FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Students from Tomeikan High School
On Monday we were very fortunate to have 87 Japanese students and 5 teachers from Tomeikan High School in Japan visit Maria Regina for the day. All children participated in 7 activities which were set up in the classrooms by the Japanese students. It was a very rewarding experience and I would like to thank Kiyoka Kubo our Japanese teacher and Takashi Ushinohama the director of VS Oceania for their input in making this such a successful day.
A special thanks to Mr C for having the video ready to show to our visitors before they left on Monday. Here is a link to our weebly.
http://mariareginaavalon.weebly.com/video-gallery-2016.html

A message from our Japanese visitors
It is a heartfelt pleasure to write to you all and thank you for making the Schooling experiences of our Japanese students such a success. Reports and responses from the Japanese School and students have testified to the success of the visit and express gratitude to all who have worked and adapted to make the visit happy, secure, memorable as well as educational.
It is a wonderful opportunity for Japanese students to step outside of their indigenous culture and into the friendly embrace of Maria Regina Catholic Primary School and a privilege for them to make friends with Australian students and so discover new ways of looking at the thoughts and experiences we all share. For many of the Japanese students this year's Australian visit will be a landmark in their lives which they will remember and think about for years to come.

Starfish Transition Program
Today was the second of our 4 transition sessions for the children and parents who will be commencing Kindergarten in 2017. Today the children worked in the Kindergarten room and became familiar with the Maria Regina environment. The year 5 students who will be their buddies next year helped them with some science and literacy activities. Thank you to the current kindergarten mothers who supplied and served a beautiful afternoon tea.

P and F AGM and General Meeting
P and F AGM and General Meeting will be held next Friday 18th November after Assembly at 9:15 in the school hall. At the P and F AGM all executive positions are be declared vacant. Please find attached to this email the P and F Constitution which outlines the roles of the P and F Executive.

Thank You Morning Tea
Maria Regina Catholic Primary School is extremely appreciative of the support we receive from parents, volunteers and others in our school. Your work in our school is highly valued. We would like to acknowledge your contribution to our school community by inviting you to our “Thank You” Morning Tea on Friday 9th December 2016. Please join us for the Presentation Assembly at 8:45am followed by a special “Thank You” morning tea as together we acknowledge the many people that make the Maria Regina School community so special.

Christmas Performance and School Christmas Party
We look forward to seeing all families at our Christmas Performance in the school hall on Thursday 15 December at 5pm, followed by a Christmas Picnic in the school grounds. Tables and chairs will be set up in the handball playground. Please bring your own picnic and drinks.
Preparations for the 2016/2017 Bushfire Season:

Principals have been asked by CSO to ensure that their school communities are familiar with the arrangements for responding to a Catastrophic Bushfire alert.

A new bushfire season commenced on Saturday 1 October 2016. Recent rainfall this winter has seen significant vegetation growth. Once this dries there is the potential for increased fuel for fires. With this in mind, principals of schools which have been identified as being bushfire prone should ensure that their bushfire evacuation plans are up to date and are regularly and clearly communicated to staff, students, parents and visitors.

Bushfire prone schools
Twelve Diocesan systemic schools have been identified as being “bushfire prone”. These schools are:
- St Bernard’s Catholic School, Berowra
- St Martin’s Catholic School, Davidson
- Holy Cross Catholic School, Kincumber
- St Brendan’s Catholic School, Lake Munmorah
- St Brigid’s Catholic College, Lake Munmorah
- OLSS Catholic School, Terrigal
- St Mary’s Catholic School, Toukley
- St Peter’s Catholic College, Tuggerah
- St John Fisher Catholic School, Tumbi Umbi
- MacKillop Catholic College, Warnervale
- Mater Maria Catholic College, Warriewood
- OLOPS Catholic School, West Pymble

Schools with bushfire prone enrolment catchment areas
A second group of ten schools with bushfire prone catchment areas was identified. These schools are themselves relatively free of bushfire danger, but students and staff may have to travel through bushfire prone areas on their journeys to and from the school.

These schools are:
- Maria Regina Catholic School, Avalon
- St Patrick’s Catholic School, East Gosford
- St Joseph’s Catholic College, East Gosford
- St Kieran’s Catholic School, Manly Vale
- Sacred Heart Catholic School, Mona Vale
- Corpus Christi Catholic School, St Ives
- OLR Catholic School, The Entrance
- St John the Baptist Catholic School, Woy Woy
- OLR Catholic School, Wyoming
- St Cecilia’s Catholic School, Wyong

Catastrophic Bushfire warnings will be issued around 4.30pm for the following day. If a warning is issued, quick decisions will need to be made, with limited information. It has therefore been decided that in the event that a Catastrophic Bushfire warning is issued, these two groups of schools will be required to close for the following day. On the morning of the closure the principal and CSO will discuss how to proceed should a second warning be issued that afternoon for the next day. By this time, principals will have been able to obtain local advice from the Rural Fire Service and bus companies to inform the conversation about whether it is necessary to close these schools for a second day. A bulk SMS message will be used to warn schools about impending Catastrophic bushfire conditions. Where possible, such a message will be transmitted at approximately 4.30pm for the following day.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Kindy Orientation
Our 2017 Kindy class enjoyed working with Kirsty Thorpe, the Science External Consultant from the Catholic Schools Office. To start with they viewed the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They used their fine motor skills to create a plasticine caterpillar, literacy skills to paste the caterpillar alphabet together and scientific skills to investigate silkworms. So much fun was had!

Remembrance Day
Friday 11th November 2016
This year the 11th November marks the 98th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day Australians observe one minute’s silence at 11am, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts. Year 4 led a respectful Remembrance Day liturgy today at 11:00am.

PBL
Thank you to parents for assisting our students with bringing in their hats. Many more of our students are enjoying playing outside with sun protection.

Lunchtime Options
Every Wednesday the students have the option to go across the road to the grass reserve during lunch time. We had 44 students this Wednesday enjoying the park. It was fabulous to see games of soccer, chasing, hoop games, fairies and sunshine!

Debating
Topic: That America has too much influence on Australia.
Our debating team had a tough debate this week affirming the case. We were defeated by Sacred Heart Mona Vale, who are currently top of the leader board. The adjudicator’s commented that it was a close debate with both teams refuting well and using good pacing.
FROM THE REC

Upcoming Events

Week 6
Thursday 17th November  Year 5/6 Earth will be attending Mass with the Parish at 9:15am.

Year 3 will be attending Reconciliation.

Week 7
Thursday 24th November  Year 5/6 Ocean will be attending Mass with the Parish at 9:15am.

Year 4 will be attending Reconciliation.

You are warmly invited to attend Mass with us!

Christmas Hampers
It’s that time of the year when our Maria Regina community reaches out to help bring hope, comfort and joy to families in need at Christmas time. Every year each class prepares a Christmas Hamper for needy families in Sydney. Each child is asked to bring in a specific item/s OR a gift to add to the class hamper. Donations of any additional non-perishable items are welcome. Class parents have been asked to put the hampers together on Thursday 8th December. Details have been sent home with each child.

FROM THE OFFICE

Family Registration Forms
Forms for 2017 have been sent home with all children today. These forms are green. Please complete the front, sign back of the form and return to the school office by 18 November 2016. If your form has been misplaced, please contact the office.

FROM THE CANTEEN

Reminder: For all hot or large lunch orders may we ask that you add an extra bag for any drink orders. Also, if your child is celebrating a Birthday and you would like to celebrate, please remember that the canteen can provide various ice blocks (50c-$1.20 each) or chocolate iced cup cakes @ 50c each. Please provide us with 24hours notice.

Volunteers: Please see Week 6 roster below. If you are unable to make your rostered day, please contact either Kay 0416262458 or Marie 0410566777 anytime.

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This year’s Avalon Beach Market Day is being held on Sunday 20 November 2016 from 9am to 4pm.

Carnival rides are returning along with a animal petting pen and face painting. Dodgems cars, jumping castle, big inflatable slide, a pirate ship and classic carousel will be located at the western end of Dunbar Park.

Unlimited all day “rider” pass for only $30 are for sale via Eventbrite: https://avalonmarketdayridetickets.eventbrite.com.au