Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,
Welcome to the 2014 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 five new families to St Mary’s School.

Last Thursday, we welcomed the Ingle/Fox, Jackson and Fisher families to our school family with William Ingle joining our Year 1 class, Corrine Jackson joining our Year 4 class and Monique Fisher joining our Year 5 class. We also welcome their parents Renee Fox and Noy Garner, Jenny and Tony Jackson and Sue and Don Fisher and their family members.

Then on Friday we welcomed seven very excited new students to our Kindergarten class………………
Jade Booby, Brendan Irwin, Annie Jones, Catriona Jackson, Mary Ovenden, Ted Pearce, Tom Wolfe and their families.

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 42 students K-6. Therefore we will run a K/1/2 class with 20 students and a Year 3/4/5/6 class with 22 students with adjustments for Literacy and Numeracy sessions.

As most of you are aware, Ms Roche will be on sick leave for the next few weeks. Mrs Murray will take the K/1/2 class in Ms Roche’s absence while Mrs Jackson and Mrs Parker will cover Mrs Murray’s library, NIP and Learning Support roles. Mrs Hotham will also take on the REC role over the next few weeks. We wish Ms Roche a speedy recovery and thank Mrs Murray, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Parker and Mrs Hotham for filling in so capably during this time.

Please find attached our Term One calendar.

Term 1 is always a busy term with School Photos, Swimming, Cross Country, Opening School Mass, Batlow Show, Catholic Schools Week, gymnastics etc so please add important dates to your diaries.

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

Mrs Chris Baron
Principal
CANTEEN NEWS
Students may order five days per week from the BTS canteen from Term One onwards. 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.

School Staff-2014
Sr. Carmel Piffero—Parish Coordinator
Mrs Chris Baron—Principal
Literacy Support Teacher Yrs 2/3 and Numeracy Support Teacher Yrs 3/4/5/6.
Ms Jane Roche—Year K,1,2 and Religious Education Co-ordinator
Mrs Melissa Hotham—Year 3/4/5/6
Mrs Elizabeth Murray—National Partnerships/Library/Learning Support Teacher
Mrs Tracee Korn—Learning Support Assistant (Mon/Tues/Wed 9.30-12.30pm), Office Support- Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30pm
Mrs Tricia Toohey—Secretary (Mon/Tues/Wed)
Ms Jennie Clare—Cleaner

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.

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.

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.

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.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Monday 10th February at 11am.
Photo Information packs have been sent home with students and are asked to be returned to school whether you are purchasing photos or not.
Photos are early this year as the photographers are in the area at other schools and asked to do our school at the same time.
Students are asked to come dressed in their SUMMER school uniform (dresses for girls) please.
Sport uniform can be worn on Tuesday 11th instead.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT
TUESDAY 11th FEBRUARY
One parent/carer is asked to attend from each family please.
K/1/2 session............5.30-6.00pm
Whole School information........6.00-6.30pm
Yr 3/4/5/6..............6.30-7.00pm
These sessions will outline classroom programs and whole school initiatives for 2014.

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 MONDAY and every other week day until 12.30pm.
Therefore appointments can be made from 12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Thank you.

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.

SUITABLE 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

Thank you for your support in encouraging healthy eating habits for your child/ren.
2014 SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our 2014 Swimming Program commenced yesterday 3rd February and will continue until next Wednesday 12th 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 Friday 14th 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 recess, lunch (if not ordering) and plenty of water to drink.

A special lunch order will be available on the day—please see the order form on the back of the Newsletter.

Information packs available for anyone interested in learning a musical instrument.

CAKE RAFFLE
The cake raffle will begin again in Week 4. Each family will be rostered on throughout the year to supply a cake each Friday-home made or bought! Year 5/6 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 GLYNN FAMILY on Friday 28th February.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Happy birthday wishes go out to Jasmine Boxsell who turned 11 on the 23rd January and to Ashley Christian who turned 10 last Friday the 31st January.

We hope you both had lovely celebrations on your special day.

RAMOS MUSIC LESSONS
Students who are learning musical instruments with Ramos are asked to ensure that they have their musical instruments and music books with them EVERY THURSDAY for music lessons.

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 7th February.

Thank you

Home Cooking will begin on Friday 22nd February with the COOPER-WILSON & WILKINSON families rostered on.
ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROGRAM
The Active After School Community (AASC) Program will be held once again this year and will commence on Monday 17th February.
AASC program will be held on Monday’s from 3.15-4.30pm commencing with afternoon tea.
The program is provided FREE of charge and is for all students K-6.
The skill focus for this term will be AFL.

GOLF COACHING
Golf coaching Sundays @ 10am at the golf club. For more information please phone Kevin Nolte on 69491591

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.
High caffeine energy and fizzy drinks are not permitted

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. Therefore it will be necessary for staff to remove parents from Facebook accounts.
Please do not be offended by this recommendation as it for the protection of all concerned especially our students.
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 2014. Forms are due in by this Friday 7th February please. Positions of Leadership will be announced at the Opening School Mass on Friday 21st February.

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 weathershed.
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

FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2014

- Sausage in a bun - $2.50

Drinks will be available at the pool canteen to purchase on the day:

- Bottle of Water - $2.00
- Milk-Chocolate or Ice Coffee flavours - $2.50
- Poppers - $1.50

(Please note students are NOT permitted to purchase soft drinks)

A selection of icy poles and lollies will also be available and students may bring a small amount of money to purchase some items after lunch.

* Please use the order form below for sausage and drink orders and include the correct money.

Orders due by THIS Friday 7th February. Thank you.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL LUNCH ORDERS

The _________________________ family would like to order

_______ Sausage in a bun @ $2.00 each

TOTAL OF ORDER $_________________

SIGNED: ________________________

HOME COOKING VOLUNTEERS

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

SIGNED: ________________________

Please return to school by THIS Friday 7th February. Thank you.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL HELPER

I/we ________________________ are able to help at the Batlow Swimming Carnival on Friday 14th February.

I/we would like to assist with…………………….(please circle)

☐ Setting up (8.30am)
☐ Timekeeping
☐ Scoring
☐ Cooking the BBQ lunch
☐ Packing up (2.30pm)

SIGNED______________________ DATE:________________

Please return to school by THIS Friday 7th February - thank you.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL PERMISSION NOTE-YEAR K/1/2 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 Thursday 14th February 2014.

☐ I have included $2.00 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 Wednesday 12th February

SWIMMING CARNIVAL PERMISSION NOTE

YEAR K/1/2 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 Thursday 14th February 2014.

☐ I have included $2.00 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 Wednesday 12th February