Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the College

In recognition and celebration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy the Catholic Schools Office has published a resource for use within schools entitled River of Mercy, Streams of Joy. We will be dipping into the book throughout the year in our school setting and I will share the beautiful images and quotations for personal reflection through the newsletter.

The image above and the definition of mercy below are both taken from the publication.

**Mercy: What is it?**

Mercy is the Divine response to the cry of distress.

God, forever faithful and compassionate, is moved by the predicament of his people and seeks to save them, to draw them out of isolation, to relieve their pain and restore them to wholeness.

Scripture abounds with the cries of people in distress: those in grave danger, perhaps afflicted by physical or mental illness, trapped in poverty, grieving the loss of loved ones, abandoned, lost, far from home, fearful, sinful, uncertain of the future.

Time and again in the Old Testament, in both masculine and feminine imagery, we see the face of a tender God turned towards those who are in need of comfort, rescue, healing.
God who is merciful uplifts on eagles’ wings, cherishes, nurtures, teaches, protects and does battle on behalf of the children of Israel. God signals personal, active presence though messengers, angels, cloud, fire. God raises up leaders and responds to hunger and thirst with life-giving rains, water from rock, manna and miracles.

In the person of Jesus, God enters history and into the human predicament in an extraordinary way.

Time and again in the Gospels we see Jesus, the incarnation of Divine Mercy, encounter human struggle, searching, suffering. He sees, hears, notices the cry of the individual in the crowd. He is moved with compassion, at times with great sighs and tears.

His aching heart moves him to act. Filled with the power of the Spirit he responds with healing word and deeds. He encourages, challenges, praises, forgives. He spends himself in service, in teaching, and is unafraid of robust engagement with the ‘other’.

In a culminating act of Spirit-led fidelity Jesus surrenders his own life into the hands of the Father whose love is stronger than death.

Thus is Scripture a love story; the story of a faithful, compassionate, merciful God who gathers a people to himself in order to bless and heal all humanity.

We in turn, then, ought to show mercy to our neighbour in imitation of our Creator and Redeemer.

For Christians, mercy has a name, a face, a voice: Jesus Christ.

Catholic Schools Week
From 6 - 12 March, our school will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to celebrating and showcasing the achievements of students in our school.

This year’s theme is ‘I belong. You belong. We belong.’

The 2016 CSW 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.

Our school is proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms every day, as well as the contribution our schools have made to Australian communities, in particular the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our wider community.

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration the local radio station Sea FM will be broadcasting from St Peter’s during the breakfast radio session on Thursday March 10. In addition St Peter’s will be represented at Hoyts Cinemas for the next two Saturdays, bringing news and information about the College to the Central Coast community.

Mrs Michelle Peters – Principal

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Religion

At St Peter’s Catholic College, we hold 3 core values of Courage, Compassion and Commitment. In Week 6 we celebrate Compassion Week and as a way of being involved in showing compassion towards others I am asking for your support.

The Cathedral Parish at Hornsby is involved in an African Orphan Appeal and they hold regular cake and jam stalls. A way we can show compassion for the orphans of Africa is to help out by donating empty Jam Jars. If you have any empty glass jam jars at home can you please send them to school before the end of Term 1 and they can be left in Miss Brown’s office in A block.

Fiona Brown – Leader of Mission – REC

Stage 5

How fast time flies, it feels like only yesterday that I greeted my new Year Group in January. It has been a very busy and productive first 5 weeks of the 2016 school year. Students have settled in very well to life as the Year 10 students of St Peter’s. I am pleased with the number of students who everyday come to school and engage in their learning, wear the correct uniform, and participate in the diverse range of co-curricular opportunities that the school has to offer. I love the unique qualities that every year group brings to the playground, our cohort at the moment are making quite a name for themselves with some uplifting background music for our lunch-time listening pleasure. I am just waiting for the dancing to begin!

Yesterday morning at assembly I spoke to the students about COMPASSION WEEK and encouraged them to donate a gold coin to Project Compassion which is being collected in Homerooms. We hope to raise over $2000 this year. This is also especially relevant as we enter our third week of Lent. I would like to invite you all to celebrate on 21 March the Stations of the Cross.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Kristen Barry, Ashleigh Bell, Sarah Buckton, Sophia Contrearas, Jordan Ferrington and Mackenzie Weeks who are members of the Youth Ministry class had their first opportunity to run the Year 7 Reflection Day with Mr Tobin. These students should be immensely proud of themselves for the manner in which they ran this day, both students and staff were raving about them. Look forward to seeing more great things come out of the Youth Ministry class. Any students interested in attending PRAISEFEST 11 March can see Mr Tobin.

EVENTS & OUTINGS

I want to thank the students and the History teachers for a wonderful Year 10 excursion to the Sydney Holocaust Museum in Darlinghurst last Tuesday. It is always a great opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons when travelling into the ‘big city life’ of Sydney. The students were well behaved and respectful during the excursion, and I was a very proud to be their year co-ordinator, particularly on this day.
Crossing into another subject area, some of our Music students had the chance for another Sydney adventure last week, this time venturing with Mrs Haines and Mr Jarvis to the Sydney Opera House to see the Sydney Swing Orchestra.

GENERAL INFORMATION
- Swimming Carnival 2 March at Wyong Pool 8:30am start. This is a COMPULSORY day and students are expected to attend
- Clean Up Australia Day will take place for our school this Friday. Homeroom and part of Period 1 will be spent doing our part for the environment and helping to keep our area clean and rubbish free. This should be a focus every day
- Students who are interested in International Exchange School programs we have information in our Stage 5 office for you to take home
- Students who have not received their Assessment Booklet must report to Stage 5 office Thursday lunch time otherwise they will miss the chance to run through important information regarding ROSA requirements

ACADEMIC
- Music group performance (10%) WEEK 6
- Students must have their Science SRP reports checked off by their teachers by Friday Week 6 DEADLINE.
- PASS Group Presentations WEEK 5 + 6 (20%)
- Textiles Folio and Samples WEEK 6 + 7 (20%)
- English speeches and short responses for ‘Survival’ WEEK 7 (25%)
- PDM Theory WEEK 7 (10%)
- Geography research assignment WEEK 8 (20%)
- Outdoor snorkelling WEEK 8 (20%)

TARGETING – SOCKS
I am only talking to the 10% here, we are having trouble with the repeat ‘sock offenders’. Although this issue seems petty, the uniform states that students are to wear St Peter’s socks. Please support this uniform policy and encourage students to wear correct socks. I will be keeping students in at lunch time who continue to not wear the correct uniform to school. If you are having any problems at the home-front with this please call or email me so I can help.

Signing off for the fortnight, as always please ring or email. My ‘door’ is always open!

“Minds are like parachutes, they only function when they are open.”

James Dewar

Have a happy and healthy fortnight

Rebecca Parrish – Year 10 Co-ordinator

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Commencing Week 6 suggests that we are half way through the term on Wednesday at the College Swimming Carnival. It is very pleasing to see that a vast majority of Year 7 students have settled into the College routine. I congratulate them on their relatively smooth transition.

The computer devices will be rolled out next week, being distrubted on Monday 7 March at 6:00pm in the College Hall. Computer training commences over the next two weeks.

Mrs McKensey has distributed camp details to the Year 7 students - student's are requested to have all camp forms returned to Homeroom teachers before the end of the week.

Where does all the time go?

**Time Management**

We all have the same amount of time. There are 168 hours in each week.

You need to use your time well. Where does all your time go?

Try this little exercise for four school days in one week.

How much time do you spend on the following activities, each day?

Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Sleeping**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Travelling**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **at School**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Sport/Exercising**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Reading**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Revising/Assignments/Homework**
Day: 1______, Day: 2 ______, Day: 3 ______, Day: 4 ______  **Part-time Job**

Can you identify any time wasting? Is there a balance across the activities?

Can you redirect you time to benefit yourself - Something to think about!

**Paul Cannon – Stage 4 Co-ordinator**

**English**

**Debating**
The Josie Mitchell Debating competition enables students in Years 7-9 to compete against other Catholic and independent schools on the Central Coast. It is held in Term 2 and generally takes place on alternate Thursday afternoons. Students interested in participating are asked to see Mrs Jones in the English staffroom.

**Natalie Jones – Acting English Co-ordinator**
Meet The Music Excursion – Concert 1
Music Elective students in Years 10, 11 and 12 once again have the opportunity to attend one of the ‘Meet the Music’ concerts. These concerts are held at Sydney Opera House on Thursday evenings, beginning at 6:30pm.

Last week, 15 of our Year 10 Music students attended the first of this year’s series accompanied by Mrs Haines, Mr Jarvis and Ms Parrish. After a long train trip from Tuggerah station, we welcomed the leisurely stroll from Circular Quay to the Opera House and were treated to a fantastic concert of music that blended Jazz and Classical styles together.

It was a great experience for all involved, and I look forward to sharing these experiences with other Music students throughout the year.

Sandra Haines – Creative Arts Co-ordinator

St Peter’s Newsletter Photography Competition
The first winner in the St Peter’s Newsletter Photography Competition is Campbell Easton in 9-3 Homeroom. His underwater image was taken using a Go-Pro Hero 3 camera with a waterproof housing. The symmetry of the photo is created by the reflection on the water’s surface. It was taken at Bateau Bay Beach. Campbell has received a commendation for his entry this week and goes into the exhibition at the end of the year where the image voted by students as the best will win a prize.
A Competition Is Running To Encourage Students To Be Creative With Photography

Any St Peter’s student can enter the Photography Competition
Photographs can be taken using a digital camera, phone, tablet or Go Pro
Send your jpeg image via email by Tuesday Day 7 to:- louise.tome@dbb.edu.au

The best entry each fortnight will be selected and featured in the College newsletter. An award will be given for the image voted the most popular at the end of the year. Commendations will be given for winning entries.

A beautiful Tawny Frog Mouth owl visited the Art Block.

Louise Tome – Visual Arts Co-ordinator

Sport

Open Boys Touch Football
On Wednesday 17 February, the Open Boys Touch Football team made their way to Manly Vale for the Broken Bay Touch Football Championships. The boys’ enthusiasm and camaraderie was immediately evident from their jovial singing on the bus, and this positive vibe was carried onto the field throughout the day. They also demonstrated high levels of commitment, shown no more so than when Corbin Walters injured his shoulder whilst making a spectacular dive for the try-line in desperation.

The boys beat MacKillop convincingly and had a few other close games, but as their legs became wearier, they were outclassed by some speedier teams on the day. Kyle McCudden’s performances were particularly impressive, martalling the team around well, making quick drives and throwing some outstanding long balls. As such, he was chosen to play in the “Possibles vs Probables” match for representative selection. Despite dealing with cramp, he did enough to be chosen as a shadow player in the Broken Bay team.

The team, listed below, should be proud of the way in which they conducted themselves and the tremendous effort and enthusiasm that they displayed on the field.

Front Row: Riley Foott, Christopher Ball, Kyle McCudden, Simon Pugsley, Joseph Crick, Jackson Greaves.

Mitchell Crynes – Teacher-In-Charge
Open Girls Touch Football
It was an early start meeting at 6:00am on Wednesday 17 February, with a small group of 9 girls heading down to Manly Vale to compete in the Open Girls Touch Football Gala Day. The girls competed in a total 6 games, together with 5 of the girls competing in an additional match for the “Possibles versus Probables” for the chance to go on to compete for the Broken Bay Diocese team.

They successfully made it through to the grand final but were unfortunately beaten by St Joseph’s in East Gosford by one try. The girls should be very proud of their efforts as they were completely exhausted by the last game and did not have a full team of twelve. Of the five who tried out for the next level, Brooke Hoolihan, Madison Langshaw and Rebecca Parkinson made it into the Broken Bay team. Congratulations to all the girls for their wonderful efforts and beautiful company all day!

Kelly Li – Teacher-In-Charge

Under 15 Boys Touch Football
The Boys’ Under 15’s touch team played admirably under the conditions and the tough competition in their pool. In the first game against MacKillop, the boys played well but unfortunately lost 2-0. The second game was against the very strong St Augustine’s. The boys played their best, scoring first but unfortunately went done 3-1.

In the third game against Mater Maria, the boys got an early 2-0 lead before letting 3 tries in. They fought back hard with 2 minutes to go to get the draw. The boys gave it their all and played with great spirit. Best and fairest on the day were Blaine Nelson and Harry Hayes.

Duncan Little – Teacher-In-Charge

Under 13 Boys Touch Football
The Under 13’s Boys Touch Football side had a great day down in Manly competing against the other schools in the Diocese. We did not have much time to train together however the drills that we practiced in the limited time were executed well. Some of the teams that we came up against play touch football together as a school side on Saturdays, therefore the competition were very well drilled.

It was a good experience for the students as they were given the opportunity to play against some quality sides. Overall I was very pleased with how the students conducted themselves representing St Peter’s. Great work gentleman!

Ben De Somma – Teacher-In-Charge

Under 13 Girls Touch Football
On Monday 29 February a team of twelve U13 girls were selected to represent St Peter’s in the Broken Bay Touch Football Gala Day at Manly Vale. In our first game, it took a little getting used to the set plays and the girls had a loss of 3-0 in against Mater Maria. After some getting used to playing in a High School competition, the girls began to gel as a team and won 3-0 against St Leo’s. In our game against St Brigid’s we had some confusion amongst the team about where the try line was andtrys were being scored on the half way line. However, we still managed to come away with an outstanding win of 5-0. Our last game was against Mount St Benedict and the girls just missed out on the win 2-1.

The girls played some quality Touch Football and it was an enjoyable day for all. This team was a pleasure to coach and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. Congratulations to Halle Brown, Mackenzie Davidson, Mackenzie Easson, Zara Gusmerini, Madison Horne, Pheobe Laing, Bonnie Mitchell, Ava Mungovan, Bree Poulton, Keelie Sawyer, Brooke Webber and Jaguar Woodhouse.

Thank you for a great day and I look forward to seeing all of these girls improve throughout their years at St Peter’s.

Michelle Blood – Teacher-In-Charge
How to use your Opal Card correctly

Remember,
You only need to Tap On and Tap Off once for each Journey, then find a seat and sit down to travel safe on the bus, train or ferry.

Contact 13 1500 for all Timetable and Opal Enquiries
Wyong Catholic Parish - Position Vacant
(8 hours per week during school term)

The Parish is looking to employ a person to assist in the running of our Sacramental Program and overseeing our Catechists (Special Religious Educators SRE).

The ideal candidate must have good communication skills; the ability to coordinate and motivate assisting volunteers; a professional manner and presentation; proficient in Microsoft Office; an ability to operate with discretion and to maintain complete confidentiality; a demonstrated commitment to the values of the Catholic Church.

If this sounds like a position you are interested in, please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Applications to be sent to: Wyong Parish Office PO Box 385 Wyong NSW 2259
Or by email to: office@wyongcatholicparish.com
Enquiries: Jo Helm 4352 1011/0424 763 734
Applications close: 11 March 2016