

Student Safety

Upcoming Events

- **"Meet the Teacher" Evening**
5.30pm
Wednesday
19 February
- **Enrolment for Sacrament of Reconciliation**
3.30pm or 7.00pm
Thursday
20 February
- **CCC Swimming**
Monday
24 February
- **Ash Wednesday Mass**
9.15am
Wednesday
26 February
- **Engaging Adolescents Parent Program**
9.30-11.30am
Monday
2 March
- **School Cross Country**
Jenny Dixon Reserve
Friday
6 March
- **St Mary's Playgroup**
9.15am
Tuesday
10 March
- **School Tour**
9.00am
Wednesday
11 March

St Mary's Catholic School Community,

Over the past 12 months we have had a dramatic increase in the number of children riding to school on their bikes. Sometimes children are noticed racing their bikes against each other. Sometimes we hear of children randomly crossing Main Road at various locations (not at the lights). Sometimes the children are observed not watching closely for oncoming cars. Sometimes children take different routes home. Please talk to your child about the need to take great care when riding their bike.

Another recent trend is for children (some very young) to cross at the lights and meet a parent around the corner (e.g. Brisbane St). At times children have been left waiting by themselves for their 'running late' parent. Please don't expose your child to any unnecessary risks.

"Meet the Teacher" Evening

Come along and meet your child's teacher. This evening commencing from 5.30pm on our school's oval. Bring a blanket and/or chairs and some food and a drink.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The enrolment sessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are at 3.30pm or 7.00pm on Thursday 20th February in our Church.

Farewell Deacon Paul

After serving our parish for 3 years, Deacon Paul Simmons is leaving to begin a new ministry at OLR, The Entrance Parish. We thank Deacon Paul for his tireless efforts in supporting our priests serve the good people of Toukley/Lake Munmorah.

Congratulations

We congratulate all children from Years 2—6 whose exemplary efforts, behaviour and attitude were clear for all to see at Monday's Swimming Carnival. There was a wonderful atmosphere at the pool. Great work girls and boys! It was a fun day.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Bain for meticulously organising such an active, participatory and engaging day for all of us. Thanks also to the many parent helpers whose efforts ensured the Carnival was a success. Special thanks to the teachers and staff who braved the rain so that we could keep things moving outside. A great team effort.

Court Orders

If you have Court Orders relating to the custody of your children, have you provided the most recent copy to our school?

Ash Wednesday Mass

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. We celebrate it with Mass at 9.15am on Wednesday 26th February. You are most welcome to join us.

School Cross Country

A highlight of Term 1 is our school's Cross Country. It is to be held at Jenny Dixon Reserve on Friday 6th March. All children in Kinder to Year 6 will participate. We are asking for many parent helpers to please assist us in walking the children up to Jenny Dixon. It is a fun morning. You are very welcome to join us.

Engaging Adolescents Course

An excellent 4 sessions course that helps build parents skills for resolving teenage/preteen behaviour problems (led by an engaging, positive presenter). Starting 2nd March (also 9th, 16th and 23rd) from 9.30—11.30am.

Playgroup

The first of our Playgroup sessions for children enrolling at our school for Kinder 2021 will be held at 9.15am in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 10th March.

Kind regards,

K. Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal



Parish Details

Ph. 8379 1730

Email. toukleyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Mass Times

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 7.30am

9.00am

6.00pm

Father Tomy *Parish Priest*

Father Baby *Parish Priest*

Deacon Paul

Merit Awards

Archie W

Harper B

Parker M

Lillian A

Archie G

Siaosi M

Sasha R

Willow L

Mya C

Tyde A

Marley B

Jackson Q

Jack C

Grace B

Clive Z

Cochella O

Ezri D

Harry P

Aila K

Coco T

Koby D

Elise C

Oscar L

Matilda S

Kingston K

Thomas B

Ellie B

Levi J

Nova B

Myah L

Chelsea F

Hudson D

Dakota L

Jackson J

Charlie T

Halle O

Clayton B

Something We've Noticed

At last Friday's Opening School Mass our senior student leaders (Year 6) proudly recited their pledge as they formally promised to model a wonderful example for the younger children. We're excited by the leadership potential of this cohort of Year 6 students.

From Our REC

Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th. We will come together for Mass at 9.15am to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Parents and carers, we invite you to join us.

Sacramental Program

The enrolment sessions for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are this week. Please attend one of the following, if you intend on your child making this sacrament. This is for children in Year 3 or children in Year 4, 5 or 6 who have not already made this sacrament:

St Brendan's Mass Centre Lake

Munmorah: Wednesday 19th February 2019, 3.30pm

St Mary's Parish Centre Toukley: Thursday 20th February 2019, 3.30pm

St Mary's Parish Centre Toukley: Thursday 20th February 2019, 7.00pm

More information will be provided at the enrolment sessions.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is Week 6

(March 2nd - March 6th) of this term.

Upcoming newsletters will include more details about this.

Liz Hartge

Religious Education Coordinator



From Our Librarian

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT BOOK

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body
Sir Richard Steele

Have you found 20 minutes in each day to listen to your child read? 2020 is a brand new year to catch the reading bug!!! Many parents ask what sorts of books should my child read? The text in a book needs to have the right amount of challenge for children to feel successful when reading. Sometimes we like the look of a book when we see it's cover but when we open it up to read we find it is not ready for us yet. In the Library we learn to use the Five Finger Test. Here is a diagram that you can also follow at home.

And why are books that are easy to read especially valuable for reading at home? When children are confident readers their reading sounds phrased and fluent. They flow smoothly across the text. Easy reading texts reinforce fluency and then allow children to experiment with expression and characterization. Don't be worried if your child chooses an old favourite or an easy-to-read book. Their reading and comprehension skills are being reinforced.

Five Finger Test

1. Open the book in the middle.
2. Whisper read the page to yourself.
3. Put up one finger for each word you don't know.



Happy reading everyone
Miss Gray
Librarian

A Spotlight on Year 4



Canteen News

We are still in desperate need for volunteers to assist in the canteen, particularly Thursdays and Fridays. The children love to see mum, dad or a grandparent helping out. Just volunteering once a month can make such a difference. Please let the office know if you can help. Thanking you in advance. Donna & Janet

A friendly reminder that the school canteen is not open on Tuesdays.

Star Awards

Jonah R
Ebony B
Mila C
Dali M
Flynn R
Rhys M
Mia N
Isabella B
Tessa G
Rhani L
Lillian D
Elizabeth C
Willow F
Chloe S
Sumira D
Zali M
Joey T
Josephine R
Vasiliki P
Bede B

From The Office

A friendly reminder that all photo permission notes need to be sent back to school by this Friday 21st February. If you wish for your child's photo not to be published in our school newsletter, could you please still send the note back signed with NO PHOTOS PLEASE. If you need another note you can download a copy from the school's website.

Thank you
Jacqui, Leesa & Julie

From Our PE Teacher

After School Cricket Program

We're excited to announce that St Mary's Catholic School is offering a 6 week afterschool cricket program on the school oval for all students from Kindergarten through to Year 6. Whether you are new to the sport or you have played before we would like to welcome your child to participate.

Each child will learn how to bowl, bat, catch and throw and participate in a fun filled cricket program with a focus on skill and game-based activities. Every participant will receive a pack including a draw string bag, ball, drink bottle & World Cup hat.

Program Details- 70 minute sessions (3.20pm till 4.30pm)

Dates- Commencing on **Wednesday 4th March** and continuing every Wednesday afternoon for 6 consecutive weeks on the school oval.

Cost- \$40 for each participant.

Children to wear runners, a cap/hat and bring a drink bottle.

To register, click on this link <https://playreg.cricket.com.au/pages/noauth/programs/signup.aspx?id=61832&type=2020&prodid=61453&save=0&entityid=30368> or visit playcricket.com.au and search for Toukley (without entering an age).

ST MARY'S SWIMMING CARNIVAL - BLUE WINS

What a spectacular day we had on Monday! The weather was a bit miserable unlike the behaviour, effort and sportsmanship of every child at St Mary's School. Every child gave their best whether it was 10m, 20m, 50m or novelty races. Special mention to Bede, Mav, Jayden and Logan who gave absolutely everything to try and get their house colour over the line.

Congratulations to the House Captains and Vice Captains – you led your Colour House with pride and I loved the preparation you put into your House Cheers!!!

We have the most amazing parents at St Mary's, such a big Carnival would have no chance of running without you! We did struggle to get helpers this year – but I really thank every person who gave their time - we had 3 sets of workers with 10m, 20m and 50m events simultaneously running to have children all occupied. We then had another great band of parents and high school students who spent an hour and a half in the water giving the kids such a fun experience in the novelty events. **I would love some extra helpers next year – otherwise we may have to consider not having some of the fun activities which would then mean lots of children just sitting in the stand most of the day – very boring!**

My special thanks to the wonderful 50m helpers and the St Brigids and St Peters students, you worked so hard to get through the large number of heats. It was a huge effort by everyone to continue from 9am until 2pm with almost no break in order that all children could finish their events. I really appreciate what you did for all of our swimmers.

Swimming Presentation

We will be having our swimming carnival presentation this Friday 21st February at 2.30pm. Everybody is welcome!

St Mary's Cross Country Friday 6th March – Jenny Dixon Oval – Everyone has a go and does their best!

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator



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