Dear Parents,

It was a very exciting start to the morning for our Stage 2 students. They met the bus with eagerness and waved goodbye with enthusiasm. We wish them all a fabulous couple of days and can’t wait to hear the stories of their adventures upon their return.

Thank you to the parents who responded to the call for participating in a typing pool to assist with publishing student’s stories. We are very appreciative of your time, skills and assistance. I know the students love sharing their work, enjoy seeing their work printed and on display for all to see and appreciate.

Mick and I attended the Principals as Curriculum Leaders Conference this week at Galong run by the CE. We were both very impressed and in awe with current practices and information presented regarding contemporary pedagogy in education. We were asked to present a session and sit on a panel to discuss the current pedagogical practices and the fabulous things we are undertaking in our classrooms at St Mary’s with our literacy block and Inquiry approach. Not only did we showcase our wonderful teacher’s expertise and knowledge, we highlighted the amazing progress students have made with reading and writing thus far and how proud we are of their achievements. It was a wonderful and worthwhile couple of days.

There is only one week of winter uniform left. Thank you to parents and carers for ensuring your child/ren have been coming to school in the correct uniform each day. We greatly appreciate your support. At the commencement of Term 4, summer uniform returns as the weather warms up. Summer uniform items can be purchased from Hip Pocket at Batemans Bay. Don’t forget that phone orders can be delivered to school and sent home with your child.

On Tuesday 20 September, the SRC are hosting a Mufti Day for all students. Students are asked to come in their favourite sporting team colours and bring a gold coin donation. Thank you to the SRC for organising such a fun day for us as the end of term approaches.

Wishing all our families a lovely, relaxing weekend!
God Bless…

Catrina Niddrie
Assistant Principal
In Sunday’s Gospel a steward is dismissed because he is squandering his master’s property. He is called dishonest because he is not serving the interests of the rich man, his employer. In response the steward, in an attempt to ensure favour for himself among the rich man's debtors, foregoes the interest and fees that had been levied to line the steward's pockets. It is this action, in which the steward puts aside his greed and takes the longer perspective in order to enhance his security, which is commended by the rich man. The passage concludes with three morals for the listeners. The first exhorts the listener to be prudent about the use of wealth. Like the steward in the parable, those who would follow Jesus must put transitory affairs in proper perspective. Christians should handle the affairs of temporal life with an eye toward eternal life. The second concerns trustworthiness. Those who can be trusted in small things can also be trusted in great things. If Christians handle money and other passing things responsibly, then they can also be trusted with the affairs of the Kingdom of God. Finally, Jesus tells his listeners that no one can serve two masters simultaneously. God must be put ahead of money.

**Year 1 Class Mass**
All parents and friends are welcome to join Mrs Kenny and Year 1 at their class Mass tomorrow morning at 9.15am. The Year 1 children are pictured below engaged in Christian meditation as part of their class prayer. All classes participate in Christian meditation at least three times per week. It is a special time when we can be still and quiet and just 'be' in the presence of God.

**Whole School Mass**
We warmly welcome all families, friends and parishioners to our final school Mass for this term next Friday 23 September at 9.15am. As Stage 3 will be away on their excursion our Stage 1 and Stage 2 students will lead the Mass in the readings, drama and prayers.

**Prayers...**
- Please keep Rima, Vincent, Harry and Roy Edwards in your prayers at this very sad time and in the following weeks. Anthony’s funeral will take place next Monday at the Broulee Crematorium at 1pm.
- We continue to pray for Nicole, Jeff, Baley and Rory Doran. A service for Nicole’s sister Tania will be held tomorrow morning at St John’s Church.
- We ask for God’s comfort and peace to our beautiful families. May Anthony and Tania rest in the loving arms of our God.

**Meeting God**
A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his bag with chips and drinks and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his bag. He was about to take a drink when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a chip. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a drink. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realised how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug and the man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, “What did you do today that made you so happy?” He replied, “I had lunch with God.” But before his mother could respond, he added, “You know what? He’s got the most beautiful smile I’ve ever seen!”

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, “Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?” He replied, “I ate chips in the park with God.” However, before his son responded, he added, “You know, he’s much younger than I expected.”

Wishing God’s best for you,

Marg Croese
Religious Education Coordinator
A Message from Fr John …

There can be times when our lives are driven by how much we earn and the bills we have to pay. This can cause anxiety for people especially when there seems to be more money going out then coming in. In an age of easy credit and the ability to respond instantly to purchase something off the television, the internet or even tap and go, it is possible to quickly find ourselves trapped into patterns of behavior which we would prefer to be free from. We do not simply work to pay bills. We are called to discover something which brings substance and meaning to our lives. When our lives become driven by something beyond our grasp or our decisions are based solely on what they cost we lose sight of the treasure that lives deep within and what truly brings value. The gospel calls us to reflect on this. We are called to be people who discern what God is calling us to and then see what is necessary to reach that end. When we allow money to be the sole determiner of what is good and worthwhile we lose a sense of ourselves and our calling to be formed into the image and likeness of God. We are called to use money not money using us!

Fr John Armstrong
Parish Priest of Batemans Bay
Administrator of Moruya
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Batehaven NSW 2536
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“The intellectual quest is exquisite, like pearls and coral. But it is not the same as the spiritual quest. The spiritual quest is on another level altogether. Spiritual wine has a subtler taste. The intellect and the senses investigate cause and effect. The spiritual seeker surrenders to wonder.” (Rumi Wisdom; trans. Timothy Freke)

Week 9 Class Awards
To be presented at assembly: 2.30pm, Monday 19 September
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:** Ruby M, Lincon S, Zac W  
**Kinder C:** Ashleigh H, Kaleb D, Ava D  
**Year 1K:** Lily H, Adam S, Baley D  
**Year 1/2J:** Aisha Mc, Mia C, Tyler C  
**Year 2S:** Nate K, Harrison K, Millie H  
**Year 3B:** Zane B, Declan F, Koby D  
**Year 3D:** Lake H, Will D, Scarlett W  
**Year 4W:** Shea C.Mc, Bernadette B, Isaac S  
**Year 4JP:** Angelina H, Charlotte S, Bradley B  
**Year 5:** Piper W, Tess k, Charlotte S, Bradley B  
**Year 6:** Taesha T, Ryle S, Jordan B, Lawson H

ICAS English results
Certificates will be handed out at Monday afternoon Awards Assembly

**Participation:** Zac V.W, Ellie V.W, Xian F, Jessica T, Jasper Z, Charlotte S, Vivienne G, Jaymz M, Charlotte Q and Max M.

**Credit:** Annabelle P, Scarlett W, Jessica M, Lawson H and Grace R.

**Distinction:** Jessica F, Cameron L, Bradley L and Ryles W.
School Fee Statements

Please note that from next term, school fee statements will be emailed. Do we have your current email address on file? If you are unsure or would like to update your email address, please phone the school office on 44742817.

Public Speaking

Well done to Felicity L who represented St Mary’s so capably at the Archdiocesan Public Speaking competition at St Bernard’s on Monday.

Felicity commented that it was a nerve wracking experience against some tough competitors.

Congratulations Felicity!

Public Speaking

On Tuesday 20 September students can come to school in mufti clothes (favourite sport team clothes) for a gold coin donation.

Thank you
SRC and Sophie Kenny

Skippy visits Year 2S

‘Reading therapy dog’ Skippy had a ball at school with year 2 earlier this term. He is looking forward to returning again soon.

Thank you Rima and Roy (and of course Skippy)!

SRC NEWS

On Tuesday 20 September students can come to school in mufti clothes (favourite sport team clothes) for a gold coin donation.

Thank you
SRC and Sophie Kenny

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

OUT OF THIS WORLD!

At Stellar Performing Arts Academy we provide a fun, safe and stimulating environment with the aim to boost your child’s confidence and enrich their self esteem. In our two day OUT OF THIS WORLD holiday workshop, students will learn fun new skills through improvisation games, mini scripts, creative costumes, craft, movement, outdoor play and lots more! The benefits of this unique programme extends far beyond the performance space, ultimately equipping your child with essential life skills, helping them to be more creative and more confident.

ST MARY’S Performing Arts Centre
Thurs 29th & Fri 30th September, 8:45am - 3pm, ages 7-11

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL $75 for one 2 day workshop (proforma before Monday 6th Sept, 15)
STANDARD PRICE $85 for one 2 day workshop (payment after Monday 6th Sept, 15)

Please make sure you bring water, a hat, packed lunch and a morning snack.

For more information and to book your place email us at stmarysperformingarts@gmail.com
Alternatively you can call Brooks on 0438 763 828
Free workshop for parents & carers of young people on the autism spectrum!

Narooma - 12 October

Register your place:
positivepartnerships.com.au
Parenting ideas

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Parenting the
family underdog

Raising talented kids is relatively easy, but parenting children and young people who struggle can be a significant parenting challenge.

One of the unwritten laws of family life is that talent and ability are unevenly distributed between siblings.

In most families there is one child who seems to have more than his or her fair share of ability. Everything this kid turns their hands to – whether schoolwork, sport or socialising – is done successfully and effortlessly.

If you have such a child then there is a fair bet that another of your children struggles in the same areas. For these children, achieving success takes more effort and concentration than it does for their sibling.

Just as it is easy for parents to marvel at the talented child, it’s frustrating and, at times, heart-breaking to watch another child struggle to attain even mediocre levels of success at school, sport or leisure activities.

It’s harder still when you know that no matter how hard this child tries they just can’t be as successful as their sibling, who continues to get all the glory and accolades from relatives and friends.

As a parent it’s important to be realistic about what each child can achieve.

Keep your expectations in line with their ability and maturity, and avoid making comparisons between siblings.

Here are some ideas to keep in mind if you are parenting a child for whom success at school, sport and other common childhood activities just doesn’t come naturally.

1. Be your child’s cheerleader
   Kids who have to work really hard to achieve need someone in their lives who is able to boost their self-confidence, particularly when they are struggling. Make a fuss over small successes so they can puff up their chests every now and then.

2. Focus your comments on contribution, improvement and effort
   It’s difficult praising kids when the results aren’t there but you can always focus your comments on their contribution to the team. Focus on things improvements shown in reading or the effort they are making at art.

3. Remember that persistence pays
   Children who persist learn an important life lesson – that is, success in most endeavours takes effort. Those kids who sail through their childhoods without raising a sweat can struggle when eventually they do have to work long and hard to succeed.

4. Help kids identify their strengths
   Kids are like niche marketers – they define themselves by their strengths.

   “I am a good reader” or “I’m sporty” or “I’m really good at art” are some of the labels kids will use. As they move into adolescence the number of options for success opens up, so help them find one or two areas that they enjoy and can easily achieve success in.

5. Don’t put kids on pedestals
   It is difficult living in the shadow of a superstar so avoid making a huge fuss over the achievements of a particular child – it makes life difficult for those who follow. Recognise results but balance that by focusing equally on the efforts of the others as well.

Raising kids who find life a breeze is easy. However, parenting the underdog who takes longer to mature or who must put in 110% effort to achieve is challenging for any parent. It requires parents to focus on kids’ strengths, be liberal with encouragement and have realistic but positive expectations for success.

Michael Grose

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.

parentingideas.com.au

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