Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Our school invests heavily in the processes of being a Professional Learning Community (PLC). Our Professional Learning Community focuses on three big ideas:

1. Learning — for students and adults
2. Collaboration — working in teams
3. Results — all students will learn.

We are on a journey of being the best Professional Learning Community we can be. It is a process, a never-ending quest. Why are we doing it? Because we are constantly searching for the best ways to serve the learning needs of the students in our school.

Staff Development Day
Our school system allows 6 Staff Development Days in a calendar year. We have already had 2 of the 6: Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January (MAIs). Our next Staff Development Day is on Tuesday 29 March. We will be joining with some local Catholic schools to focus on Writing. Easter Monday is 28 March.

School Review
On the 16th and 17th May we participate in a process called School Review. School Review involves two aspects:

1. Compliance — ensuring particular, mandatory policies and procedures are evident
2. Quality Assurance — working together with an external panel who assist us in naming our strengths and identifying areas for us to further develop.

Late last year many parents/carers completed an online survey about our school. The data from that survey is fundamental to the School Review process.

Something I’ve Noticed
It won’t be news to you that, at St Mary’s, we value our partnership with you, the parents and carers. Positive relationships are the bedrock of our school. Relationships that are based on deep trust and genuine respect. There is one main beneficiary of such relationships. Your child!

Cross Country
For those parents helping our classes walk to Jenny Dixon Reserve, please meet us at the school gates at 8.50am on Friday.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Dates:
Please keep in your prayers the many children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This afternoon (Wednesday 4pm-5pm) is the first of two Compulsory Parent and Child classes, held in the church.

Catholic Schools Week
Next week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’
Please join us for the following:
Monday 7th: 9.15am, Catholic Schools Week Liturgy in the Church.
Monday 7th: 10.00-10.30am, Open Classrooms
Monday 7th: 10.30am Morning Tea provided for parents.

World Youth Day
World Youth Day (WYD) is an event for young people organized by the Roman Catholic Church. A number of teachers from within the Broken Bay Diocese will become pilgrims for WYD 2016 which is being held in Krakow, Poland, in July. Miss Emma Dawson will be representing St Mary’s Toukley at World Youth Day. Our Mini Vinnies students will be using our Easter Egg raffle as a fundraising opportunity to support Miss Dawson.

Please contribute to this fundraising through donating Easter Eggs and buying raffle tickets (1 for 50c, 3 for $1).

Stations of the Cross
Each Good Friday our students support the Parish though re-enacting the Stations of the Cross. This is usually held in the church from 9-10am. There will be both speaking and non-speaking roles for all volunteers K-6. Parents, if any of you can help with organisation and supervision, this would also be appreciated.
Please return the following slip to the office if your child can be involved.
--------------------------------------------------------
My child ___________________ in class__________________ would like a part in the Parish Stations of the Cross.
I _______________________ can/can not be a helper.
Signed____________________________

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

We are blessed to have so many supportive and helpful parents/carers in our St Mary’s school community. Whether it be sporting carnivals, gala days, assemblies or masses, the presence and assistance of parents/carers make these events so special.

Now we would like to invite parents/carers to help support some of our Primary students in a targeted reading programme that our Learning Support Co-Ordinator, Mrs Kim Healy is setting up.

If you can spare just 15-20 minutes from 2.45pm onwards, even just one day a week, to work one on one with a child in a primary class it would make a huge difference in advancing their reading and literacy skills. You don’t have to have a child in a Primary class or prior experience, any parent/grandparent/carer can volunteer.

If you are able to help please leave your name and contact details at the school office. The impact you can make on a child’s learning gives a wonderful sense of accomplishment—for yourself as well as the child.

Donna Falzon
Something We’ve Noticed
The new artwork, created by our staff and located in the office area, looks great.

Something We’ve Noticed 2
Please keep the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your thoughts and prayers.

School Banking
An account opening day will be held tomorrow (Thursday 3rd March) from 8:30 - 9:30am. A representative from the bank will be in the playground to open accounts for children wanting to participate in our school banking program. Please bring your driver’s licence for identification purposes.

Star Awards
Koby H
Tia S
Noah C
Eyli P
Dimity M
Charlie T
Tara T
Trinity T
Laylah S
Tasman S
Allanah W
Ruby W
Charlotte B
Ebony A
Brenden H
Brooke E
Jazmine G
Jaime F

Piano Tuition
There are currently vacancies for piano tuition during school hours. Please contact Chris Hochkins for further details.

Ph. 0414 186 044

From Our Librarian
This week in the library Kindy are reading Incy Wincy Spider. Unfortunately they are trying to climb our library wall but the rain keeps washing them away. We are learning to match each word we say with the word we read.

Year 1 have viewed the texts With Nan by Tania Cox, and Granny Grommet and Me by Dianne Wolfer. We are comparing the texts and remembering times they have spent with our grandmothers.

Year 2 are discussing what is meant by the words past, present and future. We are listening to the text When I was Little by Marcia Williams and checking out Miss Gray’s collection of things that represent the past.

From Our Office
Photograph/Video Permission Form
Thank you to all of the families who have sent back their child’s permission form. Could all of these forms please be sent in to school by the end of this week. If a signed form is not returned then the school will not be able to publish your child/ren’s photo in our weekly newsletters, publications or the school website.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

KidsMatter
Schools and families working together provide the best support for children’s mental health and wellbeing. Having a positive and trusting relationship with your child’s school is an important way in which parents/carers can maximise children’s learning and development.

Being connected with school means that you know what is happening in the classroom and schoolwide and provides you with the opportunity to talk with your child about what they are learning. It shows them that you are truly interested in and value their education. When parents/carers and school staff are on the same page children have a better understanding of what is expected of them and there are fewer behavioural and learning problems.

Year 7, 2017

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<tr>
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<th>St Brigid’s</th>
<th>MacKillop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Information Night</td>
<td>Open Afternoon</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>5.30pm - 7pm</td>
<td>4pm - 6pm</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>1pm - 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Night</td>
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Years 3 - 6 are continuing to use the 5W’s to evaluate websites. We are typing in key words to limit our search results. We are learning that web addresses containing .org, .gov and .edu are safe sites to use. We have to be very careful with sites containing .net and .com and need to evaluate these thoroughly. This week Years 4 – 6 have been examining a fake website. We have learnt that not everything that is on the internet can be trusted or reliable information to use in our projects.

By the way have your read?....
Danger! by Luke Out

Happy reading everyone

Maddison D - Year 4 & Alexis C - Year 3
Swimming Presentation
Canteen News
Each Term the Canteen Volunteer Roster is available on our school website if you are unsure of when you are rostered on. Please contact either myself or the school office ASAP if you are unable to fulfill your rostered day. If you cannot come in to canteen but are able to organize to swap a day with another parent that would be great. Thank You. Donna

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

CROSS COUNTRY
This Friday, everyone from K – 6 will be taking part. “Having a go and doing their best” which is a part of the St Mary’s school life.

DANCE FEVER – Friday 4th March. Parent Showcase: Kinder 12.15pm. Year 1 1.50pm and Year 2 2.30pm

St Mary’s Swim Results

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<th>AGE</th>
<th>1ST</th>
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<tr>
<td>8yrs</td>
<td>Kiarra L</td>
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<td>Maddison S</td>
<td>Ella H</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joshua B</td>
<td>Luke B</td>
<td>Zac W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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GOOD SPORTS
Logan M  Tyler J  Maddie W  Thomas S

Luke B & Josh B - Year 6
Swimming Presentation

From Our PE Teacher

St Mary’s Easter Egg Raffle
It’s back! This year, Year 5 & 6 Mini Vinnies students are organizing our annual Easter Egg Raffle for a very special reason: all funds raised will be supporting Miss Dawson make her way to World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. We need your support!

Here’s how:
• Please donate Easter Eggs to be included in our raffle. These can be given to classroom teachers or to the raffle ticket table each morning. We ask for all donations to be made by Friday 18th March.
• Buy raffle tickets from our Mini Vinnies representatives. Tickets will be on sale on the top playground before school from 8.30am and at recess each day.

Tickets: $0.50 each or $3 for $1.00

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Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101
Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtdbb.catholic.edu.au