Dear Parents

This week we celebrated All Saints Day with Mass involving all the children. Father John spoke to the children and asked them to look into the eyes of those next to them to see if they could recognise any Saints. We believe in the goodness of each and every one of our children and they all have the capacity to be Saints. To be a Saint we are called to treat others with love and compassion and think of others before ourselves.

Kinder Orientation
We have a Kindergarten Parent Expo Information Night on Tuesday evening 8th November in the school hall commencing at 7.00pm. After a short address parents will be able to visit various booths for information about a variety of matters concerning the education of the children at St Mary’s. Our first Orientation Day for the children will be on Thursday 10th from 9.00am until 11.00am. The second one is Thursday 17th. Children come in casual clothes with fruit, a hat and a water bottle. Children can assemble in the hall at 9.00am.

Community Council Meeting
At the last Community Council meeting we discussed the parent survey results and we will provide the opportunity for parents to suggest ideas for improvements across a range of areas. Parents will be able to make suggestions via a survey monkey. The survey will be made available through the SkoolBag app. At an open meeting in Week 8, November 29th, parents will be able to look at all the suggestions that were posted on the survey and vote for ideas to assist with planning for the 2017 school year. New play equipment will be purchased for the children and the budget was passed for the 2017 school year. The budget will see the continuation of the excursion levy and a very small increase in the fees charged by Catholic Education. We are in need of additional members to join the Community Council executive for the 2017 school year. Please contact the school should you be interested in joining the Council.

Maths Partnership
I am pleased to announce that St Mary’s has entered into a partnership with the University of Canberra in a trial of some exciting new Maths teaching. The partnership involves Stage 3 children and is looking at Spatial Awareness and the subsequent learning of Maths concepts. Samsung will provide tablets for the trial and we will have visits from the University staff.

Netball carnival
By all accounts the children who travelled to Canberra last Sunday escaped the bad weather and had a great day. My thanks to the parents and staff who assisted with transport and umpiring on the day. Congratulations to all the competitors.

Musical
The children travelled to Batemans Bay for a performance of the Loin King at St Bernard’s today. The children enjoyed the opportunity and we look forward to returning the favour next year.

Remembrance Day
Next Friday we celebrate Remembrance Day. School leaders will represent the school community at the RSL Hall and the children will gather in the Performing Arts Centre for a short service at 10.50am.

Help for Santa Decorations
Each year in the main street of Moruya, the Chamber of Commerce puts up decorations in readiness for Christmas. Our school has been asked to assist with the putting up of these decorations. The school will receive a monetary donation for assisting. We need about 5 or 6 volunteers with extendable ladders and a cordless drill to assist on the morning of Sunday 27th November at 7.00am. We will meet at Southlands and proceed from there. Please if you can assist leave your name with Annette at the front office.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe
Principal

Please see overleaf ...
Survey Results

Last term the parents, staff and children were surveyed about their experiences at St Mary’s. I have published the survey results below, as well as some of the written comments. Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey. Scores between 3 and 4 indicate an agree to strongly agree response. We had a 55% participation rate.

Parent Satisfaction Survey

School Average Executive Summary

3.3 This is a good Catholic school.
3.5 My child is happy going to this school.
3.5 The school is a safe place for my child.
3.6 The staff at this school take an interest in my child.
3.6 My child’s / children’s teachers and other staff at this school make me feel welcome.
3.3 Religious Education is taught well at this school.
3.3 Prayer is important at this school.
3.1 Communication between the home and school is good.
3.5 I can make contact with my child’s teacher or other staff easily.
3.3 The school responds quickly to my concerns.
3.6 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are approachable.
3.5 The school Principal and other leaders in the school are committed to the best possible education for my child.
3.7 My child’s teacher is approachable.
3.5 Parent teacher conferences are helpful at this school.
3.4 I am happy with the quality of teaching my child receives.
3.3 This school takes a balanced approach in providing an all-round education.
3.3 The school has high expectations of student engagement and behaviour.
3.1 This school is well-equipped.
3.1 I am happy with the school’s facilities.
3.2 I am happy with my child’s access to technology in the school.

Some comments from the survey:

Best thing about St Mary’s

- The sense of community, caring teachers and approachable principal.
- Everything.
- Sense of community and caring environment.
- The professional approach to teaching and the caring, friendly nature of the staff and the principal.
- The staff who seem to know and genuinely care for my child and their learning.
- A small school where teachers know all children.
- It’s a small, community based school. Everyone is welcome and known to one another.
- Parent involvement.
- My child is happy and well understood her needs are met.
- The teachers.
- Friendly approach of all staff.
- The happy environment, which is also very supportive and child friendly.
- All the teachers know every child and parent, it is a real community school.
- Staff devotion to the children.
- You feel welcome all the time.
- The teachers they are all amazing, so dedicated every single one. The office staff are so kind and helpful.
- That I know my daughter is safe, well cared for and happy.
- It’s a friendly environment for my child; and small classes is also good.
- We love the caring nurturing nature of St Marys.
- Our children absolutely love their teachers and peers, we wouldn’t have them anywhere else.
- The principal and staff.
- Approachable teachers.
- The Principal, some of the Teachers and their commitment, that my child is happy to go to school.
- Our children’s teachers.
- Sense of community.
- Pastoral care and supportive staff.
- The size, and there are some great teachers.
- Care and education of children.
- We are one big family - strong community.
- Friendly and caring environment.

Continued overleaf ...
Best thing about St Mary’s continued
- The Catholic ethos
- They look after the kids.
- The welcoming atmosphere, where each and every child is valued
- Teaching and communication as well as guests etc for families! Since commencing we have been amazed at the quality of the school etc- thankyou.
- The consistency for each child to strive and continue to do better for themselves.
- My kids are happy there & the teachers show genuine care for them as individuals. They are also encouraged to achieve their best in a positive and nurturing way.
- Pastoral care.
- The staff always smiling, helpful.
- The sense of community and how every teacher gets to know and take an interest in your child.

Ways things could improve
- Phone call from my child’s teacher once a term to make contact and quick update on how child is going. Also more extracurricular activities e.g., Just started a drama club.
- Nothing.
- Smaller class sizes (where applicable).
- I would mandate that teachers list their email address on the term overview documents that are sent out at the beginning of each term. This would make a handy reference for parents who may need to send an email to a teacher early in the year (or term). It saves parents guessing the correct spelling of the teachers’ name and perhaps getting a maiden name wrong, one letter wrong etc and consequently receiving bounced emails. This would be particularly helpful for new parents to the school.
- Communication.
- We are very happy with St Mary’s and at present cannot think of anything to improve. Our son is very happy at your school and that to us is the most important thing.
- No real option re learning another language, which would be ideal in primary school.
- Nothing I can think of.
- More funding for children with disability.
- Social activities for the children e.g., School discos & more school excursions.
- More education on importance of nutrition in food and exercise.
- Some teachers are not committed to their students - they are teaching for the wrong reasons.
- Bigger library.
- After school sports activities for school teams and more teacher support for archdiocesan events in Canberra.
- Canteen another day. Siblings to be able to talk to each other at any break and not been told they can’t due to not allowed in that area. Breaks their heart.
- Probably access to technology.
- More and longer swimming lessons during summer would be great.
- Nothing comes to mind, it’s awesome as it is.
- My child would like play equipment for the older children and more interactive things to do at playtime, maybe exercise circuit equipment, this might also be good for the increasing number of students who are physically aggressive. We acknowledge the efforts of the Principal and staff who have the Library open and have created a passive play space and supervising lunchtime gymnastics though, thankyou.
- Making a bigger deal (the recognition of) sporting and academic excellence.
- Communication.
- Children having to constantly sit on cold concrete, before school and after every break. It’s not good for and especially difficult for girls wearing dresses.
- Bring learning a language back into the curriculum.
- Communication.
- Car parking.
- Stronger parish school connections.
- More hands on education opportunities for those who need to learn outside of the traditional way - drama, dance, music, science, cooking, business.

thank you
Saints
Every year the Church recalls the example, witness, and prayer of the holy women and men who have been identified by the Church as Saints. These Saints are more than just role models; they are family members with whom we continue to share relation, in a bond of prayer, called the Communion of Saints. Every year when we celebrate this day, the Gospel we proclaim recalls for us Jesus’ teaching about happiness, the Beatitudes. We quickly note in this reading that none of those Jesus names as “blessed” or “happy” are expected... the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. Jesus’ blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness. Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, who mourn, who are persecuted. This might have been welcome and surprising news to the crowds who heard Jesus that day. The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Because of this, it is natural that we proclaim this Gospel on the Feast of All Saints. Saints are people who lived the spirit of the Beatitudes as Jesus lived. On this day, we too are challenged to model our lives on the spirit and promises of the Beatitudes.

School Parish Mass
Thank you very much to all those families who were able to attend our school/parish last Sunday. This was a very lovely Mass celebrated by Father John. The students led the Mass with the readings, the prayers and the Offertory.

All Saints Mass
The Church was filled with Saints on Tuesday for our school Mass for All Saint’s Day. It was wonderful to see so many students dressed as their favourite Saint. Jaymz M, Bernie L, Max M and Ryles W read beautifully from the pulpit. Year 1/2 were fantastic as they led the Offertory Procession with Piper S as Saint Mother Teresa, Chelsea W as Saint Cecilia, Sophie McF as Saint Mary Mackillop, Cameron P as Saint Pope John Paul 11, Tyler C as Saint Patrick and Max I as Saint Francis. Thank you everyone for this joyful celebration to honour all saints.

Look upon us, O Lord, and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit.
Where there is weakness, give us strength; where there is disagreement, give us tolerance; where there is misunderstanding, give us patience; where there is hurt, give us the courage to forgive and the grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit.
Where there is weakness, give us strength;
where there is disagreement, give us tolerance;
where there is misunderstanding, give us patience;
Where there is hurt, give us the courage to forgive and the grace to accept forgiveness.
Be present in your school here and in all places;
bless our work, and everything that is undertaken by our Christian sisters and brothers, for the furtherance of your kingdom of unity and love, peace and justice.
We ask this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, AMEN

Have a safe and happy weekend,
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
In All Things May God be Glorified
Week 4 Class Awards
To be presented at Assembly: 2.30pm, Monday 7 November.
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, Lara G, Heidi VW
Kinder C: McKinlay H, Chelsea B, Ashleigh H
Year 1K: Sahara K, Cooper C, Charlotte R, Oscar B
Year 1/2J: Lachlan G, Tyler C, Aisha Mc
Year 2S: Max V, Leila S, Zoey S
Year 3B: Kehlei C, Chloé H, Seth M
Year 3D: Bailey P, Marli W, Ethan Q
Year 4W: Bernadette B, Kyden B, Isaac S
Year 4JP: Alex C, Kody G, Kara H
Year 5: Brandan M, Julie N, Bobby G
Year 6: Hayley E, Ryles W, Stuart L

Granite Town Festival
River lights

WANTED:
Broken or unwanted cups, plates, saucers or other forms of crockery.
Please deliver in a cardboard box to Year Six.
A fun day of netball was enjoyed by 32 students from Years 2 - 6 last Sunday in Canberra. This is what some of the players commented about the day:

My favourite part was being in goals and my mum being my coach. Also being part of an older team.

*Samantha E*

My favourite part of the day was when our coach said to us that the only thing that matters is to have fun and enjoy it.

*Dana M*

My highlight of netball was playing and working together with my team. Playing against other teams was also enjoyable.

*Jessica F*

On Sunday 31st October I went to Canberra to the netball carnival. I loved how well it was run and the encouragement that was given. It was very nice to go and we all got to have fun together.

*Claire M*

My whole family went to the netball in Canberra. The last couple of years I’ve been there it has been stinking hot. This year it wasn’t hot and it wasn’t cold—it was just right. We played six games and we took it home by playing and winning the last game. My highlight of the day was scoring my first goal of the day and I got in three goals.

*Charlotte W*

My favourite part of the netball carnival would probably be all of the games we played and how well organised they all were. Also the free ‘fill my bottle’ water dispensers were a close second.

*Bernie L*

On Sunday the 30th of October four teams went up to Canberra to play netball. The teams were called: Stingrays, Starfish, Sharks and Seagulls. My team was called the Sharks. We only won one out of seven games but that didn’t matter. To me the whole idea was to have fun.

*Luke M*

Thank you to teachers Mrs Keough and Mrs Niddrie who travelled to Canberra to coach and umpire, Mrs Niddrie’s son Jack and friends from Australian Catholic University who volunteered to umpire and to all the parents who transported children and supported the day. Special thanks to parents Jo Flood and Melissa Ellis for coaching teams and Melissa Van Weerdenberg, Mary Whiriskey and Michelle Kempston for managing teams and transporting equipment.

*Karen Hadley*
The SRC are excited to announce that we will be hosting a school disco on Monday 12 December – Week 10.

12:00-1:00pm (K-2 disco)
2-3pm (3-6 disco)

More details to come!

**SRC Spotlight**

**Tyler. C Year 3 Representative.**
When did you commence at St Mary’s? In kinder, 2013
What is one of your favourite school memories? Getting on the SRC
One thing you love about St Mary’s: that everyone is so kind.
One thing you would like the SRC to achieve this year: a bowling day.
Favourite Book: Jeff Kinney books
Interest and hobbies: BMX riding.
What are your dreams for the future? To be a fast runner.

**Issac. S Year 4 Representative.**
When did you commence at St Mary’s? In kinder, 2012
What is one of your favourite school memories? When I watched my brother in the Creation Focus Assembly.
One thing you love about St Mary’s: I love that everyone is so kind and generous.
One thing you would like the SRC to achieve this year: a cookie decorating day.
Favourite Book: The BFG
Interest and hobbies: Drawing.
What are your dreams for the future? To be a composer.

**Mini Vinnies News**

**Social Justice Day – 18 November**
The Mini Vinnies group are eager to go on their first excursion together as a group to the Australian Catholic University in Canberra. The aim of the day is to collaborate with children involved in Mini Vinnies from different schools in the Archdiocese to share ideas, make new friends, learn about social justice and to share in what it means to be Mini Vinnies members. The day will include keynote speakers, workshops in small groups and time to pray and reflect. This day will provide excellent leadership skills for the students and we can’t wait to share our experiences when we return.

Sophie Kenny

**STUDENT CARD MAKING WORKSHOP**

Ronald McDonald Charities do some amazing work for our communities. We are asking you to search your cupboards to see if you have any old scrapbooking or card making supplies you no longer require. These supplies will be used to make cards, which will be made by students at a workshop to be held at school. They will be sent to Canberra for the staff at Ronald McDonald House to use as thank you cards for their sponsors and donors.
Details about the workshop to follow soon!
We would welcome any donations.

Rebecca Keough
Operation Christmas Child
The Samaritans Purse project Operation Christmas Child (the filling of shoe boxes for children in underprivileged areas overseas) is having a fundraising evening with the Bay Players, Batemans Bay to attend a production on Friday 11 November 7.30pm. The play is Haphazardly Ever After. Tickets are available from Liz Fisher ($25 per ticket, $15 per child - no concessions). For every ticket sold $3 will go the charity. The evening promises to be an entertaining evening (there will be drinks and nibbles - so come early)! This is a joint venture organised between Areas Coordinator for Operation Christmas Child Liz Fisher (Moruya / Narooma) and Pauline Brook (Batemans Bay/Ulladulla). Haphazardly Ever After Written by Jeff Fluharty and directed by Belinda Quick is a youth production and is described as “tons of magical fun in this original, on of a kind fractured fairy tale farce”! Bay players youth do such a great job entertaining for us and fantastic for the young actors . Please contact Liz 44717675 or email a2fisher@bigpond.net.au if you would like to purchase tickets.

Haphazardly Ever After
I'm not a theatre critic, but it was my great pleasure last Friday to attend the official opening of the Bay Players latest production, Haphazardly Ever After. The performance included several St Mary’s students. Of the three Year 6 students in lead roles, the stand out performance was by the stunningly gorgeous Charlotte Q as the most beautiful princess in the Eurobodalla. In this role she almost, but not quite, gets to eclipse Snow White. Huon D is so natural playing Prince Slacker that if you didn’t know him better you would swear that he had spent his whole life just slacking off so he could perfect his role as the slackest slacker ever to lounge around a Kingdom. Lawson H has a smaller part but delivers the funniest punch line in the whole musical comedy with such perfect comedic timing he may well be the next Paul Hogan. Ethan Q needs no accolades as he does an excellent job of blowing his own trumpet every chance he gets. But you must grab your tickets (44725984) ASAP as I'm not sure that Ella E will last out carrying heavy bags of gold up and down the castle stairs until the performance closes on the 19th November.

Jake Harris (Moruya’s wannabe theatre critic)
Digital social skills

Just as we teach children social skills for real life, there are important social skills for the digital world. It is imperative that parents teach children to follow a few basic rules.

The internet is a portal into some of the most amazing places, and just like any new place we visit, we are likely to make a few social stumbles. If travelling the world, every culture you visit would have its own social nuances that you are likely to have to work your way around. It would be easy to misunderstand what others say or take offence to something that was not intended.

Young people, at the best of times, are still learning social rules and developing their critical thinking skills around collective interactions. Well-meaning personalities can make all kinds of mistakes when they enter this new online culture.

As parents we want to do whatever it takes to minimise the mistakes our children make online. Netiquette is a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behaviour. Here are some basic principles parents can use to help children solve their own ‘netiquette’ dilemmas.

Be kind Remember the human behind every screen. Every user is an independent person with individual thoughts and feelings. It can be easy to misunderstand another person’s intentions or even be rude to others when you are not interacting with them in person and given the grace of viewing facial expressions and emotions. Perhaps the best mantra we can go back to as parents is the golden rule of “treat others how you would like to be treated.”

Developing empathy and trying to see that comment, post or photo from many different perspectives takes practice. How would you feel if someone said that to you? Treating others with respect is paramount. Yes, there may be times when you might have to stick up for yourself, however it needs to be done in a responsible and respectful way.

If you wouldn’t do it there, don’t do it here Social standards apply to both online and offline spaces, and standards of online behaviour should be consistent with real-life expectations. As parents we put many rules and expectations in place as to how we expect our children to behave in a public place. I know I expect my children to show respect, use their manners, help others out, practice kind language, etc.

Online is the biggest public place your child will ever find themselves, which is all the more reason to work on exceeding these standards of behaviour.

Respect privacy With the world wide web being a public place, privacy is paramount. Learning how to protect personal information and the importance of looking at a website’s privacy policy can help develop skills around internet privacy. Asking for permission before creating accounts and downloading files, strategies for identifying scams and limiting the type of information kids give about themselves or others can help set a strong foundation for their digital lives. Children do not always appreciate that they may be putting their information in jeopardy, because the warning signs are not always obvious. Respecting other people’s right to privacy is also crucial; don’t tell other people’s stories, spread rumours or give away personal details without permission.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
**Develop their internal filter**

Parents may feel that they have some control over their child's use of technology and many use programs and apps that allow for monitoring and filtering content. Despite the best intentions, there are times when filters are re-set, not set up correctly or not even in place — for example when your child goes to their friend's house, gets online and no safety mechanisms have been established. What this means is that we need to help our children develop their internal filter, as this is the one they will always have and may need to rely on. Research is clear that the best way to teach morals and ethics is through example.

**Teach them to do the right thing**

Parents can nurture moral principles that will guide their children to stand up for their beliefs and act right even without us. Know what you stand for so that your child knows. Parents with clearly identified moral convictions are more likely to raise children that do the right thing. Pursue opportunities to look for moral issues and talk about them as they come up: from TV shows and news events to situations at home, school, and friends. Discuss with your child how you feel about the issue and why.

**Be upstanding**

There will be times online when your child will have to be brave and stand up for others, when they will have to go against social pressure to do what is right. When someone they know is being deliberately upset or harassed by another person, expect your child to move from bystander to upstander, because this is the right thing to do. In most cases many people contribute to the cyberbullying. Many know about the situation, but choose not to get involved. Encourage your child to stand up, speak up and act up against online abuse. They can support the target by letting them know they are there and provide empathy. Encourage your child to report what is happening to a trusted adult; someone who they believe will listen and has the skills, desire, and authority to help.

Technology is moving forward quickly, and it continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Taking the time to impart digital social skills at an early age is vital for our children as they move from playground friends to social media and gaming friendships. These simple rules apply all along the developmental spectrum. They also give us a clear understanding of what we can do as parents, to help our children manage a positive digital reputation.

_Catherine Gerhardt_

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**TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS**

1. **Practice makes perfect** keep reinforcing positive digital social skills and a strong foundation will be laid.
2. **Coach** about privacy in a public place.
3. **Follow** the social code of good people.
4. **Manners** are necessary.
5. **Complimentary** conduct is proper.
6. We are **Free** to follow group rules. We are not **Free** to hurt others.
7. **Encourage** the THINK rules.

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Catherine Gerhardt is a dedicated advocate of critical thinking skills in children and young people. As a parent of school aged children she understands the commitments and challenges parents face ensuring they provide the right information to young people in a way that empowers them to develop their personal and social capabilities. Catherine is a certified training provider through the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner.
Reflecting on Domestic / Family Violence

Home Truths

Friday 18 November 2016, 10am to 4pm, Tuross Sports Club (Kyla Park Hall) Hector McWilliam Dr, Tuross Head

The Catholic Archdiocesan Commission for Women, the Anglican Church and the Uniting Church will host this ecumenical response to Domestic/Family Violence.

The day includes—
an outline of Family/Domestic Violence, services available from local support agencies, personal stories, discussion & reflections.

Light lunch & beverages provided.
For more information contact: Margaret Ryan 0417 418 838
7 November
Screening of movie ‘2e - Twice Exceptional’ and panel discussion

Screening of movie ‘2e - twice exceptional’ and Panel discussion afterwards.

For more information, click here

19 November
Managing Big Emotions 5 - 8 AM 8 - 12 year olds
PM
Holy Spirit Primary School, Nicholls, ACT

For more information and to book
5-8 year olds
8 - 12 year olds

2016 National Church Life Survey
All Catholic churches in our Archdiocese are taking part in the 2016 National Church Life Survey
We invite you to do the National Church Life Survey at your church.
The survey helps Australian churches to be vital and healthy. It equips leaders to plan for the future.

† It is anonymous
† It takes around 20 minutes

We will give around 2000 local churches in 20 denominations who take part in the 2016 NCLS.
We will hold the survey on:
29TH/30TH October, at all Masses.

The Bay Theatre Players Youth presents

Haphazardly Ever After
The Musical

23 October - 19 November, 2016

Tickets available at Bargain Box,
Batemans Bay, ph: 4472 5984

Music and Lyrics by Scott de Turk
Book by Jeff Philpott

Directed by Delphine Quick
Musical Direction by Larra Dee Brown