Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Year 5 Bathurst
We wish our Year 5 students and teachers well as they travel for their annual overnight excursion to Bathurst. The children need to be at school at 7.00am on Thursday morning, returning at 4.30pm on Friday.

40 km School Safety Zones
A reminder to all drivers to please slow down in our 40 km school zones when the lights are flashing. The speed limit once inside our car park is 10km. This is necessary to ensure pedestrian safety. Please do not park in the bus zone at any time.

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence 18 March 2016
The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is on Friday 18 March 2016. Schools across Australia, particularly St Mary’s, say ‘Bullying. No Way!’ The day provides an opportunity for us to further educate our children and take positive action by working together to prevent and address bullying and violence.

Excellent Conference
The school Leadership Team has just returned from an inspiring two day conference, PLC at Work, led by Dr Anthony Muhammad. This conference provided much food for thought and will help us greatly as we continue on our journey as an ever-strengthening Professional Learning Community focused on learning for all children. This conference was strongly aligned with the learnings by Mr Kevin Williams on his recent visit to the United States and supports the strategic direction the school has been undertaking for the past few years.

Seasons For Growth
Today we have sent home a letter about Season For Growth which will begin next term. This program helps children deal with grief and loss in age appropriate ways. Please take the time to read the criteria and information.

Kind Regards,

Julie Baker
Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

- Year 5 in Bathurst
  Thursday/Friday
  17/18 March

- Year 6 Cluster Mass
  Thursday
  17 March

- Easter Raffle
  Last tickets sold
  Tuesday
  22 March

- Holy Thursday
  Reflection
  9.15am
  24 March

- Staff Development Day
  Tuesday
  29 March

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Year 5 Bathurst

Term 1 Week 8
16 March 2016

Cross Country

Emma C, Sinead H, Adelle S & Jessica R - Cross Country
Reconciliation
A big congratulations to the many children in Years 3-6 who yesterday afternoon made the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We hope you felt a deep sense of peace and renewal through this Sacrament, and that you were able to celebrate with family and friends afterwards. Well done!

First Eucharist
Enrolment forms will go home later this week for any students in Year 4-6 who are ready to make the Sacrament of First Eucharist. If you don’t receive one and think you should have or you have any questions, please contact me at the office to discuss your personal circumstances.

Easter Egg Raffle to support World Youth Day
A number of teachers from within the Broken Bay Diocese will become pilgrims for World Youth Day (WYD) 2016 which is being held in Krakow, Poland, in July. We are lucky to have Miss Emma Dawson 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). The raffle will be drawn next week.

From Our REC

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Holy Week
Next week is Holy Week, the final week of Lent. A week where we immerse ourselves in the Easter Story of Jesus’s death and resurrection.
Next Thursday, Holy Thursday, students from various classes will be retelling the story of Holy Week, up to Jesus’ death on Good Friday. This will be held in the Undercroft at 9.15am. We ask for you to please join us as we reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Previously I have spoken about a targeted reading programme for specific Primary students that we are seeking volunteer parents/carers to assist in implementing.
As yet we have only two parents who are willing to contribute their time to this worthwhile, educational programme.
We know that so many of our 350 fantastic families are willing to give up their time for the fun, sporting events at our school and it would be great if that could also extend to academic programmes.

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.
That old adage “It takes a village to raise a child” is rooted in truth and that commitment to supporting others is what we consider a strength of our school community and a tangible sign of our Catholic faith.
Donna Falzon
**KidsMatter**

**Friendship Skills**
This week’s KidsMatter article can be found at the link “Helping children learn positive friendship skills”.

Positive friendships are important for children’s mental health, as they provide a means of support and help to develop their social and emotional skills.

Through friendships children learn how to relate to others and teach each other to be good friends. Those children with positive friendships are generally more self confident and perform better academically than those without friends.

Children’s friendship needs and skills change as they grow and their ideas about friendship change as they develop.

But not all children find it easy to make friends and that can cause sadness and problems for those having difficulty.

You might find that at certain stages of development some children can become very focused on having one best friend, and not wanting to share that friend with anyone else. It’s up to the significant adults around them to not only explain to them, but show them through their own example, how friendships come in all shapes and sizes and with a wide variety of people. It’s important for their wellbeing for children to develop skills to enable them to continue making new friends throughout their life.

**From Our Librarian**

This week in the library Years 3 to 6 are reflecting on their learning this term. It is amazing how much we have learned about the Information Skills Process and website evaluation. We have especially learned how to narrow our searches on the web with key words and the importance of evaluating websites to make sure they are trustworthy and contain reliable information.

Years 1 and 2 are viewing the text Grandfather by Jeannie Baker. Year 2 are exploring the concept of past. We are taking photos of objects representing the past and writing descriptions about them. Year 1 are writing about grandfathers. We are putting sentences together from our string writing and drawing things that grandfathers do.

And last but not least...Kindy are viewing the text The Magic Hat by Mem Fox. We are sharing and drawing what we will turn into if the magic hat lands on our head! This work is coming home this week so make space on your fridge to show it off!

By the way have your read?...

Off to Market! by Tobias A. Pigg

Happy reading everyone

Miss Gray

Librarian

**From Our Office**

Over 350,000 students eligible for subsidized travel under the School Student Transport Scheme have been provided with a School Opal Card for travel within the Opal network. This year, Transport for NSW and transport operators have allowed eligible school students to travel without a School Opal card for the first seven weeks of the school year, provided they are in school uniform. As most students have now settled in to their new travel patterns for the year and have received their School Opal cards, the grace period will end on Monday 21st March 2016.

**Something We’ve Noticed**
A huge thank you to the parents who constantly support our school, this time by helping with child minding during our parent workshops: Fiona Fitzgerald, Kristina Sprohar, Julie Anderson, Naomi Hepplewhite & Iriana Cash.

**Star Awards**
Zara B
Max R
Polly T
Jessica R
Toby S
Ellie R
Elliot H
Mikayla M
Macey B
Caleb F
Lilly M
Cooper M
Isabella C
Brodie S
Ryan W
Kristal L
Hannah G
Maya W
Wil T
Megan P

**Canteen News**
Please check the school website for the current Canteen Roster if you are unsure of your rostered day. Some canteen prices have changed this year so please check the current 2016 pricelist (also available on St Mary’s website) for lunch orders.

Thank You. Donna
From Our PE Teacher

2016 St Mary’s Cross Country Results

We were blessed with a perfect day for our cross country. As always St Mary’s children gave their best and we saw some great competition as well as kids who really pushed themselves to finish to the best of their ability. Thank you to Naomi for your great job recording, Lucinda for helping set up, Jess and the great judging/iceblock team for the end of races, Donna for medical (my worst nightmare) and all the great parents who helped around the course and encouraged all of the runners.

CONGRATULATIONS GOLD ON BREAKING THE BLUE WINNING STREAK

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>Year 1/7yrs</td>
<td>8yrs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Levi J</td>
<td>Toby S</td>
<td>Harper R</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Koby H</td>
<td>Ky B</td>
<td>Maverick E</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nate O</td>
<td>Bailey J</td>
<td>Max C</td>
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|   |   |   | Kinder | Year 1 | 8yrs | 9yrs | 10yrs | 11yrs | 12yrs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Ellie B | Shelby M | Zoe J | Mia T | Jayla S | Maya W | Maddie S |
|   |   |   | Zahra D | Mia M | Kiarra L | Marlie C | Chloe K | Tahlia H | Lara U |
|   |   |   | Lexie L | Emma C | Adele S | Marni R | Jessica B | Finlay S | Isla A |
|   |   |   |         |         |         |         |         | Hayley S |        |

Kids Club

Kids Club will be open on the Pupil Free Day - Tuesday 29th March from 8am - 6pm. We will be going to Speers Point and Lambton Pools for the day. If you would like any more information about this day or would like to book in please call Tania on 0417 416 678 or call into the hall before or after school.

Kids Club Vacation Care April 2016

$10 Non refundable deposit per child per day. 2 weeks notice required for cancellations.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON 11TH</th>
<th>TUE 12TH</th>
<th>WED 13TH</th>
<th>THURS 14TH</th>
<th>FRI 15TH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CANTON BEACH FUN DAY</td>
<td>KUNG FU PANDA 3-TBA</td>
<td>OAKVALE FARM- Salt Ash</td>
<td>INFLATABLE WORLD</td>
<td>CLIP N CLIMB</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Tug of war</td>
<td>-Lake Haven Cinema</td>
<td>Charmhaven indoor sports</td>
<td>How far can you climb</td>
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<tr>
<td>-Thorn of thong</td>
<td>-and Long Jetty Park</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>28 different climbing walls to try fun</td>
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<td>-Beach flags</td>
<td>-Bring you scooter &amp; Helmet</td>
<td>Wyee Point Park</td>
<td>&amp; challenging for all</td>
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<td>-Sand Sculpture Competition</td>
<td>-Sand Art Water fight games</td>
<td>for a scooter ride &amp; play in the park</td>
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<td>-Scavenger Hunt &amp; more</td>
<td>-Cow milking</td>
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<tr>
<th>MON 18TH</th>
<th>TUE 19TH</th>
<th>WED 20TH</th>
<th>THURS 21ST</th>
<th>FRI 22ND</th>
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<tr>
<td>PIRATE TREASURE HUNT GAMES DAY</td>
<td>DRUMBALA</td>
<td>THE JUNGLE BOOK-TBA</td>
<td>MINGARA POOL</td>
<td>AUSTRALIAN WALKABOUT WILDLIFE PARK</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Moore Oval Search for gold</td>
<td>Djembe drums and percussion instruments.</td>
<td>LakeHaven Cinema</td>
<td>Come and have some fun in mingara pool with</td>
<td>Bush Lesson workshop &amp; fun Aborigi-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Find the treasure</td>
<td>Followed by Face painting, Sand Art Water fight games</td>
<td>Then lunch and play at the park (park TBA)</td>
<td>nal activities Make Ochre paint</td>
<td>nal medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>But first you need an eye patch hat telescope &amp; .......the map</td>
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<td>go on a bushwalk Find bush tucker &amp; try aboriginal medicine</td>
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