Assessment Interviews 2014

In order to assist schools to gather appropriate assessment data early in the school year, the Catholic Schools Office have offered all Diocesan schools the option to take an extra pupil free day for the purpose of assessment. Maria Regina will be utilising this day on Wednesday 29th January, 2014. This will be a pupil free day for all students from K to Year 6. The teachers will use diagnostic, interview-type assessment to better identify student learning needs in order to inform instruction. Students will be offered an interview time slot, so they can be assessed in the area of Numeracy, with a focus on their number ability. This process will greatly speed up the learning programs for the start of the year and enable teachers to plan and teach students to their learning needs. Your child will come to school at an allocated time on Wednesday 29th January and then return home after completing tasks with their teacher. The assessments will take approximately 30 minutes and parents may wait in the school grounds or undercroft areas.

Kindergarten will be having assessments in Literacy and Numeracy as part of the Best Start program. They will be having their assessments at allocated times during this week and will start school on Monday 3rd February.

The start of the 2013 school year will be as follows.

Wednesday 29 January - School Assessment Day K-6
Thursday 30 January - Years 1 – 6 Start
Monday 4 February - Kindergarten start school

If your child is not assessed on Wednesday 30 January, other assessment arrangements will be made throughout the first weeks of school. Interview Booking Sheets will be sent home soon.

Final Assembly/Volunteer Helpers Morning Tea
Next Friday 6th December will be the final assembly of the year. We will have various presentations including a farewell tribute from the year 6 students. Following the assembly everyone is invited to a THANK YOU morning tea to show our appreciation to all the volunteer helpers throughout the year.

Welcome
We warmly welcome Zahra Higgs to 5/6O and Jai Manfield to Year 1 and their families to the Maria Regina Community.

Christmas Performance and Christmas Party
On Tuesday, 17th December Sam Browne and Caroline Mulvenna will be teaching each class an item that will become part of a fun Christmas musical experience to be performed at 5:00pm in the School Hall. Children will go home at the usual time and will be required to be back at school at 4:45pm. We are aware that some children will not be able to attend the performance due to other commitments, however it is a regular school day and they will still participate in the class lessons with Sam and Caroline even if they are unable to be in the performance. After the Christmas performance there will be the P and F Christmas Party and Disco in the school grounds. More information to follow.

Octopus Workshops
After a request put forward by the SRC we will be offering Octopus Workshops on Friday afternoon 13th December from 1:45 until 2:50pm.

Teachers and parents are invited to share their talents so we can offer a variety of different activities for the children to experience. Some of the workshops on offer last time we ran this program included cooking, collage, chess, gardening, card making, origami, knitting, woodwork, photography, dance, drawing, story writing, ball games, painting, poetry, drama, Italian, meditation, yoga.

We know there are a lot of talented parents out there just dying to share their talents. If you are able to assist with a workshop please email mra@dbb.catholic.edu.au
FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

On Wednesday Year 9 students from Mater Maria Catholic College visited us as part of their Outreach programme. They worked with children in each class and were able to help with sport, literacy, technology and art. Our children enjoy these opportunities to work with the older students and we thank the Mater Maria students for visiting us. We enjoy seeing our ex-students visiting as part of the programme.

PBL EXPECTATION OF THE WEEK:

Effective Strategies to Assist Reading Comprehension
Efficient readers use a variety of strategies as they read to comprehend text.

Predicting helps readers to activate prior knowledge about a topic, so they begin to combine what they know with the new material in the text. Predictions are based on clues in the text such as, pictures, illustrations, subtitles and plot. Readers are encouraged to make personal predictions before and during reading. Students can also use predicting to identify unknown words either before or after decoding. These types of predictions are based on the context clues; students need to determine whether the word makes sense in the text.

Inferring is a high level reading skill that efficient readers use. They take information from a text and add their own ideas to make inferences. Making inferences allows students to move beyond the literal text and to make assumptions about what is not precisely stated in the text.

Positive Behaviour for Learning
At our Monday PBL assembly this week Kindergarten presented a Safe and Caring Hands Rap. We enjoyed their performance and were reminded how important it is to have safe and caring hands at all times.

Kindergarten Safe and Caring Hands Rap
Safe and caring hands is the rule,
That we follow this week each day at school.

When we're feeling frustrated during games or play,
Don't hurt anyone, it's best to walk away.

A thumbs up or a pat on the back is ok
Hitting, kicking, pushing and shoving? No way!!!

We can fill our buckets when we follow this rule,
Safe and caring hands at school is cool.

Oh yaaaaaahhh!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>2 December</th>
<th>3 December</th>
<th>4 December</th>
<th>5 December</th>
<th>6 December</th>
<th>7 &amp; 8 December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 Parish Mass Yr 4</td>
<td>9:45 Presentation</td>
<td>Parent/Volunteer Helpers</td>
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Thank you Morning Tea, Reports Home
FROM THE REC

Class Mass
Year 4 will be attending the parish Mass on **Thursday 5th December** at 9.15 am. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend this Mass.

2014 Kindergarten
All children who are starting school in 2014 at Maria Regina Catholic School are warmly invited to attend Mass on **Sunday 1st December at 9am** at Maria Regina Church Avalon. At this Mass the children will receive a special blessing to welcome them into the Pittwater Parish community. Please join us for this very special occasion.

Thanksgiving Mass
Please join us for our Thanksgiving Mass on **Friday 13th December at 11.30am**. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank God for his blessings in 2013 and pay tribute to all those leaving our school community this year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Year 6 Graduation Mass
The Year 6 Graduation Mass will be held on **Tuesday 10th December at 6.00pm** in the Maria Regina Church. All members of our school community are welcome at this Mass. Please join us for this special occasion.

Christmas Eve Mass
Christmas is just around the corner and what better way to tell the Christmas story than to have it played out by our gorgeous children! As was posted in last week’s newsletter we are looking for participants for this year’s nativity play. It will be performed at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve which is always hugely attended! We have a brand new play this year which is very cool and even features God!! There are lots of opportunities for all ages to have speaking and non speaking roles. Please contact me, Sam, at sammeebrowne@hotmail.com or 0401343569 if you think your child would be eager to participate as we need to start soon with our rehearsals! Many thanks.

Christmas Hamper Appeal
Thank you to everyone who has already returned their gifts and food items for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. We would be grateful if you could send in the nominated food items/gift that has been allocated to your family as soon as possible. The list is not exhaustive, so if there are any other food items that you would like to donate, please feel free to send those in also. Hampers will need to be ready and wrapped by **Friday 6th December** and we would ask that the class parents prepare the hampers for collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

ADVENT

Advent in the Southern Hemisphere comes at a busy time, with the school year coming to a close and with it, assemblies, end of year preparations and celebrations all combined with the temperature heating up. All of this can cause us to miss the beautiful, contemplative, anticipatory season of Advent all together. Advent provides us with the opportunity to slow down, to reflect, and to take the time to prepare our hearts for Jesus once again. Advent is a wonderful time in the school year to model to our children the gifts of waiting, patience, anticipation and hope. Each class during RE lessons will have the opportunity to reflect on the way they may truly receive Jesus this Christmas.

Please note Monday 2nd of December is the last day for Canteen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9 2nd December</th>
<th>Week 10 9th December</th>
<th>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imelda Flynn</td>
<td>Sarah Van Reyswood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Van Reyswood</td>
<td>Sue Fisk</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Thompson</td>
<td>Imelda Flynn</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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CANTEEN CLOSED TO CLEAN

K          | Sam Prideaux         | Millie Hutchins |
---        |---------------------|-----------------|
1          | Jai Manfield         | Joshua Kerr     |
2          | Manon Preziuso       | Elsa McLean     |
|          | Kai Bourke           | Bebe Longhurst  |
3          | Noah Wise            | Sarah Cassidy   |
4          | Yasmin Heyes         | Bayley Degotardi|
5/6 Earth | Laura Piacentini     | Youki Rosewarne |
5/6 Ocean | Oscar Browne          | Sophie Holmes   |

BIRTHDAYS
Sophie Holmes  
Vaughan Harding  
Elizabeth Mitcherson  
Benjamin King  
Kira Johnson  

FROM THE OFFICE