Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we move into the last two weeks of this term it is timely to reflect on the start of the year and celebrate the many successes we have shared. It is through the combined efforts of the parents, staff and children that we come together as a learning community and focus on the core business of the school – helping our children achieve their potential.

This term we have:

• Welcomed many new families to Mary Immaculate as their children joined classes from Kindergarten to Year 6
• Welcomed Mrs Ducksbury and Mrs Herron to our school as teachers and members of the Leadership Team
• Moved the majority of the school into Open Learning spaces with many pleasing results
• Opened the newly refurbished library for the children to begin borrowing again
• Welcomed the COSHC onto the school site as many families take advantage of this service
• Held the Parish Enrolment evening with a strong level of demand for enrolment at Mary Immaculate
• Commenced Lent with prayerful celebrations for all the children on Ash Wednesday
• Held our swimming carnival with many children participating and going onto the higher levels of competition
• Continued the development of the school’s P & F with many successful social and fundraising events

Let us continue to work together to make Mary Immaculate a place of love and learning for everyone.

Yours in education,
Paul Devlin
Principal
RE NEWS

Project Compassion Appeal 2011

Thank you to all those students who bought oranges on Harmony Day. We raised a total of $95 to kickstart our almsgiving as a school community. A big thank you to the Growers Fruit Market at Riverstone for supplying the oranges at a discounted rate for our school.

A reminder to families that all donations collected in Project Compassion boxes at home during Lent need to be returned to the school or parish office by the end of the term. If you wish to receive a receipt for tax purposes, please fill in the tag on the top fold of the box and the office will provide you with a receipt.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2011 - PARENT EVENING

A reminder that a meeting for all parents of children preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist is this Wednesday 30th March at 7.30pm in the Church.

‘SAVE the DATE’ for upcoming celebrations and liturgies.
All families are welcome to join us.

Holy Week Prayer Room
Monday 4th – Wednesday 6th April (class timetable)
Parent and toddler session Monday 4th April at 9.15am in the old library
Stations of the Cross (Presented by Terra Sancta students)
Thursday 7th April for Years 3-6. 10am in the MPA.
ANZAC Day service
Wednesday 27th April. 9.15am in the MPA.
Easter Liturgy
Friday 29th April. 9.20am in the Church.

Holy Week Prayer Room
This year our Holy Week celebrations at school will be celebrated in the old library which has been set up as a reflective Prayer Room.

There will be a number of opportunities for students, parents and toddlers to visit the prayer room so keep an eye out for a note with more information being sent home this week.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Taking Messages

Knock on the door -
Wait to be invited in -
Say “Excuse Me” -
After giving the message say “Thank You”

Parent Links: Your child can practise this skill at home when taking phone messages. You can remind them to speak slowly and clearly on the phone. When answering calls, have them say, “Hello. This is the (your last name) residence.” If callers don’t identify themselves, have your children say, “May I ask who is calling, please?” If the call is for someone else, have your kids say, “One moment, please,” then put the phone down and go to get the person the call is for (rather than yelling across the house for the person). Make sure your child knows their own phone number and how to dial 000 in an emergency.

Ciara Roche in 6M is representing Australia at a Taekwondo championship in New Zealand this week. Ciara is the only girl competing from Iron Tiger in her age group.
OUR OPEN LEARNING SPACES

Agile Learning Spaces, how do we personalise the learning?

Personalised learning is the way in which schools tailor education to ensure that every student achieves at the highest standards possible.

At Mary Immaculate our agile learning spaces provide for a highly structured learning approach that places the needs, interests and learning styles of our students at the centre. With 3 or more teachers working collaboratively with each other they can support more effectively each student’s progress along a personalised pathway that reflects specific goals, strengths and motivations. Agile learning spaces allow for the teachers to be flexible in the delivery of educational pathways to meet the specific learning needs of each of our students.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

Friday, 1st April

Order of Events

ASSEMBLY – 9.15am – 9.50am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Warm up</th>
<th>Classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event 1</td>
<td>Boys U8</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>10.00 am</td>
<td>9.50 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 2</td>
<td>Girls U8</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>10.05 am</td>
<td>10.00 am</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Boys U9</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>10.25am</td>
<td>10.10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Girls U9</td>
<td>2km</td>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>10.20 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 5</td>
<td>Boys U10</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
<td>11.50 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 6</td>
<td>Girls U10</td>
<td>2 km</td>
<td>12.10 pm</td>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 7</td>
<td>Boys U11</td>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>12.30 pm</td>
<td>11.55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 8</td>
<td>Girls U11</td>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>12.35 pm</td>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFTERNOON TEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 9</td>
<td>Boys U12</td>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>2.20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 10</td>
<td>Girls U12</td>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>2.35 pm</td>
<td>2.25 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above times are approximate. There may be slight changes depending on the length of Assembly and the weather. If there are any parents who can assist on the day could they contact Cathy Vogt (Yr 3).

CANTEEN ROSTER

Week 10

Tue 29th Mar
Rosie Jeroncic
HELP NEEDED

Wed 30th Mar
Carmen Baker
Sarah Cooper
Kellie Varlet

Thur 31st Mar
Lisa Sartori
Sue Quigley
HELP NEEDED

Fri 1st Apr
Leeanne Corapi
Gavin Marks
HELP NEEDED

Mon 4th Apr
Lucy Keuhn
HELP NEEDED
THANK YOU!

SCHOOL NEWS

GROUP PHOTOS

School Uniform

There has been development in the school uniform situation and your child will bring a letter home tomorrow explaining the current situation and the ‘way forward’ for the Mary Immaculate uniform.

Group Photos

The following group photos are available for purchase. Cost $14 each.

♦ School Captains
♦ Student Leaders
♦ Colour Captains

Group photos are able to be viewed on the notice board in the MPA.

Anyone wishing to order one of these photos are to put their name, class, name of photos they’re ordering and money in an envelope and forward to the office. Orders to be in by Friday 1st April.
NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Hello Parents & Friends of MIPS,

2011/2012 Entertainment Books For Sale

Coming home with your newsletter today is an order form for the ever-popular Entertainment Book. As well as helping the school fundraise, the Entertainment Book has over $15,000 in valuable offers, for a variety of restaurants, attractions, sport and leisure activities and lots more. For every book sold the school will receive back $12.00. Return your order forms to the school office. Books will be available from the beginning of Term 2.

Glenda Marks
P & F Committee

The P & F would like to remind everyone to please send all bought tickets and money into school as the raffle is fast approaching. If you require any more raffle books, you can obtain them from the office. The Easter Raffle will be on Thursday, 7th April at 2.20pm. There are over 70 baskets to raffle off so your chances of having a winning ticket are high. Thank you for your participation. A big thank you to all the parents who helped wrap all the baskets last Friday. Without your help we wouldn’t be able to have these events for the children”.

Sacraments of First Eucharist & Confirmation 2011

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation / First Eucharist have now closed for this year. The Parents Only meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 March. Groups that families have been assigned to will be confirmed at this meeting. It is an important gathering and is compulsory. Parents should contact the Parish Office or email Jocelyn Williams at: sacramentalcoordinator@maryimmac.org.au prior to the meeting if they are unable to attend either the meeting or Enrolment Ceremonies for whatever reason.

We remind all those involved of the following gatherings:
* Saturday / Sunday 2 / 3 April: Enrolment Ceremonies - All Masses.
* Wednesday 6 April: Facilitators’ Training Meeting- 7.30pm - Parish Meeting Room.

TIGERS QUAKERS HILL NETBALL CLUB

Tigers Quakers Hill Netball Club has vacancies for 8 and 9 year olds to play in our Netta Team. Game is at 11am on Saturdays at Courts. Training at 5pm on Tuesdays at Patterson Reserve.

If interested please contact: Di McKinnon on 0414 565 588 or Keryn Gribben on 0417 429 105

FINAL REMINDER for OVER DUE School Fee Accounts

The due date for all School Fee Accounts to be paid by was Friday the 11th March 2011, if you have overlooked your account please ensure that payment is made before 1/04/2011. The Catholic Education Office will follow up on all unpaid accounts.

Thank you to all the families that have made contact with the school regarding their account, these families will receive a written response.

Any family that is experiencing financial difficulty and therefore not able to make payment is asked to contact the school in writing, so that assistance or payment arrangements can be discussed. Office Administrator Mrs Michelle Brien can be contacted by email mbrien@parra.catholic.edu.au or by addressing a letter to the School office.