



# St Mary of the Cross Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL

Mr Matthew Beacroft

Dear All,

Welcome back to all our existing and new families across the school. It is our absolute privilege to be given the opportunity to educate your children. Our school has been providing education for children in the Windsor area for 87 years. As we begin our 88th year we are just as excited and committed to inspired learning, inspired faith and inspired action in our school as we were in 1929. I apologise for not being here for the first two days after getting a very nasty gastro bug on Tuesday. I do realise that I am blessed to have such a wonderful staff that have made sure the start of the year has ran smoothly.

It has been a bright, enthusiastic and very humid start to the new school year. This reinforces how lucky we are to have air conditioning for all our rooms to ensure high quality learning and teaching can occur in this sticky weather. Walking around the classes this week and meeting and greeting the new prep students, families and new students reminds me of why I began my career in education and remain passionate about it today. The excitement and energy of the children is palpable and what is integral to making our school so special.

### Parent Night and Communication

The relationship between parents and school is so important in what we do every day. Please feel free to drop in and introduce yourself if you are at school at any time. Quality relationships between parents, teachers and the leadership team are a cornerstone of an effective school and are something that I certainly encourage. It is very important that your contact details are up to date at the school so we can call you if we have any concerns at all. Please contact the office if your mailing or phone details change.

At the Parent Information night on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 6pm** I will discuss at greater length the routines, expectations and vision for our school over this year and future years. Please lock this date in your calendar and come along to enjoy a bbq and social gathering as well as how you can contribute to your child's education in 2016. The details of this night and all term one calendar dates will come home on Monday.

### Uniform Policy

As the new year begins it is timely to remind everyone about the importance of the correct uniform. As our school is a sun safe school we reinforce and enforce strongly the importance of wearing our school hat. Hats are available from the uniform shop every day for ten dollars as are all other parts of the uniform. As we begin the year it is also a timely reminder to name and rename bags, lunchboxes and hats so we can ensure all property is returned to its correct owner.

### Outside Hours School Care

**A teacher comes on duty every day at 8:15am. If your child is here before 8:15am they need to be seated in front of the office until the teacher comes on duty. If they are here before 8am they should be enrolled in before school care to ensure their well-being.**

Over the course of the year you may need before or after school care or even vacation care. Our provider, Windsor School Age Care Centre, has been rated exceeding in all seven of the National Quality Standards and joins an elite group of centres within the country to attain this high level of accreditation. If you wish to use this service you need to enrol with Kathryn and her wonderful team **before you need** to use this service. I have included Kathryn's website where you can go for further information [www.wsacc.org.au](http://www.wsacc.org.au). WSACC offer extra curricular activities including Spanish, French, keyboard, guitar, tennis, swimming and now Mandarin. For further details please contact the WSACC team.

Enjoy your week ahead and as always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me or the office.

Have a good week,  
Matthew Beacroft

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## Specialist Timetable

TUES	PE, Art & Library
WED	Spanish & Music
FRI	Assembly & Sausage Sizzle

## Date Claimers

10 Feb	Ash Wednesday
16 Feb	Parent Night
17 Feb	School Mass
19 Feb	School Banking at Assembly
2 Mar	School Photos
3 Mar	Yr3/4 Excursion
19 Mar	150th of Sisters of St Joseph
21 Mar	Harmony Day
25 Mar	Good Friday

## 2016 Terms

Term 1 (9 wks)	Wed 27 January - Thu 24 March
Term 2 (11 wks)	Mon 11 April - Fri 24 June
Term 3 (10 wks)	Mon 11 July - Fri 16 September
Term 4 (9 wks)	Tue 4 October - Fri 2 December



**IMPORTANT  
School Reminders  
PLEASE READ!**



- **EVERY FRIDAY**  
\$4 will get you a **sausage on bread, popper & snack**



- Due to Work Place Health & Safety - **We DO NOT reheat food for Students.**



- **School banking** is processed on a **Friday**.



- **School shoes**  
Children: \$65.00  
Adults: \$99.00



- **Pinkberry Kisses Bows & Clips** \$5 each

**APRE**

**Mr Dean Estreich**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to all new families who have joined us at St Mary of the Cross for 2016 and welcome back to those who continue the wonderful partnership between home and school that we strive to build and grow.

Last week our staff had the opportunity to learn more about the story of Mary MacKillop through artwork. Each member of staff made a special prayer candle that reflects the story of Mary MacKillop, our school and a part that shows something of individual importance. This opportunity continues and builds our story at St Mary of the Cross and in turn we bring our individual gifts allowing us to support each other generously.

This year is recognised in the Church as a year of 'Mercy'. Pope Francis declared this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and this year's motto is 'Merciful like the Father'. When we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the only way we know him—as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion.

God is a vital part of who we are and we ask our God to be with us in a spirit of mercy. We need to be open to the opportunities that are given to us as we grow into the people that we are capable of becoming. There are going to be times when we would rather run and hide rather than face up to the challenges, but these are the times when God guides us on the right path.

In the air there is a feeling of excitement as we imagine some of the things that will be highlights on our journey this year. We look forward to the things that will touch our hearts and change our lives. This year we will be given opportunities to embark on a new learning and embrace opportunities for growth. Remember that we don't do this alone but as part of a community and family.

Have a peaceful week,

Dean Estreich

Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE)



**PASTORAL CARE CORNER**

Sr Anne Cannon

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting year. I look forward to meeting new families and continuing to work with our wonderful 'old' families. The Northside Chronicle of January 13, published a 'back to school' article, authored by Michelle McQuaid, a psychologist. I think her ideas are worth repeating. To ensure a great year for both parents and children, she suggests:

Help your children discover their strengths. For young children, watch for times when they are excited, achieving, engaged and see what strengths they are showing. For older children you could try taking the survey at [www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org) (you could do the adult one while your child does the youth one.)

Praise effort rather than results. Remember, 'It's the journey, not the destination, that is important.'

Make emotions manageable. Learn to name your emotions and help children to do the same. Don't stick with 'sad, mad, happy'. I can provide an emotions chart, or you may find one online.

Cultivate heartfelt positivity. Ask your family to write down three things they would like to do that would give joy, awe, love (any positive emotion). Put these in a jar. When planning the weekend or after-school activities, pull one from the jar and put it into action.

Give a 'joy jolt'. When stress levels are getting high, hum a favourite tune, make a funny face, do something 'weird' – the jolt of joy will break the circuit of negativity.

Grow gratitude. Review the day each night – maybe around the table or perhaps at bedtime. Each person think of at least three things that are worth thanking God for.

Catch their stories. When things aren't going well, try to help children identify what's happening and what might happen next. They could write or draw this. Then, see if there is any other explanation for what's unfolding. Maybe they have missed something. Again, see if they can write or draw the new thoughts which might change how they are responding.

Mary MacKillop would say: "Let us often pause and examine the desires and motives of our heart."

Have a great weekend, creating your 'heartfelt positivity' jar.

God bless  
Sr Anne

**HEALTHY LUNCHES**

I checked lunch boxes on Wednesday and was thrilled to see plenty of fruit, veges, cheese, yoghurt and sandwiches filled with healthy food. Congratulations. Two helpful tips:

Cut up vege sticks, eg carrot, celery, zucchini or fruit and store in an airtight container with water. If this is done the night before while you are preparing dinner, it saves time in the morning.

Use your leftovers to create a healthy lunch. Put them straight into lunch boxes when clearing up after dinner.



**JANUARY**

2nd	Amelia Bieniek
5th	Mia Cameron
8th	Daniel Sibanda
24th	Christian Brew-Graves
31st	Savannah Smith Lethae Wilkie



**SCHOOL AWARDS**  
(assembly week ONLY)

Principal	
Prep	
YR1-2	
YR3-4	
YR5-6	
Sr Anne	

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SUCCESSFUL REVIEW

A Principal's Performance Review is a professional commitment to the effective leadership of a school's community of learners.

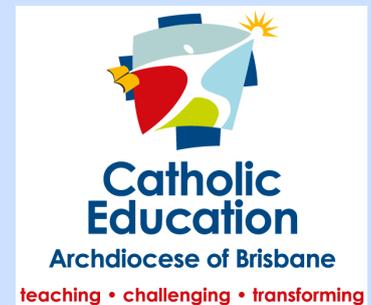
Last year in August, Fr Jose and a sample of families, school staff, students and Brisbane Catholic Education Office staff were invited to participate in Mr Matthew Beacroft's Performance Review.

The process involved a survey conducted by Simons & Associates (trading as Ardjuna) and a Performance Review Day when a panel, comprising two principals and myself, met stakeholder focus groups at St Mary of the Cross Windsor, to validate the survey results and the Principal's self-reflection.

I am happy to report that the review outcome was very positive and complementary of Mr Beacroft's leadership.

Thank you for your participation in the process and congratulations to Mr Beacroft on a very successful performance review.

**Peter Stower**  
Area Supervisor  
School Services North  
Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane



**VALLEYS DIEHARDS**  
**REGISTER ONLINE NOW**

1908

U6's to U8's play for FREE! in 2016

New paying members receive a FREE Valleys polo

Register online now at [www.valleysdiehards.leaguenet.com.au](http://www.valleysdiehards.leaguenet.com.au)  
Emerson Park, Bega Street Grange  
Contact: Megan, Registrar, on 0433 483 357 - [diehards@valleysrugbyleague.com](mailto:diehards@valleysrugbyleague.com)

SIGN ON DAY SUNDAY 7TH FEB 10AM- 2PM

## pARTY ARTworks studio

### Art Classes

We encourage each student to paint what inspires them under the guidance of our artists.

Wed & Thurs 3:30 - 5:30, Sat 10am - 12noon  
\$31.50 per lesson. Includes afternoon tea.

Shop 11A 72 Basnett st Chermside West  
PH: 3359 4544 [info@partyartworks.com](mailto:info@partyartworks.com)

PH: 07 3857 4803  
Fax: 07 3857 5039  
Email: [pwindsor@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pwindsor@bne.catholic.edu.au)

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Find us and like our Facebook page:  
St Mary of the Cross School Windsor



[www.stmaryofthecross.qld.edu.au](http://www.stmaryofthecross.qld.edu.au)