Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the 2015 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 Ms Sarah Collins and Mrs Libby Black, who have joined our teaching staff. Both teachers are very happy to be part of our St Mary’s School Community.

Last Thursday, we also welcomed the Collins family to our school family with Tameika-Lillie (Meika) joining our Year 4 class. It was also wonderful to welcome back Charlotte Ovenden to Year 6.

On Friday we welcomed eleven very excited new students to our Kindergarten class……………..


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

Welcome back to all our lovely students! This year we have an enrolment of 47 students K-6. It is wonderful to see our little school growing so positively with enrolments. St Mary’s certainly has a great reputation in our Batlow community!

Some major renovations have occurred over the holidays with the ‘older’ part of the school receiving a facelift with painting through all the rooms and weather shed. New lockers for our students have been a welcomed addition to the weathershed. Our grateful thanks to Mr & Mrs Quinnell and Joshua Smith for the wonderful job and for ensuring the work was completed over the holidays. A huge thank you also to the Ambrose family for all the work completed around the school playground. More improvements will be completed over the coming term.

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

Mrs Chris Baron
Principal

PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Grant me your strength, so I will have courage in every situation.

Grant me your love, so I may love others as you love me.

Grant me your wisdom, so I will show others the path to success.

Grant me your mercy, so I will forgive those who have hurt me.

Grant me your peace, so I will find the best in everybody.

Grant me your hope, so I will never give up.

Grant me your joy, so I will be thankful for all my blessings.

And grant me your grace, so you will always be at my side.

Amen.
**CANTEEN NEWS**

Students may order **five days per week** from the BTS canteen. Students are asked to place their lunch orders in the basket provided in the weather shed before 9.30am each day. Year 5/6 will continue to operate our own canteen for snacks and drinks every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

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**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.

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**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 policy.

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**SUNSCREEN**

During this hot weather it would be helpful to put sunscreen on your child/ren before they arrive at school in the morning.

Sunscreen is available and encouraged to be applied at school during the day.

Sunglasses (plain black/navy) are encouraged to be worn for outdoor play and activities. These can be purchased from the school.

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**Home Cooking**

The Ingle & Glynn families are rostered on for home cooking next Friday 13th February. All items sold for 20c at recess and lunch.

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**CRUNCH & SIP and FRUIT FIRST PROGRAMS**

‘Crunch & Sip’ will be continued this year for all students K-6. Please remember to include a piece of fruit/vegetable (cheese sticks acceptable) and a drink of water for ‘Crunch & Sip’ each day. We ask that the fruit or vegetable supplied be cut into bite size edible pieces and placed in a suitable container. Please DO NOT include whole pieces of fruit/vegetable especially items that need peeling (exception given to bananas) as teachers do not have time to assist peeling fruit. ‘Crunch & Sip’ time is given during the morning session and is an optional activity for students. Yoghurt/biscuits/snack bars are not acceptable items for ‘Crunch & Sip’ and students will be asked to put these items back in their lunchbox for recess or lunch time. Please consult the table below for suitable food options. If unsure please check with your child’s teacher.

**Fruit First** is also encouraged at Recess. Students are asked to eat a piece of fruit before eating other lunch box items.

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**CAKE RAFFLE**

The Ellicott family is asked to supply the cake for the Cake Raffle NEXT Friday 13th February. Tickets 20c

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**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.

Please note this year I will also be on class ALL day Wednesday & Thursday and every other week day until 12.30pm.

Therefore appointments can be made from 12.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Thank you.

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**Fruit First** is also encouraged at Recess. Students are asked to eat a piece of fruit before eating other lunch box items.

**SUITEABLE OPTIONS FOR CRUNCH & SIP INCLUDE…….**

**Cut up pieces of:** …..apple, oranges, pear, strawberries, kiwi fruit, mango, mandarin segments, carrot sticks, celery sticks, blueberries, grapes, cherry tomatoes, snow peas, watermelon, etc (whole banana and cheese sticks acceptable.)

**Thank you for your support in encouraging healthy eating habits for your child/ren.**
**2015 SWIMMING PROGRAM**

Our 2015 Swimming Program commenced yesterday 2nd February and will continue until Friday 6th February for students in Years 3/4/5/6 and some of our Year 2 students.

Please ensure your child/ren have their swimmers, rashie, towel, goggles and sunscreen packed each day. Students may wear thongs/sandals to the pool.

Thank you to Mr Worrick Shaw for providing transport to and from the pool for all students and to Mrs Beth Smith for taking the students for lessons.

Costs for the Swimming Program were outlined on the note that went home last week. It would be appreciated if all money owing could be paid ASAP please.

**ST MARY’S/ST JOSEPH’S COMBINED ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Our annual swimming carnival will take place next Wednesday 11th February commencing at 9.30am. Years 2–6 will take the bus to the pool at 9.20am.

K/1 will take the bus at 10.50am.

After the carnival all students will take the bus back to school where they can be collected by parents.

K/1 and some Year 2 students will have recess & lunch at the pool and will participate in some fun water activities.

All children K–6 will need a packed lunch (if not ordering) and plenty of water to drink. Lunch orders will be available on the day—please see the order form on the back of the Newsletter.

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.

We are in need of help to set up the pool from 8.30am, Timekeeping and scoring during the day.

Please complete the attached slip if you are able to help in any way, even for a small amount of time and return to school ASAP.

From this carnival students, 8 years and older may be selected to represent the school at the Western Region Carnival in Boorowa on Friday 20th February.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy birthday wishes go out to Ashley Christian who turned 11 Saturday the 31st January and to EJ Sullivan who turns 6 this Saturday 7th February.

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**Staff Professional Development**

On Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February Teaching staff will be travelling to Cootamundra for KAGAN Training.

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**CAKE RAFFLE**

The cake raffle will begin again in Week 3. 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.

The first family rostered on for this year is the ELLICOTT family on Friday 13th February.

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**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 20c 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 6th February.

Thank you

Home Cooking will begin NEXT Friday 13th February with the INGLE & GLYNN families rostered on.

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**PARENT INFORMATION EVENING.**

**A PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**

**WITH BE HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY.**

K/1 ..... 5PM TO 5.30PM

YEARS 2 TO 6 ..... 5.30PM TO 6PM

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 4.30PM.**

**COME AND MEET YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER, AND FIND OUT THE EXCITING THINGS PLANNED FOR 2015**
Week 1
- 26th January: Australia Day holiday
- 27th January: Staff return
- 28th January
- 29th January: Years 1-6
- 30th January: Kindergarten begin 1pm
- 31st January
- 1st February

Week 2
- 2nd February: Swimming lessons Yrs 3-6 2.00-3.00pm
- 3rd February: Swimming lessons Yrs 3-6
- 4th February: Swimming lessons Yrs 3-6
- 5th February: Swimming lessons Yrs 3-6
- 6th February: Swimming lessons Yrs 3-6
- 7th February
- 8th February

Week 3
- 9th February: KAGAN TRAINING COOTAMUNDRA
- 10th February: KAGAN TRAINING COOTAMUNDRA
- 11th February: Swimming Carnival
- 12th February
- 13th February: Movies by Moonlight St Joseph’s Adelong
- 14th February
- 15th February

BATLOW Women4women
Don't miss out, unique event of the year!
An excuse to get dressed up, get a group together for a lovely afternoon out.
Saturday 7th Feb. 2.00pm – 5.00pm Batlow RSL
See ‘dressed up’ brumbies from 1.00pm in the car park
Celebration of Love Parade – vintage to modern wedding dresses
Excellent & numerous lucky door prizes & much more
Tickets: $20 before 01/02/15 OR $30 at the door
Batlow Women4women on Facebook
Leanne 0427 23 32 73 OR 69 48 3990

DRINK BOTTLES
Each child is asked to please bring 2 drink bottles to school each day: one filled with cool water (not frozen) with a pop-top lid for the classroom and the second filled with water, cordial or juice for recess and lunch.
No soft drink please. Only drink bottles with pop top lids will be allowed in the classroom.
It is important that students continually hydrate themselves during the day, particularly in this hot weather.

BOOK COVERING
Books were sent home last Friday for covering. Text Books to be covered in clear contact and exercise books as directed by your child's class teacher. If you were unable to cover the books last weekend please take them this weekend and return by Monday.

FACEBOOK AND STAFF MEMBERS
In line with CEO Child Protection and Legal Issues policy, it is strongly recommended by CEO 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.

YEAR 6 LEADERSHIP ROLES
Year 6 students have been given their application form to formally apply for their leadership positions in 2015. Forms are due in by this Friday 6th February please.

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 please 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 3.15pm.
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 then 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.

NUT FREE POLICY
Nuts and all products containing nuts are NOT to be brought to school. This includes Nutella and Peanut Butter. Products that have “may contain traces of nuts” written on the packaging are safe to bring.
We have several children that are anaphylactic to nuts and may have very severe reactions.

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.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL LUNCH ORDER
WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2015

Hot Food

Pies $3.40
Party pies $1.00
Sausage Roll $2.70
Pizza $2.50
Sushi, Tuna/Teriyaki $2.70
Sauce .20

Drinks
Quench
Apple Raspberry $2.00
Apple/Blackcurrent $2.00
Water $1.50

Jelly custard $1.00

Please write name and lunch order on a bag and return to school by Friday 6th February.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL HELPER

I/we ___________________________ are able to help at the Batlow Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 11th February.
I/we would like to assist with………………..(please circle)

[ ] Setting up (8.30am)
[ ] Timekeeping
[ ] Scoring
[ ] Packing up (2.30pm)

SIGNED ___________________________ DATE: __________________

Please return to school by THIS Friday 6th February-thank you.

HOME COOKING VOLUNTEERS

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

SIGNED: ___________________________
Please return to school by THIS Friday 6th February

SWIMMING CARNIVAL PERMISSION NOTE-YEAR K/1 ONLY

[ ] I give permission for my child/ren ___________________________ to participate in some swimming ‘fun’ activities at the St Mary’s/St Joseph’s Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 11th February 2015.

[ ] 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 the pool by Shaw’s bus.

SIGNED: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Please return by Monday 9th February