FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We warmly welcome the staff of 2014

Principal – Mrs Kathy Gee
Acting Assistant Principal – Mrs Jane Labone
Acting Religious Education Coordinator – Ms Christine Dunk
Senior Administration Officer – Mrs Denise Sprakel
Newsletter publication and Website – Mrs Janette Lamb

Kindergarten – Ms Zoe Hulme
Year 1 – Mrs Rebecca Billing/ Mrs Angela Westerway
Year 2 – Ms Caroline Mulvenna
Year 3 – Mrs Jane Labone
Year 4 – Ms Christine Dunk
Years 5/6 Ocean – Mr Grant Colquhoun
Yr5/6 Earth – Mrs Lynne Pike/Mrs Cathy Penning

Teacher Librarian – Mrs Fran Jones
Learning Support – Mrs Stephanie Munro
Art – Mrs Cathy Penning
Japanese – Ms Annie Lee
Learning Support Assistant – Mrs Kathy Bell

Beginning of Year Mass
Thank you to Christine Dunk for organising our beautiful Beginning of Year Mass. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance. The children were extremely well behaved and our Musicians were outstanding. During this special Mass Father George blessed and commissioned our student leaders for 2014.

Our student Leaders for 2014
School Captains: Jemima Guberina and Ben King  Vice Captains: Lily Boffa and Jake Meacham
Gold Colour House Captain: Jackson Walls.
Environmental Leader: Zahra Higgs Social Justice Team: Isabeau Harding, Kira Johnson
Liturgy Team: Laura Placentini, Elizabeth Mitcherson Library Leader: Isabelle Wise.
IT Team: Harvey McLean, Claudine King
Positive Behaviour Learning Team: Bella Encina, Isobel Prandle, Stella Peterson, Claudia Norkett
Band Captain: Olivia Smalley

Our Student Representative Council Members for 2014:
YR 6 Claudia Norkett and Matteo Fragasso
YR 5 Yasmin Heyes and Thomas Kerr
YR 4 Poppy Irvin and Noah Wise
YR 3 Ava Hartard and Ethan McKechnie
YR 2 Alice Boffa and James Holmes
YR 1 Sofia Encina and Dash Osborne
Kinder: Philippa Connell and Byron Sergeant

Monday 10th February Parent Information Evening, P and F Welcome Drinks
On Monday evening 10th February the teachers will be presenting a parent information session in the classrooms. Years 3-6 will have 2 sessions one at 6:00pm with a repeat session at 6:30pm. Kindergarten, Yr 1 and Yr 2 will have one session at 6:30pm. At the conclusion of the information sessions the P and F Team will be hosting welcome drinks in the school hall. In previous years the welcome drinks have been held on a different night and was specifically only for Kindergarten and any new parents. This year we are changing the model and inviting all parents to attend, so that as a community we can meet the new families and reconnect with current families. Please note that these information sessions and drinks are for the parents and the children are not required to attend.

Ipads now in all classes
Thanks to the wonderful work and fundraising efforts of the P and F Team we now have iPads in all classes. Mr C has spent a great deal of time configuring the iPads ready for use and the teachers have been attending extra sessions run by Mr C to learn all about the new applications.

2014 TERM DATES

TERM 1
Wed 29th Jan
K-6 Assessment day

Thur 30th Jan
Year 1-6 start

Mon 3rd Feb
Kindy start

Last day of term:
Friday 11th Apr

TERM 2
First day of term:
Monday 28th Apr

Last day of term:
Friday 27th Jun

TERM 3
First day of term:
Monday 14th Jul

Last day of term:
Friday 19th Sept

TERM 4
First day of term:
Tuesday 7th Oct

Last day of term:
Friday 19th Dec
Positive Behaviour for Learning
Maria Regina Catholic School has adopted a whole school approach to bring about positive behaviour; Positive Behaviour for Learning. This approach has a strong emphasis on teaching appropriate behaviours and providing systems of support to bring about these positive behaviours. We aim to provide a safe and supportive environment in which learning takes place.

Our policy recognises that the staff, students and parents all share the responsibility for behaviour management, with a positive and pastoral outlook for all.

Our 3 main school rules are:

**RESPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS and RESPECT THE PLACE WE ARE IN.**

On Monday at assembly our PBL leaders reminded us about our three school rules and what each of these rules looks like. Year 3 made some posters to highlight our school rules.

KidsMatter is a national mental health initiative that has been implemented in Australian schools since 2006.

The KidsMatter Framework has been designed to help schools build on what they already do to promote children’s wellbeing.

KidsMatter has three major aims:
To improve the mental health and wellbeing of primary school students;
To reduce mental health problems among students; and
To achieve greater support for those students experiencing mental health problems.

We are in the process of implementing Kidsmatter at Maria Regina. Elizabeth Douglas from the Catholic Schools Office will be presenting an information about Kidsmatter discussing issues such as the importance of social and emotional learning for students and developing resilience.

Please join us for this important **Parent Information Session** after assembly on **Friday 21st February** in the school hall.
Being Blessed!

It has been an absolute delight joining the community at Avalon this year. The warm welcome I have received from the staff, parents and students has really "filled my bucket". It is beautiful to see how the children interact across the grades – everyone knows everyone and looks out for them. I would also have to include the sheer physical beauty of the area – the drive to school in the morning feels like going on holidays!

In short, I feel I am surrounded by blessings here at Avalon and for that I am truly grateful. The idea of blessings is something that Fr George would encourage us all to focus on this year – beginning with the scripture of the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12). It is one of those well-known pieces of scripture that we usually learned as children but may never have really seen how it is relevant in our day to day lives.

Below is a small extract from Fr George’s 2014 Message. If you haven't already, I would encourage you to visit the Parish website and take a look at the whole document. [http://www.pittwaterparish.org/](http://www.pittwaterparish.org/)

“This year I would like you to reflect with me on what it means to have the right attitudes for living, based on the teaching of Jesus, and how this helps us in making the right choices. I’d like to invite you to enter into this by considering the Beatitudes, recognised widely as the core of Jesus’ teaching about our right attitudes and actions in life. Through the Beatitudes Christ summarises his teaching about life and explains how we should respond as children of God to the loving invitation of God. Each statement suggests qualities that help us to align ourselves with the Kingdom of Heaven, and bring about this reality in our current context. This is important, because at times we as Christians project the Kingdom of Heaven into the future, as if it is some reality that will occur later on.

‘However, Jesus’ teaching was explicit in challenging such a view: the Kingdom of Heaven is among us!’

### Important Dates for Term 1

**Wk 5** – Sat 1 March – Family Mass Yr3 – Maria Regina. (This will also be enrolment for Reconciliation and Eucharist – enrolment will also be on Sun 2 March at 9am.)

**Wk 8** – Sun 23 March – Yr5/6 Soul Mass – Sacred Heart.

Everyone is welcome!

Christine Dunk REC

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### Canteen

**The Canteen is open for business on Monday February 10.** Please ensure your lunch order is in a paper bag clearly marked with your child’s name, class and order and enclose the correct money if possible. Orange and apple juice and strawberry or chocolate milk can be ordered for lunch on the bag. Ice blocks are purchased separately at lunch time not on the lunch order bag. The canteen will be open for recess for cheese toasties, garlic bread, pikelets and popcorn. Drinks can be purchased over the counter at recess or lunch times. No foreign currency is accepted. Also please speak to your children about making “deals” with the volunteers instead of payments and mention to the students not to buy items for other students. A menu was sent home on Wednesday 5/2/14.

#### Canteen Roster

The roster is attached to this week’s newsletter if you can spare a few hours please let Mrs Sprakel in the office know. It is much easier if there are three volunteers on the Monday. On the days where no one volunteers we will have to close the canteen for that day.

#### School Fee Accounts

The Catholic Schools Office organised the first school fee account for 2014 and most of these accounts were sent out by email. A few were posted and a few were sent home through the message bags. If you have not received your account please notify Mrs Sprakel in the office to organise a copy of the 2014 account. Remember families, who have indicated to pay by instalments, these payments must be kept up to date. If you indicated on the Registration Form that was sent out at the end of 2013 that you wanted to pay by the schedule payment of three instalments and now you want to change to monthly, fortnightly or weekly please notify Mrs Sprakel in writing so that the arrangement can be changed.

#### Notification of Changes

Please notify Mrs Sprakel in the office if you have a change of address, mobile, email or emergency contact. This is very important as at times the school needs to contact parents or nominated contacts and if the numbers have changed it makes life in the office difficult.

Thank you..... Mrs Sprakel
FROM THE LIBRARY

**Borrowing**
The children began borrowing this week. Children in Kindy – Year 2 require a bag for borrowing. This can be either the blue bag, a calico or fabric bag, or even an old pillowslip. The children in Years 3-6 are not required to have a library bag for borrowing.

Thank you to all those who found books over the holidays and returned them. We still have over 30 books not returned. As a number of them were new books we will have to use part of this year’s budget to replace them before we can spend money on recently released books. So if you find any stray Library books please return them promptly.

**Helpers**
The library is looking for helpers to assist in shelving and processing books on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.45 am. If you are helping with reading in the classroom, you may like to spend the first 5 minutes in the Library while waiting for the children to be ready. We also would like to have people who are willing to cover new books at home. If you are able to assist, please fill in the form below and return as soon as possible. Having helpers in these ways will enable us to get books onto the shelves quickly for our children to borrow. Thank you for your assistance.

NAME.............................................................................

CHILD’S NAME............................... CLASS...........

I will help shelve and process books on ............................................

I will cover books at home.

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**SCHOOL CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>10 February</th>
<th>11 February</th>
<th>12 February</th>
<th>13 February</th>
<th>14 February</th>
<th>15 &amp; 16 February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6.30pm Parent Information session</td>
<td>Parish Mass Yr 5/6E</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly</td>
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<td>7pm P &amp; F Welcome</td>
<td>Parish Mass Yr 5 Reconciliation Yr 4</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly</td>
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<td>Sriniti Hill School Hall</td>
<td>KidsMatter Information session</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>17 February</th>
<th>18 February</th>
<th>19 February</th>
<th>20 February</th>
<th>21 February</th>
<th>22 &amp; 23 February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marla Regina Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Parish Mass Yr 3</td>
<td>8:45 Assembly</td>
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<td>12-3pm Warringah Aquatic Centre</td>
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**BIRTHDAYS**

- Sahara Collis
- Zannah Dixon
- Sam Vitagliano
- Olivia Smalley
- Max Connell
- Xavier Boon
- Laura Piacentini
- Jai Manfield
- Harry Briggs
- Harrison Schaut

- Patrick Brennan
- Aidan Mulcahy
- Jackson Walls
- Matteo Fragasso
- Manon Preziuso
- Caitlin Sanders
- Imogen Watkins
- Yasmin Heyes
- Lincoln Ryan
- Isabella Fisk

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**SOUL ministry – Pittwater Parish**

*Here’s what’s happening in 2014...*

SOUL Sessions - NEW COMBINED AGE GROUP – NEW TIME
Food, sport, games & faith for year 5-6 students. Every Friday night of school term from 6pm to 8pm @ Mater Maria Catholic College, 5 Forest Rd, Warringah. $5 for dinner and drinks. This regular event is our junior youth group. It is a wonderful night that provides heaps of fun and some discussion time. We chat about life and how stories from the bible are relevant to young people today. Starts Fri 14th Feb 2014 - $5 for dinner & drinks.
**CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS FOR TERM 1 2014**

If you can help at canteen during Term 1, on a Monday, please complete the form below and return to school so a roster can be made up.

These are always fun days for the volunteers plenty of cooking tips and laughs. Dad’s Grandparents and special friends are also welcome. Unfortunately if we do not have enough helpers the canteen will not be able to open on that date.

If you would like to join this fun team of volunteers please complete the tear off slip below and return to Mrs Sprakel in the school office. This year we plan to have some extra yummy special items on our canteen menu. Please tick when you are able to assist in the canteen and return the form to the office. Thank you.

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**TERM 1 Mondays 9am – 2pm**

| Week 3  
10th February | Week 4  
17th February | Week 5  
24th February | Week 6  
3rd March | Week 7  
10th March | Week 8  
17th March |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Imelda Flynn  
Deane Bourke  
Lisa Taylor | Imelda Flynn  
Tania Mullis  
**SOS HELP NEEDED** | Yvonne Eden  
Tania Mullis  
Annette Goodare | Lisa Taylor  
Louise Heyes  
Justine King | Imelda Flynn  
Annette Goodare  
Sarah Van-Reyswood | Cassandra Preziuso  
Michelle Kerr  
Elyse Johnson |
| Week 9  
24th March | Week 10  
31st March | Week 11  
7th April |  |  | **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS** |
| Imelda Flynn  
Annette Goodare  
Sarah Van-Reyswood | Imelda Flynn  
**SOS HELP NEEDED** | Imelda Flynn  
Annette Goodare  
**SOS HELP NEEDED** |  |  |  |

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Name: ___________________________________________(Please print)

Contact Number: ___________________________  Signed: ___________________________