



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 7

Update

Wednesday, 16th March, 2022

Diary Dates

Thursday, 17th March

- St Patrick's Day
- K2023 Open Morning for New Families 9am—10:30am.

Friday, 18th March

Monday, 21st March

Wellbeing Week

- Harmony Day - Gold Coin Donation. Students to wear Orange or Cultural dress.
- Year 3 NAPLAN Practice Test.

Tuesday, 22nd March

- Year 5 NAPLAN Practice Test.
- Wellbeing Week Activities.

Wednesday, 23rd March

- Wellbeing Week Activities.

Open Morning

St Margaret Mary's will be holding an open morning on **Thursday 17th March** from 9:00am—10:30am, for New Kindergarten 2023 families.

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**.



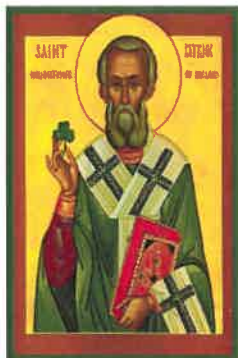
School Website

The school website is www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

Principal's Message

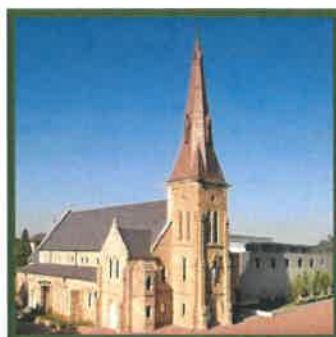
Dear Parent, Carers & Students,

The Story of St Patrick's



Saint Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461) was a 4th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. It is believed that Patrick was born in Roman Britain, into a wealthy Romano-British family. His father was a deacon, and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. He spent six years there working as a shepherd and during his time there, he "found God". God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest.

It is believed that after returning to Ireland, Patrick converted the pagan Irish to Christianity. He spent many years evangelising in the northern half of Ireland and converted "thousands". Tradition holds that Patrick died on 17 March 461 and was buried at Downpatrick. Over the following centuries, many legends grew up around Patrick and he became Ireland's foremost saint.



With the first Irish religious settling in the Parramatta area, it was no surprise that the cathedral of the area would be named St Patrick's after the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day, also known as the Feast of Saint, is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March each year. This day is the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

On Saint Patrick's Day, it is customary to wear shamrocks, green clothing or green accessories. Saint Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish. This story first appears in writing in 1726, though it may be older.



God Bless.

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal

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.

Administration

End of Term Celebration

Our "End of Term" onsite gathering for our parents and school community will take place on Friday 1st April. The day will consist of activities such as Lenten activities, classroom visits, a picnic on the playground, drawing of our Easter Raffle and early dismissal. Please keep the date free so that you may visit the school during the day. We will send out more information with a date in next week's newsletter.

Compass System

We'd like to welcome you to our Compass Parent Portal, a new way to engage with our school community. StMM's will be moving over to the Compass Parent Portal at the beginning of Term Two.

Compass will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. A letter will soon be sent via email to all enrolled families with your login details for Compass. It is most important to keep your Username and Password secure, just like your bank account details, they should not be shared with anyone, including your children.

Using the Compass Parent Portal you will be able to:

- Be informed of important updates, events and reminders
- View your child's timetable
- Review your child's attendance
- Provide explanations for periods of absence
- Update your contact details
- Book Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Skoolbag App will continue until the end of Term 2

COVID-19

COVID Cases at StMM's

The NSW Government, CEDP along with the media have flagged increasing cases of Covid across the community and we are seeing evidence of this increase on a daily basis at StMM's. As a school community we appreciate the way you are supporting our COVID-safe measures and we will continue to keep you updated. While we are extremely pleased with our student attendance rates of 90%, with families making every effort to follow the NSW Government directions, please ensure your family's wellbeing at all times.

Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately and stay in isolation until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. You can find more information about COVID-19 symptoms [here](#).

School Fees

Term one school fees are due by 17th 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 6th April. Our school uniform will be available for sale at Lowes Parramatta from Saturday 9th April. We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause some families, but it is out of the schools control.

The Wonderful Children of StMM's

The past three weeks at school has certainly been a challenging time for our staff and students. We have been battered by wind and rain, we have been assaulted by jack hammers and concrete saws, water coming up under the playground and the dreaded mosquitoes arriving with the humidity. It is important to tell all our parents and carers how wonderful the children have been in coping with the dramas of Term 1 in 2022. Our community has faced the challenge of COVID during the past two years and it was a welcome sight to see our parents and carers on site. We are looking forward to celebrating Wellbeing Week and catching our breath before going on holidays.

Building Update

StMM's 2022 Building Program is still on track and due to be finished around Aug-Sept this year. The cost of the program includes a completely new roof; new evacuation system; total fit out along with all new Information technologies plus media screens and upgraded

air-conditioning units for all learning spaces. We have asked the builders to forward a series of photos for our community to view as a way to highlighting such a big change for our children.



Teaching & Learning

NAPLAN 2022

Practice Test

Next week, Years 3 & 5 will participate in a 'live' online practice test for NAPLAN 2022. No results are recorded for these short tests. The purpose of this testing is to trial the platform with many users across NSW. It also gives the students an opportunity to practice the skills required for NAPLAN 2022 testing in May. It also offers an opportunity to identify any load-related issues that may need to be addressed prior to NAPLAN tests in May. Last week's newsletter also contained detailed information for parents. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms Veness

- Year 3 Monday 21st March at 9:15 (45 minutes)
- Year 5 Tuesday 22nd March at 9:15 (45 minutes)
- Year 5 online practice writing test on Thursday 24th March at 11:30

We ask that all students in Years 3 & 5 please have headphones for next weeks practice test.

If you would like more information: Youtube: Understanding NAPLAN online.

Ms Veness



For more information click onto the [St Margaret Mary's School Website](#). Click the Literacy Portal Link. Go to the 'For student' page.

Year Six 3D Printing

What is a 3d Printer?

A 3D Printer is a machine that is used to print out different objects, shapes and creations. It is also used to print out different parts for buildings, science projects and more. Just like a regular printer it needs ink, but it's called filament- it's like a long roll of plastic string that it melted at 200C to print 3D models.



What have we learned?

Miss Mekdessi has supported us in learning how to use the online program TINKERCAD to design our 3D models. Once downloaded, Miss Mekdessi converts the file to a USB, and we are then able to print.

Where to next?

Over the next few weeks, we will be designing our very own personalised key rings. We can't wait to show you our creations.

By Sarafina Carrano & Nikolai Krga
Year 6

Faith Community

Harmony Day

On **Monday, 21st March**, St Margaret Marys will be celebrating Harmony Day. This is a day to celebrate cultural diversity in our community. We ask that all students please wear **orange mufti or cultural dress** and bring in a **gold coin donation**. All donations will go to the Project Compassion Lenten Appeal. Students will participate in a range of Harmony Day activities throughout the day. Thanks in advance for your support and we look forward to celebrating this special day as a school community.

Project Compassion - Lenten Appeal

Wednesday 2nd March marked the beginning of the Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. As part of Alms giving, 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 donate through 'Qkr' please see previous newsletters



CREATIVE WRITING TASK - INFANTS

Due 1st April, 2022

For this competition please write a creative text based on this picture below. Remember **be creative** and try your best.



Creative Writing Primary

Due: 1st April 2022

For this competition please write a creative text based on this picture below. Remember **be creative** and try your best.



Personal Growth



WEEK 9 WELLBEING WEEK



As we approach the end of Term 1, in Week 9, StMM will be hosting Wellbeing Week!

The theme of this Term's Wellbeing Week is 'Collaboration and Creativity'. Students will engage in different activities throughout the week connected to this theme.

There will also be no homework during Wellbeing Week. It will be a week where your child can have a break from their usual homework routine and spend quality time with parents and friends to build on our theme of 'Collaboration and Creativity'.

Wellbeing Week 9 will also be a 'Free Choice Uniform' week, where the children can choose to wear either their sport uniform or school uniform any day of the week.

Please note that Monday, 21st March will be an 'Orange Mufti or Cultural Dress' day with a gold coin donation for all students to celebrate Harmony Day.

Sports News

Next Thursday, 24th March is the Cross Country Carnival for years 3 to 6. Students, in these grades are reminded to wear their sport uniform, hat and apply sunscreen. They are also encouraged to be well hydrated and have a good breakfast the morning of the carnival. Good luck to our runners! This is a student only event.

Congratulations to Christos Gavrilos and Thanasi Gavrilos, who competed at the team sport trials for Soccer yesterday. We are very proud of your efforts and sportsmanship.

Good luck to Xavier Tautu and Leeroy Tautu, who will compete at the MacKillop Tennis Selections on Thursday, 17th March at Beaton Park Tennis Courts, Gwynneville. We wish these boys the best of luck.

Well done to Jay Shrestha and Ryan Choi, for competing so well at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. These boys now progress to the NSW CPS Swimming Championships on 22nd March at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. Good luck Jay and Ryan!

Partnership

What is a Raffle Barrel?

On Monday at assembly Mr Mills showed us a raffle barrel. We did not know what it was, so we researched. A raffle barrel is for placing the Easter raffle tickets in. The P&F gave each family an envelope with a note and a book of raffle tickets for, your parents to sell or buy the tickets and to return to school along with the money. There will be lots of prizes to win. So Mr Mills was right, it is called a "Raffle Barrel".

By Joseph, Jaxson and Bella Year 3



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.

Easter Baskets/Tray Donation

We are in need of baskets/trays to make up the prizes. All donations to be sent to the school office.

Helpers are required to wrap the prizes.

If you can spare any time between **9am-1pm** it would be much appreciated. (toddlers/babies welcome)

If you are *unable to help, but can provide food or drinks for the helpers, this too, would be appreciated.*

If you are able to help in any way, please fill out the form below and return it to the school office.

X.....

I am **able** to help with the wrapping of Easter Egg prizes on Friday 1st April 2022.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Time available: _____

X.....

I am **unable** to help but I am able to provide morning tea e.g. Sandwiches, quiche, biscuits, etc.

Name: _____

Food to be provided: _____

I have completed the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities online undertaking form and training module

Yes No