Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

School Review
Next Monday and Tuesday we look forward to welcoming the panel of seven esteemed visitors along with our School’s Consultant, Mrs Frances Reynolds. This is an opportunity for us to showcase our school’s strengths in the areas (domains) of Mission, Pastoral Care and Learning and Teaching. It is also a wonderful chance to use the expertise and insights of our visitors to help lay the foundations for future school improvement. The future for students, staff and families of our school is exciting.

Your input in this Review process is welcomed and valued. Once again we invite you to attend the parent forum in the school library if you are available. It’s on Monday (16th) at 1.45pm.

Winter Uniform
Although we have been blessed with an extended run of glorious warm days it is still the expectation that, as previously notified, next Monday is the beginning of our Winter Uniform season and therefore all children are to be in full winter uniform from Monday 16th May. Please contact Julie Anderson in the Uniform Shop if you still require items.

P & F Meeting Tonight
Tonight at 7pm in the Staffroom is our Term 2 P & F Meeting. Please come along. There will be a presentation of what our new playground equipment is going to look like – more fun for all the kids. We are all very excited at the prospect of having more equipment and we think we have devised a great plan with fun, safe ideas.

NAPLAN
This week sees our Year 3 and Year 5 students sitting NAPLAN. Yesterday they completed Language Conventions and Writing, today was the Reading component and tomorrow is Numeracy. The results of these nationally conducted assessments give us insight into collective and individual strengths and areas for improvement. The data also indicates where our St Mary’s average sits in relation to other Australian schools. The students have approached this benchmark task with an admirable sense of calmness and positivity. They are definitely putting in their best effort. Well done kids.

Athletics Carnival
Our K-6 School Athletics Carnival will be held at Mingara on Monday 23rd May. We thank you all for returning your notes so promptly. It helps greatly with planning. We are still after a few more parent helpers if you can spare a few hours. Details of the carnival will be explained to the children closer to the date.

Kind Regards

Julie Baker
Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

- NAPLAN
  Reading
  Wednesday
  11 May
- NAPLAN
  Numeracy
  Thursday
  12 May
- School Review
  Monday
  16 May
- School Review
  Tuesday
  17 May
- Kinder 2017
  Meetings
  Friday
  20 May
- Athletics Carnival
  Mingara
  Monday
  23 May
- Kinder 2017
  Meetings
  Wednesday
  25 May

Mother’s Day Mass

Mother’s Day Stall
From Our REC

Mother’s Day
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Mother’s Day Mass and morning tea last Friday. It was a beautiful celebration of the gift of mothers. A big thank you to our P&F, and in particular Julie Anderson, for organising the morning tea. Also, a thank you to the parent helpers who assisted in the Mother’s Day Stall: Julie A, Tracey G, Kristina S, Naomi H and Tammy C - we appreciate all that you do!

First Eucharist
Particularly over the next few weeks, please keep the many children in Year 4, 5 and 6 in your prayers as they prepare to make the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Children will make the Sacrament on 29th May at 9am, here at St Mary’s.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

So what is World Youth Day?
World Youth Day is an international meeting of youth from all over the world, who gather together in one place with Priests, Bishops and the Pope in order to share and experience Faith. Although called “World Youth Day” the event is actually a week long experience in which Faith is celebrated.
WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter with their contemporaries centered on Jesus Christ.
This is the 31st World Youth Day and it will be held in Krakow in Poland. Each World Youth Day is given a theme and the theme for this year is “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy” (Mt 5:7).

Miss Dawson

From Our Family Liaison Officer

As advertised last week the next Parent Reflection day is being held Friday May 27th at Catherine Hill Bay Surf Club, 9am-2pm. It is a day filled with relaxation, friendship and reflection with wonderful food and company. It is open to all members of our community and completely free of charge.
Please email jo.spek@dbb.catholic.edu.au to register your attendance.

To go along with the KidsMatter theme about resilience, it is sometimes helpful for us as parents/carers to reflect on what kind of things we do that either help or hinder our children’s ability to bounce back?

It’s important to recognize and validate them when children are experiencing strong emotions, but then help them to understanding what they are feeling and why. We can then help teach them to put things in perspective and calmly deal with their emotions.

As parent’s we don’t want to minimise or dismiss what children are feeling but just as importantly we don’t want to inflame a situation and make things bigger than they really are with our own reaction.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

A child’s capacity for resilience is a result of both their genetic make up, as well as environmental factors that can be influenced and changed.

Genetics can’t be changed but there is a lot that parents/carers can do to positively influence children’s resilience. Providing a caring, supportive environment, setting clear boundaries, offering opportunities to participate in shared activities, developing a sense of responsibility, helping with decision making and building confidence all contribute to resilience.

The resilience of adults parent/carers and the family as a whole is also a big predictor for the resilience of individual children.

From Our Librarian

This week in the library...
Kindy are viewing the text of the Three Bears and writing character portraits of each character.

Year 1 has begun viewing information about mealworms. This week we are selecting the main facts from the text and making notes of this as a class. Miss Gray has even discovered that the lolly shop at the Entrance sells mealworms as a tasty treat!!!

Year 2 are reading about shopping and food in the olden days. We are highlighting key facts and together we are making notes of these.

Year 3 are writing and drawing places that are special to them in response to Nadia Wheatley’s text My Place.

Years 4, 5 and 6 are working on a rotation of activities over the next few weeks. Year 4 are reading about explorers. Year 5 are reading about colonial life and events that affected the development of the colonies and Year 6 are reading about events that have shaped our Australian identity.

And have your read…?
**Why Cars Stop** by M. T. Tank

Miss Gray
Librarian

Something We’ve Noticed

What an amazing effort our Year 3 and Year 5 students have made this week during NAPLAN. We are very proud of you.

Star Awards

James M
Charli D
Portia R
Toby W
Yumi S
Charlotte B
Jacob F
Joshua F
Mason J
Shaylah H
Rianna B
Sienna C
Mason G
Stefanie S
Carissa M
Maraea P
Maddie W
Liam H
Ellee B
Aaron D
Libby T
Ellie W

For Fun, Fitness, Friendship
McDonalds Tennis Academy
Ray St. Toukley
4333 3380

- Free Junior Racquet for new enrolments—$39.95 Value!
- Tini-Tots Program 5—9 years
- Tennis Australia “Hot Shots” Program
- Junior Squads: Junior Comp
- Private and Semi-private lessons
- School Holiday Camps: Social Play

You’re Gonna Love it!

From Our Office

Thank you to everyone who has been keeping up to date with their school fees. Please remember to check the bottom of your monthly statement to see if your payments are up to date, any overdue amounts will be highlighted. If you have fallen behind we ask that you catch up as soon as possible.

Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

More information can be found via the link “How to foster resilience in everyday life” on the KidsMatter website.
From Our PE Teacher

Grace H NSW All Schools Tennis  
Firstly Congratulations Grace on becoming a part of the prestigious Polding Tennis Team to compete in the NSW All Schools Titles last week.  
Grace was one of the few Year 5 students talented enough to make the team.  
She played above her expectations, learnt some great skills, experienced a high level of competition and cannot wait for next year.  
Well Done Grace!!!!

CCC Cross Country Mt Penang  
Congratulations all St Mary’s athletes we were 3rd school overall.  
We were blessed with sunshine for the first time ever!  
I do not have the final results as yet – I am worried if I put down what I know I will miss someone!!!!  
I am very proud of you all and will print results in our next newsletter.

Athletics Carnival  
Thank you everyone for returning notes so promptly.  
I have completed the program and will be doing parent jobs later this week.  
Look forward to a fabulous day!

Mrs Bain  
Sports Coordinator

Canteen News  
Soup this Friday, May 13th is Chicken and Sweet Corn.