FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Year 6 Graduation Mass
Year 6 will be celebrating their last year of primary schooling at Maria Regina with a special Mass on this coming Tuesday evening, 9th December. All families are invited to attend this 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
On Thursday 11th December the whole school will be attending our Thanksgiving Mass at Maria Regina Catholic Church Avalon commencing at 11:00am. We do hope you will be able to join us.

Christmas Performance and School Christmas Party
We look forward to seeing all families at our Christmas performance in the School Hall on Tuesday 16th December at 5:00pm followed by a Christmas Picnic in the school grounds.

Student Reports
Student reports will be emailed today. I would like to commend the teachers for the time and effort that has gone into the preparation of the student reports. I know you will congratulate your children on their successes and I encourage you to support them in areas where effort needs improvement. Please make an appointment to see your child’s teacher if you wish to discuss any aspect of the report.

Assessment Day
Wednesday 28th January 2015 will be an assessment day for all students in years 1-6. Assessment times can be booked online through School Interviews. Please see how to book online at the end of newsletter.

Parent Calendar 2015
The Parent Calendar for 2015 is attached with this newsletter. We try to include as many dates as possible. Please check weekly newsletters 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 2014
The last day of Term for students this year is Wednesday 17th December.

Teachers 2015
Kindergarten-Miss Caroline Mulvenna
Year 1- Mrs Rebecca Billing
Year 2 - Mrs Jane Labone (Acting Assistant Principal)
Year 3 - Mrs Lynne Pike
Year 4 - Miss Christine Dunk (Acting Religious Education Coordinator)
Year 5/6 E - Mrs Angela Westerway/Mrs Alexis Conn
Year 5/6 O - Mr Grant Colquhoun
Art/AP/REC release - Mrs Cathy Penning
PE - Mrs Steph Munro
Learning Support - Mrs Chris King
Library/Leader of School Improvement and Community Engagement - Mrs Caitlin Remeeus

Fran Jones is making steady progress in her recovery and will be on sick leave until the end of the year. In order to ensure a full recovery Fran will be taking leave next year. Fran said to pass on that she misses everyone and is grateful for the cards and messages of support she has received. Fran will be here for morning tea on Wednesday.

We congratulate Zoe Hulme on securing a permanent position at St Cecilia’s Balgowlah. We would like to thank Zoe for her dedication and generosity in sharing her expertise and talents during her time at Maria Regina and wish her all the best for the future.

Last Newsletter for 2014
On behalf of the staff of Maria Regina I would like to thank everyone for their outstanding support this year. I would especially like to thank the P and F team and all the class parents for their wonderful work and effort that makes 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 2015.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Library News**
All Library books need to be returned to the library next week. Please have a look for any Maria Regina Library books and return them to the school library as soon as possible.

**Sport Uniform**
Players from the Sydney Kings Basketball team are visiting Maria Regina on Tuesday 9th Dec to talk to Years 3, 4 and 5.

**Awards for Academic Excellence**

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<td>Jemima Guberina</td>
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<td>Ben King</td>
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**PBL EXPECTATION OF THE WEEK:**

**OUR SCHOOL RULES**
- Respect Yourself
- Respect others
- Respect the place we are in.

**MARIA REGINA BAND**
- Cooper Johnson
- Oliver Fisk

**BIRTHDAYS**
- Aidan McKechnie
- Elsa McLean
- Daniel Breen

**Band News**

**Thank you Kath Beynon**
Kath Beynon informed me today that she not be returning as Band Convenor in 2015 as Harriet is not continuing with band next year due to her many other extracurricular activities.
Kath has been an excellent organiser and communicator and has been integral in building the band’s wonderful reputation it holds within the community today. Kath has ensured that the band members were able to perform at music nights, assemblies, participate in Eisteddfods and other public appearances. Kath has spent many hours setting up procedures and practices for the band and we can thank Kath for instigating the band uniform.
On Behalf of the whole school community I wish to thank Kath for her tireless work over the last 4 years. Maria Regina Band would not be what is today without your behind the scenes work.
Kathy Gee
Thank you for your amazing support for our Christmas Hampers – they are amazing! You will truly make a difference for families who are doing it tough this Christmas!

Thank you for your incredible support of our Candela Stall. I am really proud to announce that we raised $1004. That is a phenomenal result. Again, this will make a powerful difference to the people of Candela.

Thank you to all the families who came to Mass last Sunday to Bless our 2015 Kindergarten children. There was a lovely feeling in the Church and I’m sure our Kinder families, particularly those who are joining our school for the first time next year, felt very welcomed. We are very proud of our Year 5 Buddies!

Congratulations to our New Junior Altar Servers
Sophie, Luke, Manon, Armelle, Genevieve, Coco, Noah, Seb, Elsa and Orlando were commissioned as Junior Altar Servers at Mass on Sunday. Bishop Bernard had five on the altar serving him at our Year 4 Mass on Friday! Keep an eye out for them at weekend Mass.

Save the date – Parish News
Saturday December 13th
Following the 6pm Mass the Parish will be hosting a Christmas BBQ, in the school grounds. Come along with your Christmas cheer.
Volunteers are needed to help make this night a cheery success.
Please contact Mrs. Sprakel on 9918-2608 if you can assist.

Soibada, Timor Leste (East Timor)
Do you want to know more about Pittwater Community’s sister village? Do you want to get involved?

When: 8 December 2014 at 7.30pm
Where: Avalon Recreation Centre

Pittwater Friends of Soibada Inc (PFOS) is a registered charity that is partnered with Pittwater Council and several community groups, schools, churches of all denominations and Rotary Clubs. Volunteers have been facilitating sustainable development projects in Soibada since 2010 when Pittwater Council signed a Friendship Agreement with the people of Soibada, and their local government. This relationship centres on empowering the people.

Our goal is to facilitate the change that comes from within the Soibada community. There is a lot of initiative in the village and vast improvements have been made over the last few years. There are some fantastic proactive and forward thinking leaders in Soibada. We must enable the people to help themselves and restore the dignity that has been stolen from them during years of oppression. We work with NGOs already based in Timor Leste and staffed by Timorese people. Our initial focus is on education, sanitation, health and small business development.

Please come and hear about the latest projects. Find out what volunteers from our community have been doing over there. See how you can get involved – we need your help. We need people of varied skills.

With your support we will change the future for the children of Soibada and Timor Leste by helping them to help themselves.

If you would like to see more have a look at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_1fP0dFpKMan and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3M-1109Yq or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pittwater-Friends-Of-Soibada/162612300466694
Dear Parents

Wednesday 28th January 2015 will be an Assessment Day. Students in Years 1-5 will come to school at an allocated time and then can return home after completing a maths assessment with their teacher.

The assessments will take approximately 30 minutes and parents may wait in the school grounds or undercroft areas. Please arrive 10 minutes before your allocated assessment time.

You can now book interviews online at times that suit your family best.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE Monday 15th of December at 3pm.**

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions:

Enter **NUBHC**

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you get to “Choose Teachers” – Year 4 will offer two choices Year 4A and B. For Year 5/6 – there are four options Year 5/6 A, B, C and D.

If you cannot find a suitable time in A, look in B, etc. There will be more than one teacher carrying out interviews at the same time for these Years.

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visited the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 5555 3333

If you are unable to access the online interviews please contact the office and an appointment will be made for you.

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.