**TERM DATES FOR 2012**

7th May (Public Holiday)

Term 2  16th April – 22nd June

Term 3  9th July – 21st Sept

Term 4  8th October – 7th Dec

No Mass this week.
Assembly -
11th May

- Cross Country

15th-17th May

- NAPLAN (Yrs 3, 5 & 7)

16th May

- Family Night Confirmation

22nd May

- District Cross Country

24th May

- School Feast Day

1st June

- Confirmation

7th June

- Tidalik the Frog (P-I)

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**A blessing and prayer tribute to all mothers**

“Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

Susan Kramer

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**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

We are currently meeting a lot of our Prep children who will be starting with us in 2013. We are still accepting enrolments for 2013 so please let people know that it is not too late and to contact the office.

Last week I spent a couple of days at the Queensland Catholic Primary Principal’s Conference and a very similar message came through all of the keynote speakers, this being the balance we have in our schools that promotes the head, the heart and the soul is of utmost importance for our children. Head being our learning of literacy, mathematics, history, science etc,
heart being our relationships through family, friends and community and soul being our relationship with God, which we nurture through prayer and celebrations. This all sounds easy when you look at those three words but the reality is that this is quite a challenging feat. Nevertheless that is the challenge that we are faced with and the best way that we can rise to this challenge is through a positive relationship with you as parents being the first and most important educator of your children.

Tim Stinson – Principal

Vinnies Winter Appeal

This term we will be supporting this appeal. We will be collecting winter clothes, canned food and blankets and anything else that might assist in helping the homeless and other people in need to get through the winter.

Our Yr 7 Service Committee will be organising the collection.

RE in the Classroom

Our Yr 5 children are learning all about the Rosary. They will be using their Bible research skills to discover the scriptural references for the various mysteries of the Rosary. They will then focus on a particular mystery and create a display to accompany the reciting of that particular mystery.

The children are saying the Rosary every day in class prayer time.

Prayers for the sick.

We have some very ill members of our school community at the moment. We have a mum who is very ill with cancer. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Mrs Nowell is recovering well from surgery for breast cancer and will be back with us all soon.

History of the Rosary

The name comes from the Latin word rosarium which means ‘rose garden’. In the Middle Ages, Mary was often called ‘Rose’ and the name eventually became rosary.

• In olden times, people who couldn’t read or write couldn’t say the official prayer of the Church which consists of the 150 psalms of the Bible. So they replaced the psalms with 150 and then 50 Ave Marias / Hail Mary’s and they used bags of pebbles to count them. They then used beads on a sting or knots tied in a cord. In between the decades the priests used to preach to the people about the happenings in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

• Saint Dominic – first historical reference to the rosary is from the life of Dominic (+1221) the founder of the Dominicans.
Major religions have for centuries advocated the use of prayer beads as an aid to prayer. Since the earliest of times, people have used pebbles or a string of knots or beads on a cord to keep track of prayers offered to God. Muslims use a set of 99 beads with each bead representing a name for God in the Islamic faith tradition. Other examples are the Hindu “Mala beads” and the Buddhist prayer beads.

There will be no Mass this week.

Confirmation will be held on Friday 1st June at 5:30pm and 7:00pm. Please contact the parish office with your intended time.

Thank you.

Trish Dunn – APRE

FOCUS FOR THE WEEK

Making Jesus Real – Using the Big “T” Word
The word “thanks” is a small word that seems to be forgotten in so many cases. We all like to be thanked for the small things we do for others. The following questions might be able to help us.

Students
When was the last time I thanked Mum or Dad for ironing my clothes, cooking my meals? When did I last thank my parent or guardian for driving me to school, to sport, dancing etc? When did I last thank Dad and Mum for the food and clothes I have and the love they give? Do I say the word “thanks” to my friends at school and the parents at the Tuckshop?

Parents
Are we grateful for the interest of the school in our children and do we say “thanks”?

Teachers
Are we grateful for the support of parents, principals and students? Do we say “thanks” to those people?

Are we grateful to God for our country, state? We only have to look at the millions of homeless that we see on out TV to see how lucky we are – even though we think we are hard done by.

Are we grateful to God for our eyes, ears and legs – our health?

Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Focus for the week is our school rule – Be Respectful – Tuckshop. This week we are focusing on being respectful while receiving tuckshop. We have identified the expected behavior of these children while lining up for tuckshop and using our manners etc.
Bloggng
All our classes are in the process of setting up a class blog—some are even up and running already.
What is a blog? Blog is short for weblog. A weblog is a journal/diary/newsletter that is available for public viewing on the internet. Blogs are updated frequently.
Why blog? One of the primary purposes of blogging at school, is to communicate and interact with parents and the rest of the school community. Teachers can let parents know what is happening in the classroom; they can attach links to homework and online learning activities. They provide a means of displaying the children’s work. Security is put in place when setting up the blog to ensure that only members of our school community have access to the site.
Australian National Curriculum - History
The aim of the new History curriculum is to “develop student’s capacity and willingness to be active and informed citizens, to understand the forces that shape societies, and to use transferrable concepts and skills associated with the process of historical inquiry”
The curriculum is organised into two strands- Historical knowledge and understandings (content) and Historical skills.
Each year level has key inquiry questions that form the teaching / learning progression. This week I thought we might look at what is covered in Prep to Yr 2.
From the Australian National Curriculum - History.
Foundation (Prep) Year Level Description

Personal and Family Histories
The Foundation curriculum (Prep) provides a study of personal and family histories. Students learn about their own history and that of their family; this may include stories from different cultures and other parts of the world. As participants in their own history, students build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different from the present.
Key inquiry questions
1. What is my history and how do I know?
2. What stories do other people tell about the past?
3. How can stories of the past be told and shared?

Year 1 Level Description - Present and Past Family Life
The Year 1 curriculum provides a study of present and past family life within the context of the students’ own world. Students learn about similarities and differences in family life by comparing the present with the past. They begin to explore the links, and the changes that occur, over time.
Key inquiry questions
1. How has family life changed or remained the same over time?
2. How can we show that the present is different from or similar to the past?
3. How do we describe the sequence of time?

Year 2 Level Description - The Past in the Present
The Year 2 curriculum provides a study of local history. Students explore, recognise and appreciate the history of their local area by examining remains of the past and considering why they should be preserved
1. What aspects of the past can you see today? What do they tell us?
2. What remains of the past are important to the local community? Why?
3. How have changes in technology shaped our daily life?

Trish Dunn
APRE

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**TUCKSHOP**

2nd Friday 11th May
Deb Bishoff, Susan Shay, Ann Payne

2nd Monday 14th May
Selena Wilkie

Thank you, **Fiona Tilley – Convenor**

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**P & F NEWS**

**P & F REPORT**

1. Our President Glen Matthews has had to step down. Vice President Scott Turner is able to step into this role for the rest of the year. Thank you Scott for taking on this role.

2. Proceeds from our two Election Day Cake Stall/Sausage Sizzle will go towards buying a new school BBQ. We use this BBQ many times a year and it will be greeted with much excitement by those parents who have had to use the old one.

3. Planting troughs were purchased for the school vegetable garden. This is an exciting project and will begin soon.

4. A donation was made to the school to purchase an online reading program called the Fitzroy Reading Program. The Fitzroy Reading Program is a highly structured program that incorporates all the elements necessary to assist students to become more confident readers. The “Fitzroy Method” is a phonic approach to reading. Readers introduce new spelling patterns with each story, as well as introducing appropriate sight words.

5. A donation of $1200 was made to the school for grounds maintenance. Thank you – our grounds look amazing.

All of these donations and purchases would not be possible without you, the parents and your continued support. Could all Sub-Committee Co-Ordinators have a report written and emailed to P&F Secretary before each P&F Meeting.

Please join us for our next P&F Meeting on May 17th at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. The Agenda will be in the next Newsletter.
YEAR 3’s Excursion to Australia Zoo

On Wednesday 2nd May, year 3 left school at 7:30am and headed to Australia Zoo. It took us one and three quarters hours to get there. When we were there the first animal we saw was a kookaburra. Then we saw the otters. They swam so fast Malachai couldn’t take a picture. Next we saw a komodo dragon, it was huge and sleepy. Then we caught a little bus called a shuttle to the elephants to feed them. We fed them watermelon. Their skin was rough. Then we went to the Tiger Temple. Then it was time for our educational talk. I learnt the thylacine was extinct. After that we went to the crocoseum. We saw a big croc. Then we saw one of the biggest and fattest snakes on earth, the Burmese python. Next we went to go to the camels, they were huge.

Fast Fact—Did you know camels hump is actually an area where they store their water?

Next we got a picture with the Burmese python. It was smooth. Then we went to Africa. We saw a zebra and a giraffe. It was exciting. Then we went home. I was tired.

By Jack Stanley 3G

Australia Zoo

On Wednesday 2nd of May year three went to Australia Zoo. Firstly, we got on the bus at 7:30am. It was so boring! At 9:15am we arrived. First we went to see the kookaburras. I took a picture of Jack with one. Next we went to see the Asia small clawed otters. Then we went to the ocean room. I patted a koala’s back. I learned that a Tasmanian Tiger was called a Thylacine. Next we went to the Crocoseum. A Scarlet Macaw touched my head as it flew past. After the crocoseum we went to the camels. Then we got to hold a Burmese Python. I held it’s head. It was a bit scary. At last we fed the elephants. Siam left slobber on me. I wiped it on my pants. After that we went to Africa. We saw a cheetah. It was so cute!! We also saw zebras, rhinos and giraffes. Finally we boarded the bus. We watched Napoleon. I was very tired and I mean tired! I loved it!!

By Malachai Clements

LIBRARY NEWS

Please remind children to bring their library bags for borrowing.

Mary & Carmel
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday and best wishes from everyone at St Mary’s to the following students:
Brooke Iselin, Jack Dixon, Lachlan Ferguson, Santeal Gibbons, Brady Hickey, Keisha Lindberg, Larissa Pirlo, Marcus Webb, Tasma Horsburgh & Lucas Vink
Have a wonderful day!

SPORTS NEWS

Cross Country
Cross Country will be run this Friday, 11th May for all children born 2002 - 2006. The timetable for the day is as follows (these starting times are approximates only):

9:15am - Girls and boys born 2002
9:35am - Girls and boys born 2003
9:55am - Girls and boys born 2004
10:10am - Girls and boys born 2005
10:25am - Girls and boys born 2006

Medallions will be presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Certificates will be awarded for 4th - 10th place. These presentations will take place at assembly on Friday, 18th May. This will allow as many parents and friends as possible to attend.

Anita Mugridge

SPORTS UNIFORMS FOR TERM 2 ARE TO BE WORN ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:
Years 1-3: Thursday (PE - Motor program)
Friday (Cross Country)
Years 4-7: Wednesday (PE)
Friday (Cross Country)
No need to wear sports uniform on Tuesdays this term unless advised differently by classroom teacher.

THE ARTS

ARTS AFTER SCHOOL
Hip Hop is putting in two groups into the Quota Beenleigh Eisteddfod performing at the Logan Entertainment Centre in August. We are very excited about our first Eisteddfod.

It is not too late to enrol your child in Arts after School if you are interested. Please see timetable below (changes in bold):

Tuesday – 3:15-4:15pm Hip Hop
4:15-5:15 Highland Dancing
5:15-6:15 Hip Hop
Wednesday –  3:15-4:15 Zumba
               4:15-5:15 Zumba

Thursday –  3:15-4:15 Kung Fu / Tai Chi
            4:15-5:15 Kung Fu / Tai Chi
            5:15-6:15 Kung Fu / Tai Chi
            6:15-7:15 GROOVE

**Times:** 3.15pm – 4.15pm ~ 5 - 8 yr olds
            4.15pm – 5.15pm ~ 9 – 12/13 yr olds
            5.15pm – 6.15pm ~ 13 – Adults

**For enrolment forms and pricing please contact:**
**Anne Mitchell** - Ph: 0412 628 431 Email: artsafterschool@bigpond.com
Facebook: Arts After School

**CHOIR**
The time for choir practise is 12:50-1:40pm on Tuesdays. We had our first practise yesterday and the children all sang beautifully. If there are any permissions slips to still be returned please return these as soon as possible.

**Reminder: ANNIE** – 10th May at 7.00pm QPAC. Please meet at the bottom of the stairs near the ANNIE poster.

**Sing on the Way to School Challenge**
We have notice of 6 cars singing at their top of their voices. Check out Saint Mary’s Community Facebook. Suggestion: Bohemian Rapsody all the way to school or a song of your family’s choice. This is just to have a bit of fun and help us get to school a little happier. I have found that I can’t grizzle and sing at the same time and it feels better to sing - lalalala Go on try it I dare you!!

**Parents Support Group for the Arts**
Meeting on Friday 12th may after 2pm. All welcome!

**Yours in Arts**
Anne Mitchell

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Babysitter required**
Monday – Thursday 9.30am-2.30pm. Two boys aged 4 & 2. You will be babysitting the two year old for the four days however you will only be babysitting the 4 year old on Monday & Tuesday. $175 cash per week. If you are interested please call Juley 0427 144 849