Dear Parents,

The enjoyment of watching the youngest members of our school start this week has been delightful. They are making a big impression and are adapting to “Big” school and the routines very quickly. A warm welcome to our new Kinder families-Cope, Paull, Rehardt, Harpley, Ivanoff, Katuke, Strong, Van Weerdenburg, Whitby, Bogdanovic, Cottington, Edwards, Irving, Kaushal, Marx, Doran and Thompson. It was lovely to meet you and share entertaining parenting stories at the Kinder Parent Morning Tea. I am sure you will enjoy your association with St Mary’s this year and for many years to come.

Yesterday we held our annual school Swimming Carnival. Being my first here, I was impressed with the behaviour of all the children and the way in which they encouraged each other and cheered on fellow team mates throughout the day. Congratulations to the House Captains for leading by example and keeping their teams punctual to races and areas tidy. A BIG thank you to all our parent helpers who assisted and to Moruya Swim Club for allowing us to utilise their equipment. Well done to Mr Bateman and Mr Ward for their behind the scenes organisation, making sure the day ran smoothly. It was a good, fun day had by all! Enjoy looking at the photos attached to this newsletter.

On Wednesday 12 February, Fr Emil is holding the Parish Sacramental Meeting at the Church at 7:30pm. This is for all families whose child will be making a Sacrament this year. Undertaking a Sacrament is a very special time in our community and in the lives of your children. At St Mary’s the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in Year 2, the Sacrament of First Eucharist is celebrated in Year 3 and the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in Year 6. If you would like further information about the Parish based programme or the Sacraments please contact our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Marg Croese.

It’s that time of year for our school to undertake the February Census. Census happens twice a year in February and August in which information is gathered about student enrolment. The information is required by the first instance for the NSW Government for funding purposes to Catholic schools. Our current school enrolment is 235 students. From time to time parents enquire about how a school is funded and how that funding is distributed in terms of teacher allocation and class sizes, to Learning Support time etc. All the information gathered from our Archdiocesan schools is collected for analysis and budgeting by the CEO. The Census provides this information and schools are funded accordingly. As I am sure you are aware, this is a big job and we are lucky that we have first-class administrative support with Mrs Annette Hazell, here at St Mary’s. Thank you Mrs Hazell for your time and effort put into preparing this data.

Breakfast Club began this week. What a fantastic service this is for our school community. It is run by dedicated volunteers every Wednesday morning in the Performing Arts Centre and is by gold coin donation. Come along and start the day well, by eating a good breakfast to fuel your body and brain.

God of new beginnings,
You have brought us together for this new school year.
Bless our class’ as we begin our journey together and bless our school community as we look forward to your guidance over the coming year.
We make this prayer through Jesus your Son.

“Wishing God’s best for you”

Catrina Niddrie
Principal (Acting)
Religion News

Sunday's Gospel
This Sunday is the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the Gospel reading for this week (Matthew 5:13-16) Jesus teaches that his disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Jesus calls us to be salt for the earth and light for the world. This is our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the message that Jesus gives us in today’s Gospel. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console 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!

Sacramental Meeting
A reminder that the meeting for all parents of children making the Sacrament of First Eucharist, Confirmation or Reconciliation this year will be held in the Sacred Heart Church next Wednesday 12 February night at 7.30pm. If you would like your child/ren to make one of these Sacraments this year it is important that you attend this meeting. If you have any queries please contact Father Emil at the Presbytery or on 44742024.

Whole School Mass
All parents, friends and parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate a beautiful Mass with us to mark the beginning of a new school year next Friday 14 February at 9.15am. This is also Valentine’s Day and marks the Feast of St Valentine. Saint Valentine is said to be the Saint of married couples. “St Valentine apparently had quite a heart for young couples. When the Emperor Claudius II banned all weddings so as to more effectively recruit single young men into his army, St Valentine risked his life to marry young couples in secret. He used his resources to shed light into the despair of these desperate couples.” (Catholics online).

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!
Our school freezer is looking a little empty at the moment. It is available to freeze meals for families who are going through difficult circumstances. There are a number of families at St Mary’s who need our help at the moment because of illness, ongoing treatment or other difficulties. If you feel you would be able to help by preparing a home cooked meal, a cake or biscuits etc it would be greatly appreciated. There are disposable containers available in the office for you to put the meals in. Please write on the lid what the meal is, the date it was cooked and the ingredients used. All food can be left in the office or the upstairs freezer. Thank you very much.

Choir News
The St Mary’s choir will begin practice again next Wednesday 12 February at lunchtime. Children from all classes are invited to join the choir and must commit to practice for at least one term. We are lucky enough to have Mrs Lesley Pheeney to accompany us again this year. Children who are part of the choir are also asked to be prepared to come to practice each week and sing at all performances whether in school time or on the weekend. Thank you.

Oh, Lord my God.
You called me from the sleep of nothingness merely because in your tremendous love you want to make good and beautiful beings.
You have called me by my name in my mother’s womb.
You have given me breath and light and movement and walked with me every moment of my existence.
I am amazed, Lord God of the universe, that you attend to me and, more, cherish me.
Create in me the faithfulness that moves you, and I will trust you and yearn for you all my days.
Amen (Joseph Tetlow SJ)

Monday Guitar
Guitar lessons will also begin next week on Monday 10 February at lunchtime in the Kinder CB room. This is mostly a beginners class and children will need a guitar and a folder for their music. Guitar lessons will continue to be on Mondays at lunchtime.

Have a safe and happy weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
Exemptions information

It is important that all parents/guardians read this item. As you may already know, there have been significant changes to the exemption of student attendance requirements in NSW schools.

Parents/guardians MUST complete an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form for all absences when the absence is known in advance (eg holidays). If the request for absence is less than 101 days it can be approved by the Principal. If the request is for 101 or more days it must be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office. It will then be sent through the NSW Catholic Education Commission to the Minister of Education or his delegate, for his approval.

Unforseen absences, for example, absences due to sickness, funerals, situations of pressing domestic necessity do NOT require an application for exemption.

If an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School is approved by the Principal/Minister the school will complete a Certificate of Exemption. This is kept on the student file and a copy is supplied to parents. This must be produced upon request by the Police or other authorised attendance officer. When departing the country the certificate can be requested by customs/passport officials.

The Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form is available on our school website (click on Enrolment tab and the link can be found at the bottom of the page). A copy can also be collected from our school office.

Unforseen events for which the Principal can accept parental explanations is limited to 15 days per child per year. In the unlikely event that this limit is reached, student absences must then be either coded according to another leave category or marked as unexplained. Exceptional circumstances will be considered, but the need for this would be highly unlikely.

If you have any questions in relation to this requirement please contact the school.

Library Borrowing

The library is now located upstairs in the Administration building. Lynette Luff has worked tirelessly and along with Lynn Johnston are preparing the library for borrowing and class visits. We are extremely appreciative of their work.

We are awaiting the arrival of new library display shelves for each class. The library is coming into the classroom this year, allowing children access to a selection of quality literature for daily reading. In the next couple of weeks, children will be asked to bring their library bags to school on a designated day. When the books will be returned and new books borrowed. In addition to the in-class library, classes will visit our new ‘boutique’ space with their teachers. Information regarding the start of the Premier’s Reading Challenge will be in next week’s newsletter.

Skool of Rock

Peter Rich will re-commence guitar lessons next Monday morning in the Performing Arts Centre. If your child would like to begin lessons and join the ‘Skool of Rock’ group please pick up a flyer from Annette in the front office.

Term 1 Calendar

For the information of families and friends of St Mary’s, the latest term Calendar is uploaded on our school website. A hard copy of the Calendar has been sent home today. Events and important dates may be added as they arise throughout the term.

School Newsletter Distribution

A number of our families request that our weekly newsletter be emailed to them each Friday. Next week, a letter will go home to families and you will have the opportunity to indicate whether you would like to be added to this emailing group. Please complete and return to school at your earliest convenience. Hard copies are always available for families who prefer receiving correspondence this way. If at any time you would like to change the way you receive the newsletter, please phone Annette in the office.

I know this is a strange sport for the middle of summer but the Winter Olympics is upon us and there are a few students at St Marys who are avid snow skiers. So it might be great fun to enter a St Marys team in the Southern NSW Championships being held at Perisher Valley from 30 July to 1 August 2014 if anyone is interested in competing could you please contact Jake Harris on 44744567.
Kindergarten have fun playing with their Year 6 buddies!
Computer Use Agreement

This week a form regarding the student’s use of the computers at St Mary’s has been sent home. Please read through this form very carefully with your child/ren. It is a contract that assures us that you and your child/ren understand and will upload the St Mary’s Acceptable User Agreement.

Your child/ren must sign this contract and have it witnessed by a parent/guardian. If you have any questions regarding any of the questions or statements on the form, please don’t hesitate to come and see me. Could you please return the agreement to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

SPECIALIST SUBJECT TIMETABLE

Your child’s Specialist timetable is outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Science and Technology</th>
<th>Performing Arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am-10.00am</td>
<td>Year 2S</td>
<td>Year 2JP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am-11.00am</td>
<td>Year 2JP</td>
<td>Year 2S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am-12.30pm</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm-1.10pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45pm-3.05pm</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am-10.00am</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00am-11.00am</td>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am-12.30pm</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm-1.10pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten D</td>
<td>Kindergarten CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.45pm-2.05pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten D</td>
<td>Kindergarten CB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.05pm-3.05pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten CB</td>
<td>Kindergarten CB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Car Park

We would like to remind everyone about car parking procedures. The car park near the police station is for dropping off in the morning and staff car parking. There are also two spots allocated for those with a disabled parking permit. Parking is tight! For afternoon pick up, families are asked to park in the church car park 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 school car park and leave your car to walk into the playground. Thank you for your understanding.

Karen Hadley
Assistant Principal (Acting)

Week 1 Class Awards

Congratulations to the following children who received class awards this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2JP</th>
<th>Year 2S</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael B</td>
<td>Rhianna B</td>
<td>Jared S</td>
<td>Julie N</td>
<td>Rory H</td>
<td>Layla I</td>
<td>Stephanie L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron L</td>
<td>Jack B</td>
<td>Jasper Z</td>
<td>Kiearra Te</td>
<td>Makaylah C</td>
<td>Abbey C</td>
<td>Grace B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kehlei C</td>
<td>Tamami T</td>
<td>Jemah S</td>
<td>Bailey B</td>
<td>Michala P</td>
<td>Bree Mc</td>
<td>Amelia T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is great to see so many children working hard and receiving acknowledgment for their efforts – Well done to all!
**Summer Sports Trials**

If you would like to enter your son/daughter into these trials a nomination form will need to be filled out for each sport. It is the responsibility of parents to make their own travel arrangement to get to these venues. These trials are primarily open to students from Stage 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Nomination due</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL</td>
<td>Tuesday 18 February</td>
<td>Dairy Farmer’s Park Queanbeyan</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 February</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Girls and Boys</td>
<td>Monday 17 February</td>
<td>Young sports Stadium Lachlan St Young</td>
<td>Friday 14 February</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Girls and Boys</td>
<td>Monday 17 February</td>
<td>Young Tennis Club Lachlan St Young</td>
<td>Friday 14 February</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Boys and Girls</td>
<td>End of Term 4 2014</td>
<td>Cranfield Oval Binalong St Young</td>
<td>Expressions of Interest is required</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Friday 7 March</td>
<td>TBA Sydney. Individual nominations can be made on the website</td>
<td>Monday 24 February</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will also be Winter Sports Trials for the following sports. Open Rugby League, 11 years Rugby League, Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys Hockey, Girls Hockey, Netball and Rugby Union.

These trials can be quiet competitive so it is recommended that you only trial for sports that you play regularly at a high level. Representative experience can be an advantage. If you are interested in any of the above trials please see me for a nomination form.

Tony Ward

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**Peppers Netball Registrations**

Peppers registrations are being held at the Soldiers Club on the following days:
- **Friday 14 February** 3:30 – 5:30pm
- **Saturday 15 February** 10:00am – 12:00pm
- **Saturday 22 February** 10:00am – 12:00pm

Registration forms will be emailed to last year's members. Forms for new members will be available from the Batemans Bay Soldier Club and on registration days.

**NetSetGo Comp – 8 and 9 years**
- **Juniors** – 10, 11 and 12 years
- **Intermediate** – 13, 14 and 15 years
- **Senior** – 16 years and over

NetSetGo Skills is also available for children 5 – 7 years at the Broulee netball courts on Saturday mornings. For more information please contact Fiona Crow 0417490359 / 44726508 (NetSetGo and juniors) or Meaghan Francis 0408 436883 / 4478 1173 (Intermediates and seniors).

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**SOCCER REGISTRATIONS 2014**

Registrations will be held on the 8 and 15 of February from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Gundary Oval. Our club is also looking for a Canteen Manager and Coaches for the 2014 season. If you have any questions regarding registrations please do not hesitate in contacting Jenny McKenzie on 0457313148.

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**JUNIOR RUGBY UNION REGISTRATION**

Junior Rugby is played with the Dolphins Rugby Club for U10’s to U18’s and with South Coast Mini Rugby for U7’s to U11’s. Registration for all ages is on:
- **Sunday February 9** – Village Centre Batemans Bay 10.00am-2.00pm
- **Saturday February 15** – Tomakin Sports & Social Club 4.00-6.00pm

For more information: www.dolphinsrugby.com or call Jon Brady, 0412766605.

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**Moruya Tuross Junior Rugby League Club**

Will be holding registrations for the 2014 season on the following dates:-
- **Saturday 8 & 15 February** 4pm-6pm at the Waterfront Hotel, Moruya
- **Tuesday 11 & Thursday 13 February** 4pm-5pm at Ack Weyman Oval, Moruya

Early bird registrations will be $60. For further information email Grant at or head to the Moruya Tuross Junior Rugby League facebook page.