“Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Love your neighbor as much as yourself.”

In this time of preparation for Christmas, let us be forever thankful.

Friday, 30th November  
Parish Mass 9am  
Year 3 attending

Important for next week:  
Monday, 3rd December  
Swimming Carnival

Tuesday, 4th December  
Nativity Liturgy 6pm

Friday, 7th December  
Graduation Mass 10.30am

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

At St Mary’s we will:

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

“To this world you might just be another person, but to one person you might just be the whole world!”

As our school year draws nearer to its close and the celebration of Christmas is just around the corner, we are reminded that the Christmas story is a story about acceptance. It is a story about future challenges, heartaches and celebrations. Sometimes life’s challenges bring treasures into our lives that we might otherwise not be looking for.

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. The clay balls didn’t look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could.

He thought little about it until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone. Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

When we look at someone or even ourselves, we sometimes just see the external clay vessel. It doesn’t look much from the outside and it isn’t always beautiful or sparkling. So we throw it away or discard it.

Do we take the time to find the treasure hidden inside each person? There is a treasure in each and every one of us. If we take the time to get to know a person, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem shines forth. Let us be open to the clay balls that inspire us to find our own hidden treasures and to those who peel away their layers of clay to share their treasures with us.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith in God.

Have a great week and take some time. Margaret

At St Mary’s School Warwick Newsletter  
29th November 2018  
Term 4 Week 8

163 Palmerin Street (PO Box 555) Warwick Qld 4370  
Phone: 4661 1872  
Fax: 4661 4809  
Email: smwarwick@twb.catholic.edu.au  
Website: http://www.smwarwick.catholic.edu.au
RE News

Advent - The liturgical year begins with Advent, a word derived from Latin that means "coming." During Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, and we look forward to Christ's second coming at the end of time. This Sunday is the First Sunday in Advent.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe.
You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to spread his light of love to all.
As we light the candles of this wreath
May its growing brightness remind us of the approaching nearness of your Son
So that the day of His coming may find us prepared and filled with joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Welcome to the Catholic Church
Congratulations Cecil Snow who was Baptised and Confirmed on Saturday night. Cecil also celebrated his first Holy Communion. God’s blessings to you Cecil.
Thank you to the students who completed the ministry of reading, singing, offertory and welcoming at this special mass. Also, thank you to those who represented our school and sang at the Parish Christmas Party – it sounded magical!

Parish Masses
This Friday, 30th November @ 9am – Year 3 will attend Parish Mass
A cuppa will follow both masses in Assisi Place.

Nativity Liturgy
This year we will celebrate our school Nativity Liturgy on Tuesday, 4th December at 6pm. All children will have a part in the liturgy. We hope it will be a lovely way to help celebrate the end of the school year. All are welcome. Children are encouraged to wear Christmas clothes (a Christmas t-shirt, red/green/white/gold clothes etc). Please ensure your children wear enclosed shoes for when moving on and off the choir rises.

Christmas Eve Mass
Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm is a family celebration and we invite you to join us. If your child would like to read, hand out the bulletins, participate in the Gospel play or carry the offertory please contact Mrs Young or Patrice at the Parish Office on 46611033. We will have a practice on Wednesday, 5th December at 3:30 in the Church.
We encourage all children who attend to wear a costume of someone from the Christmas story, eg Mary, Joseph, wise men, shepherd, sheep, angels.
**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

This Christmas, your support can make wishes come true.

Once again the St Vincent de Paul Society is holding their annual Christmas appeal and we, at St Mary’s, will be joining in to help make a difference to people’s lives by donating goods that can be made into hampers. Your contribution to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal can help families. Your donations help to provide so much more than the basics. It makes wishes come true.

Each class has been given a basket to place donated goods into. You are all asked to contribute to our food hampers by donating goods. Please ensure that all donated food items are not perishable and not due to expire for another six months. If you wish to donate perishable items such as ham or chocolate, it is best to do so by donating a gift voucher so that families can select what they want.

Members of the local St Vincent de Paul Conference have suggested that we could also include bathroom and personal items, particularly for women and children. These could include toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, bubble bath...

Some other goods you could donate to make magical Christmas hampers include:

- Christmas pudding
- Sweet biscuits
- Tinned fruit
- Candy canes
- Bon bons
- Pancake mix
- Jelly
- Long Life Milk
- Tea & coffee
- Cordial
- Jams
- Lollies
- Savoury biscuits
- Milo
- Long life juice
- Christmas cake
- Tinned vegetables
- Fruit mince pies
- Muesli bars
- Pasta & pasta sauce
- Tinned vegetables
- Christmas wrapping paper & gift tags

Please bring in items by Tuesday so they can be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Conference at the Nativity Liturgy.

**Volunteers Morning Tea**

All school volunteers are invited to please join us this Friday after school drop off so that we can say thank you for the very valuable contribution you make to our school. The morning tea will be held in Assisi Place (at the back of the Old Church). This includes people who have helped with reading, helped in classrooms, helped on excursions, helped on tuckshop and the many, many other ways that parents contribute to our school.

**Sacramental Preparation 2019**

The Catholic Parish of St Mary’s, Warwick, will conduct Sacramental Preparation in 2019 including First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

- **First Reconciliation** - Term 1  
  Year 3 (8 or 9yrs of age)
- **Confirmation** - Term 2  
  Year 4 (9 or 10yrs of age)
- **First Eucharist** - Term 3  
  Year 4 (9 or 10yrs of age).

If you wish to enrol your child/children in our 2019 Sacramental Program please contact the Parish Office on 4661 1033. **Enrolments will close by end of business Friday 7th December 2018.**
Curriculum

Teachers Don’t Just Teach Curriculum

Teachers are a major pillar in the teaching and learning process here at St Mary’s Warwick. The curriculum might tell teachers the “what”, but not the ‘how” in teaching. The ‘how’ manifests itself only through tireless hard work, research and creative lesson planning. Without doubt, the most important factor of the curriculum is the teacher. With their knowledge, experience and pure dedication teachers are central to any system wide improvement effort. They alone are responsible for introducing the curriculum in the classroom, modifying it to allow everyone to access it, monitoring its implementation and finally assess it worth. A school is just a building, management is just a system, the curriculum is just a document, but it is the teacher who breathes life into the curriculum. It is the teacher who creates the magic that we call learning.

I’d like to take the opportunity, on behalf of all the parents and students, to say a big thank you to the St Mary’s teachers and school officers for all they have done this year to make 2018 a year of great learning.

Administration

School Holiday Office Hours

The school office will close on Friday, 14th December 2018 and re-open on Thursday, 17th January. Office hours are between 9.00am and 3.00pm.

Year 6 Graduation Morning Tea

Year 6 students are almost at the end of their primary education. We have had a successful year and it is now time to celebrate their achievements.

On the morning of the last day of school, Friday, 7th December, we will have a morning tea in Assisi Place (parking behind the Church) with all family members who are able to, and who wish to come along - this includes grandparents and extended family members. We ask that all Year 6 students wear their formal uniform.

Morning Tea will be held in Assisi Place and commence at 9.30 am and conclude at 10.15 am, so that the children can make their way to Mass by 10.30 am. We ask that each family bring along a plate of food to share. We will provide tea, coffee and cordial. Please remember to take home your plate and any food that is left after the morning tea. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, 7th December.

Arrangements for the Last Day of the School Year - Friday 7th December

Parents and caregivers are reminded that the final day of the school year is still a school day in part, concluding at 12.30pm.

Traditionally, the last day of the school year has followed the following timetable:

- All children gather in class groups and spend the morning with their current class teacher.
- Year Six families share a morning tea with their Year Six children and teachers. Year Six families are asked to bring a plate to share for morning tea. More information on this will be sent home to our Year Six families. The final School Mass will commence at 10.30am.
- At the conclusion of the final school Mass, all children (except Year Six students) return to their classrooms for a final farewell with their teacher. Parents are asked to collect their child/children from the classrooms so a complete roll can be concluded for the day. It is extremely important that parents (or nominated responsible adult) inform their child’s class teacher when they have taken their child away from the school grounds.
- A letter has been sent home asking Parents/Caregivers to indicate arrangements made for their children on this day. Please return this ASAP.
Ben Carey – Farm Safety Competition
Congratulations to Year 6 student, Ben Carey whose artwork will feature in the Queensland Government’s 2019 Farm Safety Calendar. Students from St Mary’s entered the calendar competition and could design a page for 12 areas of farm safety.
Ben’s artwork will be featured on the July page of the calendar and won Ben $250. His prize also included $500 for the school and copies of the calendar. Ben’s entry was chosen from over 1800 entries state wide.

Chess Tournament
Congratulations to the twenty students who represented St Mary’s at the Inaugural Interschool Chess Competition last Monday at Assumption College. All students demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and learned some new strategies that they will enjoy testing out in future games.
Congratulations to this week’s RISE UP Award recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep D</td>
<td>Finlay Brown, Emily Nolan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep L</td>
<td>Isabella Peck, Joshua Ryan, Parker Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Mason Collins, Hayley Hildred, Sophie Mischewski, Dexter Wagner, All of Year 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Georgia Blake, Connor Bruyn, Brady Collins, Nicholas Nolan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2L</td>
<td>Georgia Albrand, Lachlan Kajewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Kieran Benz, Olivia Coleman, Lara Worth</td>
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<tr>
<td>3K</td>
<td>Billy Benz, Jayden Portener</td>
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<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Edward Gleeson, Maisie Goodman, Rikkie Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Isabelle Ryan, Caleb Brownlie, Jack Rheinberger, Jake Vincent</td>
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<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>All of Year 4M</td>
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<tr>
<td>5O</td>
<td>Grace Dendle, Wyatt Fretwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Lachlan Sallaway, Sophie Beard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Kierstan Farrell, Samuel Scheiwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6R</td>
<td>Zara Royal, Jia O’Dea, Ben Carey, Toby Usher, Eli Costello</td>
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Spotted RISING UP

Congratulations to all the students who have been ‘Spotted Rising Up’ this week. Last week our weekly prize winners were Alexis Byrne and Zachary Clift. Please celebrate with your child if they have brought home a Spotted Rising Up slip.

Tuckshop News

Tomorrow is the last day of tuckshop for this year.

Roster

Fri 30/11: Leanne Bednarz, Rachel Bruyn, Kristie Duncan

Sport

Warwick & District Interschool Sport

Week 8: St Mary’s vs Central SS at Glennie Heights State School

Please ensure your child has plenty of water and sunscreen.

School Swimming Carnival

The School Swimming Carnival for children born 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 will be held on Monday, 3rd December at WIRAC. The children are to report to school as normal in sports uniform and will travel by bus to the pool. The Yr3 students, born in 2009, who are competing in this carnival, have received a note with their arrangements. All students will require their swimming gear, including cap. The carnival commences at 9.00 am and should be finished by 12.30 pm. All parents are invited to attend.
SMW Swimming Carnival 2018

8:50 - Welcome


The races will follow the following order:
Freestyle 50m – 25m
Breaststroke 50m – 25m
Backstroke 50m – 25m
Butterfly 50m – 25m
All strokes 100m

Relays

12:20 – Conclusion and Presentations.

12:30 – 1:00 Yr 3 students born 2010 swimming races and relays
1:00 – 1:30 Yr 2 students swimming races and relays
1:30 – 2:00 Prep students swimming races and relays
2:00 – 2:30 Yr 1 students swimming races and relays

All parents are very welcome to come along and join in the fun. Our students need positive support for their efforts.

All students will require their swimming gear, including cap.

Library News

Overdue books

Please return any overdue books that you still have. Some books have been missing for quite a while.

There is only one week of school left to have all books returned.
BOOKLISTS
Each year there are items on the booklists that can be used from the previous year. Over the coming weeks as the following items listed below begin coming home please keep these items aside to avoid purchasing them twice. There are also many items in your child’s pencil cases you may wish to reuse. Eg colouring pencils can be sharpened and felt pens checked for use for 2019. The full booklists will be sent home with your children’s Report Card.

Prep going into Year One
- A3 Colby Pouch
- Art Shirt

Year One going into Year Two
- A3 Colby Pouch
- A4 Clipboard
- Art Shirt

Year Two going into Year Three
- Calculator
- A3 Colby Pouch
- A4 Clipboard
- Art Shirt

Year Three going into Year Four
- Calculator
- A3 Colby Pouch
- A4 Clipboard
- Phillips in Ear Headphones (in a clearly named zip lock bag)
- Art Shirt

Year Four going into Year Five
- Good News Bible (Catholic Edition)
- Oxford Australian Integrated School Dictionary and Thesaurus
- Calculator
- A3 Colby Pouch
- A4 Clipboard
- Phillips in Ear Headphones (in a clearly named zip lock bag)
- Art Shirt

Year Five going into Year Six
- Good News Bible (Catholic Edition)
- Oxford Australian Integrated School Dictionary and Thesaurus
- Calculator
- A3 Colby Pouch
- A4 Clipboard
- Phillips in Ear Headphones (in a clearly named zip lock bag)
- Art Shirt

Mrs Hilton has collected the music books and Yamaha Descant Recorder so these will not need to be purchased again.
Zonta Club

The Zonta Club of Warwick joins with the UN Organization to bring the attention of all to the horrors of Domestic Violence. Sixteen days of activism begins on 25th November and businesses, churches, schools and public areas will display the Orange figures in Warwick, Allora and Killarney. Orange is the colour chosen to stand out and attract attention. You will see the “Orange Lady” arrive at St Mary’s Wed 5th Dec.
As holidays approach, the role that screens and devices will play becomes an increasing concern for parents. Days when kids are usually tied up with school and activities make way for many an idle hour and, as such, parents fear those hours will be spent largely engaged with a screen or gaming console. While there is certainly no harm in some well-balanced screen time and developmentally appropriate online activities, we must remember that, as parents, we have an important role in helping our kids manage and balance that screen time. Here are a few things we can do:

**Understand the battle**
It is important parents know the beast they are dealing with. It is easy to shout from another room to get off a screen or whinge to our friends that ‘kids of today’ are all addicted to their phones, but we need to recognise the pull that many of these devices have. The social networks are designed to keep us liking, commenting and sharing. The games cajole us into having ‘just one more’ turn at being the last man standing. These technologies tempt us to reach just one more level, or to scroll for just a few minutes more. Our brains experience a dopamine release and a sense of insufficiency when we use a device. There is always something else to do or something else to scroll through, or one more YouTube video to watch. So our kids are up against it when trying to control their time on a device. We need to help them with that.

**Get outside**
We can complain that kids never go outside and play anymore, but sometimes we have to physically get out there with them or offer opportunities in which being outside and active play are appealing. We have to work a little harder at this today because we are competing with a device that answers many of our kids’ perceived needs. We need them to know that their needs are greater and more varied than what their screens can offer.

**Have some rules**
Despite their apparent dislike of rules around technology, kids will (one day) appreciate having boundaries to help them manage their screen time. Rules can be established regarding time limits, devices in bedrooms, device-free meal times, etc. Whatever you decide is important, be sure that you have those discussions with your kids. And any discussion around rules or consequences should happen away from the screens so they are clear on the expectations. (Talking about their screen-time habits while they are just about to be the last man standing on Fortnite is probably not going to make for engaging conversation.)

**One console on one television outside the bedroom**
Having only one television that is connected to a gaming console or to Netflix is a good way of ensuring that the
Same free passes are available at the school office.