Week 5

Dear Families

Summer has finally arrived and we are so lucky at St Mary’s to have air conditioned class rooms for the children. I hope you have been able to escape the extreme heat this week. Please keep the people of Fiji in your thoughts and prayers as they recover from the devastation of the recent cyclone. Lent continues this week and I have included with this newsletter, some food for thought from Fr John, our parish priest. This week two members of staff celebrated significant 0 birthdays. Happy birthday to Justin Bateman and Bec Keough. Congratulations also to Sophie O’Hehir on her marriage on Saturday afternoon. Sophie and Mick are now honeymooning at a tropical location.

Thanks
A big vote of thanks to the community of St Mary’s for your support of the Trivia Night held last Thursday. The night was a great success. I wish to thank the staff, parents and community for coming along and donating prizes and money on the night.

Community Council
Our first executive meeting of the Community Council was held on Tuesday evening in the staff room. Congratulations to our CC Chair Karen Motyka who has been appointed to the Archdiocesan Catholic Education Commission.
At the meeting it was decided to host a whole school meeting on Tuesday evening 15th March for parents at St Mary’s. The meeting will address 4 key areas that we hope will support the well-being of the children here at St Mary’s.
- We will look at the National Agreed Definition of Bullying, agreed to by all states and territories and outline our approach to dealing with bullying at St Mary’s.
- We will be informed about the amount of sugar in our children’s diets and what we can do to keep our children healthy.
- We will have some tips for parents on how to reduce school related anxiety in their children.
- We will have input on how to keep children safe on the internet with some tips for families.

The Community Council felt that these were real issues facing the school community and rather than have a series of 4 meetings, each issue could be presented in about 15 minutes and follow up could be arranged if necessary by providing contact details.

Date: Tuesday 15 March
Time 7.00pm – 8.00pm
Venue PAC

Welcome Picnic
With the extreme weather predicted for today it has been decided to postpone the welcome picnic that was to be held this afternoon. We felt it would be too hot for families to come out as many of us will look to find relief at the beach. We will hold the picnic on a date to be decided.

Continued overleaf...
Combined Schools Mass
On Thursday 10 March we shall travel to Carroll College for the combined school Mass. This will involve children from all our three Catholic schools. Parents and friends are most welcome. Mass will begin at 10.00am and the bus will leave school at 9.30am returning to school by 12.30pm. Children will need to wear their full school uniform and take some morning tea with them. The CC students will prepare some morning tea for purchase so the children are encouraged to bring some spending money. An amount of $2 has been suggested. Money goes towards supporting the Mission Appeal.

Billycart Racing
Have you got what it takes to build and drive a Gravity Racer? St Mary’s has arranged to pay the entry fees and transport the school’s fastest Billycarts to Braidwood for the famous “Down Gillamatong Lane Lions Club Billy Cart Derby” on Sunday 1st May 2016. If there is enough interest we will also run a Technical “what are the rules” and “how to build your race cart” session for Engineers and their teams here at St Mary’s. The divisions are under 8, 8-11 yrs and over 11s. More information can be obtained from Jake Harris 44744567 or by emailing gravityracers@mgta.com.au More information on the Braidwood event can be found on their website https://braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com/

School Uniforms
Some children have been coming to school with inappropriate footwear and incorrect items of clothing that are not part of the school uniform. Children are asked to wear black leather school shoes on Tuesday – Thursday and sports uniforms with runners on Mondays and Fridays. If children wish to bring runners on non sports uniform days, they can change into them at lunch and recess times.

From Fr John
When we see the storms that hit Fiji we can often feel connected and at the same time remote from the disaster. Unless we personally know somebody who lives there, if we have visited Fiji or have some association with the islands we can feel both concerned and distant. This contradiction can disturb us because we want to help and almost feel powerless at the same time. However, each person is created for God’s mission to immerse ourselves in the day to day life and not to become remote from it. We are called to search for the freedom inside themselves which is convicted of God’s joy and life. It calls us to reach out to human beings out of respect and friendship confident that God’s love is displayed in how we become present to the normal events of daily life. Essentially what makes us human and Christian enables us to live out our vocation. This is not only as a person loved by God but as a person who is able to help transform our world and be a messenger of God’s grace. We are called to do what we can, not what we can’t.
Ultimately, it is not by self-perfection that we encounter God. Christianity is not another self-help program. It is a relationship which enables us to become transformed by God’s loving mercy. Thus it is an integration of our whole life which is expressed whenever we gather to celebrate Eucharist. God calls together not people who have made it, but people on the journey.
• How does God call me to be present to others this week?
• What is God revealing to me about my own life?
• What is being transformed in my community by God’s grace?

Just For Fun
Why did the Eskimo do his washing in tide?
Because it was too cold out tide.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe, Principal

Thank you -
Sincere thanks and appreciation to my colleagues at St Mary’s, parents and the wider community for the wonderful support and prayers sent to our family. Your kindness and generosity is deeply appreciated. With heartfelt thanks, Annette x
**Sunday's Gospel**

We are now into the third week of the Season of Lent and our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading describes Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. Jesus' tells the parable of the barren fig tree which contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit. Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts.

**Year 2 Focus Assembly**

A reminder that all parents, friends and parishioners are most welcome to join us in the PAC tomorrow morning at 9am for the Year 2 focus assembly. The Year 2 students are very excited to present their liturgy for the first time this year.

**Baptism**

We have three very excited students in Year 3, 5 and 6 who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism next Thursday 3 March at the 9.15am Mass. These students are Stuart L, Charlee P and Bailey P. The staff and the students in these classes will attend this Mass to pray for and support their classmates. A very warm welcome is extended to everyone to attend this Mass of celebration.

**Whole School/Parish Mass**

We will come together as a whole school when we join with our parish at Mass on Sunday 6 March at 10am. The students from St Mary’s will be involved in the readings and other parts of the Mass. This is also a commitment Mass for the students who will be making their Confirmation the following weekend. The Confirmation candidates will also give parishioners a card asking them to pray for them as they commit to following Jesus. Confirmation perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday. The Church Teaches that Confirmation is a true sacrament instituted by Christ and different from Baptism. It is administered by laying-on of hands and anointing with chrism accompanied by prayer. The chrism is blessed by the bishop and the bishop administers the sacrament. All baptised persons can and should be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith and for the confession of faith and to impress an indelible character.

“I have baptised you with water; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.” – Mark 13:11

The Year 6 students have been busy researching their Saint under the guidance of Mrs Keough. The Confirmation Mass will be held at Carroll College on Sunday 13 March at 3pm.

**We Pray A Moment with Jesus**

A Moment with Jesus
Share with Jesus things for which you are sorry. Read the kind and forgiving words of Jesus. “You are forgiven. Go in peace.” Adapted from Luke 7:48, 50

Have a safe and happy weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
Catholic Schools Week
Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2016 will be held from 6 to 12 March and will involve the communities of all Catholic primary and secondary schools across the Archdiocese in NSW and the ACT. The theme for 2016 is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which aligns with the Catholic Church’s strong focus on supporting refugees and asylum seekers and the need for a compassionate global community. The theme also ties in with the Catholic Church’s celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which centres on pardon, strength and love.

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is calling on all Catholic communities to extend mercy to those in need, particularly refugees fleeing hunger and war.

This year we will once again attend our combined schools Mass with St Bernard’s and Carroll College. It will be held on Thursday 10 March at Carroll College Hall at 10am. Please mark this date in your diary as we extend an invitation to all our families to attend.

REQUEST for Culottes in the Year of Mercy
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 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!

Parent/ Grandparent Volunteers Workshop
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 readers. We are hosting a Volunteer helper workshop next week on Thursday 3 March at 2pm in the Board Room. The session will cover strategies to assist children when listening to them read, school protocols, confidentiality and WWC just to name a few. If you would like to assist in classrooms in any capacity, please come along and participate in the session. We would love to see you!!
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.

Clean Up Australia Day
Our school will once again join in this community event on Friday 4 March. Students from Year 3-6 will assist with cleaning up rubbish at Riverside Park. Infants classes will clean up around the school and Church grounds. All students are to bring gloves and plastic bags to participate in the clean up. Mr Lowe will visit each class and explain the strict Clean Up Australia rules and protocols for students when picking up rubbish. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to assist our wider community and continue to actively participate in caring for our environment.

ELI Inservice
On Wednesday 24 Feb, I continued my Early Literacy Initiative training in Canberra. Last year the initiative began with 7 schools in our Archdiocese implementing this new program. This year more schools have come on board and are beginning their journey implementing the Inquiry Literacy model supported by the CE under the guidance of Associate Professor Kaye Lowe. The day gave an overview of the next stage of implementations, current data Literacy results and trends about our Archdiocesan schools - targeting areas of need.

For St Mary’s this continues to mean a real big push to READ, READ and READ from Kinder to Year 6. To foster a love of reading and writing with our students and to celebrate student’s achievements such as publishing celebrations with each other, our parents and community. I am looking forward to many wonderful achievements in this area and watching your children grow as readers and writers of quality literature.

Adjunct Professor Kaye Lowe will once again visit our school and host a parent information session on how to assist your child with reading at home. If you speak to any of the parents who attended last year you will know that it was definitely a worthwhile evening. Please lock the following date in your diary and make it a priority to attend – Wednesday 1 June – in the PAC. Starting time is yet to be advised.

Assistant Principal Network Day
On Tuesday 23 Feb, I attended the AP network day in Canberra with my fellow 56 AP’s from all our Archdiocesan Primary and Secondary schools. The day focused on the Catholic Schools Mentoring Network, the CE Principles of Pedagogy and Human Resource Updates for 2016.

The most important part of the day was learning about our 7 Principles of Pedagogy. The CE has been working closely with our school Principles and the School Services team to create the 7 Principles of Pedagogy that come from the beliefs and values about what we as professional and faith based educators believe about Education. The 7 Principles of Pedagogy are:

1. Everyone can learn
2. A deep understanding of curriculum provides content and context for learning
3. Assessment informs teaching and learning
4. Positive relationships are at the heart of effective teaching
5. Holding high expectations of all learners is a commitment to justice
6. Positive educational environments empower learning
7. Learning is inspired and celebrated in community

The document outlines each principle in detail giving a clear and deeper understanding of the meaning of the pedagogical practice supported by the Vision, Scripture and National Professional Standards for Teachers. All Principles align with the Australian Curriculum and the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

Wishing God's best for you, Catrina Niddrie AP
**Week 5 Class Awards**

To be presented at assembly: 2.30pm, Monday 29 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**
  - Lexie P, Lara G, Kai W

- **Kinder C**
  - Tiahli B, Jema H, Ashton G

- **Year 1O**
  - Charlie G, Charlotte R, Ewan C

- **Year 1/2J**
  - Tyereasha P-B, Charlie H, Katelen B

- **Year 2S**
  - Harrison K, Seth H, Ellie H

- **Year 3B**
  - Chloe H, Cameron L, Jayda E

- **Year 3D**
  - Carried over to next week

- **Year 4JA**
  - Taya B, Jessica T, Samantha E

- **Year 4JP**
  - Lena H, Kara H, Charlotte S

- **Year 5**
  - Bobby G, Chloe C, Zack C

- **Year 6**
  - Makaylah C, Madeleine H, Max M, Ryles W

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Isabelle B, Tiahli B, Zac VW
I know it’s February, but summer will soon be over and it’s time to start thinking about Winter Sports! You could play Soccer or Rugby every weekend but how much fun would it be to race down a mountain at high speed on snow skis?

**We are recruiting competitors for the 2016 St Mary’s Snow Ski Team.**

After qualifying for the State Titles in 2015, the plan this year is to enter teams in the:
- Snowboard (Giant Slalom & Snowboard X) Wednesday 27th July at Perisher
- The Alpine Event (downhill through the flags) on Thursday 28th July at Perisher
- The Ski X (downhill on a marked race track) on Friday 29th July at Perisher

We are desperate for some more keen skiers from Year 5 and 6 to make up a full Division 4 team, and are keen to accept more competitors from Kinder through Year 4 for our Division 5 team.

The plan this year is for all competitors and their families to stay together in a lodge in Jindabyne

Anyone who is interested or wants more information please contact Jake Harris on 44744567 or the school office.

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**Have you got what it takes to build and drive a Gravity Racer?**

St Marys has arranged to pay the entry fees and transport the school’s fastest Billycarts to Braidwood for the famous “Down Gillamatong Lane” Lions Club Billy Cart Derby on Sunday 1st May 2016.

If there is enough interest we will also run a Technical “what are the rules”, “how to build your race cart” session for engineers and their teams. More information can be obtained from Jake Harris 44744567 or by emailing gravityracers@mgta.com.au More information on the Braidwood event can be found on their website [https://braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com/](https://braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com/)
The Leadership Day was fun and surprising. The snacks were alright. The videos were funny. I learnt how to be a proper leader in many ways. Isabelle B.

I had a lot of fun! It was a great time and I really enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. There were so many fun activities. I had a really good day. Mahaylah C.

I had a great time at the Leadership Day and enjoyed meeting new people and all the fun activities. Hayley E.

Leadership Day was okay. The morning tea was really good! Getting into our groups in our birthdays was okay and the video clips were really funny. Ethan P.
Friends & Fun!

Our first board game afternoon was a big success!

Do you have any unwanted board games or card games at home? Mrs Keough would welcome any donations of old games for the children to explore.

You are welcome to bring a board game or card game to share ... or try one of the ones provided!

GOT A QUESTION?

Talk to Mrs Keough.
Cricket Report

Cassidy v Howard

The first of our inter-House games was played last Friday at Gundary Oval. Cassidy first in to bat and both openers, (brothers), laid a solid foundation for a good score with some well-placed shots to all parts of the field. Top scorer though was young Bailey hammering 11 very aggressive runs while Angus played very well for his 8 runs. Skipper Ryle was another to shine scoring 5 runs. Rory (1-4) and Lawson (1-3) were the most successful of the Howard bowlers, both capturing wickets, while Stuart and Bobby also bowled very well. Jaymz, George and Tom were very safe in the field. Cassidy finished with 46 runs from their overs.
Howard next to bat and certainly had the scoreboard ticking over early but then a mini collapse slowed the scoring down in the middle period. Skipper Rory top scored for Howard with 7 very brisk runs while Bobby and Tom, who scored 5 each, both batted very capably. Brad was the most successful of the Cassidy bowlers capturing 2 wickets for 1 run while Bailey (1-5), Kyden (1-2) and Ryle (1-1) also bowled very accurately, and at times with hostility. Kyden took a very good catch off his own bowling while Baily took a screamer to dismiss Huon. Kyle was another to take a good catch while Angus was very good in the field. Howard finished with 27 runs from their overs.
Congratulations to Cassidy and ‘Player of the Match’ Bailey who just edged out Rory. Next week sees the debut of the Eyre side up against Howard. All welcome.

John Harnett

Don’t forget your library bag!

A cloth bag / pillow slip is all your child needs to borrow from the library.

Class Library days:
Mondays: Year 6
Tuesdays: Year 1O, Year 1-2J, Year 2S, Year 4JA and Year 4JP
Wednesdays: KW, KCH, Year 3B and 3D
Thursdays: Year 5
The library will be opened for quiet activities and borrowing at Recess 1.30-2.00 Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays every week.

Jo Matthews
Community Announcements

Intra 9’s Term 2 competition

10 week Aussie Rules Football competition for kids u10

@ Gundary Oval, Moruya,
every Tuesday afternoon,
4.30pm – 5.30pm

Competition Starts on 26th April.
4 even teams of up to 12 per side.
Finals-Tuesday 28th June.

Training begins on Tuesday 1st March 4.30pm-5.30pm
Info/Register now www.BMGiants.com or
Ph Marty 0478605645

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