St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Newsletter No.18/22 Friday 25 November 2022



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Community Members,

The Season of Advent: A time to prepare well for the Christmas season. What does it mean to "prepare well"?

This Sunday is Advent Sunday and a new liturgical year will commence with the Season of Advent. The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the most joyous celebration of Jesus' birth. It is a time asking each of us to stop, to take time out from the obsessive busyness of our lives and reflect on the meaning and significance of the Season of Advent and Christmas.

It is a time to re-assess what are the "important things" in one's life. It is a time to take stock of the quality of our lives. It is a time to reflect on the gift of life. A time to reconnect and recommit to one's family, the source and nourishment of our being.

It is a time to reflect on how authentic we have been in bringing Christ's love to others, especially the down-trodden, the suffering and those impoverished spiritually, financially and/or emotionally. Like Mary, the mother of Jesus, we too, as Christian people, have been chosen to play our part in God's design to bring love, peace, hope and joy to our world.

We **ARE** instruments of God's love, and the Season of Advent is a most appropriate time to accept the challenge of our Christian calling to share Christ's love in service to others. Indeed, the love, joy, peace and hope of the Christmas Season will only be manifest if, as individuals, families and as a community, we reach out to those for whom the celebration of the Christmas season lacks relevance or meaning in their daily struggle to survive and find rays of hope as they cope with the pain and tragedy of their life's journey.

It is our preparedness to reach out, to give to those in need which will bring us to the heart of the Christmas story. The College's Annual Christmas Appeal for St Vincent de Paul provides a splendid opportunity for all of us to be instruments of God's love. Please give generously in support of those in greatest need such as the victims of floods, bush fires, drought, war, famine, unemployment, etc.

May we all accept the challenge of preparing well, during this Advent time, so that we do celebrate Christmas in a way which is life-giving and hope-filled, and which authenticates us as followers of the Christ-child.

Blessings

Larry Keating Principal



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY See the details on pages 4-5 of this Newsletter Thank you!

Request for Prayers

In the past week, staff have been mourning the death of two former members of St Mary's teaching staff. Sr Lynette Pearce rsj (Sister Mary Richard of the Holy Name of Jesus), who was a founding member of our community in 1964, died peacefully on Saturday 19 November. Mr Chris Cahill, who was a HSIE teacher in our community in the 1980's, died on the 19th November after a long and debilitating illness.

Sister Lynette and Chris were outstanding servants of Catholic education in our diocese. Sr Lynette was a highly respected member of her Josephite congregation, and a true servant of love, peace and human goodness. Please pray for Sr Lynette's family and her fellow Sisters of St Joseph as they grieve her passing.



Chris' fidelity to his family, his wife Gill and their three children, Linsey, Dylan and Brittany, and to his role as a Catholic school educator was exemplary. Chris was an outstanding classroom teacher who also served with distinction as a Student Coordinator and Faculty Leader at St Mary's Gateshead and St Pius X Adamstown. He was a reflective, gentle soul who was innately caring of others.

Please keep Chris, his wife Gill, children and family members in your prayers.

Eternal rest, grant unto Sister Lynette and Chris, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



The St Mary's Relic

Mary Mackillop, at the age of 18, moved to Penola in South Australia to become governess to her Aunt Margaret and uncle Alexander Cameron's children.

Father Woods' first parish, Penola in South Australia, had an area of 57,000 square kilometres. In this vast landscape, the young priest travelled on horseback to visit his parishioners, meeting many interesting persons en route. One was young Mary MacKillop, who arrived just as he was struggling to establish schools for the children of his parish. He meets Mary at the Cameron homestead, to invite her to share in, and help to establish, the reality of the dream of education for all children in the area.

The Cameron's eventually sold the property.

The Sisters of St Joseph were founded by Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Mary Mackillop. Mary became Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

Peter Rymill purchased and demolished the Cameron homestead in 1969 but retained the materials of the original section and recorded details of its structure. The original walls comprised square timber posts set straight into the ground, between which horizontal slabs were stacked and held in place with wooden cover strips. The materials were stored in a woolshed on the property until in 2009 when they were given to the Mary Mackillop Centre in Penola. The homestead was rebuilt using the recorded details from Peter Rymill, however some of the materials were no longer suitable for the reconstruction.

The Principal of MacKillop College at Werribee in Melbourne, Mr Rory Kennedy, acquired these materials from the homestead, from the room in which Mary would have met and talked with Father Woods. From those meetings a spirit wove a tapestry to which we have all become a part. Rory Kennedy gifted us with this Relic of homestead.

On Wednesday, 16th November, the Sisters of St Joseph and past teachers graced our College to formally welcome, bless and venerate this relic to our midst. The spirit of their personal memories radiated to the students who gifted the occasion with beautiful music and rubrics.

Our college has been gifted to us, from the sacrifice, strength, and vocation of the Sisters of St Joseph. We were blessed with Mary of the annunciation as our Patron, who was a young woman of courage, faith, and conviction. Our Lady has continued her YES though time to bring us close to her son and enfold us is in his love. Mary has appeared many times to special humble people through her apparitions. One of these appearances was to a peasant girl, St Bernadette, at Lourdes, in southern France. In the grotto where Mary appeared many times, a spring of water welled up and the water still flows today. Today at St Mary's we have a relic of wood, and water from the grotto in Lourdes. We also have the Josephite sisters on whose shoulders we stand, and Mary, Mother of our Lord as our guide and patroness. So, it was in keeping with our name and Patroness, that the Sisters blessed the relic with water from the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

May We become like Mary and the sisters of St Joseph and continue to be always Ready to serve. And may our love and compassion continue to flow to heal all people like the waters of Lourdes.

DeAnna Addicoat Ministry Coordinator

<image>

Left to Right either side of The Relic: Sr June Flynn, Sr Jan Tranter, Sr Lauretta Baker, Sr Carol Woodlow

Grateful Thanks received from Sr Jan Tranter rsj

My thanks for today. It was heartwarming to share the welcome and prayer- service led by the students and the tour, led by Larry and students. The prayer script was something we could follow and share with interest. The readers and musicians were all engaged and engaging. I enjoyed the sense of ease, respect and ease of the students, when they were not sure where the guide sheet had gone. There was no hitch. The ceremony proceeded with ease, peace and a sense of happiness to be there and pride to do one's part well.

What a gift to have a piece of Penola, in the beam of the Cameron house, there in the centre of the prayer space, between the statue of Mary, Mother of the Lord, and the Lourdes water. Thank you, dear De-Anna, for your courage to ask for a piece of the Cameron home timber and to keep asking till it arrived.

The Gospel is proclaimed in St Mary's College where the students are valued. It was an event affirming the spirit of the College, affirming the outreach and vision of the Principal and staff.

Gratefully and with prayer

Sr Jan



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all. Yet that's what too many people are facing this December. The St Vincent de Paul recognises that Christmas is a time for enjoyment for most, but there are many disadvantaged families who will struggle to supply a celebration that they feel provides for everyone. But it doesn't need to be that way. Your generosity can help bring joy and comfort to people this Christmas.

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal is coming up fast! This year we are focussing on not just Christmas Day, but Christmas Week. We often think of Christmas as being the one day, but we need to make sure families still have enough to eat on the days that follow. Your generosity can help bring joy and comfort to people this Christmas. The St Mary's community recognises the call to "Love one another" extends beyond a single day. Therefore, we are Ready to Serve. Each roll call class will be given a bag to fill with donations that have been recommended by the Gateshead/Windale Chapter for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Please see the donation list on the following page, we are very grateful for any assistance you an provide:

Thank you Ms Hatcher and Mrs Henderson and the SPC



Gifts for Girls aged 0-5 years
(e.g Toys, books, clothing)
Gifts for Boys aged 0-5 years
(e.g Toys, books, clothing)
Gifts for Girls aged 6-12 years
(e.g Toys, books, clothing)
Gifts for Boys aged 6-12 years
(e.g Toys, books, clothing)
Gifts for Families
(e.g Tinned biscuits, boxed chocolates)
Christmas Stockings
(e.g Cadbury, Trolli)
Meal Base Jars
(e.g Pasta Bake, Mexican, Indian, Asian)
Packets of Rice and Pasta
(e.g plain/flavoured rice, dried spaghetti, penne, fettucini)
Jars of Spreads
(e.g Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Nutella, Jam)
Tinned Vegetables
(eg Corn, Beetroot, Peas, Three Ban Mix, Tomatoes)
Long Life Milk/Milk Mixers
(e.g plain/flavoured milk, Milo, Quik)
Sauces/Condiments
(e.g Tomato Sauce, Pickles, BBQ Sauce)
Packets of Plain crackers
(e.g Jatz, Sao, Water Crackers)
Packets of Flavoured Crackers
(e.g BBQ Shapes, Pizza Shapes etc)
Packets of Dessert Toppings
(e.g Long Life Custard, Packets of Custard Powder, Long Life Cream)
Breakfast Cereal
(e.g Rice Bubbles, Corn Flakes etc)
Tinned Fruit
(e.g Peaches, Apricots, Pineapple etc)
Packets of Chocolate Biscuits
(e.g Tim Tams, Mint Slice, Chocolate Montes etc)
Christmas Cakes
(varying sizes, cake slices) Christmas Biscuits
(e.g Shortbread, Tinned Biscuits)
Christmas Bagged Lollies and Nuts
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Assistant Principal – Learning and Teaching

2022 Years 7 – 10 Awards Ceremonies & Christmas Liturgy

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

Our Christmas Liturgy and The Annual Awards Ceremonies will take place in the coming weeks. Parents, Carers and Family members are invited to attend the Awards Ceremonies, being held in The Josephite Centre. Please see below for details regarding dates and times.

Please note that all Awards Ceremonies will be live streamed this year for this who cannot attend in person. A separate link will be sent to parents and carers prior to the ceremonies via Compass.

Year 10 Awards Ceremony Wednesday 7 th December – 9.15 AM The Josephite Centre	Year 10 Students, Parents/Carers & Year 10 Roll Call Teachers
Christmas Liturgy Wednesday 14 th December – 9.15AM Period 1	Years 7 – 9 Students, ALL Staff and SVDP Guests
Year 7 Awards Ceremony Wednesday 14 th December – 10.30 AM The Josephite Centre Period 2	Year 7 Students, Parents/Carers & Year 7 Roll Call Teachers
Year 8 Awards Ceremony Wednesday 14 th December – 12.20 PM The Josephite Centre Period 3	Year 8 Students, Parents/Carers & Year 8 Roll Call Teachers
Year 9 Awards Ceremony Wednesday 14 th December – 2.00 PM The Josephite Centre Period 4	Year 9 Students, Parents/Carers & Year 9 Roll Call Teachers

Cathy O'Gorman Assistant Principal – Learning & Teaching

HSIE News

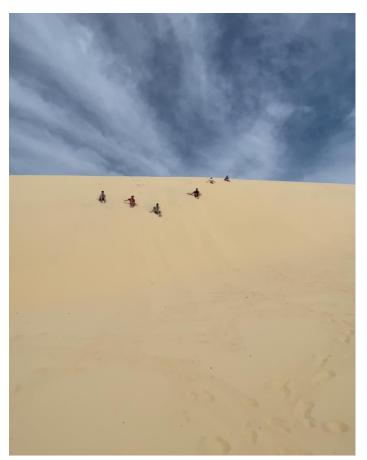
Stockton Sand Dunes Fieldwork – Year 11 Geography

On the 11th of November the Year 11 Geography class travelled to Stockton Sand Dunes at Anna Bay to undertake fieldwork based on the Ecosystems at Risk unit currently being studied. The class had an excellent day, participating in a guided 4WD tour conducted by Sand Dunes Safaris. The tour included information on how sand dunes are influenced by biophysical forces, the different ways humans have used the dunes, and the various strategies being adopted to protect this ecosystem. To round the day off, the students had some fun sand boarding down a range of dunes!

Daniel Matzen HSIE Teacher









ASPIRE CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their auditions for the 2023 Aspire Production:

James Bernasconi Macy Nash Piper Arajuo
Amelia Bubenicek
Joe Jarvie
Ruby Inglis
Lily Edwards
Polly Lucas

Vocal

Olivia Brown Charlotte Pierchorowicz Remi Druery

Actors Program Molly Drayton Evie Duggan Maggie Hardie

Stage Band

Drama

Daniel Smith Katelyn Dowling Nelly Frost Zac Armit Gabrielle Ollerton Henry Barnett Chloe Griffin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STUDENTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE DIGITAL MENTORING WITH ST PIUS X WINDALE

Congratulations and grateful appreciation are extended to the students who took part in the Digital Mentoring of students from St Pius X Windale. Each member collaborated enthusiastically and brought with them value and friendship during their sessions at the primary school. You are each thanked for your commitment, this will be formally acknowledged at a future College assembly. Always "Ready to Serve".

The students who took part are:

Ashton Johns William Kuskopf Jack Mackay Richard Maika-Julius Erik Milevski Max Morrissey Abi Paterson Jack Paterson Jack Paterson Oliver Pearson Emily Roberts Ella Smith Ayla Turnbull Declan West Rori Williamson Sophie Windever Dustin Bangoy Matthew Beath Elle Benson Ben Breasley Georgia Calleja Zahn Carrigan Patrick Collison Lochlain Farrell Lachlan Gillies Preston Govender Eliza Gribbin Ellisha Holloway Benjamin James Olivia Jenkins



ICAS COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the students who completed the ICAS Competition. These globally renowned assessments give students the opportunity to challenge themselves and receive recognition for academic achievement. The style of questions encourages critical thinking and challenges students to "think outside of the box".

Once again students at St Mary's have achieved highly in all areas.

Special mention goes to the following students:

	WRITING		DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES		ENGLISH
Year 7:		Year 7:		Year 7:	
•	Victoria Chong – Credit	•	Willow Martin – Credit	•	Willow Martin – Credit
•	Anna Gocher – Merit			•	Sheridan Owen – Credit
•	Willow Martin – Distinction	Year 8:			
		•	Joel Doherty - Merit	Year 8:	
Year 8:		•	Dylan Wilks – Credit	•	Kiara Barr – Distinction
•	Kiara Barr – Credit			•	Jeremy Gocher – Credit
		Year 9:		•	Wendi Harris – Merit
		•	Matthew Beath - Distinction	•	Dylan Wilks – Credit
		•	Oliver Beath – Distinction		
	SCIENCE		SPELLING BEE		MATHEMATICS
Year 7:		Year 7:		Year 7:	
•	Sheridan Owen – Credit	•	Sheridan Owen – Distinction	•	Victoria Chong – Merit
				•	Anna Gocher – Merit
Year 8:				•	Sheridan Owen – Merit
•	Dylan Wilks – Distinction				
				Year 8:	
Year 9:				•	Joel Doherty - Credit
•	Matthew Beath – Distinction			•	Jeremy Gocher – Credit
•	Oliver Beath – Distinction			•	Wendi Harris – Merit
				Year 9	
				•	Matthew Beath – Credit
				•	Oliver Beath – Distinction

Each student who took part in ICAS will be presented with a certificate at assembly.

Thank you for taking the opportunity to stretch your mind.

Mrs Henderson (Gifted Education Mentor)



Want \$500 to help you with school costs?

Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join, participants must:

- Have a current health care card **OR** pensioner concession card
- Be studying yourself OR have a child in school
- Have regular income from work, yourself OR your partner

For full eligibility requirements, speak to a Saver Plus Coordinator.

Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:

saverplus



For more information, please contact Saver Plus:



saverplus.org.au



COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION

St Mary's Catholic College, the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) and Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are committed to providing a positive, safe environment for all staff and students. There are occasions however, when members of our schools and wider community are concerned about something happening at a school that appears to be unsatisfactory or unreasonable. If you have a complaint, please follow this procedure: https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/complaints-resolution-and-feedback/

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Please consider donating any uniform you no longer need back to St Mary's – our clothing pool for life's little emergencies or to help out our needy families is running very low. Items can be dropped off at Reception or Student Services. Thank you very much!

Uniform - Year 10 2023

Uniform requirements change for students going into Year 10. Shirts and blouses change to white, formal trousers and belts are required for boys and blazers are required for all students from the beginning of 2023.

Fitting appointments can now be booked on the Uniform Shop website. Please go to <u>alintaapparel.com.au</u> to make your appointment. Please note, special size orders take longer to receive therefore please make your appointment at your earliest convenience.

If you have any queries, please contact Kylie in the Uniform Shop on 0435 954 372.

Uniform for Sale:

Boys Formal Uniforms:

Boys Jnr Shirts \$20 each 3XL x 3 Boys Snr Shirts \$20 each 4XL x 2 Boys Formal Shorts \$20 each 3XL x 3 Boys Long Formal Pants \$30 each L x 1; 3XL x 1; J28 (101cm) x 2 Formal Blazer \$120 Sz 130 M (4 or 5 XL)

Sports Uniforms:

Shirts \$15 each 2XL x 3; 3XL x 2 Shorts \$10 each 3XL x 1 Trackpants \$30 each L x 1; 2XL x 1; 3XL x 1

Contact Alison on 0401526545

JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH EAST LAKE MACQUARIE

Comprising the Worshipping Communities of • St Francis Xavier's Belmont • St Patrick's Swansea • St Pius X Windale •



	a second of		
DATE	TIME	CHURCH	
SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER	5:30PM	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT
CHRISTMAS EVE	7:00PM	St Patrick's Church	SWANSEA
SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER	7:30AM	St Pius X Church	WINDALE
CHRISTMAS DAY	9:00AM	St Francis Xavier Church	BELMONT

COUNSELLOR NEWS

A reminder of where you can access helpful information and support:

https://kidshelpline.com.au/

https://headspace.org.au/

https://au.reachout.com/

<u>https://www.smilingmind.com.au/</u> or via the app can help with relaxion and mindfulness. Other apps are Stop, Breathe & Think, Calm, Breathe2Relax, Headspace: Meditation and Recharge



How to access a psychologist/counselling in the community

Mental Health Treatment Plan

Young people can access 10 Medicare rebated sessions with a private Psychologist every 12 months through a referral from a GP. Most Psychologist charge a gap fee.

https://headspace.org.au/blog/how-to-get-a-mental-health-care-plan/ https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/whats-covered-medicare/mental-health-care-and-medicare

Online Safety

The office of the eSafety Commissioner has some great resources and advice for parents and carers related to online safety <u>https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents</u>

Online safety Guide for parents and carers <u>https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/online-safety-guide</u> The eSafety Guide <u>https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide</u>



Sun 27 November Advent Sunday Week 8 (B Week) • Mon 28 November • Year 10 Course Preference Interviews (Parents and Students) – Stage 6 2023/2024 – All week - Year 37-9 PAT Testing – All week Tues 29 November • Year 10 Reports released Thurs 10 December • Year 10 Alternative Stage 6 Timetable Tues 6 December • Year 10 Alternative Stage 6 Timetable Tues 6 December • Year 10 Alternative Stage 6 Timetable • College Assembly • • • Staff Professional Development – Early finish for students at 2.40pm Wed 7 December • Year 10 Alternative Stage 6 Timetable • Year 10 Alternative Stage 6 Timetable • Tues 10 December Year 10 Statif Profesoin allowelowelopment – Early finish for students at 2.	CALENDAR 2022 - TE	CALENDAR 2022 - TERM 4					
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PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR YEAR AWARD CEREMONY ARRANGEMENTS