



# The Season of Advent

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

## The Season of Advent

Advent is the season of the liturgical year where we wait in anticipation and preparation for the coming of our Saviour; it is time to wait, prepare and reflect so that we can allow the light of God into our lives. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. Tomorrow our school begins celebrating the season of Advent with our weekly Advent Liturgies. This will be the first of four Advent Liturgies. Until Christmas, your child will be learning about the Season of Advent in class and how they can prepare their hearts and minds for Jesus' birth.

We warmly invite all families to join us via Zoom to celebrate our Advent Liturgies each Thursday afternoon: November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12.45pm (Year 5 leading), November 26<sup>th</sup> at 1.50pm (Kinder leading), December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1.50pm (Years 3 and 4 leading) and December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.50pm (Years 1 and 2 leading). The Zoom code to join us each week will be 961 2690 2701 or follow the link <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/96126902701>.

## Planning for 2021

Yesterday our school Leadership Team spent the day planning for the 2021 school year. Next year will be another unique challenge, as we plan for our important events with COVID restrictions. It is more important than ever that you feel included wherever possible. Some of you haven't been onto our school grounds since March!

In 2021, School Masses and Liturgies will be celebrated with our students in the church whenever possible; otherwise Fr Tomy and Fr Baby will celebrate with us here on our school grounds. Whenever we are able to have parents join us physically, we will do so, or Zoom will be used. We will hold our swimming carnival, cross country and gala days, but with some restrictions. The current pick up and drop off routines may be how we start the new school year, but we will have opportunities (such as a revised Information Evening in February) for you to meet with your child's teacher. Opportunities for Parent Workshops to recommence is another priority.

While physically there are changes to how our school looks, many things will go unchanged: Our relentless focus on ensuring that every child learns to high levels. Our focus on student Wellbeing. Our high expectations of student behaviour. The beautiful Catholic and supportive culture of our school. The importance of working in partnership with our families. The resilience of our students. These and more are what we value and what we hold sacred at St Mary's.

## Gala Day

Last week was the first Gala Day we have been able to hold since Term 1! We were so pleased that the Year 5 and Year 6 students were able to attend their Touch Footy Gala Day at Doyalson RSL Fields. Boys and girls, your behaviour was outstanding, as was your attitude. We love the way you represent our school, and yourselves.

## Reports

Your child's School Report will be posted on Compass on Friday 11th December. The 2021 Stationery List will also be included.

## Uniforms

A reminder that the new summer uniform is required to be worn by all girls from the beginning of the 2021 school year. Please contact Leesa in our Uniform Shop.

## Parents In Partnership

Thank you to all of the families who completed the survey regarding our Parents in Partnership (PIP) Group. We will send out an invitation in next week's newsletter for a time and date in Week 8 that we hope many of you will be able to attend, as we make plans for 2021.

Kind regards,

*K Williams*

Kevin Williams  
Principal

*ESellars*

Emma Sellars  
Principal

## Parish Details

Ph. 8379 1730  
Email. [toukleyparish@bbccatholic.org.au](mailto:toukleyparish@bbccatholic.org.au)  
Office Hours. Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
9am - 12pm

## Merit Awards

Jarl M  
Maddison H  
Elsie S  
Benny E  
Penelope R  
Braith D  
Amelia D  
Sophie G  
Isaac B  
Flynn B  
Jack H  
Lachlan M  
Rhys M  
Charlotte C  
Lawson O  
Mia N  
Thomas B  
Connor D  
Lylah M  
Ryan M  
Rosie W  
Harry B  
Ayla C  
Seth T  
Isabella L  
Lola K  
Isabelle T  
Tayla G  
Kirrilee F  
Connor V B  
Lexie L  
Sinead H  
Ella S  
Jessica R C  
Harry M  
Dimity M  
Vasiliki P  
Caleb F  
Brock S  
Lily T  
Halle O  
Griffin M  
Ava C

## From Our REC

### NAIDOC Week

Last week we celebrated NAIDOC Week. Kindergarten put together a wonderful artwork using this year's theme, "Always Was, Always Will Be."

### Christmas Appeal

Once again, St Mary's will be supporting our local community with the St Vincent DePaul Christmas Food Appeal. Your child/ren should have received a star with a Christmas or grocery item on it. We ask each child to please bring in this item to place in their classroom basket. All of these baskets will be collected by our local St Vincent DePaul representatives during the last week of school. Our Year 5 and 6 Mini Vinnies children will lead this initiative. As always, we thank

## From Our Librarian

### What have we been up to in the library this term?

Sssh! Don't tell anyone but library has been lots of fun this term!! We have been seriously working hard with robots. Kinder to Year 5 have been learning how to code and program Botley Robot to carry out our instructions. We have designed tracks for Botley to follow, made Botley score goals in a hoop and solve a series of challenges. We have learnt that our code does not always work. We watch carefully to see what Botley does. We have to figure out at what point our code has a bug and then problem solve our way to fixing it. We have learnt to be resilient when things don't go according to plan. We have learnt how to work cooperatively with others discussing our ideas and trying out new strategies that will ensure we are successful in coding Botley to finish the challenge.

Year 4 have been busy learning about coding using the computers and Minecraft challenges. We have worked our way through a series of levels, dragging blocks of code into sequence that help the character successfully navigate a challenge. We have also learnt that computer code is a whole new language called Java Script!

Year 6 are currently exploring our Sphero robots and coding an obstacle course for Sphero to navigate. They have also coded our Artie robots to draw their initials in block letters.

our community for their generosity and compassion.

### Advent Liturgies

Tomorrow we begin our Advent Liturgies. These will be held every Thursday afternoon for the remaining weeks of the year. Tomorrow's liturgy will take place at 12.45 as Year 1 and 2 students are involved in an incursion after lunch. The Zoom code is 961 2690 2701 or follow the link <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/96126902701>. Kindergarten will lead next week's liturgy.

### Class Masses

This Friday Father Tomy will be celebrating Mass with our Year 4 students. This will take place in the library. Next Friday he will celebrate Mass with our Year 1 students.

Cath Kyle

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

We have also dabbled with **Augmented reality (AR)**. Augmented reality is an interactive experience of a real-world environment, such as our library, where the objects that reside in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated visual information. Imagine our library being filled with animals from other countries or that are extinct and children wandering around these 3D images on the screen and projected into our library environment! We have crawled underneath dinosaurs and looked into the mouths of sharks and watched the movement and camouflage of insects! It is amazing just how many creatures our library can hold all because of the AR app and our i-pads!!

And who said Library was boring?!?!?!?!?!?

We are now coming to the end of the term but here in the Library we are also working towards end of year procedures. It is important that we conduct an inventory of all our resources. We are currently in the process of scanning all books in the Library to ensure they are accounted for.

Next week is Week 7 and will be the **last week** for borrowing this term. It is important that all library books and instructional readers are returned as soon as possible. If your child brings home a note with library books that need to be returned during these last few weeks please help find them as we know that they are definitely not on the library shelves.

Many thanks for your support  
Happy reading everyone  
Miss Gray  
Librarian

## Upcoming Events

- Year 1 and 2 Virtual History Tour  
Thursday  
19 November
- Mackillop and St Brigid's Year 7 Orientation Day  
Friday  
20 November
- School Captains Speeches  
Tuesday  
1 December
- Kinder Transition 4  
9.30am  
Wednesday  
2 December
- Year 6 Beach Day  
Friday  
4 December

## Dates for 2021

- Wed 27th Jan-Staff Development Day, no students
- Thurs 28th Jan-Yr's 1-6 MAI Testing Day, Kinder Best Start Assessment
- Fri 29th Jan-Yr's 1-6 First Day of School, Kinder Best Start Assessment
- Mon 1st Feb-Kinder Best Start Assessment
- Tues 2nd Feb-Kinder First Day of School

## A Spotlight on Year 5



Year 5 have been learning about the Sacraments of Service



### Canteen News

2021 Canteen Volunteer forms were sent home with last week's newsletter. Our school canteen relies on the generosity of our parent helpers to run effectively and if you are able to help out, just once a month, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please complete the form and return to school by Friday November 27th if you are able to help. Thank you.

### Reminder

The school canteen is **CLOSED** on Tuesdays.

Donna & Janet

### Star Awards

James B  
Cooper B  
Zac T  
Zac B  
Stephanie M  
Alex T  
Levi R  
Taj R  
Ty T  
Byron H  
Piper E  
Elizabeth C  
Ma'Niyah J  
Marli C  
Dylan B  
Adam Q  
Claire W  
Peyton B  
Clayton B  
Emily C  
Liberty C



### DUE THIS FRIDAY

Thank you to the families who have returned their Family Registration Forms. They are due back no later than this Friday 20th November. Both parents must sign this form for it to be valid. The information on this form is used to apply sibling discounts. If you have misplaced the form you can arrange for another one to be sent home or you can download a copy from the school's website.

Thank you  
Jacqui, Leesa & Julie



**Tinsel Time In Toukley**

DECEMBER 2020

Proudly sponsored by  
Toukley Neighbourhood Centre  
and Together 4 Toukley.  
call 43961555 to register.

Decorate a Tree in your front garden with prizes to be won!

Decorate your home or business in town!

*TNC are encouraging everyone in Toukley to decorate a tree in their front yard, real, existing or artificial with home made decorations and register the tree to be judged for prizes.*

All trees need to be decorated and registered by Friday 11th December. A flyer is coming home with today's newsletter.  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tinsel-time-in-toukley-tickets-127824768323>  
See the Eventbrite link above for registration.

If any families need some craft items for creating decorations please call TNC on 43961555 or email [admin@tnc.org.au](mailto:admin@tnc.org.au)  
TNC have coloured paper, glitter, sparkles, pipe cleaners, doilies and so much more!

458 Main Road, Norville NSW 2263

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