ST PATRICK’S DAY

Thursday 17th March is the Feast Day of St Patrick. Saint Patrick was born early in the 5th century in Britain. At the age of sixteen he was taken captive and brought to Ireland where he worked as a slave. Life was not easy for Patrick as a young man as he worked long hours on the bleak hillside minding sheep. After six years he escaped back to Britain to his family who were glad to see him return home.

Patrick became a Christian and he visited France where he continued his studies of the scriptures and reflected on Christ's teaching. Near the end of his life he put in writing his reflections on his search for God and the blessings God had given him in his life. In the Confessions of St Patrick, we read of the absolute trust Patrick had in God's loving care for him, his gratitude for the gift of faith. He rejoiced in the way God had transformed the lives of Irish men and women who became Christian on his return to the island as a missionary.

On Thursday this week we will celebrate the great blessings entrusted on Patrick by God to bring the good news. It will be a FREE DRESS day at St Mary's with the students asked to wear GREEN and bring a GOLD COIN donation for Project Compassion.

As we celebrate the Feast of St Patrick let us remember the many Irish people who are far from home. Let us give thanks for the gifts that each of us have received and we ask the Spirit to help us to be generous in using our talents for the good of the community.

Peace and Best Wishes
Robyn Bourne (APRE)
APRE NEWS - Term 1 Week 8
From Mrs Robyn Bourne—APRE
(Assistant Principal - Religious Education)

ASSEMBLY ROSTER- General Assembly at 8:40am.

WEEKDAY MASS-
We have a Parish/ school Mass every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in St Mary’s Church. All year 4, 5 and 6 students attend this regular Mass. We would very much like to see parents or friends join the staff, students and members of the parish. It is a very meaningful and peaceful way to begin the day and usually takes about 30 minutes.

SACRAMENTS: Dates to remember
- Tuesday 19th April Sacrament of Penance 6pm in St Mary’s church
- Tuesday 24th May Confirmation Practice 5:30pm in St Mary’s church
- Wednesday 1st June Sacrament of Confirmation 6pm in St Mary’s church
- Sunday 19th June First Holy Communion 9am in St Mary’s church

Thank you very much to all the children and their families who have participated in the Sacramental program 2015/2016. Please keep the children in your prayers as they make their Sacraments.

MJR – WEST IS:
These are four great words to live by...
Welcome
Encourage
Sorry
Thanks

Project Compassion 2016
Running through the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of caring supporters, all in the name of justice and peace. It is the lifeblood of Caritas Australia; without it, they could not do the vital work that they do.

In Project Compassion 2015, $11.57 million was raised to help the world's poorest communities. The theme for Project Compassion 2016 is “Learning more, creating change”.

As Pope Francis says “Education is an act of hope”, so this year Project Compassion celebrates the power of learning, and the many ways in which Caritas Australia is working with local partners around the world to provide vital learning and renewed hope to children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

At St Mary’s we support Project Compassion every year and we appreciate your constant generosity and support with our fundraising efforts. As Acts of Kindness the students are asked to place coins in the Project Compassion money boxes in their classroom. Money raised from the free dress day for St Patrick’s Day will go to Project Compassion as well.

Curriculum Corner Term 1 Week 8
Ms Jennie Harris
APC (Assistant Principal – Curriculum)

Parenting Ideas
The topic for this week is… The language of resilient families.
Children and adults in resilient families tune into the needs of each other, choosing situation-specific language, rather than simply regurgitating generalised ‘feel-good’ or ‘get-on-with-it’ platitudes.
Click here to read more.

St Mary’s Swimming Carnival
Many thanks to all who helped organise, run and support our swimming carnival. It was wonderful to see so many talented swimmers and so many who were willing to have a go. We have some photos from the night on the back page.

ICAS Competitions (Year 3 - 6)
Enter form and money is due on Thursday 24th March

Woolies Earn & Learn
We have received many valuable classroom resources from the Woolies Earn & Learn from last year. Thank you so much to all parents and friends who supported us!

Mini Signing Choir
This Friday the “Mini Choir” – students from Prep to Year 2 will be sharing some of the songs they have been learning on assembly at 8:40am. We hope you can come along and join in.

News from Year 3H
In Religion we have been looking at life in Palestine as it was in Jesus’ time. Although there are some very obvious differences between our lives and Jesus’ life – we are always amazed to see just how similar some aspects of our lives are. We also have been watching a short clip on the Caritas website to help to us learn about how people are helping others who are in need. We are also investigating how we can help those in need in our class and school community. We have made posters which we are displaying around the school to remind everyone to share and be kind and support those in need.

For English, the students have been spending a lot of time learning about persuasive texts. In fact, some students are very, VERY persuasive with their opinions on school uniforms, homework, sleepovers and a pool for St Mary’s! In Geography, we have been learning many interesting things about our world. We are becoming experts with maps and enjoy discovering things near and far from us here in Rockhampton.

In Maths, we been solving many difficult problems. We have enjoyed working with a partner and recording our findings in our math’s journal.

We have been investigating how to classify living and non-living things in Science, and the amount of general knowledge the students in 3H have about some lesser known plants and animals is phenomenal! The students have really enjoyed learning French with Mrs Mills every Wednesday, as well as joining together with 3T on Friday afternoons for PE. We have also been trying extra hard this term to take responsibility for our actions in the classroom and the playground by being WEST people (Welcoming, Encouraging, Saying sorry and Thankyou) – especially taking the initiative to say sorry for making poor choices. Everyone has been working hard all term, and no doubt looking forward to the holidays to relax and prepare for Term 2.

Click here to read more.
TUCKSHOP

The tuckshop is looking for volunteers. We urgently require assistance on Fridays. If you are able to help out on any day please call Chantal on 0415 398 994.

A REMINDER: PIE SHOP FOOD ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO OUR FREEZER BREAKDOWN.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We are urgently needing at least one person to run the Breakfast Club. It is usually two days a week from 8am-8:30am (not Fridays) in the Tuckshop. If you are interested or would like further information, please let the lovely office staff know and we will contact you.

BIRTHDAYS

Jetayah Chalk, Bella McIntyre, Max Daly, Jett Kalmikovs

SPORTS NEWS

It is with great excitement that we announce that Saint Mary’s will be holding a school cross country for the first time. This school event will take place at Elizabeth Park on Wednesday 13th April.

It is pleasing to see such a keen interest displayed at our running sessions on Monday and Friday. This will put you in good stead for our school cross country.

SPORTS RESULTS– FRIDAY 11th March

SOCCER

St Mary’s Year 5, nil vs The Lighthouse, 6
St Mary’s Year 6, nil vs The Hall, 7
Year 5/6 Girls, 4 vs The Hall, 6

AFL

Played well as a team. Some classic marks and thanks Mr Schimke for the half time oranges!

OZTAG

GIRLS

St Mary’s Navy, 1 vs Frenchville Blue, 10
St Mary’s Red, 5 vs Glenmore, 3

MIXED

St Mary’s 9, def Allenstown, 4

SPORTS FIXTURES– Friday 18th March

SOCCER

Year 5 vs Crescent Lagoon Elizabeth 2, 12.40pm
Year 6 vs Crescent Lagoon Elizabeth 2, 1.35pm
Girls vs RGS Norbridge 2, 12.40pm

AFL

St Mary’s vs Frenchville SS KP1, 12.30pm
St Mary’s vs Allenstown Blue KP1, 1.30pm

OZTAG

Saleyards park

GIRLS

St Mary’s Red vs Joseph’s PA Blue Field 5, 12.45pm
St Mary’s Navy vs Allenstown Yellow Field 2, 12.45pm

MIXED

St Mary’s vs Cresso Red Field 8, 1.35pm

ROCKHAMPTON DISTRICT TRIALS

I have Trial Information and Permission to Trial forms for the following Rockhampton District representative teams. Please ask at the office to get more detailed information and the Permission to Trial forms that have to be taken to the trials. Please note the trial dates:

- 12 yrs AFL—Wednesday 16 March

ABSENTEE NOTIFICATIONS

We have started generating automatic text messages to parents when children are absent and we haven’t been notified of their absence. The messages are sent after midday each day.

The best ways to advise the reason for your child’s absence are through the office:

Via the Skoolbags app, a note or phone call or by email to SMNR_Admin@rok.catholic.edu.au.

If you receive a text message asking you to contact the office and you have already done so—no further action is needed. Teachers don’t often get to read emails during the day, so if you email teachers directly, please cc the office into the email.

KEYBOARD AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Keyboard awards:-

- Adagio Level of the Red Star Medallion Award
  - Austin Miles, Lily May Price

OSHC NEWS

OSHC will be running an Easter Stall on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th March. Please see the attached poster for more details.

We teach our children lots of things. When they are babies, we teach them how to eat, how to walk, how to talk, how to go to the toilet! Some of these skills they learn quickly - others take lots of practice. As they become older we teach them how to read, how to catch, how to be a friend, how to care for a pet. Often our lives are really busy teaching and learning and doing. Do we take the time to teach our kids how to be still? How to sit and enjoy just being, not doing? Do you know how to teach them to relax? As our children become teenagers and young adults, perhaps the skill of being still, truly calm and focused, will be just as important as maths, cooking and driving.

Please join us for...

THE FOCUSED CHILD – PARENTING SEMINAR

Live at St Mary’s Library – Wed 13th April (Wk 1 Term 2) - 7pm
Share the invitation with parents and bring a plate for supper. Free childcare offered for primary aged kids – must RSVP by Wed 6th April to smnr@rok.catholic.edu.au
SOCIAL EVENTS CATCH UP
GO WATTLE…………… GO BLUE GUM………… GO BANKSIA

A huge THANK YOU to all parents, teachers, swimmers, supporters and finally Joy and Val from Aqualification and fitness for supporting and helping make our school swimming carnival last Friday night a success.

It was a great night enjoyed by all but I know that you all would be keen to find out the results……..so come along to the assembly this Friday morning at Coolock and we will announce all places, age champions and of course what everyone is waiting for.....THE WINNING HOUSE!!!!

FAMILY CAMP OUT
ST MARY’S DISCOUNTED PRICES – FOR THE EVENT ONLY

POWERED SITE $50 PER SITE (usually $42 p/night plus $12 p/child)

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CAMP THEN THE CAB-INS ARE BEING OFFERED AT A 10% DISCOUNTED RATE.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MENTION THIS EVENT WHEN BOOKING TO GET DISCOUNT

PHOTOS FROM SWIMMING CARNIVAL - FRIDAY 11TH MARCH

St Mary’s School Board Commissioning
On Sunday the board members from the St Mary’s School Board were commissioned by Fr Bryan Hanifin at St Joseph’s Cathedral at the 10 o’clock Mass. Our current board members are Michael Kelso, Sr Dolores, Fr Raj, John Kennedy, Mark Hopkins, Wes Heberlein, Linda Sander, Jodie Holdsworth, Jacqui Sheehan, Karyn Redmond, Penny Farrell, Nicole Wust, Barry Grund, Kate Miles and Jennie Harris.

Members of the School Board with our Parish Administrator Fr Bryan Hanifin and Fr Jayanthi (newly arrived from India).

ENROLMENT AT EMM Aus COLLEGE
Parents should be advised that all enrolment paperwork for Year 7 2017 needs to be returned to the Emmaus College office at least one week prior to your interview. Previously the College website stated that documents could be returned to the office of the student’s primary school however this is no longer the case. Please call 4923 5700 if you have any questions or concerns.

EMMAUS COLLEGE PRESENTS EXCEL FOR BEGIN- NERS
Wednesday 4 May, 5:30-7:30pm, Emmaus College, Yamba Road Library.
Emmaus College is a Catholic community of learners. We strongly encourage all within our community to continue to learn, even when they have completed formal schooling. As part of this goal, we are offering sessions for parents, car- ers, and other individuals within our community who may wish to broaden their skills in using technology.

In Term 2, we will be offering a mini-workshop on Microsoft Excel. Attendees will learn how to use Excel to complete basic calculations, create a graph, and sort data. This is a good session for anyone who wishes to learn to use Excel for home budgeting, running their own business, or is re- quired to do so in their workplace.

If you are interested in attending this session, please email Daena_scheuber@emmaus.qld.edu.au to secure your place. Bookings are limited.