



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our Resilient Children

Term 1 Week 6
2 March 2022

Upcoming Events

- **Kinder + Year 6 Welcome Mass**
9.00am
Sunday
6 March
- **Year 5 Bathurst**
Thursday-Friday
10-11 March
- **School Cross Country**
Friday
18 March
- **Wellbeing Week**
21 March
- **Catholic School Week**
28 March
- **St Mary's Playgroup**
9.15am
Wednesday
30 March
- **St Mary's School Tour**
10.30am
Wednesday
30 March

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

We are always proud of our St Mary's children. It has become more and more apparent to me, particularly over the last few weeks, that our children are hope-filled, flexible and so resilient. Our kids take change in their stride; both cohorting and wet weather have seen playground changes a regular part of our students day; the current dismissal arrangements have seen our children learn patience; even smaller changes such as no canteen at recess and drink bottles rather than bubblers have been quickly adapted. It's a lot to ask of 5-12 year olds. And they've done it so well.

Now, we are going back to a more familiar school experience. It has been almost two years and some things will change back to how they were in 2020, while others have been tweaked and improved. A detailed School Update will be sent out tomorrow on Compass and will explain everything you need to know for next week. It is crucial that all families become familiar with and adhere to our new procedures which begin on Monday.

Key messages to note will be:

- All parents are welcome back onto school grounds for school drop-off and pick-up from next Monday 7th March.
- Pick-up will resume at the normal time, 3.15pm. Students needs to be collected from their class teacher at this time. This will be from their classroom (Kinder and Year 1) or a specified area on the playground (Year 2 - 6).
- Students will no longer be able to be dropped off outside of the hall in a drive-through fashion. This area will resume as parking only.
- Early pick-ups (signing out before 3.15pm) are not appropriate unless it is for a significant medical appointment.

I encourage you to please read our Compass notification as it provides the details of these plus canteen, carpark safety and buses and walkers. If you need anything clarified, please contact the school office.

Kinder 2023

Do you have a child starting in Kinder with us next year? We have already started to send enrolment packs home and enrolment interviews begin in just a few weeks. Please call the office if you would like this pack sent home with an older sibling.

Our next Playgroup will be held on Wednesday *March 30th*, 9.15am.

Parents in Partnership (PIP)

Our Parents in Partnership (PIP) Team is a highly valued group of mums and dads who support our school across many facets. From organizing events such as the Mother's Day and Father's Day stall, running the BBQs for school events or organising nights such as the 'Cinema Under The Stars'. During the week you will receive the PIP newsletter outlining their plans for the year and asking for volunteers for future events. I encourage you to read this and please sign up to help for anything you can - we appreciate your support, it is crucial.

Parish Mass

This weekend we see our Kindergarten and Year 6 children attend the 9.00am Parish Mass on Sunday. We look forward to seeing our Kinder and Year Six children with their families to celebrate Mass together. School uniform is not required.

Car Park Safety Concerns

I have become increasingly concerned with safety in our school car park. There are a lot of cars that enter the car park and many do so at a speed that is not appropriate. Please slow down, be mindful of children crossing and avoid the bus zone. We want our carpark to be a safe area of our school.

Kind regards,

Emma Sellars
Principal



Parish Details

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

Merit Awards

Bentley G
Madeleine J
Lilah B
Zarli R
Stella C
Saige D
Luisa K
Leura S
Harper W
Hannah B
Missy D
William N
Ivy C
Benny E
Isaac B
Eva W
Lola C
Mia T
Zara B
Sophia K
Ella T
Hunter P
Jay K
Daniel B
Addison P
Filippo C
Addison W
Ty T
Phoebe E
Marcus S
Kingston K
Lola K
Louis G
Brooklyn S
Ruby K
Matilda S
Harry B
Chelsea F



From Our REC

Kindergarten and Year 6 Sunday Welcome Mass

Our Kinder and Year 6 students are starting to prepare for their grade Sunday mass on 6th March at 9am. We look forward to celebrating with everyone. Our PIP Team have also organised a fabulous get together following our Welcome Mass at Young Street Reserve, Norah Head to meet other families.

Sacred Space - Mini Vinnies

Thank you to our Mini Vinnies students who led us in prayer last Thursday. This was a great introduction to Lent and how we support Caritas Australia through Project Compassion. The theme this year is "for all future generations".

Congratulations to our Mini Vinnies Leaders; Zali, Lily, Olivia, Bethany, Robby, Emily, Isla, Penelope who received their leadership badges on Thursday.



From our Librarian

Why does my child borrow the same old book?

Part of our job in teaching children to read is to introduce and talk about a new reader before reading the book. We talk about the title, characters and what will happen, before we begin to read just as a confident reader will read the blurb on the back of a book before borrowing it. We help children connect to the storyline by drawing on their own experiences.

Being able to **predict** what may come next is an important skill when reading. It helps us decode tricky words when we predict what will come next at the sentence level and deepen our comprehension skills with the storyline unfolding. As adults we do this automatically. I have had many Kinder children choose a book because they have that 'one' at home or read it at pre-school. Don't worry. Your child has made a connection to the story which is what confident readers do. And our goal is to grow confident readers!

Our library is a wonderful resource at St Mary's and children are encouraged to borrow each week. If children have not

Mini Vinnies - Support for Tonga

As part of our Mini Vinnies group we want to support the country of Tonga after the devastating Tsunami last month. Warnervale Rugby Club has organised a container to be flown over to Tonga. To support this initiative, we are asking for donations of water bottles, longlife milk and tinned food. Over the next two weeks if you would like to contribute to this please send your donations to the classrooms. Our Mini Vinnies students will collect. Mrs Walker and Mrs Kyle will drop them off at our local drop point. Thank you to all the families who have already supported this initiative. We will be dropping everything off this Friday.

Ash Wednesday Mass

This morning we celebrated Ash Wednesday with mass. Thank you to the families who joined us via zoom. We are so impressed with how well the students are singing and responding in mass.

Opening School Mass

Last Friday we celebrated our Opening School Mass. It was the first time in two years we have been able to celebrate mass as a whole school community. Our Year 6 students and Year 5 students with leadership roles did an amazing job pledging their commitment to our community. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who joined us via zoom.

Catherine Kyle

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

finished reading their novels they are welcome to renew their books at the next library lesson. Kinders and Year One return their books each week. Once the number of books amounts to three or more then we need to return all books before we start borrowing again.

With the unpredictable rain showers we have seen more damaged books than usual. When books get wet, they develop mould and they are no good anymore. We understand that some of our library books are showing a lot of wear and tear as they have been well read and loved. But sadly, the damaged books that we have had to discard are relatively new. We ask that every child has a waterproof library bag which can be purchased from the uniform shop. This will protect the books inside school bags from the hazards of leaking drink bottles and rainy days. When we forget library bags children are encouraged to put their books into their polly wolly. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Miss Gray
Librarian

A Spotlight on Year 6



Canteen News

Canteen is now open for recess and lunch snacks as well as lunch orders. Qkr! is still the preferred method for lunch orders. **Please remember to update your child's class for this year on their Qkr! profile.**

If sending money in with your child to buy a snack or iceblock over the counter, please have a chat to them about what they can purchase with the money you give them. Also please don't send in too much money, \$2 maximum is plenty, especially for the younger students.

If you are a canteen volunteer and are unable to fulfill your rostered day please contact the school office as early as you can.

Thank you
Donna and Lauren

Star Awards

Matilda R
Piper W
Tilly C
Andy C
Ayla M
Sage M
Christian K-L
Cooper B
Grace L
Oliver E
Jackson Q
Willow L
Lillian D
Rhani L
Harlow R
Robby L
Olivia D
Elise C
Noah W
Summer M
Nikita R



458 Main Road, Norville NSW 2263

From the Uniform Shop

Fleece Parkas (\$47) and Recorders (\$12) are now available.

Just a reminder, if you have purchased a new Girls summer dress, the stitching holding the back pleat in place needs to be removed.



Thank you
Tiffany Ballard
Uniform Shop Coordinator

From the PIP Team

Kinder and Year 6 Mass Meet and Greet Opportunity

Our school PIP Team warmly invite the Kindergarten and Year 6 families attending the Kindergarten and Year 6 Grade Mass being held on Sunday March 6th, to come together as a community to meet, greet and gather for a play opportunity after Mass.

Families are welcomed to come along to the Young Street Reserve Playground, Norah Head after the conclusion of Mass as an opportunity for families to meet each other and introductions to be made between Kinder and Year 6 buddy families.

Our school's Year 6 buddies have been such an asset to our new Kinder students and we are sure parents would love to put faces to names of the lovely friends they have been getting to know over these past few weeks.

See you there,
PIP Team Members

The Seasons for Growth programme to support children who have experienced grief and loss as a result of death, separation or divorce will be commencing in Week 8 this term. A note explaining the programme with permission slip was sent home last week and is also on our website. If you would like further information or to discuss whether it would be suitable for your child to attend please contact me at school. Please complete the permission slip and return to school via your child's class teacher by Friday March 11 if your child is interested in taking part.
Donna Falzon



Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101

Storytime in the Library *is back* from
Thursday March 10 at 9am

Join us for
Storytime

*An invitation to our families with toddlers
and preschoolers.*

Storytime runs for 30 minutes every Thursday, right after morning assembly. It is an opportunity for children to experience stories being read to them, participate in a craft activity with other children and borrow a library book. It is a great way for children to familiarise themselves with the library and become comfortable in the school environment.

Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtddb.catholic.edu.au