Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

On Friday we celebrate World Teachers’ Day. If we cast our minds back to Our Lord’s time, we see that Jesus was a teacher. Jesus provides an excellent example as a teacher as He was strong in both words and actions. Jesus genuinely cared for children and often supported a message He had to give by sharing a story. Jesus was a great listener, looked out for the oppressed, was just and fair and set high standards …….. all of which are the traits of a good teacher.

We are blessed with the teachers at St Mary’s. Teachers who are genuine in their pastoral concern for your child, teachers who “go the extra mile” to make a connection with your child, teachers who are passionate about your child’s learning, teachers who devote many invisible hours ensuring your child’s opportunities in their class are of the highest quality, teachers who converse with each other to find another strategy to help your child, teachers who endeavour to help your child strive to be the best person they can be.

Our liturgy commences at 10.15am in our Church. You are most welcome to join us.

Awards Ceremony

The details for our annual Awards Ceremony are as follows: 10.00am Recess, 10.30am K-2 Awards (in each classroom), 11.00am K-6 Awards Ceremony in our Church. Besides the individual class awards, highlights of the ceremony include the STAR award recipient for each class, the Catholic Values Award, the Community Spirit Award with the conclusion being the naming of our Student Parliament and 2017 School Captains.

Our Awards Ceremony is on Wednesday 14 December.

Kinder Transition 4

Our final Kinder Transition session will be held on Wednesday 30 November. At this session, the children will be introduced to their Kinder teacher and their Year 6 buddy. They will then enjoy an hour together in their new classroom. Kinder Transition 4 will be held in the Church. We ask you to gather outside the Church entrance at 9.15am.

School Captains’ Speeches

Our 2017 Student Parliament delivered their School Captains’ speeches yesterday. The students were articulate, enthusiastic and their speeches reflected many wonderful leadership qualities. All Years 2-6 and our staff have now cast their vote. Any of the students would be worthy of being our School Captains. Well spoken girls and boys.

Cambodia Mufti Day

To support Mrs Bain’s trip to Cambodia late in December, we are having a Mufti Day on Friday 2nd December. All children are asked to bring a gold coin. The money raised will help purchase some bikes for the local community.

Congratulations Finlay

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, skills-based assessment program and over 6 300 schools from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate. It is organised by the University of NSW. We congratulate Finlay S (4 Gold) on an outstanding academic achievement. Finlay received the highest mark in the Year 4 English competition. She will be awarded with the ICAS English Medal at the UNSW on Friday afternoon. Congratulations Finlay! An amazing achievement!

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams

Principal
World Teachers’ Day
This Friday 25th November, we celebrate the wonderful teachers who make up our school and say thank you to them for the nurturing support, humour and genuine dedication they provide daily. A huge thank you to Catherine Hay who is coordinating the liturgy, the class parents and other parent volunteers who are also helping to organise this. The liturgy will be held in the church at 10.15am. Parents, we would love for you to join us as we celebrate the gift of teachers.

Advent Liturgies
This week we begin our Advent Liturgies. These will be held every Thursday afternoon for the remaining weeks of the year at 1.50pm in the church.
This Thursday 24th November Kinder and Year 2 will lead our liturgy.
Year 1 and Year 3 will lead our Week Two liturgy on Thursday 1st December,
Year 4 will lead our Week Three liturgy on Thursday 8th December and Year 5 will lead our Week 4 liturgy on Thursday 15th December.
We hope you can join us as we prepare for the Lord this Advent Season.

Christmas Appeal
A huge thank you to the many children and families who have already brought in items for our Christmas Hampers. We are still collecting items for those children who have not yet brought their items in. As always, we thank our community for their generosity and compassion.

Thanksgiving Mass
Year 6 are currently preparing for our final school mass for 2016, our Thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Friday December 9th (Week 9) at 9.15am. This is a particularly special mass and I encourage all members of our school community to attend. It’s at this mass we wish the class of 2016 well, as we celebrate the Eucharist together one final time as a St Mary’s community. Please add this date to your diary.

Liz Hartge
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

CLASS PARENTS 2017—Thank you to those parents who have already responded. We are still in need of Class Parents for our Stage 1 classes, Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from parents to be on our Class Parent Team for next year. If you would like to volunteer to be a point of contact with and for other parents and would like to help out your child’s class teacher whilst contributing to the greater good of our school then please complete the slip below and return it to the school office by Friday November 25th. The Class Parent Team meets with Mr Williams once a term and contributes positively at both class and whole school levels. This is one of the many ways you can become more involved and enjoy 2017 with other parents who like to help our school. We require one parent per class.
We hope to have the 2017 Class Parent Team finalised and listed in the newsletter in early December.

Expression of Interest - Class Parent Team 2017
I would like to express interest in joining the Class Parent Team next year.
My Child/ren will be in: (Please circle) Kinder Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5 Year 6.
My name is (Please Print)__________________________
Best contact phone number________________________ Signed__________________________
KidsMatter

An important part of building positive relationships is being able to learn the value of others and develop empathy. Learning to see another person’s point of view is important for getting along with others, building friendships and when dealing with conflict.

Empathising with another person means being able to “walk in their shoes”. It means being able to recognise and value their feelings and needs, even though they may be different from your own. Some children find it easy to tune in to feelings, while others need more guidance to learn empathetic skills. The examples shown by the important adults around them have a big influence on children’s empathy.

All children are different and just as with adults, conflict with others will arise from time to time. Having the social and emotional skills to be able to take a moment to consider the thoughts and actions of others from their point of view before responding, rather than simply reacting immediately, is a sign of emotional maturity which will help children deal with differences and conflict in a more positive, rational way. These skills develop over time, with practice and guidance from the adults around them.

Please use the link Learning to Value Others, for more information and tips from the KidsMatter website, on how to develop empathetic skills and understanding in children.

From Our Office

All 2016 school fees should now be paid in full. If you have any overdue fees please attend to payment immediately or contact the office to discuss finalising your payments.

Reminder: Family Registration Forms are now overdue. Both parents must sign the back of the form for it to be valid. The information on this form is used to apply sibling discounts for 2017. No discounts will be applied unless a completed form is received.

Thank you
Julie, Jacqui & Leesa
Canteen News
Please note that due to industrial action at the manufacturing facility Cheese & Bacon Pizza Singles are temporarily out of stock. Ham & Pineapple are still available at the moment. Thank you.
Donna Falzon

School Banking
The last day for ordering school banking rewards this year will be Monday 5th December. This will also be the last banking day for 2016. The Bush Fan is now out of stock. We apologise for any student that may be disappointed. The following rewards are still currently available though:

- Bag Tag
- Glow Worm
- 2015 (Outer Space) Money Box
- 2015 ET DVD

Please endeavour to return your reward requests and tokens in time to avoid disappointment.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
you’re invited to a parent spirituality day on......
Date: Tuesday 6th of December
Time: 9am coffee 9.30 start - 2pm
Location: Catherine Hill Bay Surf Club
Together in this time of Advent we will share mindfulness, meditative prayer, good food & great company. It will also be an opportunity for the Catholic Schools Office Mission Team to share with parents the exciting new possibilities for families in 2017.

Please R.S.V.P: sallyanne.butei@dBB.catholic.edu.au

We have a number of parents/ carers attending the Spirituality Day and if enough people are interested I am looking to organise a car pool. Please let me know if you would be willing to drive others or are in need of transport to attend.
If you are interested in attending the Spirituality Day you can RSVP via the following link, Spirituality Day by Friday Nov 25th.
Donna Falzon