Dear Parents/Caregivers, 12 February 2013

We are enjoying getting back into the rhythm of school and reacquainting ourselves with each other once more. It is always nice having new children with us as they enhance the overall culture of our school.

I acknowledged Jacqui Hammer’s return last year in our newsletters but forgot last week to mention her in our start of year correspondence to you all. We are very happy to have her back with us as she brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to our school and staff. We look forward to her input this year.

We thank our families who were able to attend our Family Parish School Mass on Saturday and the cup of tea after in Room 1. The singing of our children was lovely and it was wonderful to start our Year of Faith focus in this way in our parish church.

Have a nice week.

Richard Duffy
Parents/people for tutor reading at school

We are looking to start Parent Tutoring in Week 4 (18th February). If you are able to assist with this wonderful programme in giving children an opportunity, to gain more reading mileage. Please contact Richard or Jacqui with your contact details. Many thanks

Drinks at School

We encourage the drinking of water at school and tend to discourage our children bringing flavoured milk or sugar based drinks to school. Children are able to bring water bottles to school during these warmer times which can be filled with filtered water from a tap in the corridor. (We acknowledge that we used to sell flavoured drinks with our sausage sizzle each Friday after the gala, however that was for a short time.)

Swimming Instruction

Our school swimming lessons with Jill Clarke swim school will be held early in term 4 this year. We had the option of Term’s 1 or 4 and felt that because children are in the water over the end of year holiday period that early Term 4 was a more beneficial time for instruction in swimming. Room 3 children will be involved in the DCC Skills2Swim programme sometime in Term’s 2 or 3 (We’ll try to arrange it either side of the coldest weather).

Sports

T Ball: St Marys vs ?? On Saturday (draw not out at this time), your coach will let you know when you are playing. There will be a tee ball practice this Thursday after school which will finish around 4pm.

Dear TBall Team, Please can you be at the ground 10—15 minutes before our game so we can be organised by the time the hooter goes. Sadly if we DON’T have a full team at start time we forfeit the game. Many thanks!!

Sports Uniforms

If you have a miniball singlet lying around at home, please return it asap. Also if you have 2 sports tops, or 2 sports shorts, please return at least 1 set, thank you.

We have a number of outstanding sports tops and shorts, so those children will not be issued with a new set for this year. A hire fee of $5 will be added to your school account to cover the cost of cleaning and fixing or replacing.

$25 will be charged if they get lost. This helps to cover the cost of replacement.

These will come home on Thursday or Friday this week. The children can wear there sports uniforms for class PE, and when the represent the school on any sports trips.

BOT Notices

Marie Baker step down as Board Chairperson at the end of last year. She has a new position as matron of the boarding hostel at Scared Heart Girls’ College in New Plymouth. We wish her well in this new adventure in her life and thank her for the many hours she put into St Marys.

Ian Paulin has been voted in as the new chairperson.

Board of Trustee elections are held nationally every three years. We have three board members who will be leaving our current BOT. Please give serious consideration to standing as a Board member. It gives you a real opportunity to have direct involvement in the development of our school’s direction at a governance level supporting us in moving forward. The elections will be held in May.

Being a Board Member gives you an insight into meeting structures, strategic planning and financial management of a school, teaching valuable skills which can be transferred into other business or community interests you may have.
Thank you to all those who came and celebrated Mass with us last Saturday. It was a lovely beginning to the school year, and as always the children sang beautifully!

We have a group of 7 children who are ready to continue on their faith journey, beginning with First Reconciliation: I am needing a volunteer to prepare the children for this sacrament. It consists of 4 sessions, which are all fully prepared and ready to go. It would be up to you when you would like to run the sessions. Possibly during Saturday Mass or after school once a week.

We would like to get this organised asap, so if you are able to help, please let Rachael know. Thank you.

**Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday.** We celebrate the beginning of Lent by participating in Mass at the Little Sisters. We will be leaving school at 10:40 am. Thank you for the offers to help transport the children.

**Dates for your Diaries**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTA AGM</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 February @7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Sisters Mass</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 February @ 10:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal Setting interviews</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 February from 3:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk and Wheel Week</td>
<td>Monday 4 March - Friday 8 March</td>
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**Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA)**

***Annual General Meeting***

**THIS WEDNESDAY 13 February**

at 7pm in the staffroom

**Do you enjoy making new friends and learning new skills?**

Our annual meeting will be held in our school staffroom on **Wednesday February 13 from 7pm**.

Come and join our PTFA for 2013. We are a fun group of parents, caregivers and friends and family of St Mary’s school who meet together about once every six weeks. Our PTFA is an active fundraising and school support organisation.

We have a fun and busy calendar of events that span the year. Last year our main focus was our amazingly successful Gala Day. Help us share ideas on great fundraising events for 2013. Being part of our PTFA is a great way to become involved in the school, meet other parents and keep up to date with what is happening.

Help us create a strong sense of community and contribute to the quality of our children’s education at the same time. If you think this might be for you come along to the AGM or contact Bernadette

**Sausage sizzle/Ice Block**

We desperately need your support to cook on Friday lunchtimes.

If you are able help please complete attached form and return ASAP!

I can help on Fridays Name ________________________

**Sausage Sizzle Order**

Name ________________________

Number of Sausage/s $1.50 each ________________

Ice Block $1 each ___________ (only 1 per child)
Year 6 Exec Meeting

We had a Year 6 Exec meeting last Thursday to organise some things for the year. We are thinking about doing some more paper brickmaking to raise money for different things.

We came up with some ideas of things we could do to raise money for school. Some events we may hold this year are a pet day, disco, St Mary’s Master Chef as well as a wheels day and some type of fun day.

We are going to meet next week to finalise something for this term.

By Sam Al-Balushi

Room 3 News

In art we have been making a mural with us in it. We sketched our uniforms and we are going to stick them onto the mural. We have been using different colour mediums to create an interesting effect such as paint, dye, coloured paper, and pictures from magazines as well as photos we have taken from our school. In the mural we are doing all sorts of things like skipping and playing with hula hoops outside.

Sacred Space

On Friday we cemented in a bench for our Sacred Space. Some of us were mixing cement, others were digging an area to put the stones and steel rods in and others were cutting and nailing timber frames. We are hoping to get two more in this week. We have been weeding, planting and watering vegetables in the school gardens. Room 2 have harvested potatoes with Linda.

Water slide

On Friday Summer, Mr Duffy and I set up the waterslide. It was a very hot day and we decided we would have a water slide. It was quite small but good fun and we needed it. People slid on their belly and their knees.

By Angelique and Guinevere

Room 2 reports

It was raining. I could hear it on the roof. I felt sad because my mum wouldn’t let me go outside. I could see trees, the leaves were splashing around.

By Xavier Peyroux

I went outside in the rain. I was scared because there was a storm. It goes ‘Boom, Boom, Boom’!

By Launga Muasika

I saw lots of rain in the sky, it was really heavy. I want to go and slide in the sandpit. But I couldn’t.

By Emily Buckingham