Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

It is an exciting time of year in our school community. If you are able to join us for any of the liturgies and events that are listed in the left hand column, you will be most welcome.

For the Awards Ceremony morning, Kinder — Year 2 enjoy their Class Awards at 10.30am with our K-6 Awards Ceremony commencing at 11.00am in the Church. Parents of Kinder—Year 2 children are welcome to join them at 10.30am in their respective classrooms. Our young ones enjoy an audience.

Thank You Class Parents
On behalf of our teachers I would like to express my appreciation for the wonderful job that our Class Parents have done during 2015. Our Class Parents have willingly volunteered their time, proving to be a further source of communication and contact for families. They have understood their role of helping families feel connected to our school, promoted parent education workshops and generously supported us.

Thank You Morning Tea
After our Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 11th December, we invite any parents or carers who have helped our school in any capacity whatsoever throughout the year to join us as we provide a delicious morning tea for you. It is a simple way of expressing our appreciation for your generosity throughout the year. Our Thank You Morning Tea will follow Mass, and commence at approximately 10.30am.

Staff Development Day
Our final Staff Development Day is on this Friday, 4th December.

Classes for 2016 and MAI Letter
In a change to our normal practice, early next week you will receive a sealed envelope with details of the following: your child’s class and teacher for 2016 and the designated time for your child’s MAI on Thursday 28th January.

A second envelope will be sent home on Friday of next week containing your child’s Semester 2 Report.

Learning Support
Transition Meetings for parents of validated students will occur early in Term 1 2016.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Thanksgiving Mass
Year 6 are currently preparing for our final school mass for 2015, our Thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Friday December 11th (Week 10) at 9.15am. This is a particularly special mass and I encourage all members of our school community to attend. It’s at this mass we wish the class of 2015 well, as we celebrate the Eucharist together one final time as a St Mary’s community. Please add this date to your diary. Following this mass is our Volunteers’ Morning Tea, held in the staffroom from approximately 10.30am.

Christmas Carols
Our annual Christmas Carols evening is here once again. An invitation went home yesterday inviting all parents and grandparents to come along on Tuesday December 15th and join in as we sing some of our favourite Christmas carols. Each grade will sing two carols and choir will also feature. Please bring some picnic chairs, a rug and some snacks (there will not be a BBQ available this year) to share with your family. (No alcohol is permitted at this event please). We look forward to seeing you all there for a fantastic evening.

Christmas Eve Mass
With the Season of Advent here, soon it will be Christmas. Each year parents help to prepare parts of our parish’s Christmas Eve Mass. This is held at 6.00pm at St Mary’s. I am currently looking for some parents to volunteer their time to work in a team to help prepare the mass, practice the children once or twice and attend Mass on Christmas Eve to help.

If you are interested in helping, please fill in the slip below. Alternatively, if your family will be attending Christmas Eve Mass here at St Mary’s Parish and your child would like a part in the mass (there are both reading and non-reading parts available) please also fill in the slip below (children K-6 welcome).

I _______________________ would love to be part of the team helping to organise the Christmas Eve Mass.

My best contact number is _____________

My child’s name is _______________________ of class _______________________.

My child _______________________ of class _______________________ would love to have a part in the parish’s Christmas Eve Mass, 6pm at St Mary’s church.

Signed _______________________

My best contact number is _____________.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

It’s great for the kids to relax and recharge after a busy school year, but if reading at home stops over summer a common consequence is a backwards step in a child’s reading level. It then takes considerable time and effort to get them back to where they were before Christmas.

One of the keys to encourage reading is to find something they are interested in. Books, magazine or newspaper articles on things they like such as cricket, surfing, netball, cooking, etc. are great.

If they do love to read or are the competitive type things such as the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, can be a great incentive to get reading. They can register online and log their reading minutes to compete against other children with both an individual and a school prize up for grabs - plus opportunities to get a discount on Scholastic books.

Just 10-15 minutes a day, of either reading with your child or listening to them read will make a huge difference to how they start off the new school year in 2016.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
Something We’ve Noticed
Our wonderful choir continue to amaze the local community. Well done at Toukley last weekend and good luck for Wyong this weekend. Thank you boys, girls, Mrs Houston and Mr Hochkins.

Star Awards
Violet I
Oscar P
Elly S
Lily T
Maverick E
Aaron R
Lauren G
Reyes M
Bella D
Maya B
William B
Allanah W
Isla A
Thomas L
Daniel D
Erin I
Siddha C

School Bus Travel
Attention Year 2 Parents & Carers.
There are still a number of current Year 2 parents who have not completed the on-line process for obtaining an Opal Card for bus travel for next year. All applications for the new Opal Card are being sent to NSW Transport on Wednesday 9th December. If your application is not verified at school before that date your child may miss out on receiving an Opal Card for the start of the 2016 school year. Use the link below to apply.
Click here to apply

Lyn and Jacqui

From Our Office
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

Canteen News
2016 Canteen Rosters were sent home last week. If you did not receive yours please let me know.
REMINDER Canteen is CLOSED on Tuesdays. No lunch orders.

Next week, Week 10, will be the last week for lunch orders. Only snacks at recess and ice blocks at lunch will be available Week 11.

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.

KidsMatter
Things are getting hectic at this time of year and all of the stress and disruption can lead to some challenging behaviour and angry outbursts from children. When we stop and think about what is happening there is a lot going on for kids. Dealing with changes in routine, the hot weather, excitement about the upcoming holidays, late nights and lack of sleep can all have an effect on children and their behaviour.

Wherever possible it’s a good idea to maintain the familiar school, home and bedtime routines. Lack of sleep has a huge effect on children (as well as parents) and tried, cranky, hot kids can result in tantrums, angry outbursts and difficult behaviour. If your child’s behaviour starts to become challenging please take a moment to stop and think about what may be behind it. Children’s behaviour, particularly for young children, stems from how they are feeling - which they may not have the capacity to express verbally.

While unacceptable behaviour, especially towards other people should not be ignored, we can help our children by trying to minimise situations that may lead to outbursts, keeping in mind that they may be either tired or super excited and talking with them about how they are feeling. The KidsMatter article, “Talking through angry feelings”, gives some great insight into dealing with children’s behaviour.

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Uniform Shop News
The uniform shop will be open Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 – 11am for the rest of Term 4, with the last day of trading for the year being Wed 16th December. The shop will re-open on Thursday 28th January 2016 and will be open every weekday morning for the first two weeks of Term 1.
To avoid the rush at the start of the year, I encourage you to finalise any lay-bys as soon as you can.
The lost property bin will be emptied in the final week with any items in good condition being considered a donation to our second-hand pool or to charity.
Please have your children look through the bin to see if any items belong to them.
For uniform enquiries please call Julie on 0402 311 749.

School Banking
School Banking will continue until Monday 14th December, however Monday 7th will be the last day of this year to redeem any gold tokens (10 silver tokens).
Please note that gold tokens can not be carried over until next year so order rewards now to avoid disappointment.
The rewards that are still available for redemption of tokens are:
• ET DVD
• Money Box
• Frisbee
• Rocket
To order simply place a note indicating your chosen reward together with your tokens and send with next week’s banking.
For school banking program enquiries please call Julie on 0402 311 749.