Dear Parents

It’s hard to believe that we have arrived at the end of the year. There still seems so many things that need to be done. Talking to a few parents everyone seems to feel the same way. Can I also remind you that you can access the newsletter from our website: www.smaltona.catholic.edu.au

We have had a few very exciting days beginning with our Year 6 Graduation Mass, Dinner and Disco (Thank you to Russell Rozario (past student) and Aaron Le’Toille) last Tuesday. What a wonderful, talented, resourceful and friendly group of young adults our Year 6 students are. They are heading off to twelve different Secondary Schools, so the message from St. Mary’s will be going far and wide. We sincerely thank them for their contribution and wish them every success in their future adventures, remembering they are always welcome back at St. Mary’s.

Yesterday we had our End of Year Mass which the whole school attended, we farewelled our Year 6’s as well as Mrs Emily Roberts and Miss Nikki Fiesley who are both leaving St. Mary’s.

- To the families who are leaving our school community; Thank you for your contribution over many years. St. Mary’s has benefited greatly from your involvement, interest and support.
- To all the parents; Thank you for your support, contribution and involvement in all matters relating to your children’s education.
- To all the children; Thank you for your enthusiasm to learn, to improve, to have fun, to compete, to be friendly, to be welcoming.
- To the Staff; Thank you for your support, your dedication, your commitment to excellence, your professionalism and your sense of fun.

THANK YOU:
- To Mrs Gwenda Burnett for her support, expertise and amazing work ethic. I’m sure I don’t need to elaborate on Gwenda’s contribution to our school. St. Mary’s is very fortunate to have someone of Gwenda’s amazing talent and dedication.
- To Mrs Valda Pedley for so competently managing the Administration and Finance duties in the Office and Mrs Jane Sammut who supports Valda in the Office. Their role is becoming more and more challenging yet they continue to work diligently behind the scenes and always present a very friendly and welcoming face to visitors to the school.
- To Mrs Eva Coppola and Mrs Amy Xu as her assistant and their small team of volunteers who continue to provide a wonderful selection of food for lunch and morning tea.
- To Mr Tony Grima our maintenance man and cleaner for so efficiently and unobtrusively keeping our school so clean and well maintained.
- To Mr Henry Zun (guitar), Creative Music team (piano/keyboard), Kelly Sports (dance and ball sports) for enriching the education we offer to our students.
- To Mrs Penny Ealem and Mrs Linda Wakfer for the many unpaid hours that they put in to ensure that our parents have access to school uniforms at a very competitive rate.
- To all the parents that help around the school. Our book coverers, excursion helpers, sport helpers, book club organiser (Mrs. Beryl Henry), laminating (Mrs Marylinda Abate) and all the many other helpers.
- To our School Captains: Jazmine Cassar and Warren Rozario and School Vice-Captains: Jade Said & Zac Dobbyn for their co-operation and wonderful leadership throughout the year.
- Blue House: Shannon Coldrey and James Abate
- Red House: Olivia Vella and Kelvin Nguyen
- Green House: Ciara Singleton and Matthew Hussey
- Yellow House: Ella Crowley and Adam Suric
- To our Junior School Council Representatives who have worked so hard to raise money for our sponsor child Win Naing and on many other initiatives for our school. Well Done!
To our Parents & Friends Committee who although small in number did an enormous amount throughout the year. A special thank you to Mr Garry Hills for his co-ordination and organisation of this great group of workers for our school. All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

To our School Education Board for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

To Fr Paul Tru for his support in the difficult situation of managing two Parishes and two Primary Schools.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Congratulations to the following Year 6 children who received awards at Tuesday night’s Graduation Mass:

- **Academic Excellence**: Kelvin Nguyen
- **Academic Persistence**: Madisson Azzopardi
- **Values Award**: Jayden Keran
- **“The Arts” Award**: Olivia Vella

ST. MARY’S YEAR SIX YEAR BOOK:
Thank you and congratulations to the students who volunteered to create the Year Book for 2013. You have been a very talented group with great ideas and suggestions to make this book the best it could be. Thank you to each member of the Year Book committee for their dedication and persistence in completing the book: Brayden Dowd, Allana Ross, Luke Whatman, Naomi Shafik-Eid, Sascha Davidson, Emma Moore, Beth Cutajar, Casidy Finch, Sam Currie, Amy Smedley, Sarah Torre and Alice Plditch. Special Thanks to Mrs Nicole Singleton for all her assistance and to Mrs Gwenda Burnett for once again so expertly co-ordinating the whole process. Thank you also to Mr Chris Nardo (past student) for sharing his expertise in the set out and the professional printing.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS for 2014:
We have decided to have four Captains in 2014 instead of two Captains and two Vice Captains as has been the practice previously. We have decided on this change as it has been our experience that the four leaders work as a group and we felt there was no need to separate them into Captains and Vice Captains.

- **Girl Captains**: Chante Mullins & Megan Whatman
- **Boy Captains**: Khyile Aquilina & Xander Ianna

HOUSE CAPTAINS for 2014:
- **Blue**: Madeline Nelson and Maxim Warby
- **Green**: Ally Christodoulou and Noah Luppino
- **Red**: Isabella Kirby and Riley Ianna
- **Yellow**: Grace Bosnar and Olivia Yacono

NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES:
We have created two new leadership roles for 2014. There will be two Social Justice Leaders and two Wellbeing Leaders.

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS for 2014:
- Laura Attana and Scarlett Davidson

WELLBEING LEADERS for 2014:
- Leah MacGavin and Kathleen Sullivan

NETBALL SCORES:
Today we had our traditional Year 6 Students and our teachers. Lots of fun and a great game by both teams. Again the teachers were victorious. Final scores 20-7.

COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL 2014:
The Staff will commence on Tuesday 28th January with ALL CHILDREN INCLUDING PREPS commencing at 8.50 am on Wednesday 29th January. Children assemble with their bags on the netball court. We will have a short assembly. Year One – Six then move to their classrooms with their teachers. Once all other levels have moved out of the area our preps will then follow their teachers to their classrooms. All parents are welcome to join us in the hall for a cuppa and a chat. Our Prep children WILL NOT attend school on the next four Wednesdays in February. They will be timetabled to attend for a half hour or so on some Wednesdays to complete some testing but parents will be notified of these times next year.

I would like to wish all our families a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
I look forward to seeing you all again in 2014, after a fun-filled, enjoyable, restful and well-deserved holiday.

David Kelly.
Principal.

In this fourth week of Advent, we ask Christ to forgive us and, through His grace, to create us anew when He comes.

Christmas is surely the presence of Jesus, the King of Kings!
Christmas is not just a season,
Christmas is not just a day,
Christmas is more than a reason
For parties, presents and play.

Christmas is truly the essence
Of joy that the Saviour brings.
Christmas is surely the presence
Of Jesus, the King of Kings!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
- Our Year Six Students as they begin another stage in their lives.
- Mrs Emily Roberts and Miss Nikki Fiesley as they both continue their teaching careers at other schools.
- All members of our community who are sick or in continual need of our prayerful support.
- A safe, happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Olive Chodowski
Religious Education Coordinator
ST. MARY’S CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE
Tuesday 24th 7.00 pm Carols/Nativity Play
December 7.30 pm Family Mass
9.00 pm Mass

Wednesday 25th
9.00 am Christmas Day
December
Nativity Play – Reminder – Next Rehearsal will be in the Church this Sunday 22nd December after the 9.00 am Mass.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2014
JANUARY
Tuesday 28th
Staff Commence at School

Wednesday 29th
All Students Commence at 8.50 am including Preps

MARCH
Wednesday 5th
Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass

Wednesday 12th
School Photos

School Term Dates - 2014
Term 1 – 29th January – 2 April
Term 2 – 22nd April – 27 June
Term 3 – 14 July – 19 September
Term 4 – 6 October – 19 December

UNIFORM SHOP
Uniform Shop will be open at 9.00 am on
Wednesday 29th January, 2014

JSC NEWS
CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to the wonderful group of students who were the JSC representatives for 2013.
The main role of our JSC is to give a voice for students in events and decisions that take place in the school. It also gives students an opportunity to suggest new ideas or raise concerns.

One of the long term foci for JSC is to raise money to support our sponsor child Win Naing, his family and community. The money we raise provides medical and educational support. This year the JSC with your help raised $2000.00. Over $900.00 was sent to World Vision for Win Naing and the remainder was spent on items for students such as new sandpit equipment, prizes for Footy Fun Day.

What a magnificent effort. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

JSC MEMBERS:
SCHOOL CAPTAINS SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS
Jazmine Cassar Jade Said
Warren Rozario Zac Dobbyn

YEAR LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTATIVE
PREP H Cadel Ianna Maddison Azzopardi
PREP S Sarah Torre Joshua Azzopardi
YEAR 1/2 H Liam Denys Isla Mc Avoy
YEAR 1/2 M Ally Smedley Giles Mercer
YEAR 1/2 K Ben Clowes Ronan Vanderligt
YEAR 3/4 T Zane Azzopardi Emily Kakouillis
YEAR 3/4 S Ryan Said Madison Cutajar
YEAR 3/4 F Trent Micheli Michelle Cutajar
YEAR 5/6 G Alec Tavilla Elizabeth Paone
YEAR 5/6 L Maxim Warby Ally Christodoulou
YEAR 5/6 C Megan Whatman Amy Carabott

WELL DONE YEAR 1/2H who donated the most money for Win Naing in Term 4. The total amount was $169.50
Thank you for helping him.

HOUSE TEAM POINTS
Congratulations to ALL HOUSE CAPTAINS and TEAM MEMBERS on a wonderful year of working together and supporting each other.
A special WELL DONE to YELLOW TEAM and their captains Ella and Adam who scored the most points overall for the year.

POINTS:
YELLOW TEAM: 23,925
GREEN TEAM: 23,360
RED TEAM: 22,555
BLUE TEAM: 21,731

Gwenda Burnett
Literacy Leader.

NORMIE THE GNOME
Normie the Gnome is awarded to the House Team who keeps their part of the yard the cleanest. This week’s winner is:

NO WINNER THIS WEEK – ALL TEAMS.

JOSEPH’S CORNER
If you are interested in helping Joseph’s corner further our services to families and friends suffering addictions.

JOSEPH’S CORNER NEEDS YOU! We are having a fundraising meeting to be held: at the Jubilee Room at Newport Parish in Newcastle Street, Newport on Wednesday 29th January, 2014 for 7.00 pm.