



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 29

Bulletin

Wednesday, 28th October, 2020

Diary Date

Thursday, 29th October

Friday, 30th October

- Jersey Day— Students to wear their favourite Jersey to school.
- World Teachers Day

Sunday 1st November

- Feast of All Saints

Monday, 2nd November

- Feast of All Souls

Tuesday, 3rd November

Wednesday, 4th November

Drink Bottles

Students are reminded they must have a drink bottle at school everyday. Replacement drink bottles are available from the school office for \$5.00. This is a cash sale only. No EFT can be used for this purchase. A limited colour selection is available.

Lunch Orders & Canteen

The school canteen is open to students during the day. All lunch orders MUST be ordered through the Flexischools online ordering and must be ordered by 9am.

Skoolbag App



Our School Name for Skoolbag App is SMMPM. The Skoolbag App is our main source of communication to our families. If you do not have this App on your phone you are missing out on a lot of information.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Friday 30th October is the day set aside to celebrate International Teachers Day in Australia. At StMM's we look upon all staff who work in our school as educators and so we celebrate StMM's Staff Day. I would like to thank the Parents & Friends who have offered to provide lunch on Friday for the staff as a sign of the community's appreciation of all the work the staff do in supporting the children's learning journey. As a staff we have always had Jesus as our focus and role model for our teaching.

It may interest you to know that Jesus was a teacher. Other words come more quickly to mind—Lord, Saviour, Master, and Redeemer. But here's an amazing fact. Of the 90 times Jesus was addressed directly in the gospels, 60 times he was called Teacher. This was the word the multitudes used. This was how the disciples referred to him. Jesus himself used the term when he said, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am" (John 13:13). When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, he said, "We know that you are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2).

History has echoed the truth of that verdict. Scottish theologian James Stuart said, "The teaching of Jesus has had a power and an effect with which the influence of no other teacher can even for a moment be compared." When Jesus had finished giving the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew tells us the crowds were so amazed at his teaching because "he taught as one having authority, not as the teachers of the law" (Matthew 7:29). The rabbis quoted each other, but Jesus spoke the true and authoritative words of God.

He never entered a classroom as we know a classroom. He never had a degree as we understand an educational degree, yet all the world was his classroom. No degreed teacher did anything greater than what Jesus Christ did. He was truly and absolutely the Master Teacher and the greatest teacher of all time. (Ray Pritchard)

We must remember the central role our Staff play in ensuring that the children at St Margaret Mary's are sustained in their understanding and knowledge of their Catholic world. Their role is to support the parents and carers, who are the first educators of their children in their faith journey. I feel we are truly blessed to have such a strong Catholic Community here in Merrylands. (Just look at the photos on our website from our celebration of StMM's Feast Day.)

God Bless

Kevin Mills
Principal



Administration

School Photos

School photographs will be taken on:

Thursday 12th November

Envelopes will be distributed to students by Friday with detailed information.



Jersey Day

On Friday, 30th October Year 6 will be holding a Jersey Day where students and staff can wear their favourite jersey to school. During the day there will be some fun activities; a soccer game (staff vs students), an oz tag match and a drawing contest where one person from each grade will be nominated as the winner of a fantastic prize! This will be **no gold coin** donation event.



By: Nana Saahene, Joseph Georges, Marcus Haddad and Sione Toamotu

Year 4

Dear Parents,

Our sports days have changed as we are studying Dance in Creative Arts this term. We kindly ask that students wear their correct sports uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the remainder of Term 4.

Thank you for your understanding.

Year 4 teachers.

Enrolments 2021

There are a few vacancies for 2021. If you know of any family wishing to enrol at St Margaret Mary's please contact the office for an enrolment form.

K2021

Information regarding Parent information and Orientation for students attending StMM's in K2021 was sent out yesterday to all families via email, a copy is on the final page of our bulletin.

WHS Audit

Last Wednesday our school was audited for work health and safety of our school, safe and students. There was minimal issues for repair or correction. It was noted that St Margaret Mary's School is very well maintained.

Principal Awards

Mr Mills will be hold a Principals Morning Tea for the students who have received an award in each of the Four Pillars. Morning tea will be held on Tuesday, 10th November 2020.

School Uniforms

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly, including the correct **socks**. Our Sun Safe program—No Hat No Play requires students to wear our school cap or school hat when outside. These hats and caps are available to purchase at the school office.

COVID-19 Information

Sick Leave & Documentation

We ask all our families to follow the guidelines below as we value the well-being and health of the St Margaret Mary's Community.

- Currently, no student should attend school if they are unwell (Doctor's Certificate).
- Each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms, need to see a doctor or must have a COVID-19 test.
- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The notification can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and / or a medical certificate.
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free.

Doctor's Medical Certificates

We ask that when submitting a skoolbag absentee online for a child that is absent, and a medical certificate **has** been obtained from the doctor, please forward this certificate to the school email stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au



Help us

stop the spread



Clean your hands thoroughly
for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.



Cover your nose and mouth
when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow. Put the tissues in the bin.



Avoid close contact
with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.



Stay home if you are sick.

health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

Teaching and Learning

Year 4 Guided Reading



During guided reading, we have been learning about something that happened hundreds of years ago... The First Fleet! We have been looking into the story of one of the youngest female convicts, Elizabeth Harvey. We had so many questions that we wanted to ask her, if only she was still alive! For example, we would have asked her if she has any funny memories or stories from England, or what it was like when she arrived in New Holland or Australia, and how she would have felt when she first stepped foot in New Holland. In saying this, our group put together a short interview of what it would be like if she answered these questions for us. So, we brought in some little accessories and gave each other roles to play, and we made the interview ourselves! We planned, organised, wrote, edited and published our script! It was way too much fun to think the way Elizabeth would have.

By: Natalie Cinello and Bianca Poumale



Year 5 Extension Writing Group

On Wednesday the 23rd September, the Year 5 Writing Group led by our teacher Mrs Ryan, came together to make a delicious batch of **honeycomb**. Firstly we added 150 grams of caster sugar into a saucepan. We combined 2tbs of honey, 60 grams of golden syrup and 2tsp of bicarbonate soda. Our favourite part of the honeycomb procedure was when we added the bicarbonate soda. It made the mixture puff up and we found it interesting. We poured the foamy mixture into a baking tray and waited 1 hour for it to set. After 1 hour passed we found that the honeycomb had hardened. We broke it up and enjoyed a **yummy** treat. Thank you Mrs Ryan for this wonderful learning experience.

By: Gabriella Mifsud and Serena Georges



Book Week 2020

During Week 2 of Term 4, we celebrated Book Week! The theme of Book Week was Curious Creatures, Wild Minds. Each day, at recess and lunch we had the chance to create our own curious creatures in the LARC with the help of the Year 5 Library Monitors. On Friday, the LARC was turned into a gallery to display all of the curious creatures.



Throughout the week, the teachers read books to their classes from The Children's Book Council of Australia shortlist. These books are some of the best Australian children's books published over the last year. In addition,

every year Cumberland City Council Librarians come to our school to do performances of the CBCA Book Week books. Due to Covid-19 circumstances they couldn't come to our school but they made videos for us to watch in our classrooms.



Finally, on Friday we all came to school wearing 'Creepy, Curious Creature Caps' that we made. There are more photos on the school website for you to view! Thank you to the Year 5 students that helped set up the library, gallery walk and curious creatures crafts. Also, a huge thank you to Mrs Balogh-Caristo for planning such a wonderful week!



By Sienna Tamer, Zahara Ibrahim, Leyla Mazzoco and Benedict Blas Media Team



Kindergarten Orientation Sessions

Orientation Session 1 (2021 students only)
Thursday 19th November 2020
10:00am - 11:30am

Orientation Session 2 (2021 students only)
Thursday 26th November 2020
10:00am - 11:30am

Orientation Session 3 (2021 students only)
Thursday 3rd December 2020
10:00am - 11:30am

- Arrive at 10:00am
- Drop off at top gate near Church
- Collect information packs
- Pick up at 11:30am
- Pick up at top gate near Church
- What to bring:
 - Small snack
 - Water bottle
 - Change of clothes

School Website

Important information regarding Kindergarten 2021 will be accessible on the school website starting from Monday 2nd November 2020.

Please visit the link below:
<https://www.stmimerylands.catholic.edu.au/>

Click on 'Kindergarten 2021' on the home page.



Information Videos

Information videos will be released on the school website.

Click on 'Kindergarten 2021' on the home page.

Parent Information	2nd November 2020
Numeracy	19th November 2020
Literacy	26th November 2020
Religious Education	3rd December 2020

Best Start Dates 2021

Book your child in for a 1 hour session on one of the following days:

Wednesday 27th January 2021
Thursday 28th January 2021
Friday 29th January 2021
Monday 1st February 2021

*Watch parent information session on school website.

Kindergarten 2021 will begin for all students on Tuesday 2nd February 2021.



KINDERGARTEN 2021

TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2020

Important Dates

Open Classrooms for 2021 (students and parents)
Saturday 14th November 2020
9:00am - 11:00am

Orientation Session 1 (2021 students only)
Thursday 19th November 2020
10:00am - 11:30am

Orientation Session 2 (2021 students only)
Thursday 26th November 2020
10:00am - 11:30am

Orientation Session 3 (2021 students only)
Thursday 3rd December 2020
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Kindy Teacher Message

By Miss Fardella, Miss Tan and Mrs Hanna

We are looking forward to meeting your child and beginning your child's school journey with you. In this newsletter you will find important dates and information to help best prepare your child for Kindergarten 2021.

