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, 8th December**. All families are invited to attend this Mass at the Maria Regina Church at 6pm. We are very proud of our Year 6 students 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 **Friday 11th December** the whole school will be attending our Thanksgiving Mass at Maria Regina Catholic Church Avalon commencing at 11:30. We do hope you will be able to join us.

**Fun activities at Beach**
After the Thanksgiving Mass the teachers will take all children over to the northern grass area of Avalon Beach for lunch and some fun activities. Parents are welcome to join us.

**PLEASE NOTE**
Children are asked to wear Sports Uniform on Friday and will wear this to Mass. Please make sure students wear the correct School Sports Uniform and that hair is neat and tidy.

**Christmas Performance and School Christmas Party**
We look forward to seeing all families at our Christmas performance in the School Hall on **Tuesday 15th 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.

**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 the 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.

**Last day of term for students in 2015**
The last day of Term for students this year is **Wednesday 16th December**

**Assessment Day**
Friday 29th January 2016 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.

**First Day 2016**
The first day of school for Years 1-6 will be on **Monday 1st February**. Kindergarten’s first day will be **Tuesday 2nd February**.

**Teaching Staff 2016**
Mrs Fran Jones has resigned from her position as Teacher Librarian due to health reasons. We thank Fran for all the work she has done in the library over the last several years. We hope that Fran will be able to join us for the Thanksgiving Mass next Friday.

I would like to thank Christine Dunk for the enthusiastic way she has been involved in the Maria Regina Community over the last two years. She has generously shared her gifts and talents and wholeheartedly embraced the liturgical life of the school and Parish. We wish her all the best on her return to her permanent REC role at St John's Narrabeena.

I would like to acknowledge the competent way that Jane Labone has stepped into various acting leadership positions over the last few years, the most recent as Acting Assistant Principal. Jane will continue to be on the leadership team next year when she takes up the substantive role as Religious Education Coordinator. Caitlin Remeeus will be returning to her full time position as Assistant Principal.
Condolences
Our thoughts and prayers are with the McKechnie family on the recent death of Rochelle’s father, grandfather of Aiden (Yr6), Ethan (Yr4) and Sophia (K).
We also offer our condolences to the Prandle family on the recent death in England of Nic’s mother, Sue Williams. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nic, Owen, Tom (Yr 5) and Isobel (Yr 7).

Last Newsletter for 2015
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 2016.

We have had a report of a case of Impetigo in our school. Please read the information below regarding this infection.

Impetigo is a very contagious skin infection. It is most common in children and infants. Impetigo is found generally on the face, especially around the nose and mouth.

**Symptoms of Impetigo**
Impetigo usually starts as small, raised red spots on the skin that quickly turn to little blisters filled with clear fluid or pus.

**Impetigo treatment**
Take your child to the doctor as soon as you suspect impetigo. Your doctor will examine your child and may prescribe an antibiotic ointment to apply directly onto the affected skin or an antibiotic to take by mouth.

**Impetigo is very contagious**. Do not send your child with impetigo to school or pre-school until the treatment prescribed by your doctor has commenced, and all the sores are covered with watertight dressings. The infected child should not use the same towels, linen or flannels as the rest of the family. Everyone in the family must be careful about hand washing.
See your doctor again if the sores are not getting better or they are getting worse, despite treatment; or your child seems unwell in any other way.

**Band News**
Our bands stole the show at Market Day! Both bands performed so well. Many thanks to all the families who watched the performances.

**Go Maria Regina!!**
Our Band students have had a wonderful year. To celebrate this they will be having a Band party next Monday 7th December after their rehearsal.
To encourage new students to join our band we will be inviting years 2, 3 and 4 students to watch the final band rehearsal on Monday 7th December. Forms will be handed out to interested students. Clare Belford our Band Director will be at this rehearsal. She’ll follow up interested students with a music assessment next year.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our Senior Band members.

Cooper Johnson  
2012-2015 Percussion  
Thomas Kerr  
2012-2015 Bass Clarinet

Harrison Schaut  
2012-2015 Alto Saxophone  
Asher McLean  
2012-2015 Trumpet

Jesse Amoah  
2012-2015 Saxophone  
Aidan McKechnie  
2012-2015 Clarinet

Regards

Caitlin Remeeus  
Band Co-ordinator
**FROM THE REC**

**Family Mass**

Congratulations to our Year 5 students! Last Saturday night, they made our last Family Mass very special. Not only did they carry out their ministries reverently and with great confidence but they also did an outstanding job of making our new 2016 Kindergarten children and their families feel welcome. They were exemplary ambassadors for our school. Many thanks also go to the Year 5 parents (and big brothers and sisters) who made the sausage sizzle such a success. Thanks to the teachers for preparing a beautiful Mass, to Sam Browne, Lynne Pike and Matt M (capably filling in for Mr C) for the beautiful music, and to Bishop Bernard for presiding over a truly joyful celebration of our faith.

**Congratulations Bishop Bernard**

On Tuesday, the SRC and our Captains and Vice Captains went to Parish Mass to celebrate the 59th anniversary of Bishop Bernard’s ordination. We really are blessed to have his leadership, wisdom, depth of faith and *joie de vivre* in our community.

**Christmas Hampers**

Congratulations, Maria Regina! Once again, your generosity has been above and beyond! A huge thanks to the Class parents and their helpers for wrapping up the hampers for us - it was a big job!

**Altar Server Training**

Traditionally, we hold training for those who wish to become junior altar servers in Term 4. However, this year, the sacrament of First Communion wasn’t held until Term 4 so training for new servers will happen in Term 1 next year. For those servers who have already trained but are not on the weekend roster, you can contact Margaret Abrahams - mba@bigpond.net.au - and she is happy to talk to you about including you on the roster on a day and time that suit you.

**Calling all Musicians/Performers/Singers**

Maria Regina’s Christmas Celebration will be held on Tuesday 15th December. Any students who play musical instruments or sing are invited to provide pre-concert entertainment in the playground before going to the school hall for the class items. Students will have the opportunity to play Christmas Carols on their instruments, sing Christmas songs either solo, in small groups or larger groups. We would really love as many performers as possible and create a great Christmas vibe. Parents, friends and families can walk around the playground listening to all of the wonderful performers in the half an hour before the class items.

Please let Mr C know next week if you are interested in performing.

**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! We are looking for participants for this year’s nativity play. It will be performed at the Maria Regina 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve which is always hugely attended!

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 like to participate.

---

**The Parish Pulse**

**Holy Communion**

A big Congratulations to all the children who celebrated their First Holy Communion over the past two weekends. It was lovely to see all the children so happy and excited to be receiving this Sacrament. I hope you all enjoyed your special day and may God bless you and protect you all as you continue your faith journey.

Angela Smit – Pittwater Parish Sacramental Coordinator
A few people have enquired about drum and guitar lessons for 2016. If you are interested in having lessons with me after school on either Monday or Thursday, please email me as soon as possible so I can work out a timetable. This is available to new, existing and also past students and/or parents of Maria Regina. Thanks to all my current students for a great year and I look forward to starting up lessons again in the New Year.

Mr C
grant.colquhoun@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Dear Parents

Friday 29th January 2016 will be an Assessment Day. Students in Years 1-6 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 mins before your allocated assessment time.

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

**BOOKINGS CLOSE** Monday 14th of December at 3pm.

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

1. Enter your details
2. Choose teachers
3. Choose times

When you get to “Choose Teachers” – each class will have two options – e.g. Year 1 A and Year 1 B. 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 each class.

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.

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