Dear Parents,

**Mother’s Day Breakfast**
What a wonderful way to end the week with a beautiful Mother’s Day Breakfast. It was lovely to see so many mums and grandmothers present. The smiles on everyone’s faces said it all! Thanks must go to the staff for setting up, organising and cooking a delicious breakfast. Congratulations to Year 5 students for a very heartfelt Prayer Focus and especially for telling us why they love their mothers so much. Please enjoy the photo collage attached.

**Events Working Party**
Thank you to our amazing Events Working Party volunteers for coordinating and organising a terrific selection of mothers day gifts for the stall. It was such a success! Thank you for your time, effort and dedication, making sure the selection of presents at the stall were varied and appealing to all our St Mary’s students.

**Principal’s Meeting**
On Wednesday and Thursday this week we had visitors to our school. All the Catholic Principals in the Southern Region and Heads of Services from the Catholic Education Office came to St Mary’s and enjoyed our welcoming hospitality. Meetings were held over the two days and Principals were informed of current practices and issues relating to education. It also gave the Principals a chance to network and share the many great things that are happening in our schools.

**Open Community Council Meeting**
I hope you have placed the flyer that went home on Wednesday in a prominent spot and marked the date in your diaries. It is inviting you all to come to school next **Tuesday 13 May** for our Open Community Council Meeting at 7:00pm. This is a very special meeting and I encourage one parent from each family to attend. We will be guiding you through the download and use of our new communication tool just for parents of our school community. It is called the “Skoolbag App”. It can be used on any iPhone or android device. This App will increase communication to parents and allow us to give you important information instantly. Please make the time to come to this very important meeting.

**St Mary’s OPEN DAY** is **Wednesday 21 May**. All preschool aged children are more than welcome to come along and join us in fun “Big School” activities. It is an event we are all looking forward to. **Wishing all our wonderful mothers a very special Mother’s Day this Sunday. I hope your day is filled with lots of love and laughter.**

Catrina Niddrie
Principal
Parent Meeting for Confirmation

Father Emil facilitated the first meeting for parents of children making the Sacrament of Confirmation this term. It was great to see so many parents at this very important meeting on Wednesday night. The meeting began with an inspirational prayer DVD. Father Emil prepared the meeting to cater for the interest and knowledge of the parents present. The next and final meeting for parents will be held once again in the Presbytery next Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm.

Confirmation Commitment Mass

The commitment Mass for all students making their Confirmation on May 31 is this weekend at either the Saturday Mass at 6.00pm or Sunday Mass at 10.00am. The parents and children will be asked to read their commitment to the Confirmation program during Mass.

Kinder Class Mass

The Kinder Classes will celebrate their first class Mass next Friday 16 May at 9.15am. The children would love to welcome their parents and friends to sit with them at this Mass.

Year 5 Focus Assembly

What a beautiful way to conclude our Mother’s Day celebrations! Special thanks to Mr Ward, Mrs Brady and the Year 5 students for their very reverent dedication to all mothers at their Mother’s Day liturgy this morning. Many mums were moved by the student’s responses to the question: “What makes your mum so special?” Just as moving was the liturgical dance and song by the students “I Sing To Mary Our Mother”. We appreciate all the hard work and preparation that went into presenting this liturgy. Thank you to the Year 5 team.

Whole School Mass

We will celebrate a whole school Mass next Saturday 17 May at 6pm. The visiting Youth Team will be present at this Mass and will be leading the dramatisition of the Gospel. This is a great opportunity for our young people to mix with others who have given a year or more of their life to spread the ‘good news’ of the Gospel.

Prayers...

We send our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Maher Family. Terry Maher (grandfather of Josh at Carroll College, Riley Year 6 and Jessica Year 3) died last week after a long illness. Our thoughts are with Di and all the family at this sad time.

A Blessing For Mums

God of love and care, You have given us the precious gift of motherhood.
As we celebrate this gift today help us to draw strength from the example of your own mother – Mary, who lived in her life the faith she possessed.
Grant us courage and love so that we may be a blessing to those we encounter today,
and always, by living out the faith we possess.
We ask this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May all mums have a happy and blessed Mother’s Day
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator

Week 1 Class Awards

following children who received class awards this week.

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<tr>
<th>Kinder CB</th>
<th>Kinder D</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2 JP</th>
<th>Year 2 S</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
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<td>Piper S</td>
<td>Millie K</td>
<td>Jayda E</td>
<td>Sam E</td>
<td>Sarmaya</td>
<td>George T</td>
<td>Ryles W</td>
<td>Vincent E</td>
<td>Charlotte W</td>
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<td>Zack W</td>
<td>Max V</td>
<td>Bailey P</td>
<td>Austin P</td>
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<td>Makaylah C</td>
<td>Archie H</td>
<td>Samuel G</td>
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<td>Macy W</td>
<td>Jordon T</td>
<td>Max C</td>
<td>Jessica T</td>
<td>Jemah S</td>
<td>Julie N</td>
<td>Huon D</td>
<td>Gemma H</td>
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It is great to see so many children working hard and receiving acknowledgment for their efforts – Well done to all!

Events Working Party - EWP meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 May at 2.00pm in the Teachers Meeting Room (upstairs in the Main Building) to discuss updates from previous Agenda items, plus any future business for Term 2. Belinda Quick
Gold Vs Blue Cricket Match

On Friday the 2nd of May the St Marys Gold and Blue cricket teams held a match at Gundary oval. Blue won the toss and batted first. Openers for the Blues were Taine and Theodore. Taine was the top scorer for Blue with 10 runs. Sam scored 5 great runs for his team while Theodore with 4 runs, also batted well. Later on two good shots by Josh gave Blue 2 runs. After a quick change over the first two Gold batters were Declan and Bailey. Bailey was the top scorer for Gold with 4 runs while Mason also batted well with 3 runs. Archie showed great bowling skills for the Blues with 3 wickets for 2 runs. Sam also took 3 wickets while Taine, Jack and Zac also took wickets. In the end Blue walked back to school with their heads held high taking home victory 42-28 as well as winning the shield for 2014. Congratulations to Theodore for taking 3 excellent catches. Jack also took a great catch and Taine completed a good stumping. The man of the match went to Theodore. We would also like to thank the parents and teachers who helped us with our gear.

Alannah Year 6
Sports Reporter

Cross Country
Yesterday the St Mary’s Cross Country team made the journey to Cobargo to compete in the Southern Region Cross Country Carnival. From all reports the carnival was a great success. I was especially pleased to hear the way that students spoke positively about their race and their achievements. This was not just those students who attained a podium finish. Please stay tuned to next weeks newsletter for more information about the results from the carnival.

Gardening Club
Are you interested in growing some great winter vegetables? Well come and see Mr Ward! We are keen to grow seasonal vegetables that suit our climate. Any parents who have a keen interest in this area are also more than welcome to join.

App of the week - Tellagami
Tellagami is a mobile app that lets you create and share a quick animated video called a Gami. A Gami can be an exciting tweet or status update. It can be a fun way to tell a story. It can be a thank you message or a vacation postcard. It can be a birthday greeting, party invite or cool way to share photos. The possibilities are endless!

Tony Ward

Parent workshop

A workshop will be offered at school for any parents or interested community members who would like to assist in classrooms at St Mary’s or who would like to learn some strategies to help support early reading at home.

WHEN: Monday 19 May 2pm –3pm
WHERE: Upstairs in the Administration Building
WHO: Learning Support and Reading Recovery Teacher, Jo Matthews
Principal, Catrina Niddrie
WHAT: Confidentiality in the classroom.
How to use the 3P strategies when reading with children at home and in the classroom situation.
INFANTS CROSS COUNTRY PLACE GETTERS
The Men’s Shed
We are very grateful to the Men’s group who work every Tuesday at the Presbytery making resources for the community. They have made some fantastic counting frames for the infants classes at St Mary’s. The children love using them when they are involved in their Maths learning tasks. Thank you to Geoff De Jager and John Moore and to the Men’s group for these very well used resources.

Marg Croese

Kids Club - New children most welcome to attend. Parents please contact Fr Emil 4474 2024 or Marg Croese to give their permission.

Easter Art Competition
Proud mum Taneka with her daughter Rhianna, who won the $50 first prize for the Harris Scarfe Easter Art competition.

KIDS CLUB REUNION
at St. John’s Parish Hall
Invitation to all children and volunteers

Time: 3.30 pm after school’s out until 5pm
Date: 15th May 2014

We would like to invite all those who have attended or volunteered at The Combined Churches Kids Club over the past years to come along and be entertained by the group “UTurn”

Contact person: Pauline 4473 6728; Fr Emil 4474 2024
Afternoon tea will be served

The Mother’s Day Stall was a fabulous day today. It is always special watching and helping the kids choose a gift for their Mum. It’s also always tricky to leave the Stall when your child arrives, but this is part of the fun!

Thanks again to the Mums who volunteered their time to help today. Kylie Cursio, Mary Whiriskey, Michelle Kempston, Marie Traynor, Melissa Van Weerdenburg and Susan Walters.
Next week we will let you know the money we raised for our school.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. Looking at the tickets returned, it seems nearly every family purchased some. This is great! Congratulations to the lucky winners mentioned below.

CONGRATULATIONS - RAFFLE WINNERS
Winner – Mum’s Hamper: MASS FAMILY
Winner – Nan’s Hamper: (Green B52 no name on ticket)

Brooke Wood – Events Working Party
I grew up as one of five kids in a close-knit family, and from an early age I wanted nothing more than to be a stay-at-home mum. I'd met Robert when I was almost 16 and, after nine years together, starting a family seemed as natural as night following day.

I gave birth to Jonathan two days before Christmas in 1984. He was an adorable baby and as a toddler he was boisterous and creative. I enjoyed every minute of those years at home with him and Chris.

Becoming a mother defined me. How can you not change when suddenly there exists something that is more precious than your own life? I discovered things about, and deeper levels within, myself - because I held so much more in my arms. Of course the boys took my time, my space, even my patience - but they gave it all back with a smile.

Now that my boys are men, it’s not the fancy holidays or big events that are my most golden memories. It’s the ordinary, everyday things. Storytime stories were a special time because they opened up their imaginations. Music, playing their favourite songs and dancing crazily with them. Dinner times, every night, without fail, we ate at the dining table together - the same meal for everyone, too. This was, and is, an important ritual in the milieu of our family life. It’s where we partake in each other's day, share thoughts and exchange memories. I often call the dining table ‘my altar table’ - it’s like a religious conviction, I guess, where I get to nurture and nourish my family.

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, I was cooking one such dinner for us when everything changed. Jonathan was 12 and I was 37. He’d been playing outside with the boy from next door and I was making nachos. Just after 5 pm I called Jon inside, and minutes later I heard a huge bang.

Jonathan didn’t see the car coming. The car took him out and sent him flying for 20 metres. I found Jonathan lying on the street, his leg all twisted, with a horrible amount of dark-red blood coming out of his mouth and nose. There were two voices in my head - one telling me to scream hysterically and the other telling me to stay calm because my baby needed me calm. That was the voice I chose to listen to.

At the hospital I didn’t cry; I just felt numb. A doctor told us a CT scan indicated a brain injury; that Jonathan’s clinical signs weren’t good, and he couldn’t tell us if he’d make it. I thought, ‘You don’t know Jonathan’.

Jonathan was in an induced coma for the first month and for four more months I didn’t leave his side. Some deep reserve of energy kicked in and I knew I was making a difference to his recovery. All day long I told him how much we loved him, that he was going to be all right. But Jonathan got worse before he got better and each day felt like a ghastly repeat of the one before.

Jonathan was in intensive care for three weeks and then his eyes started to open. From early on, I knew he knew me. I’d lie on his bed and cuddle him and tell him about his life and read him stories. I was completely driven in my mission to restore what little semblance was left of my family. I saw signs of positivity everywhere.

Around the two-month mark I knew I had something to work with. I wheeled Jonathan to a piano in the hospital music room. He had no neck control, he was still dribbling and not talking, but he was just starting movement in his right arm. He’d begun to reach up and touch my face and take my rings off and do little things he’d done as a toddler. At the piano he reached out and started playing ‘Charliots Of Fire’, which he’d been learning at the time of the accident.

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parentingideas.com.au
There were no doctors around but the teachers saw it and everyone was crying – no harder of all. That’s his theme song now, and he played it at the launch of my book.

Jono had post-traumatic amnesia for about 10 months, which indicates the worst kind of brain injury and the unlikeliness that memory will be regained. But we didn’t listen to the doctors. I see his memory improving all the time and that’s because he has a full and active life.

It’s been a long, hard journey. At three months he started making moaning sounds, I saw that as positive – he was trying to communicate. And then he started making ‘mmm’m’ sounds. I literally pulled apart his lips to get his mouth moving but I closed the curtains around us because people thought I was crazy. But then one day he looked at me and said ‘Mum’, I can’t describe the joy I felt.

The first day I left him, to go to the hairdresser because I was a mess, my sister stayed with him and gave him a drink of grape juice that hadn’t been diluted. He gagged and blurted out: ‘I want my Mum!’ I cried all the way through getting my hair done but I walked back into his room and he was talking! We called Robert and I said ‘Someone here wants to speak to you’. Without any prompting, Jonathan said in the softest voice: ‘Hi… Dad… I… Love… You… Dad’. We were all in floods of tears.

Jono’s accident not only changed who I was, it also changed the complete dynamic of our family. I had to wear so many different hats in my new role as mother to Jono. I was – and, to varying degrees, still am – his carer, his rehabilitation case manager, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, tutor, social secretary, counsellor for depression, and by and large his navigator through life.

My relationship Chris did a complete 360 too. Chris was only 10 at the time of Jonathan’s accident and I had to negotiate him and his needs for the best part of five to 10 years because my entire energy was driven towards getting Jonathan better. To this day, I feel an enormous amount of ‘mother guilt’ about not being there throughout probably the most crucial years of a boy’s life: adolescence.

I was also guilty of being overprotective because I was terrified something bad would happen to Chris too. But I learnt, with time, to let him find his own way and I’m so glad I did, because he has become the most extraordinary young man, with the right blend of compassion and empathy, integrity and humility. He’s a civil engineer and he married his girlfriend Daniele last year, with Jono as his best man. It was an incredibly happy day for our family. Jono made a five-minute speech he’d memorised, jokes and all, which brought the house down.

I’m enormously proud of both of my boys, although Chris is probably my proudest achievement, because he’s done it all by himself. But our kids learn through watching us, in ways we don’t even realise at the time.