



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

7 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands 2160 Tel (02) 8633 8400  
Email: [stmargaretmmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmargaretmmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au) [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

Newsletter No 11

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

### Diary Dates

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

- 8:40am Whole School Morning Assembly

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

- Diocesan Cross Country for Selected Students in Yrs 3-6
- Kindy 2023 Interviews Commence.

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May**

- Kindy 2023 Interviews Continue.

**Staff Professional Learning Day, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**This is a Pupil Free Day**

### Skoolbag App

All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our School Name for Skoolbag App is **SMMPM**.



### School Website

The school website is [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

## Principal's Message



Dear Parent, Carers & Students,

Due to our religious celebrations falling in the middle weekend of the holiday, it felt a little strange not celebrating Holy Week or the Easter Season as StMM's School Community. Please take a few moments to read part of Bishop Vincent's Easter message to the people of the Diocese.

*....the great feast of Easter and begin a season of joy. For two years now, our liturgical celebrations have been muted by the pandemic. Over the past years, we have witnessed serious illness and death, social unrest and the economic hardships faced by individuals, families, and communities here at home and throughout the world.*

*Many people in Australia and beyond are still suffering the loss of loved ones, unemployment, and fear and anxiety. We grieve that so many people in poorer countries have not been given access to vaccines. This global injustice is folly, as it not only damages the lives of so many children of God but makes more likely the rise of even more dangerous Covid variants.*

*Yet, there is hope. Christ is risen! He has liberated us and made a lasting peace and joy possible for our chaotic and troubled world..... May this season of grace bring us such lasting joy. Please share this joy generously with others, especially those in the 'shadows' and on the margins of our society, during this blessed time and always!*

Our recent holidays were a time to refresh, renew and reflect on our role in society as "people of hope". Living and making a positive difference with all those we meet.

Take care and stay safe

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

## Enrolments K2023

Kindergarten 2023 Interviews will commence on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. If you have not yet returned your form or have an Interview time, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

## Administration

### COVID Update

Close contacts will not have to isolate, as long as they have no Covid symptoms and comply with the following guidelines in relation to school:

- Notify StMM's that they are a close contact
- It is suggested to wear a face mask indoors (chn under 12)
- Undertake daily Rapid Antigen tests (RATs) before school
- RAT kits will be issued to student or staff members if they become symptomatic.
- Guidelines in place for 7 days from the time a person in their household tested positive for COVID-19.
- The CEDP is arranging additional RAT kits to be delivered in the near future.

### Enrolments for 2023

Enrolment interviews for Kindergarten 2023 are now taking place. We will be closing our waitlist once these are completed. If you know of any family that wish to send their children to StMM's please ask them to contact the school. If your child was born between 1st August, 2017 and 31st July, 2018, please collect an enrolment application from the school office. Applications need to be returned as soon as possible. Last year we had a waiting list with over 120 applications.

### Student Uniform

The usual practice at StMM's is to allow children a two-week transition period from Summer to Winter Uniform. We are happy for a parent's decision based on the weather & wellbeing of their child. However, it is important to note that the choice of uniform must be worn correctly (hat, socks, shoes, tie, sports polo, shorts). Wearing of sports uniform will stay the same.

### Arrival Dismissal Procedures:

**Arrival:** Students will be able to enter the school via the bottom gate (Henson St) or top gate (Church). A Staff member will be present at each gate to welcome students and support sanitising of hands.  
Gates will be open from 8:00am

**Dismissal:** Student dismissal from class will begin at 3pm. Parents are requested to follow all staff instructions with only families with numbers are able to access car pick-up (Henson Street).

### Notification of Student Leaving

If you know your child/ren will be leaving St Margaret Mary's 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/ren from the school, otherwise a full term fees will be required to be paid.

## Compass Parent Portal

Thank you to all the families who have already logged in and are using the Compass Parent Portal. As we move forward in Term 2 we are asking all families to log into the portal which will be our new communication platform for parents. Families who have not yet logged in are asked to please check their emails (including your junk/spam) where you will have received a personalised username and password from head office.

Please follow the instructions below to download the app.

#### Accessing Compass:

Compass is a web-based application that is accessible on any modern web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari) or by downloading the App called 'Compass School Manager' available through Apple Store or Google Play Store for Android users. Parents can also access the Parent Portal on your computer via the school website.

#### Access Details:

The first time you login you will be required to change your temporary password and confirm your email address as well as your mobile phone number. These details will be used by the School for student absent notification, password recovery and email communication. This login will allow you access for all the children in your family.

#### For iPhone and iPad users

Go to the Apple App Store, Search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass App. Search for "St Margaret Mary's School" and you're ready to go!



#### For Google Android Users

Go to the Google Play Store, search for "Compass School Manager" and download the free Compass app. Search for "St Margaret Mary's School" and you're ready to go!



## Faith Community

### Holy Week & Easter Colouring in Sheets

If your child completed the two colouring pages attached to the last bulletin of Term 1, please send to the school office with your child's name and class. If the work is "Quality Work" they will receive a Faith Community Award.

### ANZAC Day Service

Yesterday our student leaders and Mr Maunick lead us in an ANZAC Day Prayer Service at 12noon. All the students listened and participated as Mr Maunick explained the Last Post and the Reveille, whilst the student leaders lead us in prayer.





## Teaching & Learning

### VR headsets

At the end of last term, the Technology Committee had the chance to try out virtual reality headsets with Kyle, our IT expert and Mrs Antonucci. We were each handed a phone with a large range of apps for the headsets to choose from. On the phone we connected ourselves on



an app called LeadMe, then we selected a game we would like to play.



We believe that these are quite educational and that they can assist other students in their learning. With the headsets, you may physically learn a variety of subjects. The headsets have the potential to change a students attitude towards technology. It's also entertaining and

offers a unique learning method. It helps students understand better through virtual worlds and technology.

*By: Nicole Koroma & Nyadeng Manyang  
Technology Committee*



### Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2022

Any child, K-6, wishing to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) this year, may do so online, by going to the PRC website:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

- The students at St Margaret Mary's have until **Friday, 19th August**, to complete the PRC online. Students must read the required number of books from the Challenge to complete the PRC.
- All students in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will read the required number of books to complete the PRC at school, but are welcome to complete the Challenge at home as well.
- SORA ebook collection has a wide variety of PRC books available to read. (Students need to use their Google Login and Password to access the eBooks and then click on ACEN Collection - where school name is required.) <https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau>
- Class teachers have password details. If you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Balogh-Caristo in the library.



## Partnership

### Australian Catholic Bishops Election Statement

Australia's Catholic bishops have called for a shakeup that focuses the country's politics on the common good of all, including – and especially – those who struggle to participate in the community. Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, said no one political party fully embodies Catholic social teaching. The bishops are, however, offering an election statement to encourage Catholics and people of good will to reflect on the good they can do for their community by using their vote for the good of all.

Archbishop Coleridge said "we all long for what Pope Francis calls 'a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good'". "This 'better' politics pursues the common good of all Australians by recognising the dignity of every individual and the solidarity we all share as a national community." The statement highlights several key issues that the bishops have identified and which they encouraged readers to consider when preparing to vote.

It calls for a government committed to the common good that will deliver a medium to long-term plan for eradicating poverty in Australia.

The bishops also say people who have a religious faith should be protected from discrimination, "including the ability to undertake activities and form religious bodies that can pursue their religious mission". Access the election statement at: <https://bit.ly/BishopsElection2022>

### Prayer for the Election

God of this land and of every people,  
who shape all things according to your own design  
and write your law in every human heart:

We thank you for this country we call home,  
From the First Nations people to others born here  
and those you have gathered from across the earth.  
We pray for the citizens of our land in this troubled time,  
that we may be committed to justice,  
to the dignity of each human life,  
and to solidarity with all Australians and with the world.

Guide all who seek election to serve the nation;  
May the Holy Spirit inspire them to pursue a better politics  
that is wise and courageous and governs for the good of all.  
May all of us see and hear you in the most vulnerable,  
that we may respond to the cry of the earth  
and the cry of the poor,  
that we may respond to you.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Teaching & Learning

## NAPLAN Year 3 and 5 Students

NAPLAN will take place in Weeks 3 & 4 this term. If your child is absent on the day/s of testing then they are able to do catch - up tests until the end of Week 4. The beginning date for NAPLAN is Tuesday 10th May and the testing period ends on Friday 20th May. Friday 13th May is the last day for students in Year 3 to complete the Writing as a catch - up.

TEST	SCHEDULING REQUIREMENTS	DURATION	TEST DESCRIPTION
Writing	<b>Year 3</b> Tuesday 10th May 9:10 start <b>Year 5</b> Tuesday 10th May 9:10 start	40 minutes  42 minutes	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<b>Year 3</b> Wednesday 11th May 11:30 start <b>Year 5</b> Wednesday 11th May 9:10 start	45 minutes  50 minutes	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of Language	<b>Year 3</b> Thursday 12 May 9:10 start <b>Year 5</b> Thursday 12th May 11:30 start	45 minutes  45 minutes	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<b>Year 3</b> Friday 13th May 11:30 start <b>Year 5</b> Friday 13th May 9:10 start	45 minutes  50 minutes	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

### *Students will require headphones for:*

- (Year 5) Writing to hear the writing prompt
- (Year 3 & 5) Conventions of Language: to hear the spelling items delivered via audio
- (Year 3 & 5) Numeracy: to listen to audio

*Students in Year 3 will require a lead pencil, rubber and sharpener for their Writing (paper) test.*

### *Supporting My Child:*

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. Reassure them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and remind them to do their best.

**Results:** A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided via the school later in the year.