Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today we opened our school year by celebrating Mass at St Mary’s Church with the captains of both schools being presented with their leader badges. In the coming weeks these captains will host a commissioning assembly at school where all school leaders will be presented with their leadership badges and our new staff welcomed in true St Mary’s fashion. Our Chaplain Fr Fred Basco spoke to the children today about school leadership and school citizenship and how we can bring the face of Jesus to school with us each and every day. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance today joining with the students in worship.

The staff has been extremely efficient and professional in their assessment and analysis of the Mathematical data collected in the initial period of the school year. We once again thank the parents for supporting the school in the late start for the Kindergarten to Grade Three students. Already this data has enabled the teachers to modify and differentiate your child’s instruction; this ensures that students are not sitting idle as they listen to content that they already know. The Grade Five and Six students have also been assessed and this data is also in use.

All Parish school staff were commissioned for the 2017 school year at a Parish Mass on Friday 27 January. They were asked to commit to the students and the parish school communities of the Clarence Valley. Our new staff or those recommencing were officially welcomed at this Mass and these staff have asked me to pass on to the wider St Mary’s Parish school community their gratitude for the warm welcome they have received from parents and staff. The parents will have a chance to meet the new staff at an information evening to be held in the coming weeks. This is a very important evening and as such a note to ascertain the most popular date and time will be sent home next week. We hope to see as many of you as possible at this evening.

Thank you for returning the note sent home to ascertain the best days for our sports uniform. The opportunities for our students to engage in sporting and cultural events this year will be greatly enhanced and it will be of great assistance to all if our sports day can be aligned with these opportunities. I look forward to collating your responses and reporting back to you next week.

Of course we welcomed our beautiful Kindergarten students this week and it is a great privilege to announce that under the gentle and extremely capable guidance of Miss Lauretta Lewis they have taken to “big” school like ducks to water….or ducklings at least! It just wasn’t the same in the first week without a Kindergarten class moving around the school. It is great to have them with us to complete the set!

Enjoy your weekend; I may see you at a Parish Mass. Remember that Children’s Liturgy is on this Sunday at St Mary’s and will run each fortnight with St Patrick’s South Grafton providing Children’s Liturgy on the alternate weekend. As you can see from today’s Mass, the children enjoy the opportunity to worship.

God bless and thank you,

Frank Jones

Congratulations to Paige Thompson, Josie Bindon, Alex Salvestro and Dean Chapman
School Captains and Vice Captains 2017
RE News

Beginning of year School Mass
Today we celebrated our first Mass. We joined together with St Joseph’s to prayerfully begin our new year as a Parish community. It was wonderful to see so many Parishioners attending our Mass celebration.

Incitāre

Incitāre is a one day retreat experience for Year 6 students from parish primary schools based in regions of the diocese to celebrate their faith at a diocesan level.

The retreat 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 activities and experiences will allow attendees to build relationships with other students from throughout their region of the diocese and allow the students the opportunity to talk about and share their faith journey.

What: Incitāre – a retreat experience for Year 6 students from every parish school in each region of the diocese.

When: Tuesday 21 March
Where: McAuley Catholic College, Grafton
Cost: Nil. All transport and venue booking expenses will be met by the Catholic Schools Office.
Lunch/ Morning Tea: Students to bring their own.

In discerning which students might participate in this retreat experience, the CSO has recommended the following guidelines:

- Core catholic students
- Regularly attend Mass
- Are involved in some other form of church involvement either at school or in the parish
- Students who are willing to learn more about the Christian Faith

A large number of St Mary’s students have already expressed an interest in this event. We can, however, only offer 19 places. Any student who would like to be considered is asked to complete the Student Application Form provided by Mrs Tarnya Jones. Nominations should be handed to Mrs Tarnya Jones no later than Friday 17th February.

Class Parent

St Mary’s Primary School
Class Parents

St Mary’s Primary School is strengthened by the support provided by our Class Parents. Class Parents work hand-in-hand with the school, assisting with school events and offering support to families.

The first Class Parent meeting is being held in the school staffroom on Tuesday 14 February, commencing at 5:00pm. During this meeting we will revisit the Class Parent role and discuss the 2017 school events.

This meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this important role and support your child’s school.
Altar servers
Children of the Parish School have expressed an interest in becoming Altar Servers to assist with the Celebration of Mass and various Liturgies.
If you would like your child to be part of this important ministry, please contact Mrs Tarnya Jones at school and we can organise this.

Children’s Liturgy

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

Children’s Liturgy

Dear Parents and Careers,
During Term 1 Children’s Liturgy is being offered weekly in our Parish. The children are invited to attend and complete activities on the readings of the day.

12 February - St Mary’s Church
19 February - St Patrick’s Church
26 February - St Mary’s Church
5 March - St Patrick’s Church
12 March - St Mary’s Church
19 March - St Patrick’s Church
26 March - St Mary’s Church
2 April - St Patrick’s Church

God Bless,
Tarnya Jones
Leader of School Evangelisation and Catechesis

Newsletter link

Canteen
Monday 13/2  Kylie Shipman
Michelle Ambrose

Friday 17/2  Fiona O’Farrell
Bree Henson

Monday 20/2  Sarah Hunter
Carolyn Buchanan

Housekeeping

Sport Day is Tuesday and Thursday
Assembly is Monday morning at 8:45am

The newsletter is published on Friday and sent to parents and carers via the school administration software. The newsletter can also be accessed from the skoolbag app and the school moodle site. A hardcopy has been provided today to assist new families.
At St Mary’s we are so lucky to welcome our beautiful new Kindergarten students for 2017. We have hit the ground running, enjoying all that our school has to offer. So far we have been enjoying getting to know our new classroom and the new book nook has been a hit, with the students using the special space to sit back and explore different texts in an engaging and flexible setting.

It seems that our beautiful new friends are also mathematical wizards, as we are already using bead kebabs to count to twenty. On Tuesday we learnt how to play the game “Magic Number”, and this has been a popular request to warm our brains up for our maths lessons. We have also been matching numbers to groups of objects which has been a great way to use the many different engaging resources that we have in our classroom.

English lessons are always exciting in Kindergarten and this week has been no different. We have been exploring books and have learnt lots of technical language that we can use to describe our books. If you need to know what the spine of a book is and what it tells you, don’t be afraid to ask one of our Kindy kids, as they will be happy to teach you! Handwriting can be a bit tricky when you are learning how to write new words, but we have been practicing the alphabet on our swipe and wipe boards to make sure that our letter formation is correct.

We have also been making predictions while we are reading texts, and our class is really good at giving answers based on the pictures and the words previously read.

Watch out Mr Tonkin, because Kindy has the best choir going! We have been practising our hymns for Mass and it turns out that not only do we have a class who can learn a song in 10 minutes, but we also have a class that sounds like a choir of angels!

We have had a wonderful first week of school, making new friends and enjoying fun lessons, inside and outside the classroom. We look forward to learning so many more wonderful skills over the coming year!
We're excited to launch the new reward items for 2017 from our Future Savers range.

- Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers, released Term 1
- 3D Chalk Set and Tablet Case, released Term 2
- Smiley Emoji Keyring and Volt Handball, released Term 3
- Pencil + Tech Case and Epic Earphones, released Term 4

Grafton Netball Association will be holding two sign on days on Saturday February 25th & March 4th 2017, 12:00 – 2:00pm, at the netball courts in Bacon St. Delegates from all clubs will be present. We welcome players of all ages and abilities to play. So put a team together and register or come along as an individual and we will help you find a team. It is a fun way to meet people and exercise at the same time. Remember netball is played at the same venue each Saturday of the school term. Season commences on March 18th with a grading game.

NetSetGo - for 5-8 year olds
Suncorp NetSetGO is Netball Australia’s only junior entry netball program. It has been developed to provide children from 5 - 8 years with the best possible learning and playing experience to develop a positive introduction to netball, ensuring enjoyment and continued participation. The program incorporates skill activities, minor games, music, dance and modified competition in a fun and safe environment. The weekly program is coordinated by accredited coaches to ensure a quality experience for all participants. If you are interested in signing up or want to ask any questions, come along to our sign on days Saturday February 25th & March 4th 2017 12:00 – 2:00pm, at the netball courts in Bacon St. Suncorp NetSetGo is played on Saturday's at the Grafton Netball courts during the school term commencing 1st April 2017.

To keep up to date with what's going on at Grafton Netball Association follow us on Facebook or check out our website: graftonna.nsw.netball.com.au

Majos Football Club has a long association with soccer players from the Catholic Primary and High Schools in the Grafton area. Boys & girls turning 5 and up are invited to join a team for some fun and exercise.

Registrations are now open. Go to myfootballclub.com.au to register.
Majos will be holding an information day Saturday 11th February 9am-12pm at St Mary’s Primary School
For more details email majosfc@gmail.com find us on Facebook or contact:
Registrar - Renee Zimmerman 0416154244
Secretary - Cathy Smith 0439427584
Book Club LOOP

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform.

It’s easy to order and pay online for your child’s Book Club order using your credit card. If your school is not yet in the LOOP, speak with your school’s Book Club Organiser.

Head to scholastic.com.au/LOOP
or [Download on the App Store] [GET IT ON Google play]

Follow these easy steps!

1. Simply grab your child’s Book Club catalogue and either SIGN-IN or REGISTER your account.

2. Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for), then select your SCHOOL and your CHILD’S CLASS.
   Note: You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school.

3. Click on ORDER and enter the item number from the Book Club catalogue.

4. 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.

That’s it! There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school.
McAuley Hockey Club

Looking for players!!!!

Junior  *Girls from Kinder to Year 6

Senior  *Any High School students, mothers, friends or ex students are welcome to join a team.

*Beginners through to experienced players welcome.

Make an enquiry: Contact Mary Day 0408379103 or email mcauleyhockeygrafton@gmail.com
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sunday</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy 8:00am - St Mary’s Church</td>
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<td>14 Tuesday</td>
<td>Class Parents meeting 5pm - Staffroom</td>
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<td>P&amp;F meeting 5:30pm - Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Wednesday</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival - Maclean</td>
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<td>23 Thursday</td>
<td>Dougherty Villa visit 1:30pm - Year 5</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Zone Winter Sport Trials - Woolgoolga</td>
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<td>25 Saturday</td>
<td>Youth Mass 6:00pm - St Mary’s Church</td>
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<td>28 Tuesday</td>
<td>Stage 3 Science - CSI day</td>
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<td>Red Balloon Day - Mufti Day - Red Clothes</td>
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<td>Shrove Tuesday</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>1 Wednesday</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>3 Friday</td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival - Lismore</td>
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<td>Clean up Australia day at St Mary’s Primary</td>
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<td>5 Sunday to 11 Saturday</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<td>9 Thursday</td>
<td>Dougherty Villa visit 1:30pm - Year 4</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>5 Wednesday</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival at MCC</td>
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<td>6 Thursday</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 11:45am - St Mary’s School</td>
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<td>7 Friday</td>
<td>Final day of Term 1</td>
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Welcome to 2017

A warm welcome back to all staff and students in our school community particularly new staff members, students and their families. The St Mary’s P and F aims to provide a formal structure for parents and friends of the school community to participate in activities and to work together for the benefit of the school and children. Every year the P and F look at raising funds for the school and providing community events.

We always welcome new faces and would love to see as many of you as possible at the first meeting on 14th Feb, 2017 at 6.00 pm.

P and F Meeting

Please come and join us at the first P and F meeting for the year.

WHEN: 14th Feb, 2017
TIME: 6.00 pm.
WHERE: Staff room.

No need to RSVP just turn up. We aim to keep the meeting to an hour!