The feeling of Christmas
What an exhilarating time of year this is: with one week left on the school calendar and less than three until Christmas.

The pure joy in anticipating Christmas is simmering and spreading. It’s energising! Allowing us to ask more of ourselves, and of our children.

At this time of year there are preparations galore: late nights, extra trips to the shops, a multitude of outings and stretched favours. All for the right festive reasons, but increasingly too much, and before we know it: we’ve missed the pleasure of Christmas!

Amidst the concerts, graduations, parties and Christmas preparations, something wonderful is growing. On top of extended after school meetings and family commitments, something beautiful is happening. And it’s everywhere! Especially on the faces of children who are hiccupsing with delight at the approaching Day.

The simplest things can set them off. Things we may have forgotten bring us joy. Like increased daylight hours and bright starry nights. City decorations and the smell of pine. Piling together on a pew or singing carols in the park.

This is the time of year where Christmas joy is alive and spreading around us. We just need to make sure we follow our children: and take the time to catch it.

(The above article is from our special guest journalist of the week, our ‘Library lady, Mrs Tanya Boon. Thank you Tanya).
Canteen
We wish to advise our school canteen will not be operating this Thursday for recess but lunch orders will go ahead as normal.

Stella Maris Christmas Concert
The concert is on this Thursday (8th of December). It is in the Burnie Arts and Function Centre and doors will be open at 6:30pm. Students know where they are to meet their Teacher. Some P&F members will be at the doors and we ask that you give a gold coin donation. This covers the hire of the hall. I can assure you that we will be finished by 8:30 at the latest. We look forward to seeing you there.

School Photos
We alternate the time we have the school photos taken, so that sometimes the children are in Summer uniform and sometimes in Winter. We have never had them returned this late, and to avoid this in the future, we will do the photos much earlier. The photographers have explained that they have had problems with printing the class photos, and will have the photos to us as soon as possible. They have apologized for any inconvenience.

P&F NEWS
At the P&F meeting last night, we reflected on the garage sale. We raised just over $5,000! Thank you to all those who helped by donating goods, sorting goods, selling on the day, cooking for the cake/sweet stall, cooking sausages and of course, coming to spend your money. Special mention was made of the wonderful plants which came from the school veggie garden. Ms Joan Stammers, Miss Lisa Inness and Mrs Liz Murton, spend time in the garden each week. They take students on a rotational basis and work with them to help them learn all about growing vegetables and keeping chooks. Last week, Gr 5 had a most delicious salad feast, organized by Mary Geary, all fresh from the garden. Thank you!

Stella Maris Primary School Second Hand Uniforms
This is a facebook site where parents of current or ex students can buy and sell uniform. This site allows you to sell directly to other parents. It is your responsibility to conduct the business with each other. Just simply like the page and post your items.
This is a private site and has no affiliation with Stella Maris Primary School.

Riverbend Youth Camp
Applications for January camp are available from the school office.
Congratulations to our Kinder children who enjoyed a lovely day at their Graduation and BBQ yesterday.
CHRISTMAS VIGIL CHILDREN’S MASS

Christmas is a time that we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time the Church invites all to share love, peace, joy and hope with one another.

Fr John and the Burnie-Wynyard Parish invite the Staff, Students, Parents, Grandparents, Guardians and Friends of the Stella Maris Primary School Community, to the Christmas Vigil. This will take place at St Brigid’s Catholic Church, Wynyard on the 24th of December at 5.30pm.

The Students are encouraged to dress up or come prepared in the traditional images of angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, kings etc.

For those children who wish to take an active part, by acting out the Christmas story at the vigil mass, there will be a rehearsal at St Brigid’s Catholic Church, Wynyard at 5:30pm on Friday 23rd December.

Thank you and may the birth of Christ bring happiness, joy, peace and love to you and your loved ones. Amen.