Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

On Sunday, for the first time approximately 60 of our children will receive Jesus in the form of the Eucharist. We pray that the children celebrating their First Communion will be nourished in knowing that Jesus is the *bread of life*. We trust that your day is a very special one and that you enjoy a wonderful family celebration together. Our Mass commences at 9.00am.

At next Friday’s Sacred Heart Mass the children will be able to receive Communion for the first time at a school Mass.

**Our School’s Feast Day**

Please join us as we celebrate Our Lady Help of Christians Feast with Mass at 9.15am on Friday. Our Celebration Team 3 has organised a variety of fun activities for the children during the day. Our P+F are kindly organising a free BBQ lunch for the children and we conclude our celebrations with our annual game of touch between Year 6 and the Teachers at 2.15pm. I kindly ask that all children wear their sports uniform on Friday.

**Athletics Carnival**

We thank Mrs Bain, our wonderful staff and many parents who were able to help us as we enjoyed another fun-filled Athletics Carnival on Monday. The children at our school are great. On a very warm day girls and boys, you participated enthusiastically, tried your very best and positively encouraged others. You also had a lot of fun with your friends.

**Representing Our School**

To be selected in a sporting team to represent our school is a privilege and not a right. A student’s attitude regarding their learning and behaviour is influential in whether they are allowed to represent our school.

**Winter Uniform**

Thank you for beautifully presenting your children in their winter uniform. We encourage the children to wear their uniform with pride. If you are unsure of the full uniform requirements, please check our school’s website.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Shortly, you will receive a note requesting you to nominate a suitable time to meet with your child’s teacher regarding their academic progress. The Parent Teacher meetings will occur during Week 9, 20-24 June. Your child’s Report will be sent home on Friday 17 June.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

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**Upcoming Events**

- **Kinder 2017 Meetings**
  - Wednesday 25 May
- **Catholic Rugby League 10s/12s**
  - Thursday 26 May
- **Our Lady Help of Christians Mass**
  - 9.15am
  - Friday 27 May
- **First Communion**
  - 9.00am
  - Sunday 29 May
- **Kinder 2017 Meetings**
  - Monday 30 May
- **Sacred Heart Mass**
  - 9.15am
  - Friday 3 June
First Eucharist
This Sunday many children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will make the Sacrament of First Eucharist at 9am here at St Mary’s. Please keep these children in your thoughts and prayers as they make this special sacrament.

School Feast Day
Mary is known by many titles: ‘Holy Mother of God’, ‘Mother of the Church’, ‘Queen of Peace’ and ‘Mystical Rose’ are just a few. A few years ago, the staff of St Mary’s chose the feast day of Mary under her title, ‘Help of Christians’ to become our school’s feast day, which is on May 24th each year.

We will be celebrating our feast day this Friday 27th with a Mass and activity day. Mass will begin at 9.15am, parents as always you are welcome to join us to celebrate Mass together. After Mass and recess students will move to some fun activities around the school. Activities will include novelty games, sporting activities and Mary reflection areas. Activities will be followed by a free BBQ lunch, provided by our fantastic P&F. If you are able to offer your time to help the P&F prepare and serve this BBQ to our children, please let me know as soon as possible.

Winter Appeal
Our 2016 Winter Appeal has begun! Our Mini Vinnies students will be hard at work over the remainder of the term collecting items donated to the school. We ask families, before the end of Term 2, to please donate any blankets, jumpers and tinned goods. If you or your children have outgrown anything that is still in good condition, please donate! Although we ask for donations of clothing items that have been pre-worn, please ensure that they do not have rips or stains, as they will be new clothes for people in our local community. Your donations are appreciated.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our REC

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Technology is now embedded in our everyday lives and this is even more so for our children who have grown up surrounded by smart phones, tablets and entertainment and information on demand. Can they even imagine a time when TV was only in black and white with four channels, only landline phones existed and weren’t even in every home.

While this technology can seem overwhelming at times, as parents/carers there is a lot out there to help us support our children with their learning. Finding what is relevant to classroom learning and of quality can be challenging though.

Our own St Mary’s School website has some excellent links for Optional Learning and Mrs Sellars has begun putting online some great videos for parents about Maths Strategies and Maths Activities for parents—with more to come. Some other quality sites for parents to help support learning include the Australian Govt. Learning Potential and the NSW Govt. School A to Z, which are also available as free Apps. The Victorian Govt. also has a great, 201 Literacy and Numeracy Tips brochure. They all help us to support what our children are taught in the classroom.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
Something We’ve Noticed
At our Athletics Carnival, there were two or three children who stopped in the middle of a race to help a girl who had fallen. I think it was in one of the 800m races. If you know who they are, please let me know. They need to be thanked again for displaying such a great sporting attitude.

Star Awards
Kyah R
Cleo C
Bailey N
Dakota L
Peyton B
Maverick E
Charli M
Trinity T
Scarlett O
Diezel P
Grace J
Keiley S
Savio D
Caitlin W
Jacob W
William B
Owen H
Hannah G
Taalirah G
Mia D
Charlotte D
Elliot H

Uniform Shop News
****NEWS FLASH****
Over the next few weeks you may see a pop-up stall of pre-loved items on Tuesday mornings before assembly. Grab a bargain. CASH ONLY. For uniform enquiries please call Julie on 0402 311 749.

P&F News
If any parents/carers are able to lend a helping hand with either our Feast Day BBQ on Friday, May 27 or to help with after Mass Parish Morning Tea on Sunday, June 5th, could you please leave your name and contact number at the office. Thank you in anticipation of your kind support.

From Our Librarian
Today St Mary’s celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime with the wonderful book: I’ve Got This Hat by Jol and Kate Temple. Each year schools, libraries and anyone who loves books all around Australia registers for this event.

Today we celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime. Each year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around Australia. Our school signed up in February so we have been waiting a long time for this day to come.

The aim of the event is to:
- Promote the value of reading and literacy
- Promote the value and fun of books
- Promote an Australian writer & publisher
- Provide opportunities for all of us to participate in and enjoy the occasion

Today we all stopped at 11.30am and read I’ve Got This Hat by Jol & Kate Temple. Everyone has a favourite hat or different hats and caps for different occasions. In this year’s book we take a peek at the world around us through the playful medium of hats.

I got this hat in China. I got this hat from a miner. I got this hat from a deep-sea diver. I got this hat from a racing-car driver...

Hats. Only the headless dislike them. Everyone else loves wearing them!

You can still access the text via the online link until Friday.

https://www.alia.org.au/nss

Why not as a family stop and view this book before the end of the week! I challenge you!

Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Office
Please be reminded that any form of medication cannot be brought to school by students. Where possible the medication should be administered at home rather than school. If medication must be administered at school a “Request for Administration of Medication Form” must be completed by both a parent and the student’s Doctor before school staff are able to administer the medication. You can find a copy of this form on our school’s website or pick one up at the office. This is Catholic Schools Office requirement.

Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

KidsMatter
Children grow and change in many ways during their Primary School years. As well as growing physically, children develop socially, emotionally and cognitively.

Children’s responses to the different feelings they experience every day have a major impact on their choices, their behaviour and on how well they cope with and enjoy life. Emotional development for children means learning what feelings and emotions are, understanding how and why they happen, recognising one’s own feelings and the feelings of others and developing effective ways of managing them.

As children grow and are exposed to more situations their emotional lives become more complex. It can be easy for children to become overwhelmed but over time they learn to recognise what upsets them and what makes them feel better.

For children, managing emotions is very complex and needs the guidance of the important adults in their lives to support them to deal with their emotions in positive ways. Please use the link “About Emotional Development” to find out more information about what parents/carers can do to support children.

From Our Office
From Our PE Teacher

ST MARY'S ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
GOLD reigns supreme for the first time in 5 years! Congratulations GOLD!!
Our scores were so close 4 points between 1st and second and our numbers in every colour are now equal!!
What a beautiful day!
Thank you to all of the helpers – it cannot happen without you.
A special thankyou to those people who ran the 2 tracks and the Long Jump. I totally appreciate what a huge commitment it is. You spend all day there timing/judging and scoring and get little time to support your own children.
As you would realise there is no way the staff could run the Carnival! We need and appreciate you!!

CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT RUGBY LEAGUE –Bill Sohier Park Ourimbah
Best of luck tomorrow boys.
A new draw will be sent home today – boys please be at the venue 45 mins before their first game.
Boys will be told whether they are in Gold or Green team tomorrow.