Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners,

Catholic Schools Week
During Catholic Schools Week we celebrate and share with friends, family and the wider community the great learning opportunities that take place in our schools every day. The celebration of our schools is an opportunity for students, staff, families, priests and parishioners to share in the joy and unique character of our Catholic schools. The theme for 2016 is “I Belong. You Belong. We Belong”. This aligns beautifully with the Catholic Church’s strong focus on supporting refugees and asylum seekers and the need for a compassionate global community.

This morning our Year 6 students celebrated Mass at McAuley Catholic College. It was wonderful opportunity to celebrate our connectedness with the college. Next Wednesday 16 March, St Mary’s Primary, St Joseph’s Primary and McAuley Catholic College will set up a static and live display at Grafton Shopping World. If you are able to assist in any way please contact the office either tomorrow or Friday.

Catholic Schools Week also marks the beginning of our enrolment period. It is a joyous occasion and I have already had the pleasure of interviewing a number of families seeking enrolment for Kindergarten 2017. If you have a child or know of someone who wishes to enrol at our exceptional progressive school, please contact the office for an enrolment pack.

Maternity Leave Position for Year 4
It is with great pleasure that I am able to share the news of the appointment of Miss Stephanie Hicks as the Year 4 teacher for Terms 2, 3 and 4. Stephanie comes to us as an experienced educator having worked in schools in the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese and in England. Stephanie is passionate about sport and musicals. Her skills and recent professional learning experiences align with our focus areas in both literacy and numeracy. Stephanie will spend some time with us towards the end of the term to meet students, staff and parents.

P & F Committee 2016
Last night at our P & F Annual General Meeting we elected our P & F Committee for 2016. Congratulations to our wonderful team for 2016:

**President:** Louise Thompson  **Secretary:** Fiona O’Farrell  **Treasurer:** Marnie Henwood

A heartfelt thank you, to the outstanding team and outgoing members of our P & F committee, Bree Hiatt, James Hiatt and Angela Mula. Their support and dedication to our school has been phenomenal and we will continue to enjoy their company, support and ideas.

Thank you!

Life Education Van for 2016
Fantastic News! I recently met with the new coordinator for Life Education, Skye Gaine. She shared the revamped and exciting program that has been developed by the Life Education team and I am thrilled to announce that they are currently confirming dates to visit St Mary’s in 2016. The cost per child is $10.00. A leaflet has been sent home today outlining the program details.

Insight SRC
Every year all schools in the Lismore Diocese provide the opportunity for students, staff and parents to provide feedback via a confidential survey. The survey data will be used to acknowledge and affirm our school and to identify areas for growth. The information gathered is used to develop and support school based initiatives. This year students in Years 4, 5 and 6 will complete the survey. Parents who are randomly selected will be notified in the next few weeks. Please contact the Office if you are not selected but would like to participate.

Yvonne Rincheval
Religious Education

Beginning of Year Mass
Congratulations to our leaders who received their leadership badges at Mass last Thursday. It was our first Mass for 2016 and we look forward to seeing you at future Masses throughout the year.

Catholic Schools Week
As part of Catholic Schools Week Year 6 attended a Mass at MCC this morning. It was a wonderful opportunity for our leaders to attend Mass at our local Catholic High School.

Incitāre
Incitāre is a gathering for selected Year 6 students from Parish Primary Schools based in Regions of the Diocese to celebrate their faith at a Diocesan level.

The Gathering will be a chance to bring students together to meet like-minded peers and to celebrate with other young people who practice their faith. The activities will be a mixture of large and small sharing groups as well as celebrating a Liturgy together. The program has been geared to meet the needs of these Year 6 students.

The gathering will be a one day experience that will allow students to build relationships with other students from throughout their region of the Diocese as well as a chance for students to talk and share about their faith journey.

Just a reminder to parents to return the permission notes to school by Friday 11 March

Please note there has been a change of venue from MCC to the Grafton Community Centre, Duke Street.

A Simple prayer for all in this Jubilee Year of Mercy
“Jesus Mercy Mary Help”

God Bless,
Tarnya Jones
Leader of Evangelisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>Date and Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incitare - Year 6 only</td>
<td>21 March at Grafton Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday Liturgy</td>
<td>21 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday/Last Supper Liturgy</td>
<td>23 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday Liturgy</td>
<td>24 March School Hall at 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleluia Liturgy</td>
<td>29 March School Hall at 8:45am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Father Jim baptised Tiarn Alea Nipperess on Saturday 5th March 2016 at St Mary’s Catholic Church, Grafton. Tiarn is pictured with her Mum, Dad and brother’s Kyron, Zaden and Braxn.

Children’s Liturgy
2nd Sunday of each month
8:00am Mass
St Mary’s Church

St Mary’s Church, Grafton Weekend Mass Times
Saturday Vigil 6:00pm (Daylight Savings Time) 5:00pm (Winter)
Sunday Mass 8:00am

School Leaders for 2016

Youth and Family Mass
Sunday 24 April in St Mary’s Church Grafton. Everyone is welcome.
Parents, Carers and Grandparents are invited to join the St Mary’s Garden Club.

When: Fridays 12.50 -1.30pm  
Where: St Mary’s “Dig For Plenty” Vegetable Gardens  
What do you do: Help the students to plant, care for and harvest crops from our gardens  

All tools and plants supplied. BYO hat.

For more information contact:  Angie Day (angieday75@gmail.com)  
or Matt Green (mgreen@lism.catholic.edu.au)

---

Easter Egg Guessing Competition

The Year 6 students are running an Easter Egg guessing competition. From Monday 7th March, you can have a go at guessing how many Easter Eggs are in the container. You can guess before school, during recess and after school. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and Teachers are welcome to have a guess too!!

50c per guess.

The winner will be announced on Thursday 24th March! GOOD LUCK.

---

Pupil-Free Days 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>School Administration Day</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parish School Retreat Day</td>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Catholic Worldview Permeation</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum</td>
<td>Monday 18 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Professional Learning Day</td>
<td>Date TBC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Easter Tombola Stall

Each child is requested to donate an Easter chocolate, be it an egg, a bunny or whatever you like, by Monday 21st March. These can be dropped off at the front office.

On Thursday 24th March, we will hold the Tombola Stall. Each child pays $2.00 for a lucky number. A chocolate prize will match their number. So every child will go home with a prize.

---

Clean Up Australia Day

Friday 11 March

1pm to 2pm

Meet Mr Green at the school gate. Join us to help clean up, fix up and conserve the environment.

---

Kindergarten Parents and Carers

Social Evening

Friday 11 March 2016

The Clocktower Hotel

RSVP School Office

---

NAPLAN 2016

Year 3 and Year 5 students

Each year students in Years 3 and 5 undertake NAPLAN testing. Please note the dates for your diary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Language Conventions and Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items being sent home previously:
- Sport note Cross Country
- Mass invitation at McAuley—Year 6

Items being sent home today:
- Naplan Information for Years 3 and 6
- Healthy Harold information
- Book club orders
Diocesan Swimming

Last Wednesday 2 March, Alex Salvestro represented the Clarence Zone in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Lismore. Alex swam in three events, 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke and 200m IM. Official results have not yet been published for the carnival but Alex reported that he finished about 7th in all events and achieved a PB in two of them. Congratulations Alex.

Daily Examiner Hockey

Last Thursday our three hockey teams played their first game of the Daily Examiner competition. The Stingrays team had a good win against St Joseph’s while the Sharks and Stars narrowly went down against teams from CVAS and Grafton Public respectively. A big congratulations to all players for the wonderful nature in which they competed and represented our school.

Cross Country

Notes went home yesterday with information regarding our School Cross Country on Thursday 17 March. Just a reminder, that students’ age groups are the age that they are turning this calendar year. So if your child is a student turning 8 this year, they must compete in the U/8s. We will also require some volunteer helpers for the day, so if you are able to assist, please let myself or the office know.

Yours in Sport,

Matt Green
Life Education and Healthy Harold – a vital partner for schools

Life Education is essential preventative education that supports your school’s drug and health initiatives. Life Education provides children with important knowledge, skills, confidence and the self-esteem to help them live well and reach their full potential. A state of the art mobile classroom and iconic mascot Healthy Harold help make the program accessible and the learning exciting and memorable.

An up-to-date, sequential program delivers age-appropriate material that meets a school’s specific needs.

What’s included in the Life Education visit?

✓ Delivery of sessions (1-1 ½ hr) in the mobile learning centre by specialist educators
✓ Student workbooks
✓ Teachers manuals that provide up a terms worth classroom activities and resources
✓ Access to extensive interactive whiteboard lessons which complement our teacher & student manuals
✓ Free access to ongoing resources and a digital content at www.lifeeducation.org.au containing family activities, Apps and health related activities for students, staff and
✓ Opportunities to engage parents and staff via parent sessions, presentations at staff and P&C meetings.

Program cost: $10 per child

We believe in a whole community partnership. With your support and the support of your school, we can work to ensure our kids understand how to look after their bodies and make wise choices that positively affect their wellbeing, for life.

Bring Life Education to your school www.lifeeducation.org.au/learn-more

---

City Netball Club
Are seeking girls from all age groups to play Netball
If you are interested please contact
Cate Wauchope
cmwauchope@gmail.com or 0428580815

---

MAJOS FOOTBALL CLUB
Is looking for any boys turning 8 or girls turning 8/9
this year to play in our Under 8’s soccer team.
If you would like to play please contact
Renee Zimmerman on 0416154244
or email majosfc@gmail.com
Introducing Book Clubs LOOP for Parents

LOOP is Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, LOOP makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our iPhone and iPad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android.

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

ISSUE 2 is being sent home today. Please return your order form or order via LOOP by WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH

Buy a book from
Scholastic
Book Club
to help build our classroom resources

Nobody has to miss out on Book Club
Check out these gold coin books from Issue 2

dollars
dollars
dollars
dollars