

St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Wednesday, 21st June 2023

Update

Term 2, Week 9

Diary Dates

Friday, 23rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&F School Disco Infants Primary
Monday, 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year Four Rocks Walking Tour Excursion
Wednesday, 28th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 2 Girls & Boys Soccer Gala Day at Penrith
Friday 30th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Closes at 3pm for Term 2
Term 3	
Monday 17th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff return for Term 3 Staff Professional Learning Day
Tuesday 18th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students return in Winter Uniform for Term 3

Principal's Message

Dear Parent, Boys & Girls,
Our Catholic belief behind the Feast of the Sacred Heart

At StMM's we celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart on Monday this week, as we had several of our students away from school at a CSPD System event last Friday. This feast is a significant celebration for our school community as it focuses on the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion is embedded in Catholic tradition and has its origins in experiences and visions of saints throughout history, most notably our patron saint, St Margaret Mary Alacoque.



The belief behind the Feast of the Sacred Heart honours the boundless love and mercy of Jesus Christ as symbolized by his Sacred Heart. In our Yr 4 learning space the teachers and students talked about the heart as a symbol of love, compassion, and the centre of one's being. It represents the human and divine love of Jesus Christ for humanity. The children create their own personal images from the life of Jesus.

As Catholics we believe that Jesus' heart, being united to his divinity, encompasses his infinite love for all people. It represents his self-giving, sacrificial love that led him to suffer and die on the cross for all of humanity. The Feast of the Sacred Heart serves as an invitation to the community at StMM's reflect on and respond to this divine love.

In our celebration on Monday, we were able to share a liturgy by praying special intentions, hearing our readings, contemplating the compassionate heart of Jesus and singing beautiful hymns while listening to Fr Jeremy's homily. It was an occasion to express gratitude for God's love, seek forgiveness, and offer love and service to others.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart is an opportunity for our community to deepen our relationship with Jesus and draw closer to his loving presence. It encourages us to live lives of love, compassion, and mercy, following the example set by Jesus Christ and embracing the virtues represented by his Sacred Heart.



God Bless & Take care,

Kevin Mills

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

End of Term 2 Office Payments

The final day for payment of school fees and purchasing of school hats and library bags for Term 2, will be 12pm on Wednesday 28th June, at the school office.

Additional Staff Development Days

Monday 17th July (Day 1 Term 3)

Monday 9th October (Day 1 Term 4)

Tuesday 10th October (Day 2 Term 4)

The staff will be engaged in completing the NESA Literacy and Numeracy Modules. We will then look at the implications for StMMs and plan our next steps in the implementation of the new curriculums.

Staff Changes and Adjustments

At the moment as many people are aware there is great difficulty in staffing schools across NSW and Australia. At StMM's we have been able to cover all positions and cope with the staff accessing leave during the first six months of 2023. This leave includes sick, long service, professional learning, and carer's entitlements. During the last week of Term 2 and the first three weeks of Term 3 there will be several staff accessing their leave. We have locked in a number of excellent teachers in filling these positions as we move forward. In coming to the end of Term 2 we wish to inform StMM's Community of changes in our staffing for the remainder of 2023.

Mrs Cara Daoud: We wish Cara all the best for the upcoming birth of her baby and will keep her in our prayers and thoughts. We are very pleased to announce that Miss Carol-Ann Essy has agreed to fill the position for the remainder of 2023. Carol-Ann is well known to our students & community.

Miss Melissa Fardella: Melissa has accepted a position on the staff at the Children's Hospital School, Westmead. While we are very sad to see Melissa accept this position, we are very happy that she will experience a new opportunity in a different learning environment. We are delighted that Miss Niamh Shipley has accepted the position of the Yr 1 teacher for the remainder of 2023.

Mr Kenan Albramawi: We welcome Kenan as our new IT Support Trainee. His role is to ensure our students maintain their access to the digital world at StMM's. He will work across all learning spaces and with the staff to plan, implement and deliver a consistent program of IT Support.

Please be aware that it is extremely difficult to secure staff for schools due to a wide-spread shortage. We have been blessed to have great teachers and teacher assistants supporting and looking after our students in their learning journey.

Enrolments 2024

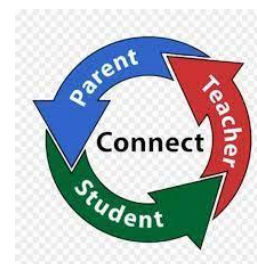
We have sent out our 1st round of offers to families wishing to send their children to StMM's in 2024. We have also closed our application process for Kinder 2024. We have very limited vacancies in other grades, if you know of anyone wishing to become part of our community.

Semester One Reports

All Semester One Reports were issued via Compass on Friday of last week. This was done to ensure parents had access for Week 9 Parent Teacher Interviews. A hard copy was sent home with all students. It is important that parents and carers keep these in a safe place. We will continue to increase our parents access to their child's digital learning record. If you need support and/or help please contact our office.

Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences

Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences are happening this week and next week. This conference will be a conversation between you, your child and their teacher highlighting your child's strengths and on-going learning goals.



Thank you to the many parents who have already booked their meeting with their child's teacher. We are extremely grateful to both our parents and our staff for taking the time to connect and discuss your child's learning journey at StMM.

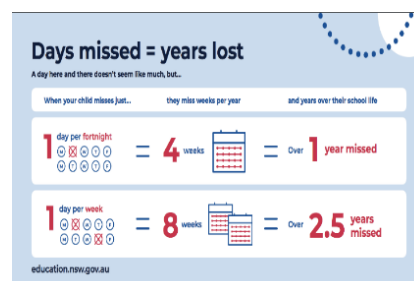
If you have not yet booked a meeting please log onto Compass and select an appropriate time slot to meet their child's teacher. If you are unable to make your selected time, please contact the office in order for us to not only notify your child's teacher.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's learning.

Attendance Matters

Thank you to all families who continue to support the school and their child's education by ensuring that their child attends every possible day at school. Absences from school due to illness are totally understandable. When children are sick, they need to be at home and return to school when they have recovered.

Unnecessary absences directly affect the learning of students. Parents are asked to keep this in mind especially as we move towards the school holiday period. Additional days for holidays at this time need to be kept to an absolute minimum. All extended leave must be approved.



Faith Community

St Vincent De Paul's Talk

On Monday 19th June, Years Three, Four, Five and Six gathered inside the hall to learn about homelessness, refugees, asylum seekers and St Vincent De Paul's work. The speakers were Royce and Silvia. Royce told us that homelessness can be more than just not having a house.



It could be overcrowding, living in cars, living in another person's house, or living in a house but not having anything in the house. He also told us that refugees are people who were forced to leave

their home country because of either war, persecution or natural disasters like a flood or earthquake. Asylum seekers are refugees who came to a country seeking to stay there but are still waiting for the government to accept their request. St Vincent De Paul seeks to help refugees and asylum seekers by a fairer process for them, have resettlement on stand-by for them coming by boat, making detention a last resort, and making a program to help them find their lost siblings. We are very thrilled that Royce and Silvia came to our school to teach us all about homelessness, refugees, and asylum seekers.

By Deng D & Claire L



Sacred Heart Liturgy & Picnic Lunch

On Monday, 19th June, the whole school wore red mufti and brought a gold coin to donate to *The House of Welcome*. At twenty minutes to one, the whole school



assembled in the cola to start the Liturgy. Parents were invited to the liturgy. At the start of the liturgy, the choir sang the opening hymn, each class sang beautifully. Father Jeremy came and gave the homily on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



At the end of the homily, children from across the grades held up posters from each class. Every poster looked different and unique.

We then ended our liturgy by singing a song called *Hearts On Fire*. At the end of the Liturgy Mr Mills dismissed all the students to get their lunch. Parents were allowed to stay for lunch and were also able to take their children home at the end of lunch. For the students remaining at school participated in a soccer afternoon.

By Tanix P and Wendy W



Teaching & Learning

Library Update

The staff and students have greatly missed StMM's Library! We would like to see all books returned to the library by Wednesday of next week. Mrs Balogh-Caristo is culling all old or damaged books on their return. Please check under the beds or any of the hiding places in your child's room. We are aiming to open the library on our first day back on Tuesday 18th July. We have rearranged duties and will have the library open before school and at lunchtime for quiet reading and games.

Personal Growth

Thursday Morning Assembly

On Thursday, 15th June, Mr Mills held an assembly in the hall. He mentioned that many people are coming late to school and if you come to school late, it will disturb the class during learning time. Because it is near the middle of winter, Mr Mills said you are allowed to bring gloves and a beanie to school as long as it is dark blue. It's Mufti day! Not one but two school days in a row! Mr Mills told everyone at the assembly there will be a free Mufti day on Friday with no gold donation and a red mufti day on Monday with a gold coin donation. Right before we left, some Year Six students handed out stickers to people who were listening attentively during the assembly.

By Luis - Frederic.AK and Jayden .O



Selection to Represent StMM's

Following our guideline of **ARM** is a key to be selected to represent StMM's at an event outside the school. We have in the past declined students the privilege of representing StMM's due to their inability to live out these guidelines.

Attitude: you must choose and bring a positive attitude to the event.

Respect: you must show respect to all individuals: staff referees, competitors, teammates.

Manners: you must use your manners at all times: at school, travelling, during the competition.

Personal Growth

Stage Three Boys Soccer Gala Day

Patrick makes a fantastic pass to Alex, who cleverly puts a through ball to Thanasi. Thanasi shows his striking abilities and scores a magnificent goal from outside the 18-yard box!

On Friday, 16th June, 2023, the Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day squads travelled to Penrith to play 7 games of soccer. They played different games at different times. Both teams won, lost and drew games but the most important part of the whole day was we had lots of fun and showed great sportsmanship. Every single player that represented StMM's brought a positive attitude! Thank you to the parents and teachers that came and supported us during the day.

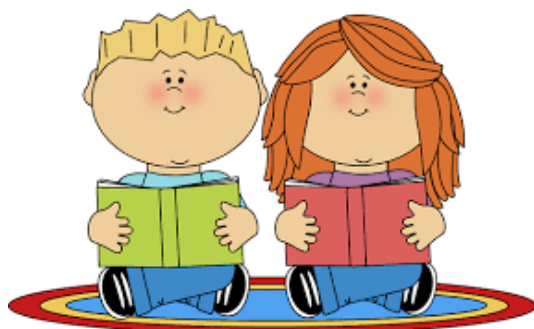
By Patrick, B and Alex, K



Monday Assembly

Monday 19th June, Mr Mills hosted a morning assembly in which he talked about not bringing any gum to school because it stains the carpets and students will continuously walk back and forth on it leading it to turn black. Secondly, he talked about the Stage Three boys Soccer Gala day and congratulated the 22 students who were great representatives of our school. On Friday 16th students were allowed to wear free mufti because of 'Wellbeing Week' and on Monday students were also allowed to wear red-themed mufti to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Mr Mills reminded students to stay on task and use all pointers. Mr Mills also spoke about the Feast of the Sacred Heart and how we were going to have a liturgy followed by a picnic with family members.

By: Iris SW & Claire F



Partnership

P&F Disco

A note was sent home last Friday with detailed information regarding the Disco.

There are two (2) *separate* sessions providing suitable and enjoyable music for each group.

INFANTS

Kindergarten, Year 1 & 2

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Wear Mufti to School

PRIMARY

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

5:15pm - 7:00pm

Wear School Uniform to School

- All students are to be picked up at the normal dismissal time of 3pm.
- There will be no supervision by staff at StMM's.
- Infant students attending the disco, to be escorted to the hall by their parents/carers.
- Primary students are to go home and return at 5:15pm for their disco.

During the disco, the following items can be purchased:
CASH ONLY

Sausage Sizzle	\$3.50
Popper	\$2.00
Small Water Bottle	\$1.00
Large Water Bottle	\$2.00
A packet of Chips	\$2.00
Mixed Lolly Bag	\$1.50
Lollipop	\$1.00
Foam Glow Stick	\$3.00

The P&F Committee thank you for your continued support of their fundraising events for the benefit of the students at St Margaret Mary's.

Cumberland Council Holiday Programs

Cumberland Council Young Writers Award. Staff from Cumberland Council have been working in partnership with the Library committee to this new initiative.

The competition will be open to students from 8 years to 18 years old who live in or attend school in the Cumberland City Council LGA or are members of the Council library service. The competition provides opportunities for young writers and illustrators to showcase their talents.

For more information regarding how to enter and closing dates, please go to the Cumberland City Council Website: cumberland.nsw.gov.au.



NAPLAN individual student report

Information for parents and carers

2023

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. Literacy and numeracy skills are the critical foundation for all learning and for the ability to participate effectively in society. NAPLAN questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics.

NAPLAN tests are only one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process. As they are held once every 2 years for each student, they cannot replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN individual student reports can be used to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

How does NAPLAN assess students?

NAPLAN tests are delivered online to schools across Australia. Online assessment presents questions tailored to an individual student's responses, delivering more precise results and an engaging test experience for students.

Questions in NAPLAN are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling. A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show their capabilities.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in NAPLAN is available at www.nap.edu.au.

New proficiency standards

From 2023, new standards were introduced to NAPLAN reporting. This reporting replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN reporting bands and national minimum standards. Education ministers agreed 2023 was the right time to introduce this change alongside moving NAPLAN to March.

Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

There are 4 proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

What NAPLAN assesses has not changed. Page 4 of the individual student report provides a more detailed summary about what students know and can do within each of the proficiency levels. Further information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

How were the proficiency levels determined?

Panels of expert teachers identified the levels of proficiency against learning expectations for each assessment area and year level. Parent and carer input on student reports was also provided through focus groups and national parent organisations.

Reading the NAPLAN report

The NAPLAN report shows a proficiency scale for each assessment area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation) with a student's result shown as a black dot on the scale.

The report continues to show each child's achievement against the national average for their year (shown as a black triangle) and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level (shown as a light shaded rectangle).

NAPLAN is a valuable tool that can give useful insights into a student's performance, but individual reports should be interpreted with care as they reflect the student's performance on the day of testing.

What if my child's report says they took their test on paper?

While NAPLAN is an online test, there are a small number of circumstances where students may complete tests on paper. These include when:

- schools use a recognised alternative curriculum
- students require paper tests for accessibility reasons
- issues during testing require paper tests to be used as a contingency measure.

Year 3 students always complete their writing test on paper.

Can I compare my child's performance to previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced with the new standards. Also, in 2023, the tests moved to Term 1 from Term 2. However, as in previous years, you can continue to see your child's achievement against the national average for the year.

How does NAPLAN help my child?

NAPLAN allows parents and carers to see how their child has performed in literacy and numeracy against national standards. Your child's achievement can be compared to the national average of all students in the same year and against the proficiency levels.

Results can help parents, carers and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers.

What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their school curriculum. The results complement other assessments your child does at school, providing you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievements at the time of the tests. The information can be used to support your child to reach their full potential.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN reports, in addition to school reports, as part of their admissions process. NAPLAN is not designed to be a school admission test; however, results may be useful for informing a new school of a student's learning needs.

How does NAPLAN help my child's school?

NAPLAN is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. It helps:

- teachers to better identify students who need greater challenges or extra support
- schools to identify strengths and areas of need in teaching programs
- schools to set goals in literacy and numeracy
- school systems to review programs and support offered to schools.

NAPLAN also provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards.

Who else will see the results?

Each year, test administration authorities provide schools with results for all students who sit NAPLAN. Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school.

Individual student reports are confidential. No-one but your local test administration authority and staff at your child's school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on My School at www.myschool.edu.au. The website will be updated with each year's results towards the end of the year. Your child's individual results are not available on My School.