Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

To be elected for Student Parliament, initially all Year 5 students prepare and deliver a speech to their class on what Leadership means. Year 5 students vote, nominating who would best fulfil the role of being on Student Parliament. Year 5 then come together with approximately 12 students from each class being short-listed to speak in front of the whole year. After these speeches, again the input of the Year 5 students is sought. Combined with Leadership Team input, the final 10 students are announced.

I am pleased to announce that our Student Parliament for 2016 consists of Lucy H, Charlotte D, Maddi S, Megan P, Milly H, Oscar S, Joshua B, Lukas S, Riley G and Ethan M. Congratulations!

Because of the great depth of quality children in our current Year 5, many great kids missed out. What was pleasing was the manner in which they bounced back, displaying the resilience they will need for life.

Our 2016 Student Parliament presented their speeches to the school yesterday. The standard of the students’ speeches was outstanding. With the quality of the students speaking, any of them would capably fulfil the role of School Captain at our school very easily. After the speeches all children in Years 2-6 returned to their class to cast their vote. A combination of the students’ votes and the teachers’ views results in 4 students being chosen as our 2016 School Captains. Our School Captains are announced at the conclusion of our Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 9th December.

Shortly, a couple of Year 4 students will also be chosen to be part of the 2016 Student Parliament.

Thank You
Last Friday we celebrated a moving World Teachers’ Day Liturgy. Our thanks to Julie Anderson and Katrina Slattery for leading the organisation of our liturgy and to Debbie Cowan, Chris Burns and the many Class Parents who kindly provided a lovely morning tea for the teachers. Also, we sincerely thank the many parents and children who, through gifts or kind words, acknowledged and thanked a teacher last Friday.

Our Year 5
Earlier in the week, Mrs Beattie (Catholic Schools Office) led our Year 5 in preparation for them being leaders of Restorative Practices in our school in 2016. I’d like to share with you her feedback from the day:

“I had a FANTASTIC day with your Year 5 leadership group today! They were engaged, cooperative and collaborative. What a great credit to you, their teachers, the school and the parents. Best group of Year 5 students that I’ve worked with in a very long time!!!! They were very insightful with their responses to questions and situations and contributed a lot to the learning of today!”

Congratulations Year 5! Such exciting potential as our 2016 Year 6 leaders.

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

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events
- Chess Competition
  Wyong Leagues Club
  Thursday 12 November
- Mackillop Year 7 Orientation
  Friday 13 November
- Year 3-6 Swimming begins Monday 16 November
- Kinder Transition 2
  9.30am
  Wednesday 18 November
- Rotary Citizenship Awards Night
  6.30pm
  Wednesday 18 November

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Toukley
From Our REC

World Teachers’ Day
Last week we celebrated our teachers in a lovely school liturgy in the church. A special thank you must go to Julie Anderson and Katrina Slattery who were instrumental in organising the liturgy and for practicing the children. The teachers very much appreciated the work that you did.
Also, a special thank you to the parents who made something for the teachers’ morning tea and set it up for everyone to enjoy. It was delicious!

Remembrance Day
At the 11th hour on this, the 11th day of the 11th month we stopped to remember and acknowledge all of the men and women who have seen the horrors of war. Today marks 97 years since the agreement was signed to end World War One. Lest we forget.

Christmas Appeal
Once again, St Mary’s will be supporting our local community with the St Vincent DePaul Christmas Food Appeal. Within the next week, your child will be given a particular item from a class list of items. We ask each child to please bring in this item to place in their classroom basket. All of these baskets will be collected by our local St Vincent DePaul representatives during the last week of school. Once again, our Year 5 and 6 Mini Vinnies children will lead this initiative.

As always, we thank our community for their generosity and compassion.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Thank you to the parents/ carers who participated in the 123 Magic and Emotion Coaching programme this term. Your willingness to learn and to engage through conversations about parenting challenges is what helps the programme be so worthwhile and successful.

Through KidsMatter, parent presentations, the parent library and our newsletter, there is a vast amount of information available to parents/ carers to help them grow and develop resilient, happy families.

Over the past three weeks the ABC has broadcast a special, “Making Families Happy” programme, which highlights the type of everyday things families can do to boost their happiness and strengthen relationships. Things such as improving communication, spending quality time together, strong parenting skills, parenting as a team are covered. If you haven’t been able to make it to one of our presentations this year, or perhaps can’t find the time to utilise the parent library, watching these episodes on ABC i-view would be a quick way to get started on learning what it takes to make families happy.

Donna Falzon
KidsMatter

Optimism

The “HAPPY” principle for parents/ carers.

Have a go. Break tasks and games into manageable pieces so children can succeed. Celebrate your child’s success.

Accept both success and loss. Keep an eye on your own helpful or unhelpful thinking as this can influence your child.

Practice. Allow your child to watch you practice and persevere at activities you enjoy. This will teach your child to do the same.

Plan for the best outcome. Encourage children to think situations over and choose outcomes that are enjoyable and build confidence.

Getting to Yes. Optimism and resilience

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

Canteen News

Thank you to those who have returned Canteen Volunteer forms for next year. Looking them over it seems we still need a few volunteers for Fridays, but particularly for Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you can spare a day, or even a few hours at lunchtime please consider helping out to ensure we can maintain the current service for students.

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.

Following up from a parent enquiry, I am after feedback about the idea of offering Sushi one day per week for canteen next year. It would be on a set day and would need to be ordered the day prior. Please send in a note or see me to let me know what you think.

Star Awards

Emma C
Evie M
Sinead H
Edan R
Timothy V
Tasman S
Mia T
Sebastian R
Olivia W
Ashleigh J
Shauna R
Max H
Tyson J
Riana S
Joshua B
Alyssa R
Jye B
Maddy C
Cohan S

From Our Office

Reminder: Family Registration Forms for 2016 were sent home to all families in Week 3. 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

Don’t FORGET!
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.

Uniform Shop News
Sample sizes have now arrived for the 2016 Year 6 shirts. We encourage Year 5 students to come in to the shop to try on a sample before placing an order.

Julie Anderson
Uniform Shop Coordinator

P & F News
The P & F would like to thank Brigitte Wardle for the donation of an extra BBQ. It is much appreciated.

Year 6 Graduation Meeting
There will be a graduation meeting on Tuesday 17th November at 2pm prior to school pick up. The meeting will take place in the Shared Learning Room next to the undercroft area. Please feel welcome to attend. Any enquiries please contact Nicky Arthur on 0450 924 442. Hope to see you there.

World Teachers’ Day Liturgy

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 ________________________