



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 25

Bulletin

Wednesday, 8th December, 2021

Diary Dates

Thursday, 9th December

- Reports go home with students today.
- Year 6 Liturgy & Graduation Ceremony

Friday, 10th December

- Mufti Day - Students to wear Purple, Red or Green. Gold Coin Donation.
- Thanksgiving Liturgy. This is the Last official function for the school year.
- Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Monday, 13th December

- Year 6 Fun Day

Tuesday, 14th December

Wednesday, 15th December

- Last day of school for Students
- School Closes for students at 3pm.

Thursday, 16th December

- Staff Professional Learning Day.

Friday, 17th December

- Staff Professional Learning Day.
- School closes for 2021

Friday, 28th January

- Staff return for 2022

Monday, 31st January

- Kinder 2022 Best Start Interview as per booking time.
- Yrs 1-6 MAI Testing as per booking time.

Tuesday, 1st February

- Yrs 1-6 Students return for 2022.
- Kinder 2022 Best Start Interview as per booking time

Wednesday, 2nd February

- Kinder 2022 Best Start Interview as per booking time

Thursday 3rd February

- Kindergarten Students Start School.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our last major bulletin for 2021, and I can say I am very pleased the year is drawing to a close!!!

In all my 41 years in Catholic Education as a teacher and Principal I have never had such a difficult year. In the same breath I can easily say that I have loved and enjoyed my role at StMM's and being part of a supportive, understanding, and generous community. As everyone is aware we were at the centre of the Covid morning briefings from the NSW Government with Merrylands mentioned on a daily basis. Yet at no stage did I lose my faith in our Community and its ability to climb to the challenge of what was in front of us.

The outstanding support of staff and StMM's families along with great patience and amazing understanding has enabled us to finish off a challenging year with the Graduation and celebration of our Year 6 students. These leaders have had a difficult two years, but have been able to accomplish so much with the support of their families and StMM's Staff.

Our Community took the approach of ensuring the children transitioned to Home Learning and then back to school, always having the students' wellbeing at the fore front of their minds. This past term has again been very unsettled for our Community and provided us with an opportunity to show our resilience in dealing with a disruptive number of weeks.

As we move to the Christmas Season, I wish all our Community a peaceful and holy celebration with family and friends, a time to gather and rest. I also thank God for the privilege of being a member of the StMM's Community. It is this membership that strengthens my faith in the good of people.

God Bless and take care

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal



“D Day” Friday 10th December

It has been brought to my attention that if a student contracts Covid or is considered a close contact from this date, then the child will be in isolation for their 2021 Christmas. This would be a stressful situation for themselves and their family. Please remember that we are required by NSW Health to follow all the Public Health Orders.

Faith Community

Advent/Thanksgiving Liturgy

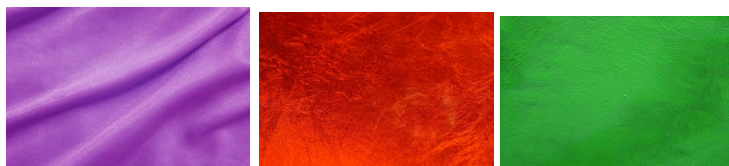
To celebrate the season of Advent and the closing of the 2021 school year, a liturgy will be held on Friday 10th December. This will be an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the many blessings we have been graced with, as well as our tradition of the 2021 captains passing the school candle to the soon to be announced 2022 captains. The liturgy will be in accordance with St Margaret Mary's COVID-19 Safe Plan. As per the current restrictions for NSW schools, this will be a student and staff only event.



The liturgy will be the last official school event for 2021.

Mufti Day Christmas/Advent Themed

To celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas, Friday 10th December will be a mufti day. Students are able to wear the colours red and green (Christmas) or purple (Advent). Students are asked to bring a gold coin donation for the St Margaret Mary's Parish.



Administration

School Fees

School fees are now overdue, unless you have opted for an arrangement with the school. Final day for payment of school fees at the office will be Friday 10th December. If you have any queries regarding your statement please contact Maria in the office.



Purchasing Hats & Library Bags

The final day for purchasing hats and library bags at the office will be end of day Friday 10th December.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school in 2022, please let the office know as soon as possible, in writing. It is a CEDP Policy that 10 school weeks notice is given to the principal before the removal of your child from the school, otherwise a full term fees will be required to be paid.

Families in Home Learning

We completely understand the decision by a large number of our families to engage in 'Home Learning' for the remainder of the 2021 school year. Our last official whole school event for students will be on Friday 10th December.

Below are a few helpful directions:

- Your child's belongings are currently being bagged and tagged for pick up.
- Parents will be able to pick these bags up on Monday 13th December between 10am and 11am via car pick - Henson Street.
- Bags not collected will be given to the student at the start of the 2022 new school year .
- For students who are not attending school on Friday 10th December reports will be posted home.

We will endeavour to do our best! However, please take into consideration the complexity of Covid, the transition to StMM's 2022 building program and the end of the school year and their impact during this very busy time for our community.

StMM's 2022 Building Program

The staff have been very busy packing the Year 3, 4 and 5 learning spaces and we are pleased the Catholic Education Office have agreed to cover the costs of the removalist who will be on site from Monday 13th December. We have already relocated 12 TVs to the hall and other spaces within the school, along with the sports equipment to the infants' area for the next six months. The P&F Room has been packed and will move to the Primary Sports shed. This will allow access for our helpful parents next year when we hope our whole community will be allowed on site.

The building program (including a completely new roof for the primary block) will be staged for the first six months of 2022. On Monday and Tuesday we will move the classroom furniture, resources and other equipment to the temporary spaces. The LARC along with the Hall will be the new spaces for the students: Year 6 and Year 5 will occupy the lower floor of the building, while Year 4 and Year 3 will use the hall as their new learning spaces.

2022 Kinder Orientation

Due to Covid we have been unable to welcome our 2022 Kindergarten students on site for their orientation this year. We have however produced a "virtual Kinder Orientation" for all our new students starting next year. These sessions are located on our school website if you wish to see how clever the students and staff have been in developing these units on Religious Education, Numeracy and Literacy. It is wonderful that they can be watched a number of times.

Change of Details

If you have moved house or changed your contact details, please notify the school office as soon as possible to update your details in case of an emergency.

Teaching and Learning

Semester 2 Reports

StMM's 2021 Semester 2 reports will be sent home with students tomorrow Thursday 9th December. We have changed the timeline as a large number of families are accessing our Home Learning. We will post reports home to these students (please ensure that your postal details are correct) and will send home reports with students who are attending school. This new timeline follows our legal requirements.

The report reflects the impact of the 14 weeks of lockdown and the students' return to school. As a learning community we have focussed on the wellbeing of our students and families while ensuring their smooth return to normality (as close as we can expect at this point in time).

Our staff has made every effort to ensure all students' reports highlight the content covered in each year group during Semester 2 while still fulfilling the Federal and State Government requirements. We would ask parents and carers to remember it has been an extraordinary time and the difficult situation the external impact of Covid 19 has had on our children's schooling in 2021.

MAI 2022

If you have not yet booked your child/ren's please click on the link below to book and appointment time. The MAI provides teachers with the opportunity to get to know their students and collect information about 'how' students are thinking and solving problems mathematically early in the year.

Please read this carefully.

You will need to:

1. Click on the [school interviews website link](#).
2. Enter the code 'njsfd'.
3. Follow the steps to book a time slot for your child in their 2022 grades.
4. Check you receive a confirmation email.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Ms Veness and Miss Fardella

Library Books

Thank you for the wonderful response to returning books to our library. If any student still has outstanding books, please return them as soon as possible. We understand that it may be difficult for some families to return books this year and we are happy to receive them when school reopens in 2022.

Students are encouraged to keep reading over the holidays, by going to their local library or by borrowing online student eBooks (SORA), reading PM eCollection (K-2) and to enter the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo



Lego Club

In Year 6, we have been involved in a fun and interactive group called the LEGO Club. In LEGO club our task was to get into groups of 4 and model a lego structure. During online learning we had to vote for the theme of the lego structure we were challenged to build once we went back to school. The most requested theme was landmarks. Some sculptures that were made included the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, Parliament House etc. During online learning we also had to decide which role each person in the group had. The roles were; Architect, Director, Builder and Supplier. This was such an amazing way to interact with our peers and build with our creativity and imagination. Thank you to Year 1 & Year 4 who kindly voted for this



term's LEGO club winner.

By: Zahara Ibrahim, Alissia Ali, Gabriella Mifsud and Sienna Tam-er, Year 6



Personal Growth

Student Leaders for 2022

Congratulations to the following students who will lead our school in 2022.

House Captains will be announced at the beginning of the new school year.

School Captains

Leeroy Tautu
Tia Khouri

Vice Captain

George Sandys
Stephanie Hewitt

Faith Community

Sophia Caraan
Isabelle Faddoul

Person Growth

John Farah
Sarafina Carrano

Partnership

Christos Gavrilos
Thalia Kovacevic

Teaching and Learning

Paul Bains
Isabella Roach



Personal Growth

Sadako Day

After a year of hard work, we finally made 1000 paper cranes! Paper cranes are made by following a process of folding paper called origami. The paper crane is a symbol of peace, love, and hope, and healing during challenging times.

On the 3rd of December 2021 we celebrated Sadako Day where students across the school wore one coloured item to symbolise colourful paper cranes. They learnt about the history of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and got to play a Kahoot (quiz) about what they learnt. Throughout the day, there were fun activities related to paper cranes such as a colouring competition where every child had a chance to design their own paper crane and a scavenger hunt!

We would like to announce the winners for the colouring competition:

Year 3	Year 4
Ella Khairallah Bianca Mekdessi Marcus Poumale Nicola Georges Klara Shrestha Esther Binas	Christian Maj Cristina Tran Joyce Williams Ruby Shrestha Catherine Saouma Blake Icaro
Year 5	Year 6
Stephanie Hewitt George Sandys Bianca Poumale Roycelin Amankwatia Paul Bains Emilia Iglinski	Zahara Ibrahim April Zhang Jenna Faqirzada Yousef Toufan Sienna Tamer Patrick Nguyen

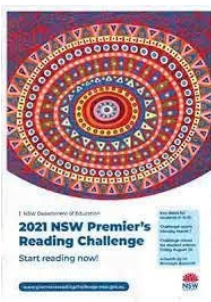
The Thousand Paper Cranes that we made were hung up around the flagpole and the paper cranes were blowing in the wind. We would like to thank Mrs Downing, Miss Fardella, Mrs Albertin, Mrs Balogh-Caristo, Mrs Rizk, Mr Melocco and Mr Mills for helping put the paper cranes up on the flag pole. Also, thank you to Mr Mills for encouraging us to pursue our passion to learn more about the story of Sadako.

By Isabella Roach, Adriana Mekdessi and Lily Garland
Year 5



Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Congratulations to all of the 375 students who completed the PRC this year and received a Gold Award or a certificate for their effort. A wonderful achievement!



Partnership

St Margaret Mary's Parish

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Friday 24th December 6:00pm Family Mass
(Children are welcome to come dressed as shepherds, angels, or kings)

Christmas Day

Saturday 25th December 12:00am Midnight Mass
7:30am
9:00am
10:30am
No Evening Mass



2022 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials

Dear Parents,
Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2022 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team sport trails during Term one & Two in 2022.

Students in year 4 in 2022 may nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, softball, Tennis & Touch Football only.

ELIGIBILITY - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOMINATION FORM OPEN 23rd November

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** Form must be completed. Please visit the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport website or Facebook for the link and information.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Access the information using any below:

Registration (Expression of Interest) link
[2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form \(Expression of Interest\) - Sport Trials](#)

Primary Sport Parramatta WEBSITE link
www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

FACEBOOK link
[Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese](#)