lilly M
Darcy R
Caitlin W
Josie R

School Bus Travel

From term one 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process. Your child will automatically receive a School Opal card in 2016. However, parents and carers will need to apply if the student is commencing school or has not had a bus pass before. Also if your child is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3 next year you will need to follow the online process. Attached to the email version of this newsletter is a Fact sheet issued from Transport of NSW which helps you with the steps to follow in applying for bus travel. Click here to apply

Lyn and Jacqui

Don’t Forget!

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.
From Our PE Teacher

Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools Touch Football Gala Day

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION</th>
<th>WINNERS</th>
<th>RUNNERS UP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 BOYS</td>
<td>Entrance Nuggets</td>
<td>Toukley Ankle Snappers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 BOYS A</td>
<td>Toukley Wooden Spooners</td>
<td>Entrance Flying Turtles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 GIRLS C</td>
<td>Toukley Fruit Ninjas</td>
<td>Terrigal 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 MIXED A</td>
<td>Kincumber 2</td>
<td>Toukley Incredibles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We had beautiful weather and a wonderful day
As always St Mary’s students were well behaved and showed great sportsmanship
Thank you to the wonderful band of parents who assisted so that every team had a coach/manager for the day – as I always say – the kids cannot attend without you all!

Together for Toukley Touch Gala Day
On Friday 13th November our Year 5 students will be taking part in a Gala Day with Toukley Public School.
This is a part of the Wyong Lakes Festival starting this weekend
On Saturday 14th November there will a multitude of events around the Canton Beach area that are fun to watch and participate in – such as the Splash Dash, stall, shows and Outdoor Cinema.
The details will be on our St Mary’s website and the website for Wyong Council – Wyong Lakes Festival

Year 4 Rugby Touch Gala Day – Wednesday 11th November

CLASS PARENTS 2016
We are currently seeking expressions of interest from parents to be on our Class Parent Team for next year. If you would like to volunteer to be a point of contact with and for other parents and would like to help out your child’s class teacher whilst contributing to the greater good of our school then please complete the slip below and return it the school office by Monday Nov 9th. The Class Parent Team meets with Mr Williams once a term and contributes positively at both class and whole school levels. This is one of the many ways you can become more involved and enjoy 2016 with other parents who like to help our school. We require one parent per class.
We hope to have the 2016 Class Parent Team finalised and listed in the newsletter in early December.

Expression of Interest - Class Parent Team 2016
I would like to express interest in joining the Class Parent Team next year.
My Child/ren will be in: (Please circle) Kinder Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6.
My name is (Please Print)________________________________________
Best contact phone number:____________________________
Signed ________________________________________________________________________________
Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who’s eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.
Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.
A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won’t need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student’s school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016. However, a new application is required if:
- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student’s personal details have changed (e.g. address).
Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply
Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.
The application may take several weeks and the applicant’s email address is required.

If the student doesn’t qualify for free travel
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.
Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.