Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Tonight at Halekulani Bowling Club, our local Rotary celebrate outstanding Year 6 citizens from the surrounding local schools. I am pleased to share the news that Julianna S and Khalil M have been voted by our staff as our school’s worthy recipients.

Congratulations Julianna and Khalil! Enjoy your special celebration this evening.

MMG School Survey Feedback
Accompanying today’s newsletter is feedback emanating from the MMG School Survey that was conducted in August. Your feedback will be instrumental in helping shape our school’s future direction.

Your Thoughts and Prayers
Please keep the Bullock family (Hunter 6 Green, Chase 3 Blue and Peyton K Gold) in your thoughts and prayers. The children’s great grandfather passed away recently. May your treasured memories and Our Lord’s strength bring you great courage during this difficult time.

Years 3-6 Swimming Program
Our Years 3-6 Swimming Program commenced earlier this week. I am pleased that the children’s attitude and effort have been excellent. The final day of the program involves a Surf Survival Awareness Day at Soldier’s Beach on Friday 27th November.

Bits and Pieces
Teachers are currently busy compiling your child’s Report. Your child’s Report is a reflection of their achievements, efforts and attitude during the second half of our school year. Many, many parents will be very proud of their child’s Report.

Teachers are also busy drafting the 2016 Class Lists. Our teachers devote a considerable amount of time attaining a fitting balance with next year’s classes. Children’s friendships, while important for the playground, are not a major consideration for us when drafting the classes. With your child’s Report, you will receive notification of their 2016 class. If you are disappointed that your child is not with a particular friend, the manner in which you respond will help shape whether your child is building resilience or not.

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

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Christmas Appeal
Once again, St Mary’s will be supporting our local community with the St Vincent DePaul Christmas Food Appeal. This 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

Advent Liturgies
Next week we begin our Advent Liturgies. These will be held every Monday afternoon for the remaining weeks of the year at 1.50pm in the church. Next Monday 23rd November Kinder and Year 2 will lead our liturgy. They have been busily preparing for the afternoon. Year 1 and Year 3 will lead our Week Two liturgy on Monday 30th November, Year 4 will lead our Week Three liturgy on Monday 7th December and Year 5 will lead out Week 4 liturgy on Monday 14th December.

Parents, we hope you can join us as we prepare for the Lord this Advent Season.

From Our Family Liaison Officer

As parents/carers we all want our children to be happy, but the idea of happiness is different for everyone. Is the obvious happiness children experience from instant gratification or success just a short term feeling? How can it be sustained to develop truly happy children?

This month the Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) has a great article in their newsletter by Dr Timothy Sharpe (aka Dr Happy) about the concept of children’s happiness and what children truly need to sustain it. Dr Sharpe is a leading mental health professional in Australia and he shares the view with many other mental health experts that our goal should not necessarily be to raise happy children, but instead to raise children who can thrive and flourish – true happiness then flows from that.

The newsletter can be accessed via the link – Parent Talk Term 4 2015. It also has an article entitled Netiquette for Kids about teaching our children how to behave appropriately online. They are both well worth a read.

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
Kyeden B
Adelle S
Toby S
Hudson D
Eyli P
Will S
Caleb F
Joshua F
Liam C
Cooper O
Ramone E
Kiara L
Harper R
Jazmine G
Bella E
Zoe M
Nate M
Olivia W
Sophie H
Christian W
Liam H
Josiah F
Cohan L
Liam H
Ryan C
Michael W
Megan P
Isaac N
Elyse S
Aaron R
Sheridan S
Rose C
Ethian W
Sapphire K
Maths Corner
This fortnight your children will be learning about the following concepts.
Kinder are learning to describe and compare areas using the words smaller than, bigger than and same as. and are describing capacity using the words full, empty, has more and has less.
Year 1 are using the equals sign, making connections between addition and subtraction, skip count by 2s, 5s and 10s from any 2-digit number and share a total equally into groups.
Year 2 are learning to describe the chance of something happening using the words will happen, probably and won’t happen. Year 3 are using and recording a range of strategies for addition and subtraction using 2, 3 and 4-digit numbers. They will also perform calculations with money and identify equivalent amounts.
Year 4 are learning about chance and expected results compared to actual results using the words likely, unlikely, impossible, certain and 50:50. They are learning to collect data and organise it into graphs.
Year 5 are learning to convert length between centimetres (cm), metres (m) and kilometres (km) and to convert area between square centimetres (cm²) and square metres (m²). They are also learning to order decimals and fractions.
Year 6 are learning about chance, expected results and actual results using the words frequency, likely, unlikely, impossible, certain and 50:50, giving valid reasons to support possible solutions. They are learning to describe the likelihood of an outcome as a fraction.

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

Something We’ve Noticed
Our children in Year 3-6 have displayed considerable responsibility and much enthusiasm during their Swimming Program. There’s many worse places in the world to be on a day like today than at The Entrance Ocean Pool enjoying a swim.

Something We’ve Noticed
2
Our beautiful Kinders continue to be great kids. Forever they are welcoming people, saying “Hi” and “Good Morning”. They constantly have a lovely smile on their faces and seem to be having a wonderful first year at school.

Star Awards
Indy K
Tayla B
Milan B
Ava C
Kiara R
Bree E
Navayah A
Leah K
Koby S
Mia W
Mahlie C
Jayla S
Ellee B
Jessica W
Jasmine S
Khalil M
Cloe A
Molly H

STARS
Share Fun
Think Safe, Act Safe
Act Responsibly
Respect All That God Has Made
Speak With Kindness

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.
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

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.

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

From Our PE Teacher
Over the last 5 weeks our Year 5 & Year 6 students have been participating in Dance Fever. This is a fabulous initiative which teaches students traditional Social Dances as well as Hip Hop group dance all to the latest popular music. ‘Dance Fever’ is an exciting dance course where the main objectives are the development of social and gross motor skills, developing a sense of rhythm, learning to participate and cooperate, raising self-esteem, fitness and above all enjoying all types of dance styles.
We invite parents to attend a showcase of students talent on Friday morning. You will be amazed with what they have achieved in 5 lessons.

WHERE: School Hall
WHEN: Friday 20th November
TIME: 9am for Year 5  9.40am for Year 6

Look forward to seeing you there.

BEACH FUN DAY - Friday 27th November 9am-1.20pm
On the last day of the Swim Program we will be going to Soldiers Beach. This is the local beach for the majority of our students and we feel it would be advantageous for them to learn how to safely spend time on our beautiful coastline.
Kellie Walker has organised for local lifeguards to spend the day with St Mary’s and take the children in year groups for a safety walk and talk along Soldiers Beach and around the Surf Club. Children will be exposed to local knowledge about how to safely spend time at the beach and more specifically Soldiers Beach. For the rest of the day children will participate in a variety of fun beach related activities. For these activities we would love the assistance of our wonderful St Mary’s parents. You don’t need water qualifications. Please let the office know if you haven’t already returned an offer of assistance with your child’s permission note.
The children will wade through the water for a variety of relays and activities. Swimming instructors (from Toukley Pool) and Bronze Medallion holders will be supervising this activity. Children will not be in the water above their thighs, they will be doing activities which involve wading (similar to basic Nippers activities).

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263
Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101
Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtdbb.catholic.edu.au
St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Toukley

Thank You and Feedback
School Survey

November 2015

MMG ♦ Education
Level 4, 360 Oxford Street,
Bondi Junction, Australia
Phone (02) 9369 1449
Fax (02) 9369 1450
Dear St Mary's Parent and Carers,

As part of our school improvement process, in 2015 I commissioned independent, confidential satisfaction reviews with our parents, staff and students.

We greatly value the views of our parents, staff and students as this information is most important for our operational and strategic planning as well as monitoring our performance.

In July/August a total of 107 parents completed the survey which is a very good response rate. We are most grateful to parents for their time and effort regarding assisting us with this important element of our continuous improvement process.

The surveys were quite extensive and covered in excess of 200 factors in relation to your experience and your child’s education at St Mary’s.

The chart below is an extracts of the overall results. The scores represent the percentage of parents noting their expectations had been met or exceeded for their most important reasons for school choice. For example 97% of parents noted their expectations had been met or exceeded for the ‘Focus on student welfare, providing a safe and caring environment’ at the school.

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### 2015 St Mary’s Parents - Expectations Met/Exceeded (n=107)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percent Expectations Met/Exceeded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on student welfare, providing a safe and caring environment</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of teaching</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The School’s Values</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being engaged in my child’s learning</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good education at a reasonable expense</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced education</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation and tradition</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic standards</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The School’s leadership direction</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Workshops</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Address: 458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263
Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101
Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtdbb.catholic.edu.au
Overview of Key Areas – Parents

These scores reflect the average scores of St Mary's Parents.

The overall score is 'very high' at 88%.

St Mary's achieved 'very high' scores in all 10 areas.

These scores suggest the School is in 'very good' overall health from a parent perspective and above the 80% MMG hurdle level.

School of first choice, strong advocacy and loyalty, positive WOM and strong conversion of waiting lists result from schools achieving overall 'very high' status.

Benchmarking – St Mary's Parents Cf. MMG JS Database

The above table and chart show St Mary's parents' scores compared with the MMG Junior School Parent Benchmark Database.

The MMG Junior School Parent Benchmark Database consists of 105 school projects including 10,208 parents.

Overall, the St Mary's parent score (88%) is 9% above the MMG Benchmark average score of 79%.
Parents were also invited to provide ‘open responses’ to the most valued aspects of their experiences at St Mary’s. The most frequently nominated areas are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 St Mary’s Parents - What is most valued about St Mary’s?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Made to feel welcome &amp; valued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of the School Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High quality teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School’s Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The safe and caring environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent involvement &amp; engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My child’s happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall quality of education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The opportunities provided to the students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I wish to thank our parents sincerely for this feedback and for the extent of information and quality of views expressed.

On the following page you’ll find a small sample of some of the ‘open ended’ comments from parents in relation to what they value most about their experience at the School.

Sincerely,

Kevin Williams
Principal
Some Parent quotes on what is valued about St Mary’s

"Being involved and made to feel valued as a parent."

"I always feel totally comfortable at the school, never out of place. My kids absolutely love it there and all the staff are fantastic."

"Good Values and everyone always makes you feel welcome at the school. My daughter has never had a negative word to say about the school."

"Overall the school environment is fantastic. Our children love attending school. Their educational outcomes are good, their peers are a great bunch, the older students do a good job helping the young students, overall behaviour is good, and my children's teachers have been excellent."

"St Mary's is a very welcoming school, and the principal and staff are friendly and are easy to communicate with about my children's learning and need."

"The inclusive, welcoming nature of the school community. The deep sense of collaboration and community that has grown over the years. The relationships built between families and staff. The commitment by staff to do all they can to help children become the best person they can be as well as helping them to achieve their academic best."

"The school has a great culture - the teachers and the students are happy. I can't say enough good things about the school and the people within it. I have always felt that my children's teachers genuinely cared about them and their learning. I have always felt that their priority is the students' success. Kevin Williams is a wonderful principal - he expects all students to reach their full potential. He is active and involved with the students and school community."

"St Mary's teaches and has the same values that we have at home and that my husband and I had as children growing up. It is uplifting to see how excited my children are about going to school, and it amazes me just how much they learn. I am very impressed with how the school looks at the child as a whole and how to assist them in being the very best that they can be. I cannot think of a better school for my children."

"It is a beautiful school where I know my children are reaching their potential academically and in an environment in which they are developing high morals. All the staff are wonderful and the St. Mary's community is a privilege to be part of."

"That my children love going to school everyday. They feel comfortable and accepted by both teachers and students. I feel confident that their academic and social/emotional needs are being met. I trust the guidance and experience of the teachers. Most importantly, the wonderful job that Kevin Williams does - he is the glue that unites all of the facets of St Mary's. St Mary's is a beautiful school but Kevin guides it to being outstanding. Thank you."

"I love that my son LOVES his school and feels it's his extended family. He enjoys learning. My husband, son and myself moved from Sydney 18 months ago to give our son the kind of upbringing we had. St Mary's had benefited us all by allowing us into their community."

"I value the beautiful teachers and lovely staff, the fact that my child enjoys going to this school every day."

"I value the programs and workshops that run at the school. I value the beautiful reverent kids as they pray and enter the church and leave the church. I value their religious education and the fact that it enhances the quality of life. I value the teachers and their professional attitude. I value the teaching of their reading and maths and handwriting. I value other mothers and their friendship. I value the leaders of the school and how great they are. I value the canteen."

"I value the St. Mary's creates a safe and welcoming environment to my daughter. The school includes the family in all activities towards our children; I value the friendships and leadership development. The STARS concept (Share fun, Think safe - act safe, Act responsibly, Respect all that God has made, Speak with kindness). And above all I value the level of care and mentoring that guarantees for my child that there is someone in a great School who cares about her."