FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Presentation Assembly
We are looking forward to seeing you next Friday December 9th 2016 at the final assembly of the year. We will have various presentations including a farewell tribute from the year 6 students.

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 at our Thank You Morning Tea on next Friday December 9th directly after the Presentation Assembly.

MMG Survey
We have received the report from MMG and I will be meeting with representatives from MMG to go through the report in detail in week 10. The report will be used in our strategic planning and in preparation for our school review next year. Please see end of newsletter for feedback to parents.

School Uniforms
All school uniforms, from today will only be available directly from Pickles Schoolwear.

Uniforms may be ordered online http://www.picklesschoolwear.com/ or from the shop at Brookvale.
Unit 8/ 42-46 Wattle Rd
Brookvale NSW 2100
Australia Ph 02 9905 2711

MR Regina App
The Maria Regina App now has an Alumni tab. We encourage families and students that are leaving the school to stay in touch through the Maria Regina App.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
Well Being at Maria Regina
This week we had our Pastoral care- Positive Behaviour for learning system reviewed by Jane Nethery CSO Well Being Consultant.

Here is our summary:
SET Data is a once a year ‘snap shot’ of the School Wide processes and procedures that are in place.

Celebrations.
There was OVERALL growth in the data showing significant progress from third year to fourth year. Our score increased from 96.8 % to 99.1 % an implementation average increase of 2.3 %.

EXPECTATIONS DEFINED –the school rules are known and displayed across the school. 8/8 staff were able to name the school rules. 14/15 students were able to state the school rule. Most of the students were able to identify the school rules without any hesitation and with a lot of confidence. The PBL public displays are fantastic and are a great visual display to help remind all (staff and children) of appropriate, expected behaviours.

EXPECTATIONS TAUGHT – 8/8 teachers indicated that they were teaching behaviours explicitly each week. Great idea having the focus of the week introduced at assembly by the Year 6 students. Well done!

REWARD SYSTEM – this presents the staff and students awareness of rewards (PBL tokens). 8/8 staff indicated that they rewarded appropriate behaviours using the PBL award ‘token’ system.

IMPLEMENTATION AVERAGE – is an overall snapshot of the data – we’re aiming for a sustained score of 75% - your score this year is 99.1%– Well done – an increase of −−2.3 %.

Congratulations.

Fantastic effort from Maria Regina staff and students!

Band
There are so many benefits created from playing an instrument with studies showing that years of practice and learning, can create alternate connections in the brain that can compensate cognitive declines as we get older! Best we all start playing an instrument! We have great opportunities for our students here at Maria Regina!

We are promoting opportunities for students to join our school band programme.

Next Tuesday 6th December Year 2 students and other interested students will be invited to join our school band rehearsal. These students will receive information about our wonderful band programme.

(A good article about the benefits of music http://www.livescience.com/40597-playing-musical-instrument-good-health.html)

The Second Hand Clothing Pool is now closed for the rest of the year and will reopen in 2017 every Tuesday at 8.20am.

If you have any items of clothing that you would like to donate please send them into the office.
**Bishop Bernard’s Anniversary celebrations**

Yesterday the children attended Mass to celebrate Bishop Bernard’s 60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination. It was a lovely opportunity for the Maria Regina community to thank God for the many gifts that Bishop Bernard has given us. Thankyou to the many parents who attended and to Sam Browne, Mrs Pike and Mr C for leading us in the singing. *We look forward to seeing many families on Sunday* at 9.00am at Bishop Bernard’s Anniversary Mass.

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**Second Sunday of Advent**

On the second Sunday of Advent we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, the peace candle. In the readings this week we are reminded to change our lives and be ready for Jesus. Do we treat people as we would like to be treated? Do we judge others by how they look or act? By Jesus’ example we can learn to treat others the way we would like to be treated.

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**Family Mass**

Thankyou to everyone who attended our Family Mass last Saturday night. At the Mass Fr George blessed the children who are starting school at Maria Regina next year. After Mass many families stayed to enjoy a sausage sizzle. Thankyou to all those who assisted on the night to help make it such a special celebration.
Pope Francis Joy Tour
Pope Francis has been very busy during his week at Maria Regina, playing volleyball and tennis, and sharing lunch with the children. Many children took the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Pope in the purpose built photo booth!!
Curriculum Corner with 5/6 Earth

This term Year 5/6 Earth has been learning about safe and unsafe road practices. Yesterday we interviewed the staff of Maria Regina on what we think is working well and not so well around our school community. Here is Jayden’s interview with Mrs Labone.

Jayden: What road safety practice works well around our school?
Mrs Labone: Kiss and Drop because parents don’t all have to come at the same time. Children can be picked up when it suits the parents within a small time frame. It also keeps the students safe.

Jayden: How does Kiss and Drop work well and how can it improve?
Mrs Labone: The teachers walking the students over and assisting students in getting into the car works well. We can improve by encouraging parents to stay in the car. When parents get out of the car this slows the process down and causes traffic issues. The traffic builds up and parents get fined for being in the no stopping zone. If parents stay in their car and let the teachers buckle the students in then the process is a lot quicker and smoother.

Jayden: How can we improve our knowledge of road safety?
Mrs Labone: Put messages in the newsletter and links to websites. For students we can take photos of good examples and promote this around the school.

Jayden: How can we make roadside safety more efficient around our school?
Mrs Labone: We need to remind students and parents about the rules. We can encourage parents to walk on the school side of the road where there is a foot path and hold their child’s hand when crossing the road.

Jayden: How can we stop parents jay-walking with their children outside of the school?
Mrs Labone: We can educate the students and ask them to encourage their parents to use the crossing. Teachers also need to set a good example.

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Dear Maria Regina Parent,

As part of our school improvement process, in 2016 I commissioned independent, confidential satisfaction reviews with our parents, staff and students.

We greatly value the views of our key stakeholders as this information is most important for our operational and strategic planning as well as monitoring our performance.

In August/September a total of 59 parents and 31 students (Years 5 & 6) completed the survey. We are most grateful to parents for their time and effort in assisting us with this important element of our continuous improvement process.

The surveys were extensive and covered in excess of 200 factors in relation to your experience and your child’s education at Maria Regina.

The charts below are some extracts of the overall results. The scores represent the percentage of parents noting their expectations had been met or exceeded for their most important nominated school choice drivers. For example 97% of parents noted their expectations had been met or exceeded for the aspect ‘Focus on student welfare, providing a safe and caring environment’, the most important aspect noted by parents.
Whilst we are very pleased with these results, your feedback has indicated there are some areas that we will be looking into further.

Parents were also invited to provide ‘open responses’ to the most valued aspects of their experiences at Maria Regina. The most frequently nominated areas are:

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<th>2016 Maria Regina Parents - What do you value most about your association with the School?</th>
<th>(Top 10)</th>
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<td>The school community</td>
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<td>Great teachers &amp; staff</td>
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<td>Support and attention provided to students</td>
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<td>Caring and nurturing environment</td>
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<td>The caring respectful values taught</td>
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<td>Friendships made</td>
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<td>Excellent communication within the community</td>
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<td>Approachable Principal</td>
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<td>Opportunities offered</td>
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I wish to thank the 2016 parents sincerely for this feedback and for the extent of information and quality of views expressed.

Attached is a small sample of some of the ‘open ended’ comments from parents in relation to what they value most about their experience at the School.

I wish you and your family the very best for the future and hope Maria Regina continues to meet your and your son’s/daughter’s needs and expectations.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gee
Principal
Some 2016 Parent quotes on what is valued about Maria Regina

Maria Regina is truly a small school with a big heart. There are so many positives that far outweigh any negatives. I have had two daughters educated at MR, one now in Year 7 and the other soon to be in 18 months, and this school has given them so many opportunities that a larger school may not have offered on many levels from learning, leadership, sport, general well-being, confidence building, resilience and a great social justice awareness, as every student is encouraged to participate and have a go if they please to do. Also, to know every child and teacher and most parents is something they will never have again.

Definitely the school community, such a wonderful group of people that truly and practically support each other on a daily basis.

I value the small classes, the attention that my son has received which his learning difficulty in Reading/writing. I would like to see or know about more extension work that he could receive in Maths. I value that every teacher knows every child. I appreciate how approachable the Principal is.

I love that every teacher knows my child’s name and she knows theirs too. That is important to my child who needs to feel familiar to be comfortable and thrive.

Dedicated, experienced and caring teachers.

We are a lovely community with wonderful families and teachers who put in 100% plus.

It is a welcoming, nurturing school with excellent teaching. My daughter loves coming to school every day

The fact that all staff knows every member of my family by name and has provided a caring, nurturing environment for our son to develop his love of learning. The school has been very supportive of his needs and look forward to our other children enjoying the school later on.

It is great to see older students so open and friendly with the younger children. This is the most impressive aspect of our experience with the school so far.

I most value the care, awareness and consideration of my son's learning and personal development. I love the way children play and support each other across the years, which I feel is particularly transparent and achievable in a smaller school environment. I really appreciate the welcome we have received as parents into this school community.

The school community is particularly strong and engaging to new families with initiatives created by P&F and school executive for socialising and building connections among families. This is a particular strength. We also value the smaller nature of the school.

On the whole, our children are very happy to go to Maria Regina school each day and we are grateful for this! We are particularly thankful for the quality of classroom teacher our children are experiencing and the confidence they are developing being in a warm, inclusive school community such as Maria Regina.