Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Today, the Australian Men’s Olympic Hockey Team for Rio was announced. 22 year old Matt Dawson was named as a member of the team. Matt is the younger brother of Miss Emma Dawson, teacher of Kinder Green. We congratulate Matt and his family on this wonderful achievement. Matt’s skills, humble manner and an amazing work ethic have enabled him to achieve this incredible feat. The Australian Men’s Hockey Team is ranked No. 1 in the world.

Grandparents’ Day
We invite all our grandparents to join us on Friday 29th July. To celebrate Grandparents’ Day we begin with a liturgy in the Church at 10.15am. Following our liturgy, grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren for morning tea at 11.00am. After morning tea, grandparents are welcome to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms.

The Term’s End
We trust that the sun will warm us all over the holiday period and give a chance for the children and staff to recover from niggling colds and flu. We continue to be thrilled by the efforts and attitude of the children at our school; the outstanding contribution of teachers and support staff cannot be underestimated and the continuing, trusted support of our parents and carers is the glue at our place. Term 3 commences on Monday 18th July.

Kinder 2017
Letters regarding offers for Kinder 2017 will be mailed on Friday 22nd July.

Parent Teacher Meetings
It was wonderful to see how many children were proud of their School Report. I trust that, through the Parent Teacher meetings, you were able to gain an accurate picture of the strengths and areas for development for your child. I thank the P+F for providing a lovely meal for the teachers on Tuesday evening.

Air Conditioning
Our Year 6 will be pleased to hear that air-conditioning is being installed in their classrooms during the holidays. Air conditioners that were damaged in the recent storm will also be repaired at this time.

Easter Egg Raffle
The money raised from the Easter Egg Raffle that was originally intended for Miss Dawson’s World Youth Day trip has now been re-directed to St Mary’s Social Justice fund.

Kind Regards,

K Williams
Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- **Last Day of Term 2**
  Friday
  1 July

- **First Day of Term 3**
  Monday
  18 July

- **Netball NSW Schools Cup Hunter Region**
  Tuesday
  19 July

- **Kinder 2017 Letters sent home**
  Friday
  22 July

- **Central Coast Catholic Rugby Union**
  Friday
  22 July

- **Grandparents’ Day Liturgy**
  Friday
  29th July

- **Parent Workshop - The Power of Social & Emotional Skills for Children’s Learning**
  Wednesday
  3 August
  9.15am + 6.30pm

- **CCC Athletics Mingara**
  Friday
  5 August

Year 2 Excursion
Sacrament of Confirmation

Early next term the enrolment forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home with all children in Year 2, as well as any children 3-6 who are ready to make this Sacrament. Please call the office if you do not receive a form during Week One. If you would like to discuss your own personal circumstances regarding the Sacraments, please call me in the office.

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). 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:

From Our REC

Volunteer’s Liturgy
Sunday 25th September: Sacrament of Confirmation.

I hope you all have an enjoyable break from the school routine and return to the new school term refreshed and energised. Stay safe!

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

School holidays is a great time to relax and break from routine but too often it also means parents having to listen to the “I’m bored. There’s nothing to do” mantra. As parents/carers we all know there is plenty to do, but rather than becoming entertainment coordinators and scheduling play, parents/carers can be supporters of and even participants in their children’s relaxed, free play time.

Providing things such as dress ups, craft, books, or board games and getting outside to play all stimulate children’s imagination and even boost their learning. Parents/carers joining in with kicking a ball around the backyard, playing cafes or schools, a bushwalk, happily playing board games also strengthens family relationships. Holidays are a great time to encourage the kids to put the screens down, turn off the X-box and do things as a family. Children feel loved and supported when they know that their parents are happy to spend time with them.

Learning to self-occupy is a skill children need to develop and the only way they can do that is if they are allowed to be bored occasionally and encouraged to come up with ideas for games and activities themselves.
KidsMatter

Early childhood is when children begin developing their social and emotional skills, which greatly influence children’s mental health and wellbeing, now and into the future. Children learn these skills through their important relationships including families, caregivers, peers, early childhood and primary school staff. Being a KidsMatter school we recognise how important these skills are and it is why they are taught, both explicitly in the classroom and through modelled behaviour by staff but the learning at home is so much more vital.

KidsMatter have more great information for parents/carers via the link Growing Together in Relationships.

Term 2 is not quite over but the excitement is already building for our celebration of Book Week next term. I am already hearing whispers of costumes for our annual book character parade. The 2016 Book Week theme is Australia: Story Country.

Many thanks for your support
And have your read...?
Daddy Are We There Yet! by Miles Away

Happy reading everyone
Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Librarian

We are certainly on the countdown to the holidays. It is important that all library books are returned to the library. Children will be borrowing a book for the holidays but only if all of their books are returned. You can help by searching book shelves and in cupboards for any books that have a St Mary’s bar code on the front cover. Children have been asked to keep library books in their school bags over the holidays so they are not lost. These will be due back as normal in Week 1 Term 3. Tomorrow will be the last day for returning books as the library will be closed on Friday.

It is also important that guided readers are returned as well. We like each child to have a copy to use and learn about reading during guided reading time. If one copy is missing from a set then one child may have to share. Please hunt around in case there is a stray reader at home.

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.

School Banking News

Rewards: Handballs are no longer available.
For any enquiries regarding the School Banking Program please call Julie on 0402 311 749.

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

Soccer Gala Day

Year 5 students learning about leadership
From Our PE Teacher

**Polding Cross Country Eastern Creek**
We have such talented kids at St Mary’s! Mia T came 5th, Maya W came 7th, Brodie S came 12th, Zander F came 2nd and Joey F came 1st. This is against the best runners in Catholic Schools in Northern NSW. Mia, Joey and Zander have qualified for State (All Schools) and Maya is a reserve. We wish you the best of luck next term.

**NSW Netball Competition**
We have 5 teams attending the competition at National Park, Newcastle – Tuesday 19th July **Week 1 Term 3**. We have had to attend this competition due to our Polding Netballers being away for the Central Coast Day. All notes need to be back Thursday – we will be working out lifts on Friday.

**CCC Soccer Gala Day**
What a wonderful day was had by all! My best memory at Pat Morley was the singing, dancing and cheering I observed from so many schools all day. The kids planned their cheers in their breaks and performed them before, during and after their games. They then supported their classmates on the sidelines whenever they weren’t playing in a bright and supportive manner.

**Congratulations** – Rainbow Tractors, Rainbow Unicorns, Young Guns, Fast and Furious, Waves, Barcelona, Tigers, Warrior Wolves, Champs, Seashells, Pugs, Karate Chops, Pixies, No Names and Extras

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator