Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for the final term of 2009. We welcome any new families to our school community. We also welcome back Mr Stennett who has returned after three months long service leave. I hope the holiday period was a restful and enjoyable time with your children without the pressures of timetables, school routines and homework!

This weekend we celebrate the feasts of All Saints and All Souls days. Both these feast days are significant celebrations in the Church’s liturgical calendar. Over the weekend and at our Parish masses, we pray for and remember those of our families and friends who have passed away. Though they are no longer with us, their spirit, memories and the love we have for them are always present in our hearts and minds. The school community, Grades 3-6, will celebrate with Father Peter the mass of All Souls Day next Monday with our parishioners at the 9:15 am mass. Friends and families of our school community are invited to join us for this celebration.

As we draw closer to the end of the year, children tend to outgrow their uniforms. If you don’t have siblings or cousins to hand them to, you could always donate them to the second hand clothing pool that operates every second Friday. If you have any uniforms that are of a good quality, free of stains etc please send them into the school office and they will be greatly appreciated by others in the school community.

Last Thursday I had the privilege of taking the Year 6 Cricket teams, both boys and girls, to the Milo Cricket Super Eights Gala Day. Both teams played very well throughout the day achieving good results. The most pleasing aspect of the day was the sportsmanship and encouragement shared by all our children not only with St Mary’s students but also with the opposing teams. Congratulations and thank you to these children for the way in which you represented our school. Thank you to those parents who supported the teams on the day.

Enclosed today is this term’s school planner. Please pay particular attention to the various events throughout the term and put them in your diaries. It is a busy term with our annual swimming programme, Christmas celebrations, Year 6 graduation and end of year housekeeping just to name a few! Please be advised that the school term finishes for students on Wednesday 16th December. Teachers will remain at school planning for 2010 until the Friday.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
**RECONCILIATION FOR 2009**
Below are the dates for Reconciliation for this year:

**Parent Information Night**
Wed 28th October—7:30pm in the Church. A copy of the child’s Baptism Certificate is required.

**Enrolment**
Weekend of 7th & 8th November, 2009. Enrolments will be taken at each Mass held over this weekend.

**Preparation Session**
Choice of Sat 14th November 10am—4pm or Sun 15th November 10am—4pm

**Liturgy for Sacrament of Penance**
Friday 20th November—7:30pm

**Please note:** Child is to be OVER 7 years of age and baptised. This Sacrament is required PRIOR to Confirmation and First Holy Communion (which will take place in 2010). If there are any queries, I can be contacted on 9613 8801.

Thank you, Diane O-Shea.

**PARENT LINE —1300 130 052**
Catholic Care’s Parent Line is a free counselling service for Parents and Carers of children 0-18 years across NSW 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Professional counsellors are available to talk to parents about a wide range of issues.

**OUR PRAYERS & THOUGHTS**
We are sorry to hear of the loss of Mr Fairalls’ father during the school break. We send our love and prayers to Ashleigh of 4Q/A and Isabella of 1L and their family.

**SPORTS UNIFORM DAYS**
As a reminder, below is a list of the days the children are to wear their sports uniform:

- Kinder: Monday and Friday
- Year 1: Wednesday and Friday
- Year 2: Wednesday and Friday
- Year 3: Wednesday and Friday
- Year 4: Tuesday and Friday
- Year 5: Thursday and Friday
- Year 6: Tuesday and Friday

**BABY NEWS**
Congratulations to the Cimillo family, Alex in 1P, on the birth of their daughter Francesca.

**WELL DONE...**
to the 44 students who participated in the 2009 Mathematics International Competition and Assessments for Schools. Four children received a Distinction and 14 children received a Credit. You have all done your school proud— congratulations to every student who participated.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**
Last term the Positive Behaviour Support Committee held a poster competition to promote our 3 school rules:
- Care and respect ourselves
- Care and respect others
- Care and respect property

Thank you to all the children who participated in this competition. We would like to congratulate the following children for their winning entries:
- * Bethany Botto 1L
- * George Sheslow 4B
- * Luci Rowe 5M
- * Maya Thomas 5J

You will see their posters around the school.

**FAMILY PORTRAITS**
Just a reminder that the Family Portraits have been booked for Saturday 14 November 2009. If you have already put in your form and are prepared to go ahead, we will confirm your time closer to the date. It’s a great opportunity to have a family portrait done, they are a professional company and produce terrific shots. They will make a great Christmas present!! You can contact me on my mobile 0404 981 467, thanks Michelle.

**PRAYER GROUP**
The Christ’s Catholic Community group cordially invites everyone to come and say the rosary and listen to the explanation of Sunday’s Liturgy of the Word. Every Thursday morning, after the 9:15am Mass. For more details contact Irene on 0418 403 358. Come and hear what God has to say and allow Him to bring peace and joy into your life.

**ST MARY’S FAMILY BUSH DANCE**
Friday 13th November.
Mark this date in your diary now—more information to follow shortly...
FAITH JOURNEY...

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
Tonight there will be an information session for all parents who would like to enrol their child in this year’s Reconciliation program. Reconciliation is the first of the three sacraments which form the overall parish sacramental program. Next year the program continues with Confirmation and Holy Communion. Children must be seven years or older to enrol. If your child has missed the program in the past and is presently in an older grade, it is fine for them to join.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS
Next Monday, 2nd November, the Parish will be holding a special morning mass to celebrate the feast of All Souls. Primary classes have been invited to attend and we would like to extend that invitation to all St Mary’s families. The Feast of All Saints celebrates all men and women who have lived saintly lives though are not formally noted by the Church, the Feast of all Souls recognises that every soul

OCTOBER—THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY
October is the month of the Rosary. This prayer has helped many people from generations past to the current day experience a closeness with Jesus and His beloved Mother Mary. The prayer is a meditative form of prayer which allows us to reach out to God by meditating on the joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous mysteries of our Lord’s life through the eyes of His Mother. Although this weekend marks the end of October, our community has a special devotion to Our Lady, and in the busy months ahead remember that Mary is there as a constant figure of inspiration and strength.

Mr Stennett
Religious Education Coordinator

COMMUNITY NEWS...

Rock your socks off at the St Patrick’s Marist College
~~ TRIVIA NIGHT ~~
Put your best foot forward as there are lots of games, a raffle and prizes for the best socks and dressed table.
Saturday 7th November in the new La Valla Centre
6:45pm for a 7:00pm start
Cost is $12 per person. Tables of 8 or we can make a table for you.
BYO drinks and nibbles and gold coins. Tea, coffee and cake supplied.
For more information and bookings, please contact Kathy on 0425 274 797 or email stpatricksmaristtrivia@hotmail.com

Ermington United Sports and Recreation Club
is running a FREE NETBALL CLINIC on
Saturday 31st October and Saturday 7th November from 10:00am—12:00pm at Yates Avenue Netball Court, Dundas.
This is open for children ages 6+ that are interested in starting netball next year.
All enquiries, please phone Tracy on 0415-618-977 and book your spot.

Roselea Ladybirds Netball Club
Roselea Ladybird’s Netball Club invites you to come and sample a free fun morning of netball!
When: Saturday 21st November from 10:00am
Where: Dunrussil Park, Dunrussil Avenue, Carlingford
Feel free to contact us or drop by!
0466 694 704