



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Vol 7.4.15

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### November

Fri 27 Ashes  
Sun 29 First Sunday of Advent

### December

Wed 2 Whole School Thanksgiving Mass 9am  
Thur 3 Year 6 Graduation Mass and supper 6pm  
Sun 6 Second Sunday of Advent  
Tue 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
Year of Mercy Commences  
Booklists Ready for Collection  
Thur 10 End of Year Concert  
Fri 11 Last Day of Term Students

## Vision Statement

A welcoming faith  
community

We value  
relationships

We pursue excellence  
in learning

We live the Gospel  
message of love



## FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

This Sunday, being the first Sunday of Advent, we should take some TIME to stop and reflect on the importance of the Christmas mysteries, the promise of Christ's coming and the gift of Christ to the world. It is a time of WAITING and reflecting on our readiness to welcome Christ in our life and again in our world.

### THIS WEEK:



...be alert to the needs of others. How can I help?



...be alert to your needs. What steps do I need to take to prepare for the coming of Jesus and Christmas?



...be alert to the God who comes to you every day.



Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

On Tuesday evening we held our Annual Community Meeting that incorporated the AGMs of both the School Board and the P & F. Reports were presented, giving the opportunity to reflect on our work and achievements, successes and strengths in the 2015 school year. Initial plans for 2016 were referred to, with further details to be made available at the commencement of 2016. The Annual Report to the school community, which includes the Principal's Report, the Board Chair's Report and the P & F President's Report, will be available on the school website before the end of this school year.

I thank all School Board members for their work and planning this year. Thank you to Mr Martin Hynes for his leadership as Board Chair this year. Martin renominated for a further two year period on the Board and was duly re-elected. I thank Mr Daniel Marshall who has completed four years of service on the School Board, three of them as Board Treasurer. Thank you to Mr Paddy Catalano who has completed three years of service. Paddy will not continue on the Board in 2016, as his younger daughter moves to high school next year. Thank you to other Board members - Mr Kim Piacentini, Mr Chez Spinelli, Mrs Suzie Liaros and Mrs Jo Pitts - who have all completed a year of service and will continue on the School Board next year. Thank you to Mr Chris Gibbs who has served for two years

as P & F nominee on the School Board and has renominated for this role again in 2016. It has been rewarding to work with this group of parents on the School Board in 2015 and I thank them for their many and varied views, perspectives, ideas and discussions on a range of financial and capital developmental matters.

Thank you to the P & F Executive for their energy, passion, sense of direction and purpose and their leadership in 2015. Listening to the P & F President's Report on Tuesday night had all present reflect back on what a truly wonderful and successful year it has been for the P & F and all families and parents who have been involved in the many projects, both fundraisers and friend raisers.

Thank you to Mrs Sonja Cahill, Mrs Mel Sarre, Mrs Jayne Lincoln, Mrs Kate Turner and Mr Chris Gibbs. The St Mary's school community is all the richer as a result of your work this year. Sonja and Mel have renominated for the roles of P & F President and Vice President in 2016. Thank you to Mrs Naomi Cross who has nominated for the role of Secretary and Mrs Susan Mainstone who has nominated for the role of Treasurer in 2016. Chris will continue as Board nominee.

I thank all parents and staff for their attendance and support at the ACM. Thank you to Mrs Catherine Dorant who catered for supper at the end of the evening.

We express sympathy to Demi Cheek, a former student of St Mary's whose father passed away recently. When Demi was in Year 1 at St Mary's, her mother passed away. There has been a great deal of care, support and love for Demi during her school years at St Mary's. Longer term parents at St Mary's would remember Demi. Our thoughts, prayers and love are with Demi and her stepmother Kellie at this sad time. On behalf of the staff, students and families at St Mary's, we have sent flowers to Demi to let her know she is thought of with love

Maureen Tully  
Principal

### STUDENT AWARDS

<b>YEAR 1</b>	Leo Pemberton	Finn Drage-Edwards	Elianna Cross
<b>YEAR 2</b>	Jorja O'Reilly	Harper Panuccio	Paige Hebbend
<b>YEAR 3</b>	Henley O'Reilly	Archie Pemberton	
<b>YEAR 4</b>	Milly Patterson	Daniel Norrish	Raymond Do
<b>YEAR 5</b>	Jake Michell	Gabriella Lang	
<b>YEAR 6</b>	Matthew Allan	Mia Allan	Sophie Kennedy
<b>A.R. 75%</b>	Sarah Gibbs	<b>A.R. 100%</b>	Elena Mazza
<b>A.R. 2nd 100%</b>	Liam Collins	Jayden Kelly	Kace Brand
	Ashleen Moore	Maddison Lord	Skye Carr
	Xavier Hunter	Michela Villani	Lochlan Moore
			Tom Steele
<b>PHYS ED 50KM</b>	Sage Gilroy	Zak Ivey	



**CONGRATULATIONS**

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### PARENT/CARER HELPERS

ALL parent/carer helpers are required to sign in at the school office BEFORE attending your child's classroom. A reminder that all volunteers - other than parents, require a Working With Children Card. These cards are valid for three years. Application forms are available from the Post Office and must be signed by the Principal. The school will refund the \$17 application fee on presentation of the receipt to Mrs Karen Depiazzi in the office.

#### CAR PARK SAFETY

Following an incident in the school car park this week that caused extensive damage to a parent's vehicle, parents/carers are reminded to be vigilant when entering and exiting the car park. Children are also reminded to exercise caution when opening car doors to avoid damage being caused to adjoining vehicles. Thank you.

#### KINDERGARTEN HEALTH FORMS

Can parents please return the Kindergarten health forms to the school's front office by Monday 30 November 2015. If there are any queries please contact Jean Friend, the Community/Schools Nurse on 97913493. Thank you.

### **SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES - OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEED YOU!**

We have had two current Board members step down from the School Board, with no new nominations for Board membership. It is important that we fill these vacant positions. I urge and encourage parents to give consideration to serving on the School Board. Perhaps you could prompt and convince another parent to put their hand up. You are welcome to talk to any of the 2015 School Board members if you would like an insight into what Board membership involves.

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

It is a requirement of the Department of Education that students from Kindergarten to Year 6 are to be signed out at the school office if they are being taken out of school before the end of the school day. Students arriving to school late **MUST BE SIGNED IN BY THEIR PARENT/CARER**. Students cannot sign themselves in.

### **CANTEEN SUPREME NEWS**

I am desperate for help on Wednesday 9 December. If you can help at all on that day please let me know. Our beautiful Canteen Superstars for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> are Brooke Brand, Carmella Spinelli and Susan Mainstone. On Wednesday 2 December Ali Olgiati and Lana Ivey will be our wonderful volunteers.



### **ABSENTEE NOTES**

**A reminder that absentee letters that were handed out last Friday to all families that have unresolved absentee matters were due back on Wednesday 25 November. Can families who have not yet completed and returned these to the school office please do so. Failure to do so means we do not have a signed document for your child's absence on the date/s stated on the letter.**

**It is evident that some parents believe that a phone call, email or no communication at all, is sufficient. Email/phone communications are required to let us know where your child is for that day. However, that notification must be followed up by a signed letter. Sometimes these letters don't always make it back to the class teacher for various reasons.** In order to comply with education regulations, please sign the notices you have received and have them returned the office.

### **END OF YEAR MASS**

As a Catholic community, we will gather for our end of year Mass next Wednesday morning at 9am in the chapel when we will give thanks for all the blessings and success of the year and for all who have travelled the journey with us and assisted and supported us in so many ways. We will also pray for God's blessing for all students, staff, parents and families as we prepare to head off to enjoy the Christmas season and the school holidays. We will also ask for God's blessing for students, staff members and families who will leave our school community at the end of the year. I invite all families to join us to celebrate this Mass.

### **THANK YOU MORNING TEA**

Following Mass, we will host a Thank You Morning Tea for parents, parish and family members who have given generously of their time to assist with Learning Programs throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs Jenny Noack who has coordinated this morning tea. Invitations have been sent; however, if we have neglected to send you an invitation, please do consider this an invitation to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **MAGGIE DENT**

#### **Being a Mean, Loving Mum**

In this "Maggie Moment", Maggie discusses parenting styles, in particular mothering styles. She discusses the importance of being a mean, loving mum in order to help children develop a behavioural code. She also touches on what we can learn from life playing pass the parcel. To view the clip, copy and paste the following link into your browser. From there select 'videos' from the Free Resources tab, <http://www.maggiedent.com/content/vblog/being-mean-loving-mum>.

## **YEAR 6 GRADUATION**

Next Thursday, 3 December, we will celebrate the graduation of our Year 6 students from primary school. This is another historic milestone in the story of St Mary's school, being the first year we graduate our Year 6 students as the most senior class in the school. Graduation Mass will commence in the Chapel at 6pm. After Mass, the students will be presented with their Graduation Certificates and gift from the school in the Chapel. We will then proceed to the school hall for shared supper, followed by dancing.



Thank you to Mr Alberti and Mrs Paini for their work in coordinating Graduation evening.

Thank you to the 19 Year 5 students who have agreed to form the choir to sing at Graduation Mass. Thank you to the parents of these Year 5 students for your support and to basketball coach, Mrs Klem, for changing the day of basketball training so that the students are then available to sing in the choir. Thank you to Mrs Karen Depiazzi and Mrs Aurelia Evans for coordination of Graduation Certificates and gifts. We look forward to celebrating this important occasion with our students and their parents.

## **NATURE PLAY - THE RISK OF NO RISK**

Emma Lawrence, Occupational Therapist, gave a very thought provoking presentation at our ACM and she challenged parents to consider how nature play and safe risk taking support children's development across a wide range of domains and assist in developing resilience, decision making, confidence, conflict resolution, problem solving skills and wellbeing.

Emma proposed that we think of risk in terms of opportunity, uncertainty and challenge and not in terms of hazard. We actually keep children 'safe' by allowing them to take and manage risks. Our children's lives and environments need to be as 'safe as necessary', not 'as safe as possible.' This consideration could provide for very interesting and worthwhile discussion between parents and with groups of parents. Consider if you are 'smothering' your children in your efforts to keep them safe.

Emma provided outlines of recent research into the benefits and the need for our children to be risk takers.

I encourage parents who were unable to attend last night's meeting to talk with others who were there as to the messages they heard and took away from the presentation.

As we approach school holidays, I encourage parents as they are planning for all the events and activities that we enjoy over the Christmas and January holidays, to also ensure you plan for lots of time in nature and for risk taking. Have a great time doing so.

## **SCHOOL DIARY COVER COMPETITION**

Congratulations to Alexis Donovan in Year 3 who was the winner of the 'Design the Diary Cover' competition. Alexis' design will feature on the front cover of our school diary in 2016.

## **BOOK CLUB NEWS**

Issue 8 orders have been sent off to Scholastic and should arrive within the next few weeks.

## **UNIFORM NOTES**

2016 uniform orders are currently being processed. Orders that have been paid in full will be delivered to children via the classroom teacher.

The Uniform Shop is open from 8.30am to 9.30am on Friday mornings for all your uniform requirements.

## **FITNESS FUN FRIDAY**

Friday at 8am on our 100Club track. All welcome. 100 club on Tuesday and Thursday at lunch times will cease due to the hot weather.

## **THE ASHES**

A tradition was established several years ago whereby our Year 5 Class will challenge our Year 6 Class, boys against boys and girls against girls, for the Ashes. This will be played on Friday 27 November at school starting at 10am.

## **CHAPEL**

The school chapel is open on Monday for visitation. Students and parents are welcome!

**Tino Alberti**                      alberti.tino@cathednet.wa.edu.au

**HPE Teacher**

### SCHOOL FREE DRESS DAY—GOLD COIN DONATION

The school community would like to support Demi Cheek in her 'Walk for Cancer Research.' On 4 December all students are encouraged to wear pink, purple or yellow (the symbolic colours of 3 research funds involved with cancer research) for the day. Ribbons will also be available to purchase for \$1 before school and during recess and lunch breaks.

Thank you for your support.

Ms Brown

### STAFFING 2016

Principal

Assistant Principals

Mrs Maureen Tully

Ms Helen Brown

Mrs Jo Paini

Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten Education Assistants

Mrs Elizabeth Harper

Mrs Philippa O'Dea

Mrs Joan Zolnier

Sue Palumbo

Kindergarten Special Needs Education Assistant

Pre Primary Teachers

Mrs Bianca Torrisi (Monday - Wednesday)

Mrs Melanie Toia (Thursday, Friday)

Mrs Rosetta Anderson

Pre Primary Education Assistant

Year 1 Teachers

Mrs Cathy Mountford (Tuesday – Friday)

Mrs Anika Skehan (Monday)

Year 2 Teacher

Ms Carly Blechynden

Year 3 Teachers

Mrs Melissa Coulson (Monday – Thursday)

Ms Helen Brown (Friday)

Year 4 Teacher

Mrs Nikki Webb

Year 5 Teacher

Mrs Gillian Alberti

Year 6 Teacher

Mrs Jo Paini (Monday – Wednesday)

Mr Tino Alberti (Thursday, Friday)

Science

Mrs Rebecca Murray (Tuesday, Wednesday)

Health and Physical Education

Mr Tino Alberti

Library/Music

Ms Helen Brown

Italian

Mrs Nita Scasserra

Choir

Mr Ian Mills

Junior Primary Education Assistant

Mrs Kerry Bonser

Special Needs Education Assistant/  
Learning Support Education Assistant

Mrs Sharyn Illman

Library Officer

Mrs Vicki Holdsworth

IT Coordinator

Ms Helen Brown

Learning Support Coordinator/Teaching and Learning  
Coordinator

Mrs Jo Paini

Administration Officers

Mrs Karen Depiazzi (Monday – Thursday)

Mrs Aurelia Evans (Tuesday – Friday)

Canteen Manager

Mrs Natalie Berndt

Uniform Shop Manager

Mrs Kerry Bonser

Groundsman

Mr Darren Beaglehole

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL

We thank you for all your kind donations towards the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Please note that the collection box is situated at the school office for any donations towards the appeal. Thank you.

### CARITAS

During Friday's assembly, a cheque from all the donations collected during the school year, will be presented to Mr Ray Lowe, Director of Caritas (Bunbury Diocese).

### ADVENT

Have you been noticing all the wonderful flowering of the jacaranda, and the coming into flower of the 'Christmas Tree?' This definitely signals the coming of **Advent – the season of new beginnings**. We have the new liturgical year starting on the First Sunday of Advent – the season of longing and light. Week by week candles are lit on the Advent Wreath, as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ – Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is the Incarnation.

The Advent Wreath is a traditional centrepiece in preparation for Christmas. A candle is lit on each of the four Sundays leading to Christmas. The first candle (violet) represents **hope**, the second (violet) **peace**, the third (rose) **joy**, and the fourth (violet) **love**. The central white candle can be lit on Christmas Day and represents Christ. The Advent



Wreath teaches us about Christian preparation for celebrating Jesus' birth and making our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represents everlasting life. The seedpods, nuts and cones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of life and resurrection. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. Pine and holly signify immortality, and fruits (such as apples) represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life.

The word 'advent' means 'coming.' Lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath symbolises the coming of Light (Jesus) into the world.

### LIBRARY NEWS

This will be the last week for borrowing books from the Library. AR will conclude next week. All books should be returned next week so that Library staff can begin a stocktake. Thank you.

### **IronKids Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Calling all families, boys and girls aged 7 - 13 years to compete in the kids only version of the SunSmart IRONMAN Western Australia, Busselton. All you need is a pair of goggles, a bike and helmet, a pair of sneakers and you're ready to go! Entry is \$35 per individual or \$45 for a family team.

*Check-In:*

7.45am-8.45am Busselton Foreshore

*Race Start:*

9.00am

Ages 7-10yrs 100m 1.5km 500m

11-13yrs 200m 3km 1km



Enter online [www.ironmanwesternaustralia.com](http://www.ironmanwesternaustralia.com)