Message from the Principal

This week we have celebrated Catholic Schools week. On Tuesday we had a combined school mass with St Paul’s College, this helps us bond with the secondary section of Catholic education in Kempsey.

Between the two schools we offer a complete K-12 education for your child, something that the Parish of Macleay Valley is very proud to be able to provide.

It was my first experience of a combined school mass and it did not let me down; it was prayerful, reverent, the music uplifting and the homily inspiring.

On Tuesday evening an information night was held for parents who are considering St Joseph’s for their child’s education in 2016. This was followed up with some enrolment interviews. What an uplifting experience it is to listen to parents who are positive about the school and willing to trust us with their precious child’s education.

On Thursday we had our Mother’s Day Mass and morning tea. We had a large number of mothers at the mass and I can only wish that every mother could have been there to feel the love in that Church.

After the blessing and the beautiful song, there was many a tear shed as people reflected on the love we all have for our mother’s.

I hope you all have a lovely Mother’s Day and find a special way to show your mother that you love them.

Tom Critchley
This term as part of their studies in PDHPE - Safe Living, students have been learning about road safety. As part of this, students worked in teams and designed and created seat belts to hold a fragile rider (an egg!) in a toy car.

**Safe Living** includes:

- **Personal Safety** - influences on safety choices, identifying and responding to unsafe situations and reducing/eliminating risks.
- **Road Safety** - pedestrian safety (safe crossing procedures and using traffic facilities).
- **Passenger Safety** - safe passenger behaviour.
- **Safety on wheels** - safe places to ride and safety equipment.

**SUPERVISION OF THE PLAYGROUND BEFORE SCHOOL**

Supervision of the playground does not start until 8:30am. This is the time that teachers start their working day officially.

Many teachers arrive early to prepare for the day but this is voluntary. It is not fair to expect them to look after your children on a regular basis, free of charge, when they have come in to get a head start on the day, in peace and quiet. It is understandable that occasionally a child will need to be at school before 8:30am, and we do not wish to lock a child out on the road, so we allow them to come into the relative safety of the playground. If your child does arrive before 8:30 please bring them into the playground and instruct them to sit down, they should not be playing games and be aware that they will not be supervised by an adult until 8:30 am. In saying that, there are usually many teachers on the premises by 8:15 but they are not rostered on to playground supervision.

**MOTHER’S DAY**

During this week, children in 2N spent creative time learning to sew something special for their mums.

Pictured is Holly busy at sewing.

Year 1 children created chalk drawings with their special message.

Pictured below is Shaye with his message.

Today, children were able to purchase a Mother’s Day gift from our Mother’s Day Stall. Thank you to our team of dedicated parent helpers who wrapped presents and ran the stall. **HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**
STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

WEEK 4
Reagan O’Donnell
Connor O’Neill
Julian Vale
10th May
Easton Crilley
Emily Toomey
11th May
Ben Lyon
12th May
Mariel Clarke
13th May
Darvid Thomas
14th May
Thomas Doyle
Shanae Lennon
Kiara Walsh
15th May

BOOK CLUB ISSUE 3 IS NOW CLOSED

Well done to students in 4D who held a cake stall this week and raised $16.45 for the Missions.

WEEK 4 ROSTER
MONDAY Linda Pogson
TUESDAY Shelley McLean
WEDNESDAY Lisa Collin
THURSDAY Natalie Sanchez
Sheena Clarke
FRIDAY Kerrie Sheridan

CHANGE OVER TO WINTER UNIFORM
All children are now expected to be wearing their full winter uniform.

THINKING OF ENROLLING YOUR CHILD FOR YEAR 7 2016 AT ST PAUL’S COLLEGE?

Interviews will commence as from the 11th May, 2015.

Phone the College to obtain an enrolment pack or to book an interview on 65 62 7200.

STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

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KEMPSEY FAMILY SUPPORT FREE PARENTING PROGRAM
“Bringing Up Great Kids!”
6 week program begins at 21 Verge St, Kempsey on Wednesdays from 13th May. 10am - 12.30pm To reserve you place call 65 63 1588

WHAT’S FOR RECESS?
Children need healthy snacks throughout the day to meet their growth and energy needs.

Every day snack foods include:
* Cheese and crackers
* Plain popcorn
* Fresh or canned fruit (in natural juice)
* Plain or fruit yoghurt
* Vegetable sticks and dip/s
* Fruit
* Wholemeal biscuits with spreads
* Corn cob
* Rice cakes with spreads

For more information and ideas go to www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au
Dear Parents – especially Mothers

“I’d like to be an ideal mother, but I’m too busy raising my children.” Author unknown

Even though this might be the situation for you, make sure that on Mothers’ Day you are not too busy to take time to rejoice in yourself, because:

“Happy Mothers’ Day means more than have a happy day. Within these words lie lots of things we never get to say.

It means, I love you, first of all,
then thanks for all you do,
It means you mean a lot to me
and that I honour you.”

For many years now, psychologists have been saying that the bonding of a baby with its mother in the first few minutes of life is vital for the stability of the newborn child. The mother-infant bond is an intense relationship of unparalleled human affection. It is the foundation of the child’s emotional and physical survival. No wonder the saying: “Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short time but their hearts forever”, author unknown and no wonder the Chinese proverb: “There is only one pretty child in the world and every mother owns it.”

There are many ways to answer the question, “What is Motherhood?” and one of those ways might be that Motherhood means sharing in the creative power of God. Conceiving, carrying and giving birth to a human being, is as close as any person can get to the act of creation. This is the beginning of Motherhood but it is far from the end. Motherhood is also about nurturing, sacrificing, loving and, ultimately, letting go.

Jesus’ mother, Mary, experienced all the above and had the added drama of losing her son for three days. Eventually, she and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple having a discussion with a group of Rabbis. When Mary rebuked Jesus for “treating us this way”, Jesus informed her that the Temple was the first place she should have looked: “Did you not know that I must be about the things of my Father?”

Poor Mary! Besides being embarrassed for Joseph, she probably found it hard to accept that Jesus was growing up with a mind of his own and his own sense of how his Father was leading him. Mary was caught up in the tension of fulfilling the daily responsibilities of her role of mother and parenting the Son of God. All mothers are caught up in the world of tension as they try to be all things to their children.

Jan Chrouchin, a Baptist Minister, has these thoughts to share in her “Mothers’ Day Creed”:

“I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who was born of the promise to a virgin named Mary.

I believe in the love Mary gave her Son that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died.

I believe in the love of all mothers and its importance in the lives of the children they bear. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on a hillside.

It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall in the fields of adversity.

Thank God for mothers and thank mothers for helping us to understand an all-loving God.”

HAPPY MOTHERS’ DAY!  HAPPY GRANDMOTHERS’ DAY!

Peace and Best Wishes, Tom Critchley