



Welcome to Term 2

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

I trust you enjoyed the amazing weather over the Easter break. Clear blue skies, a warm sun and beautiful beaches dominated the days.

With the current pandemic it is only natural that we all experience a sense of loss. For each person the loss might look different. As a school this term, in all likelihood, we will miss out on our beautiful Mother's Day Mass, morning tea and Mums vs Year 6 Netball match; our School Feast Day Mass, BBQ and annual Teachers vs Year 6 Touch game; our Athletics Carnival; various representative sporting opportunities for the older students to name just a few. While we won't dwell on them, we are sorry that we won't be able to celebrate our wonderful Mums and the longer we are not fully operational makes us ponder our Year 6. Missed opportunities to lead our school and enjoy the associated responsibilities and trust we place in them.

For others it may be the loss involved when birthdays are celebrated, funerals mourned, BBQs with friends, extended family dinners, visits to a museum, playing your favourite sport, expectant Mums missing out on their baby shower, dining at your favourite restaurant etc.

But people are resilient. It's making us realise the importance of relationships. People are finding creative ways to connect and enjoy life. And kids are even letting their parents win at board games (sometimes). Another positive is for all those long-suffering Bulldogs fans they haven't had a loss for many weeks now.

Our New Interim Director

We congratulate Mr Danny Casey on his appointment as Interim Director of the Diocese of Broken Bay. We welcome him and ask Our Lord to bless and give him guidance in his deliberations and decision-making.

We thank and recognise Dr Tony Bracken's considerable contribution and outstanding work as Acting Director for the past 10 or so months. We are fortunate that our system retains Dr Bracken's expertise and skills as he continues to provide wonderful continuity and consistency for us all.

From Our Religious Education Coordinator

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a somewhat relaxing break and enjoyed your Easter celebrations in these very different times.

ANZAC Day

During the school holidays it was ANZAC Day. Usually we would be remembering ANZAC Day with a special liturgy at school this week. It has been great to hear from the children how they remembered ANZAC Day with their families this year and see some photos. Thank you to the boys and girls for creating artworks, displays and still honoring this special day.

Mother's Day

Next Friday 9th May we would usually be celebrating our Mother's Day Mass, Morning Tea and Year 6 students verse Mums netball match. We hope that all families will still have some way of celebrating Mother's Day with their families and hope that the boys and girls will do something special for their Mum's. Hopefully, we may be able to reschedule the netball match to sometime later this year!

Liz Hartge - Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees Relief

Yesterday I forwarded (via Compass) you a letter from Bishop Anthony, that among other matters, detailed the relief from school fees being offered by our diocese. A copy is posted on our website.

The Parent Hub

Please check out our website for a link to *The Parent Hub*, a very useful and informative site for parents and carers.

Winter Uniform

Children wearing our full winter school uniform commences on Monday 18th May (Week 4).

Extra Cleaning

With the current situation, the Catholic Schools Office is organising additional cleaning to occur in our school. This will help maintain a clean and safe environment for our students and staff.

Enrolments for Kinder 2021 Open

Applications for enrolment in Kinder 2021 at our school are now open. Please contact our school's administration to access a Kinder enrolment pack.

Term 2 Home-Based Learning Returns

Our home-based learning resumed yesterday. As the term progresses and the children gradually increase their face-to-face attendance at school, home-based learning will subside as the magic of being in their own classroom with their teacher increases.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Day Family who have welcomed a baby daughter, Arwen, baby sister to Ezri (2 Green). May the joys of parenting bring many blessings on your family.

Kind Regards,

K. Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

From Our Librarian

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2020

Each year through our library lessons all children at St Mary's complete the Premier's Reading Challenge. 2020 will be no different even when we are working from home. We have already made a great start reading a significant number of books in our Library time. As the PRC School Co-ordinator I have already added these titles to your child's reading record. Each week I am adding links to texts for each child to view in their PRC age group. It is **essential** that EVERY child views the story links to complete their PRC Challenge. I would like your child to record the books they have viewed on a Reading Record which can be downloaded from the PRC website and a link to which I have provided. You might even create a reading record of your own, but it must include the title of the book and author. This will need to be given to Miss Gray by the end of Term 2 with your name and class at the top. From there I will add these titles to your reading record so that a certificate arrives for you from our Premier. This year Years 3 and 6 are eligible for special awards for completing the challenge 4 and 7 years in a row respectively.

Library Storytime

Watch out for Miss Gray's Storytime from the Library each week. After a few technical glitches everyone should now have access to the story and activities that we would normally do in the library...well maybe not this week's task as we don't have an oven but you do at home and I have now made my second batch of....!!!! You had better watch this week's Storytime to find out!

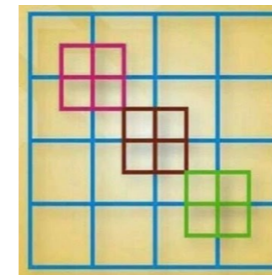
This week's story won't last long as a new story will be coming to you each week in your Google Classroom!!!!

Happy Reading Everyone

Miss Gray
Librarian

From Our Numeracy and Literacy Coordinators

"Problem solving is about thinking, reasoning, exploring, hypothesising and wondering. It takes dedication and perseverance. It takes 'being up for the challenge'" (N.Newton 2018, p.xvii). At St Mary's, our children frequently engage in problem solving tasks. Some of these are word problems, while others are pictures or number sentences. As your child engages in deep thinking, please encourage their persistence. Question: How many squares?



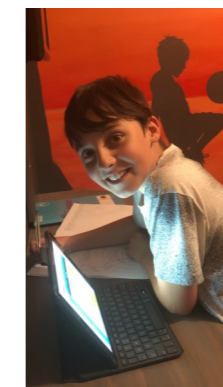
Helping with Reading at Home' Webinar!

We highly recommend this free parent webinar for tips and tricks to help your child with their reading. This highly engaging presentation will provide ideas on how you can support your child before, during and after listening to them read. There are three sessions available this week, follow the link to register for a session. <https://cengage.com.au/primary/pd/pd-sessions>

Uniform Shop News

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Uniform shop is open, however only 1 person at a time is permitted and as you are aware the shop has limited space as is. If possible could all orders please be emailed to leesa.sternbeck@dbb.catholic.edu.au I will get the orders together and call when they are ready for collection. Our price list is on our school website. Payment can be made on pick up at the office, either by cash or EFTPOS. I will do my best with sizing however if the sizes are incorrect they can be exchanged, that is not a problem. Thank you for your understanding at this challenging time.

Photos From Our HBL Classrooms!



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