



St Mary's Message Stick

26th November, 2021

Giinagay Families and Caregivers,

This week I had the opportunity to give a guided tour of our school with a family new to the Valley. The feedback we received from them was how warm and welcoming our school community felt. The family had so many positive things to say about our school, our students and our teachers. What a pleasure it was to show off our wonderful school.

What an amazing week we have had at St Mary's. Walking Wednesday with a special breakfast, so many wonderful learning opportunities happening in our classrooms; plays, experiments, building and creating. Our STAR readers in Year 1,2 and 3 are absolutely SHINING! I couldn't be more proud of the students and their learning as we enter into the final weeks of the school year.

Staffing News

Staff turnover is inevitable, and I wish to assure our families that the transition into 2022 will be seamless and consistent. St Mary's will continue to be staffed by high quality Educators, who provide quality and inclusive learning environments for all students.

It is with a heavy but happy heart I announce the moving on of two of our St Mary's family members.

Sarah Jennings has accepted a teaching position at St Francis Xavier Primary in Woolgoolga. Sarah has been a highly regarded Educator over the last few years at St Mary's. In particular Sarah's ability to provide a safe, calm and inclusive learning environment for all of her learners has been an incredible asset to our school community. Sarah has also made incredibly strong links with our parent community and has always encouraged and supported open communication between the school and home. Sarah has been commuting each day from Coffs Harbour, so this will be a workplace closer to home.

Jessica Sheather has accepted a permanent position with the Department of Education. Jessica has brought creativity, innovation and positivity to her role over the years at St Mary's. Jessica has been pivotal in creating a strong transition program for our Kindergartens as well as providing quality learning and teaching for our early years' students in their first years of formal education. Jessica has worked incredibly hard to embed our play based approach, in particular informing our parent community. Jessica has been seeking job security, so an offer of permanency is timely and well deserved.

I know that both of these decisions were not easy for Sarah and Jessica, however I know you will keep these two wonderful Educators in your prayers as they transition into a new workplace in early 2022.

2022 Staffing

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of two new staff members into our community next year, Anna Bowd and Alice Magner.

Both Anna and Alice join us with a wealth of experiences, backgrounds and leading learning and teaching. Anna will step into the Instructional Leader role replacing Miss Maria, and Alice will become our Year 2/3 Teacher for the 2022 school year. Recruitment for the K/1 teacher will be complete today and I will be notifying parents next week of the successful applicant.

Both Anna and Alice have shared messages for the students and families of St Mary's.

A message from Anna,

Giinagay Everyone at St Mary's,

My name is Anna Bowd (you can call me Miss Anna) and I am super excited to be working at St Mary's next year. At the moment I live in Melbourne but I will be moving up to the Nambucca Shire in January 2022.

I have a passion for teaching Literacy and Mathematics. I love working with students and seeing them realise how clever they are in all different ways. In Melbourne I have been working at another St Mary's in St Kilda, on the land of the Yalukit. I have been the Mathematics Leader, the Learning Diversity Leader and I also teach Reading Recovery and Number Intervention.

St Mary's in St Kilda is right near the city and it is on a very busy road. All day there are cars and trucks going along the road. I am so looking forward to moving to the peace and quiet of Bowraville.

Before I was at my current school I worked in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. I have worked at Christ the King school in Djarindjin Lombadina and at Wanalirri Catholic School in Gibb River. Maybe some of you have families or friends there?

I love to do yoga and meditation and go for long walks on the beach with my beautiful dog Jada. She is three years old and she is a toy spoodle. She is so cute and loves to sleep on my bed at night, keeping my feet warm.

I can't wait to meet you all next year.

From

Miss Anna

A message from Alice,

Giinagay families of St Mary's Bowraville,

My name is Alice Magner and I'm very excited to be teaching at St Marys in 2022. Over the past two years, I have been teaching in a small rural community in Kamilaroi country, in the town of Walgett, North West NSW. Prior to this, I have lived most of my life on the north coast, in Bundjalung Country, on my family's farm near Casino. When I'm not busy teaching, I enjoy lots of different hobbies like singing and playing the guitar as well crafts like sewing, crochet and painting.

I also love outdoor adventure and travelling around rural Australia.

I can't wait for the exciting new adventure 2022 will bring and I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all in the coming months.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and see you next year!

Miss Alice

Attendance:

Towards the end of the year, it becomes common for children to want to stay home due to tiredness. I would like to encourage all families to try and where possible, ensure all children are continuing to come to school. Attendance is really important, right up until the last day of school, **Wednesday the 15th of December**. If you have any questions around this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We have lots of exciting events happening between now and the end of the year. If you are yet to follow the school on facebook, please tune in for lots of information and photos from our days at St Mary's. There will be a Newsletter next week with more information about the weeks ahead.

Nadine Slingsby
(Acting Principal)

