Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

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.

There was such a lovely feeling to our school when so many grandparents were able to join us at this time last year.

Congratulations Mrs Sellars

We congratulate Mrs Emma Sellars on the successful completion of her REC Contract Renewal. A visiting panel, in commending her for the tremendous work she does at our school, particularly highlighted Emma’s strong leadership in Religious Education and Numeracy. Our school community is blessed that Emma will continue in her senior leadership role at St Mary’s. We appreciate the parents who generously contributed to the Contract Renewal process.

Congratulations Girls

It was very pleasing to hear that the 5 netball teams representing our school yesterday at the Newcastle Division of the State Netball Championships were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Their sense of fair play, positive attitude to team mates and opposing teams and excellent behaviour were obvious throughout the day. Congratulations girls! One of our senior teams were undefeated during the day and progress through to the next level.

Staffing

We welcome Mrs Dana Dyson-Smith to St Mary’s. Mrs Dyson-Smith will be teaching 3 Green during Mrs Jones Long Service Leave during the first half of this term. Mrs Houston is also enjoying some Long Service Leave and Mrs Brooks has kindly taken on a full teaching load in 2 Blue.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- 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

Kinder 2017

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

Our undefeated senior girls netball team.
From Our REC

Sacrament of Confirmation
 Shortly the Confirmation enrolment forms will be sent home with all children in Year 2, as well as any children 3-6 who are ready to make the Sacrament of Confirmation. The compulsory parent information meeting will be held on Thursday August 4th at 4pm. **Please note, the Bishop’s Office has required a change of date for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sacrament will now be held on 23rd October at 11.00am.** If you would like to discuss your own personal circumstances regarding the sacraments, please call me in the office.

Grandparents’ Day Liturgy
 Next Friday 29th June 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: Volunteer’s Liturgy 10.30am

**CHANGE OF DATE Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday 23rd October 11.00am.**

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Welcome back to Term 3. As always there are plenty of activities and events on offer for parents/carers/grandparents to participate in this term.

Grandparents Day Liturgy and morning tea next Friday, a great parent/carer presentation on The Power of Social and Emotional Learning in Week 3, Book Week, Literacy/ Numeracy Week and Father’s Day celebrations in week 7 as well as many sporting gala days through the Term.

By parents/carers taking the time to attend/participate in school activities not only shows your child how much you value the school and what happens here, but also helps build a strong school community. Even for those parents/carers whose work or other commitments can prohibit them from physically being at school, knowing what is happening and talking with your child about the activities reflects a positive approach to school and learning, which is what we want to develop in all children.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
**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.

**KidsMatter**

People might be surprised to hear the term “mental health” being applied to young children, but mental health, like physical health, is something we all have. Like physical health, it can range from good to poor and also change over time.

Good mental health helps us form positive relationships with others, cope with life’s ups and downs and generally enjoy life. With good mental health children generally feel more confident and are likely to be more open to try and learn new things.

Good mental health doesn’t simply mean being happy all the time. We know that’s not possible and that we all have our ups and downs and can feel sad, angry, afraid or upset at different times. How individuals are able to manage these emotions and the extent to which challenging circumstances or situations impact mental health is dependant upon many things.

A child’s social and emotional development, their family circumstances, relationships and the support that is available to them from the important adults in their life are just some of the factors that influence mental health.

The following link, Mental Health Risk and Protective Factors, has great information about what impacts upon mental health and what families can do to support children’s positive mental health.

**From Our Librarian**

**Australia: Story Country**
If you want to know a person, listen to their stories. If you want to know a nation, listen to its people’s stories. The stories we tell breathe life into history. They take the information we want to retain and put it into an emotional structure. Here, in Australia, we have become a nation of storytellers, from our indigenous stories to the works of Banjo Paterson and Andy Griffiths.

How many times do we reminisce as a family over events that have happened in our lives… ‘Remember when…’ Children come home and tell stories of their day at school. We are all storytellers who constantly tell the stories of our lives. It is important that we have the chance to share our stories.

**From Our Office**

**Use of SMS to inform School Community of Incidents**
Schools and the CSO have the capacity to send a bulk SMS to all parents/caregivers at an individual school using parent contact details in the student information system. Many schools use this facility routinely to send updates about school events, arrangements and student absences. Occasionally the CSO will send a message out on behalf of a school, for example, to alert parents to a particular urgent situation eg. school communications are down, a storm or bushfire is impacting on the school, or the school is in lockdown. The message will be to alert parents to a situation, to inform them of children’s safety and to indicate any changed arrangements that may be put in place for student collection. This is a ‘no reply’ SMS. Parents would need to contact the school for further information. Occasionally a few parents may experience significant delays in receiving the message. Different mobile networks operate at different speeds on different days so there can be a significant variation in delivery times between providers. The make and model of the mobile phone receiving the message can also affect speed of delivery as can whether the phone is switched on or off. If the phone is switched off there is a possibility that the message will not be received. If only a few students are affected by a situation individual parents would be rung. It is considered however that a bulk SMS is the most practicable way to get an urgent message to all parents at a school. It is also for this reason that we encourage parents/caregivers to ensure that the school has their correct contact numbers.

Here in the library we focus on the shortlisted books in the Children’s Book Council Competition. These are stories written and illustrated by Australians. Each week we will focus on one of the books and develop a response to it. This week we are building a display on our Book Week theme. Children are sharing what stories they are reading at the moment. Why not share with your children the stories you are reading.

**I Work With Diamonds!** by Jules Sparkle

Happy reading everyone

Miss Gray
Librarian

The following link, Mental Health Risk and Protective Factors, has great information about what impacts upon mental health and what families can do to support children’s positive mental health.
From Our PE Teacher

**Polding Rugby Union Competition**

During the last week of last term Wil T and Cohan L competed in the Polding Rugby Union Competition at Freezing Forbes.

The boys played some extremely good football in tough conditions, their team coming top overall. Although not making the Polding team they have made lasting friendships and played at a high level.

**Northern NSW Ski Championships**

Lilly and Zali M competed in the Northern NSW inter schools Ski Championships during the holidays. Both girls had a great time and enjoyed the experience. Due to poor snow conditions both girls were only given one run instead of two, Lilly came 50th out of 80+ competitors which was a great effort for never having any race training. Zali zoomed down the hill unfortunately missing a few gates and was disqualified. Both girls loved the chance to compete for their school.

**NSW All Schools Cross Country**

Good Luck Mia T, Zander F and Joey F at Eastern Creek this Friday against the best Cross Country runners in NSW.

Mrs Bain
Sports Coordinator

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**Canteen News**

Soup this Friday, July 22nd is Chicken and Sweet Corn.

Volunteers are urgently needed for this Friday, July 22. If anyone is able to help out could you please let me know either via the canteen or the school office. Thank you.

The Term 3 Canteen Roster is available on our school website if you are unsure of your rostered day.

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You’re warmly invited to celebrate

**Grandparents’ Day**

Friday 29th July 2016

**Liturgy:** 10.15am
A K-8 Liturgy will be held in the church. Parents and grandparents are invited to join us.

**Morning Tea:** 11.00am
A small morning tea will be held for those adults in attendance. K-8 children are welcome to sit with their grandparents during recess time.

**Open Classrooms:** 11.25-11.50am
Grandparents are invited to go into their grandchild’s classroom to share in their learning.

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Some of our netball teams that competed yesterday