Dear Parents,

Traditionally the months of May and October are months dedicated to Mary. One prayer recited by Catholics all around the world is The Rosary. The word rosary comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. If you were to ask what object is most emblematic of Catholics, people would probably say, "The rosary, of course." In recent years the rosary has made a comeback recognising it as a truly biblical form of prayer — after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

The Rosary begins with the Apostles Creed, followed by one Our Father, three Hail Marys (traditionally offered for an increase in faith, hope, and charity for those praying the Rosary), a Glory Be, and, if desired, the Fatima Prayer. Next come five mysteries, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, a Glory Be, and, if desired, the Fatima Prayer. Conclude with the Hail Holy Queen. The mysteries include - The Joyful Mysteries, The Luminous Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries and The Glorious Mysteries.

Students have been saying the Rosary with their classes and Miss Boidin has been taking small groups to the Church to recite the Rosary. Could your family find time to pray together this month?

We would like to say a massive thanks to the mothers who arranged our Mother’s Day Stall and Breakfast last week. It was wonderful to welcome so many mothers to our school. Our thanks to Alex Quinn and Nancy Peaty for their organisation of the stall and our P&F for the organisation of the breakfast - we hope all mothers enjoyed their special day.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL
BOOK CLUB
The current Book Club brochure Issue 3 2017 has been sent home with all students. **ORDERS FOR ISSUE 3 CLOSE 18.5.17.** To order and pay for Book Club by credit card visit www.scholastic.com.au. Please order and pay via the website. Books will be delivered to the school and distributed to students. Any questions, please contact Kristine Muir, Book Club Coordinator.

SCHOOL FEES
School fee statements for Term 2 have been issued and are due for payment by May 29. Please contact Susan Albertini in the office if you have any school fee queries.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MEETING
All Year 6 parents are invited to attend our first meeting TONIGHT to discuss the end of year celebrations for Year 6. We will be holding the meeting in the School Library starting at 7:00pm. We hope to see you all there!

ENROLMENT FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
There are two (2) time slots available for parents to enrol their child for the sacrament of First Holy Communion. To be eligible, your child must have completed their First Reconciliation. Please attend Mass either on Saturday 20th May at 5:30pm or Sunday 21st May at 9:30am to enrol your child. For more information, please contact the Church office.

There will be a Parent Information Night to discuss Communion on Tuesday 23rd May at 7:00pm in the Church meeting room. Your child must be enrolled before attending this meeting.

IMPORTANT OOSH MEETING
A reminder that if your child/children attend OOSH, you are required to attend a meeting being held on Monday 22nd May at 6:00pm in the OOSH building.

1-2-3 MAGIC PARENT COURSE
Information was sent home last week regarding the 123 Magic & Emotion Coaching Parent Course being offered at our school during June. If you would like to attend, please see the ladies in the office to register. There is a small $10 cost per parent/couple/carer.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
May 17  Gigi Truesdale
  Alysha Milic
May 19  Jake Ban
  Audrey Tomasoni
  Olivia Campos
May 22  Emma Biviano
May 24  Stefanie Gabriel
May 25  Lucas Laguzza
May 28  Ashley Adams
May 29  Grace Ban
  Brodie Hart
May 30  Liam Hardman

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
Now in its 18th year, National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual event when all primary school children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

The event will be held throughout Australia on **Friday 19 May 2017** and is an opportunity for parents and carers of primary school aged children to promote safe pedestrian behaviour.

WSTSD will inform parents and carers that they need to closely supervise their young children, particularly those under 10 years of age, in all road environments, holding hands when near or crossing the road.

WSTSD will promote and inform parents, carers, teachers and children of the significant physical, mental and social health benefits which can be achieved through regular walking. The event is supported by the Australian Government, all State, Territory Governments and Local Governments.

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The Great St Mary’s BOOK SWAP!

On Wednesday, 24 May our school will be taking part in National Simultaneous Story Time. This means that our school will be sharing the same story at the same time as schools all over Australia!

To celebrate this day and to promote reading for fun, we are having a BOOK SWAP. We ask that every student brings to school a book they have enjoyed reading to swap with a classmate. We ask that the books are:

- in good condition
- enjoyable
- at the appropriate level for the grade

Please understand that the children are making permanent swaps—they will not get their original book back. So please don’t send a treasured story but rather a book that your child has read and enjoyed and is willing to exchange for another equally enjoyable book.
ROAD SAFETY
Recently the Road Safety Officer from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta audited our road safety policies and procedures and provided the following feedback: “It was great to see how your school works with road safety this afternoon. You should be congratulated on such a well run school. You are one of the best schools we have been to visit in regards to road safety. The way students are moved across roads is extremely good. Teachers open gates and then students follow them across the road. You have done a great job educating your parents, by making them come into the school and hold their child’s hand to leave the school. Great to see staff in Hi Vis walking students to cross busy roads. Again a job well done. We look forward to using your school as a great example of road safety in the Parramatta Diocese.” This is great feedback for both parents and staff – congratulations everyone! Please remember to hold your child’s hand when crossing the road or walking through car parks. Please also avoid standing in groups near the crossing / road as this can be a distraction to drivers.

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TV SHOWS, MOVIES AND WEBSITES
Having regular conversations with your child/children are the best way to know what they are watching on Netflix, Stan, Foxtel as well as the sites that they are accessing on their devices. Appropriate content includes sites, TV shows and movies that have a rating of ‘G’ (General). More information about classifications can be found here http://www.classification.gov.au/

TAKING PHOTOS AT SCHOOL EVENTS
Parents and family members are reminded that they may take photos of their own child at school events. Other students should not be photographed nor their images shared via social media or even sent via SMS at any time. If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Mr Blissenden.

NOTE FROM THE PRC—FREE PARENT/CARER SEMINAR
There will be a Free Parent Seminar held on Monday 29th May at the Catholic Learning Communities of St John XXIII, St Mark’s College, 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens.

The meeting will be presented by Dr Justin Coulson and the subject is “Raising Resilient Children”. Registrations are now open, visit www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events for more information.