



# St Margaret Mary's School

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Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March **Update** 2023 Term 1, Week 8

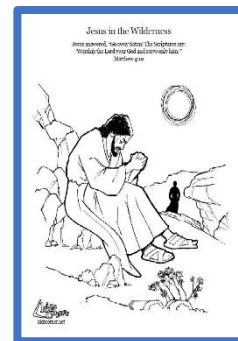
## Diary Dates

<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 Reading
<b>Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Patrick's Day Mufti Day- Students to wear green.</li> <li>NAPLAN Make-Up Sessions</li> <li>Tuning in to Kids Parent meeting 8:30am – 10:30am in the library</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wellbeing Week</li> <li>Whole School Morning Assembly &amp; Prayer</li> <li>NAPLAN Yrs 3 &amp; 5 Language Conventions</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	NAPLAN Yrs 3 & 5 Mathematics
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yrs 3 &amp; 5 NAPLAN Catch up day</li> <li>Yrs 4 &amp; 6 Parent Connection Meeting</li> </ul>

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

The 40 days of Lent can seem like 40 weeks. But as we travel this journey it is important that we remember it is linked to the time Jesus was in the desert. We have reached the point in our Lenten journey when we're finally able to catch a glimpse of the Easter light at the end of our days in the desert. We need to make the most of this time, praying, giving alms and fasting. During these last couple weeks of Lent, instead of thinking only of your own struggles, contemplate Jesus and his lonely journey through the desert. Here are some Lenten quotes to help you get to the Easter season and celebrate the Risen Christ:



**"Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself."** St. Francis de Sales

**"The Lord measures out perfection on neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them."** St. John of the Cross

**"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun."** Saint Josemaría Escrivá

**"Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday."** Ven. Fulton Sheen

**"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty."** Pope Francis

**"And he said to all: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"** Luke 9:23

**"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."** Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

**"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God if we have given what we could."** St. Gregory Nazianzen

**"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."** St. Catherine of Siena

**"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves."** St. Francis de Sales

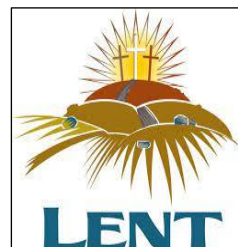
**"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."** Pope Francis

The Catechism tells us, **"By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert."** (CCC 540). That is the purpose: To unite ourselves to Jesus as he goes into the desert. If we want to join him in the Easter Season, then we must be willing to journey with him through Lent.

*These quotes have been taken from various websites.*

Take care and God bless,

Kevin Mills  
Principal



## Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2024 are now taking place. *If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019, please collect an enrolment form from the school office.*

## Toys

There are to be NO Squish Balls, Slime or Putty toys brought to school. These items are to remain at home for play.

## Administration

### Parent Connection Meetings

Please find below a table outlining the date, available session time and additional information for each grade's parent connection meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend only one of the session times for your child's grade.

Grade	Date	Time
Year 1	Week 8 Wednesday 15 March	Session 1 - 4:30pm Session 2 - 6:00pm
Year 2	Week 8 Wednesday 15 March	Session 1 - 3:30pm Session 2 - 5:30pm
Year 4	Week 9 Wednesday 22 March	Open Classroom 3:15-4:30pm
Year 6	Week 9 Wednesday 22 March	Session 1 - 4:00pm Session 2 - 6:00pm

WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK!



Click on the QR code to complete a brief survey about our Parent Connection Meetings.

Thank you to our parents who have already provided us with ideas on how we can continue to work in partnership with our parent community.

### Updating Information

Parents and carers should receive an email or SMS (for those parents without email) from Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) asking you to review and, where necessary, update important contact and student information.

The link closes on Sunday 19 March so if you haven't already done so, please complete the review/update as soon as possible to ensure that your family's details are up to date.

If you have any questions or did not receive the link, please contact the CSPD Community Liaison Team on 9840 5796.

## Administration

### StMM's School Contact

If you wish to contact a staff member, please do so via the office. Contact with the office may be via email or phone. The school's email address is: [Stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au).

We appreciate your assistance and understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school. Remember we also use Compass to communicate with our community.

### School Fees

Term One School Fees are due by 17<sup>th</sup> March, unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CSPD details as per your statement. If you have any questions regarding your 2023 statement or arrangement, please contact Maria at the school office.

### Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 2, please let the office know in writing as soon as possible, as we have several families on our waiting list. It is a CEDP 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.

## Teaching & Learning

### Year 2

#### Blast From the Past Day

Last Wednesday you might have noticed Year Two students wearing some interesting accessories! There were lots of bonnets and

suspenders because we dressed up like we went to school 100 years ago!



During the day we played olden day games like marbles and hopscotch and even got to create our own time capsule that we won't open for a really long time!

We had to bring in a treasure box with items from the past that were important to our family and we were able to share our treasures with our friends. Lots of people brought items from different countries and it was very interesting!



At the end of the day, we were so lucky to have Mrs Geracitano visit our grade to talk about what St

Margaret Mary's school was like in the 90's! Then, Mrs Antonucci told us what it was like when she came to our school! Did you know that the Year 2 classroom used to be the church?

We had a really fun day and learnt a lot about the history of our school.



## Teaching & Learning

### NAPLAN Year 3 & 5

The NAPLAN testing window began today, Wednesday 15 March and WILL conclude on Monday 27 March. Students who are absent when their class participates in the tests can sit catch-up tests later in the test window. If your child will be away during the NAPLAN testing time, please ensure you have notified your child's teacher via the school office.

#### NAPLAN timetable 2023

Week 8	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 3	Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (45 minutes)	) Make up sessions for any student who has missed the Writing or Reading test.)
Year 5	Writing (42 minutes)	Reading (50 minutes)	
Week 9	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 3	Language Conventions (45 minutes)	Mathematics (45 minutes)	Make up sessions for any student who is away on any of the NAPLAN assessment days.
Year 5	Language Conventions (45 minutes)	Mathematics (50 minutes)	

## Faith Community

### St Patrick's Day

Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March will mark St Patrick's Day. We will celebrate by holding a free **GREEN MUFTI DAY** as it is customary to wear green for St Patrick.

The Yr 6 students have planned a number of activities, such as face painting, a colouring-in contest, and a Religious Education session all about St Patrick for the students to participate in.

In the afternoon, we will also be holding an Infants vs staff, as well as Primary vs staff soccer game on our grass soccer fields.

By Lucas F and Lucas V



## Faith Community



### Compassion Day

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

On Friday next week, St Margaret Mary's will be holding Compassion Day to support Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. On this day, students are encouraged to wear orange or cultural dress and to make a gold coin donation to Project Compassion. Children will be participating in a range of activities to deepen their understanding of how future generations are impacted by our decisions today.

Here is an overview of our day:

8:40 am	Morning Prayer ( <b>Parents and Carers are welcome to attend</b> )
8:50 am-12:20 pm	In-class activities based on Project Compassion Infants & Primary Buddy Session
12:30 - 1:20 pm	Water Bucket Relay ( <b>Parents and Carers are welcome to attend</b> )
1:20-1:50 pm	Family Lunch Time ( <b>Parents and Carers are welcome to attend</b> ) Students and families sit and eat their lunch together
1:50 pm	Parents have the option to 'sign out' children by seeing their child's class teacher
2:00 pm	Remaining children complete activities in-class and will attend usual afternoon dismissal at 3:00 pm

Just a reminder that we will be accepting donations of \$5 through the QKR! app to 'buy' a water droplet for our Water Wall until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023. The grade that raises the most will get to 'dunk' a teacher!

Thank you  
Mrs Del Monte



## Personal Growth

### Sports News

#### Primary Cross Country

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, primary ran in the Cross Country. The boys and girls ran around the COLA and upper playground. The students aged 8, 9 and 10



year old ran 8 laps and students aged 11 and 12 year old ran 12 laps. We sat on the grass in the COLA in our colour houses. The colour houses cheered for their team. Running around the playground was hard for

us all, and we were tired from all the running. The overall experience was great.

By: Esther B & Grace L



### School Choir

Are you a Primary Student in Years 3-6?  
Do you love to sing and perform?  
Would you like to join our School Choir?  
If you answered "Yes" to all of these questions, we would love to have you join our choir!

Choir practice will be held every Friday morning from 8:10 am in the school Hall.

See you there!  
Mrs Del Monte



### Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who represented StMM's at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

We will have results in next weeks bulletin.



## Personal Growth



### WEEK 9 WELLBEING WEEK



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

Students will engage in different activities throughout the week.

There will 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.

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 Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> of March will be an ORANGE or Cultural Wear Mufti day to celebrate Harmony Day & Project Compassion Day with a gold coin donation.

### Open Morning

Mr Mills selected 19 Year Five students and 19 Year Six students who partnered up as tour guides for our open morning on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We



were given a tour guide sheet that listed all the places we needed to show the new parents. These included the Infant's Building learning spaces, Primary Building learning spaces, the Church, the Canteen,

the Hall, the 4 learning Spaces Pointers, the 4 Pillars of StMM's, the Library, the cola and grass areas. We also showed the

parents our favourite place in the school. We had an amazing experience giving tours to the new 2024 parents who we are very excited to have join our school community next year.



By Bianca M



## Partnership

### P&F News

#### Second Hand Uniforms Sale - **DATE CHANGE**

Monday 3rd April, 8:15am - 9:30am

All Items \$5 each (Cash Only)

#### Easter Raffle

In preparation for the P&F Easter Raffle on Wednesday 5th April, if anyone has any empty baskets and would like to donate these, please send them to the school office.

More information regarding the Easter Raffle will be shared soon.

#### BCSC (Building Child Safe Communities)

All parents/carers that wish to volunteer and assist the P&F with any activities, must complete the CSPD Building Child Safe Communities online undertaking form and training module for volunteers. This is a legal requirement for Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese.

This can be accessed via [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

1. Hover your cursor over 'About'
2. Click on 'Student Safety'
3. Scroll down & Click on 'Start Training Now'
4. Scroll down & Click on 'Start Now'
5. Click on 'Begin Undertaking'
6. When you get to screen 5 - only click on/highlight

**'I am a parent or close relative of a child at all of the selected location(s)'**

Once your form has been "Submitted", the system will generate an automated email to confirm and approve the status of your submission within 24 hours. All Volunteers need a BCSC status that is **Approved** to provide services to our school.

Please forward this approval email to the school [stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)

#### Important Points to Note:

- Training is valid for 2 years
- After the 2 years you must undertake the training again
- Contact Domenica (School Office) if you are unsure when your training expires
- BCSC module must be completed, even if you have a WWCC

## Partnership



**NCCD**  
NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA  
ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

#### WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year. The NCCD is a collection that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability and the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students. Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability.

#### WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disabilities. The NCCD ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable. It provides better information that improves understanding of students and allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students.

#### WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability. Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including: their year of schooling, the level of adjustment received and the broad type of disability. A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

#### HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD. Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023**

Sacrament of Reconciliation Enrolments commence from Tuesday, 14 March until Friday, 28 April 2023.

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or available at our Parish Office during working hours. (Enrolment Fee \$50 per child).

Parents Night: Wednesday, 26 April at 7pm.  
Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre

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

**RECONCILIATION PROGRAM**

All preparation sessions will be held on WEDNESDAYS with two time slots to choose from: 5:30 - 6:30pm or 7:00 - 8:00pm

Session 1: 03 MAY  
Session 2: 10 MAY  
Session 3: 17 MAY  
Session 4: 24 MAY

Venue: Parish Pastoral Centre

Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Monday, 29 May 2023 at 6:00pm inside the Church.