Dear Parents

Welcome to Term 1 of 2017 to all our returning families and to our new families. I hope you enjoyed your time with your children during the holidays. I would like to welcome Mrs Carla Durnan to our staff at St Mary’s. Carla has taken the place of Tony Ward and we are looking forward to working with her. Mrs Jessie White has joined the staff and will be working in Stage 1 literacy support and is leading whole school change in supporting Mathematics education.

Swimming Carnival

Tomorrow we shall hold the school swimming carnival. Notes have gone home and we are looking forward to a great day of fun and competition. Parents are most welcome to come along and support and of course assist if possible with time keeping. Children who are competent swimmers and turned 8 in Year 2 are joining us at the pool.

Parent Information Night

A very important meeting is to be held next Tuesday February 7 commencing at 6.00pm. All the teachers will be at school to speak with you about the work they will be doing with your children during this year. They will outline processes and communication strategies, present an overview of the curriculum and ask you to complete an information sheet on your child. Each teacher will present from 6 until 6.20 when we shall break for drinks and nibbles and at 6.40 the teachers will present the same information to allow parents with more than one child to attend both sessions. Each family will receive a printed calendar of events and happenings for the term. I need to stress that these sessions are extremely important and we would love to see you there.

Homework

Last Friday all staff from the 57 different schools in our archdiocese (2500 people) attended some professional learning in Canberra. One of the speakers challenged us to think about the usefulness of giving homework to our children. In discussion back at school we decided to ask parents at St Mary’s to vote on whether homework is required for the children. Having said that we require all children to engage in reading every school night and this is a nonnegotiable for our children. The homework we are talking about is the set homework that is completed by some children some of the time. Research tells us that there is little or no benefit to children’s learning attributed to the completion of homework. If it does not benefit the children and it is causing conflict at home and is ignored by many children, it is hard to justify the time taken to set and correct homework tasks.

To that end we have set up a very short online survey. Please click on the link below to record your opinion.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XQDTV6F

Christian Meditation

We have introduced the practice of Christian Meditation across the school. Each morning at 9am the whole school pauses for five minutes. At this time every person in the school will stop in order to meditate. Visitors to the school are encouraged to join all students and staff in this practice.

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Weekend Masses
Moruya: Vigil Mass – Saturday 6pm
Tuross: Sunday 8am
Moruya: Sunday 10am

Week 2 Term 1

Monday 6 February
Award Assembly 2:30pm

Tuesday 7 February
Parent Information Night
6-7pm
NUDE FOOD DAY

Wednesday 8 February
Kinder Rest Day

Friday 10 February
Whole School Beginning of Year Mass 9:15am

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their special day in the coming week ...

Evie G
Jack B

This week’s notes:

- Swimming Carnival permission note

Have you received these notes? If not, please phone the office to have a copy sent home with your child.

PO Box 212 Moruya NSW 2537
P 02 4474 2817 F 02 4474 4947
E office.stmarysmoruya@catholic.edu.au
W www.stmarysmoruya.nsw.edu.au
Planning
Our strategic planning objectives for this year revolve around three main themes:

- The continuation of our Inquiry model of literacy including free daily reading and free daily writing. A further visit from Kaye Lowe, who will meet with staff and present a parent forum, will support this model.
- The introduction of the Inquiry model in Numeracy across the whole school. The initiative will be supported by Catholic Education and resourced at a school level by Jessie White.
- The continued implementation of the Kids’ Matter program to include an approach to school wide positive behaviour. Values will be explicitly taught, modelled and rewarded during the school year. A value will be introduced at Monday’s assembly and discussed in classrooms. When children are observed practising the specific skill they may be awarded a values card. The values card is then brought to the classroom and celebrated with the rest of the class. Each class will set a goal of collecting a certain number of values cards and will be recognised when their goal is achieved. Assembly awards will be based on the values cards.

Other interesting things during the year will include a whole school musical to be presented towards the end of Term 3. There will be a bike-a-thon towards the end of Term 2 as well as the usual carnivals and special celebrations.

Just for Fun
Did you hear about the restaurant on the Moon?
Great food, no atmosphere.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe
Principal

A message from Fr John
Back in the 1930s Robert Thouless published a book called ‘Straight and Crooked Thinking’. What I have always found useful is the appendix which contains a section called “Thirty-seven dishonest tricks commonly used in an argument with the methods of overcoming them”. This very practical book examines how we use language, the meaning of words and thinking clearly about issues. It sought to shed light on the issues of the day. I believe it is just as current today as it was when it was first published.

In our current climate where people rush to put out opinions, we seem to have produced a reactive culture which undermines the reflective process. The urge of the instant response and the urgent concern which draws us away from ourselves. We surrender ourselves only to the immediate moment rather than considering how we come to that moment as ourselves. Our news is pre-digested and served to us in easy mouthfuls. This draws us away from considering what is important and being able to communicate in a way which sheds light on important issues.

Communication Corner

Welcome to 2017
A very big cheerful welcome to all our new and continuing families. We would also like to extend a very warm and heartfelt welcome to our Kinder families and our 2 new families with children in Years 1-6. We hope you will enjoy the special spirit that is St Mary’s and settle in very quickly to our caring community.

Sports days 2017
K–2 will wear their Sports Uniform on Tuesdays and Fridays
3–6 will wear their Sports Uniform on Mondays and Fridays

Parent Information Night is on Tuesday 7 February. It will be a very informative evening and a lovely opportunity to get together and hear about the wonderful learning opportunities, procedures and events we can all look forward to in 2017. Many important bits of information will be shared and handed out on the evening. Curriculum notes, Parent Term 1 Calendar, Getting to Know Your Child Form and personalised class information will be handed out at the Parent Information Evening. So make sure you mark this date in your diary and make the effort to pop in and meet your child’s teacher.

Primary Swimming Carnival is THIS Friday 3 February. Please ensure your child has packed sunscreen, water, snacks, a hat and lunch. Your child is to wear their sports uniform, but may wear a coloured shirt instead supporting their house team. (Go BLUE!!). Upcoming swimming events will be placed throughout the day on the Skool Bag App if you are wondering about race times.

Continued overleaf...
Nude Food Day Tuesday 7 Feb
This year St Mary’s will be participating in monthly Nude Food Days. The Nude Food days will be the first Tuesday of each month. With the wonderful results of last year’s participation in the National Nude Food day and the overwhelming positive feedback by parents and students we have embedded the practice more frequently into this school year. We believe that eating well and undertaking a variety of activities including rubbish tasks, learning about recycling, fresh food alternatives and recipes, packaging and waste will greatly benefit the children’s knowledge and understanding of nutrition and caring for the environment around them. We would like your assistance by helping us participate each month in the Nude Food Days by preparing your child/ren’s lunch free of processing and packaging.

From this ...  

To this...

Here is the link to the Nutrition Australia website, they offer many great lunch box recipes, environmental ideas and suggestions you can do at home to continue this important message of healthy food, healthy planet. http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/

Car Park
We would like to remind everyone about car parking procedures. The car park near the police station at the front of the school is for dropping off in the morning and staff car parking ONLY. This is not an afternoon pick-up point. For afternoon pick up, families are asked to park in the church car park or surrounding streets and use the children’s crossings and walk through to collect their children from the benches under the shelter. This is where teachers are supervising children. Please do not double-park in the church car park. Thank you for your understanding.

Important Bus Travel Information
Transport NSW requires all children who are in Year 3 and who travel on a bus to complete a new bus application form. Students in Year 3 are taken off the School Student Transport Scheme until the bus companies receive the new application form. At this age they are deemed to be Primary students rather than Infants.

Computer Use Agreement
On Monday 6 February, a blue form regarding student’s use of the internet/ computers at St Mary’s will be sent home and uploaded onto the Skoolbag App. Please read through this form very carefully with your child/ren. It is a contract that identifies to us that you and your child/ren understand the St Mary’s Acceptable User Agreement. Your child/ren must sign this contract and have it witnessed by a parent/guardian. Remember that there are two sides of the form that must be completed. If you have any questions regarding any of the statements on the form, please don’t hesitate to ask. Please return the agreement to your child’s teacher by Friday 10 February.

Communication
Effective communication is essential between home and school and we would like all parents to take a few minutes to ensure that the lines are open.

• Skoolbag App- have you downloaded it onto your phone and/or iPad?
• Contact details- please if you have moved, changed phone number or email address, let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our records
• Email Addresses- please ensure we have your email address especially for receiving our school enewsletter and class information
• Please ensure emergency contact details are up to date too

Wishing God’s Best for you
Catrina Niddrie
Assistant Principal
A very warm welcome to 2017 at St Mary’s School. It is wonderful to be back and to see the happy faces of the children as they meet their new teachers and catch up with their friends.

**This Sunday’s Gospel**
Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus’ time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Now, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Our familiarity with this passage from Matthew’s Gospel tells of the power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus’ call to be salt for the earth and light for the world states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the commitment that Jesus asks of us in today’s Gospel. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for those who mourn, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as “a city set on a mountain” that cannot be hidden!

**Important dates for Religious Education in Term 1**
- **Week 2:** Whole School Mass @ 9.15am Friday 10 February.
- **Week 3:** Year 6 Class Mass @ 9.15am Friday 17 February.
- **Week 4:** First Reconciliation Enrolment Night @ 5pm, Wednesday 22 February in Year 2 Classrooms.
- **Week 4:** Combined Schools Mass @ 10am Friday 24 February at Carroll College, Broulee.
- **Week 5:** Whole School Mass for Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent) @ 9.15am Wednesday 1 March.
- **Week 5:** Whole School/Parish Mass to celebrate Catholic Schools Week @ 10am Sunday 5 March.
- **Week 6:** Year 4 Class Mass @ 9.15am Friday 10 March.
- **Week 7:** Year 3 Class Mass @ 9.15am Friday 17 March (all welcome to celebrate St Patrick’s Day)

**Christian Meditation**
We have decided as a staff to introduce Christian Meditation throughout the whole school every morning at 9am for five minutes. At this time every person in the school will stop in order to meditate. A message will be issued from the Office for the beginning and end of meditation. Those students who may be late are asked to wait in the Office and meditate with the rest the school. Parents and all visitors are also asked to join us in meditating if they arrive at this time. We encourage and support the daily practice of meditation as a way of prayer, knowing its power to change hearts. All classes at St Marys have been meditating as part of our prayer life, three times per week. Students like to meditate and teachers report it having a very positive effect in the work and participation of the students at school. It is an inclusive practice which is suitable for all students. “It is important that even the smallest children learn to be still and not just to be quiet. It is in their stillness that God can speak to their hearts and they can discover the love of God for each of them personally.” (Bishop Michael Putney, Townsville)

**A Christmas Baby**
We send our warmest congratulations and very best wishes to the Mazurkiewcz Family on the birth of their baby Zane in the holidays. A son for Casey and Shannon and brother to Cooper (Year 2) and Lily.

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*O Lord God, School is not always easy, And some days, it is very difficult, and I struggle to relax and be at peace. Yet I know that you will give me patience, wisdom, and courage, to be excellent in every way, and you will help me love others, as you love me. Amen*

Have a safe and happy weekend with your families

**Marg Croese**
Religious Education Coordinator

*In all things may God be glorified*
PLAY NETBALL THIS YEAR!

The new committee would like to invite you to play netball with Tuross this year! Registration day is Saturday 18 February from 1-4pm at Tuross Country Club (up the stairs).

Training is in Moruya once a week after school (day depends on coach availability).

If you’d like to play with Tuross, you must come to our registration day to try on a new dress. The Tuross Country Club is our new major sponsor kindly sponsoring new dresses for the players so we need to confirm numbers and sizes. Dresses will be on loan and must be returned at the end of the season.

Registration cost:
- Net Set Go! Skills (5-7 years) = $85
- Net Set Go! Competition (8-10 years) = $85
- Juniors (11 – 17) = $115
- Seniors (18+) = $145

We are looking for coaches! We especially encourage High School students with a love for sport. For further information please contact Narelle McFadyen on 0403 933 352.

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RUGBY WANTS YOU!

The Broulee/Moruya Rugby Club is looking for more players to join us in the 2017 ACT JRU competition.

Under 10’s to 18’s

All teams are graded. There are six home and six away matches on Saturdays over terms 2 and 3.

Training is at Captain Oldrey Park, Broulee on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30pm

We are looking for players who are willing to learn the game, respect their team mates, officials and opponents and do themselves, their families and their club proud. You do not have to be experienced to sign up.

NEW PROGRAMS in 2017 – Held on Friday evenings in Term 2:
- Dusty Dolphins Mini Rugby – Mini rugby for 4-9 Year Olds
- Dolphins Access Rugby – Modified rugby for players with disabilities

For more information please contact:
Michelle Katuke: brouleedolphins@gmail.com
Jon Brady: dolphinsjuniors@gmail.com
www.dolphinsrugby.com

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MORUYA TUROSS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Moruya Tuross have teams in the following age groups:
- U7’s, U8’s, U10’s, U12’s, U14’s, U16’s
- Girls League Tag 9-12 years and 13-16 years

To register go to:
www.playnrl.com or
Saturday 4 February 2017
9.30am to 11.30am
Ack Weyman Oval, Moruya

Guest appearance from Canberra Raiders players who will be running drills and signing autographs from 9.30-10.30am

For any further information please contact:
moruya.tuross.sharks@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/
MoruyaTurossJuniorRugbyLeagueClub/

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MP DANCE Info Day

Come dance with us

Sat 4 Feb

Moruya RSL Hall – 10.30am till 1pm

Join in some dancing, stretching or enjoy a BBQ.

Sign up and pay on the day to save your spot
monyastylie@hotmail.com