Dear Parents,

I would like to offer my apology for not being at school last week. The virus I had caused some vertigo and I was spinning out for most of the week but am on the mend now. I have been kept informed about the wonderful Opening School Mass held last Friday and I congratulate the children for their excellent behaviour during Mass. The senior children received their leadership badges at this Mass and they are to be congratulated.

A reminder that all are invited to attend our Combined Schools Mass at Carroll College next Friday at 10.00am. The children will travel to Carroll College by bus and after the Mass will have the opportunity to purchase some small treats prepared by the students at Carroll College with the money going to support the Missions. One or two dollars will be enough to secure the children some treats.

Swimming Carnival
Our Southern Region Swimming Carnival is being held today at Narooma. We wish all our children every success and our best wishes to Mrs Stephen who is the carnival organiser this year for the region. Thanks to the parents and staff who have given their time to assist with the carnival.

Community Council Meeting
Our first meeting for the year will be held in the staff room next Tuesday 21st February at 5.30pm. The executive members will meet to decide on positions for the school year and to set some direction for the Community Council.

Reconciliation
Our enrolment date for the children in Year 2 who wish to make their First Reconciliation will be held next Wednesday evening at 5.00pm in the Performing Arts Centre. At this meeting we shall discuss the process involved and provide dates and booklets for the children. After the meeting a small snack will be provided for families.

Lions Club Donation
Following the putting up of the Santa silhouettes over the Christmas period, the Lions Club has donated $800 to St Mary’s. My thanks to Reg Murphy and the parents who came along and helped to put up and take down the Santas. Also the Lions Club have contributed a further $100 to support the breakfast club at school.

Homework Changes
A survey was sent to parents last week to voice their opinion in relation to the setting of homework at St Mary’s. The response from the parents was over 72% in favour of no homework. As we wrote previously, the completion of homework has no proven academic benefit for the children. Having said that, we will ask each student at St Mary’s to continue to read each and every evening. This can take the form of individual reading, shared reading or having a parent read to their child before bed. The benefits of free reading are extensive and are seen to improve comprehension and fluency of the children.

From time to time in the older grades children may be asked to complete some independent research on a particular topic or complete a story, project or art work in relation to a community-based competition at home. Thanks to all those who completed the survey.

Just for fun
Teacher: Winnie, name one thing we didn’t have 10 years ago.
Winnie: Me!

Best wishes
Mick Lowe
Principal
Gospel for this Sunday

The last two Sunday readings deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as a strict punishment. Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth. The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible? The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

Opening School Mass

Father John celebrated a very beautiful Mass with us last Friday as a whole school. The Mass was led by the Year 6 students who also did a fantastic job of looking after their Kinder buddies during Mass. During Mass the Christian Leaders, Captains, Year 6 Leaders, SRC and Mini Vinnies representatives were presented with their badges. Father John spoke to the students about the meaning of wearing a badge – the meaning, responsibility and pride that goes with it.

Combined Schools Mass

All families will receive a note this week in regard to students attending the Combined Schools Mass at Carroll College next Friday 24 February. The staff and students will travel by bus to Broulee and return to school in time for recess. The theme for this very special Mass is ‘Peace’. All parents and friends are most welcome to join us in the hall at Carroll College at 10am.

Reconciliation Meeting

A reminder that the information night for First Reconciliation is next Wednesday at 5pm in the Year 2 classroom. This is an important meeting in regard to your child’s faith journey when you will receive information from Father John and the Year 2 teachers about this Sacrament. A light supper will be provided.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations to the Bonner-McAsh family on the birth of Ivy Ocean McAsh—a baby sister for Ryley (Year 4) and Autumn (Year 2).

Prayer

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Chesher/Ta Family. Jessica’s (Year 5) grandfather Mr Ernie Chesher passed away in the IRT last week.

A Classroom Prayer

Christ Jesus

When we open our eyes, may You be there;
When we open our ears, may You be there;
When we open our mouths, may You be there;
When we open our diaries, may You be there.

Help us to see with Your eyes;
Help us to hear with Your ears;
Help us to speak Your truth in love;
Help us to make time for You ... for others ... for ourselves.

Amen

Have a safe and happy weekend

Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator

In all things may God be glorified
COMMUNICATION CORNER

We have had our first week of “welcoming” and what a difference it has made in our playground. It has been lovely to hear and see the students greeting each other, acknowledging and responding to their peers in a way that makes them feel valued.

For Term One our Overarching Focus Value is: WELCOME

Weeks 3 and 4: Welcoming

At St Mary’s we are a welcoming environment. We achieve this by:

- Smiling at each other
- Greeting each other and saying hello
- Looking at people in the eyes when greeting them
- Acknowledging and noticing one another by responding in the classroom and playground environment.

This makes everyone feel welcomed and valued in our school.

Scripture: Matthew 25:35 “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

COSA: next week we welcome Mr Patrick Kelly to our school from the CE. Patrick is a Senior Officer of Teaching and Learning. He will be our critical friend as we begin the journey of bringing good Inquiry practices into Numeracy K-6. We will look at our practices, discuss barriers and implement school non-negotiables in Numeracy. We are looking forward to working with Patrick and welcoming him into the St Mary’s family.

Next Nude Food Day is Tuesday 7 March. Please note this date in your diary!

ELI - Reading: Reading continues to be a major focus for our school this year. We aim to foster a love of reading for pleasure and using reading as a strategy to inform, investigate and research. The following is a recap from our school’s critical friend - Professor Kaye Lowe. Her suggestions and parental advice can be located on her website: https://www.read4success.com.au/

This is some great advice!

Have Fun - Read Together

As simple as it sounds, ten minutes a day of quality time having fun with a book can make the difference between someone who struggles with reading and someone who discovers the love and joy of reading. The ten minutes spent with your child and a book should be the best ten minutes of your child’s day. It is not about reading today but about coming back to read again tomorrow and the day after. Eliminate the stress and anxiety of reading together – try the strategies on this website.

If you always sit in the same place to do home reading, vary the location. Go outside and read under a tree, take the book to the coffee shop, or simply sit on the lounge room floor.

Children sense your anxiety. Reading is about trust. Readers (especially struggling readers) are vulnerable. Parents’ expectations often get in the way if they experience anxiety and fear around reading. Alleviate the stress by doing shared reading, NIM, or echo reading. Laugh. Lighten up. Children learn when they are having fun.

If your child insists on reading their favourite book for the 55th time, read it with pleasure...and then say “I noticed this book on your shelf, I would like to read that to you when we finish. Reading a book is an invitation and children need to be given the opportunity to choose.

Wishing God’s Best for you

Catrina Niddrie
Assistant Principal

WELCOME

WEEK 3 CLASS AWARDS

To be presented at Assembly: 2.30pm, Monday 20 February

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

**Kinder K:** Quade Mc, Cooper H, Grace R
**Year 3B:** Bridie J, Monique D, Seth H

**Kinder CH:** Hudson H, Ava B, Jaxon E
**Year 3D:** Aisha M, Lilly R, Max V

**Year 1/2D:** Sahara K, Sonny C, Charlie H
**Year 4JP:** Shuo J, Declan F, Will D

**Year 1/2J:** Cecilia S, Kobi B, Emily F
**Year 5H:** Rhianna B, Xian F

**Year 1/2S:** Charlotte R, Dusty I, Morgan B
**Year 5HN:** Charlotte W, Emily C, Jemah S, Max G

**Year 6K:** Lisa H, Brendan M, Bobby G
Welcome to our Mass for Term 1.
Our celebrant today is Father John.
Welcome Father John.
Library News

As it is an explicit expectation that your child reads at home every day, it is important to make sure they have their library bag ready to borrow each week. **On that note, we are in need of donations of pillow-slips to use as spare library bags.**

Library times for each class this term are:

- **Kinder** – Monday
- **Stage 1** – Wednesday
- **Year 3** – Tuesday
- **Year 4** – Monday
- **Year 5HN** – Tuesday
- **Year 5H** – Monday
- **Year 6** – Monday

In the library this week we have been reading Episode 1 of the Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey.

**Andrew Craft**
Library Teacher

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Mr Wolf. Mr Shark. Mr Snake. Mr Piranha. They’re bad guys, everybody knows that. They’re scary and dangerous and well… just BAD.

But these guys want to be HEROES. And they’re going to prove it by doing good deeds… whether YOU want them to or not.

Buckle up for the funniest, naughtiest and coolest book you'll ever read - it's time to meet the BAD GUYS.

[http://www.aaronblabeybooks.com/books/bad-guys-episode-1](http://www.aaronblabeybooks.com/books/bad-guys-episode-1)

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**Uniforms urgently needed**

The St Mary’s uniform pool is urgently seeking second-hand uniforms. Items can be given to the office. The uniform pool is open in the Performing Arts Centre on Mondays immediately after assembly.

*Thank you very much to those families who have already made donations.*

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**Canteen Update**

**Combined Schools Mass**
24 February 2017

No lunch orders on this day.

The Canteen will offer the usual over the counter service at recess (2nd break) when the students return to school.
YEAR 5 READING
**Visitors to the school—WWC number required**

All visitors to the school must sign-in using the Visitors Book at the front office. All visitors working with children must write their Working With Children number next to their name, before proceeding to the classroom. Your WWC number must be verified by the school before it is valid for volunteer work. We will issue you with a card displaying your number. If you don’t have a WWC number and would like to volunteer within the school, you can find out more information here: [https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check](https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/working-with-children-check)

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**Mayor’s Writing Competition**

Entries open Monday 6 February 2017
Entries close Friday 5 May 2017

The Mayor’s Writing Competition has returned for 2017 and entries are now open.

The competition is open to young people who live or go to school in Eurobodalla.

This year we have introduced a theme. All entries must incorporate the word ‘window’ somewhere in the text and judges will be looking for creative stories with a unique plot.

The Mayor will announce the winners in the Council Chambers at Moruya on Thursday 27 July 2017.

Pick up a Mayor’s Writing Competition entry form at Batemans Bay, Moruya or Narooma Libraries or on Council’s website [www.esc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au).
Moruya Broulee Giants
Football/Netball Club 2017 Season

With our 2017 Season Fast Approaching we are calling all Netball Enthusiasts looking for a team to register their names early.

We are a family friendly club that promotes FUN while supporting all girls to give their best and have a go.

After finishing as Intermediate premiers last Season we have decided to enter a 12yr girls and Intermediate (11-17) and an Open Ladies (16y.o.—Ladies) Team for the upcoming Season.

So don’t be shy if you are new to the sport or returning from retirement give us a call and please register early as teams will fill fast. Phone Jo Broad: 0418 489 123

First game for the season – Saturday 29 April 2017. There will be a 14 round season with finals being played in September.

Training— Tuesday Afternoon, Broulee Courts, 3.30-5.00pm
Reminder to parents of parking restrictions within the School Zone – Queen Street

With school returning after the summer holidays Eurobodalla Council Rangers will be patrolling the school zones during operational times at Batemans Bay High School. Rangers have observed an alarming disregard for the safety of students by ignoring the road rules within the sign posted Bus Zones and No Stopping Zones of Queen Street.

To improve the safety of our children, penalties for parking offences in school zones are heavy and demerit points apply. Rangers have issued several penalties carrying 2 demerit points to vehicles in breach of parking zone restrictions.

School zones are often chaotic at peak pick-up and set-down times and children are sometimes put at risk. With the start of each school year, many new parents are introduced to parking and speed limit restrictions in school zones, which may be unfamiliar.

Council, in partnership with local schools and Police are working to improve parking, traffic flow and road user behaviour in school zones. Part of Council’s road safety program aims to inform parents and carers of the risks to children from speeding and illegal parking around schools. Council Rangers and local Police officers enforce the Road Rules.

School zone penalties apply to offences committed in school zones during posted school hours. Some of the most common offences include:

- Disobey No Stopping Sign – School Zone $325 2 Demerits
- Stop in Bus Zone – School Zone $325 2 Demerits
- Double Park – School Zone $325 2 Demerits
- Stop on/ across driveway – School Zone $180 2 Demerits
- Disobey No Parking Sign – School Zone $180 2 Demerits

Please note: the fines and demerit points outlined above are correct as of 1 July 2016 and are subject to change without notice.

As a community we are all aware that children are vulnerable road users and are at a higher risk in traffic because of their size and inability to judge speed and distance.

When in school zones, please observe the following guidelines to reduce risk to children:

- Do not park in the School Bus Zone, on the zebra crossing or on footpaths or in No Stopping zones.
- Never double park. This reduces driver visibility, causes congestion and puts children at risk.
- Never call your child across the road – always meet them at the gate.
- Inform your child that crossing the road between buses is very dangerous practice. The safest area to cross the road outside the school is directly adjacent to the main gate, just before the bus zone.
- Always encourage your child to enter and exit the car from the kerb
- Be patient observe the directions of the School Crossing Supervisor if present
- Remember children are full of surprises! Expect the unexpected. Watch out for kids and think for them - they make mistakes.

By following the rules around school zones we can work together to ensure the safety of our children.

Eurobodalla Shire Council Rangers