FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Year 6 Graduation Mass
Year 6 will be celebrating their last year of primary school at Maria Regina with a special Mass next Tuesday evening, 10th December. All families are invited to attend this special Mass at the Maria Regina Church at 6:00pm. We are very proud of our Year 6’s achievements and we all look forward to following their lives. We thank the families that are moving on this year for the contribution they have made to the Maria Regina Community. We wish you all the best as you commence your journey with your new school communities.

Thanksgiving Mass
Next Friday 13th December the whole school will be attending a Thanksgiving Mass at Maria Regina Catholic Church, Avalon commencing at 11:30am. We do hope you will be able to join us. Following the Thanksgiving Mass, the P and F are providing a free Sausage Sizzle lunch for all students. On Friday afternoon all students will participate in Octopus Workshops. Please contact the office if you are able to assist with any of the workshops.

Student Reports
Student reports will go home today. Please make an appointment to see your child’s teacher if you wish to discuss any aspect of the report.

Assessment Day
Notification of your child’s time for the Assessment Day on Wednesday 29 January 2014, will be sent home next week.

Christmas Performance and School Christmas Party
We look forward to seeing all families at our Christmas performance in the School Hall on Tuesday 17th December at 5:00pm followed by a Christmas Party in the school grounds.

Parent Calendar 2014
The Parent Calendar for 2014 is attached with this newsletter. We have tried to include as many dates as possible. Please check weekly newsletters next year for any additional dates. Updated calendars will also be available on the school website www.mra.catholic.edu.au

Last day of term for students in 2013
The last day of Term for students this year is Wednesday 18th December

Last Newsletter for 2013
On behalf of the staff of Maria Regina I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful support this year. I would especially like to thank the P and F Team and all the Class Parents for all their wonderful work and effort that contributes to making our community so special. I wish everyone a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas break and look forward to working with our wonderful school community in 2014.

Teachers 2014
Kindergarten—Miss Zoe Hulme
Year 1- Mrs Angela Westerway and Mrs Rebecca Billing
Year 2- Miss Caroline Mulvenna
Year 3- Mrs Jane Labone (Acting Assistant Principal)
Year 4- Miss Christine Dunk (Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator)
Year 5/6 E- Mrs Lynne Pike/ Mrs Cathy Penning
Year 5/6 O- Mr Grant Colquhoun
Art- Mrs Cathy Penning
PE- Mrs Steph Munro
Learning Support- Mrs Chris King
Library- Mrs Fran Jones
Japanese— Miss Annie Lee

Farewell
We thank Glenda Walsh, Kath Fogwell, Diana Stachersky and Nicolette Farrell for their dedication and generosity in sharing their expertise and talents during their time at Maria Regina and wish them all well in 2014.

2013 TERM DATES

TERM 4
First day of term: Tuesday 8th Oct
Last day of term: Wed 18th Dec

2014 TERM DATES

TERM 1
Wed 29th Jan
K-6 Assessment day
Thur 30th Jan
Yr 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
FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Leadership Day
On Monday the Year 5 students will be participating in a leadership day to prepare themselves for their leadership roles next year. They will be talking about the qualities that make a good leader and how they can further develop their leadership skills.

Effective Strategies to Assist Reading Comprehension
Efficient readers use a variety of strategies as they read to comprehend text. Readers use all of their senses to continually create images as they read text. The images readers used are based on their prior knowledge. Images created by readers help them to draw conclusions, make predictions, interpret information, remember details and assist with overall comprehension.

Efficient readers continually think of questions before, during and after reading to assist them to comprehend text. Questions relate to the content, style, structure, important messages, events, actions, inferences, predictions, author’s purpose, or may be an attempt to clarify meaning. Efficient readers use these strategies simultaneously throughout the reading of text.

Awards for Academic Excellence 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Allegra Stritt, Sam Prideaux, Caitlin Sanders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr1</td>
<td>Joshua Kerr, Zannah Dixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr2</td>
<td>Patrick Brennan, Leo Barron, Maria Jojan, Bebe Longhurst,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sophie Cazalet, Joseph Taylor</td>
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<td>Yr3</td>
<td>Sarah Cassidy, Joseph Oates, Genevieve Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr4</td>
<td>Colm Holmes, Thomas Kerr, Harriet Beynon, Maya Preziuso, Jesse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr5/6E</td>
<td>Sophie Sheppard, Jemima Guberina, Laura Piacentini,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jesse Amoah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr5/6O</td>
<td>Sophie Holmes, Harvey McLean, Isobel Prandle</td>
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Creative Arts Award
Johanna Brent
**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.

**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.

**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.

The children will start rehearsing next Wednesday 11th December at school during lunchtime. Other rehearsals will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 10.00am (after 9.00am Mass) at the Maria Regina Church and on Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December at 9.30 am in the Church.

**ADVENT**
This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent. The second candle is the Bethlehem candle, reminding us Jesus the King was born in a manger in Bethlehem. This candle is the candle of peace.

**Prayer for the Advent Wreath**
Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.
He is the Saviour of us all.
O Lord,
let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise of salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

**FORMS**
Thank you to all the families who have returned any outstanding forms. If you happen to find a spare unsigned form at the bottom of a school bag please send it into the office as we are a few short.

**CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS**
Thank you to all the fantastic helpers who volunteered their time to spend a day or two, three or four in the canteen. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

**CANTEEN FIRE AND ICE SALE**
We have some calypsos and paddle pops that need to be sold at a **SALE PRICE**....If you would like to purchase any of the items please see Mrs. Sprakel in the office for a "Bargain."

**OVERDUE BOOKS**
Children who still have books out received a blue stick-it note with the title(s) this week. In some cases the children are aiming to finish the book before next Thursday. However, if the book is lost we ask that you assist your child to find it over the weekend. At present there are over 200 books out and searching for this number on the Library shelves when most of them are at home or in the classroom is too time-consuming. Hence we ask you to have a look first. Thank you for your assistance with this.
The Year in Review

2013 has certainly been busy for our Years 3-6 students of Japanese! Our Years 5 and 6 students by now have little trouble introducing themselves in Japanese and are certainly more than capable of discussing with you their likes and dislikes. They have also become quite knowledgeable about the Japanese customs, activities and fruits associated with each season in Japan. Our Years 3 and 4 students, likewise, have been working hard on their Hiragana characters and learning how to give a basic self-introduction in Japanese. As you can see from the photos, culture was the main focus this year and with each of the Japanese festivals and folktale we learnt, an associated origami was also folded. Students, I hope that you have enjoyed your Japanese studies this year. Thank you for always coming in with so much enthusiasm and eagerness to learn!

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe Christmas holiday.

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Final Lesson

As a part of their cultural-learning experience and an end-of-year treat, students in Years 3-6 Japanese classes will be completing a cultural-immersion workshop on Tuesday 10th December. The whole lesson will be conducted in Japanese only, with all instructions given in the target language as they cook and taste-test Japanese food. While this may sound challenging, students in the past have had little trouble completing the tasks and have always rated the lesson as one of their best learning experiences in Japanese, so I have no doubt that our students will enjoy the workshop, too.

On the menu this year are rice-crackers, Japanese onigiri rice balls (with tuna, corn and mayonnaise as filling), Pocky chocolate sticks and green tea.

To ensure the smooth running of the lesson, all students involved will need to bring:

- An apron or t-shirt that can be dirtied
- A plastic cup
- A plastic plate
- A plastic bowl
- A spoon
- A tea towel (for tidy up)

Students with any allergies have been noted and will be catered for. However, should there be any further concerns, please do not hesitate to notify me by email (annie.lee@dbb.catholic.edu.au)

I hope that the students will enjoy the yummy experience and look forward to seeing their happy, satisfied smiles.

Annie Lee
The strength of our Maria Regina community and the spirit between the parents and the school provided yet again another wonderful year for the P&F during 2013.

The generosity and contribution of Maria Regina parents evident through their support of the many events and activities held throughout 2013. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend events such as the Golf Day, Mother’s Day, Walkathon, Trivia Night, Election Day Sausage Sizzle, Avalon’s Biggest Garage Sale Ever, Father’s Day, Pink Breakfast and Grandparents Day.

Ongoing support from the parent community enabled the P&F to continue to provide funds to the School for the benefit of our children. All of this could not have been achieved without the generosity and work of our Parent Volunteers, Class Parent Co-ordinator, Class Parents and the P&F Executive Team.

The P&F would also like to thank the Teachers and Staff for their support and help throughout 2013. It is with their school spirit and compassion that makes Maria Regina so special for our children.

The P&F would also like to take this time to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless and Stay Safe
Justine King

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**Holiday Fun & Splash**

Looking for something fun for your kids to do this school holidays?

Send the kids along for a morning, afternoon or full day of land and water based fun activities

For kids aged 6 to 12
Full day - $54

Mon 13th January to Fri 17th January 2014

Bookings NOW OPEN
Call the Programs Office on 94518000 Option 1

WARRINGAH.NSW.GOV.AU
Warringah Aquatic Centre, Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 T (02) 9451 8000 F (02) 9975 2163