



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 9
9 December 2020

Farewell Year 6

Upcoming Events

- **Year 6 Graduation**
5.00-9.00pm
Wednesday
9 December
- **Thanksgiving Mass**
9.15am
Friday
11 December
- **Guard of Honour**
2.30pm
Wednesday
16 December
- **Last Day of School**
Wednesday
16 December

2021

- **Staff Return**
Wednesday
27 January
- **Uniform Shop Open**
8.30am—3.00pm
Wednesday
27 January
- **MAIs Years 1-6**
Thursday
28 January
- **Kinders Best Start**
Thursday, Friday,
Monday
28 Jan—1 Feb
- **Years 1-6 Commence**
Friday
29 January
- **Kinders commence**
Tuesday
2 February

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

In a year where some of the traditional Year 6 highlights were marred by COVID-19 (e.g. our Canberra trip), our Year 6 students and teachers have not let that hold us back. They have continued to find the positive, to look for the good and to move forward. Rather than to lament and drop the shoulders. 2020 has offered many valuable life lessons for the kids.

And, repeatedly, our Year 6 have proven to be agile and adaptable. They haven't let us down. We have been continually proud of them. Their behavior and attitude at our Year 6 Retreat Day, our Year 6 Trivia Day and last Friday's Year 6 Beach Day have been nothing short of outstanding. Various teachers joining the kids for these days have reported that repeatedly our Year 6 students expressed gratitude and appreciation to them.

And, repeatedly, our Year 6 have been tremendous role models and wonderful examples for the younger kids. We see it every day when we assemble. We see it every day when they play. We see it every day in their behavior. We see it every day when they talk to their teachers.

Congratulations Year 6. Enjoy the wonderful Graduation that your parents and teachers have organized for you. And enjoy the last days of your primary schooling here at our place.

Over to you, Year 5.

With big shoes to fill, we have a beautiful Year 5 ready to step up and lead our school. We have every confidence that they will be amazing leaders in 2021.

Year 6 Parents— Please Join Us

We invite our Year 6 parents and caregivers to join us for a beautiful Mass to mark the conclusion of your children's primary school education. Our outdoors (in the quadrangle) Mass commences at 9.15am on Friday 11th December.

Sports Captains 2021

We congratulate the following students who were elected by the students to be our 2021 Sports Captains:

Blue: Dakota L and Charlie T
Green: Oscar W and Shelby M
Red: Eyli P and Emma C
Gold: Joey T and Savannah T

Guard of Honour

Our Year 6 parents are very welcome to join us on Wednesday 16th December with our Guard of

Honour for our leaving Year 6 commencing at 2.30pm.

Reports

On Friday afternoon your child's Report will be available on Compass. No hard copies of the Reports will be sent home. Your child will receive an envelope with a slip indicating their 2021 class and teacher's name(s).

Girls Uniform

A reminder that the new girls summer uniform is required to be worn by all girls from the first day of 2021.

Your Prayers and Thoughts

Please keep the Laugwitz family in your thoughts and prayers. Kiarra's (6Gold) grandmother passed away recently. May your treasured memories and our Lord's strength bring you great courage in your time of loss.

Thank You

In a very different year, we express our genuine thanks and gratitude to all parents and caregivers for your patience and agility as we all faced unprecedented times. Thank you for your continued support. We enjoy working with your kids, helping them grow as young people in their faith and their learning.

I also genuinely thank our dedicated and outstanding teachers and staff. Your daily efforts to help every child be the very best they can be does not go unnoticed. The children and families of our school are certainly blessed to have you helping them.

A Happy and Holy Christmas

We wish all families and staff a happy and holy Christmas. May the joy and blessings of Our Lord touch every family and may your holidays be filled with good people and great laughter.

Kind regards,

K. Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

Emma Sellars

Emma Sellars
Principal

Parish Details

Ph. 8379 1730
Email. toukleyparish@bbccatholic.org.au
Office Hours. Monday-Friday
9.00am-2.00pm

Christmas Masses - Bookings

Due to COVID restrictions, we will be taking bookings for Christmas Masses this year. Please call or email the Parish Office to make a booking. Ph 4396 4455, email toukleyparish@bbccatholic.org.au

Christmas Mass times will be:
St Mary's Church, Toukley
Christmas Eve - 6pm Children's Pageant, 6.30pm Vigil Mass
11:30pm Carols, Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - 7.30am and 9am
St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah
Christmas Eve - 5pm Vigil Children's Mass
Christmas Day - 8am

Merit Awards

Heidi W
Amena D
Jackson M
Hailey G
Harper J
Neve R
Willow L
Stephanie M
Nate F
Vincent B
Hunter N
Zara B
Jackson Q
Harlow R
Addison W
Oscar S
Rhani L
Nikkita C
Harry P
Elizabeth C
Lara N
Eliette J
Marcus S
Evie S
Halle B
Harry B
Oscar W
Milan B
Ruby H
Toby W
Patrick C
Ava M
Samuel W
Lily T
Cohan S
Candice B
Mav E
Herbie G

From Our REC

Advent Liturgies

Last Thursday we continued our preparation for Christmas. Year 3 and 4 led the school reverently and beautifully in the Third Week of Advent. This Thursday, Year 1 and Year 2 will lead the Fourth and final Week of Advent. We also welcome Bob Steel from St Vincent DePaul to receive our hampers. Kids 4 Community awards will be handed out at the end of this liturgy. It will begin at 1.50pm. The zoom link is <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/96126902701>, alternatively you can use the code 9612 6902 701 to join the liturgy. All members of the school community are welcome to join us.

Christmas Appeal

Thank you to our families and the wider community for donating food items to our annual Christmas Appeal. All of these baskets will be collected by our local St Vincent DePaul representatives tomorrow at the conclusion of our Advent Liturgy. We have been overwhelmed and inundated with a variety of products that will help our local families in need over the Christmas season. As always, we thank our community

From Our Family Liaison Officer

"It is only when a child feels totally safe and connected at home that they can tread boldly in the world. Even then they need to constantly return to that parental connection to replenish their confidence and sense of self. Holidays are the time when we get to stop and turn towards our kids for extended periods of time. We can top up their stocks of esteem and connection throughout the year, but on holidays they get drenched." Education writer Linda Stadel has a great article on how to switch off after the challenging year we have all had and to make the most of your time with the kids these holidays. Building that family connection and helping children feel loved and valued really replenishes their self esteem reserves and gives them greater confidence to go out into the world and do well. You can find the article ["here"](#).

We had our last Storytime in the Library last week and the children listened to a story then make some Christmas decorations. Thank you to the parents and children who have come along this term. If

for their generosity and compassion and the Year 5 and 6 Mini Vinnies children who have led this initiative.

Christmas Eve Mass

A compass message was sent out recently in regards to our annual parent organised Christmas Eve Mass. Each year the parents of St Mary's organise a wonderful ceremony. If you would like your child/ren involved please contact me asap cathe-rine.kyle@dbb.catholic.edu.au. The students will begin practising tomorrow, Thursday 10th December from 9.30-11. The other two rehearsals are Tuesday 15th December from 9.30-11 and Tuesday 22nd of December from 9.30-1130.

Thanksgiving Mass

Year 6 are currently preparing for our final school mass for 2020, our Thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Friday December 11th at 9.15am. Due to Covid restrictions only Year 6 parents will be invited to the Mass. We will be live streaming via zoom. The zoom link is <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/91623301209> alternatively, you can use the code 9162 330 1209. We would love for you to join us in this mass.

Cath Kyle
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

you still have any library books at home could you please return them to school as soon as possible so Miss Gray can finalise her end of year stocktake.

If you live in the Toukley, Canton Beach or Noraville areas please remember to register by Friday Dec 11th if you would like to be part of the Toukley Neighbourhood Centre's competition to decorate a Christmas tree in your front yard. You can register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/tinsel-time-in-toukley-tickets-127824768323>. If you need some craft items for creating decorations please call TNC on 43961555 or email admin@tnc.org.au While we won't have our traditional "Lighting of the Tree" event in Toukley this year, this is a fun way to show community spirit and get involved.

I hope you all get to relax and rest up over the holiday break while enjoying your family time.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer

A Spotlight on Library



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM OUR LIBRARY



Canteen News

2021 Canteen Volunteer forms were sent home with the newsletter in Week 5. 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.

We are still in need of volunteers for next year so please return the completed form ASAP if you can help.

Reminder

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

Donna & Janet

Star Awards

Roman M
Amarli G
Lillian M
Ruby P
Sophie C
Phoebe N
Lachlan B
Cohen R
Michael A
Andy B
Taj C
Oliver Kennedy
Lily D-B
Timmy S
Jonah M
Alex D
Charlotte G
Matthew P-C
Ozzy I
Mia M
Liam S
Jessica R-C
Florence M
Timothy V
Annastasia C

School Banking

Last week was the last week of school banking. It will recommence in Term 1 of 2021.



Advent Liturgy



4Green Christmas craft



This Friday, December 11th is the last day for lunch orders at canteen. No lunch orders will be available next week.

Only snacks at recess and iceblocks at lunchtime will be available to purchase on Monday and Wednesday, Week 10.

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