MINI NEWSLETTER WEEK 8:

It is still hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another academic year. As the year draws to a close, we remain extremely focussed and busy. We have much to celebrate and feel proud about this year and we have much to look forward to as we begin in earnest our preparations for 2017. Before we do that though, we have a number of key upcoming events for all families to be aware of:

Monday 12th December – **Water Fun day.** The School Spirit Leadership Group has organised an afternoon of water fun to celebrate a great year together. Students are invited to wear (or bring) bathers underneath their school uniform to join in the water fun activities which will take place on the school oval. A towel is also a good idea! We will begin the Water Fun day at 1.10pm. A reminder note will be sent home about this on Friday. Students are also permitted to bring water pistols to school on this day.

Monday 12th December – **Volunteers Morning Tea** – we wish to thank those parents / grandparents and friends who have supported our school in a voluntary way by inviting them to our Volunteers Morning Tea. This will take place in the School hall at 11.00am next Monday. We have so many amazing people who volunteer their time to make our school a better place. This is a very small acknowledgment of their dedication and commitment to our school.

Tuesday 13th December – **End of Year Reports** will be handed to students on Tuesday in a sealed envelope addressed to you – their parents. We often remind students that the reports are actually intended for parents. I encourage you to make an appointment with your child’s class teacher should you wish to discuss anything in the report after you’ve read it.

Tuesday 13th December – **Meet the Teacher.** During this day students will spend time with their new teacher for 2017 and meet the students who will be in their class next year.

Thursday 15th December – will be the final time we gather as a whole school community to celebrate the end of the year with a **Whole School Mass.** This will take place at Star of the Sea Church at 9.30am. It will also be our chance to farewell those staff who will be leaving us at the end of the year. This Mass is a great celebration of the year and a great chance for ALL parents to join us in celebrating the year we have had.

Thursday 15th December – **Graduation Ceremony.** All families are also invited to join us for the 2016 Graduation Ceremony on Thursday night. This will take place in Star of the Sea Church beginning at 7.00pm. Whether you have a child in Year 7 or not, this is a very special ceremony as we say thanks, farewell and good luck to the Year 7 students and their families as they head to High School.

**REMINDERS:**

As well as these important dates we would also remind parents of the following two key upcoming events:

Saturday 10th December – **St Mary MacKillop Singers** will be performing at the Foodland complex in Wallaroo from 10.00am. All community members are welcome to attend and if those in the St Mary MacKillop Singers choir haven’t already – please let Bernie know asap if you are able to be there or not.
TOYS FOR VINNIES – we are still looking for new toys that we can donate to the Vinnies Appeal to help make Christmas a more enjoyable experience for those in our society that do not have what we have. The toys can be dropped in the Toys for Vinnies box in the MPLA.

2017 Teaching and Class Structures:

I am excited to share the news with you about our class and teaching structures for 2017.

TEACHING STAFF:

Reception – Agatka Murphy (4 days) and Annette Morphett (1 day)
Year 1/2 – Casey Dolan
Year 2/3 – Jane Owen
Year 4/5 – Ali Rogers
Year 6/7 – Lisa Bonney

Arts teacher and Literacy Coordinator – Lisa Hanson
Italian and Adaptive Ed – Francesca Tully
Reception teacher and STEM Project Coordinator – Annette Morphett

APRIM / Chaplain – Bernadette Thomson
Principal – James Quigley
Parish Priest – Fr Adrian Noonan

ESO STAFF:

Karen Westlake – Administration / Secretary / WHS Coordinator / Uniform Manager
Julia Agnew – Bursar and Finance Manager
Sharon Steer – Librarian
Gary Whitford – ICT Technical Support
Ron Sherriff – Grounds and Maintenance

CURRICULUM ESOs:

Heather Griffits
Paula Northeast
Paul Northeast
Lisa Murphy
Margie Ferrett
Karen McCulloch – Dance

As you will see we will be farewelling a few staff as the year draws to a close. Tom Gilligan has recently accepted a position as the Year 9 Coordinator at St Mark’s College in Pt Pirie. We congratulate Tom on this new position and thank him for the contribution he has made to our school in his short time with us. Lisa Bonney with her High School training and knowledge of the school will ably step into the Year 6/7 role for next year.

Both Julianne Wyatt and Sarah Newton’s contracts have come to an end and we thank both of these very dedicated and enthusiastic teachers for their great work with us during 2016. We will officially farewell those staff leaving us at our End of Year Mass in Week 9. We have appointed Casey Dolan to the role of
Year 1/2 teacher for 2017. Casey completed her final year practicum in the Reception room during 2016 with us and is very excited to be joining our team next year.

As you would already be aware, Agatka Murphy is returning to St Mary MacKillop as our Reception teacher next year. Annette Morphett will also return to St Mary MacKillop for 2 days a week. Annette will teach in the Reception room one day a week and on her other day will work with staff and students to drive our new S.T.E.M. project focusing on the integration of Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology. We look forward to having Annette back with us next year.

**YOUNG STREET REDEVELOPMENT:**

2017 is again shaping as a very exciting year, with some continued projects and new ones beginning. You would be aware that we have recently begun the process to redevelop the Young street play area. I am very excited to share with you a current concept design completed by consultant Martin Crabb. Martin spent time with students and staff earlier in the year discussing the needs and wants for the area and has finalised a design based on this feedback. We are now inviting parents and students to provide feedback on this design. Attached to the Mini-Newsletter this week is the concept design and on the back are some key questions about the design. We would love for you to spend some time discussing the design with your child/ren and answer the questions on the back of the design and send this back into school by the end of term.

We aim to finalise this design and be able to begin the redevelopment throughout 2017.

**OSHC RATING:**

Recently we underwent a mandatory assessment and rating of our OSHC service through the Education and Early Childhood Standards Board. This Government run agency has completed ratings on almost all OSHC and Child Care facilities in South Australia over the course of the last 18 months. Each centre is rated and assessed in seven key quality areas and provided with an overall rating. We are extremely proud and pleased to have been given an overall rating of **EXCEEDING NATIONAL STANDARDS** for our overall assessment. I have been informed by those in the know that this rating is extremely rare for an OSHC service. It is a great testament to Lisa and the OSHC team and one that we should be very proud of.

**MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN:**

As always, I encourage you to come and see me to discuss any issues, challenges, concerns or celebrations you have regarding your child or their development this year. With a new class structure and some staffing movement, I am sure you may have some questions about next year, and I encourage you to come and see me if this is the case. My door is always open!

Kind Regards

James