Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Our 2015 Year 6 has been an energetic, fun-loving, positive group of students who wore their heart on their sleeve. From the earlier years at our school, you have shown considerable growth in maturity. I believe that this is reflected in the excellent role-models you have been for the younger children. The widespread leadership you have displayed has been obvious. Your care of and work with your Kinder buddies has been tremendous.

We wish you well as you enter Year 7 at your various schools. We trust that your foundation years at our school has helped form you as positive, hope-filled and resilient young people.

**Farewell Leaving Teachers**

Mrs Cresta has enjoyed three years teaching Year 1. We thank Allyse for her dedication to the children, her passion for teaching and the positive, hope-filled attitude she brings to our school every day. We wish you well in your new teaching position.

Thank you to Miss Dunn, who after capably teaching our Year 4 Gold this year, returns to country NSW to teach in 2016. Your willingness to learn and attain the best for the children have been appreciated.

Thank you also to Mrs Grech and Mrs Murphy who, with passion, have been teaching in 4 Blue and 3 Green respectively. Your flexibility and genuine interest in the children have been valued.

**Farewell Leaving Families**

We thank all the families who finish their partnership with our school at the year’s end. For some it has been a partnership over many, many years. We thank you for trusting our school to help in the formation of your child.

**Awards Ceremony**

Congratulations to all our 2015 award recipients. Major award recipients included:

- **Catholic Values Award:** Pania P
- **Community Spirit Award:** Molly H
- **STARS Awards:**

We are pleased to share the news that our **School Captains** for 2016 are Maddison S, Megan P, Joshua B and Ethan M.

Special thanks to Mrs Emma Sellars whose tremendous preparation enabled our ceremony to proceed so smoothly.

**Please Join Us**

Please join us as we farewell our wonderful Year 6 with a Thanksgiving Mass at 9.15am on Friday. Following Mass our Thank You Morning Tea will be held in the staffroom. If you have assisted our school, in any capacity during the year, you are our guests.

**Christmas Carols**

You are warmly invited to join us for our annual Christmas Carols which are held on our oval next Tuesday evening, commencing at 6.00pm. No alcohol is permitted.

**Christmas Wishes**

May Our Lord’s blessings be abundantly clear to you during the Christmas season. I thank all members of our school community (children, teachers, staff and parents) for your rich contributions that help build the positive culture that we share at our school. Enjoy a well deserved summer holiday.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Thanksgiving Mass
This Friday (9.15am) we say farewell to our Year 6 students in our final school Mass for 2016, our Thanksgiving Mass. This is a particularly special mass and I encourage all members of our school community to attend. Following the mass is our Volunteers' Morning Tea, held in the staffroom from approximately 10.30am. If you have helped our school in any way this year we would love for you to join us for morning tea as a way for us to show our appreciation.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers
We are so excited by the continued generosity of our school community. Our Mini Vinnies members have been hard at work promoting our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper drive. These will be presented to our local St Vincent de Paul representatives at our Advent liturgy next Monday, 1.50pm. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Carols
Our Christmas Carol evening is NEXT TUESDAY 15th December. An invitation is once again attached in today's newsletter. Mums, dads and grandparents please join us for a fun and joyful night! Please arrive ready for a 6.00pm start. Santa will arrive at 5.30pm and leave before our carols commence. Remember to bring a picnic rug or chairs, some nibbles, your camera, and of course your singing voice! We ask for all St Mary’s students (not younger siblings) to sit in their grade area with their teachers in front of the stage at 5.55pm. Students will remain in this area for the duration of the evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

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. Thank you to the parents and children who have so far volunteered to help. Ms Gray and Mr Hochkins will lead a practice in the church during the holidays on December 22nd 9.30-11.30am.
If you are interested in helping or your child would like a part in the mass (there are both reading and non-reading parts available) please let Mrs Sellars or Ms Gray know as soon as possible.

Merry Christmas
Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas full of fun and laughter. I thank you for your support this year and look forward to seeing you all on our return in January. Merry Christmas!

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

While most of us will get to relax and enjoy the time spent with family at Christmas, for some in our school and wider community it can be a less than joyous occasion. Due to isolation and loneliness, financial difficulties, job losses or illness, some can find it difficult to enjoy this time of year.

Taking some time out to think about those who are really doing it tough and reflect on and acknowledge the positives in our own lives, can change our perspective and make time spent with family and friends more positive.

Practicing gratitude and acts of kindness have both been shown to boost a person’s wellbeing, so what can we do to foster gratitude in our families and help those in need?

Donating to the school’s Christmas hamper appeal, buying a gift for a child from the wishing tree, volunteering some time or simply a smile and hello to a stranger can all make a difference.

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
Harrison R
Yumi S
Oscar P
Milan B
Maddi C
Mia M
Jack B
Zane S
Scarlett O
Meika B
Diezel P
Luke W
Cody B
Abbey T
Conor L
Rianna B
Corey T
Sienna S
Ryley E
Caleb F
Keira-Lee D
Indianna C
Jasymn S
Kyan C
Izaak O
Laura E
Hayley B
James V
Wil T
Zac W
Charlotte D
Jack H
Seth A
Steve K
Juliana S
Rose C
Maddy C
Isabella G
Ethan W

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Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
Class Parents 2016

Thank you to the many parents who volunteered their services to be a Class Parent for 2016. Unfortunately we couldn’t use everyone who returned the form but we appreciate your willingness to put yourselves forward and to be engaged with the school.

Kinder Gold - Kristy Clemow
Kinder Green - Debbie Newman
Kinder Blue - Vanessa Thompson
1 Gold - Lisa Wrightson
1 Green - Leanne Lee
1 Blue - Julie Anderson
2 Gold - Chris Burns
2 Green - Terry Page
2 Blue - Angie Hahn
3 Gold - Michelle Hili

A big thank you to the Class Parent Team of 2015 – the quiet ways that you keep things humming around here doesn’t go unnoticed. Thanks. We look forward to working with the new Class Parent Team next year.

3 Green - Elissa Glabus
3 Blue - Shannon Elwell
4 Gold - Kristina Sprohar
4 Green - Louise Cashin
4 Blue - Tammy Culphey
5 Gold - Donna Woodleigh
5 Green - Teena Irvine
5 Blue - Catherine Hay
6 Gold - Cathy Brown
6 Green - Leesa Sternbeck
Aspect - To be advised

Something We’ve Noticed
Mr Williams will be missing for the first month of the 2016 school year. With his family he will be skiing very fast (not really) down some double black diamonds in Canada, then enjoying the magic of New York and finishing by visiting some high performing schools in Washington and Chicago.

Star Awards
Jaime S
Claire W
Kalin C
Annabel R
Liam C
Tristan W
Tara T
Andre Z
Jai C
Zoe J
Beckett B
Jessica L
Chloe K
Rylind D
Lara L
Cooper S
Obi M
Kalin H
Brayden G
Reese C
Jai B
Tom W

Canteen News
REMINDER Canteen is CLOSED on Tuesdays. No lunch orders.

This 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.

Library News

2015 PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
This week the children will be receiving their certificate for completing the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge. For the second year in a row every child at St Mary’s has completed the Challenge and we are very proud of this achievement.

This year 22 children will be receiving a Platinum Award for their seventh successful year in completing the Challenge. 90 children will receive a Gold Award for completing their fourth year of the Challenge.

The 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge is now open. We have been reading books from the Challenge book list in our library time at school so we have already made a start. I know that many children visit their local library to read challenge books over the holidays and then bring the list back in Term 1. Reading and sharing books is an invaluable holiday activity that reinforces the reading and comprehension skills we have developed during the year.

Regular holiday readers always come back well prepared for new learning. Why not make reading part of your holidays this year?

LIBRARY BOOKS
Now that we are counting down the sleeps towards the end of the year, ALL library books are now due. Many thanks to all of our borrowers who have returned their books. We are currently organising the books and shelves ready for a fresh start in 2016. Please hunt high and low. Sometimes library books are found in very safe places.

Miss Gray
Librarian

From The Office
We would like to wish all of our beautiful children and their families are very Merry Xmas and a safe, healthy & relaxing new year. See you all ready for another fantastic school year in 2016.

Merry Xmas
Lyn and Jacqui
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.