



Mini-Newsletter – Week 2

Wednesday, 5th February, 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A Prayer Of Thanks:

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord.

I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU EVERYONE

Thank you for a great start to our term everyone. Overall, it has been an excellent settled and fresh start and this by no means is by chance. It is because of the encouragement, commitment and contribution of students, families and staff.

CONGRATULATIONS – SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Following leadership speeches, students voted for our School Captains and House Captains. Congratulations to:

School Captain: Adelaide White

School Vice-Captain: Imogen Foster-Horsell

House Captains

Joseph: Adelaide, Imogen

Tappeiner: Charlize, Trae, Eloise, Armani

MacKillop: Nevayah, Amaya, Jack R, Madeline

Woods: Zara C, Bentley, Connor, Madison

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS

We welcome our new Parish Priest Fr Steve Ardill and we were hoping he would celebrate our Beginning Of Year Mass but he is very apologetic that he will be away now for the funeral of a dear friend. Fr Paul Quirk will be the celebrant for our Beginning Of Year Mass.

Fr Steve came in to visit us on Monday and he met with all classes and as many staff as possible. We wish Fr Steve all the best for his time here in the Copper Coast Parish and we look forward to welcoming him and including him in our school and parish community.

At the conclusion of the Mass there will be a Commissioning of staff, blessing us for the year ahead, for our privileged work in educating and caring for your children.

INDUCTION OF ALL STUDENT LEADERS

Following the Commissioning of staff, there will be an induction of all student leaders. School Captains, House Captains, R-6 SRC, student will receive a blessing, make a pledge and be presented with their badges.

Parents are welcome to join us this Friday, 7th February at 11.45am for Mass in the Star Of The Sea Catholic Church.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

UNIFORM

Students are invited to wear their House tops on days when it is their sport uniform day (PE and Dance lessons) from now until sports day. This will add to our team spirit and build the momentum as we prepare for our Sports Day on Friday in Week 6.

An exception to this is this Friday when we have the formal occasion of our whole school Beginning Of Year Mass at the Star Of The Sea Catholic Church, all students are asked to wear formal uniform please on Friday, 7th February.

MEET AND GREET EVENING (PARENTS/CARERS AND TEACHERS)

All parents and carers are invited to attend our Meet and Greet Evening next Wednesday, 12th February (Week 3)

6.00-6.30pm	Parents of students in Reception and Year 1 classes meet with the teacher in their child's classroom
6.30-7.00pm	Parents of students in Year 2/3 and Year 4/5 classes meet with the teacher in their child's classroom
7.00-7.30pm	Parents of students in Year 6 and Year 7-9 meet with the teachers (Year 6 in classroom) and Year 7-9 in the Sacred Heart Centre

Teachers will go through information about their classroom routines and expectations and some of our whole school agreements. All of this information is provided for good communication and keeping parents informed so that we can work together to provide a safe learning environment for your child/children.

While meetings are taking place, supervision of children will be provided by teaching staff in the playground (school side) from 5.50-7.30pm, to enable parents and carers to attend the meetings.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided in the MPLA for parents who have waiting time between meetings.

We hope to see you all here and look forward to working with you in 2025.

TERM 1 CURRIULUM INFORMATION

Teachers are preparing curriculum letters outlining the teaching and learning in classrooms and specialist areas for Term 1. You will receive these letters at the Meet and Greet Evening next Wednesday. These letters outline the teaching and learning to be covered in all curriculum areas for Term 1. Knowing what is being covered here at school keeps you well informed and provides good conversation starters for you and your children.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Following on from our extensive work with Dr Bill Rogers last year, staff have reviewed our Positive Behaviour policy. We believe that every student has the right to learn, be respected and feel safe here at our school. Every staff member and volunteer has the right to work, be respected and feel safe here at our school. These beliefs underpin our Positive Behaviour policy and procedures.

At the Meet and greet Evening teachers will share the co-constructed Class Agreements that are being worked on in the first two weeks of our school year. We ask parents to read over the Agreement and sign an accompanying letter.

In class there has been discussion with students about behaviours that reflect our school values: respect, courage, collaboration and commitment. Students have had a voice in putting together their Class Agreement (class rules). These agreements cover all classrooms and all yard times. Tracking where students are in relation to these expectations and consequences (positive and corrective) have also been discussed with students.

We have a mantra of "different teacher, same rules", it doesn't matter whether you are in the classroom with your class teacher/specialist teacher, a staff member in the office, an ESO in the MPLA, a teacher in the yard, a parent volunteer, we expect respect and safety from everyone.

We ask for, and very much appreciate, parent/carers support with this to ensure that everyone feels respected, safe and happy at our school.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

EVACUATION DRILL

For safety purposes we are required to have evacuation and lock-in drills, so that we know the procedure and have practised it. We will have our first Evacuation drill on Monday, 10th February, just before recess. A continuous bell rings and staff calmly guide students to line up, cross the road in an orderly, safe manner and assemble on the oval where we do a roll call to ensure that everyone is accounted for.

The staff take care to prepare the students so that they are not worried or scared, however it is good for parents to have a chat at home as well and prepare your child if you think this might be helpful for them.

P & F MEETING

We will hold our first P & F meeting for the year this evening, Wednesday, 5th February at 6.30pm in the Meeting Room (in the office area). All parents and carers are most welcome to attend. Come along and meet others and find out a bit about what we do.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided and we do have fun when we meet.

Come along, we would love to have you there!

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2025

The days when students do not come to school to allow staff time for training, formation and professional learning are known as Pupil Free / Staff Formation days. Following are our Pupil Free / Staff Formation days for 2025:

Term 1: Friday, 28th March (OSHC available)

Term 2: Monday, 28th April (OSHC available)

Term 3: Friday, 19th September – Staff Reflection Day (No OSHC)

Term 4: Friday, 12th December (No OSHC)

DANCE CONCERT 2025 – THE GOLDEN TICKET

Last Friday the name and theme of our 2025 Dance Concert was revealed. It is with pleasure and excitement that we announce that our Dance Concert will be 'The Golden Ticket', inspired by 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl.

The Golden Ticket was revealed to all students in a golden ticket wrapped around a chocolate! A big thank you to Belinda White for this idea and wrapping 144 chocolates (plus!) for us. What an appropriate and fantastic way to reveal the name of the concert to the students.

Thank you Karen McCulloch and Belinda White for their work towards our concert so far in writing the script and working out class themes and characters.

Make sure you put the dates in your diary now for our Dance Concert:

Thursday, 18th September
10.30am Matinee and 7.00pm Evening Performance



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HOT WEATHER

We have an Extreme Weather policy which outlines our procedure for hot days, to ensure students and staff are kept as safe as possible. Our classrooms and office areas can be kept cool in hot weather, we are fortunate to have excellent air conditioning. We have had inside play this week when the temperature was over 36. We also encourage students to keep hydrated, drinking water. Students are kept safe at school on hot days therefore attendance is expected unless there are other reasons for absence.

Following is an excerpt from our policy:

Extreme weather includes wet, hot, thunderstorm and windy conditions.

During extreme weather, the arrangements will be as follows:

- The definition of 'Extreme heat' is if the temperature is 36° C or higher. For consistency, this temperature will be checked using the Bureau of Meteorology web site – www.bom.gov.au.
- Class activities and school events will be modified to suit the conditions e.g. (Physical Education, Outdoor Education and excursion activities may be cancelled, held indoors or shortened. Children are encouraged to drink water frequently in the case of hot weather and to remove or add extra clothing as needed etc).
- Principal or delegate will announce that Extreme Weather Policy is to be put into place (due to heavy winds, thunderstorms, rain or temperature on Bureau of Meteorology web site reading 36° C or higher). This involves informing all class teachers prior to playtime beginning, and school events starting.
- Students will be supervised by the teachers normally on duty on the given day.
- R-2 students gather in the MPLA and Years 3-9 students gather in the Hall.
- In the event of Extreme Weather occurring after play has commenced (e.g. heavy showers) the students will move into the designated areas.
- As per the Extreme Weather policy, the Principal or a member of the Leadership team may make a call on extreme weather based on individual circumstances at the time.

If the fire rating for the day is rated 'Catastrophic', then no school buses will run. Staff or classes will be unable to travel to any Professional Development sessions or excursions.

SPORTS DAY – FRIDAY, 7TH MARCH (Week 6)

The excitement is building towards our Sports Day which will be held at Wallaroo Football oval on Friday ,7th March, 9.00am-2.00pm.

Included in today's Newsletter is a Sports Day Assistance form. We would appreciate as many parent helpers as possible.

Our school buses will only be able to run with prior booking and in exceptional circumstances as all of our staff are involved in the setting up and packing up of Sports day.

There will be no OSHC available on the Friday afternoon of Sports Day.

We will have Subway lunch orders available for students (must be ordered prior to the day, order envelopes will be sent home).

Food vans will be there on the day selling drinks and food: Chunky Boys, Lions Barbecue, YP Donuts.

Families are most welcome to bring a picnic lunch as another option.

SPORTS DAY R-2 STUDENTS DISMISSED AT LUNCH TIME

Please note that the Sports Day events for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 students will conclude at the time of the lunch break. At this time, the R-2 students are dismissed to parents or family members. They can remain at the oval, under the supervision of an adult family member. This is in response to parent feedback on previous years that the whole day is too long for the younger students.

R-2 teachers will be required to assist at other events from lunch time onwards and are not available to supervise R-2 students. We are looking forward to a great day.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller

PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL CARD APPLICATIONS

School card applications are due at school by Friday, 14th February.



LIBRARY NEWS

Student Borrowing

By now all students have visited and borrowed from the school library.

Our school has a fabulous range of books and resources available and students are encouraged to borrow weekly.

Please feel free to pop in and have a look around. I am always open to suggestions about books that interest the students and welcome any feedback in regard to our collection.

The school also has a collection of "Parent Help" Books from various authors which are available for parents / carers to borrow anytime. Parents / Carers may borrow the books under their child's name for a two-week period. Just ask and I would be happy to assist.

At St Mary Mackillop School we strongly support the Premier's Reading Challenge and will be completing the challenge again this year. More news to follow in the coming weeks on this.

Scholastic Book Club

Please find included in this week's newsletter envelope, Issue 1 of the Scholastic Book Club Catalogue.

All orders are very much appreciated as they earn reward points for the school and enable us to purchase new books for the library. If you would like to make an order please return with payment to the front office of school by Friday 14th February 2025, or you can order online by following the instructions on the order form.

Help Needed Please!

The school has purchased additional take-home decodable text readers for the students to use. There are over 200 new books to cover with protective plastic.

I would really appreciate some help to get these covered as quickly as possible.

I have pre-cut the plastic and prepared bundles of approx. 30 books for any volunteers to take home and cover please.

You will need scissors and sticky tape and each bundle has an example for you to follow.

If you are able to help please call in to the library and grab a bundle to take home.

Thankyou in advance.....Many hands make light work!

Mrs Sharon Steer
LIBRARIAN

FRIDAY LUNCHES

In 2025 we will welcome a new lunch coordinator. We once again thank Taya Dennis for her years of service. The Parents and Friends Friday Lunches is the major fundraiser for the group – with significant amount of funds recently being donated to the development of the playground.

Friday Lunches cannot continue without volunteers from our school community. If you can spare some time on Friday to assist, please indicate on the roster or email emily.donnell@stmm.catholic.edu.au

New volunteers welcome – please drop past the office or phone to get started.

If we are unable to get enough volunteers Friday Lunches will not run on certain weeks.



Week #	Date	2 X Volunteers Required
Week 3	14 th February	
Week 4	21 st February	Katie C
Week 5	28 th February	Sarah C
Week 6	7 th March	SPORTS DAY - SUBWAY
Week 7	14 th March	
Week 8	21 st March	Margaret S
Week 9	28 th March	PUPIL FREE DAY
Week 10	4 th April	Sarah C & Gemma O
Week 11	11 th April	SUBWAY

COMMUNITY NEWS

The services and events contained in Community News are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children. Notices will be placed if time and space permits.

Wallaroo Netball Club - call for players

Wallaroo Netball Club is on the lookout for junior AND senior players for the 2025 season!

E grade (20010/11)

F grade (2012/13)

G grade (2014/15)

H grade (2016/17)

Net Set Go (minimum age 5)

If you can help, call or text Rebecca Sinton on 0408 233 037 or email wallaroonetball@gmail.com