Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

It is our last week with our wonderful Year 6. Thank you Year 6 for being yourselves. Thank you for the positive outlook that you have repeatedly shown. Thank you for the excellent student leadership you have all demonstrated. You have been wonderful role models for the younger children in our school. It’s been easy for me to say, “Look at the tremendous example Year 6 are displaying.”

Without doubt, as our 2016 Year 6 cohort, we are immensely proud of the good people that you are and we are immensely proud of your fine efforts and achievements. Congratulations Year 6!

Farewell Leaving Families

The following families finish their partnership with our school at the year’s end. We thank them for trusting our school to help in the formation of their child: Andrews, Boyce, Buchanan, Buonaventura, Cross, Cutajar, Desisto, Dooner, Geason, Green, Hancock, Hassel, Hogan, Hubbard, Laucht-Bridge, Lucciantonio, Maguire, Maroney, Nakhoul, Parker, Robins, Roome, Salkeld, Taylor, Tohme, Umbach, Walker, Webster, Whitbread, Williams, Remiali & Brown.

Major Awards Recipients

Congratulations to all our 2016 award recipients. Major award recipients included:

**Catholic Values Award:** Joshua B

**Community Spirit Award:** Maddison S


Our School Captains for 2017 are: Georgia A, Tahlia H, Owen H & Tanner J.

**2017 Calendar**

Our Term 1, 2017 Calendar is on our school’s website. Click on News and Events and then Letters, Notes, Timetables.
Advent Liturgies
Our final Advent Liturgy will be held tomorrow in the Church at 1.50pm. This will be run by Year 5. Please join us for our last liturgy of the year.

Christmas Eve Mass
With the Season of Advent here, soon it will be Christmas. A note went home two weeks ago asking for volunteers for the Christmas Eve Mass. Thank you to all the parents and children who have volunteered for this. A note regarding a rehearsal time and date will go home either today or tomorrow.

From Our REC

Merry Christmas
Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas full of fun and laughter. I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you all on our return in January. Merry Christmas!

Liz Hartge
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Family Liaison Officer

When you think back to the beginning of the year it is amazing to see the progress that the children have made. Our Kinder students have made huge strides both academically and socially and now seem so grown up. For the parents of our Year 6 students it’s amazing to think that they are about to head off to High School and enter the teenage years when it only seemed like yesterday they were lining up for their first day of Kinder, full of excitement and looking so tiny with their oversized backpacks.

The next six weeks will fly by so please take the time to enjoy the summer break and spend quality time with the kids. Please keep in mind though that just because they aren’t at school that doesn’t mean that children stop learning. Every day will provide opportunities for children to learn more about the world around them, build resilience and social skills and even consolidate academic skills like maths and reading. That doesn’t mean explicit teaching at home but all the incidental learning that comes from playing board games, cooking, writing Christmas cards, reading magazines, working out what they can buy with their Christmas money, asking lots of questions and parents taking the time to answer them.

Donna Falzon
Thank you to the many parents who volunteered their services to be a Class Parent for 2017. Unfortunately we couldn’t use everyone who returned the form but we appreciate your willingness to put yourselves forward and to be engaged with the school.

Kinder Gold - Tanya Saunders
Kinder Green - Kate Toweel
Kinder Blue - Emma Steengraver
1 Gold - Kristie Clemow
1 Green - Alison O’Brien
1 Blue - Sarah Boulton
2 Gold - Lisa Wrightson
2 Green - Chris Burns
2 Blue - Tracey Gillis-Sinclair
3 Gold - Leesa Sternbeck
3 Green - Terry Page
3 Blue - Cathy Brown
4 Gold - Tammy Cross
4 Green - Donna Woodleigh
4 Blue - Jasmine Thomas
5 Gold - Naomi Hepplewhite
5 Green - Amy Szypica
5 Blue - Jenny Ippolito
6 Gold - Jess Hay
6 Green - Teena Irvine
Aspect - Lisa Redden

A big thank you to the Class Parent Team of 2016 – your generosity, commitment and the many quiet ways that you keep things humming around here are noticed and very much appreciated.

We look forward to working with the new Class Parent Team next year.

Star Awards
Koby  H
Nate  O
Zali  M
Ava  G
Theresa D
Darcy S
Tyson S
Clayton B
Mia  P
Gabrielle S
Suzie  B
Eve  M
Jasmyn S
Shontalia D
Shannon R
Jasmine H
Annabelle B
Thomas L
Mackenzie F

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 SSTS 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 tomorrow and Friday morning 8.15am till 9.45am. I will be returning Friday 27th January 2017 10.00am till 2.00pm and Monday 30th January 2017 (MAI Day) from 8.15am till 3.00pm.

For any uniform shop enquiries please text or call Leesa on 0432 584 683.

From Our Office
We would like to wish all of our beautiful children and their families are very Merry Xmas and a safe, healthy & relaxing new year. See you all ready for another fantastic school year in 2017.

Julie, Jacqui & Leesa