Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Catholic schools in Australia are in a unique place in the world. We have designated Catholic schools systems. Our school system is the Diocese of Broken Bay. That is rare in world education. Very often, Catholic schools in other countries are a part of the public schools system. Having our own Catholic schools systems in Australia enables our schools to remain explicitly Catholic. We are in a privileged position.

We thank our Celebration Team 1 for organising our Catholic Schools Week liturgy on Monday. Thank you to the many parents and grandparents who were able to join us in the classrooms after the liturgy. We also hope you enjoyed the chocolate dominated morning tea that our teachers kindly provided.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Please keep the children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in your thoughts and prayers. Reconciliation will be celebrated at 4.00pm on Tuesday 15th March.

Staff Development Day
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.

Learning Time is Sacred Time
As a staff we have been discussing the importance of learning time. In such a short instructional day, we want to maximise the time devoted to learning. At yesterday’s Assembly I talked about the importance of learning time with our students.

How can parents and carers help? Many of you already do a fantastic job with this. But a very small minority are negatively effecting their child’s chance to learn. How? By repeatedly arriving late to school. Or arriving early to collect their child. With English instruction first thing in the morning, a child who is repeatedly late for school is definitely at a disadvantage. In a child’s development, there is a small window of opportunity for them to acquire the essential building blocks that will lay the foundation for success in later life. This small window of opportunity is up to about the age of 9 years. If you are chronically late or you allow your child to have repeated, unjustified days absence from school, you are hindering your child’s chances of success.

Maths Parent Workshops
Please join us as Mrs Sellars shares with you excellent activities and strategies that you can use to help your child’s understanding of Maths. The Maths Parent Workshops are tomorrow at 9.15am and 6.30pm. Child minding and a free coffee van are available.

Cross Country
Thank you to all the parents helped our Cross Country Carnival be so successful. We constantly encourage our students to be involved, to have a go. On Friday, the children’s efforts and supportive, encouraging manner was outstanding.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

Clayton B from 2 Gold & Mrs Ballard
Catholic Schools Week

I love celebrating Catholic Schools Week each year with the students and families of our fantastic school community. It’s a chance to really focus on and celebrate the important things to us - the Catholicity of our school and the positive, Christ-centred relationships that underpin all interactions within St Mary’s.

This week, I would like to share just some of the 70+ reflections sent in by families as to why they love belonging to St Mary’s...

- “It feels like home”
- “We know we are part of something very special”
- “It has high standards and values”
- “The masses and liturgies are beautiful”
- “We make good friends”
- “St Mary’s brings joy”
- “They live the motto of faith, love and understanding”
- “The community is warm and welcoming”
- “It is inclusive, caring, fun and supportive”
- “The teachers wear wonderful dresses”
- “We feel safe”
- “We feel like we belong”
- “My new friends are now part of my family”

We are proud of our wonderful school community, St Mary’s, and love coming here each day. We are so glad you do too!

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

Maths Parent Workshop

Tomorrow is the second of our Parent Education Sessions for 2016 and the focus this time is on Maths.

Those parents who have attended in the past know how informative and helpful the sessions are in giving parents knowledge about how maths is taught, how children learn and gaining new skills to help support children in the area of maths.

This session will be just as good with a different focus from previous sessions. There is always so much to learn.

The workshop has morning and evening sessions to be available to as many parents/carers as possible. If you have attended previous workshops you will be sure to get something new from this session so please come along.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

A child’s confidence in themselves and their abilities has a big influence on how they perform at school and in social situations.

When they start school children begin comparing themselves to others and their view of their own abilities may change. They also see how the people around them react to what they do and this can also influence their confidence.

Children lacking in confidence sometimes try to avoid even “having a go” at something. It is important that they keep trying new things to develop the skills they will need to tackle tasks later on.

Parents/carers can support their children to build their confidence by encouraging them to develop a “have a go” attitude, to think confidently and very importantly, learn how to deal with disappointment.

More information can be found at the link, “Supporting Children’s Confidence”, on the KidsMatter website.

From Our Librarian

Thank you for our school and all the gifts you give us each day!

Happy Catholic Schools Week Everyone! This week we celebrate our Catholic school, St Mary’s and the wonderful opportunities and experiences we enjoy each day.

Our library is just one of the many experiences that children enjoy at St Mary’s. We have a strong reading culture because of the children’s love for books and reading.

Because of the activities we have planned this week, we are having a break in our normal library routine. Most of us are viewing a text on the life of St Patrick whose feast day we celebrate next Thursday. Kinder are viewing a text about one of my favourite book characters, Franklin the Turtle and his Deep Sea Adventure.

By the way have your read?

I Like fish! by Anne Chovie

Happy reading everyone

Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Office

Thank you to all our families who have commenced regular payments toward their 2016 school fees. This assists the school to meet its financial commitments as they fall due.

A reminder that your fee statements and newsletters are sent to you via email. If you are not receiving your statements or newsletter please give us a call at the office so we can update your email address.

Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui

Something We’ve Noticed

We’ve noticed our Year 5 growing in excitement as their trip to Bathurst nears.

Star Awards

La’keita G
Ava G
Myah L
Jaime Lee S
Malaya M
Tiarna G
Clayton B
Kiara R
Lily T
Harper R
Suzie B
Ryan C
Josie R
Mal B
Liam H
Kyan C
Hayley B
Georgia A
Joshua B
Laura E

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Thank you
Lyn and Jacqui
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

Piano Tuition
There are currently vacancies for piano tuition during school hours. Please contact Chris Hochkins for further details.
Ph. 0414 186 044

St Mary's
Easter Egg Raffle

It's back! This year, Year 5 and Mini Vinnies students are organising 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 Kraków, 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.

There will be many prizes to win.
Tickets on sale NOW!

Tickets:
50c each or 3 for $1.00