Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

I don’t know of any job in the world where continuous learning is not required. Fundamental to our students being successful learners is the need for our teachers to be successful learners.

Our teachers are repeatedly engaged in job-embedded learning. Each week, every Grade Team meets. Grade teams regularly discuss and plan the lessons to be taught in the upcoming week. Team members share ideas on how to best teach the upcoming content. Teachers engage in professional reading, gaining greater insights into the art of teaching. Collaboratively, teachers analyse students’ work. Team members openly discuss the best ways to meet each student’s learning needs, addressing the questions “How will we respond when some students do not learn?” and “How will we enrich and extend the learning of those students who are already proficient?”

We have considerable wisdom among the teachers at our school. Providing time for them to meet to share their wisdom is critical. Our aim is simple: we want high levels of learning for all students.

Our Book Week Parade will be celebrated on Tuesday 30th August. Parents, grandparents and family members are welcome to join us as the children dress as their favourite book characters. The Book Week Parade will commence from approximately 9.15am.

Father’s Day Celebrations
Commencing with a BBQ Breakfast we celebrate Father’s Day on Friday 2nd September. After breakfast our Father’s Day Mass begins at 9.15am. We’d love as many Dads and Grandads as possible to join us.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events

- **Choral Day**
  - Friday
  - 19 August
- **Mini Olympics**
  - Friday
  - 19 August
- **Public Speaking Cluster Final**
  - Wednesday
  - 24 August
- **Year 3 Touch**
  - Friday
  - 26 August
- **Book Week Parade**
  - Tuesday
  - 30 August
- **Father’s Day Stall**
  - Thursday
  - 1 September
- **Father’s Day BBQ Breakfast**
  - From 7.00am
  - Friday
  - 2 September
- **Father’s Day Mass**
  - 9.15am
  - Friday
  - 2 September

NAPLAN
Students in Year 3 and Year 5 should be receiving their NAPLAN results this week. It can be another opportunity for parents to praise the efforts of their children.

Choral Day
Our best wishes are extended to our talented choir as they enjoy joining all other Catholic primary school choirs on Friday. The day culminates in a performance which commences at 4.30pm at St Peter’s Catholic College, Tuggerah.
From Our REC

Assumption Mass
On Monday 15\textsuperscript{th}, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption in honouring Mary, a sign of hope and holiness, with a whole school Mass. Thank you to the parents and parishioners who were able to attend. Boys and girls, your reverence and singing, especially our new hymn, was outstanding. Our Year 4 students who read were outstanding, well done also to the choir students who led our singing. A particularly big thank you to Mr Hochkins who once again gave our Mass so much atmosphere and rearranged his schedule to join us on a Monday. We appreciate what you do!

Father's Day Mass
Our Father’s Day Mass will be held on Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} September at 9.15am. Important things to note: 1. This year, rather than the children emailing in a photo of themselves with their dad, we ask children to send just one photo per student to their class teacher. This will be put together in a class display that will then be used during Mass as well as being displayed afterwards. The photos can be originals but copies are preferred, the same photo can be used for siblings but different photos are also fine. 2. Once again we would like to begin our Father’s Day Mass with a procession of dads and their children wearing their work clothes. If you would like to participate in this procession, please add your name and your child’s name to a note with your occupation/what you and your children will be wearing and send it in to me in the office. There are limited spots (roughly 25-30 dads only) so positions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. I will send a confirmation note home with your child in the days leading up to the Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation
Please keep the many children in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 who are currently preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in your prayers and thoughts. These children are currently in the process of attending parish-run classes with their parents to assist in their preparation. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held here at St Mary’s on 23\textsuperscript{rd} October at 11.00am.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

Catechists Needed
Hi, my name is Mandy Carrigan (a parent at St Brendan’s) and I am seeking volunteers who have one hour a week to assist our Religious Education Teachers in our local public schools. Experience is not necessary just a desire to assist a teacher in a classroom environment. If you are happy to help or you have any questions, please contact me on 0404 669 927. Thank you.

From Our Family Liaison Officer

From the participant evaluations, many of the parents/ carers found information about Fixed versus Growth Mindsets most valuable from our Social and Emotional Learning workshop in Week 3.

Individuals with Growth Mindsets realise that it takes ongoing effort to achieve, see a challenge as a learning opportunity, are open to new things and learning, are aware of their weaknesses and focus on improving them and recognise that failure is an opportunity to learn.

Parents/ carers play a large role in developing this mindset. Recognising and encouraging the effort and hard work children put in, not focussing simply on the result, is great for children. Also, don’t forget the power of “Yet”. When children say “I can’t do it” remind them “You can’t do it yet” which reinforces the importance of effort and persistence and that they are capable of mastering the task.

More information for parents/ carers about developing growth mindsets can be found via the link “Fixed v’s Growth Mindset”

Donna Falzon
**KidsMatter**

Parents and carers have a critical role to play in guiding and supporting children’s Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Social and Emotional skills develop with practice and everyday situations provide lots of opportunities for children to learn and practice coping with emotions, managing relationships and problem solving. Parents and carers can act as coaches as their children develop these skills.

Parents and carers modelling mature social and emotional skills to their children is perhaps the biggest influence on how children learn to cope with challenges and develop friendships and relationships with both their peers and other adults in their lives. Having positive social skills and being able to get along with others leads to friendships and lessening of feelings of loneliness, which can impact in children’s mental health.

Encouraging children to name and talk about their feelings and showing them, through your example, that we all experience a wide range of both positive and negative emotions, is a great way to help children become more self aware and learn to self regulate. Building children’s confidence and teaching them respectful but assertive communications skills are also important aspects of children’s SEL.

Please use the link, [SEL – Suggestions for Families](#) to discover more ways parents and carers can help their children in SEL.

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**From Our Librarian**

This week in the library Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 are reading *How the Sun Got to Coco’s House* by Bob Graham. It is amazing to imagine all the places that the sun’s light will touch in one day. We are responding to this text by drawing the places we have discussed.

Years 3 - 6 are reading *One Step At A Time* by Sally Heinrich. Mali the baby elephant has stepped on a land mine and lost a leg. Tragically this is all too true but there are people devoting their time, energy and expertise to helping injured elephants. You might like to check out their work and talk about this with your child.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyp4alF7iL0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyp4alF7iL0)

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**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

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**Star Awards**

Elijah P
Charlotte G
Josephine R
Oscar P
Elle R
Timothy V
Tiarna G
Mia P
Marshall S
Herbie G
Abigail T
Riley S
Caitlin W
Carissa M
Maya B
Taalirah G
Obi M
Alyssa R
Ellie N
Jessica L

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**Uniform Shop News**

Have your tried on your summer uniforms yet? Do they still fit? Change over to summer uniform will be 12th September.

Lay-bys are welcome.

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**P&F News**

You should now have received a note about the upcoming Father’s Day Stall (Week 7).

Please complete orders and return by the due date (next Friday) to assist the P&F run an efficient event.

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**Assumption Mass**
From Our PE Teacher

**ST MARY’S CCC ATHLETICS RESULTS – Congratulations to the athletes going to Diocesan at Narrabeen on Monday 29th August**


We have a number of children through to the Diocesan Carnival coming 1st – 4th in their finals.

Mia C – 100m, 200m, relay, LJ; Mia T – 800m; Zac B – 800m, Kiarra L – 100m; Keegan F – HJ, LJ, 100m, 200m; Marea P – relay, 100m; Tayte B – 100m; Tahlia H – 100m, 200m, Long Jump, shotput, discus, HJ; Grace H – 200m, discus, shotput; Josh B – 100m; Taalirah G – relay, HJ, Shotput, relay; Grace J – relay; Bailey L – discus, Rylind D – High Jump, Maya Wade – HJ, Megan Parker – LJ,

**Junior Girls relay you need to be ready to race at 9.30am**

**YEAR 3 TOUCH GALA – Friday 26th August**

All year 3 will be attending this Gala Day – Could all notes be returned by this Friday please

**NETBALL GALA DAY – Tuesday 13th September**

Thank you to those parents who have already returned notes. If you are keen to coach your child’s team could you please ring the office and let Jacqui know what day you would like to come in – we have over 20 teams!

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

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