Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Sometimes I wish we had video cameras in every corner of our school. If we did, here are some of the things you’d see daily:

- gentle, encouraging words that inspire a child
- clever teaching strategies that adapt to a child’s learning needs
- children who are growing closer to Jesus
- teachers as excellent role models
- caring teachers who want the best for every child
- children accepting and including others
- children displaying great empathy
- teachers who are proud of their students
- teachers and students sharing a good laugh
- resilient children who know when they need to bounce back
- teachers who love learning
- children who love learning
- children who feel safe and cared for
- teachers collaborating
- teachers who love their job
- responsible, respectful children
- children who trust their teachers
- teachers who love seeing their students achieve
- children having fun
- children who learn from their mistakes

When a parent or carer deeply trusts the daily work of our school, there is only one beneficiary of that trusting partnership—their child.

**School Fundraising**
At the beginning of 2015 our school introduced a P&F Fundraising Levy. Previously the P&F would raise funds through a variety of activities. With the busyness of life it became increasingly difficult for parents to commit to organising and running fundraising activities. The funds that were raised (now the P&F Fundraising Levy) were devoted to being spent on resources at our school that benefitted the students. In recent years, fundraising money has been spent on things such as new furniture in the Library and 40 new iPads. This year’s levy will be devoted to a new playground area for the children. The levy will cover half the cost (the school will cover the other half) of the new area which, at this early stage, is earmarked to be located on the top playground.

**Kinder 2017**
If you are interested in enrolling your child for Kinder 2017 enrolment packages are now available at our school’s office.

**Mufti Day on Thursday**
A reminder that for a gold coin donation for Autism Australia children are permitted to wear mufti tomorrow.

**The Term’s End**
Friday 8th April is the last day of the school term. Term 2 commences on Tuesday 26th April, remembering that ANZAC Day falls on the Monday. If you are fortunate enough to have time at home with your children during the holidays, enjoy it.

**Best Wishes Miss Hughes**
We wish Miss Hughes and her fiancé Christopher all the very best for their wedding this Saturday. May you enjoy a life full of many blessings.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Principal

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**Upcoming Events**

- **Last day of Term 1**
  - Friday
  - 8 April

- **Term 2 commences**
  - Tuesday
  - 26 April

- **ANZAC Day Liturgy**
  - 9.30am
  - Wednesday
  - 27 April
**From Our REC**

**Project Compassion**
This Friday will see the Mini Vinnies children collecting the money raised by each class for Project Compassion. We thank families for their kind donations and remind children that if they want to make a final donation, to please do so by Thursday.

**Dates for the Calendar**
As always, we invite you to join us for the many beautiful Masses we have each term. During Term 2 our Masses will include:
- Mother’s Day Mass, Friday 6th May at 9.15am (followed by morning tea)
- Mary Help of Christians Feast Day Mass, Friday 27th May at 9.15am
- Sacred Heart Mass, Friday June 3rd at 9.15am.
Please join us to celebrate the Eucharist together.

**First Eucharist**
A reminder that the two compulsory parent and child classes for families making the Sacrament of First Eucharist are held at St Mary’s on Tuesday May 3rd and 10th or at St Brendan’s on Wednesday May 4th and 11th. Please ensure these dates are in your diary as failure to attend both classes can affect your child making the Sacrament. Please call the parish office (43964455) if you have any questions regarding these classes.

Congratulations to Blake B (1 Gold) and his sister Sophie, who were both Baptised on the weekend.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

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**From Our Family Liaison Officer**

**Save the Date**
Friday May 27th – “Stories by the beach” Parent Reflection Morning, Catherine Hill Bay Surf Club, 9am-2pm. Please come along and join other St Mary’s and St Brendan’s parents in a day of friendship, beautiful food, meditation and reflection. Those parents who came to the reflection day at Rafferty’s Resort last year enjoyed a wonderful day. No cost.

Remember to check out the many free or low cost activities provided by Wyong Council, the libraries and neighbourhood centres for the children over the school holidays.

The break from routine can mean we have time to slow down and give kids time to develop skills to entertain themselves rather than being scheduled all the time. The thing the kids love most though is spending time with significant adults in their life and sharing fun with them. While adults will still have work commitments to fulfil, making time to enjoy games and activities with the kids helps to build strong family relationships.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

This week’s KidsMatter article has Suggestions for Families about actively boosting children’s social development by practicing everyday social skills, demonstrating respectful family relationships and building confidence in children’s own strengths and values.

Children first learn about relationships from their own families. Families come in many different forms but for all, positive Family Relationships are important to children’s social and emotional development.

The quality of family relationships is more important for children’s wellbeing than the size or composition of the family. With positive family relationships children learn how to connect to other people and build healthy relationships.

From Our Librarian

What can we read in the holidays? We can read and re-read:

- our library book
- our old, favourite books that sit on our book shelves
- magazines
- captions of exhibits that we see at museums, art galleries or zoological parks
- recipes
- the rules of games and the instructions on game boards
- comics
- crossword puzzles
- short stories and poems
- train and bus timetables when planning a trip
- shopping lists
- menus
- pamphlets
- maps and atlases
- travel brochures
- sports programs
- Catalogs
- Street signs and street directories

The list is as endless as our imagination!

By the way have you read?..... Exercise on Wheels by Cy Kling

Happy reading everyone
Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Office

Leave Requests

For leave requests of 10 or more school days you must complete an “Application for Exemption from Attendance at School” form. This request must be approved by Mr Williams. For leave requests of less than 10 school days, a request in writing to your child’s class teacher is still required.

Wishing our families a well rested school holidays and we will see you in Term 2.

Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

Building positive family relationships is also about dealing with conflict as well as making time to do fun things together. Conflict is a normal part of family life and in itself isn’t a problem—how it is managed may be though. Learning how to deal with conflict in a respectful, positive way at home sets children up to be able to better manage their emotions and their response when conflict arises at other times, such as at school or sporting activities.

Canteen

Thank you to those volunteers who have been able to fulfill their rostered days this term. It is a great help in providing a consistent service to our students.

Unfortunately, due to changing work or family arrangements a number of volunteers can no longer help out. If any parents/carers are able to spare some time, just once a month, it would be greatly appreciated, particularly on a Wed, Thurs or Fri. Please let me know via the canteen or the office.

Donna Falzon

Easter Egg Raffle

Wow, $1022.95 was raised in the Easter Egg Raffle. This will go to support Miss Dawson when she travels to Krakow, Poland for World Youth Day in July.

Star Awards

Summer M
Jonah M
Marcella H
Connor V
Charlotte B
Liam S
Cooper O
Kahlil G
Gabrielle S
Chelsea H
Isabella P
Eve M
Olivia W
Ellie N
Lachlan E
Mahlie C
Dylan G
Taalirah G
Luke B
Ebony A
From Our PE Teacher

POLDING SWIMMING TRIALS
Congratulations to our fantastic swimmers who all swam amazingly well against the best swimmers from our NSW Catholic Schools.
Josh H, Alexis C, Harper R, Noah S, Natasha H, Zander F, Joey F and Josh B were our St Mary’s representatives

We wish Noah, Joey and Zander the best of luck at the NSW All Schools Swimming Titles at Homebush this week

CCC CROSS COUNTRY 4TH MAY MT PENANG PARKLANDS
About 100 children have received their notes for the CCC Cross Country.
In order to be fully prepared we need notes back by this Friday. We are then able to organise buses and the necessary risk assessments for this event.
Thank you as always for your co operation with permission notes.

Ellie, Lexie, Zara, Nate, Levi & Koby - Cross Country Presentation