Dear Parents,

Our students and staff are continuing with the hard work of our school and while there are still a number of weeks until we conclude the year, and many events and tasks to complete, I thought I would share with you a prayer I came across recently that focuses on the end of the year:

Christ, Teacher and Lord,
Bless all in this school
As we seek to end our year
With the grace you so generously provide.

We give thanks for the students
And the staff of our school,
And all who have contributed
To this year of nurturing and growth.
We affirm all the positive moments,
Of insight, of the excitement of learning,
Of accomplishment, of creativity,
Of laughter, of a sense of community.

Bless us and keep us safe
Amen.

Some important events for the rest of the term include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 28th November</td>
<td>Swimming Program Commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12th December</td>
<td>End of Year Awards Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>Parent Thank You Morning Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass—6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival/Tabloid Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>End of Year Mass 9:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Day for Students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL
FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

STAFFING 2017
Plans for staffing are now well underway for 2017. Following some reflection, Kate Delbridge has made the decision to retire. Miss Kate started at St Mary’s in 1998 and at the end of next year she will have been employed for 20 years here. Kate’s dedication and commitment to our school cannot be underestimated and the positive impact she has had on the lives of so many students and families will be remembered for years to come. In 2017 Kate will enjoy some Long Service Leave and then retire giving her time to enjoy travel, her garden and time with family and friends. The recruitment process is now underway to find a suitable Financial Officer for our school. We are planning a farewell and some celebrations to mark this significant event – details to follow.

After 9 years of full time teaching here at St Mary’s Miss Rose Lopresti has accepted a position at St Patrick’s Primary School at Mortlake. St Patrick’s is a brand new school and Miss Lopresti will be part of the Foundation Staff – quite a unique opportunity. We will find a time to formally thank Miss Lopresti and wish her every success for her future teaching but I know you join with me in wishing her every success in this new venture.

Mrs Davidson will continue to be on Parental Leave during 2017. Miss Maree Elias will be traveling and teaching overseas from next year and Mrs Louise Caruana has decided to resign from her full time position to concentrate on completing her studies and traveling more in 2017. Mrs Caruana has been on leave this year. Mrs Sonia Fulwood, Miss Katarina Tomasic and Mr Edward Shaw have all accepted positions with us commencing in 2017. Miss Tomasic and Mrs Fulwood are well known to our community having worked here during 2016. Mr Shaw is an experienced teacher who joins our staff after working at St Patrick’s Blacktown and most recently in Catholic schools in London. He has also worked casually at St Mary’s. The process to complete our staffing is underway and a full staff list will be published in the coming weeks, once classes have been finalised.

CLASSES FOR 2017
Teachers will shortly commence the arrangements of class groups for next year. If you feel there are some important pieces of information we need to know about classes for next year, you are invited to write to Mr Blissenden so that this can be considered in placements.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 4—Week 6

KA  Mia Lucas-Brown, Olivia Campos
    Gus Gilroy
KE  Anna Ivanova & Olivia Boumalhab
1B  Nico Fleitas, Misa Simili, Imogen Piper
1F  Ela Torres, Jacob Nassima, Jackson Henstock
2T  Eugene Jung & Dominic James
2Q  Luke Porter & Isla Ballout
3G  Matthew Ogrizek & Max Di Sano
3M  Indiana Liu & Isaac Zouak
4J  Cooper Frain & Amy Choi
4K  Jonas Pellegriti & Chloe Williams
5E  Charlotte Bowskill & Ethan Rauniyar
5L  Eve Kannemeyer & Elizabeth Hogan
6B  Mikeeli Lake & Ryan Field
6L  Emily Radford & Alexander Jailil

CARE AWARDS
TERM 4—Week 6

KA  Caleb Filardo & Joshua Adams
KE  John Choi & Sara Sangachhe
1B  Isabel Kable, Sam Myhill, Benjamin Rust
1F  Chelsea Giraldi, Aren Simonyan, Nate McKinnon
2T  Ayva Younes & Jireh Samuel
2Q  Thomas Hill & Cooper Kennedy
3G  Brianna Ward & Emily Bagnall
3M  Joshua Tenorio & Phoebe Kim
4J  Bianca Tandean & Mia Northwood
4K  Bailey Radford & Emma Biviano
5E  Reshan Weerakkody & Elana Lavaki
5L  Annika Byrne & Zane White
6B  Ethan Lee & Max Luburic
6L  Kane Vinton & Erin Suffling
FROM THE ACTING ENGLISH COORDINATOR...

As we approach the end of our school year, we, as teachers, spend a lot of time looking back over the work that your children have done. We see how much they have grown, both academically and physically, and we feel proud. Not of ourselves, but of the hard work and dedication of the students and of the growth they have made over the course of the year. I have been able to monitor their growth in reading and writing and it has been wonderful.

In order to maintain this growth and to cement these skills in your children you need to do two things over the long summer holidays;

- ensure that your children read and/or are read to EVERY DAY
- ensure that your children do some kind of simple writing task each week

These tasks could include writing the shopping list, sending a postcard, sending an email to a friend, writing a fun story with you or a friend, writing a diary of exciting holiday events, to name a few.

If you can keep your children in touch with reading and writing over the holidays you will be amazed at how much easier it will be for them to settle into the new school year.

For a great article about supporting writing at home head to:
http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/tips-to-support-writing-at-home/

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and that Santa brings everyone at least one really good book!

Amanda Gierek
Acting Literacy Coordinator

BAND NEWS...

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The School Band is now taking enrolments for 2017 and participation is open to all students who are currently in Years 2-5. No prior experience is required.

Students will have recently attended a Concert by the band and Teaching Services Australia (TSA) staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will also have received a green Instrumental Band Program Introduction form. Students who return this tear-off form, Expression of Interest, will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive Enrolment Pack with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

This green Expression of Interest form is due back to the school office within 5 days. You can download this note at www.teachingservices.com.au or for more information email info@teachingservices.com.au.
BOOK CLUB
The current Book Club brochure Issue 8 2016 has been sent home with all students. **ORDERS FOR ISSUE 8 CLOSE 28/11/16.** 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.

LEAVING STUDENTS
Another reminder to parents — if you know your child is leaving St Mary’s at the end of 2016 (excluding Year 6) please advise the school office in writing of your new contact details and the name of the school your child will be attending. It is a legal requirement that you inform us of the school your child will be attending in 2017. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

‘PARENT HELPER’ THANK YOU MORNING TEA
Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have changed the date of the upcoming Parent Helper Morning Tea. It will now be on Tuesday 13th December at 10:30am. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MEETING
The next Year 6 Graduation meeting will be held Tuesday 29th November from 6:00pm in the school library. All Year 6 parents are most welcome to come along.

CHILDREN’S NATIVITY PLAY
Calling all children who wish to take part in the children’s nativity play. Please come along to the church on Saturday 26th November at 10:15am when we will be selecting parts.

We are also in need of parents to help and to please bring any costumes you may have. Any questions, please call Anne Marie on 0410 299 681.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 16</td>
<td>Tara Quinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hayden Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Leila Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>Natalia Pan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Vazgen Simonyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Olivia Marshall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>Luca Biviano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chloe Munoz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Sanjana Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacob Zaouk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brianna Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 23</td>
<td>Josephine Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Ryan Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carissa Gallagher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Olivia Kostic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ayva Younges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Natasha Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Bietola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>Larissa Laguzza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luca McGilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Torie Shi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**PICK UP & KISS**
We would welcome some additional volunteer parents to assist with the afternoon collection on Myrtle Street – are you able to offer one afternoon a week/fortnight/month? Please see Miss Stacey in the office if you can. Children of parents assisting at Pick Up and Kiss are asked to wait under the COLA and not in front of the hall.

**CHANGE OF HOME OR EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**
If you have any changes to your home or emergency contact numbers, please contact the school office as soon as possible. In cases of sickness or emergency, it is important that we have the correct contact details for your child(ren). You can also update your details via the school’s skoolbag app under the Parent eForms tab.