Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

This Sunday is the feast of Pentecost, the day the Apostles were ‘gifted’ with the Holy Spirit to help them fulfil the spreading of the good news that Jesus began. This would have filled them with great joy, however at that point time they were most likely filled with dread also.

When the Apostles were gathered in hiding after Christ’s death, they probably thought that because they were his closest friends, they would be next. No doubt they have looked a pretty sorry lot. However, there are always strengths to be gained from situations of sorrow. This was to be realised when the Holy Spirit came to them with the fullness of Gifts. Gone was their sorrow, and their enthusiasm for preaching the message of Christ was boundless.

Likewise, we have received the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit as confirmed Christians and as such have the potential to be the Christs of today to other people. St Paul gives us this encouragement to act as Christ did:

‘Don’t do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast: but be humble towards one another never thinking you are better than others. And look out for each other’s interests not just your own – the attitude you should have is the one Christ Jesus had.’

Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

This Sunday the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year celebrate their Commitment Mass. Please keep these children in your prayers over the next two months as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

Holy Spirit, strengthen these children with your gifts. Help them to learn how to love and serve others as disciples of Christ. Fill them with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit. Help them understand that they can count on your guidance today and every day. Come, Holy Spirit! Come
YEAR 11 AND 12 UPDATE
The Catholic Education Office have confirmed that the Year 11 St Mary’s/Nagle initiative will be proceeding in 2016. This is terrific news for families of children wishing to continue their Catholic education here in Carnarvon.

Both pathways of education will be offered, ATAR and vocational education. Students will be enrolled through Nagle and course materials will be offered online, through video link and face to face teaching. In the coming weeks, a representatives from Nagle will be coming to Carnarvon to speak with parents and students in Year 9 regarding enrolment for the Year 11 programme in 2017.

Next year’s Year 11 students will be offered Year 12 courses of study in 2017.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING
The next P & F Meeting is being held tomorrow evening in the staffroom beginning at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN
The Middle School lock-in was a great success with the behaviour and attitude of the students commendable. Many thanks to the staff who supervised the students throughout the evening. Given the success of the night, another is planned later in the year.

COMMUNIO FREE DRESS DAY
Bishop Justin’s Communio appeal is occurring next week, and to help raise funds for this worthy cause we are having a free dress day for a gold coin next Wednesday, May 27. There will be Communio Mass on Thursday in the school hall beginning at 1:45 pm.

DATES TO REMEMBER
Friday 29th May, prior to the long weekend, is a pupil free day and as such there is no school on this day.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Jake and Bernie Windle who are the proud parents of Theodore Jake, born on 18th May. All are doing well. We would also like to congratulate our relief teacher Rebecca Faithfull and her partner Paul Haley on the birth of their baby, Oliver Scott on the 17th May. All well.

SCHOOL VISIT
This Friday, the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Dr Tim McDonald will be visiting St Mary’s along with Noel Pearson, Tom Stephens and Bernardine Denigan from Good to Great Schools Australia. The group will be coming to peruse classes and discuss the implementation of the Explicit Direct Instruction programme at St Mary’s.

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASS
This Sunday at the 10:00 am mass at St Mary Star of the Sea Church students from Year 6 will be making the commitment to their Confirmation programme this year. This is a significant milestone in the faith lives of these boys and girls and we pray for them as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 2nd August.

CONFIRMATION PARENT EVENING
There is a Confirmation Parent evening being held this Thursday in the school hall beginning at 7:00 pm. All parents of children receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year are expected to attend.

God Bless

Mr Steve O’Halloran
Principal

Congratulations to our primary merit award winners
From the REC – Kate Chilvers

The following are our celebrations for the term. Families are most welcome to join us for these celebrations.

School Liturgies – Term 2

- Confirmation Commitment (Year 6 Class) – Sunday 24 May 10:00am
- Whole School Mass: Communio (Year 5 Coordinating) – Thursday 28 May 1:45pm
- First Holy Communion – Sunday 7 June 10:00am
- Middle School Celebration (MS#5) – Sunday 28 June 10:00am

Events

Social Justice:
Thank you to all members of the St Mary’s school community who have made contributions to our ‘mission boxes’ this year. As a result of donations during Lent (Project Compassion) and the Middle School Lock-in we have been able to make a contribution of $1500 to Caritas. These funds are desperately needed to support the vital work of this organisation: long term social justice projects and emergency relief. As a community we continue to pray for those in Vanuatu and Nepal who are still recovering after natural disasters.

Parish Notices

This term preparation begins for two Sacraments: Confirmation and Holy Communion. Please be aware that Sacraments are celebrated within the parish community; the role of St Mary’s School is to facilitate and support the children attending our school to prepare to receive these Sacraments. The school does not make decisions about the Sacraments, this responsibility remains with the parish priest. Any general questions about the program can be addressed to the class teachers or REC. For any questions or enquiries we are unable to answer we will direct families to Fr Mariusz or Fr Chris. Please refer to the following information regarding meetings and activities for the preparation of children to receive these Sacraments.

First Holy Communion
- Parent-Child Meeting: Thursday 4 June 6pm
- Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Sunday 7 June 10am

Confirmation

- Parent Meeting: Thursday 21 May 7pm
- Commitment Mass: Sunday 24 May 10am
- Parent-Child Meeting: Thursday 23 July 6pm
- Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday 2 August 10am

Children’s Liturgy
St Mary’s Parish is happy to announce that Children’s Liturgy will recommence as of this Sunday 25 April. Children will now be able to participate in a children’s Liturgy during the 10am Mass for the remainder of this term.
Middle School News

With OLNA (Year 10) results delivered and NAPLAN testing over for another year, teachers and students will be taking stock of what lies ahead. The reporting phase will commence shortly for this semester and I know that teachers are continually refining their programs to ensure that the students fully understand the learning objectives and can demonstrate the success criteria in their lessons. These “Visible Learning” behaviours are very evident as Mrs Holtham, Mr O’Halloran and I walk through the classrooms taking the pulse of the excellent teaching practices and learning taking place.

It is a very exciting time at the moment to be at St Mary’s. With such a strong and successful implementation of Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) throughout the school, predominantly in our Primary years, I know that we will be able to reap the benefits as the students come through the Middle and High school years. The full focus back on learning has invigorated all staff in making our school a “Good to Great School”. With many important visitors coming into our school this week, it is proving to be an exciting time indeed.

What was equally exciting was the Middle School Lock-in last Friday night. The Year 7 & 8 students voted to allow any Year 9 & 10 students to the event. Raising money for social justice, 20 students took the opportunity to try and stay awake all night and torture their sleep-deprived teachers! A huge thank you to Miss Chilvers for co-organising the event with Miss Slattery, Mrs Cook and Miss Slattery for staying all night and Mikayla Petera for her kitchen wizardry for the whole event. I took the first shift with Fr Chris, then Mrs Holtham and Mr Notman took over the graveyard shift from 11pm – 4am with Mr Khan coming in from 4am-8am! Poor Miss Slattery and Mrs Cook, I don’t think they would have been able to catch up on their night of lost sleep last weekend either! In all, it was a terrific bunch of students that came along, experimented with the “Beauty Corner” run by Sonia and Courtney, the pizzas, fried bread and pancakes that came out of “Cookie’s Kitchen” and the fun and games enjoyed by all. Well done to all concerned.

I sent home a few uniform infringement notices last week and would appreciate the receipts back to the front office ASAP please. If any family is experiencing any difficulties with complying with the school policy, please feel welcome to contact me. I know it is difficult to keep up with growing teenagers but as with all standards, they must be maintained. A note will suffice for any temporary aberrations but please do catch up for a chat if you need to.

Finally, it has been wonderful to have Fr Chris on site as the school chaplain here. Please remember that Fr Chris is available to everyone, not just the students and staff. He certainly had a great time at the Lock-in and is looking forward to more student events in the future.

Take care until next time.

Kind regards

Sam Da Luz
Head of Middle School
The Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Art Students have been working on a art work for the Shaun Tan Art Competition. Good luck to all students!

Mrs Narelle Holtham
Year 2

This term in Health, students have been learning about how to be resilient. They have been learning about different strategies they can use when they may be having a bad day.

On Thursday the 14th of May the students performed a song at assembly about bouncing back. The song taught the students things such as; it is ok to make mistakes because that is how we learn and that if we are having a bad day other people are there to help us feel better.

I am very proud of what the students have achieved so far, they worked hard to learn the song and perform it in front of everyone.

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Miss Bianca Cuticone
Year Two Teacher

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P&F News

P&F are running a stall at this years Tropicool Festival to assist in fundraising. The stall will need to be manned over the 2 days (29th & 30th May), and we are looking for parents to volunteer to assist.

In the school office is a timetable and we would ask anyone who can help to sign up to a time. The week-end has been broken into 1 hour segments so that each person does not have to spend too long at the stall.

We will also be selling showbags.

Thanks in advance
P&F committee
Congratulations to Jorja Eyre

Jorja was selected to perform with kids from Perth in a Musical in Concert with star Rhonda Burchmore. This is run through APAN (Australian Performing Arts Network). The concert is a range of performances from different musicals. Jorja performed to songs from Matilda and sister act. This involves numerous trips to Perth for rehearsals. The concert was held last Sunday at Perth’s Convention Centre.

EP Classes
Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Carnarvon Netball Association

Junior netball require coaches for the 2015 season. If you would like to coach or can help out in any way contact Ainslee on 99411233
You are invited to
KINDY 5 PRE-PRIMARY
AFTER SCHOOL
STORY TIME & CRAFT

Date | Time | Book
--- | --- | ---
Thursday 5th May | 3.30pm | "Tommy and the Rock" by Emily Garrett

Thursday 21st May | 3.30pm | "Frog" by Sally Gardner

Thursday 25th May | 3.30pm | "We're going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen

Thursday 4th June | 3.30pm | "Who's in the Dam?" by Janey Whitfield

Thursday 11th June | 3.30pm | "The very hungry caterpillar" by Eric Carle

Thursday 18th June | 3.30pm | "The star and the sea" by Christina Oakley

Bring your Better Beginnings
Read with Me to receive your special sticker and go in the running to win a mums prize!

Camel House Library
15 Exon St
9941 3727
library.staff@cameron.wa.gov.au

State Library of Western Australia
RioTinto
Youth Outreach Services

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You’re invited!
Thu 21 May - 1:00 to 3:30 pm
Lotteries House Conference Room, Camel Lane, Carnarvon

Presented by Jenny Allen - Director

Geraldton Regional COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE MIDWEST & GASCOyne

At the workshop Jenny will:

◊ Review and explain the Australian Early Development Census and the five developmental domains
◊ Explore how children's brains develop in their early years (0 to 8 years) and how parents/caregivers and others who work with young children can create positive and lasting experiences

Who should attend?

Parents, carers, grandparents, teachers, child health practitioners; play and activity group co-ordinators; early childhood educators and anyone with an interest in children's early years development - Everyone Welcome!

RSVP to Rhiana Giffin: rhiana@edcentre.wa.edu.au or T: 9941 1099
by 15 May for catering purposes (afternoon tea supplied)
A free workshop, acknowledging National Families Week

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You’re invited!
Thu 21 May - 9.00 am to 12.00 noon
Lotteries House Conference Room, Camel Lane, Carnarvon

Presented by Jenny Allen - Director

Geraldton Regional COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE MIDWEST & GASCOyne

At the workshop Jenny will:

◊ Review the Australian Early Development Census and information on early childhood brain development
◊ Lead a discussion on how the Gascoyne Early Years Network can work together to better promote to families the importance of early brain development and of creating positive experiences for children

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome! This session will be of particular interest to those working with or for children aged from birth to eight years and members and prospective new members of the Gascoyne Early Years Network. Please note, a second session will run from 1:00 to 3:30 pm—please see flyer for details

RSVP to Rhiana Giffin: rhiana@edcentre.wa.edu.au or T: 9941 1099
by 15 May for catering purposes (morning tea supplied)
An event to acknowledge National Families Week