



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 1
30 January 2019



Welcome

Upcoming Events

- *Kinders First Day*
Monday
4 February
- *Year 6 Sacred Space*
1.50pm
Thursday
7 Feb
- *Welcome Evening-
Meet the Teacher*
5.30pm
Wednesday
13 February
- *Opening School
Mass*
9.15am
Friday
15 February
- *Swimming Carnival*
Monday
18 February
- *Enrolment for
Sacrament of
Reconciliation*
3.30pm or 7.00pm
Thursday
21 February
- *Staff Development
Day*
Monday
4 March
- *Staff Development
Day*
Tuesday
5 March
- *School Cross
Country Jenny
Dixon Reserve*
Friday
8 March

All relevant school notes and letters are posted on our website. Please click [here](#) to access our school's website.

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

Welcome to the 2019 school year. I trust that the brilliant holiday weather followed you wherever you ventured. As we begin our school year, I wish you a wonderful 2019, with good health for your family and friends.

We arrive at school each day ready to serve your children. We want them to be great, young Australians. We want them to be polite, respectful, positive and resilient children. We want them to learn. We will do everything within our means to help every child be at grade level or higher with their learning. In all of this, we invite you to partner with us. It is when the home-school partnership is open and based on deep trust, that we can do wonderful things in helping your child.

We offer a very warm welcome to the new families in our school and especially our new Kinder students. May the time we share together form wonderful memories for you into the future.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome the following teachers to our school: Mrs Madeline Martin, Miss Megan York and Mrs Danielle Lee. We trust that your time with us will be filled with considerable learning and many friendships.

Mrs Lisa Johnson is taking 12 months leave from our school as she teaches in *The Hive* at St Brendan's during 2019.

Meet the Teacher Evening

On Wednesday 13th February we are hosting a Welcome Evening ("Meet the Teacher"). It is for all families and is a chance to meet your child's teacher in an informal, relaxed environment. Families are asked to bring along a picnic-style dinner to enjoy on the oval (much like the Christmas Carols) with the event beginning at 5.30pm and concluding at 7.00pm. A more detailed flyer will be sent home on Friday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Enrolment sessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are at 3.30pm and 7.00pm (you only need to attend one) on Thursday 21st February. Reconciliation is open to children in Year 3 and above. The parish led meetings are in the Church.

Opening School Mass

Please join us as we celebrate the start of the school year with our Opening School Mass at 9.15am, Friday 15th February. Our School Captains, Student Parliament and Sports Captains will be inducted during this Mass.

Staff Development Days for 2019

During the course of 2019 our school is permitted 6 Staff Development Days designated for professional learning. On these days, children do not attend school. The first two of these days have passed (29th and 30th January). The last two of these days are 19th and 20th December (all students finish on Wednesday 18th December).

We intend to dedicate the remaining two days to our teachers undertaking the University of NSW GERRIC's **Mini Certificate of Gifted Education** (Mini-COGE). The Mini-COGE offers teachers a thorough overview of definitions and models of giftedness and talent, identification of gifted children, and practical guidelines on how to plan differentiated units of work for classroom delivery. It will supplement the work we do with high ability students beautifully.

Consequently, **the final two Staff Development Days will be on Monday and Tuesday, 4th and 5th March (Week 6)**. I appreciate the efforts you make to reorganise care for your children on these days.

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

From Our REC

Parish Details

Ph. 8379 1730
www.toukley.dbb.org.au

Mass Times

Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 7.30am
9.00am
6.00pm

Father Tiziano *Parish Priest*
Father Vince *Assistant Priest*
Deacon Paul

Welcome to the 2019 School Year! I hope you had a relaxing and joyful Christmas and New Year Season. I am here to support families in their faith development, so if you have any questions regarding Masses, making Sacraments, connecting with the parish or anything else regarding the religious life of our school, please give me a call.

Opening School Mass

Our K-6 Opening School Mass is on **Friday 15th February**. We welcome parents, grandparents and new families to celebrate our Opening Mass for 2019 with us in the church. Mass begins at 9.15am.

Sacramental Program

The Sacramental Program includes children in Year 2 (Confirmation), Year 3 (Reconciliation) and Year 4 (Holy Communion), as well as children in older grades who may have previously missed one of the Sacraments.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office on 8379 1730.

Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on March 6th. The older children will be coming together for Mass while the younger children will participate in a Liturgy. Times will be confirmed at a later date. Parents, we invite you to both of these occasions.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is Week 6 (March 4th - March 8th) of this term. Upcoming newsletters will include more details about this.

Liz Hartge
Religious Education Coordinator



From Our Family Liaison Officer

Welcome back to the new school year. As Family Liaison Officer it is my role to support all families within our school. That may be by offering a listening ear, providing practical support when needed, referrals to outside agencies and information regarding school, parenting, childhood development, etc.

Sometimes just having someone to chat to confidentially about concerns you may have regarding things such as children starting school, children's behaviour, family breakdown and how it affects children, anxiety, etc can help ease a person's mind. I am here to provide reassurance about some of the

practicalities of school routine and offer strategies on how to be engaged with your children's learning to maximise their achievements and wellbeing. Particularly for our new parents/ carers, please remember that there is no such thing as a silly question and if there are things you may be unsure of please don't hesitate to ask.

Our aim is to develop a strong partnership between all of the parents/ carers and staff to maximise each child's learning and wellbeing. Please feel free to contact me, Monday to Friday, in person or by phone.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

KidsMatter

St Mary's is proud to be a KidsMatter school since being part of the original pilot programme in 2007. For those families new to St Mary's, KidsMatter is an Australian mental health and wellbeing initiative set in primary schools and early childhood centres.

Funded by the Australian Government and beyondblue it is a partnership between education and the health sector bringing together all of the most important people in children's lives.

We will regularly have links to KidsMatter articles relevant to school and family life in the newsletter and you can also visit the website at any time, using this link, [KidsMatter](http://www.kidsmatter.org.au). From here

you can also register for regular electronic newsletters.

Just some of the topics we will be looking at over the year include resilience, friendship skills, positive thinking, understanding feelings and emotions, relationships and social and emotional learning.

Social and Emotional Learning, or SEL, is all about learning how to manage feelings, manage friendships and solve problems. Developing positive social and emotional skills to deal with life's ups and downs is a critical factor in children's wellbeing and learning. Children's time at school is a period of great development in SEL as they learn to navigate friendships, deal with challenges and build confidence as they develop skills.

From Our Librarian

DO YOU HAVE A SPARE 20 MINUTES EACH DAY?

Twenty minutes is all it takes for parents to help their children become competent, independent readers. Understandably family life is busy but we can never underestimate the power of reading as an essential life skill.

Research has shown the following statistics.



Beginning readers who are learning to read may not be reading the same volume as independent readers. They read much more slowly than experienced readers. Guided readers that are sent home are certainly limited in their amount of text and vocabulary. But their purpose is to support and reinforce the learning-to-read process that is happening each day at school. It is also vital that blossoming readers also hear fluent reading from adults each day. Parents who read to their child every day reinforce fluency and expression, build vocabulary and model the importance and value of reading.

Readers at all stages of independence across the grades definitely need 20 minutes a day. Teachers will send home readers and your child will borrow library books each week to support our compulsory reading homework. School readers, library books and other books read must be recorded in your child's home reading log. 20 minutes of uninterrupted, distraction-free time for every family is all it takes. Every child's future is worth 20 minutes!

Today a READER, Tomorrow a LEADER!
Margaret Fuller

Happy reading everyone
Miss Gray

Canteen News

Canteen is **CLOSED**
on Tuesdays.
No lunch orders.

The current pricelist and
Term 1 canteen roster are
both available on the St
Mary's website and can be
accessed at any time [here](#).

Thank you
Donna Falzon

Kids Club OOSH Care

Before School Care:

6.30am—9.00am

After School Care:

3.00pm—6.00pm

Vacation Care:

7.00am—6.00pm

Permanent and casual
places available.

CCR Approved

Enquiries call Tania Wilson
0417 416 678

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McDonalds Tennis Academy Ray St. Toukley 4333 3380

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- Tennis Australia "Hot Shots" Program
- Junior Squads : Junior Comps
- Private and Semi-private lessons
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You're Gonna Love it!



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