Dear Parents,

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week with the theme I Belong You Belong We Belong. There were many highlights throughout the week but the Combined Schools’ Mass with Carroll College and St Mary’s continues to be a significant focus each year. This year our Year 6 students were also preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the Year of Mercy we gather to celebrate Catholic Education in our schools, sharing in the growth of our students as they transition from Primary School to Secondary School. I congratulate the staff and students at Carroll College, St Bernard’s and St Mary’s for their coordination of the Mass last week. A great week of celebration for our 3 schools on the Coast!

Last Friday, I attended the Catholic Education Recognition and Awards Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Manuka. Archbishop Christopher commissioned all Early Career teachers in their first year of teaching and presented the Recognition Awards for 2015. Archbishop Christopher spoke passionately about Catholic Education and how we as Catholic Educators carry out our ministry with faith, hope and love. Congratulations to Justin O’Neill who was commissioned and to Sharon Beashel, Julie Valentini, Year 1 teachers and the Learning Support Team for receiving an Award for Recognition of Excellence.

Sacrament of Confirmation
Congratulations to our Year 6 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday. It was wonderful to see the students supported by their sponsors, parents, staff and parishioners. Archbishop Christopher prayed for each of the Candidates asking that they be strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit as they take this next step in their faith journey.

Palm Sunday
This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week in the lead up to Easter. The Sunday Mass will focus on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Any students who are at Mass on Sunday are invited to join in the procession with Fr John. All families are welcome.

Next Thursday 24 March, Year 6 will lead the school through the story of the Washing of the Feet at 9.00am in the Hall. Following this, we will celebrate Easter with an Easter Hat Parade at 2.00pm. All families are welcome to join us at both significant events.

Safety of our Students
I am seeking your support in raising awareness of safe driving practices around the school. Staff and parents have raised concerns regarding the speed, parking and general unsafe conduct of some drivers. I have requested greater police presence during the morning drop off period and afternoon collection time. Please be mindful that to ensure the safety of all students at St Bernard’s, we need the combined efforts of our whole school community.

School Fees
Thank you for the families that have paid their term fees. It would be very much appreciated if families with outstanding fees could finalise their accounts by the end of term. If you are experiencing difficulty or would like help to formulate a payment plan please phone the office on 4472 4446.

Have an enjoyable weekend.

Johanna Wain
Principal Acting
Message from Fr John

There is a growing indifference to faith when it does not provide the instant sugar hit or the answer that we have chosen as the solution to our problems. We want a faith which is powerful, spectacular and relevant. Something that will change the government of nations, entertain our inner poverty and provide proven results. Instead we receive a person who seems broken, powerless and irrelevant. Jesus does not match our model of a Saviour. He seems too human against the tide which has turned against him. He makes no answer to the accusations flung against him. He gradually takes all the insults, hatred and violence into himself. The journey to the cross seems to be another failed mission, an admission that nothing will or can change, and the inability of humanity to believe in anything but itself. We have seen this played out in Lent not only in our own prayers, but also in our community and in our Church. Everything seems to be more Good Friday than Easter Sunday. There seems to be more suffering, hurt, anger and hatred. Yet as we approach this Holy Week, it is a time to turn in silence and to wait. This is never easy in a world which wants to distract us from poverty and pain. Which seeks us to dance when we should be mourning. Which seeks to find answers for ourselves rather than living with the question. Who can bring us life and why do we follow him?

Fr John Armstrong
Parish Priest of Batemans Bay
Administrator of Moruya
PO Box 3220
Batehaven NSW 2536
02 4472 4153
jarmstrong@cg.org.au

PARISH EASTER MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday 24 March 7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Adoration 8.30pm – 10.00pm

Good Friday 25 March 10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Our Lord’s Passion

Easter Saturday 26 March Easter Vigil 7.00pm

Easter Sunday 27 March 9.00am Mass

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Eleven of our Year 6 students made their Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday at Carroll College. A huge thank you goes to Miss Emma Davies and the choir (for providing beautiful music for us) along with Mrs Belle Barling, Mrs Erica Drewsen, Mrs Ros Maher, Mr Steve Bath and students from Carroll College and Mrs Margaret Croese from St Mary’s, Fr John Armstrong, Fr Dominic Byrne and Archbishop Christopher Prowse for assisting us to create a very special celebration. A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes and it was a lovely celebration for all involved. We are awaiting photos taken of the afternoon, and I will let families know when these are available. I will send out a copy to all involved.
Dear Parents

What a week of celebrations as part of the Religious Life of our school! This past week we have had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate **Catholic Schools Week** with our Combined Schools Mass for St Bernard’s, St Mary’s and Carroll College. From all the feedback I have received, the students, staff and families thoroughly enjoyed the day celebrating together! We look forward to making Catholic Schools Week bigger and better next year.

**ST Patrick & ST Joseph**

Thank you to all students for supporting a hero of the church today by wearing green! I hope to hear that your children have been able to tell you WHY they wore green today and who St Patrick was. This week also holds the Feast Day of St Joseph on Saturday, and we are very lucky to have a strong connection to the Sisters of St Joseph next door. St Joseph just like St Patrick was an amazingly strong man, grounded in his faith who assisted others to deepen their own relationship with God.

Year 5 have been busily preparing for NAPLAN and have been writing persuasive texts and one topic they have written was about Heroes. Sienna K has written an amazingly touching piece about her Hero, and I just wanted to quote some of her writing as it really is quite powerful and shows how a lived faith can touch those around you so deeply.

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**My Hero by Sienna K**

My brother Matthew has been a hero all of his life. From the very beginning inside our mother’s womb all the way through to getting his driver’s licence. My brother has tried all of his life to live like Jesus and be the best possible person to live. My brother Matthew is my hero and this is why.

Firstly, Matthew was a hero before he was even officially born. When Matthew was in my mother’s uterus, he had a sac around him like a normal baby but something was wrong. He was draining blood back into my mother and it was killing him. My parents did not know this until they went to the doctor for a check-up. He had to be born very quickly and early or he could have died. As soon as he was born he had to go on many machines to help him live but all he did was cry and cry. Even with this difficult start to life he survived through determination, that is why he is an inspiration to me.

Secondly, he has not had the best of friends to support him. He came to St Bernard’s and was a very likeable person and he made lots of friends. But as life went on and things got harder they didn’t have his back but that did not stop him from doing what he thought was right just like Christ would do. He worked hard to the best of his ability. He had us as his family to support him and I believe that has made him stronger. He soon discovered new friends when he went to high school that respected him for his beliefs and his independence.

Finally, my brother reminds me of Christ. He lives by the words of the hero of our church and of the Saints, specifically ‘Never see a need without doing something about it’ Mary Mackillop. He helps me to stay active and healthy. He helps my sister do her homework. He helps my mum and dad do daily chores and does everything possible to help his friends live and be like Christ as well.

That is why my brother Matthew is my hero. He is my role model. He is a superstar. He is a hero for our world.

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**Holy Week**

Can you believe Lent is already coming to a close with Easter next week? This year we have the special opportunity to celebrate the whole Easter story during the school term. Year 6 will be leading our school in a special prayer assembly on Holy Thursday 24 March at 9.00am. The students will be narrating the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. The following week students will experience the joy of the resurrection and be able to explain the symbolism of the Easter egg and new life! The Year 6 classes are both looking forward to using their Performing Arts skills of drama and music to unpack the story of Holy Week with the school. It is a very difficult story to explain especially to young children. We look forward to the discussions back in the classrooms about the events and why they are important in our lives today. Please come along and join us for this Prayer Assembly.
Dear Parents/Carers

Last week, St Bernard’s joined with more than 620 Catholic schools from across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Our Combined Schools Mass at Carroll College last Thursday, saw our three Catholic Schools on the coast come together to celebrate the theme ‘I Belong, You Belong, We Belong.’ The theme ties with the Church’s celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which recognises our Catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love.

The week culminated in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 13 March. Archbishop Christopher Prowse led a touching ceremony in which he reminded us all of the importance of the family as being the first experience in a child’s faith formation. The Archbishop posed the following questions to families; “If I came to your home, would you welcome me and invite me to stay for a meal, or perhaps to stay for a few days? If I did come, would I see symbols of the Catholic faith in your home such as a crucifix? Would you pray together as a family and would you turn off the TV during meals and talk about your day together? Would I see catholic ideals in your relationships with each other and with others in your neighbourhood? Would you attend weekly Mass as a family?” These words really resonated with me. I know in the ‘busy-ness’ of life it’s easy sometimes to overlook what is really important. Our Catholic family life is truly an opportunity to recognise the grace of God in daily living.

Life Education

The Life Education Van arrived last Tuesday 15 March. The program runs through until Wednesday 30 March. K-2 classes have 1 hour sessions and Years 3 - 6, 1.5 hour sessions. The Primary School program consists of 13 curriculum based modules focusing on issues around food and nutrition, personal safety, physical activity, cyber safety, safety with medicine and legal drugs; tobacco, alcohol and caffeine. Please ensure that you have sent permission slips and money in if you haven't done so already. For your information, I have included the dates for each grade. Please talk about the visit with your child and discuss the issues presented.

### Life Education Timetable

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Starting School Expo

This Saturday 19 March, St Bernard’s will be hosting a stall at the ‘Be Ready Starting School Expo’ at Riverside Park, Moruya from 9.00am —12.00 noon. Please pop in to say hello and try out our Gross Motor activities and tasty fruit cups. Visit a variety of stalls that focus on giving parents and young children vital skills for school readiness for a smooth transition to school. We hope to see you there!

Stage One Assembly

On Friday 1 April Stage 1 will be hosting the school assembly. For the first time, the entire Stage (1H, 1VS, S1S, 2C, 2F) will be performing. Stage 1 will be showcasing their talents and demonstrating the knowledge they have gained on a myriad of sea creatures, ocean sustainability and the water cycle. The assembly was originally planned for Year 1 but as all of Stage 1 are working from the same curriculum outcomes, planning the assessment tasks (differentiated of course!) and learning about the same topics, it made a lot of sense to come together to dazzle the audience. We hope to see many of you there.

Wishing you a wonderful week with your family

Julie Valentini
Assistant Principal (Acting)
RUGBY LEAGUE GALA DAY

Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 students who represented our school at the ‘Weyman Shield Gala Day’ at Mackay Park yesterday.

St Bernard’s Team 1 won the shield on the day and now progress to the next competition at Narooma next term. A full story will be in next week’s newsletter. A special thanks to Di Metcalf and Theresa Hopman for taking our students to the event and to the Bay Tigers Football Club for lending their club jerseys.
THE P&F FUNDRAISING

**easter egg raffle**

PLEASE DONATE AN EASTER EGG, SEND IT IN WITH YOUR CHILDREN TO THEIR CLASS BY TUESDAY 22ND MARCH.

RAFFLE TICKETS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND WILL NEED TO BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH FOR THE BIG EGG RAFFLE ON THE THURSDAY 24TH MARCH.

Thanks for your help for our school fundraising
St Bernard’s Easter Hat Parade
Thursday 24 March @ 2.00pm in the Hall
All parents and friends are welcome!

The students can make a simple hat to celebrate Easter. A straw hat with an egg, bunny ears or some chickens can be used to create a simple Easter bonnet. Younger siblings are welcome to join the parade on the day. It will be great fun!

Below are some useful websites that students may get ideas from!
Www.mamamia.com.au
Www.pintrest.com.au
Batemans Bay Junior Boars Rugby Union Club is now taking registrations for the 2016 competition. Junior teams aged from Under 10 – Under 16’s will be playing in the ACT Junior competition on a Saturday, playing both home and away games. Training is held at Hanging Rock on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4.30pm. Registration costs are $90. Program is fully supported by ACT Brumbies. For further information, [https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors](https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors) or contact Ronnie: 0408247644 or Kylie 0428743471 or email: juniorboars@gmail.com

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**Canteen Special: Week 9**

**CHOW MEIN $4.00  or $5.00 Meal Deal (includes icy pole and popper)**

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**Community News**

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For further information, [https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors](https://www.facebook.com/bayboarsjuniors) or contact Ronnie: 0408247644 or Kylie 0428743471 or email: juniorboars@gmail.com

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**Broulee Dolphins Rugby Club**

**JUNIOR RUGBY – BROULEE DOLPHINS**

Dolphins Rugby are looking for more players to join their club this season. There are places available in U11s, U13s and U18s. Teams are graded and training is at Broulee on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are six home and six away matches on Saturdays over Terms 2 and 3. (No matches in school holidays)

Help with transport is available for training and away games. Players do not have to be experienced to sign up.

We are looking for players who are willing to learn the game, respect their team mates, officials and opponents and do themselves, their families and their club proud.

For more information please call Karyn Starmer 0427 522 227

Or check out the website [www.dolphinsrugby.com](http://www.dolphinsrugby.com)
Community News

Be Ready
starting school expo

Lets get ready for school

Saturday 19th March 2016
9am-12pm Riverside Park Moruya

Meet the teachers of the Eurobodalla
Childrens activities Fun for the whole family
FREE goodies to give away FREE ENTRY

Contact Council's Children's Services for more information on 4474 1000
Carer Wellbeing

Carers Workshop

An interactive and informative one day workshop for Carers and Parents of a child with autism.

Aspect Practice would like to invite you to attend a specialized workshop focussing on the wellbeing of carers of children with autism.

This workshop will look at the needs of carers and parents and will focus on the importance of self care and the use of family strengths to build strong, resilient families who can adapt and ensure that they are well equipped to support their child with autism.

This workshop is being presented by our Aspect Practice Specialist Marina Bailey. It is run through the Building Blocks for Carers program.

It is Free to attend the workshop. A light morning tea will be provided and we ask that you bring your own lunch.

Places are limited so ring Kerry on the below number or email to confirm your attendance. You can also register online. We strongly encourage parents and carers to attend. If you are a professional please contact Kerry to discuss if this is relevant to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

When: Monday 21st March 2016

Where: Batemans Bay Soldiers Club
        Beach Road, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536

Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm
      Registration from 9:00am.

Cost: FREE

Register Register online at www.aspect.org.au or ring Kerry

Contact: Kerry Ritzrow
         P: 02 8868 8504
         E: mailto:kritzrow@autismspectrum.org.au

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) ABN 12 000 637 267
Building 1, Level 2, 14 Aquatic Drive Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 | PO Box 361 Forestville NSW 2087 | T 02 8977 8300 W www.autismspectrum.org.au