Dear Families,

Congratulations to all those who participated in the Bare Creek Trail Run on Sunday. Thank you to Scott Howells who has been working with the events organiser since last year.

Congratulations to all who participated in our Band and Choir performances last Wednesday evening. The children who performed their solos did so to a large and appreciative audience.

I am very pleased to announce the award recipients for 2016 –

Choir encouragement award – Eden Russell
Choir outstanding achievement award – Rylie Prior
Training Band encouragement award – Amelia Horne
Training Band outstanding achievement award – Ella Hemens
Concert Band encouragement award – Zoe Arcus
Concert Band outstanding achievement award – Gabby Bragge

I would like to thank Gabby Bragge and Sebastian Wasko for their leadership as Band Captains this year. Gabby and Sebastian presented badges to the new Band Captains for 2017 – Congratulations Thomas Cleary and Taylor Schramm.
I had the pleasure of joining Bec and Andrew Russell at the medal presentation to honour Eden Russell’s achievements, last Friday afternoon. Eden achieved the highest score for the international competition (ICAS) on Digital Technology this year for year 4. Congratulations Eden.

Staff news

Last week we were delighted to announce to the parents involved that Mrs Susanne Bragge has been appointed as the specialist early learning teacher for the new multi-age group for K/1 for next year. Susanne is currently teaching at OLGC and we look forward to welcoming her to our St Martin’s community as a Class Teacher next year.

We would also like to announce the resignation of classroom teacher Mrs Hannah Creelman, who recently resigned after her maternity leave. We wish Mrs Creelman well in her new role with Encyclopaedia Britannica.

For many of us, these weeks can be a time of great busyness and activity, as we look at our long shopping lists, decorate our homes, and plan holiday meals. As our calendar gets filled with events, it can be easy to lose sight of the true reason for the season.

Advent is a time of preparation. A time for creating space in our hearts and in our lives to prepare for the Christ Jesus. This is not just the Jesus who was born over 2,000 years ago in a simple manger in Bethlehem. This is also the Jesus who is waiting to be born in our world right now through hearts of peace, hands of compassion, and acts of justice.

This Advent, we invite you to make a commitment to Laudato Si (Pope Francis) by looking at ways to reduce your consumption.

On Monday I spoke to the children about the concept of a ‘reverse advent calendar’. On the count down from Thursday 1 December until Christmas I set them the challenge to think of something that they can do for someone else on each of the days leading up to Christmas day. You might like to add to the list I suggested which included doing something to help at home.

Advent Blessings,

Helen Leigh
Principal

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Congratulations to former pupil Helena Bragge and current pupil Gabby Bragge who have just returned from the Ice Skating National Championships in Melbourne.

Both were part of the **Mixed Age 1** Southern Sky Synchronised team. They came 3rd (out of 12).

Helena was also a captain of the **NoviceB** Southern Sky Synchronised team. They came 3rd as well (out of 7). Congratulations girls!

This weekend marks the 2\textsuperscript{nd} week of Advent, a special time during our Church Year. This week we light the candle of ‘love’ or ‘preparation’. Sunday’s Gospel (Mt 3:1-12) reminds us to prepare a way for the Lord and to ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’. How can we prepare our hearts for the Lord?

Please remember to join us on Monday at 9am in the church for our Advent Liturgy.

**THE ADVENT WREATH**

The custom of lighting an Advent wreath of candles originates in the ancient Northern European custom of having a fire wheel at the winter solstice in December. The fire wheel was lit to celebrate the gradual return of the sun after the shortest, darkest days of winter. Christians adapted this symbol to celebrate the coming of Christ, the light, who transforms the darkest depths of our world. Many people celebrate Advent by lighting the candles of an Advent wreath each day, accompanied by a prayer. One candle for Week 1, two candles for Week 2, and so on. The wreath comprises three purple candles and one rose-coloured, for the joyful Third Week of Advent. They are set in a circle of evergreen leaves, symbolising God’s endless life and love. A fifth candle, a white ‘Christ’ candle, may be placed in the centre to be lit at Christmas. The gradual lighting of the candles represents the increasing light of Christ as his coming draws near. (Resources courtesy of [http://www.resourcemelb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.resourcemelb.catholic.edu.au))

Stayed tuned for more news about Advent next week!

---

**FAMILY MASS K-6**

All families and friends are invited to attend:

**Parish Family Mass on**

**Sunday 4\textsuperscript{th} December at 8:30am.**

All families are encouraged to join us at this Parish celebration, but particularly the Year 5 students as we will have a special blessing for their new Kindy buddies during this Mass.

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Outdoor Mass and Carols

All families are encouraged to attend the Parish Outdoor Mass and carols on:

**Saturday 10th December from 5:30pm at OLGC.**

Please RSVP to the note that was sent out last week by Friday 2nd December so we can start rehearsing the children for their carol performance. Bring along a picnic and join in celebrating the joys of this festive season!

Parish News:

PASTORAL CARE NEWS:

PBL

Positive Behaviours for Learning

A reminder that our three school rules are:

- Care for Learning
- Care for Self and Others
- Care for the Environment

Please take the time to discuss the school rules with your children this week.

This fortnight’s focus is:

Be Fair and Inclusive

HOME LINK

How can parents support this behavioural expectation at home?

- Students with siblings: Play a game with your brother or sister that they would like to play- think about how they would like to play and what they would like to do and play it their way.

- Students without siblings: Think about a game or interest of someone you would like to play with at school, find out more about that activity, invite that person to play and play it their way.

TIPS ON INCLUDING OTHERS

1. Look for people who are alone or may have a hard time joining in.
2. Put a smile on your face and encourage them to join in your activity or group.
3. If they accept – let them know that you are glad they did.
4. If they didn’t want to join in- it’s OK.
5. Try to include others in any group project.

Prepare the way with love this week,

Pip Smith (Acting REC)

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Parent Helpers

Thank you so much to the wonderful parents who have volunteered their help in the library or at home over the past year. I am always very grateful for your help, big or small. I would like to invite you to a thank you afternoon tea, next Monday 5th December in the library from 2.30pm. If you are free, please do come and join us.

Overdue Books

Thank you to the families who have returned their overdue books. All books are to be returned to the library this week, so I can return them to the shelves and search for the missing ones. Overdue notes were sent home on Monday. Please have a good look at home and return them as soon as possible. If you are unable to find the book/s please sign the note and return it to the library.

Angie Debien
Teacher Librarian

Book Club

Issue 8 of Book Club was sent home to all students last week.

Orders and payment is due by Monday 5th December using the LOOP (Linked Online Ordering and Payment) system as detailed in the scholastic brochure. No cash or paperwork should be returned to the school office for bookclub purchases. We are working to ensure that purchases are sent home with students by 12 December - latest. Parents who select the "gift order" option will be notified by Bec Russell when their supplied items are available for collection from the school office.

Please forward any questions to Bec Russell Becandruss@hotmail.com

School Banking

Please remember that Thursday 1st December is the last day for ordering Rewards for this year. School banking will continue up to the 15th December.
This week is a special awards assembly with the following awards:

**Participations Awards for M Factor**

**Year 6 Awards for every student!**

**Participation for Year 6 Northern Beaches Debating**

**Andre Mury – Open Chess Champion**

**Cooper Ballesty – 50 m Swimming Champion**

Please bring your cameras!

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**BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to the following children who are celebrating their birthdays this week and in the next week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Siena D’Alessandro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sanctus Mackenzie</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jack Rigney</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Pereira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1  9.15am Mass (Year 5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.30pm Awards Assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Banking Rewards Ordering Deadline</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.00-7.15pm K/1 2017 Books B4 Bedtime</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2  Year 6 Italian Day Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4  8.30am Family Mass (K-6) with Kindy 2017 family Blessings</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5  Second Week in Advent Liturgy (Year 5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christmas Hampers Due Please</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7  K-2 Water Safety Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8  9-11.30am The Great Debate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9.15am Mass (Year 4)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2.00pm Reconciliation (Year 3)</td>
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<td>12 Last Before School Chess</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Third Week in Advent Liturgy (Year 6)</td>
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<td>5.00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7.00-9.00pm Year 6 Graduation Forestville RSL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13 Year 6 Reflection Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14 K-6 Cake Celebration for Year 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catholic Care OSHC Christmas Party</td>
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<td>15 Last Day of School Banking</td>
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<td>PBL Reward Day (wear clothes in the colour of your house if in winning house)</td>
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<td>16 11.30am Strength and Gentleness Mass</td>
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<td>Last day of Term for Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>27 Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>30 First day of School Years 1-6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindy Best Start Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 Kindy Best Start Assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1  First day of School Kindergarten</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9  MAI Assessments Years 1-6 – Pupil Free Day for Years 1-6 ONLY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Staff Development Day &amp; MAI Assessments Yrs 1-6 Pupil Free Day ALL STUDENTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks to all volunteered so far in 2017 – its greatly appreciated!

For those still thinking that they might like to help or are in a position that they can help, there’s still time!

We are still in need of volunteers for the following roles. If you can help please complete and return form to school office asap – or email Lisa Arcus at smd.pfexec@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Parent</th>
<th>Please Tick</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Nominations received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
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Without volunteers especially for the social events, we are unable to run some of our most loved functions!
The more the merrier for these - let us know if you can help! You may even want to team up with a few mates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kids Social Events</th>
<th>Involves helping out with events such as M Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent’s Social Event</td>
<td>Involves helping out with events such as Trivia Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: _________________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________________
Phone Number:_______________________________________

Years that my children will be in in 2017: ☐ K ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Copies of the Minutes from the AGM are available at the office please enquire if you would like a copy

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The simplest way

...to understand UV radiation.

What is UV?
Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, emitted by the sun, is the main cause of skin cancer. UV radiation can be dangerous even on cool and cloudy days.

Did you know?
Ultraviolet (UV) radiation can damage skin when it reaches levels of 3 or above.

Staying safe when the UV is three or above:
- Download the SunSmart app or use the online widget (www.sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/uv/uv-widget) to find out the exact hours to use sun protection.
- Generally, the UV levels will be above 3 throughout the day from October to March. So minimise time outside from 11am – 3pm (DST) and use sun protection when outdoors (Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide).

To help keep your kids safe in the sun, check your school’s SunSmart status by heading to www.sunsmartnsw.com.au
A FREE 10 WEEK PROGRAM FOR KIDS AGED 7 TO 13 YEARS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BECOME FITTER, EAT HEALTHIER AND IMPROVE THEIR SELF-ESTEEM.

WHEN
Tuesdays
4.30pm-6.30pm
Starts 31 January 2017

WHERE
Pittwater Sports Centre
Fresh Start Gym (inside the Centre)
1525 Pittwater Rd, North Narrabeen

REGISTER NOW
FREECALL 1800 780 900 OR GO4FUN.COM.AU

NSW Government
Health
Northern Sydney Local Health District

"It's so wonderful to have my active, happy, motivated and confident 10 year old boy back."
Go4Fun Parent.