Dear Parents,

By the time this newsletter arrives to you all, the Swimming Carnival will be drawing to its conclusion. It promises to be a great day for St Mary’s and we look forward to giving a full report and sharing photos in the newsletter next week. Thank you in advance to our very generous parent helpers and thanks to the teachers and LAs; no doubt congratulations to the competitors are in order too!

The Opening Mass last Friday gave us the opportunity to come together in unity to give thanks for the safe return after the holidays of children and staff, to pray for our new school leaders and to seek God’s grace in leading us through the 2015 school year. Mrs Jeannette Albert, our Religious Education Coordinator together with Father Tom, planned this event to ensure that it was relevant, meaningful and accessible for the children; the Mass commenced with a procession of the virtues we have been focusing on with the children and concluded with the blessing and presentation of the badges for the Leadership Team. Our thanks to Mr Luke Smith for leading the singing of the hymns with such expertise and enthusiasm. Well done to all the children for showing respect and reverence throughout this important occasion! Thank you parents, grandparents and friends who were able to join us; your participation was greatly appreciated!

Canberra Raiders

Our first guests for the year arrived on Friday and set about inspiring us all to adopt healthy lifestyles. Year 4, 5 and 6 children were enthusiastic participants in this presentation. Thank you Canberra Raiders and Miss Fisher for organising everything!

Parent and Teacher Goal Setting Conferences

It has been a busy week with parents coming to school to meet with teachers on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings. Thank you teachers for making these important meetings possible and thank you parents for your attendance! Thank you parents also for completing and returning the Parent Surveys which are so helpful in assisting teachers to bond with the children as they concentrate on getting to know their new students. We trust everyone found these sessions helpful and that the children will now have clear goals in mind as they focus on the learning ahead.

We have tried a new schedule this year would appreciate your thoughts on the Welcome Letters and the Conferences and whether these initiatives are preferable to the traditional Back to School evening.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week

Kiarna Newham
Brianna Caldwell
Sean Thomson
Sam Graziani
Hayley Grotegoed
Ellie Cooper
Brianee Taylor
Faith James
Sam Newell
Brea Fulwood
Do please either phone or email the office with your thoughts if you would like to give us some feedback. If you did not get the chance to meet with your child’s teacher this week, please contact us as soon as possible so that an appointment can be arranged. Thank you!

**Australia: The Story of Us—Sunday Evenings on Channel 7**

Parents in Year 4 – 6 should now have received a letter informing them of this initiative; we hope ALL the children will participate as this is such a great way for them to learn about our history and support the school. We encourage all St Mary’s families to make watching this new series a weekly event for the family:

“More than 40,000 Years in the making, *Australia: The Story of Us* is an extraordinary television series about the people, places and events that have shaped Australia from its first inhabitants to the present day. The episodes are rated PG and this is a great opportunity for the family to enjoy some quality television viewing together.”

Students in Year 4, 5 and invited to play along in a weekly online quiz where they answer questions related to the programme and significant events in Australian history. The competition commences this Sunday 15th February (our apologies for the false alarm last Sunday!) and the school will be in the running for a grant so we would like as many children as possible to participate please.

**New Garden at Shelter…Taste of Things to Come**

Those of you who drop off or pick up at the car park will have seen the beautiful new garden created by Martin and Neil Sullivan and the crew at Golden Glance. This corner of the school looks fantastic! We are looking forward to getting the veggie gardens started (once the heat subsides) so would love to hear from parents who would be able and willing to help us with this project.

One of the things we will be working on at Community Council in 2015 is improving the playground and it is great to have this goal started with the shelter, rock garden and veggie patches ready to go! The Leadership Team has been brainstorming ideas and teachers are also putting their heads together. Parents are also welcome to offer suggestions.

**Indonesian Club**

We were thrilled that so many children chose to be part of the Indonesian Club last year. This opportunity is open again in 2015 to children in Year 4 and above. There will be a $20.00 per term fee for participation. Children who would like to participate this term are asked to sign up at the Office. Parents will then receive a letter with request for payment of the fee.

**St Mary’s School Choir**

It has also been very pleasing to see how enthusiastic the children are about the choir. We received more than 50 sign ups last week and it is not too late if there are additional children wanting to join! Parents of those children who wish to join the choir will receive a letter requesting payment of the $20.00 fee this week.

**Introducing Simon Maher**

It is with great pleasure we introduce Mr Simon Maher, our new IT Support Officer. Simon will be at St Mary’s supporting all things IT at the school 2.5 days each week. Already Simon is making such a difference to the iPad Programme in Years 5 and 6, to the maintenance of IT devices around the school, and to our IT Systems.

**Community Council Events Not to be Missed!**

**Welcome Back Family Fun Night**

Looking forward to getting together with you all at the Young Aquatic Centre on Thursday 19th February for the Welcome Back Family Fun Night! Please come along and enjoy being part of the school community.
Dancing with Stars!
Please book your tickets fast! This promises to be a sensational evening with lots of terrific entertainment and the chance to relax and enjoy the good company of the St Mary’s community—parents, friends and teachers. This is our major fundraiser of the year and funds raised will go directly towards improving the playground for the children. Please book your ticket as soon as possible. Thank you!

Parent Help – Starts Week 7
Thank you to the many parents who have already offered to assist in classrooms where it be by leading reading groups, supporting Art and Craft, hearing individual readers or any of the other ways parents give of their time and talent to support the children at St Mary’s!
Please note, parent help will commence in Week 7 after the children are well settled in their new classes and routines.

Lambing Flat Chinese Festival
We are very excited about the theme of Harmony for this year’s Lambing Flat Chinese Festival. As many of you will know, this is one of Young’s two major community events for the year and we are looking forward to St Mary’s being well represented.
We will be performing our 2014 Wakakirri item as a starting point for our performance. The festival will take place on Saturday the 21st of March in the afternoon; the exact time hasn’t been set as yet, at Anderson Park. This opportunity is only available to primary students (new and returning), and the infant’s students who performed in Wakakirri last year. Parents should by now have received a letter and a reply slip to be returned if your child would like to be part of this performance.

In conclusion…
The iPad evening for all Year 5 parents and parents of new children in Year 6 is scheduled for tomorrow evening here at school in the Hall. It is essential for every child to be represented by a parent/guardian at this meeting. Children are to attend too. We are looking forward to the children getting started using the iPads as a tool for their learning.
The first of our Friendly Fridays is scheduled for this coming Friday 13th February. Friendly Fridays occur approximately once a month and parents are always welcome to attend. This year Friendly Fridays are scheduled immediately after the weekly assembly when classes will be scheduled to perform. We are hoping that parents will be able to stay afterwards and enjoy a cuppa and each others company in the Prayer Room. This week we would particularly like to welcome Kindy and new parents to join us and we are looking forward to welcoming back some regulars too!

With best wishes,

Louise Grant
Principal
Heart Matters

Success at school – Learning conversations:
Our goal setting interviews this week were an important step for the establishment of learning opportunities for our children. Parents can also improve their children’s progress at school by helping them to clarify what they have learned during the day. Students who revisit and retell what they have processed in the classroom will be able to better recall and effectively use this information in future lessons. Having learning conversations with children at mealtimes, where they are invited (not interrogated!) to retell things such as maths facts, word meanings in English, or definitions and important facts discovered in Science and History will definitely assist them in their understanding of key concepts at school.

Assembly this week: The first of our Friday morning assemblies will be led by 6B in the school hall from 8.50am to 9.10am on Friday this week (Friday 13th). All are welcome to come along to enjoy the presentation.

Golden Time Winners: Congratulations to 6B who were our first Golden Time winners this week, on behalf of Alex Newell who was acknowledged for his wonderful respect during the first two weeks of school.

Come along and join us for a cuppa and chat this Friday 13th February in the Prayer Room, straight after our morning assembly. This is a great chance to catch up with other parents and friends, and keep up with happenings in the school!
FOCUS ON FAITH

Opening School Mass: Our Opening School Mass was a prayerful, reverent and joyful celebration. Thank you to our students, staff and parents for being part of our celebration. Our theme for the Mass, “Love One Another”, was drawn from the readings and demonstrated by the reverent and enthusiastic participation by our students. The Year 6 leaders received their badges and pledged their service to the community. Even at this early stage of the term, they are demonstrating the MJR virtues as leaders of our school.

ASH WEDNESDAY (18/02/15)
St Mary’s Primary will have an Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Primary children at 9.00am and Infant Children at 12.00noon. The Parish Masses are an opportunity for families and parishioners to come together to commence this Holy Season.
Masses for Ash Wednesday are:
Young: 8.00am and 6.00pm
Grenfell: 10.00am
Boorowa: 6.00pm

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat
On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
Prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.

MJR: Our focus Virtue this week is “Courtesy.” “Courtesy is being polite and having good manners. When you speak and act courteously, you give others a feeling of being valued and respected. Greet people pleasantly. Bring courtesy home. Your family needs it most of all. Courtesy helps life to go smoothly.” (http://www.virtuesproject.com)

When we are trying to change our lives or improve our circumstances, courtesy can go a long way. When we act in a courteous way we are showing respect for ourselves as well as those to whom we are being courteous towards.
Whether we are aiming to overcome depression, anxiety, fears, or insecurities, showing courtesy to others will help us to feel positive towards ourselves and those we are coming into contact with. When we feel positive, we attract more positivity into our lives.

Why embrace courtesy? We embrace courtesy to acknowledge dignity towards another, created in the image and likeness of God. In essence, we give the person the respect (courtesy) due to a child of God; we treat the person as we would want to be treated. Father Romano Guardini speaks of this in his book, Learning the Virtues That Lead Us to God:
“...man must be honoured in relation to Him who created man in His image and who requires us to honour this image” (p.142).

- Yet, how often do we actually embrace courtesy? Take a step back and think about how you would answer these questions:
  - How often do you put yourself first at the expense of others?
  - How often do you show contempt because someone doesn’t have the right religion, address, education, job, etc.?
  - How consistent are you at saying please and thank you?
  - How often do you hold the door for someone with their hands full, or do you rush through because you are in a hurry?
  - How often do you interrupt another while that person is speaking? Do you do it because you think what you have to say is more important, or do you do it because it is more important for you to get your
thoughts expressed rather than to listen to the other person?
• How often have you failed to act with charitable love towards your neighbour because it was inconvenient or uncomfortable for you, and your lack of charity exacerbated the person’s suffering?
• How often do you fail to honour your elders?
These are just a few questions to offer as food for thought on why we need to embrace courtesy and bring it to the forefront of society once again – to embrace courtesy with gusto!
This is a simple, but truly useful clip to help with this virtue and is suitable for use with people of all ages. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8ovhT13Vo

From the Parish:
Sacramental Programme 2015: There will be a general information night for PARENTS ONLY regarding ALL SACRAMENTS and it will be held on the 25th February 2015 at 7pm in St Mary’s School Hall. (This relates to all Yr 3, Yr 4 and Yr 6 students). At this meeting the dates and times of the parent nights for each sacrament will be advised as well as the dates of the School of Religion classes to be held for each sacrament. On this night parents will need to be present to enrol their child(ren) for the specific sacraments they wish them to receive this year. (The cost will be $35.00 per Sacrament).
If you want your child enrolled you need to be at this meeting
Fr Tom.

Children’s Liturgy in the Parish of St Mary’s: Children’s Liturgy requires a new co-ordinator. The job involves compiling the roster, recruiting new facilitators, keeping worksheets and resources up to date and generally over-seeing the smooth running of this popular programme. If you are keen and interested, even if you want to work on this as a team, please phone Suzie Duff on 0427 825 363.

Readers and Altar Servers: A roster will soon be prepared for the period 2nd March to 29th June 2015. Anyone who would like to be rostered as a reader or altar server or who would like to change to another Mass or wants to be removed from the roster, please contact Brian Hislop either by either by email bhislop2@bigpond.com or phone 6382 3288. Also please, list any dates in this period that you are unable to be rostered.

Prayer moment
"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil people.”
Luke 6:35

Blessings,
Jeannette Albert (REC)
Swimming Carnival
A huge thank you to the parents and Hennessy students who assisted us with the swimming carnival today! We really appreciate all of your help.

Summer Trials
Good luck to the following students who will be trailing for the archdiocesan primary sports trails on Friday and Monday.

Liam Stuart- Basketball
Grace Gibson- Tennis
Jack McIlhatton- Basketball
Alex Block- Tennis
Sam Smith- Cricket
We wish all students the best of luck!

AFL
The 2015 Paul Kelly Cup will be held on Thursday, March 5, at River Park in Cowra. The competition is open to boys and girls in Years 5 & 6. If there are any students wishing to participate email Miss Fisher on emma.fisher@cg.catholic.edu.au by Wednesday 18th February.

MILO Cricket
Play like your Big Bash heroes and sign up to play in the Young T20 Blast!
COMMENCING WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11
TIME: 5:00PM-6:30PM
WHERE: Hall Brothers Oval
COST: $99 for 8 weeks - INCLUDES participant pack-
NO EQUIPMENT NEEDED!
Contact: Liz McPherson on 0410 671 256 for further information

NRL Gala Day
The annual Young NRL Gala Day (non – competitive, based on come and try day will) will be held on Friday March 6. It is for both Boys and Girls in years 3, 4, 5 and 6.
The organisers have asked for exact numbers (not teams) by the Friday 20th February in the following age groups:
Girls Year 3/4 League Tag
Girls Year 5/6 League Tag
Boys Year 3/4 Rugby League
Boys Year 5/6 Rugby League
If you child is interested in participating there will be a sign up sheet available in the hall.
Students are to write their full name and class on the sheet by 9:30am Friday 20th February.
No nominations will be accepted past this date. The sign-up sheet will be available as of this Thursday.
Bookclub is due by this Friday 13th February.

Family Blue Light Pool Party

YOUNG TOWN POOL
Saturday 21st February
6pm to 9pm
$5 entry includes pool entry, sausage sandwich

All Blue Light events are drug and alcohol free and supervised by Police Officers.

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 12</td>
<td>Michele Cusack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13</td>
<td>Vanessa Thorley, Emma Shipp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16</td>
<td>Jenny Newell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 17</td>
<td>Bronwyn Dixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18</td>
<td>Julia Slender, Angela Hyam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St Mary’s Gala Ball

Dancing like a Star
Saturday 14th March 2015
Young Services Club - 6pm for 6.30pm start
Finger Food - 2 course Meal + 2 drink tickets
Tables of 10
Entertainment - Back to the 80’s Special Guest: Julianne Horsman, Associate News Producer Chanel 9 - WIN Television
Auctions throughout the evening
Dress: Formal
Cost: $90

Reply Slip Gala Ball Tickets

Name_______________________________________
Eldest child’s class________
I would like to book _____table/s of 10 @ $900 a table
I would like to purchase _____ tickets @ $90 each
$____________ enclosed amount

C & C Armstrong Plumbing
Lic. No. 161741C

For all your Plumbing, Drainage, Gas fitting and Maintenance needs.

Cade 0439822132 and Rhett 0408494119 armstrongplumbing32@gmail.com

St Mary’s Gala Ball

Dancing like a Star
Saturday 14th March 2015
Young Services Club - 6pm for 6.30pm start
Finger Food - 2 course Meal + 2 drink tickets
Tables of 10
Entertainment - Back to the 80’s Special Guest: Julianne Horsman, Associate News Producer Chanel 9 - WIN Television
Auctions throughout the evening
Dress: Formal
Cost: $90

Reply Slip Gala Ball Tickets

Name_______________________________________
Eldest child’s class________
I would like to book _____table/s of 10 @ $900 a table
I would like to purchase _____ tickets @ $90 each
$____________ enclosed amount

C & C Armstrong Plumbing
Lic. No. 161741C

For all your Plumbing, Drainage, Gas fitting and Maintenance needs.

Cade 0439822132 and Rhett 0408494119 armstrongplumbing32@gmail.com

St Mary’s Gala Ball

Dancing like a Star
Saturday 14th March 2015
Young Services Club - 6pm for 6.30pm start
Finger Food - 2 course Meal + 2 drink tickets
Tables of 10
Entertainment - Back to the 80’s Special Guest: Julianne Horsman, Associate News Producer Chanel 9 - WIN Television
Auctions throughout the evening
Dress: Formal
Cost: $90

Reply Slip Gala Ball Tickets

Name_______________________________________
Eldest child’s class________
I would like to book _____table/s of 10 @ $900 a table
I would like to purchase _____ tickets @ $90 each
$____________ enclosed amount