Thursday evening’s family meal at Cableways was a great idea and opportunity for families in our school community to get together. It sounded like those who could make it enjoyed a nice relaxed family meal together. It has been lovely meeting new families and children who are joining our school next year as these children have been in our junior class at different times having school visits as part of transition to school.

A big thank you to our Christmas Raffle sellers at Fresh Choice on Sunday: Rachael, Alice, Ann, Suzy and Kostya. It is lovely to see people stepping up and helping out at our fundraising events.

Our breakfast & homework club is running very well and the staff are pleased to be able to offer this service to our school families. I would like to thank staff for their commitment in establishing this initiative in school and the way they support our children during these times throughout the week.

A friendly reminder that ALL bookings need to go through the school office email address. A few parents are texting staff and this is not the way the system operates. Our office manager checks emails frequently, even after school and at weekends, all emails are replied to, so you know that your child has been booked in, so please help us by using the correct channels for booking your children into the free clubs.

Ia manuia (Samoan farewell)

Richard Duffy
This week …

Monday 28 November
• Naomi our Sports Activator is in this afternoon to teach us gymnastics.
• TBall practise after school today

Tuesday 29 November

Wednesday 30 November

Thursday 1 December
• Touch - Players will be notified when we have the draw.
• School Disco Thursday 1 December 6:30-8:30 pm.

Friday 2 December
• Christmas Hamper Raffle cards and money due in
• First Friday Mass Friday 2 December 9:30 am
• Discovery Time

Saturday 3 December
• TBall - St Mary’s Mets vs Grants Braes Giants, Bathgate 6 at 10:00 am.
• Altar Servers at Mass.
  3 December - Jean Luc & Angelique Peyroux

Kickstart Breakfast Club and After School Club
• Please remember to email the
  school office to book in - secretary@st-marys.school.nz. Please remember to
  pack your homework books and a little something extra in your lunchbox for
  After School Club - Thank you.

Coming up
• Thursday 8 December - Mary Day.
• Friday 9 December - Assembly@2:30 pm.
• Saturday 10 December - Graduation Mass@6:00 pm.
• Tuesday 13 December - Singing at Leslie Groves.
• Tuesday 13 December - Christmas Carols and Prizegiving@5:30 pm.
• Wednesday 14 December - Special Liturgy for Mr Duffy@2:30 pm.
• Thursday 15 December - Thank you morning tea@10:30 am.
• Thursday 15 December - Last day of Term 4, children to wear mufti please.

Term Dates for 2017
• Term 1: Tuesday 31 Jan - Thursday 13 Apr
• Term 2: Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July
• Term 3: Monday 24 July - Friday 29 Sept
• Term 4: Monday 16 Oct - Friday 15 Dec
**Advent**

At school we begin Advent with purple cloths on our prayer tables and lighting our advent wreaths each morning. It is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

The First Week of Advent - HOPE

We continue to hope in God’s promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace. Thank you God, for the light of hope. As we prepare for Christ’s coming, help us to share our hope with others.

**End of Year Celebrations - Dates for your diaries!**

**Graduation Mass**
Saturday 10th December at 6pm

This Mass celebrates the wonderful year we have had a school and in particular we celebrate our Year 6's and wish them well for their future. It is also an opportunity to farewell families who have their last child moving on to intermediate.

**Christmas Carols & Prize-giving**
Tuesday 13th December at 5.30pm in the Church

Join us in the church where the children will lead Christmas Carols, it's another lovely way to celebrate the year and also get into the Christmas spirit. This will be followed by our End of Year Prize-giving. Extended family and friends are very welcome!

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**Year 6 School Disco**

This Thursday 1 December in the Hall 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Gold coin entry
Bring a friend
A fun night with Dance Competitions
Drinks, lollies and glo sticks will be for sale
Plenty of great music.

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**Fundraiser Calendars**

The calendars will have an rainbow theme and the artwork will look like this...

It is underway, we hope to have it finished this week!!

Calendars will cost $5 each.
Orders to be placed through the office next week.

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**Christmas Shopping Child Care**

Just putting feelers out ....

We are thinking of having a couple of days Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 December where you can book your child or children in and then go and do some Christmas Shopping.

It will be a fundraiser for the school and children not enrolled at St Mary’s will be welcome to attend.

Cost will be $10 for the morning or $20 for the full day per child.

If you think this is something you would be interested in using please let Jacquie in the office know by Monday 5 December/
By Chloe

Last week we have been doing some more work on story starters in writing and how to plan a piece of writing in detail. For maths my group has been learning about the order of operations when you have equations to solve that have different parts to them.

In reading my group read an article about river pollution in New Zealand and then in topic we linked this to different types of pollution and researched ways organisations are trying reduce pollution around the world. We have started doing some work on plays and have been put in different groups with different characters to act out.

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Sausage Sizzle Fridays -
Name ________________________________________

No. of Sausages $1.50 each ____________

Ice Block $1.00 each only 1 per child__________

We had an Advent Discovery Time last week.
We made Advent Wreaths, Candles, Calendars and Christmas Trees.

We are looking forward to more Christmas craft this week!
Parents Teachers Association

2016 has been a great year, thank you to all the parents and the community for getting behind us and supporting our fundraising ventures for this year.

From the Weetbix Tryathlon right through to the Christmas Hamper Raffles.

We have raised just about $5,000 for the school this year. This is an amazing effort for our community. This doesn't include the money raised from the fair in Term 1.

We helped fund camp, arts and crafts activities, curriculum areas and put money towards health programmes in the school. We have donated $4,000 to the school, however we saw another need and have also decided to pay for Term 4’s swimming at Moana pool, so you will see this in your accounts which are due to come out this week. Which will bring our donation to the parents of St Mary’s students to $5,000.

We are still in the process of our last fundraiser - Christmas Hamper. Please get selling those tickets. This are due back into the office on Friday morning this week.

Thank you morning tea
Due to an oversight we have moved our helpers morning tea from this Friday morning to the last day of school.

Thursday 15 December at 10:30 am.

So everyone is warmly invited to come along and share in this occasion as the staff thank all our volunteers of our school community.

Thanks to our Volunteers!
A message from our Board Of Trustees

We are well underway with finding a suitable new principal to take over from Mr Duffy. We are very interested in your views regarding the attributes and skills we should seek for this important position in our school.

Please either: email Erin Barton at erinbarton@slingshot.co.nz or write your thoughts in the space below and drop that into the office you don’t need to put your name on this if you don’t want to.

We are also planning to hold a parent meeting if there is sufficient interest, please complete your name and drop this back to the office.

Yes I would like to attend a parents meeting; name; ___________________________ day contact number ______________

Or you can confirm you are a yes in the email to Erin.

Thank you

Erin Barton for St Marys Board Of Trustees Chairperson

My views regarding the attributes and skills that I feel the Board of Trustees should be seeking...