Dear Families

During the coming weeks as things ramp up towards the end of the year please take some time each day to slow down and take a breather. Sometimes at this time of the year we are so busy with end of year functions, report writing, present buying, tree decorating and the like that we forget that Advent should be a time of waiting and peace. I encourage all families to take some time out over the coming weeks to spend quality family time with one another.

Leadership 2016
I had the privilege yesterday to listen to speeches by our Year 5 children wishing to be selected to lead St Mary’s in 2016. The level of confidence and obvious pride in the school were very evident in the speeches by our children. The school leaders will be announced at our end of year Mass on Friday December 11.

Swimming Program
Our learn to swim program will begin with grading for all Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 children this Friday. Please make sure all permission notes and monies have been returned to school before Friday. Lessons will commence from Monday to Friday next week. Children will need to bring their swimmers and towel each day next week. The classes will leave school 30 minutes before their scheduled lesson time. Suitable arrangements have been put in place for changes to eating times for the children next week.

Year 6 Sport
Next Tuesday we are taking three sporting teams to Carroll College from Year 6 for some basketball, futsal and netball. I am sure the children will enjoy the opportunity.

Year 6 Graduation
Next Thursday December 3 we shall hold the Graduation Mass in the church commencing at 5.15pm. The Mass will be followed by dinner in the PAC for Year 6 children and their parents. The children will be involved in some short presentations and introductions. Dinner will be followed by a disco for the children. My thanks to the committee who have been working behind the scenes to ensure the evening is a success.

Carols and Fun Afternoon
On Friday December 11 we shall host a Carol singing night for all classes. Parents are invited to bring along a picnic at about 5.00pm on the lawn at the front of the school. Each class will present a Carol and the Kinders will present the Nativity. From about 5.40pm, the oval will be open for all families to have some fun. There will be two jumping castles, zorb balls and a slip and slide down the playground hill. There will be no charge for the entertainment as we say thanks for a great year.

Best wishes
Mick Lowe, Principal

Just for fun
Son: Dad, have you got holes in your underpants?
Dad: No, of course not!
Son: Then how do you get your feet through?
This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Sunday’s Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory. The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke’s Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near. Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. We find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

**Year 4 Mass**
Please join Mr Harpley and the Year 4 students as they celebrate their class Mass tomorrow morning at 9.15. Year 5 will attend the Mass of Anointing next week on Friday 5 December. At this Mass the students will assist the sick or elderly in receiving a special blessing during Mass.

Mini Vinnies Social Justice Day

**Year 6 Mass**
Year 6 students will have their final class Mass and farewell dinner next Thursday 3 December. The Mass will be held at 5.15pm followed by dinner in the Performing Arts Centre at 6pm.

**Christmas Masses**
The Masses for Christmas in Tuross and Moruya are:
- **6pm Christmas Eve**: under the shelter at St Mary’s
- **8am Christmas Day**: Tuross at the Pines
- **10am Christmas Day**: Moruya

The 6pm Christmas Eve Mass will be a special family Mass where the children will dress up as Biblical characters (we have lots of costumes at school). We will practice the dramatisation of the Gospel before the end of term.

**Carols by Candlelight**
The Moruya Carols by Candlelight will be held on Sunday 13 December at Moruya Riverside Park. Students and choirs from St Mary’s and Carroll College will be performing on the night. There will be some added attractions at the Carols such as face painting and a toy table where people can donate a toy to be given to charities to be distributed for Christmas. It will be a great family night as we prepare for the beautiful feast of Christmas.
Religion News

Giving Mass
Our final whole school Mass for 2015 will be held on Friday 11 December at 9.15am. This is a special giving Mass where each family is asked to donate a new toy or some type of Christmas food that will be distributed by St Vincent de Paul to families in need before Christmas. We ask your support and generosity once again as we remember the words of Jesus “…..“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:35–36

A Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath
The liturgical year begins with Advent, a word derived from Latin that means "coming." During Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, and we look forward to Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Enjoy this prayer with children or your family as you light the Advent wreath candles.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe.
You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.
As we light the candles of this wreath
May its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son
So that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Have a safe and happy weekend
Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator

Please note:
Mrs Jo Matthews will be on annual leave from Friday 27th November to Wednesday 16th December. Any enquiries regarding Learning Support during this time can be made via the school office. Ph. 44742817

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

To assist Archbishop Christopher in furthering the mission and ministry of Catholic schools of the Archdiocese, you are invited to forward an expression of interest in one of the following CEC positions for 2016, noting that the Commission meets of an eight times per year (this may change):
- Chair, Catholic Education Commission. Experience and expertise in the chairing of meetings and an understanding of the Mission of Catholic Education are essential.
- Member, with experience and expertise in the financial area
- Member, with experience and expertise in the legal area.

A one page CV including a reference from your Parish Priest is to be sent to:
Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn
Email: archbishop@cg.org.au

Closing Date: 4 December 2015
For further enquiries please contact Cathy Moffitt on 6201 9811
**Mini Vinnies News**

Tomorrow eight Mini Vinnies members are travelling to Canberra to attend a Social Justice Day at the Australian Catholic University. The children are very excited and are looking forward to collaborating with other children involved in Mini Vinnies from different schools in the Archdiocese. The focus of the day is Social Justice issues within our community and coming together as a united group.

A huge thanks must go to Mrs Croese, Joe, S and Rita C for assisting with transport on the day. We can’t wait to share our photos in the newsletter next week! This type of leadership day is a wonderful opportunity for the Mini Vinnies members.

Sophie O’Hehir

---

**SRC News**

The SRC are excited to host the end of year…

**SCHOOL DISCO!**

**Theme:** To be announced...

**Cost:** $2

**Time:** Kinder – Year 2 (12:15-1:15pm), Years 3 – 6 (2:00-3:00pm)

DJ Matt Brown will be taking control of the music and providing us with an hour full of fun entertainment. The SRC will be running games and prizes will be awarded. We’re looking forward to a groovy time!

**SRC Speeches:**

On Wednesday, children in Years 2-4 presented SRC speeches to be elected as a SRC leadership member for 2016. From all accounts, I heard that all speeches were fantastic. There will be two representatives elected in each class for 2016. The successful candidates will be announced at the end of year Mass on Friday 11 December. Good Luck!!

Sophie O’Hehir

---

A reminder that all library books are due to be returned to the library this week! We will be starting the stocktake next week so if your child has overdue books at home, please have a really good search and send them in. Many thanks!
Year 2 have fun shopping!
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, Cooper M

**Kinder W**
Ruby H, Cody CH, Cooper C

**Year 1H**
Bridie I, Chelsea W, Nate K

**Year 1O**
George G, Ellie H, Katelen B

**Year 2JP**
Jack H, Beau M, Lake H

**Year 2J**
Cameron L, Declan F, Zane B

**Year 3D**
Xian F, Tom W, Tamarni T

**Year 3S**
Taya B, Max G, Sam E

**Year 4**
Bobby G, Tiarra M, Charlee P

**Year 5**
Bernard C, Nathaniel T, Charlotte Q

**Year 6**
Ael H, Thomas G, Vincent E, Ignatius R
Community Announcements

SOUTHERN BRANCH TRIALS FOR SEASON 2016
Trial with Southern Branch in November 2015 for the opportunity to make selection to play in the Football NSW National Premier League.
NPL 2 Boys (13-16yrs), NPL2 Girls (12-17yrs), Skills Acquisition Program (Boys and girls 9-12yrs) and NPL2 Women’s.
Please note all trialists must register via the website below prior to attendance. Registrations on the day will not be accepted.
All Trials are held at South Nowra Football Complex (Mumbulla St, South Nowra). Please view website for further details. www.southernnswfootball.com.au

MORUYA BASKETBALL
6 week Mini Ball Program
Boys and Girls, all ages, all skill levels
Friday November 30th - December 4th
4pm - 5pm
Only $30
(includes NSW Basketball Registration & Insurance)
Skills and drills with our junior coaches followed by a fun game, at Moruya Basketball Stadium (off Albert Street, Moruya)
For more information phone Kylie on 0416240675 or email: kylie.cursio@bigpond.com

Food vendor needed for January 2016 event
Mirrabooka Riding Club is looking for someone to run the canteen at their annual Summer School (16-21 January 2016). This popular event hosts approx. 120 riders and their families.
MRC have made the decision to outsource their canteen this year. This is not a voluntary position.
This opportunity is open to individuals or as a fundraising opportunity for community/sporting groups.

For more information, please contact:
Gen Schofield
m. 0410504520
e. schofieldfamily@bigpond.com

NEXT GENERATION TENNIS
Summer Holiday Junior Tennis Clinics
*Pre Xmas - Dec. Mon 21st, Tues 22nd, 2015. 9am - 1pm
Cost - $60 for both days (save $20) or $30 per day.
*Post Xmas - Jan. Mon 18th, Tues 19th, Wed 20th, Thu 21st, Fri 22nd, 2016. 9am - 1pm
Cost - $200 for 5 days (save $50) or $50 per day.
Xmas deal!! Everyone receives 1st day half price!!
*Prizes/Certificates / BBQ presentation on final day.
*Suitable for ages 5yrs up – All levels of ability welcome!!
* Loads of fun games, improve fitness & gross motor skills, analysis & correction & test your skills with point-play.
*Learn from qualified & experienced tennis & fitness training professionals including former National level winning athletes.
* Meet new friends & have lots of fun!!

For information & bookings please contact
Tennis Pro Richard on
0414 753 941 or email: rephilick@bigpond.com
Are you interested in becoming a hospital volunteer?

Did you know that being a volunteer can improve your overall health and feeling of wellbeing as well as being a way of making new friends?

Applications are invited for new volunteers to participate in the implementation of the award winning; Dementia and Delirium Care with Volunteers Hospital Program at Moruya or Batemans Bay Hospital.

A two day training program for new volunteers will be provided in January 2016.

If you would like to know more or obtain an information and application pack, please contact:

Brigid Crosbie
T.4474 1988
M. 0408 247 844

Applications close 4 December 2015
Join the fun this summer and come along to a drama workshop!
Each two day workshop focuses on building confidence and communication skills through voice, movement and drama classes. The students will participate in improvisations, script work, character development and mask making.

Email info@brookeellenlouttit.com today to register your interest.

workshop #1
St Mary's Performing Arts Centre
17 - 18 December
ages 7-12
8:45am - 3pm
$80

workshop #2
St Mary's Performing Arts Centre
21 - 22 December
ages 7-12
8:45am - 3pm
$80

Workshops require a minimum of 15 students to operate.
10% discount applies for upfront payment received before December 9.
15% discount applies for students enrolled in both workshops #1 and #2.
50% deposit required with enrollment.