Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Parent Teacher Meetings
It has been wonderful to see so many of our mums and dads making the time to come in and meet with the teachers this week to discuss their child’s development and learning. The teachers enjoy the chance to meet with you to talk about your great kids. At St Mary’s we really value the partnership we have with you. Once again, the winner is your child.

Parent Workshop
Save the date: On August 3rd we will be holding our Term 3 Parent Session. This session is called The Power of Social and Emotional Skills for Children’s Learning. It will be run by the Diocesan Parent Education Team at 9.15 am and repeated at 6.30 pm. There is an inextricable link between positive wellbeing and children’s learning. We highly recommend your attendance at this practical, informative presentation. A flyer will be sent home before the end of this term.

Year 2 Excursion
We wish the Year Twos a fabulous day tomorrow as they head off to Tocal Homestead in the Hunter Valley. This excursion culminates their current studies in their History Unit. Thanks (in advance) to the parents who will be sharing this learning experience with Year 2. It will no doubt be a little fresh out there at the rural property in the morning! Nonetheless, enjoy the day.

Soccer Gala Day
The Year 5 and 6 students and some of our Year 4s will have the privilege of attending a soccer gala day tomorrow, weather permitting. This day is designed as a fun day with an emphasis on a spirit of sportsmanship rather than competition. Winning is certainly a bonus but it is definitely not a requirement.

Winter Uniform
Thanks again, Parents, for the way you send your children to school looking so neat and tidy. The students of St Mary’s always wear their uniform with pride.

Please remember to ensure that jumpers and jackets are clearly labelled. We have a large tub in the undercroft overflowing with unclaimed items.

Kind Regards,

Julie Baker
Acting Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events

- Parent-Teacher Meetings Week
  20-24 June
- Soccer Gala Day
  Thursday
  23 June
- Year 2 Excursion
  Thursday
  23 June
- Last Day of Term 2
  Friday
  1 July
- First Day of Term 3
  Monday
  18 July
- Grandparents Day Liturgy
  Friday
  29th July

Finlay, Cooper & James - Winter appeal

Athletics Carnival Presentation
World Youth Day 2016
As you would be aware, Miss Emma Dawson was to be our St Mary’s representative for World Youth Day (WYD) in Poland next term. Unfortunately, due to family medical reasons, Emma has made the decision that she should stay in Australia with her family at this time and not participate in WYD. I ask you to keep Emma and her family in your thoughts during this time.

Winter Appeal
Our 2016 Winter Appeal has now reached a close. A huge thank you to everyone for all of the donations we have received. Our Mini Vinnies children have been busy collecting and sorting the items ready for donation to St Vincent DePaul next week. Well done St Mary’s and thank you for making a difference to our local community!

Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day
Last week our students stopped for a liturgy to recognise National Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day. Thank you and well done to our indigenous students who, with the guidance of our Aboriginal Education Worker Miss Pass, led our liturgy.

Grandparents’ Day Liturgy
On Friday 29th July (Week 2 Term 3) we will be holding our second annual Grandparent’s Liturgy at 10.15am. Time has been scheduled for grandparents to share morning tea with their grandchild at 11.00am before a visit to their grandchild’s classroom (11.25am-11.45am). Last year we really enjoyed sharing our school with our grandparents and we’re excited to do so again. This is a great chance for children who have a grandparent nearby to show their Nan, Pop, Grandma or Grandpa their classroom and to celebrate them in a liturgy. Please join us.

Term 3 - Dates for the Calendar
Friday 29th July: Grandparents Day Liturgy, 10.15am
Monday 15th August: Assumption Mass, 9.15am
Friday 2nd September: Father’s Day Mass, 9.15am
Wednesday 14th September: Volunteer’s Liturgy 9.15am
Sunday 25th September: Sacrament of Confirmation.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our REC

From Our Family Liaison Officer

If you will have spare time for some reading over the holidays perhaps you could borrow from the Parent Resource Library some time in the next week. If there is a particular topic you are interested in please come see me and I can find something suitable.

Don’t forget our Tuesday morning Cuppa and Chat in the hall and Wednesday morning walking group that meet on the top playground straight after morning assembly. Both of these activities will continue in Term 3 and are a great way to get involved and meet other parents/carers at school.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

“If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, their children don’t have to be slaves of praise. They will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.”
— Carol S. Dweck
KidsMatter

Strong Family Relationships are built upon solid foundations of caring and commitment as well as respectful communication between all members of a family.

The following are family strengths that have been identified by Australian families – Communication Togetherness Sharing Activities Affection Support Acceptance Commitment Resilience

From Our Librarian

This week Years 4, 5 and 6 are evaluating their work in the library this term. They are reflecting on the development of their knowledge, skills and work as a team member. Here are just a few of the reflections written so far this week.

Reflections on Knowledge
I learnt how to evaluate websites (Year 6)
Women had a tough life in colonial days (Year 5)
I learnt that Jessica Watson was the youngest girl to sail around the world and that Jesse Martin inspired her to do this. (Year 4)
I learnt that explorers had a tough time exploring our country. (Year 4)
I learnt about Sister Kenny who saved many people with polio. She showed Aussies to keep trying no matter what you are told. (Year 6)
In library I am learning about things that help me in the classroom. (Year 6)

Reflections on Skills
I have learnt to skim read and find the important facts. (Year 4)
I can investigate many different types of texts confidently (Year 6)
I can navigate a website better and click between an internet page and a word document. (Year 4)
I learnt how to narrow my search results with specific words. (Year 6)
I can record notes using dot points on a word document and justify the text (Year 5)
My learning in the library has helped me in the classroom. (Year 5)

And on Team work...
You can learn lots of stuff from other people (Year 6)
I met and understand other people around me, their feelings and personalities. (Year 4)
I learnt that I do not always have to be in control and I am not always right. (Year 6)
I learnt to step up and take the lead. (Year 5)
That you need to work together and take turns so that you all are doing an equal work load. That it is okay if you don’t always agree and even if I’m not 100% sure it’s best if you share ideas so you can learn from each other and others can help you when you ask question. (Year 6)

And have you read....?
The Palace Roof Has a Hole! By Lee King

From Our Office

Thank you to all parents who have honoured their fee payment arrangements. The payment of school fees assists the school in its obligation to pay bills and the ongoing purchase of resources for your children. To those families who have fallen behind with their payments, we ask that all arrangements be brought up to date as soon as possible.

Thank you kindly,
Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

Something We’ve Noticed
Year 5 students have begun to show good leadership with the younger students. Well done.

Star Awards
Lily W
Mitchell W
Brody A
Kitty G
Portia R
Tayla B
Shelby M
Harry H
Bede B
Sienna S
Ava C
Gabrielle S
Baxter H
Holly C
Brodie S
Monique R
Josiah F
Joseph M
Rianna S
Brayden G
Jack H

Uniform Shop News
NEW OPENING HOURS
The uniform shop will now be open every weekday morning. 8.15 - 9.45am
For appointments outside these hours please call Julie on 0402 311 749. We have soccer/football socks for sale in the shop for $10 a pair.

Making the wellbeing of family members a priority and showing you care about one another is a positive way to strengthen family relationships. Identifying and building on the strengths you have within a family can help when times get tough.

This week’s KidsMatter article, “Building Better Family Relationships”, offers some simple, practical tips to strengthen relationships within a family.
Canteen News
Soup this Friday, June 24th is Chicken Noodle.

Volunteers, please remember to check the Canteen Roster on our school website if you are unsure of your next rostered day. The canteen pricelist is also available for everyone to access/download at any time from the website.

Reconciliation Week Liturgy

Athletics Presentation

K Green Sacred Space