Dear Parents,

We were blessed with perfect weather for the Swimming Carnival and a great day was had by all! Congratulations to the children for competing with such enthusiasm and perseverance! Thank you to all the many parent volunteers who make such an event possible and thank you teachers and LAs for all your work to make sure everything ran like clockwork. We were also fortunate to have the Hennessey students assisting and as always, we were impressed with their responsible attitude and the encouragement they gave the children. Finally, our gratitude and congratulations to Emma Fisher, our Sport’s Coordinator for making the Swimming Carnival such an outstanding success!

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

Oliver McColl
Lachlan Brown
Inka Langfield
Kirsten Apps
Charlie Smith
Michael Magill
Yousef Haidar Ajaje
Dominic Moran

Birthdays

Thursday 26th March
Easter Bonnet Parade

Thursday 2nd April
End Term 1

Dates to Remember

Thursday 19th Feb
Family Fun Night at Pool, 6pm

Friday 20th Feb
Assembly 8.50am hosted by 6G
Western Region Swimming at Boorowa

Wednesday 25th Feb
Class Mass 10.00am, 5G

Friday 27th Feb
Assembly 8.50am hosted by 5B

Wednesday 4th March
Class Mass — 10.00am, 6G

Thursday 5th March
Cross Country — 9.30am, Young Golf Club

Wednesday 11th March
Open Day — 10am to 12noon

Thursday 26th March
Easter Bonnet Parade

Thursday 2nd April
End Term 1
Parent and Teacher Goal Setting Conferences
Thank you parents for attending the conferences last week! Teachers enjoyed having the chance to meet with you early in the year and to establish the learning partnership, share expectations and set goals for the year. If you have not yet managed to meet with your child’s teacher, please do make an appointment as soon as possible. We are interested in hearing your feedback on the initiatives offered to help make a good start to the year such as the Welcome Letters, the Conferences and the Welcome Back Family Fun Night at the Aquatic Centre (tomorrow evening). Please do let us know how these worked for you, the timing and any suggestions you may have. Thanks!

iPad Evening for Year 5 and new Year 6
Parents and Students
Mrs Helen Flannery delivered a comprehensive and informative presentation for parents and students last Thursday night which had been carefully designed and planned in collaboration with Mrs Kym Connolly and the Year 5 and 6 teams. We are proud of our very successful iPad programme and excited to now have the iPad agreements signed, the Cybersafety course completed and the children ready to go with this exciting tool for learning. Thank you to the teachers and thank you parents and students for your attendance!

Ash Wednesday
Thank you to Mrs Jeannette Albert for planning and leading the school in two very thoughtful and reverent Prayer Services to mark the beginning of Lent today.

During the Services, the children were encouraged today to see Lent as a time to grow in the virtues and, in particular, to strive to be of service to others as outlined by Pope Francis in his Lenten message.

Parents are invited to learn more by following this link:
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20141004_messaggio-quaresima2015.html, highlights that Lent is a time of conversion against globalised indifference to those who suffer.

The Pope writes: “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Community Council Events Not to be Missed!
1. Welcome Back Family Fun Night
Looking forward to getting together with you all at the Young Aquatic Centre for the Welcome Back Family Fun Night tomorrow night! Please come along and enjoy being part of the school community.

Thank you in advance to the Community Council for making this event possible.
2) Dancing with Stars!
The time has come to book your tickets! 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 the funds raised will go directly towards improving the playground for the children. Please book your ticket as soon as possible.

On the night...
* Live band – “Back to the 80s”
* Dance spectacular
* Special Guest MC Julianne Horsman
* Silent auctions and live auctions (the chance to bid for beautiful canvases prepared by the children)

Thank you for your efforts to sell the raffle tickets! We really appreciate this support!

Health Matters
Nut Free Policy
Just a reminder that there is a number of children at St Mary’s with severe nut allergies. We request everyone to be aware, responsible and cooperative to ensure their safety. Please take care when packing lunches and if you are planning on sharing a treat with the children for your child’s birthday, please make sure the treat is nut free. Thank you!

Asthma Plans
We have a number of children listed as asthmatic but we have not received Asthma Plans for them. An Asthma Plan is essential for us to be able to support these children and parents are urged to contact us with their plan as soon as possible. Thank you!

Friendly Friday
It was great to have such a large gathering of parents at our First Friendly Friday for the year last Friday! We will advertise the next Friendly Friday but would like to invite parents, especially new parents to St Mary’s to join us after assembly any Friday for a quick cuppa and a chat in the Prayer Room.
Indonesian Club
There are places available in the Indonesian Club held during the second break on Mondays for Year 4, 5 and 6 children. There is 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.

Parent Help – Starts Week 7
Thank you to the many parents who have already offered to assist in classrooms whether 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 complete the reply slip later in the newsletter or email the office: Office.StMarysYoung@cg.catholic.edu.au if you are interested in volunteering this year on a weekly basis, a day here or there or just on the odd occasion. You will be sent some documentation and a letter outlining requirements.

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.

St Mary’s Parish and School Playgroup
The St Mary’s Parish and School Playgroup is scheduled to commence here at school on Monday 2nd March from 2pm – 3pm. Parents with little ones are encouraged to join Vicki Eastwood and Jade Presser who are both young mums and just happen to be teachers here at St Mary’s too. We are hoping that by scheduling the group at this time, parents can come and spend some time together before pick up.

A Reminder re Traffic Flow
Just a reminder that parents are requested to enter pick up at the lower playground by using Blackett Avenue only. To ensure the safety of the children on buses and their timely departure, parents are asked not to use Boothby Street under any circumstances.

Thanks for your cooperation!

In Conclusion….
Mr Dan O’Brien will be taking the next three weeks off on long service leave and I am sure he will be much missed by us all! We wish he and his wife Mary a wonderful three weeks as they travel to meet their latest grandchild, Ella O’Brien.

The new newsletter format enables us to provide far more information than previously and parents are encouraged to look out for advertisements for events and opportunities both at St Mary’s and beyond. There are two such advertisements in the newsletter this week. This week we are also pleased to be launching a new section which will showcase the engaging learning the children at St Mary’s enjoy by focusing on a class each week. Enjoy Classroom Capers. Thank you Mrs Connelly for getting us started.

Looking forward to getting together with you all tomorrow evening for the Community Council Welcome Back Family Evening at the Young Aquatic Centre!

With best wishes,

Louise Grant
Principal
Success at school - Follow up the Learning Conversations

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When parents and families are involved in their children's schools, the children do better and have better feelings about going to school. In fact, many studies show that what the family does is more important to a child's school success than how much money the family makes or how much education the parents have. There are many ways that parents can support their children's learning at home and throughout the school year. Here are some ideas to get you started! Develop a partnership with your child's teachers and school staff. Continue to catch up with your child's teacher. Let the teacher know you want to help your child learn. Make it clear that you want the teacher to contact you if any problems develop with your child. Talking with your child's teacher offers some great tips for developing a partnership with your child's teacher.

Assembly this week: The next of our Friday morning assemblies will be led by 6G in the school hall from 8.50am to 9.10am on Friday this week (Friday 20th). All are welcome to come along to enjoy the presentation.

Golden Time Winners: Congratulations to 6B who were our Golden Time winners this week, on behalf of Rory O'Brien who was acknowledged for her wonderful respect during the first two weeks of school.

St Mary's School Band
The very successful St Mary's School Band, which was established last year, is providing further musical opportunities for students from Years 3 to 6 in 2015. Mark Corkery, our very accomplished band leader, attends every Thursday to provide a 45 minute session for our band members. It is recommended that those wishing to be band members participate in individual tuition from the Young School of Music (or are developing competence from other sources), and a range of instruments with the scope to hire at a reasonable price are available. Please contact the Young Regional School of Music for tuition details and/or the school office if you wish your child to be part of the St Mary's School Band this year.

YOUNG REGIONAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC:
Phone: 02 6382 5735; PO Box 566;
15-17 Campbell St
Young, NSW 2594. Email; info@yrsm.org.au
Office Hours Mon - Fri 9 AM - 5 PM
Teaching Hours Mon - Fri All hours
ASH WEDNESDAY: Our Ash Wednesday Liturgies for the Primary and Infant students were prayerful and reverent occasions. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent—the special time when we look to God and do our best to live as God wants us to live, as we ready our hearts for Easter. The primary children received ashes on their forehead in the sign of a cross. This reminds us all to follow Jesus and turn our hearts to God. The infant classes were part of Ash Wednesday Prayer Services that reflected on the same theme “Walk in the Light of the Lord”.

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 “Purposefulness.” Purposefulness is being aware that each of us is here for a reason. We value our lives by discovering the part we are uniquely meant to play. We discern our intention and focus on it mindfully. We visualize it happening. We set goals and achieve them step by step, resisting distractions. We give each task single-minded concentration and excellence… Purposefulness is trusting the journey. Being purposeful is having a clear focus. Begin with a vision for what you want to accomplish, and concentrate on your goals. Do one thing at a time, without scattering your energies. Some people let things happen. When you are purposeful, you make things happen.

You are practicing purposefulness when you...

- Have a clear vision of what you want to accomplish
- Know why you are doing it
- Focus on the goal
- Get back on purpose if you get scattered or distracted
- Do things one at a time and finish what you start
- Persevere until you get results
LENT: Many Catholics were taught as children to “give up something” for Lent. The sacrifices in Lent are really penance, in the same spirit as the Ninevites that repented at the preaching of Jonah. Throughout our history, Christians have found prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to be an important part of repentance and renewal. Many Catholics now add something during Lent rather than giving up something, either to address personal habits that need work or to add some outreach to others in need. It is not necessary to “give up something” but it would be a tragedy to do nothing.

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.

Readers and Altar Servers: A roster will soon be prepared for the period 2\textsuperscript{nd} March to 29\textsuperscript{th} 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 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
During shared prayer, offer the names of family and friends who are in need of healing right now. Stress the importance of the family in supporting these people with prayer.
(Mark 1:40-45)

Blessings,
Jeannette Albert (REC)

St Mary’s Cinema Duty Team
St. Mary’s is forming a team to work at the Southern Cross Cinema, once a month, (every 3\textsuperscript{rd} Friday). Some teachers are interested in volunteering and if there are any parents that would like to assist, it would be greatly appreciated. As five people are required for duty at a time, you may only be required to volunteer every second month. Requirements are:

- becoming a member of the Arts Council (at a cost of approximately $20)
- working with children check (which is free, as duties are voluntary)

There are a variety of duties including ushering, making popcorn or operating the till, (training is available). You receive a free movie ticket for your duty. So if you are interested in joining the St Mary’s cinema duty team to assist the community, please advise the front office.
**Swimming Carnival**
A huge thank you to the parents and Hennessy students who assisted us with the swimming carnival today last week! We really appreciate all of your help. Congratulations to the following age champions and to all of the students who attended and participated in the events on the day.

**Age Champions:**

**Jnr Girls:**
1st - Abbey Hall  
2nd - Charlotte Crawford

**Jnr Boys:**
1st – Sebastian Stratford & Riley Burgess  
2nd - Louis Clark

**Intermediate Girls:**
1st Charlotte Doldissen  
2nd - Shay Carruthers

**Intermediate Boys:**
1st - Otto Makeham  
2nd - Samuel Dunn

**Snr Girls:**
1st - Giselle Capra  
2nd - Skye Smith

**Snr Boys:**
1st - Max Kirkwood  
2nd - Liam Stuart

**Winning House**
1st - McCarthy  
2nd - O’Dwyer  
3rd - Finnegan  
4th - McGrath

**Records Broken:**
The following students set new records at our carnival, well done on an outstanding achievement!
Isabelle Turner- 9ys 50m freestyle (40.95)  
Abbey Hall - Junior 50m backstroke (45.26), butterfly (47.31) and 200IM (3:51.82)  
Liam Stuart- 200IM (3:37.84)  
Giselle Capra- 200IM (4:37.26)  
Louis Clark- 200IM (4:25.23)

We have 32 students travelling to Boorowa this Friday with Mrs Connelly to compete in the Western Region Swimming Carnival. We wish all students the best of luck. All money and permission notes should be returned by now.
Summer Trials
Congratulations to the students who trailed for the archdiocesan primary sports trails last Friday and Monday. You all did extremely well and we are very proud of your efforts. Grace Gibson was successful in making it into the archdiocesan tennis team and she will go on to compete in Wollongong on March 6. Congratulations and good luck Grace!

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 Year 5 & 6. If there are any students wishing to participate email Miss Fisher at emma.fisher@cg.catholic.edu.au no later than today.

SPECIAL SCHOOL OFFER
Discounted 6-Game Membership
As a gesture of thanks of thank for letting the Canberra Raiders visit our school, they would like to offer a special deal for all the pupils (and their families) involved in our school visits. Purchase a 2015 season 6-Game Raiders Membership (no pack) and receive 65% discount off the normal price.

What would normally cost you $100 is now discounted to be only $35!

To take advantage of this special price, visit www.weareraiders.com.au/memberships/bronze-6-game/
Click on the "Buy Now" adult action button and enter the promotion code COMMUNITY15.

Be quick to purchase this special membership as this offer ends on 28 February 2015, at 12pm.

Should you have any questions in regards to memberships at the Raiders, please don’t hesitate to contact our Membership team. We hope to see you at some Raiders home games during the 2015 season, whether that be in support of the Green Machine or our opposition.

School Cross Country—will be held on Thursday 5th March at the Young Golf Club starting at 9.30am. All children are to wear their sports uniform. It is an expectation that all children return to school at the completion of their race and resume normal lessons. Children will be transported to and from the Golf Club by bus. Any assistance parents can offer on the day would be greatly appreciated. If you can help on the day please email Emma Fisher at emma.fisher@cg.catholic.edu.au by 27th February 2015.

SPORTS UNIFORM
KW - Monday & Friday, KG - Tuesday & Friday, KB - Thursday & Friday, 1B - Tuesday & Thursday, 1/2W - Year 1 Monday & Tuesday & Year 2 Monday & Thursday, 1G - Tuesday & Wednesday, 2G - Tuesday & Thursday, 2B - Monday & Thursday, 3B - Monday & Wednesday, 3G - Monday & Thursday, 4B - Wednesday & Friday, 4G - Tuesday & Friday, 5G - Tuesday & Friday, 5B - Wednesday & Friday, 6B - Tuesday & Thursday, 6G - Monday & Friday.
It won’t be hard to spot a Year 5 student this week, they’re the ones with a grin from ear to ear and that’s because we used our iPads, at school, for the first time!
After some intense discussion, videos to watch, revision of cyber safety and iPad etiquette, we all signed the iPad user agreement and now we have our ‘L’ plates proudly on display.
We logged into our Sound Waves spelling programme, practised our spelling list using the fun activities on the site and then, very cleverly, saved the link to our home page.
Next we made a Popplet, which is a wonderful way to organise and link ideas or information. We made this using information we wanted to remember from our class novel, Rowan of Rin.
After lunch we used the PicCollage app to make an amazing collage to visually represent our focus virtue for this week - 
 PURPOSEFULNESS

Canteen News
Meal Deal
Through lent a Meal Deal will be available on Fridays
2 x Fish Cocktails & 1 x Hash Brown, $3.50
It will be available via Flexi Schools and paper bag option
Look out for a Meal Deal note next week in your child’s bag. The Meal Deal will be on the 4th March.

Fruit Break
Fruit Break is available to purchase from the canteen at 50c a piece.
If your child forgets fruit Break and is sent to the canteen for a piece, a note will be sent home letting parents know how much they owe at the canteen.
**Young Lions Soccer Club Youth League Expression of Interest/Trials**

Young Lions Soccer Club will be holding an information session and try outs for the 2015 Youth League (representative) team on Friday 20th February from 5-7pm and Saturday 21st February from 4-6pm at Hall Brothers Oval.

Youth league may be boys, girls or mixed, and players in the 10-16 year old age groups are invited to participate. This is a fantastic opportunity for players to experience representative level games against other towns and build upon skills learnt in local Saturday competitions.

We look forward to you joining us in this great program!

Interested players, coaches or team managers are asked to contact the Youth League Co-ordinator, Scott Lacey at youthleague@younglionssoccerclub.com.au with players names, date of birth and contact number, or coaching interest.

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**Family Blue Light Pool Party**

**ST MARYS GALA BALL**

14th MARCH 2015

Below is just a taste of some of the exciting prizes on offer at our fundraising ball!!

ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE ATTENDING THE BALL

- **2 X STATE OF ORIGIN TICKETS (SYDNEY)**
  Kindly Donated by Makekadi Mining Services Pty Ltd (M & K Hardy)
  We have 40 ONLY!! Stubbie holders with a beer to be purchased on the night for $25, if your number is drawn out the Tickets are yours!! Fabulous odds!!
  **GUSOLLIOS HAIR & SPA WOMANS HAMPER VALUED AT OVER $500**
  Kindly Donated by Gusollios Hair & Spa (M.McColl)
  We have 50 ONLY!! Glasses of Champagne to purchase for $20, your glass will have a lucky number attached, If your Lucky number is drawn out, you will win this sensational prize!!

- **DON'T FORGET OUR 1 ONLY PER CLASS BEAUTIFUL ARTWORKS TO HANG ON THE WALL TO BE AUCTIONED!! WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY BIDDER!!**

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE EXCITING THINGS ON OFFER AT THE 2015 ST MARYS FUND-RAISING GALA BALL!!

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**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

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**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

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**Young Tennis Centre**

- Group Coaching & Private Lessons
- Holiday Camps
- Racquet Sales
- Full Racquet Repairs Available

hotshots.tennis.com.au

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**Forty Winks**

Ross & Michele Turner
Lovell St, YOUNG NSW 2594
6382 2633

WE WON’T REST UNTIL YOU DO
Parent Volunteer Reply Slip

Name: ________________________________________________

Child’s Name: _________________________________________  Class: ______________________

I would like to register as a volunteer helper at St Mary’s. Some areas I would like to help with include:

- Leading a Reading Group
- Assisting with Art/Craft
- Assisting on school trips
- Assisting with ‘hands on’ activities
- Assisting a maths Group
- Other/s: __________________________

I would like to help on a regular basis.

I would like to help on an occasional basis

Thank you for volunteering! Please note, teachers will be in contact to arrange helpers over the coming weeks.

_______________________________
Signature of Parent / Guardian

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‘Hog’s for the Homeless’

Ex. NRL Footy players will be heading to town on their Harley’s to raise funds for Father Chris Reilly...

We are holding a Q & A session FREE for the kid’s in the Auditorium between 5pm & 6pm on Tuesday 3rd March...

Followed by an Adults event $10 per person including Finger foods...
Family Life Educator John Shay from Cairns Diocese will run a seminar for parents of primary school children on how to discuss issues of sexuality with your children.

**Place:** Rheinberger Centre, Yarralumla ACT  
**Date:** Tuesday 24th February  
**Time:** 7pm-8.30pm.  
**Cost:** $5 donation at the door  
**Enquiries:** info@catholiclife.org.au

Research indicates that children prefer to seek information about sex and sexuality from their parents more than any other source, and perceive their parents' advice to be trustworthy. But parents often feel inadequate in their own understanding or unsure of how to respond appropriately.

If you have very young children and would like to be well prepared for discussions as they arise, this Parent Session will help you feel more confident and comfortable in giving your child positive, accurate, reassuring and age appropriate information and guidance.
“How many days go by without uttering these words...
please, thank you, sorry
Let us say these words in our families”

Pope Francis

2015 Archdiocesan Assembly

St Clare's College, Griffith, ACT
The Joy of the Gospel in Marriage & Family Life
20 March: Mass
21 March: Talks & Expo