Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

Traditionally, each year our staff and students look forward to next week. Firstly, Book Week. Various class displays will be up for all to enjoy from Monday. Our annual Book Week Parade commences from approximately 9.15am on Tuesday morning. Another highlight is Year 6 reading to the younger children on the oval later that day. On Tuesday afternoon, teachers will share their favourite story/book with a class other than their own.

On Friday we celebrate Father’s Day. The P+F hosted BBQ Breakfast commences from 7.00am in the Parish Hall. Following breakfast, we invite all our Dads and Grandads to join us as we celebrate our Father’s Day Mass from 9.15am. After recess, our Dads Netball Team (volunteers needed) take on our Year 6 in the annual Dads vs Year 6 Netball match.

Your Prayers and Thoughts
Please keep the Lucciantonio family (Conor 3 Gold, Thomas 6 Green) in your thoughts and prayers. The boys’ great grandmother passed away last week. May your memories and Our Lord’s strength give you great courage during your time of loss.

We ask you to also keep the Sherrin family (Elly 2 Green, Rianna 5 Blue) in your thoughts and prayers. The girl’s grandmother passed away recently. We ask Our Lord to bless and protect you during this difficult time.

Swimming Program
In recent years the children in our school have been involved in swimming programs in Term 4. We found that the swimming resulted in a great amount of ‘lost time’. Including the travel involved, considerable chunks of learning time were being lost. Consequently for 2017, we will not be involved in any swimming programs. $74 will be credited to your next school fees account. If more favourable times become available at the swimming centres, we are open to resuming the swimming programs in future years.

Congratulations
Last Friday, our choir sang at the Catholic Schools Choral Day. They sang beautifully. Congratulations girls and boys. During a long day, your behaviour and attitude were excellent. You did a wonderful job representing our school. Special thanks to Mr Hochkins, Mrs Houston and Mrs Walker for their preparation and leadership.

Kind Regards,

K Williams
Kevin Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events
- 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
- Sock it to Poverty Day
  Wednesday
  7 September
- Kinder Excursion
  Friday
  9 September
- Summer Uniform commences
  Monday
  12 September

Catholic Schools Coral Day
From Our REC

Father’s Day Mass
A reminder that our Father’s Day Mass is next week, Friday 2nd September at 9.15am. We look forward to seeing many dads and families join us. We have our Father’s Day breakfast beforehand and afterwards, the annual dads verse Year 6 netball match (weather permitting).

Children are invited to send in a photo of themselves with their dad to their classroom teacher by next Wednesday 31st. These photos will be displayed in a class display that will then become part of the Gospel Procession.

We also ask for any dads who would like to walk in the procession at the start of Mass (dressed in their work clothes with their children also in 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. Please note that the Week 3 classes are this week and the Week 4 classes are next week. This may be different to some of the notes handed out by the parish.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held here at St Mary’s on 23rd October at 11.00am.

Volunteer’s Liturgy
On Wednesday 14th September (Week 9) student representatives from St Mary’s, St Brendan’s and St Brigid’s schools will come together with representatives from local volunteer organisations, to celebrate and thank the volunteers of the Central Coast. This year it is St Mary’s organising the event, which will be held in our church at 10.30am. Morning tea will be held afterwards in the hall. Please feel welcome to join us for the liturgy and morning tea, and invite any volunteers that you know to join us also.

Emma Sellars
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Just about all families and homes today have digital devices and technology that are internet connected. Smart phones, tablets, laptops, PC’s, gaming consoles, smart TV’s and even things like home security systems and car GPS all store and record information and are vulnerable to security risks when internet connected.

Not only the devices themselves but the way they are used, particularly by children, can invite risk into our lives.

There are some great websites such as Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner, “iParent” and “eSafety-For Women” which have extremely relevant and up to date information about the risks of a connected world and what we as parents/carers can do to protect our privacy and help our children deal with the technology today.

It is well worth taking a look at them and learning about the online risks and things such as parental controls, privacy and security settings, cyberbullying, stalking, trolling, balancing online time and social media.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

One way that children learn and develop their Social and Emotional skills is through play. Whether it be playing on their own or with other children or adults, children need play for healthy development. Importantly, play makes children feel good about themselves.

When children play it is a way for them to express and learn to manage their feelings, even if they are too young to have the language to talk about them. Playing with other children is a great opportunity for children to learn many of the important social skills they will need—patience, taking turns, sharing and working together are just some of the many things children learn through play.

Adolescents spending time in play with children, and we will hear our choir perform songs from their recent Central Coast Choral Festival.

The rest of the day’s events are just for the children with reading on the oval hosted by our Year 6 leaders. After lunch the teachers will visit classes and share their favourite story/book with the children.

As always, we look forward to celebrating the culmination of literacy and literature in our school.

Happy reading everyone!

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 a Catholic Schools Office requirement.

Lyn, Jacqui & Leesa

Something We’ve Noticed

After being inundated with very unflattering feedback, rest assured that the Principal will not be dressing up as Elsa for this year’s Book Week Parade.

Star Awards

Koby H
Alexander D
Penelope P
Myah L
Sipongo K
Evie M
Charli M
Ramone E
Kourtney F
Sienna C
Maree P
Shannon R
Mikaela M
Charlotte B
Zac W
Isabella B

Uniform Shop News

Only 3 more weeks until change-over to summer uniform.

Does your summer uniform still fit?

Laybys available.

***EXCITING NEWS***

New style hats now available in 3 different sizes.

UPF rating 50+. Fade resistant fabric.

Special introductory price offer $17 each.

Come in and take a look.

Once again the lost property bin is overflowing with uniform items as well as lunch boxes and drink bottles. As this is becoming a haven for bugs we can no longer leave items here for weeks on end. Lost property will be cleared each fortnight and any unlabelled items will be donated.

Please check for your child’s lost items.

P&F News

Father’s Day stall orders are due this Friday (August 26th).

Please return orders in time to avoid disappointment.

From Our Librarian

Australia: Story Country!
6 days to go until our annual Book Character Parade!
Is your costume ready yet?

Excitement is building around the school as we get ready to celebrate all things wonderful in literature. Teachers have lowered the code of silence about their costumes and are giving nothing away! But!...the kids are only too happy to share what the character they are dressing up for our Book Parade!!

Tuesday 30th August is our big day of celebration. Our day will start at 9:30 a.m. on the top playground where we will see a huge range of story book characters come to life!! Year 6 will open this year’s parade
From Our PE Teacher

AFL AFTERSCHOOL CLINIC

Now that winter sports are finished, the AFL are offering an afterschool program of fun football activities with heaps of free giveaways.

The program will be Monday afternoons straight afterschool on our oval.

A flyer will come home today with details.

Please keep your eye out for the flyer or contact the office at school.

CCC NETBALL

Thank you for all of the returned permission notes.

I appreciate all of the offers of assistance – please come in for training whenever you wish.

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

From Dawn to Dusk By Finlay Smith Year 4

Every day I saw them. Every day I watched them amble along the brick barrier that separated the well-trodden gravel road from the concrete path that wrapped around the beach. I would watch them each day from my bedroom window next to the timber and joinery warehouse. I saw their mouths move in time as if they were chanting to a song that only they knew. Sometimes, boys from my school would hurl insults and stones at them, but even when the rocks pierced their skin and the words pierced their heart, they carried on as if nothing had happened, chanting under their breath, throwing glances at us as if they knew something we didn’t.

I had only met them once. It was a mysterious and slightly eerie occasion, but despite this I do not regret it. I was out walking on the path along the beach, watching the way the rising sun lit the ocean whenever waves rose to break, when I heard footsteps behind me. I spun around, slightly startled. “Good morning”, said the girl at the end of the line, politely but still guardedly. “Err, hello”, I replied awkwardly. The leader of the line surveyed me mistrustingly, but riveted his gaze on the building across the road, obviously trying to evade communication. “Would you like to join us on our stroll?” the girl inquired. I was taken aback; why me? The question was so odd, so unexpected, that I wondered if she meant it. But, of course, I accepted her offer and wandered along the brick barrier two people from the front.

I suddenly noticed that I was the only one with shoes on. Feeling rather isolated knowing this, I asked them if we could stop while I took off my shoes. They all spun around to look at me, staring at me with wide, almost scared eyes. I felt as though they thought I was insane. They probably did, I thought privately. “NO”, the leader piped up. Whatever you do, don’t take off your shoes. If you do, you’ll be like us. You’ll be…” his voice trailed away. “Hush, Peter, you’ve said enough”, said the girl in front of the one that had invited me. “Too much, if you ask me”, grumbled the boy in front of me. We walked the full length of the barrier that day, but then the leader, Peter, shooed me off. “Come back another day!” yelled the girl who invited me first.

And I did. Every weekend, from dawn to dusk, I walked with them along the barrier. I never learnt their chant, and judging by their hostile looks when I started to ask, they didn’t want me to know. But at every other time, we were friends, and as long as I didn’t mention anything about taking off my shoes, we got along well. One thing that I had always wondered was what I would have learnt, what secrets I would keep, if I had taken off my shoes.