



Happy Mother's Day

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

Although we are not able to enjoy a beautiful Mother's Day Mass this year, we are still thinking of the amazing women who have given so selflessly for their families day-in, day-out. May Sunday be a day where you truly enjoy and appreciate the great love your family shares with you. And may your families come to genuinely understand the sacrifices you make and the humility you display daily.

From our school community, we wish you a *Happy Mother's Day!*

We Can't Wait For Monday

With very few kids at school these past 4 weeks, the life of our school has been severely diminished. That's why we are very much looking forward to Monday. To have the energy, vitality, smiles, laughs, learning, interactions, fun and friendships increasing will be exciting.

A teacher's skills are amazing. Engaging in hundreds of interactions per day, juggling 7 things happening at once, knowing what makes each child tick, understanding that challenging Child A will look different to challenging Child B, knowing how to make a child laugh, genuinely knowing the exact point-of-need for a child's learning (and then multiplying that by 25), understanding a child's sense of humour, warmly accepting every child's gifts, exercising outstanding organisational skills, having a deep awareness of how to get the best out of a child all combine to make us realise why teaching is an art, an incredibly complex and richly rewarding profession.

We are certainly blessed with the talented, dedicated and committed teaching staff at our place.

From Our Religious Education Coordinator

Mother's Day

Wishing all of our Mums, Nans, Grandmothers and other significant women a very Happy Mother's Day for this Sunday. Please see the attached photo in regards to our Facebook Weekly Family Challenge. We would love for you to send us (via facebook) photos of the significant women in your family's life (by midday on Friday). We hope that you all have a great day on Sunday, celebrating Mother's Day however you can.

Liz Hartge
Religious Education Coordinator

Kinder 2021 Zoom Enrolment Meetings

A flyer detailing 3 opportunities for Kinder 2021 Zoom meetings accompanies today's newsletter. The Zoom meetings replace the traditional Kinder 2021 Information Evening and targets families new to our school. If you know of anyone considering applying please pass on this information.

New Drop-off and Pick-up Routines

Our new morning and afternoon routines will begin next Monday. My apologies but, due to Covid 19 and until further notice, no parent/carer is permitted inside the school boundaries at morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up. Please refer to the *School Update 5 May* letter posted on our website and sent to you via Compass yesterday.

Winter Uniform

Children wearing our full winter school uniform commences on Monday 18th May (Week 4). See *School Update 5 May* for further details.

Extra Cleaning

Next Monday extra cleaning (20 hours per week) will commence. This will continue until at least the end of the school term.

Kind regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

Mother's Day Edition! This week, we challenge you to take a funny photo, a nice photo or to use a funny filter with mum and post it in the comments! We will try and use them all in a Mother's Day surprise for this weekend. Also, remember to make something special for mum or do something special for her. ❤️❤️❤️



From Our Family Liaison Officer

It wasn't the Easter holiday break we are used to and while travelling to our familiar holiday spots was off limits and many of the usual activities like cinemas and play centres were closed, the wonderful weather and enforced isolation presented other opportunities for families to connect and strengthen relationships this last holiday break. For those families who may have experienced a more stressful time with Home Based Learning and school holiday isolation over the past five weeks, please remember that it's important to find ways to support your physical and mental health and wellbeing during these times. This is a unique situation for all of us and there is no single right way to deal with things. Showing yourself a little kindness and acknowledging that you are doing the best you can under difficult circumstances and not comparing yourself to others who may "seem" to be coping easily is a start. It may sometimes feel like an indulgence, but taking some time for yourself to re-fresh and renew is important for both you and your family. Myself and all our staff are here to support you as best we can so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any worries or questions about families issues/ circumstances, parenting or children's behaviour or wellbeing concerns.

A fantastic programme to help children build friendship skills and learn about conflict resolution has become available FREE for parents at the moment. The **URSTRONG** programme comes highly recommended by our school counsellor Nicole Ryder, and would be of great benefit for all parents, but particularly for those whose children may struggle a little with making or keeping friends and knowing how best to deal with friendship challenges. It provides a framework for guiding children towards healthy friendships and helps them to develop their self confidence, learn what their inner strengths are and utilise them in their relationships.

Community news - The volunteers at Lakes Food Care, 199 Main Rd Toukley, have been working very hard at transitioning to a new way of operating and now have a new online shopping site www.lakesfoodcare.com You can place your order online and they will contact you by phone to organise a time for you to pick it up at the shop. Some of our Central Coast service providers have now transitioned to running their parenting programmes online. If you have a device and internet access, then programmes such as Circle of Security, Triple P Positive Parenting and others are available for parents throughout the coast to participate in. Following are links to the programme calendar for this term from Central Coast family Support Services. <https://ccfss.org.au/group-work-programs/>. Donna Falzon, Family Liaison Officer

From Our Numeracy and Literacy Coordinators

'Noughts and Crosses' or 'Tic-tac-toe' is a fun family game. BUT, have you tried to play with numbers? Here are two clips for two different games that can be played to strengthen your child's understanding of Place Value. Please watch these easy to follow clips, and have a go!

Hundreds Chart tic-tac-toe (Best for Years 1-4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n1XOy26VFM>

Add to 15 tic-tac-toe (Best for Years 2-6)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rVWUrYBz4M>

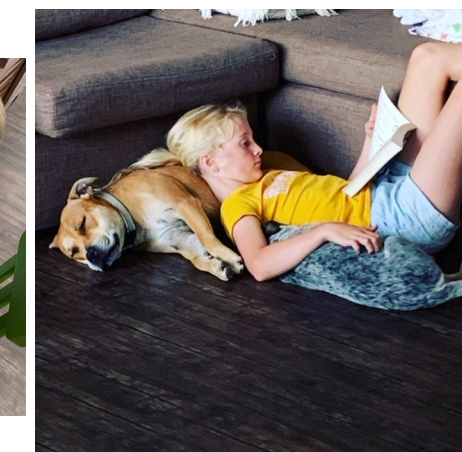
As it is Mother's Day on Sunday, why not write an acrostic poem for Mum?

Here is an example for you to have a look at:-



Photos From Our HBL Classrooms!

Make sure you decorate it and include words that show how much Mum means to you!



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