“Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it”.

Our systemic theme for this year comes from Pope Francis’ words in his inaugural homily 2013. The words challenge us in terms of stewardship, of sustainability, of care for ourselves and of others.

**Welcome to the 2014 school year!**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I hope you have had a wonderful start to the year and are looking forward to many exciting and busy school times ahead. I would like to thank you for the warm welcome you have given me as a school community.

A cheerful welcome back to all students and families returning to St Mary’s for 2014, and a special welcome to our new families beginning their educational journey with us. I am highly motivated to lead our school into the 2014 academic year, working with our dedicated and highly skilled teachers with carefully planned structures to meet the needs of our vibrant learning community and value adding to all the progressive practices undertaken at St Mary’s. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Mrs Jacqueline Stephen and Mrs Jennifer Smith into our school community. We are thrilled to have them as part of our team. They both bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our growing school. To recap staffing, our team of teachers are in the following positions:

- **Kinder** - Mrs Marg Croese and Mrs Fran Devonald
- **Year 1** - Mrs Jennifer Smith
- **Year 2** - Mrs Jacqueline Stephen and Mr Jeff Prow
- **Year 3** - Miss Sophie O’Hehir
- **Year 4** - Mr Matthew Harpley and Mrs Alicia Hampson
- **Year 5** - Mr Tony Ward/ Mr Justin Bateman
- **Year 6** - Mr John Harnett/ Mr Justin Bateman
- **Science** - Mr Matthew Harpley
- **Performing Arts** - Miss Teagan Russell
- **Executive Release** - Mrs Rebecca Brady
- **Early Careers teacher Release – Colleen Palise**
- **NLP and Student Welfare** - Mr Andrew Craft
- **Learning Support Teacher** - Mrs Jo-Anne Matthews
- **Learning Support Assistants** - Mrs Janet Ryan, Mrs Shellie Butler and Mrs Julie Wiggins
- **Aboriginal Contact Teacher** - Mrs Kerry Boyenga and Mrs Karen Hadley
- **Administrative Support** - Mrs Annette Hazell and Mrs Genevieve Schofield
- **Technology support** - Mr Paul Traynor
- **Coordinator (Acting)** - Mr Tony Ward
- **Religious Education Coordinator** - Mrs Marg Croese
- **Assistant Principal (Acting)** - Mrs Karen Hadley
- **Principal (Acting)** - Mrs Catrina Niddrie

It’s encouraging to know that your children are in the hands of professional, skilled, faith educators that are passionate about their vocation and create vibrant inclusive classrooms. They promote a love of learning and foster a high level of inquiry based learning from K-6. Please know that each of your child/ren’s teachers are open, welcoming and approachable. As your first point of call they will be able to address any concerns or questions you may have throughout the year.

**Week 2 – Term 1**

**Weekend Masses**
Moruya: Vigil Mass – Saturday 6.00pm
Tuross: ‘The Pines’ - Sunday 8.00am
Moruya: Sunday – 10.00am

**Monday 3rd February**
Kindergarten’s first day!
Kindergarten parent’s morning tea

**Tuesday 4th February**
Awards Assembly

**Wednesday 5th February**
Kinder Rest Day
Breakfast Club

**Thursday 6th February**
St Mary’s Swimming Carnival for Years 2 - 6

**Birthdays**

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthday during January or have their birthday in the coming week: Sabina I, Millicent H, Leila S, Madeleine W, Bradley M, Marissa Mc, Bailey P, Michael B, Nate K, Ethan M, Shane M, Rylee A and Grace R.

**Welcome…**

It has been wonderful to welcome so many new families to St Mary’s this week. I’ll begin today by welcoming those families whose children have commenced in Years 1 - 6. To the warm welcome from us all! Bateman, Cowan, Lunn, Nguyen, Stephen and Roser.

PO Box 212 Moruya NSW 2537
P 02 4474 2817 F 02 4474 4347
E office@stmarysmoruya.nsw.edu.au
W www.stmarysmoruya.nsw.edu.au
I look forward with enthusiasm to our year ahead. Please know that I am always available to discuss any matters with you which will be treated with the highest level of confidentiality. I wish all our students and families a wonderful year. A year filled with happiness and success in many different ways.

"Wishing God's best for you"

Catrina Niddrie
Principal (Acting)

Religion News

A warm welcome back to all our families and friends as we begin anew for 2014. We also welcome our new principal Mrs Catrina Niddrie who has moved from Young with her family. We wish her a very successful and happy time at St Mary’s. We were also happy to see Fr Emil in the staffroom, the playground and trying to beat some avid chess players at their game. This term we have many events happening in regard to Religious Education in our parish and school. I have briefly outlined them below and will give more detail in later newsletters.

Whole School Masses
Opening School Mass - we will begin our school year in Week 3 with a special Mass for the whole school on Friday 14 February at 9.15am. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us at this Mass.

Ash Wednesday - whole school Mass to mark the beginning of Lent. Wednesday 8 March.

Saint Patrick’s Day - whole school Mass on Monday 17 March.

Class Masses
Year 6 - Year 6 will attend their own class Mass on Friday 21 February with Mr Harnett and Mr Bateman.
Year 6 - students to attend World Day of Prayer on Friday March 7 at 11.00am.
Year 6 - Anointing Mass - Friday April 4.
Year 5 - Friday 7 March.
Year 3 - Friday 28 March
Year 4 class Mass - Wednesday April 9.

Focus Assemblies
Year 4 - Friday 28 February.
Year 3 - Friday 14 March.

Sacramental Meetings
Enrolment Meetings for all Sacraments - Wednesday 12 February in the Church at 7.30pm.
First Parent Meeting for First Eucharist - Wednesday 26 February in the Presbytery at 7.30pm.
Second Parent Meeting for First Eucharist - Wednesday 5 March in the Presbytery at 7.30pm.

First Eucharist Preparation
Commitment Mass for First Eucharist - Saturday March 1 at 6.00pm.
Focus Masses for First Eucharist - Saturday March 8 at 6pm or Sunday March 9 at 10.00am.
Year 3 Retreat for Eucharist - Wednesday 11 March at The Pines in Tuross.
Saturday March 15 at 6pm or Sunday March 16 at 10.00am.
Saturday March 22 at 6pm or Sunday March 23 at 10.00am.

Celebration of First Eucharist Mass - Sunday March 30 at 10.00am.

We Pray
Lord God, You tend our lives with loving care. You refresh us with living water and nourish us with all we need to grow in the ways of wisdom and truth. You call us to flower wherever we stand in the circumstances of our lives. May we blossom through your love and spread your beauty on this earth. May everything we do grow strong and free in your garden and bring blessing to all we serve. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have a happy and safe weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
Awards Assembly
This week our Assembly will be on Tuesday morning instead of Monday. Kindergarten students have their first day on Monday. There will be morning tea in the hall to welcome (and maybe comfort) Kinder parents.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop is now located in the Administration building. It has been a particularly time consuming task to re-organise and unpack items ready for the 2014 school year in this new space. Jodie Colbourne and Emma Nimmo worked at the end of last year to relocate the shop and Jodie has given time each day this week to ensure that things are ready for action. We are very grateful for all of the work they have done! If you would like to place an order for a uniform item, forms can be collected from Annette in the front office. Uniform orders that were placed at the end of last year are ready to be picked up. If your order included a school dress this will be in stock by Friday.

Access to and from the uniform shop is through the double doors up the back steps of the Administration building (near the statue of Mary)

Breakfast Club
Breakfast Club in the Performing Arts Centre will start for the year next Wednesday. This is a great opportunity to share a healthy breakfast with your friends and teachers at school! Mr Craft, Mr Prow, Mrs Ryan and Mrs Butler look forward to seeing you there. Please bring a gold coin donation.

Lunchtime fun in the Performing Arts Centre
This week we have commenced the first of our lunchtime sessions using the Performing Arts Centre. Students can enjoy a range of activities including table tennis, lego, reading, chess and quoits. The Performing Arts Centre provides the perfect space for lunchtime activities in this hot weather.

Swimming Carnival
Next Thursday 6 February is the school swimming carnival at the Moruya pool. The carnival is for students in Years 3-6 and those who are competent swimmers in Year 2. A note for permission to participate in the carnival was sent home yesterday. This note included a form for students to nominate events that they would like to swim in. It would be great to discuss this at home over the weekend and return the completed permission and nomination form to school before next Tuesday 4 February. Charge for the day is $3.70 per student. We would be grateful if the exact money was sent to school on the morning of the carnival with each participant. We look forward to seeing you there!

Canteen
The St Mary's canteen is open for recess and lunch every Friday. In order for it to operate we rely on the help of volunteers. We need two helpers every Friday. Can you lend a hand, or perhaps you know someone who can? Please call Genevieve on 01410504520 or email schofield.family@bigpond.com

Piano Tuition
Marina Bell A.Mus.A, L.Mus.A. Marina is a highly qualified teacher with over 30 years experience. She currently tutors students privately at St Mary’s achieving top results in exam and music festivals! Contact Marina on 44727143 or Email: marinabell07@yahoo.com.au if you are interested in your child being tutored.

I am pleased to be writing to you now as Assistant Principal (Acting). I’m looking forward to this new role to support Catrina and the whole school, taking a big picture view of school life. While I do not have a class this year, I look forward to working with teachers and children in other ways to promote fantastic learning at St. Mary’s in 2014.

Karen Hadley
Acting Assistant Principal
Lunchtime FUN!