Dear Parents

One of the joys of preparing for Christmas is the setting up of the Christmas tree. Some of the reasons for that joy have been expressed in this short poem:

“The ornaments upon our tree
Have secrets of their own,
Of other trees and Christmases
That each of them has known.
They’re all different shapes and colours
But we know and love them all.
And if they could only speak
What joy they would recall.” -Author Unknown.

Another Christmas joy, along with putting up decorations and preparing the Christmas dinner, is the giving of gifts and Leslie Veen gives this tradition a beautiful context when she writes:

“I love to give gifts to people. I get great joy from choosing items that express a good mix of my personality and that of the person receiving the gift. I like to give gifts as a way of letting someone know that I am thinking of them and that I value them as a person. It is my way of recognising that my life is more complete because that person is part of it.” No looking for what I might receive in return in this statement.

In its own way Leslie Veen’s idea of gift giving is close to the reality of God’s gift of His son – “a good mix of My personality and of those receiving the gift” – Jesus Christ fully Divine, fully human being gifted to us by His father.

Christmas is a special time of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour in Bethlehem. We enjoy the story about Mary and Joseph, their trip to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus in a stable, the visit of the shepherds and wise men. We enjoy watching our children present the nativity play and we delight in their very simple understanding of the events of Christmas.

However, as Vince Gerhardy reminds us:

“We too often don’t go any further than the simple story. We miss out on the real significance of these events. Christmas is the celebration of God becoming one of us, a fact that we can never fully grasp, God living on the earth with all the pain, the suffering, the human tragedies, the personal rejection and dying. Jesus came into the thick of everything; and through his presence we are never alone.”

In Jesus, God is with us when we are depressed and hurting and sick.
In Jesus, God is with us when we are confronted with bad news.
In Jesus, God is with us when we feel guilty and ashamed.
In Jesus, God is with us when we worry about someone we love.
In Jesus, God is with us when we are caught up in a chain of events that we are powerless to prevent.
So what difference will celebrating Christmas this year make to our lives. Will Christmas be here today and gone tomorrow or will we be left with more than credit card pain? Perhaps we could pledge along with Charles Dickens: “I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to honour it all the year.” To be Christian people means to carry in our lives throughout the year God’s gifts of peace, justice and love. We are called to be Christ’s impact people in our world today.

More than a hundred years ago Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the following Christmas prayer. It seems to have lost none of its relevance.

“Loving Father,
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
Amen.”

Last week we were all very saddened to hear of the death of Pam Alexopoulos, mother to Elio Year 5 and Stephanie Year 6. I contacted Pam’s family and expressed sympathy on behalf of our school community. I have also offered support to the family and this extends to all students, staff and families within our school. We remember Pam fondly for her loving nature, dedication to her family and friends, brilliant smile and great sense of humour. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Pam’s family and friends. Fr George will offer the 5pm Mass at Sacred Heart this Saturday for Pam and her family.

On Friday all students who have been awarded the “Principal Award” throughout term 4 will celebrate at the Principal’s Morning Tea. This is a prestigious award and all recipients of this award throughout the year are to be congratulated for their exceptional behaviour.

On Tuesday 15 December we look forward to celebrating with and farewelling our Year 6 students at their Graduation Mass commencing at 5pm. This Mass is the formal celebration for our students as we wish them all the best for their future schooling.

On Wednesday 16 December at our End of Year Mass we give thanks for the wonderful year we have shared and we farewell families and staff who are leaving. We also recognise and thank various people from our community. Captains, Vice Captains, SRC, Liturgy and Sports Captains for 2016 will be announced. Please join us for this beautiful celebration of our faith community.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Mrs Suellen Garey
PRINCIPAL

Mary MacKillop Place is a place unlike any other - DISCOVER CREATE INSPIRE
Discover stories from the Museum’s latest exhibition and create an original work of art inspired by your experience!

WHEN? 18 – 22 January 2016, 11am – 1pm
WHERE? 7 Mount St, North Sydney
COST? $8 per child (5-12 years), Adults/carers are free
BOOKINGS? 02 8912 4883 (business hours) or mackillop@sosj.org.au

For more information about Mary MacKillop Place, please visit our website www.marymackillopplace.org.au
Religious Education News

Alexopoulos Family
Fr George will be offering the 5pm Saturday night mass at Sacred Heart Church to Pam Alexopoulos. We welcome all families to attend this special mass.

Christmas Hampers
Thank you for your generous donations for our Christmas Hampers. The hampers were collected on Monday and will be delivered to families in need living in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Altar Servers
Congratulations to the following students who have been trained and were commissioned at mass last Sunday Night: Alana S, Gemma R, Matthew M, Alana R, Lily M, Joel H, Roxanne R, Jahla F, Daniel S, Jasmine W, Sophie W.

A big thankyou to Matthew B for training our altar servers.

Religious Dates to Remember
Wed 16 Dec Mass of Thanksgiving (11.30am)

Please keep in your prayers...
Natasha S from 1D and her family. Natasha is undergoing medical treatment for reoccurring leukaemia.

If you have any good news or if you need our prayers, please see me at school, contact me by phone.

Christine McBryde – Religious Education Coordinator

PARISH WEEKLY BULLETIN can be found here.

School WHS

Student Medication – A reminder to parents that all medication (prescription, over-the-counter, herbal) must be accompanied by a Request to Administer Medication form completed by a doctor, or the chemist prescription label on medication. School staff cannot administer any medications without written advice from a doctor. The Request to Administer Medication at School form is available on our school website on the “News & Events – Administration Forms” page here and can be easily printed from the website at the doctor’s surgery.

Parents are welcome to attend the school office during the day to administer medication if doctor permission cannot be provided.

Uniform Shop News

The uniform shop has now closed for 2015.

In 2016 during the first week of school, the uniform shop will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
Mon 1 Feb – 8.30-am Tues 2 Feb - 8.30-9.00am Wed 3 Feb – 2.30-3.00pm Fri 5 Feb – 8.30-9.00am
Normal opening days and hours will apply from Monday 8 February 2016.

Veronika & Clare
**Forward Planner**

15 Dec - Yr 6 Graduation Mass (5pm) and Dinner (Bayview Golf Club)
16 Dec - End of Year Mass (11.30am)
16 Dec - Last day term 4
24 Dec - Christmas Eve Children's Mass (5pm)

Our full school calendar can be accessed on our school APP or website on the Significant Dates page: [here](#).

Dates are constantly being added to our calendar and should be checked regularly by parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Behaviour For Learning</th>
<th>Respectful Relationships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our PBL focus for this week is: LEARN AND LET OTHERS LEARN</td>
<td>Our Respectful Relationships focus for this week is: CONGRATULATE OTHERS WITH A SMILE AND EYE CONTACT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**2016 School Terms, Staff Development Days & Holidays**

To assist parents who are planning holidays in January, please note school dates below. All children are required to attend a compulsory assessment in January. Assessment booking details will be published in our final newsletter for 2016, on Wednesday 16 December.

Students will meet their 2016 teachers on Tuesday 15 December 2015. Parents of kinder 2016 students will receive a letter in the mail advising their kinder teacher.

Wednesday, 27 January........... Staff Development Day (**SDD**)
Thursday, 28 January............. Assessment Day for Kinder – Yr 6 / SDD
Friday, 29 January............... Assessment Day for Kinder – Yr 6
Monday, 1 February ............ Assessment Day for Kinder
Monday, 1 February ............ Yrs 1-6 commence
Tuesday, 2 February ............ Kinder commence

**2016 Vacations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Last Day of School for Students</th>
<th>Return to School for Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Friday 1 July</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 July (Staff only on Monday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Friday 23 September</td>
<td>Monday 10 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Friday 16 December</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2016:**

Wed 27 Jan  Thurs 28 Jan  Mon 18 Jul  Mon 19 Dec  Tues 20 Dec

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**2016 Grade Parents**

A very big thank you to our grade parents who have performed the valuable service of welcoming and social networking to enable everyone to feel part of the community. If you are interested in the position for next year, please contact the office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder 2016</th>
<th>Year 1 2016</th>
<th>Year 2 2016</th>
<th>Year 3 2016</th>
<th>Year 4 2016</th>
<th>Year 5 2016</th>
<th>Year 6 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position filled</td>
<td>Position filled</td>
<td>Position filled</td>
<td>Position filled</td>
<td>3-4 required</td>
<td>2 more required</td>
<td>Position filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Student Achievements**

**Broken Bay Summer Sport Selections**
Congratulations to Alana R, Julia N, Kaleb G and Oliver R who have been selected in the Broken Bay Basketball Team, and Charli Munro who has been selected in the Broken Bay Cricket Team. They will attend the Polding Basketball Trials in Lismore in February next year.

*Michele Kerr – Sports Coordinator*

**Manly Warringah Basketball Association**
Congratulations to our year 5 boys, Anthony C, Mark C, Beau N, Hayden B, Connor L, Zac B, Gus S and Kaleb G who won their Grand Final basketball game on Saturday. It was an outstanding performance by the whole team - Well Done Boys!

It was a double celebration for Kaleb who also plays in the MWBA Miniball team as they won their Grand Final game last week to!

**Band News**

**Training Band 2016 Update**
Thank you to all parents who submitted their information for interested children to become our new musicians of 2016. Jane Nelson and I completed all our student “testing” last Thursday - it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm!

This Wednesday, all new band students will receive a recommendation and "Letter of Offer." If you wish to accept a placing for your child in the Sacred Heart Training Band 2016, this paperwork will need to be returned by FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER.

Parents will then be notified regarding instrument tutors and instrument hire/buy suggestions.

*Clare McFadden – Band Conductor*

**The Hub News**

**End of Year Clean Up**
The Hub are having an “End of year clean out and tidy up of our Storage Shed and Toy Shed” on Thursday 10 November immediately after assembly. If any of you are thinking this could be your one thing to assist The Hub for the year we would really appreciate it! Many hands make light work.

Sacred Heart are again participating in the Athletes Foot program. We encourage you to buy school and sport shoes from Athletes Foot and mention Sacred Heart. The school will then receive $5.00 from each pair of shoes purchased, including shoes for other family members. The full brochure can be printed on our school website [here](#).

It’s been another big year for the Hub and we will be saying our “thank yous” at next week’s end of year mass. I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support given to me in my role as Secretary, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience over the past few years. I will be handing this role over to Kellie Carroll who I know will carry on the role with ease.

Merry Christmas and happy new year to everyone, stay safe and take care.

*Lynette Suchanek – Outgoing Hub Secretary* ([shpandf@gmail.com](mailto:shpandf@gmail.com))
Happy Birthday from all at Sacred Heart to the following students who celebrate a birthday during the coming week:

Harry W  Allegra L  Charlotte S  Connor B
Naomi M  April O  Milana G  Ashton P
Isabella L  Abigail L  Adrian S

School Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KE</th>
<th>Jack S, Elena C, Indiana P</th>
<th>KP</th>
<th>Ruby D, Toby W, Lachlan C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Jade H, Izzy A</td>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Cameron L, Zara E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Samuel R, Chloe H, Elena C</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Arianna F, Summer P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Emily G, Erin S</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Emma B, Lily Molluso, Lauren K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Eva H, Bianka S</td>
<td>4N</td>
<td>Ringo T, Olivia B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5N</td>
<td>Kira B, Nick B, Dom K</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Amelia S, Sam S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6F</td>
<td>Double awards next time</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Double awards next time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6S</td>
<td>Jack W</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principal’s Awards: N/A

Canteen News

Canteen Roster (start 9.30am - finish 1.45pm)

| Mon 14 Dec | Jackie B, Anita K, Kylie D |
| Thurs     | Staff Development Day     |
| Fri       | Staff Development Day     |

| Mon 1 Feb  | Meegan K, Geraldine T, Katie Z |
| Thurs 4 Feb | Claire W, Shaunna R, Simone K |
| Fri 5 Feb  | Justine O, Rebecca B, Denise C |

Help needed: Monday 14 December either 9.30am-1.45pm or 11am-1.45pm. Please contact Kay.

Canteen Christmas Party: It was fantastic to see how many Sacred Heart children joined in on our special event day this Tuesday gone. It was a great success with over 250 hot dogs, drinks and choc tops eaten. We also had over 25 donated prizes to give away consisting of frizbies, skipping ropes, books, a signed footy jersey and a tennis racket. A very big thank you to our helpers on the day, Julie F, Jade C and Maggie H.

The last day for canteen this year will be Monday 14 December for all online lunch orders and over the counter service. We will re-open on Monday 1 February 2016.

Kay & Marie – Canteen Coordinators

Kiss & Drop Morning Roster

Thank you to the volunteers on the Kiss and Drop roster. We still require additional volunteers, if you are able to assist please contact Selina Nichols on nicholsselina@gmail.com for further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 Dec</td>
<td>15 Dec</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>10 Dec</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda M</td>
<td>Selina N</td>
<td>Mel B &amp; Lynette S</td>
<td>Lisa P</td>
<td>Kylie D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*** PLEASE READ IF YOUR CHILD CATCHES A BUS ***

New bus route numbers for School Special bus services in 2016

From the start of Term 1, most School Special bus services will be renumbered to eliminate any duplication of route numbers that may have caused confusion to students in the past.

Please note: These changes do not impact the level of service provided to our school or the route taken by these services. The only change is to the three-digit bus route numbers.

*Please have a look at the listing on the STA website [here](#) and have a discussion with your child in the Christmas/January holidays regarding their new bus number.*

If you are unsure, please check the Sydney Buses website [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD NUMBER</th>
<th>WHERE THE BUS GOES - AFTERNOON</th>
<th>NEW NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>756</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to Mater Maria, Warriewood</td>
<td>643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>757</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to Church Point</td>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>759</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to Warriewood Valley</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>760</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to St Joseph’s Narrabeen</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>784</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to Mona Vale Junction</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>788</td>
<td>From Sacred Heart to Newport / Avalon</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Changes to School Student Travel Scheme / Introduction of School Opal cards**

From term one 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process. Most parents, guardians and students won’t need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school student travel pass and will automatically receive a School Opal card in 2016, except the current year 2 students. Those students should have returned their new application forms to the school office for processing.

All new applications for School Opal cards must be made via the online application form at [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students). Forms should then be printed and dropped into the school office. For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS) please visit Transport NSW’s website above.

**Diocesan Parent Council**

Information from the Diocesan Parent Council can be found on their website [here](#).

For more information on Michael Grose seminars, please visit [here](#).
 Helpers for Christmas Eve Mass!
Pittwater Parish is renowned for its 5pm Children’s mass on Christmas Eve and of course we need lots of helpers and children to participate. Included in this newsletter are slips for people (to return) who are able to assist with setting up on Christmas Eve and children who will be attending so we can begin to organise readers and actors.

There will be Christmas Eve Mass in the school grounds at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. We are seeking a team to work with us in preparing and assisting with this Christmas celebration. We will be working closely with the Parish for co-ordination. Help will be needed with ushering/crowd control, stage setup, the nativity play, chair set up and putting away chairs after the 9pm Mass, decorating etc. If you feel you would be able to help in any way, we would very much like to work with you in making Christmas Eve a special evening. **We will hold a meeting closer to Christmas to discuss details.**

Please fill out the form below if you can assist and return to Chris McBryde. Thank you in advance! If you would prefer to email your reply, please email to shmv@dbb.catholic.edu.au with the heading “Christmas Eve Mass Helper”.

**Christmas Eve Liturgy/Play Participation (Children)**

I would like to include the children from our school who will be attending the Christmas Eve Liturgy/Play to take on roles, eg readings, dancing, singing, etc. If you know that you will be attending the liturgy and would like your child/children to be involved, please indicate on the slip below and return to school for the “red bag” or to Mrs McBryde.

If you would prefer to email your reply, please email to shmv@dbb.catholic.edu.au with the heading “Christmas Eve Liturgy Child Participation”.

---

Christmas Eve Mass Helpers

I, ____________________________ am interested in working with the Parish/School in coordinating/helping with the Christmas celebration to be held in the school grounds on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

My contact details are: ____________________________ (phone)

______________________________ (email address)

---

Christmas Eve Liturgy / Play Participation (Children)

I will be attending the 2015 Parish Christmas Eve Liturgy and my children are able to participate.

Child’s name: ____________________________ Class: __________________

Child’s name: ____________________________ Class: __________________

Child’s name: ____________________________ Class: __________________

Parent’s Signature: ____________________________ Date ______________