NEWSLETTER
Volume 18 – Issue 20
Thursday 17th December, 2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Term 1 Commences</th>
<th>School Begins 8:55am</th>
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<td>Thursday 28th January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 19th February 2016</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day (Staff preparing for School Review)</td>
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From the Principal’s Desk:

St Mary’s Community
As the year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, students and parents for all the dedicated work at St Mary’s. It has been a highlight to have so many talented and enthusiastic people connected with this community.

The Staff of St Mary’s
Congratulations to Simon Raines (St Peter’s Clayton) and Brigitte O’Shea (London) who in the last week have both accepted new teaching positions for next year.

I would especially like to thank all the teachers for the enormous amount of work that they have completed this year. It is great to work with such a dedicated team at St Mary's and the amount of extra time that they have contributed to this school this semester is immense. Writing reports, preparing portfolios, cleaning classrooms, attending school functions are just some of the many things that the staff has been involved in to complement the curriculum that is implemented in each of the classrooms.

We say goodbye to Anna Borella, Simon Raines, Brigitte O’Shea, Clare Sabatino and Judi Dellar who are all leaving St Mary’s. They have all contributed enormously to the community of St Mary’s and have had the interests of the children at the forefront of their work. We wish them all the very best and hope their new positions are exciting and enjoyable.

Year 5 Teacher for 2016
I have delight in announcing that Chelsea Roche will be teaching Year 5 for 4 days and Catherine LeHunt (1 day) next year.

Year 6 Graduation
Congratulations to the following Year 6 students who graduate from St Mary’s:
We thank each of the children for their contribution to St Mary's and wish them the very best for their Secondary Schooling.

St Vincent De Paul Hampers
Thank you to all families who contributed to the St Vincent De Paul hampers. At Monday’s assembly we made a donation of forty-one hampers to Mr Andrew Higgins from St Mary's St Vincent De Paul. He was over whelmed with the generosity of our school community in the donation of so many hampers. Our generosity will certainly make a lot of families enjoy a better Christmas.
Parents and Friends (P & F) Association
Thank you to the Year 2 Parents who organised the music for the disco on Carol’s night. The children certainly enjoyed dancing to the music that was provided. Thank you to the members of the Parents & Friends Association who have worked tirelessly in providing many social functions this year. Ably led by Bernie Curtis and George Dallas and all the Class Representatives the Parents and Friends have contributed $21,000 to the school this year to help pay for some extensive work that has been conducted in the Hall, some additional Art supplies to assist with the Art Show and the Year 6 Graduation presents. The St Mary's Parish School Community looks forward to the future support of this group in 2016.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work that Bernie Curtis and George Dallas have contributed to the Parents and Friends Association. They have both worked tirelessly to enable the Parents and Friends to contribute significant funds to St Mary’s School. On behalf of the School community, thank you for all your great work.

Christmas Eve Mass
This year we have continued to create a stronger link between our school and the St Mary's Parish. One of the ways we have been striving to achieve our goal is by involving students in the weekend vigil Mass. On Christmas Eve, all students are invited to attend this Mass. This is a vigil Mass at 7pm.

We are encouraging any children who are attending to dress as shepherds or angels. They will also be involved in the Gospel Reading, taking part by reading some lines of the shepherds and angels within the Christmas Gospel story.

We extend a large welcome to all our families here at St Mary's to join us. It would be wonderful if you were able to gather with us in celebration of the Birth of Jesus. We look forward to seeing you all there on the most important day of our Church’s liturgical year.

In Conclusion
Some of the highlights this year have been: The Art Show, Father’s Day Breakfast, Mother’s Day Stall, Footy Day, Inter School Sport, Walk and Ride to School Days, choir singing at assembly, Swimming, School Camps, St Mary’s Twilight Sports Athletic Carnival, Book Fairs and Book Swap, School Masses and Paraliturgies, the Christmas Carols and Disco, and Year 6 Graduation.

Thank you to Fr Barry Moran and all students, teachers and parents/carers for their work and support this year. Whilst it has been a very busy one there have been many highlights that we have shared.

I wish you all a very safe and Holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Gerard Lewis
Principal