Dear Parents

It is hard to believe we are in Week 8 and there are only two weeks to go until the end of the first term. During last week I enrolled the school in a National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. I spoke with the children on Monday morning about what bullying is and what it is not. Bullying is targeted, deliberate and repeated words or actions of one person against another. It could involve teasing, hitting or kicking or even cyber bullying. Bullying has no place in our school. We aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. During the week classes have been involved in discussions about feeling safe and acting in a kind and friendly way towards others. Bullying is not random inappropriate action but rather deliberate and targeted power over another.

If your child talks to you about bullying:
- Listen calmly to get the full story
- Reassure your child that they are not to blame
- Ask your child what they want you to do about it and how you can help
- Visit www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies
- Contact your child’s teacher
- Check in regularly with your child

At St Mary’s we are redesigning the school policy relating to bullying and when completed it will be available to view on the website.

Events Working Party
Tonight at 7.00pm there will be a meeting of interested parents to discuss our fundraising and social plans for the remainder of the school year. This will be an opportunity to brainstorm some ideas for this year and into the future. All are most welcome. The meeting will be in the staffroom.

Thanks
Today in true Irish fashion we celebrated St Patrick’s Day. Thanks to the parents who assisted the SRC with cooking and treat making. The money raised will go to support the Caritas Mission Appeal.

Family Gathering
It was a pleasure to see so many families gather at Riverside Park last week to spend some time together. The children enjoyed the games of cricket and touch. Thankyou to the staff and parents for coming along.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe
Principal

Birthdays
Happy birthday to the following students celebrating their special day in the coming week:
- Max C
- Huon D
- Autumn B-C

Just For Fun
Patient: Doctor, doctor, I think I’m a pack of cards.
Doctor: Shuffle along I’ll deal with you later.
This Sunday’s Gospel

This Sunday’s Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. John’s Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus’ conflict with the Jewish authorities. Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Jesus taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme is repeated in John’s account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another. We again hear Jesus speak about his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. Through Jesus’ dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Happy St Patrick’s Day

We thank Fr Dominic for celebrating Mass with us yesterday for St Patrick’s Day. We gathered as a whole school with families and parishioners to pray and give thanks together. The students in Year 6 lead us in the readings and dramatisation of the Gospel. Children from the Kinder classes read at Mass for the first time and we thank Cecilia S and Michaela F for their excellent reading of the Prayer of the Faithful. Thanks must also go to Mrs Afflick for her time in preparing the Year 6 girls in their liturgical movement accompanied by the Andrew Chinn song, “Hold My Hand”.

Reconciliation Meeting

There will be a meeting in the church this afternoon at 3.15 for parents and those students who will be making their First Reconciliation this year. Fr John will be leading this meeting and enrolment forms and booklets will be available at the church for those who weren’t able to attend the initial meeting in Week 6.

Holy Week

We will be presenting a very powerful Holy Week liturgy on Thursday 2 April at 9.30am in the Sacred Heart Church. The students will present the following scenes from Jesus’ last week on earth: Year 1—Palm Sunday, Year 2—Washing of the Feet, Year 3—The Last Supper, Year 4—The arrest of Jesus in the Garden, Year 5—The Crucifixion, Year 6—The Tomb, Kinder—Easter Sunday. The students will begin preparing for Holy Week in the next few days. We warmly welcome all families, friends and parishioners to join us on Thursday 2 April as we prepare for the beautiful feast of Easter.

Have a happy and safe weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
Gifted Awareness Week
This week is Gifted Awareness Week. This is the first time that such a week has been established in Australia. It aims to raise community awareness of giftedness and to promote activities that recognise giftedness in all its forms.
The Week has been established by the AAEGT – Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented.
There are many family activities organised throughout NSW and across Australia. They have also included tasks that you can undertake at home. For further information have a look at their website http://www.aaegt.net.au/

Picnic in the Park
Thank you to all the families that attended our Family Fun Picnic in the Park. A very enjoyable, relaxed evening was had by all. It was lovely that we could get together and just enjoy spending quality time together.

Catholic Schools Week
Last Friday we had 24 Year 10 Carroll College students come to school and assist in our classrooms. Our helpers were fantastic! Many sporting and creative artworks were undertaken on the day. Attached is a pic collage of what some of the classes did with their Yr 10 helpers.

ICAS competition for Year 2 - Year 6
A reminder for families to please return all competition nomination notes and money by Monday 30 March.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Appointment notes have gone home this week. Please check your child’s school bag for this important bit of information. Each parent meeting will last 15 minutes and will take place in your child’s classroom. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss how your child is adapting to their new learning environment and to highlight any observations in terms of their learning. The teachers look forward to discussing the individual learning needs of your child/ren with you.

Wishing God’s best for you,
Catrina Niddrie
Assistant Principal

Curriculum update
Sustained Writing
You may have heard your child talk about the story they are currently writing or even their latest novel! Students in many classes are highly engaged as they write silently for sustained periods of time. Silent sustained daily reading has been an essential and loved part of our day and now writing for sustained periods is having fantastic results. Students who once were reluctant writers are embracing the opportunity to be creative and to write about themes that interest them, editing and publishing their work for authentic audiences. Ask your child about their current story!

Mr Lowe has been introducing a great new online resource to the students this week. Skoolbo is fun and engaging, while helping kids with maths. All of the activities on Skoolbo are based on the Australian Curriculum, so while children are having fun, their classroom learning is being reinforced. For more information visit www.skoolbo.com.au

Karen Hadley, Coordinator
Catholic Schools Week

Year 10 Carroll College Helpers
Week 8 Class Awards

**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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year KCK</th>
<th>Year KW</th>
<th>Year 1H</th>
<th>Year 1O</th>
<th>Year 2JP</th>
<th>Year 2J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooke B</td>
<td>Lorelai B</td>
<td>Annabelle P</td>
<td>Miranda T</td>
<td>Riley N</td>
<td>Charlotte M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecilia S</td>
<td>Cody C-H</td>
<td>Nate K</td>
<td>Issac B</td>
<td>Beau M</td>
<td>Declan F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler C</td>
<td>Jazmine P</td>
<td>Max V</td>
<td>Piper S</td>
<td>Marli W</td>
<td>Nash G</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3D</th>
<th>Year 3S</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kara H</td>
<td>Alex C</td>
<td>Felicity L</td>
<td>Madeleine W</td>
<td>Sam H</td>
<td>Michaela F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom W</td>
<td>Rhianna B</td>
<td>Kiearra T</td>
<td>Abbey B</td>
<td>Payton B</td>
<td>Grace R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalissa B</td>
<td>Shyann M</td>
<td>Piper W</td>
<td>Ethan P</td>
<td>William P</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**PDHPE**
- Michaela F
- Cameron P
- Will D
- Jessica F
- Zane B
- Will G

Happy reading,
Jessica Afflick
Cricket:

Red v Gold

Red were first to pad up and meet the bowlers head on. Some loose batting offered chances for the Gold fielders and they managed to keep pressure on the Red batters. Top scorers on the day for Red were brothers Cooper and Bailey. The most successful of the bowlers were Tom (1-3), Bailey M (1-3) and Reilly (1-5). Thomas took a very good catch while Jaymz was very safe behind the stumps. Joseph, Reilly, Bailey M and Thomas were their usual energetic selves in the field. Red finished with 34 runs from their allotted overs.

Gold next to bat and were given a steady, consistent start with openers Declan and Thomas keeping the scoreboard ticking over and both top scoring with 3 runs apiece. The best of the Red bowlers was Cooper who finished with 3 wickets for 4 runs. He received very good support from his brother Bailey, whose very accurate overs gave him figures of 1-2. Cooper also completed a very good catch as well as being a standout in the field. He received great support from Bailey, Ryle and Sebastian. Gold finished with 31 runs in a particularly tight finish.

Victory to the Red side and congratulations to ‘Player of the Match’ Cooper who just pipped Bailey and Thomas. Next week sees Gold v Blue but it may have to be postponed to the following week due to football commitments. Again parents always welcome.

John Harnett

Braidwood Community Bank

Billy Cart Derby

Gillamatong Lane, Braidwood

3 May 2015

Since 2010 Lawson H from year 5 has been a very successful competitor at the annual Lions Club billy cart race in Braidwood. The Derby is a fantastic community run family event and over the years a few other families have expressed an interest in competing. Anyone interested in entering a race cart can find out more on the event web site https://braidwoodbillycarts.wordpress.com/ or by contacting me at jake@mgta.com.au. If there is enough interest at St Mary’s I’m happy to run an information session and a workshop on how to make your billy cart go faster! And possibly arrange some group transport to get a number of race carts to Braidwood on the day. My phone number is 44744567.

Jake Harris

BUS TO THE BALL

Just a reminder of the timetable for the bus to the Combined Catholic Schools Ball:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuross Shops</td>
<td>5.10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake St</td>
<td>5.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Moruya</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broulee Shops</td>
<td>5.40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Via Mogo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrive at Soldiers Club</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The cost is $10, please pay Megan Grant when you board.
Stage 2 AFL Gala Day.
YEAR ONE
MUSEUM
EXCURSION
Mini Vinnies

Look at our hardworking Mini Vinnies Group making Easter cards for the Retirement Village. Thank you for your enthusiasm and initiative to also make some cards at home. Next Friday 27 March, myself and our Mini Vinnies Group – Monique B, Harry E, Lisa H, Nathaniel T, Lily G, Emily S and Hugh C will deliver the cards to the Retirement Village. I just know that the people in the retirement home will be delighted and so appreciative when they receive them.

I would also like to mention the Year 4 girls who have been assisting us with making lots of cards. Thank you Chloe C, Chloe C, Felicity L, Claire M, Piper W and Charlee P.

Mini Vinnies is a group of young people in primary school who get together to help those in need within their school and local community. Mini Vinnies will introduce you to social justice issues, to the St Vincent de Paul Society and to living faith through action.

Sophie O’Hehir

Lost property

We have a number of items in the lost property box at the moment. The lost property box is located on the verandah outside the school office. If you are missing something, please send your child over to have a look. Thank you.
Capital Funding - Fact Sheet

- In 2014, NSW’s 584 Catholic schools educated 21% of NSW students but received only 2% of NSW Government capital funding for schools.

- The NSW Government provides $7.6 million in capital grants to Catholic schools – or $30 per student.

- In 2012, the NSW Government capped its capital funding to non-government schools, but enrolments have continued to grow by 10,000 students – the equivalent of 12 new secondary schools or 400 new classrooms.

- The $7.6 million provided by the NSW Government in 2014 was only enough to part-fund seven of the 39 Catholic school building projects which sought funding that year.

- NSW Catholic schools educate almost 254,000 students and will need to accommodate a further 58,000 students by 2031 – the equivalent of more than 2300 additional classrooms.

- Catholic school parents fund the bulk of capital works projects in their children’s schools through school building levies and the repayment of loans. But the rising cost of land, construction and technology mean that parents cannot shoulder this burden to the same extent indefinitely.
Lost in concentration

It’s more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Here are 5 tips to really impact and make the most of every opportunity you have with your kids.

I can’t help but admire my young colleague Sonia, mother of a 4-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. She is an avid user of social media and other electronic devices, but she is disciplined enough to set them aside when she is with her kids. Sonia chooses to focus her attention on her children, so she limits her use of communication devices to the times when she is alone – which she admits is less often than she’d like.

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you, like Sonia, choose to be in the moment when you have children.

When you are fully present you can:

1. **Build their language**
   Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. She changed or added to the sounds and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. **Teach your children about their world**
   Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher. My hunch is that most kids will stop asking these questions of you if your attention is focused elsewhere, such as on a mobile phone or other electronic device.

3. **Impact their thinking**
   Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.

... Lost in concentration ...

4 Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. Time spent giving attention to your child is like putting money in the bank for the future. You never know when you are going to withdraw some of the deposits that you’ve made, so it’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5 Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed with a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

Yes, there are million memories such as this available to parents who are willing to focus attention on the children rather than be distracted by the lure of communication devices.

As a parent you have competing demands on your time, and the allure of communication technology can be overwhelming. However, as Sonia is so aware, the time for parents to really impact on kids is limited so you want to make the most of every opportunity you have with them.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.

Michael Grose


parentingideas.com.au
IRWIN FAMILY BENEFIT NIGHT

FRIDAY 27 MARCH @ THE ADELAIDE HOTEL

DOORS OPEN 7PM
ENTERTAINMENT FROM 7.30PM
THE SHAGGERZ

MAJOR RAFFLE PRIZES INC:
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MORUYA HI-FI ELECTRICAL PACK • NRL MEMORABILIA
SOUTH COAST AUTO & MUCH, MUCH MORE!