



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back!

Term 1 Week 2  
2 February 2022

### Upcoming Events

- *Kinder First Day*  
Thursday  
3 February
- *School Swimming Carnival Years 2-6*  
Monday  
14 February
- *Kinder Parent Workshop*  
6.00pm  
Monday  
21 February
- *Opening School Mass*  
11.30am  
Friday  
25 February
- *Kinder 2023 Enrolment Information Evening*  
6.30pm  
Monday  
28 February
- *Kinder 2023 Playgroup*  
9.15-10.30am  
Tuesday  
1 March
- *Kinder 2023 School Tour*  
10.30am  
Tuesday  
1 March
- *Year 5 Bathurst*  
Thursday-Friday  
10-11 March
- *School Cross Country*  
Friday  
18 March

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

Welcome back to school, we have missed seeing you all!

While a lot of our recent discussions have been about COVID and restrictions, we are very much looking forward to a year of learning and positive friendships in our faith-filled, happy and safe school.

I have watched in awe as the Year 1 - Year 6 students have started the year in such a calm manner. Students have walked to their new classes proudly and independently, and they have been excited to play together again at lunch times. In particular, our Year 6 students have modelled the excellent behaviour we expect from all students. Well done, everyone.

Tomorrow, we look forward to our new Kinder students joining us for their first day.

### New Families

A warm welcome to the 16 new students who join us at St Mary's. We welcome Leo H, Mia H, Ella S, Harper B, Dominic W, Anton W, Louis F, Samuel F, Phoebe E, April M, Javier M, Anthony N, Vincent N and returning students Maci T, Sunie T and Noah T.

### New Staff

We are excited to welcome our new staff members to the St Mary's community.

Teaching staff; Mrs Lucinda MacMahon, Miss Erin Andrew, Miss Taylah Rogers and Miss Demi Evans.

We also welcome our Canteen Coordinator Lauren Zahra (Monday + Wednesday) and our Uniform Shop Coordinator Tiffany Ballard.

### Going Home

The parents and grandparents of a child are permitted to collect them from school. If a different person is picking your child up, please notify the class teacher in writing or via a phone call to the office.

If your family has any court orders we need to be aware of, please notify the office.

### Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Mobile phones are not permitted to be brought to school unless you have written to us and a special exemption is granted. All student mobiles must be handed in to the school office

before the morning bell. Other devices including watches in which you can use video, receive calls, text messages etc. are not permitted at all.

### School Uniform

We appreciate parents efforts in ensuring their child has the appropriate school uniform. Starting back at school, the children have looked fantastic. Thank you. The Uniform Shop is open daily 8.15am-9.45am. However with the current circumstances, we encourage families, where possible, to email the school with your order and they will be sent home with your child the following day.

### Canteen

Currently, the canteen is only open for lunch orders, which must be made by 9.00am on the Qkr App. A price list was sent home this week. Kinder children will receive theirs on Thursday. **Important reminder**, please update your child's class to their 2022 class on the Qkr App, otherwise their lunch will be collected by the wrong class.

### Swimming Carnival

The information and permission note for our swimming carnival was sent out to Years 2-6 families yesterday. Please complete as soon as possible.

### Kinder 2023 Information Evening

We are now enrolling for Kindergarten 2023. If you know of anyone who may be interested in finding out more about St Mary's or collecting an enrolment pack, please let them know about our Information Evening, Monday 28th February at 6.30pm. Our first Kinder 2023 Playgroup begins Tuesday 1st March at 9.15am.

Kind regards,

Emma Sellars  
Principal

### Parish Details

Ph. 4396 4455  
Email. toukleyparish@  
bbcatholic.org.au  
Office Hours. Monday-Friday  
9.00am-2.00pm

## From Our REC

Welcome to the 2022 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 25<sup>th</sup> February** at 11.30am. We are still liaising with CSBB to determine the grades that will attend.

### Sacred Space - Year 6

This Thursday at 1.50pm our Year 6 students will lead us in our first sacred space. The theme is our school STARS. A zoom code will be sent out on Thursday morning if you would like to join us. Please remember to turn your microphone to mute.

Cath Kyle  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

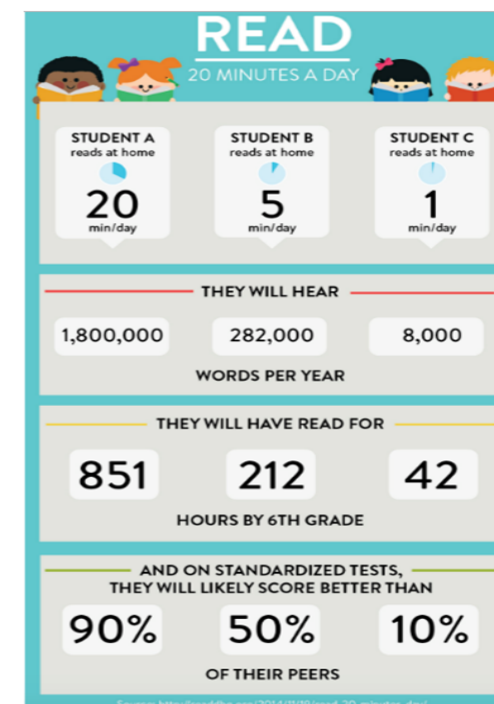


## From our Librarian

### DO YOU HAVE 20 MINUTES TO SPARE EACH DAY?

Hello and welcome back to 2022. A new year is exciting with more adventures in learning and reading in our library. Now is the time to begin planning and working around the commitments and routines that make our lives busy. Between dancing, football, netball and soccer training it is also time to build 20 minutes reading time into our schedule for brain training. Twenty minutes is all it takes for us to help our 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.

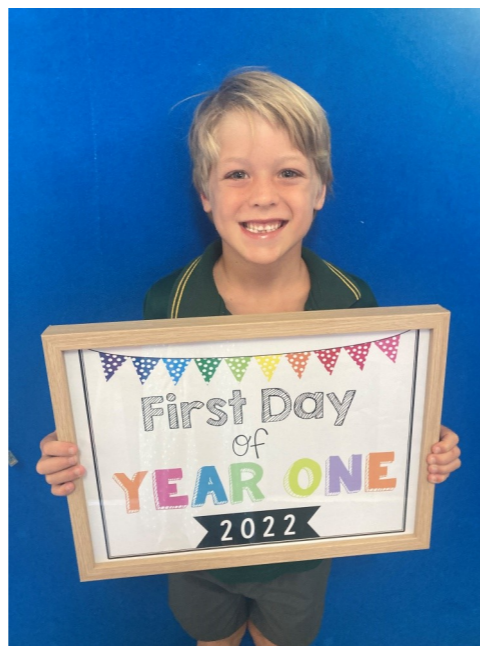
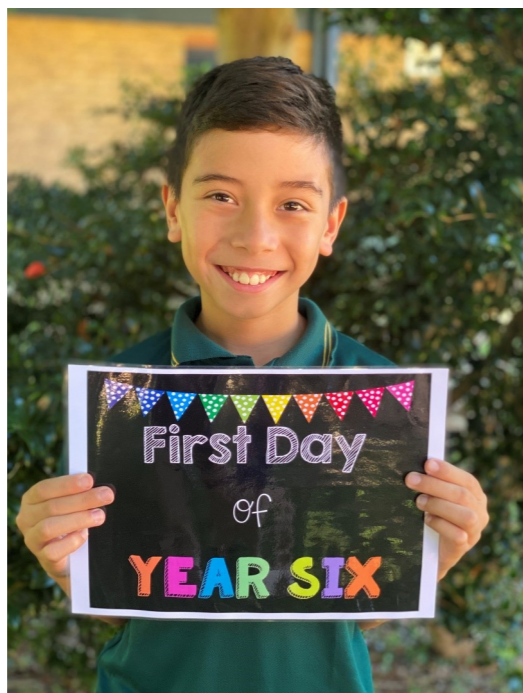
Readers at all stages of independence across the grades definitely need 20 minutes a day. Teachers will send home readers and your child will borrow library books each week to support our **compulsory** reading homework. School readers, library books and other books read **must** be recorded in your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

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."  
Dr Seuss I Can Read With My Eyes Shut*

Happy reading everyone  
Miss Gray  
Librarian



## A Spotlight on our First Day Back



### Canteen News

Canteen open for lunch orders only Weeks 2 to 5. Orders via the Qkr! app—details on how to use Qkr! are on our school website [‘here’](#). Please remember to update your child’s class for this year on their Qkr! profile.

Unfortunately we have had to increase the menu price of quite a number of canteen items this year due to increased food manufacturing costs being passed on to us from our suppliers.

If any parents/ carers are interested in volunteering in the canteen, for as little as 2 hours once a month, please contact the school office and let us know. Extra helpers are always welcome.

Thank you  
Donna and Lauren

## From Our PE Teacher

### St Mary's Swimming Carnival

The St Mary’s School Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 14th February 2022 at Mingara Leisure Centre. This is a compulsory event for all children in Years 2-6. There is no cost for this event as the entry fee is already covered. Parent helpers will need to pay on entry.

**This year there are no parent spectators. Due to COVID restrictions only a small number of parent helpers will be allowed in to Mingara Aquatic Centre. In fairness I will take helpers based on when notes are returned.**

Children who are competing in the 100m event (beginning 9.00am) will need to be dropped off at the pool entry by 8.45am.

For this year, only **children who are competing in the 100m event** can travel with their parent to the venue. **All other children will travel to and from the venue by bus.**

9.00am - 100m freestyle - parents will need to drop children at the pool for this event at 8.45am

9.30am - 50m, 20m and 10m races will begin when all buses have arrived

2.00pm - children will return to school on the school bus

Competitors will be chosen from this event to represent St Mary’s at the Central Coast Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival (CCC) on Monday 21st February at Mingara. Representatives will be chosen from the 50m, 100m and 200m events. Age groups will be 10yrs and under, 11yrs and 12yrs. 8yrs and 9yrs will only have freestyle events at CCC. Children will be chosen according to fastest times overall in each event.

In addition to swimming races, all children will participate in a variety of fun events which will take place in lanes 6, 7 and 8. As per previous years we will have lots of fun activities using body boards, tubes and noodles. If the weather is warm we will be using the grass outside for games as well. **I will need some lifesavers to assist our Year 2’s and 3’s at this time.**

Students will compete in races according to the age they turn **THIS YEAR** ie. Their age on 31st December 2022. Please enter children in races that ensure they have a fun day.

All permission notes must be returned by **next Monday**. It takes many hours to enter children in to Meet Manager accurately and then print programs.

Liz Bain  
Sports Coordinator



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