FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome
We warmly welcome the following new families to the Maria Regina community—Fogwell family, Gough family, Green family, Hanley family, Hickin family, Low family, Meppem family, Miller family, Parker family, Webb family, Marris family, Raiti-Ovidi family and Collins family.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Tamara Sloper-Harding, mother of Xavier Yr 6 and Armelle Yr 5 for being awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours List for service to the communities of Timor Leste and Pittwater.
A very deserving acknowledgement of Tamara’s dedication and ongoing commitment.
See Pittwater online news article below.
http://www.pittwateronlinenews.com/australia-day-2016---pittwater.php

Congratulations
Congratulations to Jennie Noonan and Paul Brennan on the birth of their baby boy Sean on January 8th. Ryan and Patrick are very excited about the arrival of their new baby brother.

Peninsula Schools’ Accountant
Sadly our school’s accountant, Michael Puckeridge passed away last week after a battle with cancer. Michael worked closely with all the schools on the Peninsula over the last seven years and will be greatly missed.

Condolences
Our thoughts and prayers are with the Keogh family on the recent death of Natasha’s mother Michelle de Lepervanche, grandmother of Ruby Yr 3 and Eloise K.

Parent Calendar 2016
Please find attached with this newsletter the updated Calendar for 2016. As new items are updated a new pdf will be sent.

A Message from the P and F
Welcome to all of our new and existing families to Maria Regina 2016! It is going to be a great year!
This morning’s Maria Regina P&F AGM was held. We are delighted to announce the following parents as our inbound P&F executive elect.

President – Jules Dixon (Zannah Y4)
Secretary – Vianney Boon (Xavier Y3 & Hugo Y1)
Treasurer – Jo Meppem (Estelle K)
Class Parent Co-ordinator – Sue Fisk (Isabella Y3 & Charlotte Y2)

Please join us in thanking outgoing office bearers of the 2015 P&F executive team Sally Watkins, Gus Buckner, Steve Meacham and Trish Quirk for their fantastic contribution to our school.

The P&F would also like to acknowledge Kathy Gee and her amazing team for the way in which the evacuation of Maria Regina was handled and communicated yesterday. We acknowledge and thank the Police and Avalon RSL for taking such good care of our children at a very challenging time.

The P&F are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to building on the vibrant school community that is so important to each of us and our children.

Jules, Vianney, Jo & Sue
FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

After school pick up and transport

We ask if all parents could try to help the office admin and teaching staff by telling their child each morning of their departure arrangements. If parents are running late or have an emergency we understand that it is necessary to call the school at any time to change arrangements. We have had some parent calls lately, right on the bells, that aren’t emergencies. In some cases parents are requesting departure changes at 2:55pm which makes it difficult for all.

Kiss and drop is a drive through service, where parents are required to remain in their cars so that all parents can benefit from this quick and easy service. Our teachers on duty are instructed to open all car doors, put bags into the car and finally check seatbelt’s for older students and click clack our younger students in. Please keep in mind that this service starts at 2:55pm and ends at 3:15pm. If your child is still waiting at 3:15pm the teachers on duty will bring them back to the school for pick up. We have a regular ranger who is very efficient. Parents who are stationary on Central Road blocking traffic will be booked. If Kiss and drop is congested please drive around the block.

If your child forgets how they are to go home and it's 3pm. We will take them to the office and call parents. In this case you will have to collect them from school.

Some parents use coloured ribbon on the bag to notify the student of the pick-up arrangement. (yellow = kiss and drop etc).

Cyber Safety Day was on Tuesday 9th February.
Some classes participated in this world wide event. It was a fun, innovative way to make students more aware of their personal security when texting, surfing the net, communicating with friends and gaming. The Safety Day encouraged our students to reflect on how they use digital technologies in their lives.

The e commission is a fabulous site for parents (shown on the parent night by Mr. C) I urge all parents and students to visit the office of children’s e safety’s commissioner - https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information to learn more about staying safe online.
From the REC

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of reflection and spiritual renewal, a time to examine our relationships with God and with others. It is a time to identify the things we have done wrong or wish we could change or do differently. Then we can choose to do something about them during the next 40 days of Lent.

On Wednesday, every family was given a Project Compassion Box. Project Compassion 2016 focuses on Learning More, Creating Change. Donations to Project Compassion help to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. For more information about project compassion go to the website http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Upcoming Events
Week 4
Thursday 18th Feb Year 1 and Year 2 will be attending Mass with the Parish at 9:15am
Year 5/6 Ocean will be attending Reconciliation at 10.00am

Week 5
Thursday 25th Feb Year 5 and Year 6 will be attending Mass with the Parish at 9:15am
Year 4 will be attending Reconciliation at 10.00am.

Saturday 27th Feb Year 3 and Year 4 Family Mass at Maria Regina Church at 6.00pm
There will be a family sausage sizzle after Mass. Everyone is welcome.

The Parish Pulse

Sacrament of First Reconciliation & First Communion
Trybookings is currently open for online bookings for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Please visit the following Parish website link to enrol your child:

Don’t forget you will need your special unique code which was given to you at the parent information session.
If you have any questions regarding the Sacraments please call Angela Smit at the Parish office on 9997 7311 (ext 13).

FROM THE OFFICE

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
School accounts were emailed to all families from the Catholic Schools Office at the end of January. If you have not received the account please contact Mrs Sprakel in the school office. If you opted to pay by the three schedule payments the first payment is due 26/2/16. Parents who opted to pay by time payments please ensure that your payment is received on the date specified on the account. For your information it can take up to three working days before a payment shows up on our bank statement. Also please make sure that you have the correct account reference number when paying by BPay. Your BPay reference number is the same number as the account number.

SWIMMING CAPS
Colour House swimming caps are available from the office at a cost of $5.00 each. It is a health regulation that students wear caps at the carnival.

HANDOUTS
At the meeting on Monday night there were handouts in the folders for Years 1-6 that needed to be completed and returned to the office. They were the internet forms, permission for local walks, newsletter inclusions, photographs and also a note from the CSO for videos and advertising. Please remember to return these completed forms to the office.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
Second Hand Uniforms can now be purchased on a Tuesday morning outside the canteen from 8.20am – 9am.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS
If you would like to be a volunteer in our new styled canteen on either a Monday or Friday please email me your name, phone number and what day suits you for volunteering. The canteen will be run by Kay Neale and Marie Nero both very experienced canteen managers who will make the day fun for you. The staff and students appreciate you giving up some of your “spare” time to help.

Denise Sprakel
Senior Administration Officer
denise.sprakel@dbb.catholic.edu.au
BIRTHDAYS
Eliza
Sahara
Zannah
Max
Xavier B
Ivy
Jai
Harry B
Stellarose

Library News
The library needs your help!
Mum, dads, grandparents or friends, if you have a half hour to spare after assembly next Friday I would love your help shelving and sorting books in our school library. Endless cups of tea and home baked treats are on offer for those who are available to help. Please let me know if you are able to come along or assist in covering books this year. Please also have a look at home for any library books that need to be returned.
Thanks so much.
Alexis Conn
alexis.conn@dbb.catholic.edu.au

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Soul Sessions 2016
Soul Sessions 2016 is a series of talks held at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College in Toowoomba, Queensland. The talks are designed to provide young people with an opportunity to explore their faith in a relaxed and supportive environment. The talks are open to all students in years 5-9 and are led by experienced religious education teachers. The talks are held on Wednesdays and are open to all students in years 5-9. To learn more, visit www.soulsessions.com.au

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL GROSE
Australia’s Leading Parent Educator
We all want to be the best parent we can be, come and join us as Michael shares his insights into raising happy confident kids and keys to building a strong family.
Sacred Heart Catholic, MONA VALE
Wed 24 Feb 7 pm
RSVP: DFC Website

FROM THE LIBRARY
BRIGHTEN AN OLDER PERSON’S DAY!

ALL YOU NEED IS AN HOUR A FORTNIGHT.

THE COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME IS A PROGRAM THAT MATCHES FRIENDLY, CARING VOLUNTEERS WITH OLDER RESIDENTS LIVING IN LOCAL NURSING HOMES AND HOSTELS.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THEIR DAY BY VISITING AND SHARING A CHAT AND A CUPPA.

CALL ROSEMARY 8968 5100

ORIENTATION AND SUPPORT PROVIDED

THIS INITIATIVE ISFUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay