Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

Last Sunday was the beginning of Advent; a time when as Christians we wait in expectation for Christmas. Advent is a difficult season to observe because it is swamped by all things Christmas. Carols are on the radio and piped throughout shopping centres which are full of Christmas decoration and advertising: card writing is in full swing and our children are working on Christmas themes at school. Maybe all this activity is a form of active waiting, of expectation that something important will happen in the end. During this period as we wait in expectation of Christ’s coming, it could be that the bright lights, the prospect of presents and special food, leave us unable to recognise what it is for which we are ‘waiting in expectation’. We might ‘miss out’ on the coming of Christ in whatever manner that coming might manifest itself to each of us. The simplicity and openness of the new born Christ child, shows us how uncomplicated it can be for us to build or renew our personal relationship with God.

The Advent wreath with the ‘Christ Candle’ in the centre, might help keep in focus the reason for our ‘waiting in expectation’.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Miss Maria Yelash who has accepted a teaching assistant position at Sacred Heart Primary School, Highgate. We wish Miss Yelash all the best in her move to Perth and for her future studies.
SUMMER READING
During the long summer holidays, reading requires intrinsic motivation. Research tells us that the two best ways to counter summer regression in the reading proficiency of low-achieving and low-income students are:
(a) student choices to boost interest and ownership
(b) teacher/parent scaffolding in the form of book talks, book clubs, reading ladders and vocabulary development.

Book talks are an effective way to pique students’ interest in particular books just before the summer vacation.

Recommendations:
- Choose first-rate books.
- Always read each book. Your audience will recognise an imposter.
- Have a variety of staff give a book talk, not just English teachers and librarians.
- Practise your book talk before you give it.
- Show your own passion for your selections.
- Keep it short – present the basics and move on.
- Don’t oversell books. Give the audience just enough and leave the rest to them.
- Never give away an ending.
- A book talk is not a review – give just enough to hook potential readers.
- Have fun! Your audience will not be motivated unless they enjoy the presentation.

Make sure copies of the books are available for borrowing or purchase.

SCHOOL FEES
This year’s school fees are now due. Can all parents who have outstanding fees please pay prior to the end of the year or make an interview with myself to make alternative arrangements.

WEEK 2 ADVENT LITURGY
Tomorrow, the Kindergarten class will be leading us in our Week 2 Advent Liturgy at 2:00 pm in the hall. All parents and friends are welcome to join us at this time.

PARENT MORNING TEA AND LITURGY
Next Wednesday, 9th December, the Year 1 class will be leading us in our Week 3 Advent Liturgy at 10:30 am in the school hall. This will be followed by a parent morning tea. This is to thank all our community members who have supported St Mary’s throughout this year.

RITE OF PASSAGE
Tomorrow evening there will be a Rite of Passage Mass for all our Year 6 students and parents beginning at 6:00 pm. This will be followed by a supper at the Parish Centre. All Year 6 students are expected to attend.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING
This Friday, a group of students representing St Mary’s will participate in the Interschool Swimming Carnival to be held at the Carnarvon Aquatic Centre. All parents and friends are welcome to come along and support our students and we wish them all the very best as they compete with students from the other schools in Carnarvon.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION
This Friday morning, beginning at 9:00 am, there will be a Kindergarten Orientation day for all of our 2016 Kindergarten students and their parents. Parents will receive information regarding Kindergarten procedures and the children will become acquainted with their new environment.
AWARDS ASSEMBLIES
On Monday we will be having our award assemblies for our Middle and Primary School students. The Middle School awards will begin at 1:30 and the Primary School wards will begin at 2:30. Both will be held in the school hall.

YEAR 10 GRADUATION MASS AND DINNER
The Year 10 students will celebrate the end of their time at St Mary’s with a Graduation Mass to be held at our Parish Church at 6:00 pm. This will be followed by a Graduation Dinner at the Carnarvon Motel at 7:00 pm. All parents and friends are welcome to join us at the Mass.

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
The last day for students will be Thursday, 10th December.

God Bless

Steve O’Halloran
Principal
Staffing for 2016

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**
Principal: Mr Steve O’Halloran
Head of Middle School & Religious Education Co-ordinator: Mrs Sammantha Da Luz
Head of Primary School & Religious Education Co-ordinator: Mr Andrew Gammon

**ADMINISTRATION STAFF**
School Secretary: Mrs Kim Faithfull/ Ms Tina McMeekin
Bursar: Mrs Anna Brooks

**TEACHING/CLASSROOM STAFF - PRIMARY**
Kindy: Mrs Chrissy Firth
Pre-Primary: Mrs Alison Durmanich
Year 1: Mrs Ali O’Halloran
Year 2: Miss Elizabeth Ferla
Year 3: Mrs Nicole Nuttall
Year 4: Miss Emily Roche
Year 5: Mrs Carey Hodgson
Year 6: Miss Patricia De Vares
Mentor/Humanities: Mrs Trudy Cox

**TEACHING/CLASSROOM STAFF – SECONDARY**
Religious Education: Mrs Sandra Griffiths
Music, Drama and Art: Miss Katrina Ward
Humanities and Art: Mrs Narelle Holtham
Science and Digital Technology: Mr Robert Notman
Mathematics: Mr Nazzim Khan
English and Food Technology: Miss Melissa Slattery
Health and Physical Education & Design & Technology: Mr Ryan Kent
Mentor: Mrs Narelle Holtham

**SUPPORT STAFF**
Learning Support Co-ordinator: Mrs Trudy Cox
Reading Intervention Co-ordinator & Reading Recovery: Mrs Sandra Griffiths
Library Technician: Ms Susanne Aiken
Curriculum Resource Manager: Ms Tina McMeekin
Teaching Assistants:
Mrs Helena Bassett
Mrs Estela Scott
Mrs Jacquiie Black
Mrs Simone Petera
Mrs Karen Acott

Aboriginal Teaching Assistant: Mrs Liz Cook
Ms Cheryl Dalgety

Multilit Tutor: Mrs Sammantha Da Luz
Mrs Sue Lyn Munro
Mrs Sandra Griffiths

MiniLit Tutor: Mrs Samantha Punch
Dear Parents,
There have been reported cases of Whopping Cough and Hand Foot and Mouth in the school recently.

**Whooping Cough**
Whooping cough is a highly infectious disease that can be a life threatening infection in babies. Young infants infected with whooping cough may stop breathing or turn blue, have apnoea (pauses in normal breathing), pneumonia, feeding problems and weight loss, seizures, brain damage and, in some cases, death.
Older children and adults can also become infected with whooping cough and, while their symptoms are usually less severe, they can pass the infection to others, including infants too young to be immunised.
After five days of antibiotic treatment, people are normally no longer infectious, however, the cough often continues for many weeks, despite being treated with antibiotics.

**Hand, Foot & Mouth**
Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) is a common illness of infants and children. It is characterized by fever, sores in the mouth, and a rash with blisters. HFMD begins with a mild fever, poor appetite, malaise ("feeling sick"), and frequently a sore throat. One or 2 days after the fever begins, sores develop in the mouth. They begin as small red spots that blister and then often become ulcers. They are usually located on the tongue, gums, and inside of the cheeks. The skin rash develops over 1 to 2 days with flat or raised red spots, some with blisters. The rash does not itch, and it is usually located on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. It may also appear on the buttocks. A person with HFMD may have only the rash or the mouth ulcers. Children will be excluded from child care, schools, or other group settings during the first few days of the illness but this does not usually stop the infection spreading.

**Farewell**
This is my last newsletter as Acting Head of Primary I have thoroughly enjoyed the role and thank each and every one of you for the support you have shown me. I look forward to continuing in my role as Mentor/Learning support Coordinator and Humanities Teacher in 2016.

Kind Regards
Trudy Cox

Head of Middle School
The Year 10 Students are proud to announce that the 2016 School Calendar is now available to preview and order! Secure your copy today by completing an order form and paying at the front office. The calendars feature several images from each class, so they will make great Christmas stocking fillers. All proceeds raised will go towards the purchasing of a new school bus.

The cost of the Calendar is $20.00 and is available to view at the school office and the JLC. Thank you for your support.
Congratulations to all competitors at the recent St Marys Swimming Carnival. A big thank you also to our staff, parent helpers, Carnarvon Swimming Association and Carnarvon Aquatic Centre for making the day possible.

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<td>Janna Henderson</td>
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Faction Scores
Forrest 771 points
Stirling 767 points
Grey 737 points

Congratulations to all competitors at the recent St Marys Swimming Carnival. A big thank you also to our staff, parent helpers, Carnarvon Swimming Association and Carnarvon Aquatic Centre for making the day possible.
To help us with our planning for 2016 please inform the front office if your child/children will not be returning to St Marys next year.

**Uniform Shop News**
The Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday and Thursday till the end of term from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

Come in and see Charmaine or contact the school office on 99411 328 for more details.

**EP Classes**
The last day for Homework classes is this Thursday.
In recognition of the help and support you have provided to the staff and students of St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, we would like to invite you to the annual Thankyou Morning Tea.

Without your support of the many events in the School, it wouldn’t have the wonderful community spirit and facilities it has today.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Steve O’Halloran
Principal
St Mary Star of the Sea Presentation Night 2015

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD  
A Christmas Musical  
Thursday 10th December @ 6pm
Shire of Carnarvon

**CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL**

Christmas is a time of added expense! There are the usual costs of rent & utility bills. On top of that families are trying to find extra cash for Christmas treats & gifts. The Shire of Carnarvon are seeking donations for our inaugural Christmas Food Appeal.

**DONATE NOW**

**NON PERISHABLE FOOD & CHRISTMAS ITEMS**

Drop off points are located at the Shire Office, Public Library, IGA & Woolworths. Between 16th November & 16th December 2015.

By donating non-perishable food items, you’ll be helping families and individuals enjoy a special Christmas meal.

For more information contact the Shire on 99410000.

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**Summer Reading Club**

Get lost in a good book this summer.

Discover underwater worlds, alternate universes and more.

Recall your local public library and online.

1 Dec – 31 Jan.

Carnarvon Library and Gallery
18 Egan Street 9941 – 3727
library.staff@carnarvon.wa.gov.au