Dear Families

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the term with Week 9 upon us next week. The teachers have been busy with reports for the semester and these will be sent home shortly. The term has once again been a very busy one with many learning gains being made by our children. The term has also had some challenges with some sadness and ill health affecting a number of families at St Mary’s. Please continue to pray for all our families that God will continue to look after each and every one of them.

Grandparent’s Day

Last Friday we had a large number of visitors to the school who came along to help us celebrate Grandparent’s Day. The Mass in the hall was reverently celebrated and our visitors enjoyed a great morning tea provided by the staff and families in Year 5.

Athletics Carnival

A very successful carnival was held last Thursday and I wanted to thank the staff and parents for assisting on the day. Mr Bateman deserves our special thanks as the chief carnival organiser. The presentations for the carnival will be held at the assembly on Monday.

Bike-a-thon

The children will travel to Broulee next Thursday for the major fundraiser for the year. I hope the children have been getting lots of sponsors for the event. The children will receive a raffle ticket for every $5 (or part thereof) they raise. We are able to announce that the first ticket holder taken from the barrel will receive a fantastic bike from Rob at Rob’s Bicycle Repairs at Broulee. Rob has given us the bike at a greatly reduced price and the winner will be able to negotiate with Rob as to the size and style of the bike. We need help transporting the bikes to Broulee on the morning of the Bike-a-thon and if you are able to assist in any way please contact the front office with your offer of help.

Literacy and Numeracy Night

Please come along next Tuesday evening at 6.30pm for an information session about literacy and numeracy. The evening will begin with a presentation about reading from Jo Matthews before splitting into two groups to learn more about helping your child with literacy and numeracy. Stalls will be set up so parents can visit and ask lots of questions. I realise that the evenings are cool at the moment but the hall will be heated and refreshments will be served during the evening. I thank the staff for giving up their time to assist on the night.

Pirate Day

Tomorrow the children can decorate an eye patch that has been provided and dress like a pirate. This initiative has come from the children as a way of raising money for research into childhood brain cancer. Children are encouraged to bring in a gold coin on the day.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe
Principal
This Sunday’s Gospel from Mark carries an important message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears unwilling to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one. Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to work out his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable’s meaning, and he does this in private at a later time. Today’s Gospel reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is “how it is with the kingdom of God.” A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God’s kingdom. The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God’s kingdom welcoming and open to many. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us.

Grandparent’s Mass
We thank Fr Murphy for a beautiful Mass last Friday as we prayed and gave thanks for all grandparents. It was wonderful to see the overwhelming number of people who attended this Mass in our PAC and for the readings, Prayers of the Faithful and the Offertory Procession carried out by some of the grandparents who were present. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this celebration to honour all grandparents.

Year 5 Focus Assembly
Mr Harnett and his Year 5 students welcome parents, friends and parishioners to their focus assembly next Friday 19 June at 9am in the PAC. The students have been studying the topic of God’s Creation in Religion and would like to present their liturgy.

Parish Feast Day
We will celebrate the feast day of our parish this Sunday 14 June at the 10am Mass. Thank you to all the families who have responded to the request for help with readings and drama at this Mass. We warmly welcome all families and friends on Sunday. There will be a sausage sizzle after Mass as part of the celebration so all families who will be attending are encouraged to let the Parish Office know.

Mother Teresa
“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”

Have a safe and happy weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
Communication Corner

**Family Movie Night is tonight!** Come along for a relaxed mystery family movie night in the PAC. The evening begins at 6pm with the movie beginning promptly at 6:30pm. A special mention must go to our hard working EWP members who have organised the evening. Thank you for time, energy and effort!

**Pirate Day is tomorrow!** Make sure you come to school dressed in your pirate outfit to raise money for childhood cancer research. Gold coin donations. Congratulations to the SRC for organising such a special day for a great cause.

**Awards Assembly** On Monday 15th June we will have a special Sports Awards Assembly. Not only will place getters and age champions be announced but the winning house of the carnival will also be revealed! The assembly will begin at 9:00am in the PAC.

**Numeracy/Literacy Night** is this Tuesday 16 June. The evening will begin promptly at 6:30pm in the PAC. Please come along to a very informative session lead by our very talented staff. It will be set up in year groups and parents will have the opportunity to visit stations of Literacy or Numeracy that will enlighten you with ideas of how you can assist with your child’s learning at home.

**ACU Practicum Students** We welcome Leyrizza Leyes and Hayley Douglas who are Third Year Bachelor of Education students from ACU. They will be undertaking their 4 week prac in Year 5 and Kindergarten KCK. We wish you both all the best and hope you enjoy your time at St Mary’s.

**ICAS Spelling and Writing Competitions** will be held on Tuesday 16 June for those students in Years 3-6 who have entered.

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability**

Our school is participating in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). This Data Collection is taking place in Catholic, government and Independent schools across Australia, and will provide valuable information about supports required for a broad group of students. This will enable Australian and State governments to better target support and resources in schools. This in turn will help schools like ours give students the support they need.

The NCCD is not limited to students with diagnosed disabilities. It uses a very broad definition of disability, taken from the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, which includes a range of health issues and learning difficulties where schools implement strategies to support students in participating effectively in their learning.

The Data Collection will take place at the end of Term 2. No personal or identifying information about any student will be included, however, if you decide you do not wish information about your child to be included in the NCCD, you are asked to contact Mrs Joanne Matthew the Learning Support Teacher to discuss your concerns. If you are still concerned you can contact the Principal Mr Michael Lowe and request an information page for parents/carers. If you are still concerned you should complete the opt-out section of the information page and return to the principal. The opt-out letter will need to be completed, signed and returned to the principal.

More information about the NCCD is available at: www.schooldisabilitydatapl.edu.au

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

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**Many thanks to ROB’S BICYCLE REPAIRS for sponsoring the bike-a-thon!**

Rob’s Bicycle Repairs
77 Smith Street Broulee
Mobile: 0413000643
Email: robupton@netspace.net.au

Opening Times:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1PM to 5PM
Saturday & Sunday 11AM to 5PM
CLOSED Wednesday
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!

**Kinder CK**
Charlotte R, Bianca B, Cooper M

**Kinder W**
Michaela F, Jack V, Sahara K

**Year 1H**
Tuki P, Seth H, Leila S

**Year 1O**
Piper S, Chester W, Ashlee B, Mikayla C

**Year 2JP**
Scarlett W, Riley N, Jessica F

**Year 2J**
Seth M, Chloe H, Jayda E

**Year 3D**
Kara H, Matilda T, Tom W

**Year 3S**
Kody G, Rhianna B, Jemah S

**Year 4**
Bobby G, Bradley L, Lisa H

**Year 5**
Jordan B, Madeleine W, Stuart L

**Year 6**
Josef G

**Library**

Nash G (2J), Jessica T (3D), Austin P (3D), Jasper Z (3D)

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Eurobodalla Shire Council NAIDOC Grant

We are very pleased to have been successful in our grant application for council funding to support our school NAIDOC Week activities. The funds will be used to assist with establishing a bush tucker garden in the area behind the Performing Arts Centre. For some time we have discussed the idea of creating an outdoor learning environment and during NAIDOC week we will begin our planting of the garden as part of our celebrations.

Kerry Boyenga and Karen Hadley
Tomorrow is Pirate Day Friday! Pirate Day Friday is a national fundraising day raising funds and awareness for research into the cure and prevention of Childhood Brain Tumours. The event takes place annually on the second Friday in June. On the day primary schools from all over the country host a Pirate themed free dress day. This means the children get the chance to dress up as pirates for the day in exchange for a gold coin donation. If students wish to just come dressed in multi clothes, but still wear the eyepatch, then that is ok too!

For more information, please check out the Pirate Day Friday website: [www.piratedayfriday.com](http://www.piratedayfriday.com)

The SRC look forward to seeing everyone dressed as pirates and their creative eyepatches tomorrow. Photos will be included in the newsletter next week.

Thank you in advance for supporting the SRC on this wonderful initiative and fundraiser.

SRC Rugby World Cup Round

Robin

This week we started the SRC Modified Rugby World Cup at lunch and recess. Yesterday the ‘Octonauts’ played the ‘Mr Big Men and Little Miss’ in the Year 6 division. Octonauts came out on top winning 35-5. Today the Year 3/4 division started with the Year 3 ‘Bunnies’ playing ‘The Big Booms’ and on Friday the Year 4 teams will play. The results will be in the newsletter next week.

Sophie O’Hehir and The SRC

Mini Vinnies Winter Appeal

This is just a reminder about the Winter Appeal that Mini Vinnies are hosting. A Winter Appeal is when students and our school community are asked to donate soup cans or a tin of food. Can all cans please be brought in before the end of week 9 (Friday 19 June). Please leave cans with your class teacher.

Just for fun: There will be a competition between the infants (K-2), primary (3-6) and NOW the TEACHERS for the longest line of cans on Friday 19 June. I wonder who will win?

If families are able to still donate blankets for big Vinnies that are no longer needed in your household, please leave them in Miss O’Hehir’s classroom (hall).

Thanks in advance for your support with this. The food and blankets will certainly help those in need during the cold winter.

Mini Vinnies and Sophie O’Hehir

Maths problem of the week!!!

A freight train travels 1km in 1 minute 30 seconds.

At this rate how many kilometres will the train travel in 1 hour?

Last week’s answer: 270 (even number evenly divided by 9 and 5)
Could try harder… always does her best… lacks concentration… easily distracted… a pleasure to teach… Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steadys-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- **Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.
- **Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting.** How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.
- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
Variety Concert

When: Wednesday 24th June 2015
Thursday 25th June 2015

Where: Carroll College Hall
George Bass Drive, Broulee

Time: 6.30pm for a 6.45pm start

Cost: Adults $7
Students & Pensioners $3
$20 for a family ticket

Refreshments such as tea, coffee, cold drinks, biscuits and cakes will be available for purchase during the event.

You are invited to attend the Carroll College Variety Concert. Come and see our amazingly talented students.

These concerts will also feature some students from St Mary’s & St Bernard’s Primary Schools.

Tickets will only be sold at the door. Funds raised will go towards equipment for the Hall.
A group of very dedicated U12 girls from the local area travelled away to Bathurst over the June Long Weekend to represent Batemans Bay Breakers Basketball in the NSW Country Basketball Tournament. The girls had some great wins against Bathurst and Gosford but had a close loss to Goulburn. This put the girls into the finals on Sunday afternoon where they came away with a strong win against Shoalhaven. They played for a spot in the grand final on Monday morning against Canberra and were unlucky to have lost by only 2 points. They did themselves and the club proud and the number of comments that were received from opposition parents and coaches about their exemplary sportsmanship is a credit to them. Well done girls on such a great achievement.

Summa, Tayissa, Ylaiza, Kayla, Alana, Danika Shanaya, Jaymi, Tess

Nicole Beattie