Dear Parents

I hope you found the Parent Information Evening informative and had the chance to catch up with your child’s teacher. The teacher should be the first port of call if parents have any concerns or issues. Please contact your child’s teacher to make an appointment should you wish to discuss an issue. I thank the teachers who prepared the information for families and for giving up their time to be present. For those parents unable to attend last night a paper copy will be sent home with your child.

Pupil Free Day

A reminder to all parents that the school will be closed next Monday to allow all the staff to attend an in-service day at Carroll College. This day provides an opportunity for all staff from our three schools to come together to discuss teaching and learning issues common to our three schools.

Swimming Carnival

This Friday we shall hold the annual St Mary’s Swimming Carnival. The children are looking forward to the day and parents are most welcome to attend. The carnival is used as a selection trial for the zone carnival to be held in Narooma in a few weeks.

Blue Forms

This week the children brought home a form containing addresses, contact details and relevant medical information. Please check this form and return to your child’s teacher making the necessary changes. Please return this form even if there are no changes to be made.

School Counsellor

I am pleased to advise you that our School Counsellor Melissa Selleck returned from maternity leave this week. Melissa will be working at St Mary’s each Tuesday from 10.00am until 1.00pm. I have outlined the role of the School Counsellor in this newsletter. Children will not be seen by the Counsellor without first getting permission from the parents.

Community Council

Nominations for parents to join the Community Council are now open. If you are interested please drop a note to Annette or email the school. The CC provides guidance and support to the school executive. The CC meets twice each term on a Tuesday afternoon from 5.00pm-6.30pm.

Combined Schools’ Ball

Please get your tickets to the social event of the year. The Ball will be held at the Bay Soldiers Club on Saturday March 21 and tickets are available from the front office.

Breakfast Club

All children are most welcome to come along to the Breakfast Club each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 8.00am. My thanks to the staff and parishioners who volunteer their time on these three mornings.

Best wishes, Mick Lowe (Principal)
CATHOLIC CARE STUDENT AND FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE

What?
As part of their pastoral care program for students, Catholic Schools have access to a Student and Family Counselling service provided by CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn (CCG). CCG are contracted by Catholic Education and Congregational Schools to provide a counselling service to students and their families. There is no fee to access this service.

The role of the counsellor is to focus on the emotional, social and educational well-being of the students. Counsellors welcome contact with students having difficulty with some part of their life, whether or not it affects their school work. The problem does not have to be a big one. It is better to seek help sooner than later. Some typical concerns that counsellors work with include: anger, anxiety, behavioural problems, depression, eating problems, family breakdown and family conflict, grief and loss, learning and educational challenges, parenting challenges, peer and other social relationships, school avoidance, stress and study skills. As well as individual sessions with students, counsellors can run groups, do family work, consult with parents and teachers and make referrals to other services and supports.

Counsellors are not employed as specialists in any area and at times will suggest referrals for specialist services. Counsellors also do not provide cognitive or learning assessments or court reports. Families requiring these will be referred to another service.

Who?
All Student and Family counsellors are professionally qualified Social Workers or Psychologists who participate in regular clinical supervision and professional development.

Student and Family Counsellors subscribe to a set of professional ethics that include duty of care and respect for the individual’s right to privacy and confidentiality. The counsellors’ obligation is to ensure the safety, wellbeing and confidentiality of the student they are working with. All counsellors are mandated to report any disclosure or sign of abuse (including self-harm) or neglect to Child Protection Services.

How?
Students can refer themselves, be referred by family, school staff or other agencies. Primary school students require the consent of their parents or guardians to access counselling. The consent of both parents is required where there is separation/divorce and both parents have parenting and decision making responsibilities. High school students do not require parental consent to access the counsellor. Where it is in the best interest of the student and with the student’s consent counsellors will facilitate the involvement of a parent or guardian.

Counsellors use the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) as part of assessment and monitoring of change during counselling. Use of these measures is considered best practice and measures such as this are widely used in counselling services. In high schools, the counsellor will request students to complete an initial questionnaire in one of the first sessions and a follow up questionnaire during and/or towards the end of counselling. In primary schools, counsellors will request parents/guardians to complete an initial questionnaire before seeing the student and again during or before completion of counselling. Counsellors may also request teachers and high school parents to complete questionnaires. This will be done with the knowledge and consent of parents/guardians and high school students. More information on the questionnaire is available at http://www.sdqinfo.com/.

The counsellor’s presence in schools varies from two days per term to 5 days per week during school term time. Counsellors can be contacted directly in person at the school, through the school front office or staff or through the CCG Red Hill office on (02) 6162 6100. Feedback on the service can be provided directly to the counsellor, by phoning the CCG office or anonymously on the CCG website.
Religion News

“It is in giving that we reach our highest potential, when we grow beyond ourselves and become channels of God’s love.”

Gospel for this Sunday

Today we continue to read from Mark’s Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon’s mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses. On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark’s Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus’ disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach. Today’s Gospel completes a picture of Jesus’ ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark’s Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee. Jesus’ compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Ash Wednesday

We will celebrate our next whole school Mass in Week 4 on Wednesday 18 February at 9.15am in the Sacred Heart Church. This is the Mass for Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent.

Information Session for All Sacraments

Parents of students who will be making their First Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation this year are warmly invited to attend an information session in Week 6, Tuesday 3 March at 3.15 till 3.45pm or 5.00pm till 5.30pm. The information sessions will be held in the Church.

Dates for Sacraments

Confirmation: May 31 in Carroll College Hall combined with Year 6 students from St Bernard’s.

Reconciliation: August 26, Sacred Heart Church Moruya at 5.30pm.

First Eucharist: November 14 and 15, Sacred Heart Church Moruya at 6pm or 10am Mass.

Food Bank

Our food bank is in need of replenishing for families in our school who are experiencing illness or difficulty. All donations of casseroles, cakes or slices etc are greatly appreciated and can be left at the school office. Thank you.

Have a happy and safe weekend,
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator

Let’s pray now to God, the source of all love and compassion:

God of judgment and mercy, thank you for your love, which continually calls me to come closer to you. Help me to see you in all people I meet and to recognise how to serve you by helping others, especially those in need. Amen.
A Big Thanks...
Thank you to all our parents who attended the Parent Information Night. It was 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 2015.
Thank you to the staff for hosting the Parent Information sessions in such a professional and communicative way. If you were unable to attend, all handouts are available from the Skoolbag App or please ask your child’s teacher for a copy.
A special thank you to our parish volunteers- Leo, Bev and Patrick, who will assist with Breakfast Club and Chess Club. We warmly welcome you and appreciate your help!

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 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 school car park and leave your car to walk into the playground. 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
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 statements on the form, please don’t hesitate to ask. Could you please return the agreement to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Catrina Niddrie

NUT-FREE POLICY
Please remember that St Mary’s is strictly nut-free. We have students at the school with sever allergies. Thank you for respecting this very important rule and for helping us to keep our students safe.
Crunch & Sip

You may have heard teachers and children refer to Fruit Break. This is a really important time of the day when children and teachers ‘refuel’ and rehydrate during the morning learning time. We take the time for this break as it is known to improve concentration and mental and physical performance. Children rarely drink enough water and often forget to drink unless reminded. We would like to once again promote the Crunch & Sip program which takes fruit break one step further, encouraging children to eat fruit and vegetables as a snack and water as a drink. You may not have considered packing vegetables but you might be surprised to discover the vegetables that your child will enjoy when eaten raw.

Aboriginal Parent BBQ

On Thursday 12 February (Week 3) we are holding a BBQ for Aboriginal families to welcome them for the start of 2015 and to share information regarding programs at our school. The BBQ will begin at 3.00pm and will be held on the grass outside the Administration Building.

Soundwaves

At St Mary’s we have a whole school approach to teaching spelling, following the ‘The Soundwaves’ program. This is a phonemic approach using a sound-to-letter strategy which acknowledges that sounds can be represented by more than one way in written form. This synthetic phonics approach focuses first on the basic units of sound in our language – phonemes. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form written words. The Soundwaves program has an online component which students can access from home using the following link online.fireflyeducation.com.au/services/student_login/soundwaves Password: hang404

Karen Hadley
Co-ordinator

Moruya Soccer Club Registration

7th and 21st of February @ the Moruya Club House.

PUPIL FREE DAY:

Monday 9 February
Welcome Kinder!
**Week 2 Class Awards**

Congratulations to the following children who received class awards this week. It is great to see so many children working hard and receiving acknowledgment for their efforts – well done to all!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1H</th>
<th>Year 1OH</th>
<th>Year 2J</th>
<th>Year 2JP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrison K</td>
<td>Jordon T</td>
<td>Chloe H</td>
<td>Riley N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle P</td>
<td>Miranda T</td>
<td>Declan F</td>
<td>Marli W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleigha L</td>
<td>Avalon H</td>
<td>Zane B</td>
<td>Lake H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lachlan G</td>
<td>George G</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3S</th>
<th>Year 3D</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily B</td>
<td>Jasper Z</td>
<td>Lachlan D</td>
<td>Jessie S</td>
<td>Annie H</td>
<td>Harrison K (Year 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte W</td>
<td>Jessica T</td>
<td>Lachlan B</td>
<td>Grace R</td>
<td>Reilly B</td>
<td>Felicity L (Year 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex C</td>
<td>Zac W</td>
<td>Brendan M</td>
<td>Jordan B</td>
<td>Declan C</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Luke M</td>
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**LIBRARY**

I am very excited as I take on my new role as Teacher Librarian this year! Students will visit the library each week in their classes where they will read, be read to and have the opportunity to borrow books to take home. It is important that all students remember to bring their library bag each week. The Library will also be open every day at recess where students can come and read, research and borrow books. Students in Years 2-6 will also take part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) once again this year. Beginning in March, students will record any books they read which are listed. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. Please come in and check out our wonderful new library space! I look forward to working with all the students throughout the year.

Jessica Afflick
St Mary’s Swimming Carnival Friday

Friday 6 February 2015

A few reminders for this Friday’s swimming carnival.

The carnival is set to begin at approximately 9.30am. Please make sure your child has adequate sunscreen, water and they are wearing their hat on the day. Priority will be given to 200IM, 100m and 50m races on the day. Competitors in these races are competing to gain selection in the St Mary’s Swimming team and represent the school at the Southern Region Swimming carnival on Thursday 19 February in Narooma.

Thank you to those parents who have indicated they can assist with time keeping on the day. I look forward to seeing everyone enjoying themselves on the day and cheering each other on with great enthusiasm.

Ribbons and age champion’s medallions will be presented at Tuesday’s awards assembly.

Justin Bateman
Sports Coordinator

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.

Unforeseen 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.

Unforeseen 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.
Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 4 February
**St Mary’s Choir**

Students who are interested in continuing or becoming a member of our school choir are asked to attend our first choir practice next Wednesday February in the second break. Interested students are asked to meet outside the school hall at the beginning of the second break at 1.20pm.

Thank you, Fran Devonald and Marg Croese

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**Guitar for Beginners**

Any students who are interested in beginning guitar lessons are welcome to join us in the Kinder CK room each Monday in the second break at 1.20pm. Students will need a guitar and a folder for these lessons. Students are asked to bring their recess food with them.

Thank you, Marg Croese

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**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.

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**JUNIOR RUGBY REGISTRATION 2015**

The Broulee Dolphins Rugby Union Club is looking for new junior players aged U10 through to U18 for the 2015 season.

Training is at Captain Oldrey Park Tuesdays & Thursdays.

Teams play on Saturdays in the graded ACTJRU competition, home and away, over terms two and three.

Junior rugby is a game for all sizes and abilities, our coaches are all Smart Rugby trained and our programs are supported by Brumbies Rugby.

For more information and registration please visit [www.dolphinsrugby.com](http://www.dolphinsrugby.com) or call Karyn Starmer: 0427522227
Tuross Netball Club

Do you have a child that just loves the idea of being part of a team, having a laugh and learning some great ball skills?

Games are always played at Broulee and because the majority of players tend to go to school in Moruya, we envisage training will happen in Moruya as well.

Tuross Netball Club are calling for new players as well as hoping to see old players return to the courts.

Registration forms are available at St Mary’s school office.

2015 Registration Days:
Wednesday 11th February 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Saturday 14th February 10am – 12 Noon
@ Luhana Motel, Moruya

ENA have set fees at 2014 rates as per below:

- Nettas (up to age 10) $75
- Juniors (up to age 17) $105
- Seniors (18 yrs and over) $135.00

If you know of someone who may be interested, please spread the word about the wonderful new committee at the Tuross Netball Club and we look forward to seeing you on the side of the court.

Registration enquiries contact:
Kate McIntyre (Club Secretary), 0413 909 318