Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

On Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th May our school participates in a process of review and reflection. You might remember that late last year you were invited to complete an online survey about our school conducted by MMG. The findings from that survey are instrumental in helping us plan a way forward. On Monday 16th May there will be a designated time where we invite any parents and carers, who are interested in talking in a small group situation with members of the Review panel, to join us. The Parent Focus group will meet at approximately 2.00pm on Monday 16th. I will confirm the time shortly.

Whether you have been with our school for a short time or for many years, you are welcome to join us. We warmly welcome your reflections.

We encourage a crowd of parents to participate in the process. The greater the number of parents, the richer the data we gather. If you can find the time to join us, we’d appreciate it.

**NAPLAN**

Years 3 and 5 participate in NAPLAN from Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th May. Assessments in Reading, Language Conventions, Writing and Numeracy will be administered to our Years 3 and 5 students.

**Kinder 2017**

If you are interested in enrolling your child for Kinder 2017 enrolment packages are now available at our school’s office. Please complete them and, upon returning them, organise a time for your meeting.

**Winter Uniform**

The wearing of our winter uniform commences on Monday 16th May. If the weather turns cooler before the 16th, the winter uniforms may be worn earlier.

**Mother’s Day Mass**

Please join us we celebrate Mother’s Day with a beautiful Mass commencing at 9.15am on Friday 6th May in our Church. After Mass we invite you to join us for Morning Tea in the undercroft area.

I trust that you were able to enjoy the spectacular weather during the holidays.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams

Principal
ANZAC Day March and Liturgy
On ANZAC Day we had 50+ students participate in the ANZAC Day March to Toukley Cenotaph where our captains laid a wreath on behalf of our school community (donated by a school family who wish to remain anonymous - thank you). Well done boys and girls, your behaviour was outstanding. Thank you to Ms Johnson, Mrs Walker, Mrs Bain, Mrs Mally, Mrs Marlin and Mr Merlino for their attendance. This morning our school community remembered all those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a free and safe country. Our ANZAC Day Liturgy was a very special liturgy. Thank you to the teachers who helped prepare the morning and also the members from our local Toukley RSL Branch who attended.

Dates for the Calendar
As always, we invite you to join us for the many beautiful Masses we have each term. This term 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.

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. The information and enrolment afternoon is TOMORROW afternoon, 28th, at 4pm. 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.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone had a chance to relax and unwind over the holiday break and reduce their stress levels. Thank you to Fr Stephen for now making available the meeting room at the rear of the hall as a parent space. I will be setting things up in there over the next week ready for next Tuesday mornings cuppa and chat for parents/carers. Every parent/carer/grandparent is welcome to come along to meet others, speak to myself or other parents about any school or parenting questions you may have, find out about various community services and programmes and be more engaged in the life of St Mary’s school.
If we have enough people interested I would like to set up a knitting/craft group for parents/carers to learn how to knit and make simple items, such as scarves for elderly people in our parish. A number of items were donated last year via Mrs Marlin and she has told me how much the recipients appreciated the kindness of this simple act. It will be kept very simple so no previous knitting experience is necessary, though appreciated. Please let me know if you are interested.

Donna Falzon
From Our REC
From Our Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

Resilience is the ability to positively manage life’s ups and downs and cope with adversity. All children will experience disappointments and challenging times throughout childhood and while parents have a natural instinct to protect their children from hardship, experiencing and learning to deal with these issues helps to build a child’s coping skills and resilience.

If a child is constantly shielded from disappointment how will they learn the emotional and coping skills they will need as adults? The ability to lose and still maintain a positive attitude or problem solve without being overwhelmed are just some of the attributes that resilient children, and adults, demonstrate.

As parents, how do we see and respond to challenges and difficulties in our own life? By modelling resilient behaviour and looking for the bright side of each situation the important adults in children’s lives can show them that dealing with challenges are an opportunity to learn and develop as a person.

For some great information about resilience please click on the following KidsMatter link, “Resilience is an essential skill for life.”

From Our Librarian

Welcome back to a new term of exciting possibilities and adventures in the library. This week we are viewing the following texts:

- Years 3-6: A Soldier, a Dog and a Boy by Libby Hathorn,
- Years 1 and 2: Reflection by Rebecka Sharpe Shelberg
- And Kindy: ANZAC Ted by Belinda Landsberry.

We are discussing these in relation to our celebration of ANZAC Day and why this day is important to us.

This term our work in the library will focus on reading and selecting the key facts of texts whether they are on the computer, in a book a print or audio visual text. It is important that we are able to put key facts into our own words when we start writing up our project information.

Kindy will be viewing a favourite fairy tale each week and responding to these texts. Next week we are planning to ‘build’ the three little pigs’ houses!

And have your read…?

Teach Me by I. Wanda Know

Miss Gray Librarian

From Our Office

Administration Of Medication In Schools

The Broken Bay Diocesan Schools System ‘Medication policy’ and ‘Administration of Medication in Schools: Guidelines and Procedures’ have been revised.

Please click the link below to view Medication in schools

St Mary’s Toukley is committed to supporting students’ health & wellbeing. We require parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support the student at school. While this information is collected at enrolment it needs to be updated regularly, including when a new health condition develops.

Please ensure you inform the school office staff of any changes to contact details including the contact details of the people nominated as emergency contacts.

We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

All information is kept confidential and only disclosed to the relevant staff who are supporting your child.

Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

Mother’s Day Stall

REMINDER: The Mother’s Day Stall will now be held on Thursday 5th May 2016. Please return all notes and orders this week to avoid disappointment.

Thank you

P&F 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 continue to 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

Piano Tuition

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

Ph. 0414 186 044

Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools’ Coral Day

Rehearsals have begun for our choir’s involvement in the 4th Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools’ Choral Day. Please make a note of the date - August 19th. Ten of our Central Coast Catholic Primary Schools’ choir will come together for a day of singing and a beautiful performance for parents and friends in the afternoon. We hope to see you there. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Maureen Houston & Chris Hochkins
City Under The Sea

Smoothly, slowly the sea rolled on like a rocking chair absorbed in its own movement. The dark indigo colour of the sea seemed as dark and night.

Waves of cool ocean water drifted in, ensuring that the reed never got too hot or too cold. Large shadows of bigger animals loomed about, yet the rays of sunlight protected the reef from any harm. Crevasses in the intricate coral created hidey holes for smaller fish and a place for predators to lurk. The parts of dead coral are like dark alleyways, a place where no-one dare to go.

Stingrays skimmed the sand looking for food, while the occasional manta-ray swam gracefully above the reed, blocking out the sun for short periods of time. The many colourful fish darted around like a rainbow that doesn’t know what order to go in. The reed was a motel for migrating whales who need a rest. Turtles found home and safety in the reef, while dolphins randomly visited hoping to snag a meal.

The soft hum of boats motors floated through the water and all the way to the reef. Seaweed strands stood like soldiers as they reached up to the sun. Slimy, lime green seagrass sprouted out from the sand.

From above, the reef looked ordinary and dull, but from below it was a City Under The Sea.

By Milly H
6 Green