



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

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Newsletter No 6

## Update

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

### Diary Dates

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March**

### Open Morning

St Margaret Mary's will be holding an open morning on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March** from 9:30am—10:30am, for New Kindergarten 2023 families.

### Building

A building update will be in next weeks newsletter

### 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

### Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2023 are now taking place. If your child was born between 1st August, 2017 and 31st July, 2018, please collect an enrolment application from the school office. Interviews will commence in May. Last year we had a waiting list with over 120 applications.

### School Photos

Due to the Building works and unpredictable weather we have postponed our Professional Photos until Week 10, Term 3. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. At this stage we do not have the room for this activity.

### End of Term Gathering

StMM's is planning an end of term onsite gathering for our parents and school community. The day will consist of activities such as Lenten activities, classroom visits, a picnic on the playground and early dismissal.

We will send out more information with a date in next weeks newsletter.

### Compass System

StMM's will be moving over to the Compass Parent Portal commencing at the beginning of Term Two. To ensure that this is a smooth transition for all families please notify the school office via email or the Skoolbag App of any changes to your family details including email addresses.

More information regarding the transition will be sent out over the next few weeks.

### School Fees

All Invoice/Statements have been sent out by CEDP. If you have not received your statement, please contact the school office. Term one school fees are due by 17<sup>th</sup> March unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CEDP.

Details as per your school statement. Any queries with regards to your 2022 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano in the school office.

### School Uniforms

Unfortunately Lowes Uniform shop in Merrylands is closing. The last day of trading will be Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Our school uniform will be available for sale at Lowes Parramatta from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause some families, but it is out of the schools control.

## Personal Growth

### Sports News

We wish Ruby S, Isabella H, Ryan C and Jay S the best of luck as they will compete at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival this Friday at Blacktown Swimming Pool.

Any student who has a representative shirt, could it please be returned to Mrs Foley as soon as possible.

Rain, rain, please go away! Our school Cross Country Carnival will hopefully be held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. During our grade sports lessons, students in years 3 to 6, have been preparing to run 2kms (8, 9 and 10 year olds) and 3kms (11 and 12 year olds).

More information will be communicated next week.

## Faith Community

### Project Compassion - Lenten Appeal

Last Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March marked the beginning of the Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. As part of Almsgiving, St Margaret Mary's as well as many other schools across the diocese support Caritas Australia through their initiative 'Project Compassion'.

The 'Mini Vinnies' student group work to support this worthy cause within the school by bringing awareness to the great works of Caritas and the people in need that Project Compassion helps.

Project Compassion donation boxes are available in each learning space, for any student who wishes to contribute. In the past we have experienced great generosity from our community with examples of students giving a portion of their pocket money or change from their canteen money.

This year, families can also make an online donation through the school supported mobile app 'Qkr'.

Our Year 6 families have been using 'Qkr' to purchase polo shirts with great success. This new online payment service will be the StMM's preferred payment option moving forward.

**Information on how to make a donation through 'Qkr' is provided on the last page of this weeks Newsletter.**



### Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, St Margaret Mary's celebrated Ash Wednesday. Due to the unfortunate weather, Mr Yearsley organised a presentation for each grade to



watch in their spaces. Sophia Caraan our Year 6 Faith and Community Pillar Leader spoke about Anatercia from project compassion and explained how different her life was to ours. One teacher

in each grade sprinkled ashes on our heads. Thank you to Fr Janusz for recording a reading and message for us.



## Partnership

### P&F News

Every family should have received a book of 30 raffle tickets and an Easter Raffle Note. Tickets cost 50c each or 3 for \$1.00, otherwise the entire book for \$10.00.



All sold and unsold tickets are to be returned by Friday, 25th March.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday, 1st April and prizes will be sent home with the children.

**Please ensure your child's name and class is on every ticket sold.** This will make distributing prizes easier for the fundraising committee.

Friday 1st April will be a Mufti Day and students are asked to donate an 'Easter Egg' on this day.

P&F  
Committee

**Cerdon College**



Aspire to Great Heights

**ENROLLING NOW**

**YEAR 7 2023**

A Catholic secondary school education for girls with a consistent history of academic excellence.



**For more Information:**  
[cerdonmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://cerdonmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)  
 8724 7300

**Open Day**

**Wednesday 23th March**

**4.00pm - 7.00pm**

- College Tours
- Lesson Demonstrations
- Parents & Friends Association
- Staff & Students available to answer your questions

**Phone: 02 8868 3700**  
**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaulsgreystanes2145](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsgreystanes2145)**  
**[www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au)**



Many Gifts - One Community



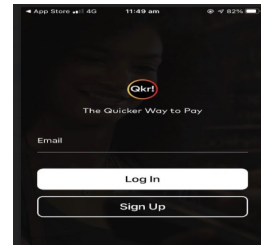
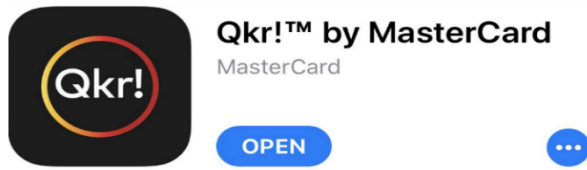
Paul Finerman  
Principal

Please follow the instructions provided below:

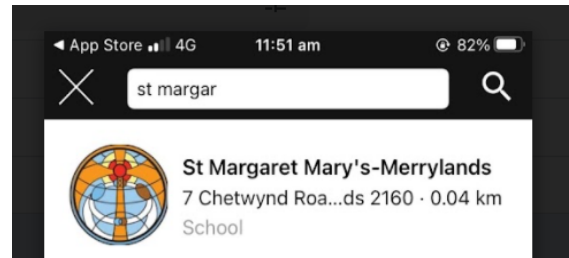
## Qkr! mobile phone app

### How to get started with Qkr!:

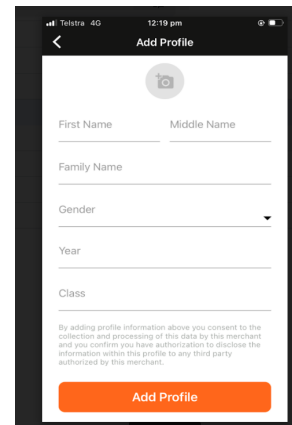
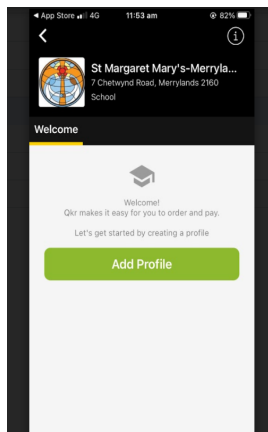
1. Install the **Qkr!** app on your smartphone and after you pressed 'open', sign up - email address and password, back to the main screen and Log in. Start profile.



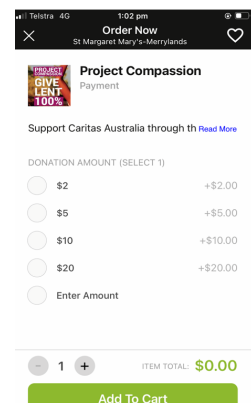
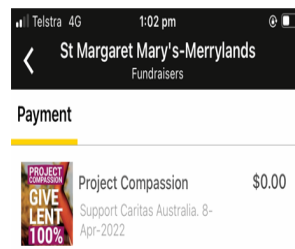
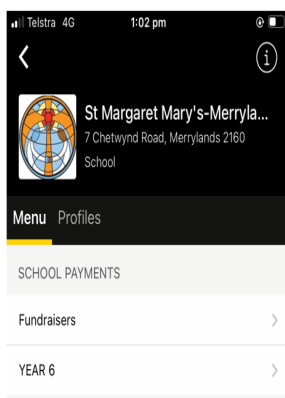
2. Touch the magnifying glass and start typing "St Margaret Mary's" and touch the magnifying glass again. Touch the school name St Margaret Mary's - Merrylands. to select



3. Select **Add Profile** and create a profile for your child/children.



4. Once you have created a profile, go into the **menu** and you may view **fundraising**. Please select **Project Compassion**, select your donation **amount** and add the item to the cart and **checkout**.



5. Add payment card details and continue with purchase.

6. Please note as purchases are made, a digital receipt will be stored within the app under My Receipts.

1. To access My Receipts, select < (top left)
2. Select ≡ (top left)
3. Select **My Receipts**



**LOWES**

## LOWES MERRYLANDS STORE IS CLOSING

**Your School Uniforms  
will be available in  
LOWES PARRAMATTA  
WESTFIELD  
SHOPPING CENTRE**

Last day at Merrylands - Wednesday 6<sup>TH</sup> of April  
First day at Parramatta - Saturday 9<sup>TH</sup> of April

**LOWES**



**3 DAY VIP EVENT**  
**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS**

**20% OFF**  
ORIGINAL PRICES

**SCHOOLWEAR**  
& EVERYTHING ELSE!

DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY INSTORE OR  
ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS.

\*T&C'S APPLY, SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES.

**SHOP ONLINE & INSTORE**



OFFER ENDS 11:59PM SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022 (A000)

\*\*T&C's apply. Multi-use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.  
Savings off original prices, can not be used in conjunction with any  
other offer, no stockists. Excludes gift-cards & schoolwear top-ups.  
Offer available in-store & online.

# NAPLAN – information for parents and carers



2022

## Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in May each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students do.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools are transitioning from paper-based to computer-based assessments. Most schools will complete NAPLAN tests online in 2022. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

## What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

## Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students can participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experience of using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.



## What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

## What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN.

You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site)

## NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN online test window is nine days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN online test window starts on Tuesday 10 May and finishes on Friday 20 May 2022. Tests must be scheduled as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Online NAPLAN test scheduling requirements are detailed in the table below.

## How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy)

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)</li><li>• Year 5 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only)</li><li>• Years 7 and 9 writing must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)</li></ul>	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 42 min. Year 7: 42 min. Year 9: 42 min.	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Year 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2</li><li>• To be completed <b>before</b> the conventions of language test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be completed <b>after</b> the reading test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be completed <b>after</b> the conventions of language test</li></ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability