Dear Families

As we continue our Lenten journey I asked the children to check in with how they were going with their Lenten promise. When we journey through Lent we do not necessarily have to give something up but rather we can do something extra. At line up yesterday I challenged the children to say something to another person that would make them smile and be happy. Today I asked them to say two good things to another person. Our world would be a much happier place if everyone tried to make others happy and not sad; if people used push ups and not put downs.

Yesterday we had a meeting with the Year 6 children from St Bernard’s and our school. The focus was on leadership and we had speakers from the community speak to the children about their leadership and their work in the community. The children were able to explain what good leadership looks like in our school. My thanks to the guest speakers and to the helpers who cooked and assisted with morning tea.

Trivia Night
We are looking forward to a great night tonight of trivia and games. All are welcome and even if you have not booked I am sure we can find a table for you. The night begins at 7.15 for a 7.30 start and it is BYOG and nibbles.

Welcome to School 2016
Next Thursday evening February 25, from 5.00until 6.30pm, we are having a welcome picnic in the park at Riverside Park. Please bring along a picnic dinner and there will be games and activities for the children. All are welcome so come along and meet some other members of the St Mary’s community.

Names
Please ensure that lunch containers have your child’s name written on them as we are finding lost lunch boxes and we are unable to return them to their owners as they are not named. Also please ensure that jumpers and hats have your child’s name written clearly.

School Fees
The accounts for the payment of school fees will go home this week. You will note there is very little increase in the 2016 school fees. We have this year however included a $10 per term ($1 per week) increase to cover the costs of class excursions. Rather than a note coming home requesting money for a bus, we hope the $10 will cover most of the costs involved in excursions for the children. This will mean less hassle for you at home and fewer trips to the bank for our front office staff.

Blue Forms
We have had the majority of blue information forms returned to school with contact changes recorded. Thank you for your prompt response and if there are outstanding blue forms not returned please do so as soon as possible to enable our records to be as accurate as possible.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe, Principal
Sunday Gospel

On the second Sunday of Lent we move to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death. As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt. On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus “master” instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son. In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.

Social Justice Leadership Day

Year 6 students from St Bernard’s School joined our student leaders in the PAC for a Social Justice Leadership day yesterday. The day began with prayer followed by icebreaker games so that the students could get to know each other a little. Guest speakers were invited to talk to the students about their particular leadership. We welcomed Susie Barclay who is the nursing manager of the Moruya Hospital, Greg Curry from the local police representing Police Citizens Youth Club, Year 12 leaders Tori Dallas and Jared Cottington from Carroll College and Fr John our parish priest. At the conclusion of the talks the students were able to ask questions of the speakers. We enjoyed a barbecue lunch together and the day finished with Mass at 1pm. We thank everyone who helped to organise the day.

Year 5 Class Mass

Mr Harnett and his Year 5 students invite family and friends to their class Mass this Friday at 9.15am.

Year 2S Focus Assembly

Mrs Stephen and 2S welcome all families, friends and parishioners to their first Focus Assembly for this year. The focus assembly will begin at 9am next Friday 26 February in the PAC. The theme of the focus assembly is Lent and our preparation for Easter. Mrs Stephen and Year 2S have been working hard to prepare for their very special Liturgy.
Wedding Wishes
We wish Miss O’Hehir a very happy day for her wedding to Michael Kenny on Saturday at St Bernard’s Church at Batehaven. Miss O’Hehir has spent this week making the final preparations for their big day. We ask God’s blessing for them and that they may have a long and happy life together.

A Wedding Prayer

May Sophie and Mick be blessed with kindness, to enable them to nurture and care for one another in times of pain or sorrow. May they be blessed with a spirit of play and joyfulness that they may participate fully in the beauties and pleasures of creation. May they be blessed, finally, with a knowledge of the ever-flowing presence of the love of God in the world, that they may be channels of this love to one another and to all whom they meet in their life’s journey. Amen

Have a safe and happy weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
TRIVIA NIGHT…. TRIVIA NIGHT…. TRIVIA NIGHT Is TONIGHT!

Trivia Night- Fundraiser for the Hazell Family
We are looking forward to a fabulous and fun evening at the Trivia Night tonight. We would like to thank our families and local work places for being so generous and for donating such amazing items, that you have so generously given for raffles and prizes. It is fantastic to see that our school and local community spirit is alive and well!!

REQUEST for Culottes:
As culottes are no longer part of our school uniform we are requesting that families send them into school. We have had many discussions and suggestions regarding what we can do communally with the abundance of culottes people have at home. As a community of faith we would like to help those less fortunate than us and be of service to others, therefore through our school connections with the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, they have nominated a couple of schools that we can assist overseas in Africa that would welcome the culottes with open arms. They were very excited by this prospect and are delighted that we are teaching our students to live the Gospel through our actions as a whole community. Please send your culottes to school in a plastic bag or drop them into Gen, Marg or myself. Thanking you in advance for your assistance with this special opportunity to make a difference!
Seasons for Growth
This term we are offering **Seasons for Growth** to our students. **Seasons for Growth** is a program for children who have experienced significant change or loss. **Seasons for Growth** is based on the belief that change, loss and grief are a normal and valuable part of life. We examine the impact of changes such as death, separation, divorce, and natural disaster upon our lives, and explore how we can learn to live with and grow from these experiences.

The core intentions of this program are the development of resilience and emotional literacy to promote social and emotional wellbeing. The program is educational in nature and does not provide therapy.

We use the imagery of the four seasons to illustrate that grief is cyclical, not a linear journey with a clear end. Trained “Companions” facilitate small groups where participants share their experiences, and support and learn from one another. Peer support is a key element of the program, and confidentiality is strongly emphasised. Notes will be coming home next week if you would like your child/ren to participate in this worthwhile program please complete the form and return to school promptly.

**REMINDER: Reading Volunteers**
Calling parents, grandparents, friends and members of the community! If you are able to spare even just 30 minutes a week to pop in to school and listen to children read, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Catrina if you are able to assist. Reading aloud to a supportive adult is one of the most effective ways of encouraging children and achieving our goal of every child becoming proficient and confident reader. A workshop will be offered for our Reading Helpers in a few weeks so please do watch this space for more details.

**Working With Children Check**
A current Working With Children Check is ESSENTIAL for all our parent helpers. This can be obtained by registering on the following website:  

We would like to encourage all St Mary’s parents to obtain a Working With Children Check so that you are able to help at school or on trips whether on a regular or occasional basis.

**Staff Professional Development**
It is that time of year as staff of St Mary’s begin to embark on Professional Development in areas of interest or in areas of expertise. We look forward to staff attending professional development workshops and bringing back current information that will enhance the great things we undertake and implement in our classrooms. This year staff will write an article for the newsletter about the workshops they attend and share their learning and information on current trends and practices with you. We can all look forward to what this space will bring...

**Wishing God’s Best for you...**
Catrina Niddrie  AP
Teacher-led inquiry in literacy

Teacher-led inquiry in literacy is a new approach that teachers at St Mary’s are exploring under the support of Professor Kaye Lowe and other school coaches. Posing questions for students to wonder about and planting seeds of information to interest and inspire effective reading and writing is part of this approach. The new 100-minute literacy block that we are implementing could mean changes that you might notice for your child’s learning.

**Teachers correcting student work:**
You might be used to the practice of teachers correcting student writing, including spelling and other teacher marks in your student’s books. This may have been reassuring to teachers and parents as evidence of a final check or record of teacher involvement in the judgement of student work.
To encourage student ownership of their writing and to turn these changes into a real opportunity for learning, teachers will more often work with students in the process of editing their draft writing at various times within a writer’s cycle, leading to published work. Suggestions for changes and edited spelling might be noted on a post-it-note to be added to the writing by the student, rather than written directly onto or above the student work. The pencil is in the hand of the student as often as possible with the teacher as the knowledgeable guide. Time is better spent in this way, leading students to learn how they can be effective editors of their own writing as they work to create published writing to share with their peers and other audiences.

Karen Hadley
Southern Region Swimming Carnival 2016

Congratulations to all our competitors at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival held in Narooma on Tuesday 16 February. It was a great day with all St Mary’s students producing fantastic swims. It is always pleasing to see our students competing and striving to improve themselves against other competitors.

A big thanks for the day needs to go to our St Mary’s parents who assisted on the day. A special mention to Nathan M – starter, team manager Rita E and timekeepers Shane M, Anthony E and Matt E. Your help to keep the carnival running smoothly was greatly appreciated by staff and students. I would also like to thank the staff from St Mary’s and other schools for their contribution to a successful day and to our 3 Carroll College helpers as well.

This year we have 7 students who have gained selection in the Archdiocesan Swimming Team.

Swimmers who have placed in the top four in their events have gained selection in the Archdiocesan Team and will compete at the Queanbeyan Aquatic Centre on the Tuesday 1 March 2016. We wish them every success at the next level of competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Piper S, Annabelle P, Zac V</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Cameron L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Felicity L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Ryle S, Makaylah C</td>
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Tennis

Four of our budding tennis stars Max M, Jaymz M, Rory H and Max C travelled to Young, NSW on Friday 12 February for an opportunity to be selected for the MacKillop Tennis Trials. I was told all students enjoyed themselves and were excellent competitors on the day. Congratulations to Max C (Yr 3) and Rory H (Yr 6) who have been chosen for the MacKillop trials in Wollongong. Well done on this achievement and we all at St Mary’s wish you well at the next level.

Winter Trials

Just a reminder that all winter trials forms for football, rugby league, hockey and netball need to be returned to Mr. Bateman no later than Friday 26 February.

Justin Bateman
Sports Coordinator
Thank you for the gorgeous photos Mary Whiriskey!!!
**Week 4 Class Awards**

*To be presented at assembly: 2.30pm, Monday 22 February.*

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!

**Kinder W**
Marguerite J, Jack M, Dusty I

**Kinder C**
Pema K, Tiahli B, Molly B

**Year 1O**
Ruby H, Vivienne J, Cooper M

**Year 1/2J**
Cameron P, Bailey P, Mikayla C

**Year 2S**
Lilly R, Millie K, Zac VW

**Year 3B**
Zane B, Nash G, Charlotte M

**Year 3D**
Max C, Lauren W, Shuo j

**Year 4JA**
Kye Z, Kouper M

**Year 4JP**
Samantha M, Bradley B, Zac W

**Year 5**
Kiearra T, Chloe W, Lachlan B, Tara M

**Year 6**
Rory H, Ryan B, Nathaniel T
ST MARY'S WELCOMES YOU TO FABULOUS 2016

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED

TRIVA Night

THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY
7:15 P.M. FOR A 7:30 P.M. START

TABLES OF 10 AVAILABLE
$10 PER PERSON
OR
$100 PER TABLE
IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
BYOG AND NIBBLES

REGISTER YOUR TABLE GROUP AND CONFIRM WITH PAYMENT TO THE FRONT OFFICE
02) 4474 2817
Teasing V Bullying

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question—“What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills; getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.

Michael Grose

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**Community Announcements**

**Chess Club**
Weekly, 2 February – 22 March, Tuesdays 4-6pm
Community Centre, Batemans Bay
Come and try this challenging game. Games for all ages and abilities.
Cost: Free
Bookings Essential
Phone: 02 4474 7442

**Due to work being done to the Church roof, parking in the Church carpark will be restricted. Thank you for your patience and understanding.**