



# St Margaret Mary's School

**Listen Share Act**

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Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Bulletin**

Term 3, Week 9

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and children,

Over the past six months after much reflection and prayer I have decided that I will finish here at St Margaret Mary's at the end of the 2023. I will be resigning as principal at the end of the year and from 2024 and beyond I will be exploring leadership opportunities outside the position of principalship. I am still coming to terms with the fact that I will not be at StMM's in 2024.

I have sought the support and approval of the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese Office to still play a role within the area of leadership and the development of support for school and staff within and outside the Parramatta system of schools. The reason for making this request is that I strongly feel I would like the opportunity to share the amazing things we have done together at StMM's in building a strong learning and active Catholic school with other communities.

I take this opportunity to tell you what a privilege and an honour it has been for me to work with you as principal of StMM's for the past ten years, I never thought I would be at Merrylands for this many years when I was appointed Acting Principal in 2014. From the first day I have been warmly welcomed, fully accepted into your community, and treated with the utmost respect and kindness by all our parents, carers and wider parish community. I have appreciated their support during my ten years and have many highlights and memories to take with me, including our 80 years celebration, Colour Run, Fete and our Mother's and Father's Day celebrations. StMM's is a great Catholic community, where people work hard to help each other grow academically, spiritually and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

It has been a joy each and every day to work in this community and I have had the privilege to work with an amazing and dedicated staff who seek the best for every child in their care. They have always been prepared to explore new and effective strategies in moving our community forward in a changing and challenging world. For this positive attitude and their professionalism, I am extremely grateful as I have learnt a great deal from their ability to move forward.

My greatest delight has been spending time, working with and interacting with the children of StMM's. Every day they continue to surprise, challenge, and impress me with their want to explore their learning and faith journey within this strong Catholic school. They continue to be a credit to their families, staff and our school.

I feel the Community at StMM's has allowed me the opportunity to learn so much about children, people, relationships and learning. My time here has given me a view of life and my faith that is focussed on action rather than just words. We are called to make an active difference in the world as Catholics walking with Jesus. The Community of StMM's has played a significant part in my journey of school life and has made me a better person and closer to the God within.

May God bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

God Bless & Take Care

Kevin Mills  
Principal

# Administration

## Diary Dates

<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>R u Ok Day</b> (Wear a splash of Yellow)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 2 Boys &amp; Girls Touch Football Gala Day at Penrith Touch Fields The Kingsway, St Marys</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MacKillop Athletics Carnival Sydney Olympic Park</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Morning Tea</li> <li>• Yr 5 Literacy Movie Day</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yrs 3 &amp; 4 Cumberland Police Cyber Security Talk</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students Last day for Term 3</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff Professional Learning Day.</b> <b>This is a student Free Day</b></li> <li>• Stage 3 Boys &amp; Girls Touch Football Gala Day at Penrith Touch Fields The Kingsway, St Marys.</li> <li>• School Closes for Term 3</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Opens for Term 4</li> <li>• <b>Staff Professional Learning Day</b> <b>This is a student Free Day</b></li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff Professional Learning Day</b></li> <li>• <b>This is a student Free Day</b></li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students return in Full Summer Uniform for Term 4</li> </ul>

## Principal's Morning Tea

The principal's morning tea with Mr Mills will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Students who have received a Pillar Award in each of the following: Faith Community, Teaching & Learning, Personal Growth & Partnership, will receive a Principal's Award and attend the morning tea with Mr Mills.

Mr Mills is looking forward to the celebration with the students.

## School Uniforms

Due to the unseasonable and changeable weather over the next few weeks, children can choose to wear either their full summer uniform or full winter uniform until the end of term. Children will still wear their sports uniform on their respective sports days.

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly, including the correct socks. All students must have a school hat, that can be purchased from the school office.

## Staff Development Days

StMM's will be holding our next Staff Development Day on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** (Last Day of Term 3). This day will be a pupil free day as our staff will be focused on deepening our school JigSaw pedagogical framework and developing engaging learning tools. Families will need to make alternative care arrangements for their children.



As previously mentioned, the first two days of Term 4 being **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October** are Staff Development Days. These Staff Development Days have been provided to all Parramatta Diocesan schools in order for staff to plan and prepare for the new English and Mathematics Curriculum. Students will return to school on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**, after the school holidays. Please note we will also have a Spirituality Staff Formation day in Term 4, which will also be a pupil free day. We encourage all families to add these important dates into their calendars.

## Car Pick Up

When picking your child up in the afternoon please remember the following expectations:

- Follow all road and traffic rules at all times
- The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is clearly marked as per the signage
- Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage
- Parents/Carers are able to join the Car Pick-up queue via Davies Street and Henson Street
- Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly, taking into account all signs and road rules
- Cars that are lined up, waiting to enter the Car Pick-Up queue either in Henson Street or Davies Street will be booked. The police view this as double parking.
- **Avoid queueing over the crossing on Davies Street**
- **We recommend staggering the time you come to collect your child(ren) from Car Pick-Up.**  
**Supervision of students is provided from 3:00-3:30pm.**

## Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 4, please let the office know in writing as soon as possible, as we have several families on our waiting list. It is a CSPD Policy that 10 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.

## StMM's School Photos and Videos

Please visit our StMM's School Website:

<https://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au>

All photos and videos taken by Mrs Albertin and the Media team are placed in the folders on our school website. Under the "Community" heading and the "Gallery" section you will find all the events celebrated at StMM's school.



## Teaching & Learning

### Year Three Dance Incursion by 'Zingactiv'

Dear Year Three Parents,

During Term 4, Year Three students will be participating in dance lessons run by 'Zingactiv.' These fun lessons will be happening each Wednesday. Year three students are asked to wear their sports uniform on Wednesdays, as well as Thursdays and Fridays in Term 4. This exciting program will explore music, movement, the 'elements of dance', physical coordination, creativity and social interaction for our Year Three students.

### Science Week

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September we began Science Week at St Margaret Marys. We completed a STEM challenge at home with our family. Primary created a catapult and Infants

created a paper plane. On our Discovery Learning Day we dressed up as someone from a STEM career such as engineers, scientists, and builders and tested our catapults and planes that we made with our families at home. On

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings we participated in STEM challenges in the hall with our family members. This included trying to make a stand for our

family name using only pegs, making the longest paper chain and building the highest tower using only twenty paper cups. In Discovery Learning lessons, students participated in STEM activities such as making the longest maze and controlling spheros with the iPad. Science Week was amazing! We had so much fun! Thank you to the Discovery Learning teachers for organising all the activities. *By Ella K and Louna M*



### Year Five Debating

Delaney invited St Margaret Mary's to participate in the Delany Shield Debating Competition on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> of August and the 7<sup>th</sup> September. On these dates 6 students from Year Five (Ayen.T, Klara.Sh, Deng.D, Luis.A, Isabel.C & Eli.E) competed with others schools to debate on topics. The round 1 topic was on "Mobile phones should be banned in schools" against Our Lady Queen of Peace. Round 2 topic was "Education is the key to a successful future" against St Patrick's Guildford, and the last round topic was "Fast food should be banned in school" against Holy Trinity. Sadly we didn't make it to the finals but at least we tried our best and had a fun time competing. But let's not forget the pizza we had after the debate made it all worthwhile.

*By: Klara Sh. and Ayen T.*



## Personal Growth

### Wellbeing Week R u OK?

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September students will celebrate 'R u OK? Day' and can wear a splash of yellow with their uniform, eg: Yellow socks, ribbon in hair, head band, wrist band, or a yellow hat.

### Morning Assembly

On Monday, Mr Mills talked about Wellbeing Week and how we will be allowed to wear any uniform we want and there will be NO homework. There will also be a survey sent home this week that will ask parents

what languages they speak at home. Every student at St Margaret Mary's will have to complete this survey. On Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September it is R U OK Day and the whole school is going to be wearing a splash of yellow. We can wear a yellow item such as yellow socks, a yellow hat, a yellow shirt, or yellow ribbon.

Today we remembered Stephen Thompson who was a student at St Margaret Marys. He was tragically killed in the Nine Eleven attack. There is a scholarship in his name that is awarded to a Year Six student every year at the Graduation Mass. This year the award will be given to two Year Six students. Stephen Thompson will always be remembered as he is a part of our school's history. The

students who participated in the Netball Gala Day also received an award.

*By Priscilla G, Theresa D, Connie C and Tianna A*



### Social Media

Please take this opportunity to speak to your child about the dangers of using Social Media and the importance of sharing and sending information with others.

- Not to share your personal information to people you haven't met online.
- Being aware of cyberbullying.
- Remember if it is going to get you into trouble, do not send it.
- Sending messages online to others that can hurt or upset other people.

## Partnership

### Community Language Survey

Dear Parents and Carers,

At StMM's we are conducting a survey to gather information about the cultures and the languages spoken within our school and home community.



You are invited to participate in a brief survey that will help us better understand the languages spoken and heard within our students' homes. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by following the QR codes which were sent home with your child today. We would appreciate it if you could please complete one survey for each child in your family. Please complete the survey by Tuesday (19/9) as this information will be used as part of our Professional Learning Day at the end of the term.

If you require any assistance in completing the form, the school hall will be open from 8:15am - 8:45am this Thursday (14/9) and next Tuesday(19/9).

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.

### Raising Awareness for Gand Syndrome

Gand is a rare neurodevelopmental disorder. Which consists of macrocephaly enlargement of the head, Gerd hypotonia (low muscle tone throughout the body), Apraxia of speech.

There are 300 cases known worldwide.

Saturday 16th September is Gand Awareness Day. Supporters will be completing a 6km walk in Parramatta park at 10am. All funds raised will be going directly to the association and research team who are based in the USA. Helping hands for Gand <https://www.gatad2b.org>



### St Margaret Mary's Parish

#### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023

Sacrament of Confirmation Enrolments commence from Tuesday, 12 September 2023 until Friday, 13 October 2023.

(Enrolment Fee \$50 per child)

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or are available at our Parish Office during working hours.

Parents Night: Monday - 09 October at 7pm.

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

Sacrament of Confirmation program is divided into two groups taught by Monique Kairouz & assisted by Fr. Jeremy Santoso.

#### CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:

All preparation sessions held on WEDNESDAYS at 5:30 - 6:30pm OR 7:00 - 8:00pm (parents to choose one session time)

Session 1: 18 OCTOBER 2023

Session 2: 25 OCTOBER 2023

Session 3: 01 NOVEMBER 2023

Session 4: 08 NOVEMBER 2023

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre.

 CONFIRMATION Saturday, 11 November 2023 at 6:00pm

MARY  
MEANS  
STAR OF THE SEA,  
FOR AS MARINERS  
ARE GUIDED  
TO PORT  
BY THE  
OCEAN STAR,  
SO CHRISTIANS  
ATTAIN TO  
GLORY,  
THROUGH  
MARYS  
MATERNAL  
INTERCESSION.

ST THOMAS AQUINAS  
(1225-1274)  
ANGELIC DOCTOR  
COMMON DOCTOR

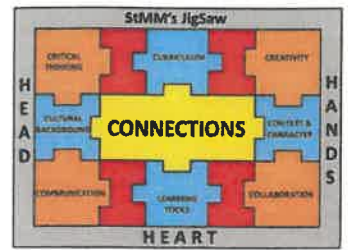


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# JigSaw Corner

StMM's JigSaw Pedagogy



## How did you use JigSaw during Science Week?



My group used **Creativity** to build a bridge that did not tip over when we tested it with our car.

Melissa Year 2

I used **Critical Thinking** to work out how I was going to construct the catapult. In **Curriculum** I used STEM (Science, Technology, English and Mathematics). Bella Year 4



I **communicated** with my mum and dad to make my plane.

Aidan Year 1



We used **teamwork**.

Evan Kindy

We used **Collaboration** when we worked in pairs and groups to complete different activities like the cup stacking challenge. We used the Science **Curriculum** when we did the mazes with the ping pong balls.

We used **Creativity** when we tried different ideas.

Zara and Catherine Year 6



I used **Collaboration** when I worked with my mum and dad to build my catapult. I used the Mathematics **Curriculum** to calculate how far the pom pom went.

Pierre Year 3



I used **Learning Tools** when I used elastic bands, paddlepop sticks and bottle caps. We used **Collaboration** when we used everyone's ideas to build the catapult.

Zara Year 5





11 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am very pleased to share our new Family and School Partnership Principles with you. This document, which is now available on the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) [website](#), is the result of collaboration with families, including through the Parramatta Parent Representative Council (PRC). It sets our shared responsibility to make sure that everyone is welcomed and valued in CSPD schools.

CSPD acknowledges that as parents and carers, you are the first educators of your children. We also know that children and young people learn best and are happiest when schools, parents and carers work together as partners. This document sets out the foundations for successful partnerships between schools and families.

*Family and School Partnership Principles* outlines:

- what you have a right to expect from your relationships with the school
- what the school has a right to expect from you
- guidelines for the respectful use of social media
- an explanation of what acceptable and unacceptable communication between families and the school looks like
- how to make a complaint
- what to do when the partnership between a family and school breaks down
- links to key policies.

[\*Family and School Partnership Principles\*](#) is about helping to build great relationships between schools and families. I encourage you to read it carefully and talk to your school if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting your local Catholic school.

Yours sincerely

**Jack de Groot**  
Executive Director of Schools  
Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese