Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Please join me in congratulating the following teachers on their appointments at our school:

**Permanent Full-time Teachers:** Miss Emma Dawson, Miss Stephanie Burns, Mr Kyle Whiteford, Miss Hayley Hughes.

**Temporary Full-time Teachers (2016):** Mrs Melissa Collis, Mrs Amber Hodgson, Mrs Anita Doyle.

**Permanent Part-time Teachers:** Mrs Tricia Williams.

**Temporary Part-time Teachers:** Mrs Lorna Roach.

Families may remember Miss Hughes from teaching at our school a few years back. After teaching in London for the past 3 years, we warmly welcome her back to our school.

Your Child’s Report

Your child’s Report will be sent home on Friday 11th December. The Report will also contain your child’s Class and Teacher for 2016 together with the full Staffing List for our school.

Homework

After an extensive consultative process we have finalised our Homework system. Accompanying today’s newsletter are the details. Strong support from parents and carers for the system we trialled during 2015 was evident. Feedback from you also meant some adjustments were made. The most obvious of these is that we will send home during the first week of each term a Term Overview in which we will detail the main topics and content being covered in the 7 KLAS. Teachers in each grade will be consistent in their administering of the Homework system. I appreciate the considerable thought you devoted in providing feedback to us. Homework is one of those topics that polarises opinion. The system we have adopted, I believe, is reflective of the wishes of our school community.

Surf Survival Day

The Years 3-6 Swimming Program culminates with our Surf Survival Day at Soldier’s Beach on Friday. Children need to bring all food, drink, sunscreen, towel, and a rashie or shirt for sun protection. Full sports uniform, including school hat is to be worn. We appreciate Mrs Bain’s and Mrs Walker’s organisational skills in preparing for the day.

Staff Development Day

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

MAI Letter

Please complete the slip attached to the MAI letter that accompanies this newsletter. We require the completed slip from every family by Monday.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

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**Upcoming Events**

- **Kinder Transition 3**
  9.30am Thursday 25 November

- **Advent Liturgy: Led By Year 1 + Year 3**
  1.50pm Monday 30 November

- **Year 3 Incursion**
  Tuesday 1 December

- **Year 1 Parents Meeting**
  9.15am Wednesday 2 December

- **Year 6 Excursion**
  Tuesday 1 December

- **Advent Liturgy Led by Year 4**
  1.50pm Monday 30 November

- **Awards Ceremony**
  Wednesday 9 December

- **Year 6 Graduation**
  Thursday 10 December

- **Thanksgiving Mass**
  9.15am Friday 11 December
Advent

Advent is a season of preparation. We are asked to ‘stay awake, be alert’ for the arrival of Jesus. John the Baptist challenges us to prepare a way for the Lord by repentance, a change of heart. Then finally Advent begins to focus on the Christmas story. Advent is about hope and joyful expectation. It looks for the coming of our Saviour.

Advent Liturgies

This week we began our Advent Liturgies, to be held each Monday afternoon at 1.50pm in the church. We hope you can join us as we prepare for the Lord this Advent Season. Year 1 and Year 3 will lead our liturgy on Monday 30th November, Year 4 will lead our liturgy on Monday 7th December and Year 5 will lead our liturgy on Monday 14th December.

Citizenship Award

Please join me in congratulating Khalil M and Julianna S in Year 6 for winning the Northlakes/Toukley Rotary Citizenship Award last week. This is a huge honour going to two very worthy recipients. Well done!

Choir

This Saturday, 28th November, our amazing St Mary’s choir will be performing at Toukley Village Green for the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. We wish them the best of luck and hope to see many families supporting them. They are to go on stage at approximately 4.30pm.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

The final countdown to end of term is on and there is lots happening. Our beach fun day for Primary students on Friday, our last Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day) next Friday Dec 4th, then in Week 10 the Awards ceremony, Year 6 Grad and Thanksgiving Mass. Our final event for the year is our Christmas Carols night on Tues Dec 15th. There are so many events for families to be involved in and be connected with the children and school.

Once school finishes for the year it’s time for families to relax and enjoy time together. At the end of term I often speak about how it’s an opportunity for children to get bored, use their imagination, get away from their electronic toys and play—this time is no different. Left to their own devices they learn to make their own fun.

If you are after some inspiration for holiday activities please check out 12 Holiday Activities that Don’t Cost a Cent from Kidspot online magazine. A lot of the ideas are things we probably did as kids, but have forgotten about with all the technology in use today.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter
We are almost to the end of 2015 and what a busy year it’s been, full of lots of new experiences and activities for children and families. When you add in preparations for Christmas or High School, most people are starting to feel a bit worn out. When it’s hectic and tiring it can be easy to find ourselves a bit overwhelmed and let our emotions get the better of us. This can be particularly true for children.

Whether they are the Kinders or Year 6, all children are dealing with challenges around change. Change in themselves, their environment, their routines, possibly friendships and for some, changes in their families. Some children can find this too much to cope with and when overwhelmed sometimes challenging behaviour occurs - usually at home, but sometimes at school. They may also have to deal with the disappointment of being in a different class from their friends next year or missing out on an award. How children cope with change and disappointment depends a lot upon their resilience and the support and attitude of the adults around them.

Resilience is an essential skill that children need to develop to be able to cope with the inevitable challenges they will face in life. The KidsMatter article, How to build your child’s resilience, is a handy resource with hints on how to bolster your child’s ability to deal with emotionally trying situations.

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. Click here to apply

Lyn and Jacqui

Something We’ve Noticed
Our new Kinders have settled in to their ‘big school’ surroundings beautifully during the 4 weeks of our Transition Program. We look forward to them being a part of our school next year.

Star Awards
Matilda S
Jaime S
Lucy N
Zara H
Mia C
Megan M
Caleb H
Jessica L
Jasmin S
Tahlia H
Jack B
Mackenzie F
Seth A
Maddy C
Reif D
Charli M
Lily T
Trinity T
Mia J
Charlize P
Corey T
Tamika S
Bridie M
Carissa M
Ruby W
Kobe C
Grace H

Family Registration Forms are now OVERDUE. We still have many families who have not returned their completed form. Please remember if we don’t receive a completed form (both parent’s to sign) we will be unable to apply any sibling discounts to your 2016 invoice. Please call the office if you didn’t receive your form or you can print one off our website.

Lyn and Jacqui

Kaitlyn 6 Green & Peyton K Gold

From Our Office

DON'T FORGET
Uniform Shop News
A reminder that the final day for ordering Year 6 2016 sports shirts is this Friday 27th November.

Shop Hours for the rest of 2015:
Mon, Wed & Fri 8.30am-11am
Wednesday 16th December will be the last day of trading for 2015.

The shop will re-open on Thursday 28th January 2016 and will be open every weekday 8.30am-11am for the first two weeks of Term 1.

Please note that this is likely to be a very busy time so I encourage you to finalise purchases and lay-bys before the end of this year if possible.

I would like to thank the following volunteers for their time and wonderful assistance during our Kinder Orientations and Transition days; Leesa Sternbeck, Kristina Sprohar, Mel Jefferson, Iriana Cash, Alison O’Brien, Jessica Brown, Chris Burns, Naiketa Clark & Luka Piltz.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

For uniform enquiries please call Julie on 0402 311 749.

Canteen News
Thank you to those who have returned Canteen Volunteer forms for next year. Rosters for 2016 will be coming home this week.

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.

Dimity  K Gold & Rose 6 Green
Cloe 6 Green & Jessica K Green
## Homework Details

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Incidentals</th>
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<td>1 formal oral presentation</td>
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<td>2 formal oral presentations</td>
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Mathematics Assessment Interview Staff Development Day
Thursday 28th January 2016

25th November 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school is once again involved in EMU. Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) is a research-based program developed by Dr Ann Gervasoni of Australian Catholic University (ACU), Ballarat. The aim of the program is to improve the quality of assessment, instruction and intervention in Mathematics.

EMU focuses on the development of instructional leadership for Principals and Numeracy leaders, and the training of specialist intervention teachers in Numeracy. The Leaders and Specialists will then lead professional development for all teachers at a school level.

An important component of the program is the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI), a diagnostic assessment that involves the classroom teacher conducting a one-on-one Mathematics interview with each child. Each classroom teacher then uses the information obtained through the Mathematics Assessment Interview to ensure instruction is targeted to meet student learning needs.

Like last year, we are completing an MAI with every child in our school. Administering an MAI is done individually, one to one (teacher and student). An MAI will be completed with your child, with the assessment taking approximately 20-30 minutes per student.

Unlike last year, the designated Staff Development Day to complete the MAIs will be Thursday 28th January. Consequently, all children in Years 1-6 formally commence school on Friday 29th January. Kinder commence on Tuesday 2nd February.

Every family must complete the slip overleaf nominating, in order of preference, the two blocks of time when your child(ren) is able to be present at school. We will endeavour to timetable siblings as close together as possible. You will receive a slip (in your child’s Report) informing you of the specific time (e.g. 8.20am-8.40am) your child needs to be present at school. Unlike last year, you will not ‘drop off’ your child but you are required to wait for the 20-30 minute period.

This slip needs to be returned by Monday 30th November at the latest. If you would like any further information regarding the MAIs, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Emma Sellars
Numeracy Coach

Vision/Mission Statement
“Empowered by the Spirit, we at St Mary’s live, learn and grow as disciples of Jesus in a nurturing Catholic Community.”
ONE LETTER PER FAMILY

Please complete the slip and return it to your eldest child’s teacher by Monday 30th November.

Child’s Name:   Current Grade:
Child’s Name:   Current Grade:
Child’s Name:   Current Grade:

Please number your first (1) and second (2) preferences when your child(ren) is available:

☐ 8.00am – 12.00noon Thursday 28th January
☐ 12.00noon – 4.00pm Thursday 28th January

Your child will be allocated a specific 20 minute window for their MAI. We will endeavour to place siblings as close together as possible.