Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners,

Parent Learning Café
‘A learning community built on strong partnerships that connect, challenge and collaborate.”

The first of four Parent Café events will be held next Tuesday, 3 March. Teaching staff will explain and share teaching and learning strategies in the following areas:
- Mathematics - Supporting Mathematics understanding at home
- MultiLit/PreLit Spelling/ Words Their Way strategies
- Google Suite and Chrome Books Positive Behaviours for home and school

An ‘Intention to Attend’ form has been sent home today or alternatively you can access ‘Events’ on our Facebook page. Knowing how many will attend allows us to prepare and cater for everyone.

Happy Place, Happy Face
Walking around our school, I’m seeing the children happy, in the classrooms, happy in the playground. Smiling faces are infectious. As a principal, when I see happy children, I am confident that they are having a very powerful leaning experience.

Eisteddfod
This afternoon students nominated whether they would like to participate in a choir, verse speaking, an instrumental or dance/drama group for the upcoming Eisteddfod. We are still needing a piano player and/or someone with expertise to assist us in leading a choir. If you know of anyone please let me know, it would be greatly appreciated.

Peace and Blessings
Yvonne Rincheval

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**Calendar**

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<th>Canteen</th>
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**Term 1 2015 Calendar**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xP9TGrwEuhXQYYV14FlcbAVlgStgeceS66h40fVWNA/edit?usp=sharing
Youth Mass
The Youth Mass was held on Sunday at St Mary’s Church. These Youth Masses are being held every Month on the Fourth Sunday. It is a great opportunity to gather with our other Grafton Catholic Schools. Look forward to seeing everyone at the next Youth Mass. During Lent we might examine our lives by thinking about the relationships in our lives:

My relationship with myself…
- Do I try to use my talents and gifts well?
- Am I honest with myself about why I do things?
- Do I take care of myself?
- Do I ask for help from those I trust when I am worried?

My relationships with other people…
- How do I love and respect my family, my friends and all others I meet?
- Do I generously share what I have with those who are in need?
- Am I fair and truthful in the way I treat other people?
- Am I a good friend?

My relationship with God…
- Do I make time for God in my life?
- Have I made time to pray and to read from Scriptures?
- Are my thoughts, words and actions modelled on the example of Jesus?

God Bless,

Tarnya Jones
Leader of Evangelisation

Class Parents
Each stage of the children’s learning is supported by dedicated parents who network with all families. Please contact Tarnya Jones (tajones@lism.catholic.edu.au) if you are interested.

Bullying No More
Part 1 in the bullying trilogy will be held this Friday. During the play the children and performers will participate in the improvisations. The play dramatizes what bullying is; physical, verbal, visual and offers positive strategies that enable children to deal with bullying. A de-brief session is offered after the play.

Meet the Team
A number of people visit our school regularly including:

- Ian Walton, our Catholic Schools Education Consultant.
- Paul Edgar who is our Clarence Parent Assembly Cluster Organiser.
- Melissa McGrath from the Catholic Schools Office and is our Additional Needs Officer
- Mark Aspinall who is our maintenance support.
- Sr Jan Holahan who visits throughout the term and works one-on-one with children through Sand Play.
- Another important group of helpful visitors are those mums and dads who assist in the classroom and with the Canteen.

Professional Learning Days 2015

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Maths—Anita Chin</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 March</th>
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<td>Term 1</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Spirituality Day</td>
<td>Monday 20 April</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum</td>
<td>Monday 17 August</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum</td>
<td>Tuesday 6 October</td>
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Items being sent home today:
- Orientation dates for McAuley Catholic College - Year 6
- Student Banking packs - all

At St Mary’s we work hard to keep you up to date with what’s happening at our school and encourage families to regularly check our website, weekly newsletters, which are emailed every Wednesday afternoon, and download our school app.

**Skoolbag App**

Many of the School’s upcoming events are saved on the Skoolbag App for parents information. The areas to check are News and Events (we use the News area when a time has not yet been allocated).

These dates/events are ‘pushed’ as required - usually close to the date of the event.

Please check the App regularly to stay up-to-date.

Don’t forget to change the personal settings for 2015 to ensure that you receive the correct ‘pushes’.

(Just enter ‘St Mary’s Primary School’ in your phone ‘store’ and Install.)

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**Grafton Junior Rugby Union**

**NEED**

PLAYERS 6 TO 12 years old for Friday Night Rugby
And Under 13s, 14s and 15 for the Far North Coast Comp.

**FOR THE 2015 SEASON**

**SIGN ON and REGO DAYS**

FRIDAY 13th March 4PM TO 7PM AT GRAFTON SHOPPINGWORLD
FRIDAY 20th and 27th March sign on + (Skills based training, games)
5:30 pm to 6pm at
Rugby Park Hay St South Grafton

Upcoming events:
- Secondary Schools 10s - 4th March
- Primary Schools 7s - TBA

Further information:
Jason Connors – 0419 636 788
Gervase Bertus – 0409 227 823

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**Head Lice**

They’re at it again!
Please check your child’s head for signs of head lice and take appropriate action if any are found.

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**Nutrition Snippet**

The simplest way...

...to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks ...

Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like: mango, blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, rockmelon, kiwifruit, drained canned peaches, apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp.

Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid – at least 4 hours, or overnight.

Enjoy watching your kids eat fruit!

For more information visit
www.eatittobealit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobealit

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**Student Banking**

Students are able to make deposits into their Commonwealth Bank Accounts.
Saturday Vigil  
6:00pm (Daylight Savings Time)  
5:00pm (Winter)  
Sunday Mass 8:00am

Weekend Mass Times

St Mary's Primary School

Parent Assembly

Thank you for completing the Parent Assembly questionnaire over the last few weeks. Many of you said that you would like to know more about Cyber Safety, Nutrition, and Behaviour Management and that evenings are the best time for most families. We now have some valuable information to assist in planning future parent assembly events.

Conversations about Catholics will now be moved to evenings and will be run later in the year. This will better assist parents in preparation for their children who are making Sacraments this year.

2015 Parent Assembly Events

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Cyber Safety</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Conversations about Catholics</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Behaviour Management</td>
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A parent cyber safety evening will be run in term one by the Police Youth Liaison Office for Coffs/Clarence, Senior Constable Jo Brooker at St Mary’s Primary School. A date is to be confirmed.

Tracy Benfield
St Marys Parent Assembly
Parent Representative

Sacramental Program

In our Parish, preparation and reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Confirmation occur in Year 2. The Sacrament of Eucharist occurs in Year 3. Older children who have missed a Sacrament may elect to join the relevant class. There are compulsory meetings for parents of candidates for Sacraments.

Dropping off and collecting children

Parents are requested to use the designated drop off zone in front of St Mary’s Primary in Turf Street. When using the ‘Drop off’ zone parents are reminded that they must not exceed one minute in the area. Short term parking is permitted in front of the school (Turf Street).

Changes to Travel Routines - Please provide written notification of travel changes to the class teacher. Changes that need to be made late on the day of travel can be made by ringing the school office (66422262). Verbal messages from children are sometimes forgotten or get mixed up and as such we cannot act on them.