Dear Parents,

It is a privilege to have been appointed the Principal of St Mary’s School. I am looking forward to working with the staff, children and parents of the school over the coming years. I wish to thank Catrina Niddrie for her work as Acting Principal last year and I look forward to working with the Leadership Team this year.

My first impressions of the school have been very positive. The staff have a reputation for being professional and collegial in their work and I have found them to be very welcoming and enthusiastic about education at St Mary’s. I have visited the children in their classes and have found them to be respectful and well mannered. The children are happy to be here and I look forward to assisting them in their learning during the year. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many parents over the coming weeks.

I would like to welcome any new families to the St Mary’s school community and hope they have a wonderful time at the school. We also welcome two new teachers, Mrs Annie Johnsen and Mrs Rebecca Keough to the school community.

Parent Information Night

Our first opportunity to meet will come next week when we shall host our Parent Information Night on Wednesday. The night will begin with a welcome to the school year at 5.50pm in the Covered Outdoor Learning Area. Parents of children in Kindergarten and Years 3 and 4 will begin their information sessions in the classrooms at 6.00pm. There will be a break at 6.20pm for a meet and greet and the remainder of the classes will meet at 6.40pm, finishing at 7.00pm. It is very important that parents attend these meetings to meet the teachers and to find out what will be happening in the classes this year. There is an information flyer with this newsletter.

Information Changes

Next week we shall be sending home some information regarding contact details for your family. Please take some time to check these details and make any necessary changes on the sheet. Please return these information sheets to your classroom teacher even if there are no changes to record.

Items of Clothing

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child’s name. Please write names on hats and jumpers that can be easily misplaced around the school.

Combined Catholic Schools Ball

There is a wonderful opportunity to have a great night out at the Combined Catholic Schools Ball to be held at the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club on Saturday March 21. Tickets are only $55 and there will be a wonderful band playing. Please see the information flyer with this newsletter for more details.

Sports Uniform Changes

There has been a change to sports uniform days for this year. All children wear their sports uniform on Mondays and the children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 wear their sports uniform on Thursdays and the children in Years 3 – 6 on Friday.

Opening School Mass

Tomorrow morning at 9.15am we shall have our Opening School Mass in the Church. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend. Fr Dominic will say Mass as Fr John is on a tour of the Holy Land. For the next two weeks Fr Brian Ebert will be saying weekend Masses.

Pupil Free Day

The three Catholic Schools will host a professional learning day for all staff on Monday February 9 at Carroll College. Please note that this will be a pupil free day for all children at St Mary’s. This day will replace the usual pupil free day at the beginning of Term 3.

Asthma Plans

If your child suffers from asthma and requires the use of a puffer please be aware of the following procedures: 

Puffers need to be stored in the sick bay at the front office and not in children’s school bags. The school requires an asthma plan for each child diagnosed with asthma. These plans need to be prepared in consultation with a doctor and signed by the doctor. The plans will be displayed in the sick bay for use by staff. Plans need to be reviewed every 12 months.

Best wishes

Mick Lowe
Principal
Welcome Back!
A very warm welcome back to St Mary's for Term 1, 2015. The holidays have come and gone very quickly once more. It was lovely to see the staff and students arrive yesterday full of enthusiasm and excitement as they begin a new year at St Mary's.

Opening School Mass
We warmly welcome all parents, grandparents, parishioners and friends to our whole school opening Mass this Friday 30 January at 9.15am in the Church. The students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be leading the Mass along with staff. Father Dominic and Father Brian (who is filling in for Father John for 4 weeks) will be celebrating Mass with us. Please join us at 9.15am this Friday.

Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator

Skoolbag App: Our main communication tool for parents this year will be through the Skoolbag App. School Notes, Events, Alerts and Absentee notes are available through the App. It can be downloaded onto iPhones, Android and iPads. It is also accessible through the school website. If you need assistance in downloading the App please contact the school. If you are experiencing any difficulty with the App please let us know.

Swimming Carnival: Our annual Swimming Carnival is next Friday 6 February for students in Years 2 – 6. The Carnival is held to select the team to represent St Mary's at the next level of competition at Narooma on Thursday 19 February. Parents are invited to join us at the pool on Friday, with the events planned to commence at 9.30am and conclude at approximately 2.30pm. Students must be 8 years or older to compete. Year 2 students who can competently swim 50m or more and are 8 years of age or turning 8 this year are eligible to compete. Please pack sunscreen, plenty of water and lunch/snacks for the day.

Uniform 2015: The students all look very smart and grown up in their uniforms. Thank you for assisting us with ensuring that your children are wearing the correct uniform. 2015 is the final year for phasing out the girls culottes as part of the summer/winter uniform. The girls can continue wearing them this year, but not 2016. A gentle reminder that long hair must be tied back everyday using school colour bands or ribbons.

Awards Assembly: Our first Awards Assembly is this Monday. All parents are welcome to attend. It will take place in the Performing Arts Centre at 9:00am.

Kindergarten Students: We welcome all our Kindergarten students for their first full day of school on Monday 2 February. We are all very excited about them commencing 'big school', especially their Year 6 buddies!

Wishing God's Best for you….
Catrina Niddrie
Assistant Principal

To all our new families and staff we warmly WELCOME you the St Mary’s family. May your time with us create very special memories.

Pupil Free Day
Monday 9 February
Walawaani
Welcome back to a new and exciting year at St Mary’s. I hope everybody had a relaxing holiday! I would especially like to welcome our new families to the school and community. Mrs Hadley and I look forward to meeting up with our indigenous students and families at our “Welcome BBQ” on Thursday 12 February (week 3). You will receive a note home about this BBQ in the next week. I will be at school Monday to Thursday each week this year so if you have any questions, need any support or just want to have a chat, please don’t hesitate to call in or give me a call. I have also had a change in work space and am now situated on the top floor of the Administration building. I feel privileged to hold this very special position at St Mary’s and look forward to working with your children.

Kerry Boyenga
Aboriginal Teacher

Keeping Our Children Safe
At the start of this new school year we want to ensure that all parents understand our procedures for dropping children to school in the morning and picking up in the afternoon. This can be a potential hazard and we ask for your vigilance with this.

- The car park in front of the Performing Arts Centre is available for dropping off children in the morning only. This is a staff car park. There is an area in front of the Performing Arts Centre where you are able to drop your child to walk into the school, however we ask that you do not leave your car. Children are to leave from the left hand side to ensure that they are not walking in front of other cars.
- The staff car park has space for two cars displaying disabled stickers. We ask that these are reserved for those members of our community who require this access.
- If you are picking up your child after school the staff car park is not an option. Please park at the church or in other car parks in streets close to the school.
- There is a children’s crossing in Church Street adjacent to the school oval. Parking is available here for a limited time. Children can access the school through gates directly onto the school oval.

We thank you for your co-operation with this important matter.

Change to Bus Timetable
Priors have notified us of a change to the Broulee bus timetable. The bus will now depart the school in the afternoons at 3:10pm.

Karen Hadley
Co-ordinator
BREAKFAST CLUB 2015

Breakfast Club will begin next week!
It will be on 3 mornings every week - TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY. Doors open at 8am. Cost is a GOLD coin donation. All students are welcome.

SRC 2015

Welcome back to the new school year! I am very excited to be working with the SRC again this year. The SRC and I will meet each Thursday to discuss ideas, fundraisers and fun activities for the children at St. Mary’s. I was so impressed with the enthusiasm and responsibility that the 2014 team had and I know that the 2015 team will do the same.
We will contribute regularly to the newsletter each term and continually update the Skoolbag App with our upcoming initiatives. I look forward to our first meeting of the year.
I sincerely thank you again for all of your continued support.

Sophie O’Hehir

COMBINED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BALL
Saturday 21st March, 2015
Welcome back for 2015! Are you ready for a child-free night out? Um... yes please!!

The Combined Catholic Schools Ball is on again and tickets will be available to purchase from the school office (from Monday). There is a booking spreadsheet for you to write your name down on a mixed table or you can book a whole table for you and your friends.

This is a fun night of good food and good company when our three Catholic schools come together and celebrate, so don’t miss out! Everyone is welcome and we particularly extend a warm invitation to all new parents to our school.

We are looking for some extra helpers to set up the Ball. If you can help please contact us.

Jo Flood & Brooke Wood
Events Working Party CCSB
Parent Information Night

WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Early Stage 1 and Stage 2 6pm
Meet and Greet with a light supper 6:20pm
Stage 1 and Stage 3 6:40pm

Welcome to the 2015 School Year

All parents are warmly invited to attend the St Mary’s Parent Information Night. Teachers of each grade level will present important information about 2015 and their class.

Parents will also have the opportunity to meet and greet each other, new families, new teachers and our new Principal.

For families having difficulty finding care for their children for the evening—supervised activities will be available in the hall.
The colours of Autumn

Saturday 21st March, 2015
Batemans Bay Soldiers Club
from 6.00pm

Entertainment: ‘Phat Boyz’
Dress: Formal
Tickets: $55

For information please contact
Megan Usher 0429 829 517 or Rebecca Henderson 0434 004 801
Singing Lessons
Stage presence, vocal projection, confidence, theoretical concepts, articulation, pitch, harmonising and aural recognition.

About Alyssa Jane
My name is Alyssa Louttit, I have over eight years experience in singing, songwriting and performing. I studied a Bachelor of Contemporary Music in Lismore at Southern Cross University and completed this degree in September 2013. I am passionate about encouraging young students to excel themselves musically; targeting both their strengths and weaknesses, preparing them for a future in music. Catering for ages 8 years to 16 years.

Singing Packages
30 minutes @ $25 Per Lesson
60 minutes @ $50 Per Lesson

Upfront School Term Payment Packages (10 weeks)
10 x 30 minute lessons @ $235.00 ($15 discount!)
10 x 60 minute lessons @ $460.00 ($40 discount!)

0415 567 439
alyssa_jane_louttit@hotmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/alyssajanemusic