Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the 2017 school year!
It has certainly been lovely to welcome back all our students and see how much they have grown and changed over the holidays. It has also been very exciting to welcome new teachers and families to St Mary’s School.

A very big welcome is extended to our new students…….Joel Holland (Year 3), Star Maglinte (Year 1) and Adelaide Trevaskis (Year 5). We are delighted to welcome them and their families to our lovely school community. We also welcome our new staff members………..Mrs Joanne Shore and Miss Amy Buckmaster who have joined our teaching staff.

Both teachers are very happy to be part of our St Mary’s School Community.

This morning we welcomed ten very excited new students to our Kindergarten class………………Lacey G, Morgan, Lacey H, Troy, Katana, Jacob, Nace, Edie, Violet and Maverick.

We are looking forward to sharing their learning journey here at St Mary’s as they make new and exciting discoveries in the years ahead.

Welcome back to all our lovely students! This year we have an enrolment of 59 students K-6. How exciting! Very close to the 60 mark!

We have many lovely comments from families and community members on how wonderful our school grounds are looking with our new grass and cemented areas. Many thanks to the Community Council for all their hard work in ensuring this could be made possible.

Looking forward to working together with you all in the year ahead.

Mrs Christine Baron

Principal
**Canteen**
A new menu for Term 1 will be available from next week.

**School Staff-2017**
Sr. Carmel Piffero—Parish Coordinator
Mrs Christine Baron—Principal/Literacy Support Yrs 3-6
Ms Sarah Collins—Year K/1 Teacher
Mrs Joanne Shore—Year 2/3 Teacher/Learning Support Teacher
Mrs Jannine Richards—Year 4/5/6 Teacher/REC
Mrs Liz Murray—Literacy and Numeracy Support K-2/Aboriginal Contact Teacher/Librarian
Miss Amy Buckmaster—K-6 Release Teacher
Mrs Tricia Toohey—Office Administrator
Mon/Tues/Wed 8.00 - 5.00pm
Ms Tracee Holland—Office Support—Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30pm
Mrs Kerrie Ambrose—Learning Support Assistant (Mon/Tues9.00-3.00pm).
Mrs Kate Dobie—Learning Support Assistant (Wed/Thurs/Fri 9.00-3.00pm)
Ms Sarah Holland—Aboriginal Education Worker (Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs 9.30-12.30pm)

**CONGRATULATIONS**
Congratulations are extended to three staff members, Mrs Elizabeth Murray, Mrs Libby Black and Mrs Trish Toohey who have all been selected to receive Recognition Awards at the Catholic Schools Week Mass to be held in Canberra on Friday 10th March.
These staff members have all been recognised for their work in supporting diversity, equity and well being.
All three staff members are worthy recipients of these awards and we congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

**NO HAT NO PLAY**
Please remember our school rule, ‘NO HAT NO PLAY’ during Term 1.
Students will be asked to sit in the shade if they do not have their school hat.
A note is required if students are wearing a hat (or any item of clothing) that is not school uniform.
Thank you for supporting our school sun-safe policy.

**Sunscreen**
During this hot weather we highly recommend students wear sunscreen to school and have some in their bag to reapply throughout the day as needed.
Due to recent changes in recommendations from the Cancer Council and allergy concerns, parents are now asked to provide their own sunscreen for their child.

**Staff Emails**
There have been some issues with all Canberra–Goulburn Archdiocesan staff emails over the holiday period. Many individual staff emails were compromised during this period, therefore greater security measures have been placed on all staff emails.
If you have sent an email to a staff member over the holidays or recently and you have not been responded to, could you please let the staff member involved know so that we can request your email address be reinstated on our school email list.
Many thanks for your assistance.

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**Rest Days for Kindergarten**
Kindergarten will have a rest day EVERY Wednesday throughout February.
The only exception to this will be next Wednesday the 8th February.
This will enable Kindergarten to enjoy our School Swimming Carnival.
The rest day will be moved to Friday 10th February in lieu of Wednesday.

**Appointments with Staff Members**
All staff members are happy to meet with parents on an individual basis should the need arise. It is appreciated if parents ring or email staff to make an appointment as staff members are often on duty or preparing class work during the day.
Thank you.

**Sports Uniform**
To be worn each Monday and Friday by ALL students K-6, please.
All sport shoes must be firmly fitted around the ankles—skate shoes/converses etc are not permitted for sporting or school activities.

**Sunday Mass Time**
St Mary’s Church Mass times is 8:30am every Sunday morning.
Fr Sijo, Fr Luke and Fr Kevin will celebrate Mass on a rotational system.
Please support our Parish community and come along to Sunday celebrations.

**Library**
Year 4/5/6 and Year 2/3 will have library on Tuesdays and Kinder/Year 1 will have library on Thursdays.
Please bring along a library bag so you can borrow from the school library.
ST MARY’S/ST JOSEPH’S COMBINED ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL (Years 2-6)

Our annual swimming carnival will take place NEXT Wednesday 8th February at the Batlow Pool commencing at 9.30am.
Years 2-6 will be transported by bus to the pool leaving school at approx. 9.15am.

Years K/1 will join us at the pool at 11am. All children K-6 will need a packed recess, lunch (if not ordering) and plenty of water to drink.

A lunch order will be available on the day—please see the back of the newsletter for details.

Students may also bring a small amount of money to purchase snack items from the pool canteen at lunchtime.

Students are asked to come to school dressed in their sports house colour of red or green, but please ensure all tops have sleeves.

Students must have a rashie or t-shirt to wear in between races please.

Streamers, posters, mascots etc are encouraged. No hair spray please.

Please ensure your child has sunscreen in their bag to be reapplied throughout the day.

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A HAT PLEASE.

From this carnival students, 8 years and older may be selected to represent the school at the Western Region Swimming Carnival in Cootamundra on Friday 17th February.

A swimming note was sent home with Years 2-6 yesterday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday wishes go out to Jayla who turned 6 on 2nd January, Dylan who turned 6 on the 4th, Dane who turned 8 on 11th, Maverick who turned 5 on the 23rd and Adelaide who turned 11 on 30th January. We hope you all enjoyed celebrating your special day!

Also a big happy birthday to Joel who turns 8 TOMORROW 2nd February.

INDONESIAN LESSONS

This year our students will be receiving a 1/2 hour weekly lesson learning the Indonesian language.

As part of the new Australian curriculum, students are encouraged to learn a second language.

We are fortunate to have Ms Collins who speaks Indonesian and is willing to share her talent with our K-6 students.

This is an exciting opportunity for all our students!

CAKE RAFFLE

The cake raffle will begin again in Week 2. Each family will be rostered on throughout the year to supply a cake each Friday—home made or bought!

Year 6 are rostered on to sell the tickets in the cake raffle each Friday.

Raffle tickets are 20c each and the raffle is drawn at the end of the day with the winning ticket holder taking home some lovely afternoon tea!

The money raised will go towards our end of year school excursion.

CAKE RAFFLE ROSTER WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKS NEWSLETTER.

IF YOU CAN’T DO YOUR ROSTERED WEEK PLEASE SWAP WITH ANOTHER FAMILY.

HOME COOKING ROSTER

Each Friday some families have volunteered to do Home Cooking.

The families rostered on to do Home Cooking provide home baked goodies for approx 20 children, with two families rostered on each Friday.

The goodies are then sold for 50c at recess / lunchtime.

If there are any families that would like to join the cooking roster could you please return the note at the end of the Newsletter by THIS Friday 3rd February so a roster can be made.

Thank you.
**FACEBOOK AND STAFF MEMBERS**

In line with CEO Child Protection and Legal Issues policy, it is strongly recommended by CE guidelines that staff do not ‘friend’ parents on Facebook for many reasons in regard to legal and child protection issues.

We appreciate your understanding regarding this important matter.

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

**EVERY MONDAY.**

The Commonwealth Bank will pick up student bank books every Monday.

If you would like you child to open an account ask at the office for more information.

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**BOOK COVERING**

Books will be sent home for covering Friday.

Text Books to be covered in clear contact and exercise books as directed by your child's class teacher. If you are unable to cover the books this weekend please take them next weekend and return by Monday.

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**SCHOOL HOURS:**

School commences each morning at 9.00am.

Students who walk, are driven or ride a bike etc to school are asked to not be at school before 8.40am unless prior arrangements have been made as they are not supervised before this time.

Bus children who arrive at school before this time are asked to sit in the weather shed.

Staff members commence morning duty at 8.40am but are available if needed beforehand.

School concludes at 3.10pm.

If your child/ren need to leave early for any reason please see their class teacher prior to pick up and please remember to sign the 'Sign-Out Book'.

Parents are reminded that a note/phone call is required if a student is to be picked up after school by someone different than usual.

Parents are asked to come to the gate to collect their child, so that the teacher on duty can maintain their duty of care to the other students waiting to be collected.

Thank you.

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**STUDENT INFORMATION CHECKLIST**

Forms were sent home today for every student. Please check the information printed carefully, and make sure all information we have is correct and up to date. Please check telephone numbers, religion, and permissions given etc. Sign the forms for each child and return to school by Monday 6th February even if there are no changes required.

Thank you.

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**OPENING SCHOOL MASS**

**FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY 12pm**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

A free BBQ lunch will follow the Mass for ALL students and family members.

More information to come soon!

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**HAIR ACCESSORIES/JEWELLERY**

All hair accessories should be **navy blue please.**

Other coloured hairbands, hair clips or ribbons are not part of the school uniform.

Jewellery should be minimal eg watch, necklace with a religious symbol only, stud or sleepers earrings only in silver or gold.

Unusual haircuts are also NOT permitted and parents are asked to support policy.
HOME COOKING VOLUNTEERS

☐ I am willing to be placed on the Home Cooking Roster.

SIGNED: ____________________________

Please return to school by THIS Friday 3rd February

SWIMMING CARNIVAL-LUNCH ORDER

NAME: ____________________________  CLASS: ____________

Sausage sandwich and Water/Fruit Box $3.00
Rissole Sandwich and Water/Fruit Box $4.00
Vegetarian Pattie and Water/Fruit Box $3.00

Please order on a Brown Paper Lunch Bag and enclose the correct money.

Please return to school by THIS FRIDAY 3rd February.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL PERMISSION NOTE-YEARS K-6

☐ I give permission for my child/ren ____________________________ to participate in the St Mary's/St Joseph's Swimming Carnival to be held at the Batlow Pool on Wednesday 8th February 2017 (or the back up date Friday 10th February).

☐ I have included $3.00 entry fee per child OR

☐ We have a season ticket__________ (ticket number)

☐ I give permission for my child/ren ____________________________ to travel to and from St Mary’s by Shaw's bus.

SIGNED: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________

Please return notes by THIS Friday 3rd February