



# St Mary's Primary School Warners Bay

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We acknowledge the Awabakal People – the first custodians of this land

Term 4 Issue 19 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Office hours:**

Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:30pm  
Friday 8:15-3pm



**Mark 10:2-16**

People brought children to Jesus for him to bless them, but the disciples turned them away. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to them." Then he took the children in his arms as blessed them.

***Hail Mary, full of grace.***

***The Lord is with you.***

***Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.***

***Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now and at the  
hour of our death.***

***Amen.***

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope and pray for a safe and settled final term for the year.

As you know, the 'Return to School Roadmap' was recently brought forward by one week with:

- **Weeks 1-2 - Learning From Home, with the school continuing to be open to supervise the children of essential workers**
- **11<sup>th</sup> October (Week 3): Kindergarten and Year 1 return to school**
- **25<sup>th</sup> October (Week 4): Years 2 and 6 return to school**
- **1<sup>st</sup> November (Week 5): Years 3, 4 and 5 return to school**

Children at St Mary's return to school under 'Level 3 Plus' Covid restrictions. This means that:

- **Children and staff must be well and free from Covid symptoms to attend school.**
- **Masks are strongly recommended for all students indoors.**
- **Staff must wear masks indoors and outdoors, however these can be removed when clear enunciation or visibility of the person's mouth is essential (this would mostly apply to the younger grades).**
- Children will eat and play in grade groups in different areas and access to the canteen access will be staggered in grade groups.
- Students should maintain strict **personal hygiene** and **physical distancing** wherever possible.

- **Non-essential visitors are not permitted on the school site.**
- **Parents and carers must remain outside school grounds.**
- **Morning drop off and afternoon pick up will be via Back Gate only, with all parents remaining in cars at all times.** Please email the office if you need a new sign with your family name for Back Gate pick up.
- **Enhanced cleaning** measures are in place, including additional cleaning of high-touch areas.
- **Increased ventilation** of indoor spaces (windows and doors will be kept open).
- **Staff are required to be fully vaccinated by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November unless they have been granted an exemption.** There is no requirement for children in Primary schools to be vaccinated.

**Our school musical is not currently able to go ahead** as singing is not permitted. We are still hopeful that we can perform our school musical later in the year in some format once singing and performances are allowed.

**Kinder 2022 Transition mornings are not permitted at this time.** We are working with the Catholic Schools Office on how to provide a smooth transition for these children as they prepare to begin 'big school' next year. Year 7 Orientations are also currently not permitted.

**We are yet to receive protocols for our End of Year celebrations, such as the Year 6 Graduation.** We will keep you informed on this matter.

With increased freedoms as NSW reaches vaccination milestones set by the NSW government, we are hopeful that we will continue to see more relaxed restrictions at school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging and rapidly changing time. We are very much looking forward to having all the children back at school, and hopefully seeing you here too as the term progresses.

Liz Starling

Principal

## Catholic Faith

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October is an important month in our liturgical calendar, as we celebrate the **Month of the Rosary**. Over the centuries, the Church has always honoured Mary, the Blessed Mother of God. Praying the Rosary is one of the many ways in which we do this. According to tradition, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in a rose garden, holding a garland of flowers. It is thought the Rosary originates from this event. As we pray the Rosary, we ask Our Lady to draw us closer to Jesus who is our Light. We also remember that for many Saints, the Rosary was an indispensable part of their daily prayer. If you have a set of Rosary beads at home, we encourage you to pray the Rosary as a family at home during the month of October. May the month of the Rosary bring peace and holiness into your life.

The month of October is also **Catholic Mission Month**, where we endeavour to support Catholic Mission Australia. This year Catholic Mission is focusing support on those in need in Thailand, specifically those from slum areas in Bangkok, the bustling capital. We will be awareness raising about these needs and what life is like for children in Thailand during October. We will raise funds for Catholic Mission through our annual St Mary's Mission Day in Week 7, where our Year 5 students will organise a fun day of activities for the school.

This week we welcome the **Buttigieg** family (**Jacob 2G**), the **Murray** family (**Alexis K Blue**) and the **Morrice** family (**Callum 5 Gold, Lachlan 1 Gold**). We're glad that you have joined our community!

Congratulations to the **McBride** family (**Syvannah 5 Blue, Axle 3 Blue**) on the safe arrival of a baby brother.

## **A Message From Fr Greg**

The Catholic Parishes of Boolaroo, Warners Bay & Booragul are currently looking for people to assist in their programs as volunteers. Vacancies currently exist on our Sacrament, Baptism and RCIA teams that support individuals and families on the journey to become Catholic through completing the sacraments of initiation either as babies, children or adults. We work together partnering as members of the teams with the families who participate. It is a lovely way to be more fully involved and to learn more about what belonging to this community can look like. These positions require volunteers to have a WWC check number (free for Volunteers vis Service NSW) and to have completed a National Criminal History check (paid for by the Parish).

St Vincent de Paul is in real need of volunteers as they seek to look after our most vulnerable community members. This might really interest those who have some time during the day, shift workers or stay at home parents with kids now at school (back at school maybe) particularly who would like to give back to the community. St Vincent de Paul works tirelessly to look after people in need and to offer them a helping hand up; often we gain more than we give. This position requires volunteers to have a WWC check number (free for Volunteers vis Service NSW) and to have completed a National Criminal History check (paid for by the Parish).

The parish is looking for some ways to be more sustainable and to help with the sustainability of the environment. Stewardship of creation underpins the mission and ministry of the Church. We are called in faith to be environmental warriors! We are hoping to support the Lions Club in their collection of plastic bottle tops to be recycled into prosthetic limbs. The plastic tops can be left at the Parish Office currently **84 Main Road Speers Point** or after the 16 October **Shop 2/24 Lake St, Warners Bay**.

**We are also collecting used coffee pods for recycling. Many of us use coffee machines at home and wonder really what to do with the used pods. Bins will be available after Masses once our churches are open for gathering again but they can also be left at the Parish Office.**

For more information, please contact Fr Greg on 0417321209 or contact the parish office via email [parish.boolaroo@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:parish.boolaroo@mn.catholic.org.au)

## **Learning**

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With the return of all students happening over the next few weeks, it is a great opportunity to **set some goals for the term**.

After spending so much time at home with our children, many of us have gained a better insight into their academic strengths and challenges. Now is the perfect time to talk with your child/ren about what they are going to work towards as they prepare to return to face to face learning at school.

Maybe they would like to set a goal for home learning and then a different one for when they return to school. It would be great if they could share their goal with their teacher via Teams or in person when they return to school. It might be a wellbeing, social or academic goal.

Goal setting is a lesson that should be revisited and worked on throughout life. Adults continually reflect on life and past goals, and use that information to set new goals.

Aristotle said, *“Man is a goal-seeking animal. His life only has meaning if he is reaching out and striving for his goals.”* Having something to focus on and work towards helps us to be productive human beings. Setting goals and working towards achieving them teaches children perseverance. This practice is an essential skill in life and one that they will need along the way. We can all agree that perseverance is one skill that we have all had to master during lockdown!

## **Wellbeing**

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**Congratulations to all those who completed the STEPtember challenge!** Teachers are checking in with classes this week to see who has achieved the goal they set themselves. We will update you next newsletter on how much new sports equipment we will be ordering – we anticipate it will be a lot!

**Positive Choices are hosting a one-hour free webinar with Paul Dillon on Tuesday 19 October at 1pm on teens and risk taking.**

Using the latest research on the developing brain, the webinar will discuss why adolescence is a period of 'risk taking' and the reasons why young people make the decisions they do during this time. The webinar is suitable for school staff, parents and carers.



To register: [https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/7016320963234/WN\\_sGfFzbToQoe7sx53Nh0mg](https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/webinar/register/7016320963234/WN_sGfFzbToQoe7sx53Nh0mg)

## Tell Them From Me Survey

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In 2020 we asked **parents and carers** to participate in a survey conducted by Tell Them From Me© (TTFM). The information gathered from this survey helps our school community to be better informed about what we are doing well, where we need to focus more attention and how we can sharpen our planning to ensure we achieve improved outcomes for our students.

**As parents and carers of students in our school, we deeply value your feedback and encourage you to partner with us and complete this survey.** The information we gather is important to us and allows us to hear directly from you and gain insight into what you think is important about the work we do, how we communicate with you and where you think we need to improve.

We want all children in our school to thrive and we know that working together, listening, and sharing ideas helps us to improve and grow as strong learning and faith communities.

When the survey opens, you will receive a Compass notification. We appreciate your feedback.

If you have questions about this survey, please don't hesitate to email [admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au).

**Students from Years 4 to 6** are also invited to participate in the Tell Them From Me online survey again this year. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what these students think about their faith, school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.

Next week, students from Years 4 to Year 6 will be given the opportunity and time to participate in this survey. Students will be given a random username and password to access and complete the survey online. Students' names cannot be linked to their responses which allows it to be completely anonymous. Results will show all student scores combined – it is not possible to single out individual students in the results.

The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The survey measures include such topics as emotional and social wellbeing, physical health, and behaviours and attitudes linked to student success.

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, they should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please email [admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au) with your child/ren's name and class by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank you for your support in continually improving our school together.

## Awards

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### Principal:

**William Reinhard (3 Gold) Jett Afa, Elijah Wiseman (4 Gold)**

### Merit:

**Nate Gallagher, Mila Schurmann, Safira Sgorbini, Vinnie Vieira (K Blue) Cartia Armanios, Mary Frendo, Alessandro Palamo (K Gold) Dash Gillies, Taj Gleeson, Mackenzie Jardine, Leila McGuire, Hannah O'Shannessy (2 Gold) Ruby Ciarrocchi, Cooper Edwards, Will McCosker, Alexander Nowland, Siddhi Puranik, Oliver Ramsey (3 Gold) Kaley Harris (4 Gold)**



Thanks to **Bastiaan Mellis (1 Blue)** who has designed and made our first St Mary's sailing boat!  
We love his creative thinking!

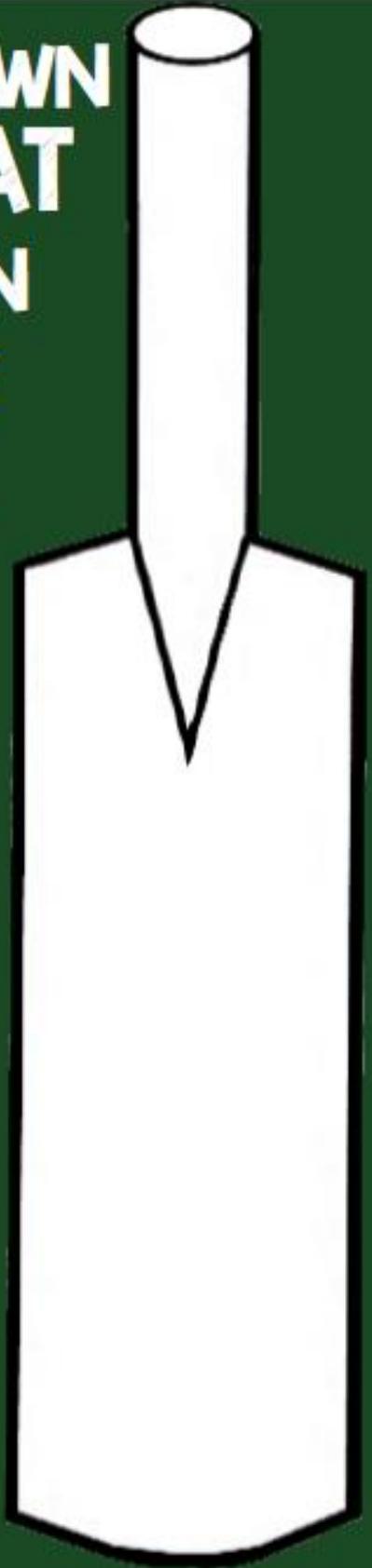
A festive Christmas card competition poster. The background is light green with a pattern of small gold dots. On the left, there is a cartoon illustration of Santa Claus in a red suit with a white beard and hat, holding a red heart. A speech bubble next to him says "Merry Christmas". At the top, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "PAT CONROY MP" and "CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION" in green, followed by "Theme 'Our local heroes at Christmas'" in orange. To the right, another white rounded rectangle says "Competition closes 6 November 2021" in red, with "stage 2 only" in red below it. Below that, a white rounded rectangle says "Win \$50 worth of books for yourself and \$100 worth of books for your school." in black. At the bottom, a white rounded rectangle says "Just draw your design on an A4 size piece of paper with your name, age and school written clearly on the back" in black. The bottom of the poster features a colorful banner with vertical stripes in red, green, blue, and purple, decorated with white stars and dashed lines.



# DESIGN YOUR OWN CRICKET BAT COMPETITION

The Newcastle Junior Cricket Association invites boys and girls of all ages to participate in our 'Design your own cricket bat' competition.

# WIN



**A SIGNED SYDNEY SIXERS BAT OR A \$50 REBEL SPORT VOUCHER**

**THE SCHOOL WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ENTER WILL WIN A SYD SIXER VISIT**

TO ENTER:

Print this page and design your cricket bat. When completed, click [here](#) or scan the code below and upload a photo.



Entries now open and close 1st Nov 2021



JOIN A CREW NEAR YOU TODAY

PLAY CRICKET



# Take a little time off and allow MEM FOX to read to your children!

We will be sharing a recording of Mem reading her book, "Whoever You Are" just for our children on the evening of:

21 OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.30PM

In this our 40th Anniversary year, the Federation of P & F Associations is excited to announce we have an opportunity for your child to have an evening story read to them by award winning author **Mem Fox**.



In 1983 Mem became Australia's best-selling writer. **Possum Magic**, her first book.

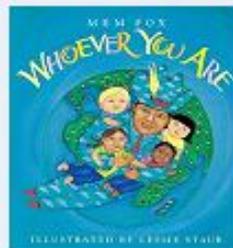
Possum Magic is still available in hardback after 36 years and has become a beacon of children's literature for millions of Australian families. She has written over 40 children's books and several non-fiction books for adults. Her books have been translated into twenty-one languages, and many of them have been international best sellers.

Mem is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies from Flinders University, South Australia, where she taught teachers for 24 years. She has received many civic honours and awards, and three honorary doctorates.

The first 100 to register by [clicking here](#) will receive a copy of this book so your child can turn the pages along with Mem.

To receive your book, you must include:

- ▶ Your full name
- ▶ Your child's school and suburb
- ▶ Your postal address
- ▶ Your mobile number



REMEMBER...ONLY THE FIRST 100 WILL BE FORWARDED A COPY OF THIS BOOK SO [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 12 OCTOBER, 2021.

Information collected is managed in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Privacy Policy (2020)



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ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS

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