



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

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Newsletter No 3

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

### Diary Dates

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**

- Commissioning Mass for 2022 Student Leaders.

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> February**

**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

- St Pauls College Greystanes visiting Year 6 Boys

**Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

### Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Please take the time to read Fr Michael's reflection on "love your enemies". It points to the quality of **COMPASSION** and the role it plays in our thinking as people of faith.

*In the Gospel, Jesus presents to us one of the most basic qualities that should characterise a Christian. It is also one of the most demanding qualities, and probably one which we rarely see. He tells us that if we are truly to be his disciples, we must love our enemies. He describes our enemies as those who hate us, drive us out, abuse us and denounce us as criminals. He asks us to love such people.*

*Jesus does not ask us to treat our enemies as friends. When he asks us to love our enemies, he asks us to 'do good to those who hate us'. We are to 'call down God's blessing on those who curse us'. We are to 'take those who treat us badly into our heart, and to hold them up to God in prayer'.*

*We all know what our natural tendency is. We are strongly tempted to retaliate and to treat them the way they treat us. All this does is add to the mess, and create more reasons for hostility, and the cycle of hurt just goes on and on. Or, if we don't retaliate directly, we are tempted to put them down in our hearts, and in conversation with others; or just ignore them.*



*Jesus cuts right across all these natural responses and tells us to love them. We are to make a choice and decide to do good to them. This affects the way we think about them, the way we speak about them, and the way we act towards them. In issuing this challenge, Jesus gives us his clearest insight into the way he understands God. He tells us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us and to hold up to God those who treat us badly, because that is the way God treats such people. God loves those who oppose him.*

*Jesus sums up this teaching in one of the most beautiful statements of the gospel: 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate' (Luke 6:36).*

As we travel to the season of Lent, our Church calls us to support 'Project Compassion' as a way of reaching out to others.

Take care and stay safe,

God Bless

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

Just a short note: I would like to thank our community for the manner in which all our families have dealt with the present Covid situation. The commitment you have shown and the positive decisions you have made for the safety of your children is a credit to you. StMM's attendance rate is still above the 90% target of CEDP. As a school we are very pleased with all families and their choices and we will continue to support you as we travel further into 2022.

### 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)

# Administration

## COVID UPDATE

New guidelines from the NSW Government direct school communities to remain open as much as possible for the benefit of students during Term 1. This has changed the manner in which positive cases at school will be handled. Please note the following:

1. Parents / Carers must notify StMM's of a positive case in their family and follow all NSW Health Directives.
2. StMM's will inform the School Community and share the particular Year Group / Cohort concerned.
3. For safety, we strongly recommend that Year Group / Cohort and other members of their household take a PCR test or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) as a precaution.
4. The affected areas at the school will also be thoroughly cleaned.
5. **Students who receive a negative result may return to school the following day.**

## RAT Kits

It is recommended that tests should be completed at home in the morning on Mondays and Wednesdays before attending school that week. Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. If your child receives a positive RAT test, you need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
- Notify the school of the positive RAT (or a PCR test) result via school email ASAP
- follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school. **Please also note that StMM's school staff will not be administering RATs to students.**

## Changes in payments at StMM's School Office

The Catholic Education Office of Parramatta (CEDP) has instructed all schools to become cashless organisations. This is regarding all payments being made at the front office as well as all transactions at school by all individuals. At this point, the school office is only able to accept Eftpos and Credit Card type payments. Please be aware that this is not a school decision but rather a CEDP directive and one that Mr Mills has not been able to change.

To support our families, St Margaret Mary's Office is currently exploring alternative cashless applications in various forms. Moving forward, the additional payment options will be communicated to our parents in order to assist our community.

Thank you  
StMM's School Office Staff

## Building Program

Our building work is well underway and the demolishing of the upstairs learning spaces has now been completed. They have cleared all the boards and window coverings, and the roof has been replaced and the placement of air conditioners is now in progress.

## 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.

## NEW - Compass Parent Portal

St Margaret Mary's School is transitioning to CEDP's new web-based application: **Compass Parent Portal** by the end of term 1 2022. This Portal is already being used in a number of schools in the Diocese. It will be the main communication platform between school and parents and includes attendance matters, updates and booking of interviews.

In preparation we are asking all StMM's families assistance by ensuring that all emails and contact details are up to date and correct. Please email: [stmargaretmavys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmargaretmavys@parra.catholic.edu.au) in order to update your current details so that our transition to the Compass Parent Portal is smooth.

In moving forward, we will keep the StMM's Community informed in regard to accessing this application.

## Faith Community

### Commissioning Mass for Y6 Student Leaders

A Commissioning Mass will be held on Friday, 18th February to celebrate the induction of the Y6 student leaders and the presentation of their badges.

Due to the current COVID-19 guidelines, we are restricted to the number of people that can be accommodated in the church. In light of this, Fr Janouz has kindly offered to host a private mass with only Year 5 and Year 6 students and staff in attendance.

*Each student leader is able to have two (2) adult guests to witness and celebrate this momentous occasion with them in the church.*

## Personal Growth

### Student Leaders for 2022

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their new positions and we look forward to their enhanced participation and representation in our school community in 2022.

<b>School Captains</b>	Tia Khouri Leeroy Tautu
<b>Vice Captains</b>	George Sandys Stephanie Hewitt
<b>Faith Community:</b>	Sophia Caraan Isabelle Faddoul
<b>Teaching &amp; Learning:</b>	Isabella Roach Paul Bains
<b>Personal Growth:</b>	Sarafina Carrano John Farah
<b>Partnership:</b>	Thalia Kovacevic Christos Gavrilos Christopher Ndaira
<b>Tosi (Yellow)</b>	Xavier Tautu
<b>Maur (Green)</b>	Elissa Maghazli Paea Mataele
<b>Kosta (Red)</b>	Marcel Bains Laura Fakhr
<b>McGovern (Blue)</b>	Mikayla Maree Georges Dia Maria Layouts
<b>Technology Committee</b>	Lily Garland Bianca Poumale Jason Zoumpoulis Nicole Koroma Nyadeng Manyang Nicolas Gaid



# Teaching & Learning

## Student Diary

Students in years 3-6 have been given a school diary. Students are required have their diary at school every day. Mr Mills will be going around to grades checking students have their diary.



A school diary yields many benefits to our students while at StMM's:

### Helps you to be Organised

You jot down a list of things you need to do before a specified time. A diary will help you record such information and even remind you of work that is due.

### Provides a plan for your Day

You can plan for the following day in a detailed manner that even your free time will have a purpose. Through this technique, you can plan for your personal studies especially when tests are nearing.

### Helps you achieve your Academic Goals

You should think of a diary as a part of you when you write something you wish to attain. You will automatically get the drive to achieve it. You can start with smaller targets.

### Makes you a better person

If you sum up the benefits mentioned above in a diary, you can tell you will be a better person in general. Firstly, you will be an organised person, then you will be making every minute of your time count, and finally, you will be successful.

All these are brilliant qualities in a person, but the most significant of them all is that you will be accountable. Once you get hold of the perks of having a diary, you will be able to monitor your world (your surroundings) and utilise every opportunity to your advantage and ensure your loved ones are also well. A diary is one of the most neglected stationeries in these recent times. However, it is evident it bears a lot of benefits to a student's life. You can specify your diary for various functions. When you use a diary solely for school activities, that makes it your academic diary. (letsbegamechanges)

## Reading Diary

Every student at StMM's is expected to read each night and record their efforts in the Reading Diary. Setting aside a time to read each night at home is an excellent routine to establish before students enter high school. If parents feel their child is responsible (Yrs 5 & 6) the student may do the recording and sign off.

### 10 Reasons Why Reading is Important for Kids:

- It expands their vocabulary.
- It makes them better at it.
- It helps build independence and self-confidence.
- It keeps them safe.
- It helps them make sense of the world around them.
- It leads to their future academic success.
- It enhances their imagination.
- It entertains them.

## Library Books

Thank you to all the students that have returned their library books from last year. If you still have any outstanding books, please return them to the library as soon as possible.

Students are encouraged to keep reading, by going to their local library or by borrowing online student eBooks (SORA), and to enter the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge which closes on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo



## Personal Growth

### Sports News

Congratulations to the following students for their amazing sporting performances over the weekend.

#### Regional Little Athletics at Campbelltown and Narrabeen.

Jacob Leke, who competed in 70m sprint final with a time of 10.48 and 200m sprint final with a time of 31.02. He placed 3rd in both events.



Claire Leke, who competed in 70m sprint final, running a time of 11.46. Claire placed 3rd in her event.

Claire Petrie, who competed in shot put throwing 5.75m. Claire placed 1st in her event. Claire will now compete at the State Little Athletics Championships at SOPAC in March.



#### 2022 Speedo Sprint Series at SOPAC.

Well done to Jay Shrestha, Ruby Shrestha and Ryan Choi who competed in the Speedo Sprint Series. All students improved their PB's in their swimming events.



#### Tennis Trials

Leeroy and Xavier Tautu participated in the Parramatta Diocesan Tennis Trials at Penrith last Friday. Leeroy came first with 94 points and Xavier came second with 84 points. They will now move on to the next level. Congratulations to both boys.

Great effort!

# Partnership

## Students Wellbeing

StMM's endeavours to provide a safe environment where all students' needs are catered for equally without further discrimination and fear. The number of children with food allergies in Australia is increasing and it is estimated that 1 in 20 have a food allergy and 1 in 50 have a peanut allergy. The most common food allergies are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, cashews etc) cow's milk, soy, seafood and eggs. The health and wellbeing of students at this school is carefully considered in all activities.

It is important all families are aware that StMM's has a number of students who have a range of Allergies (Some anaphylaxis).

These include, but not limited to the ones listed above with ten students needing an Epi-pen if they come in contact with the trigger allergy.

**Allergies:** Allergies occur when the immune system produces antibodies against substances in the environment (allergens) that are usually harmless. Once an allergy has developed, exposure to the particular allergen can result in symptoms that vary from mild to life threatening (anaphylaxis).

**Anaphylaxis:** Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Although there has been an increase in the number of children diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis, deaths are still rare. However, deaths have occurred and anaphylaxis must therefore be regarded as a medical emergency.

### Did you know?

- Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.
- A child can have an allergic reaction from simply shaking hands or sharing toys with students who have eaten foods earlier in the day.
- The key to prevention is identifying triggers and preventing exposure to these triggers.
- Adrenaline given through an adrenaline Epi-pen is the first line treatment for anaphylaxis.
- The Epi-pen is designed so anyone can use it in an emergency.

### Tips for Students

1. Do not swap food
2. Wash hands after eating
3. Tell the teacher if you are worried about particular food
4. Know which friends have an allergy

### Tips for Parents

1. Discourage children from swapping food
2. Check all food labels
3. Inform the school of all allergies
4. Work with the school to make a Health Care Plan
5. Supply an Epi-pen to the school
6. Check Epi-pen expiry date regularly
7. Teach your child about their allergy



OLMC  
OPEN DAY

Sunday, 6 March 2022  
10.00am - 2.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us for Open Day 2022.  
Bookings can be made by visiting the College website [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)

Courageous Advocates. Limitless Possibilities.

YEAR 7, 2022+  
ENROLMENT  
INFORMATION  
EVENING  
Friday 19 March

MUSIC / CAPSICORN / DANCE / ARTS / TECHNOLOGY / HORTICULTURE / SPORTS

## Australian Government Collection Notice

Parents a note has been attached to the newsletter from the Australian Government .

Please read this letter to ensure that your details are up to date with St Margaret Mary's School office.

If you need to update any of your information please contact the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support.





## Collection Notice for parents/guardians

### 2022 Student Residential Address and Other Information

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) would like to notify you that a request has been made for your child's school to provide residential address and other information as required under the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.

The school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- Names and residential addresses of student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- Student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- Whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- Whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** – student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The SRN is also **only** used by the school for this collection. **It is not allowed to be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

#### Purpose of the collection

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the Collection) informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need basis.

The information collected will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to the costs of schooling.

From 2020, a new measure of capacity to contribute, the Direct Measure of Income (DMI), was introduced. The DMI is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school using data collected through the Collection. More information about the DMI can be found on the [Quality Schools Package](#) page on the departmental website.

#### Use and disclosure of personal information

**Your personal information is protected by law** under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with Privacy Act and the *Australian Education Act 2013* and *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.

Your personal information provided to the department through the Collection may be:



- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Further information about MADIP can be found on the [MADIP page](#) on the ABS website.
- disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department may from time to time, carry out an audit of a school's submission to the Collection. The contracted auditor compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information held by the school and will not use the information for any other purpose.
- disclosed to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology support services to the department.
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

The department's privacy policy can be found at [www.dese.gov.au](http://www.dese.gov.au) and includes information on:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made;
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

The department commissioned an independent privacy impact assessment (PIA). The PIA assesses the flows of information under the Collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available at <https://www.dese.gov.au/school-funding/resources/2018-student-residential-address-collection-additional-required-information-privacy-impact>

## What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the requested details to the department; however, you may wish to ensure that your school has the most up-to-date and correct details for your family.

## Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the Collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [SchoolsHUB Address Collection help and support page](#).