Canteen News 

Please note that this FRIDAY the 9th is the LAST DAY for lunch orders this year. The canteen will be open for snacks and ice blocks ONLY next week. Stock will be run out this week so NO LUNCH ORDERS NEXT WEEK. Thank you to the many parents/carers, grandparents who have helped in canteen this year. We couldn’t have a canteen service without your generous support. Donna Falzon

From Our P E Teacher

Congratulations Bailey Laubitz who has made the Diocesan Cricket Team as well as Joe Mertlino and Grace Heinemann who have made the Diocesan Tennis Team. These students will be competing in Newcastle in Week 2 next year against students from Catholic Schools in Polding (northern NSW) in an effort to make a Polding Team which will later compete in a state competition.

THANK YOU PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

To all the wonderful parents and grandparents of St Mary’s students, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued assistance with sport inside and outside of our school. I have never seen the level of involvement at any other school. I am so lucky to experience parents who are generous with their time and expertise and who will always have a go at any job in order that children can benefit and have fun and learn. Merry Christmas and a restful holiday to all.

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2017 ready for our St Mary’s swimming on 20th February!

CAMBODIA MUTOFI

Another thank you for the wonderful support that will lead to over $700 being sent over to Volunteer Building Cambodia. My family has funded the building of a house and essential supplies for a family. St Mary’s will be helping families in the village where we will be building – purchasing rice, essentials, bikes and tools.

Mission Statement

Volunteer Building Cambodia (VBC) aims to improve the living conditions of families in need in rural areas by providing them with wells, toilets and safe, dry housing. They build traditional wooden Khmer-style houses in rural Cambodia. Currently they are primarily working in one commune which consists of nine different villages about 45 minutes outside of the main Siem Reap town. The families they work with are generally on the lowest rung of the poverty ladder and include widows/widowers with children barely able to provide themselves with one meal a day of rice. They access the poorest families with the help of local Social Workers and through Village and Commune Chiefs. VBC work closely with other local NGOs and accept individually-referred families after interviewing them and making sure they fit VBC criteria.

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

The simplest way

... to make a Christmas difference

Get creative these holidays with a fun and easy recipe to raise funds for your Christmas appeal. This recipe is simple to make and a real Christmas hit.

Get creative this Christmas with a festive recipe that you can share with your family and friends. The perfect way to celebrate the holiday season and raise funds at the same time.

Ingredients:
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup of vegetable oil
- 1 tsp of vanilla extract
- 1 tsp of baking powder

Instructions:
1. Preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Add the egg, oil, and vanilla extract to the bowl and mix well.
4. Pour the mixture into a greased baking dish.
5. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve warm with a cup of tea or coffee for a delicious Christmas treat!

St Mary’s parents Tracey, Kate, grandmother Gloria and our ACD Brittany enjoying yesterday’s Spirituality Day at Catherine Hill Bay.

Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

On Friday, you will receive your child(ren)’s Semester 2 Report. Our teachers have met with grade partners, collaboratively created a range of assessments, met again to discuss the results, examined writing samples together to establish consistency across each grade, all in order to produce a Report that is truly reflective of your child’s achievements.

Please take the time to praise your child on their efforts.

Did You Know?

Did you know that if your child averages 5 days absence per term, that during the course of their schooling, they will have missed a whole year and a term of school? I have yet to meet a child who can afford to miss so much time off school.

Year 6 Graduation

A reminder that the Year 6 Graduation at Halekulani is an alcohol free event. Year 12 Graduations and all junior sporting events do not permit alcohol to be consumed and we believe that it is also an appropriate action for our school to take. I appreciate your support and understanding in this matter.

Your Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep the Slattery family (Brodie 4 Gold) in your thoughts and prayers. Brodie’s grandfather passed away recently. May your treasured memories and Our Lord’s strength bring you great comfort in your time of need.

Volunteers’ Morning Tea

As a simple sign of expressing our thanks to the many parent volunteers who have helped our school during the school year, we invite you to our Thank You Morning Tea. It will be held in the staffroom immediately after our Thanksgiving Mass on Friday 9th December.

Local Parking

Please be mindful of parking legally around our school. I keep hearing of too many ‘near misses’ in which a child is close to being hit by a car. In our carpark, reverse parking is mandatory and in Pandora Parade, please be wary of crossing pedestrians and where you park.

Thank You Class Parents

We thank the Class Parents of 2016 who generously helped by being a source of communication and practical help to our school.

2017 Calendar

Our Term 1, 2017 Calendar is on our school’s website. Click on News and Events and then Letters, Notes, Timetables.

Kind Regards,
Kevin Williams
Principal

Mrs Perry, Lachlan, Mr Whiteford, Penelope & Mr Williams at last week’s Rotary Citizenship Awards

St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Toukley
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
Your Child’s Report

Term 4 Week 9
7 December 2016
From Our REC

Thanksgiving Mass
Our Year 6 are currently preparing for our final school mass for 2016, our Thanksgiving Mass. This will be held this Friday, December 9th 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. We look forward to seeing many of our families present.

Advent Liturgies
This week sees Year 4 running our Advent Liturgy. This will be held in the church tomorrow at 1.50pm. We invite you to please join us.

Christmas Carols
Our annual Christmas Carols evening is here once again. An invitation went home last week inviting all parents and grandparents to come along on Monday December 12th and join in as we sing some of our favourite Christmas carols. Each grade will sing two carols and choir will also feature. We look forward to seeing you all there for a fantastic evening.

Christmas Eve Mass
With the Season of Advent here, soon it will be Christmas. Each year parents help to prepare parts of our parish’s Christmas Eve Mass. This is held at 6.00pm at St Mary’s. I am currently looking for some parents to volunteer their time to work in a team to help prepare the mass, practice the children once or twice and attend Mass on Christmas Eve to help. If you are interested in helping, please fill in the note that went home with your child last Friday. Alternatively, if your family will be attending Christmas Eve Mass here at St Mary’s Parish and your child would like a part in the mass (there are both reading and non-reading parts available) please also fill in the note (children K-6 welcome). Notes are available at the office if needed.

Liz Hartge
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

KidsMatter
KidsMatter have just sent out their latest e-newsletter and it contains some great information for parents/carers around Cybersafety and children’s mental health. Nowadays even Primary School children are very connected to the digital world with multiple devices such as phones, tablets, ipods and game consoles.

While for most children this connectivity is a positive experience and an opportunity for learning, socialising and fun, for others it can be prove to be quite a confronting or negative experience. Cyberbullying, viewing inappropriate content and even the amount of time spent online can affect how children see themselves and the world, their patterns of thought, their sleeping habits and their ability to put things into perspective.

Along with what children view and experience, how they behave online is also very important. Being able to see how their actions impact on others (what they say and do online has real consequences), having a good understanding of the permanence of their digital footprint (immediately and into their future), setting boundaries to support safe engagement in online activity and knowing what to do if problems arise are important for children to use technology in positive ways.

The KidsMatter e-newsletter covers the topics Cybersafety and Children’s Mental Health, Safeguarding Children’s Mental Health Online, Empowering Children to Use Technology Positively and Resources to Support Children’s Mental Health in the Digital Age. You can sign up to receive the KidsMatter e-newsletters directly to you via the KidsMatter website or use the link, KidsMatter e-newsletter to see the most recent publications. It is well worth taking a look.

Year 2 Parents
Year 3 - 2017 - You will need to apply for a new travel pass for children progressing from Year 2 2016 to Year 3 2017. To apply for a SYS travel pass visit Travel Pass 2017

Opal Cards
Busways has requested that you register your child for an Opal card even if you don’t intend to use the bus as a mode of transport. This allows Busways to know the needs of the area better and may result in better services.

Uniform Shop News
The Uniform Shop will be open every morning 8.30am to 9.45am until Friday 16th December. I will be returning Friday 27th January 2017 10.00am to 2.00pm and Monday 30th January 2017 (MND Day) from 9.15am to 3.00pm. I would like to thank Kristie Clemow, Kate Towell, Tammy Cliff, Kelly Rodney, Mel Lewis & Kristina Sprohar for assisting in the uniform shop during the Kindy transition days. Your help is appreciated. For any uniform shop Enquiries please text or call Leesa on 0432 584 683.

From Our Family Liaison Officer

Yesterday’s Parent Spirituality Day at Catherine Hill Bay was a relaxed, calming day and a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our role as parents/carers and what this time of year should really be about.

I’d like to share with you a very quick video we watched yesterday, Advent in 2 Minutes, as a reminder of what Advent is really about and how we can connect back with our families and faith. The children learn all about Advent and perhaps sharing this and talking about it with them is a way to be engaged in their learning and faith.

A reminder that the Thank You morning tea for all the wonderful parent/carer volunteers in our school is this Friday, Dec 9th, in the Staffroom following our Thanksgiving Mass. The commitment and generosity of our parent/carer community is a vital part of what makes our school the wonderful place it is and the morning tea is the staff’s way of thanking you for all that you contribute to St Mary’s.

Donna Falcon
Family Liaison Officer

From Our Office

School Fees
You should now have received your end of year statement. Thank you to all families that have finalised their school fees and to those that have honoured their payment arrangement.

You will notice that the 2016 swimming fees have now been credited to your account. If your account is now in credit this credit will roll over and you will see it in your first statement for 2017. For leaving families with a credit balance, a form will be sent home this week. Can you please complete and return in order for the credit to be paid into your nominated bank account.

Thank you,
Julie, Jacqui & Leesa