



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Wednesday 25th October

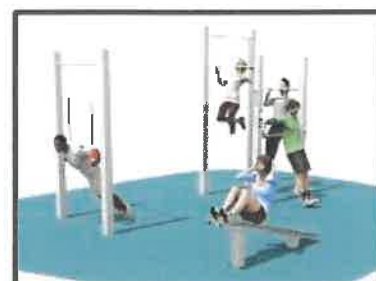
Bulletin

2023 Term 4 Week 3

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We are in the process of applying for a grant to construct a fitness track for the Community. This has involved writing a submission and planning to utilise a vacant space within the school grounds. As part of this work, I have listed below the main reasons for our interest in this aspect of our wellbeing.



1. **Physical Health Improvement & Enhanced Motor Skills:** The fitness track will provide a dedicated space for students and the wider community to engage in physical activity, promoting better overall health. Regular exercise will help prevent childhood obesity, improve cardiovascular health, and enhance muscle strength and flexibility for the young and old. Using the fitness track will also help individuals develop and refine their motor skills, coordination, and balance, which are crucial for their physical wellbeing.
2. **Mental Health & Social Interaction:** Physical activity for a range of ages has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety while improving mood and self-esteem. Having a fitness track in our school will provide children, teenagers and adults with an outlet for managing stress and emotions. The track will also be a hub for social interaction and teamwork as children, teenagers and adults engage in various activities together. This will foster cooperation, communication, and friendship among the wider community.
3. **Increased Physical Activity for the community:** The fitness track will encourage people to be more active as it provides an accessible option for structured exercise and helps meet recommended daily activity levels. The gates of the school are open on the weekend and will allow the public to use the resource. Exposure to regular physical activity in a fitness setting will establish lifelong habits of staying active, making healthy choices, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
4. **Reduced Behavioural Issues & Reduced Screen Time:** By providing an appealing alternative to screens, the fitness track will contribute to reducing sedentary behaviour among students and young adults. Physical activity will help reduce disruptive behaviour by allowing individuals to release energy and frustration in a positive manner.
5. **Family Engagement & Safety:** A fitness track will also serve as a resource for the local community and encourage parents and guardians to be physically active with their children. Having a designated area for physical activity will reduce the risk of accidents during recess and playtime. It's important to design the fitness track with safety and age-appropriate equipment in mind.



6. **Environmental Connection & Inclusive Design:** The fitness track will be designed to incorporate natural elements and greenery, helping connect with the outdoors and the environment. All efforts will be made to ensure that the track is inclusive, accommodating individuals with different abilities and needs. This promotes inclusivity and acceptance among the community.

The success of this concept will depend on our school being successful in the grant process. We will keep our community updated, but please remember the process has just begun.

Take care and God bless,

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Diary Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Thursday 26th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten Motiv8sport Incursion |
| Monday 30th October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten Binwise Incursion |
| Wednesday 1st November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints Day Primary Students attend All Saints Day Mass at 9am Kindergarten 2024 Orientation Morning 9am – 10:30am Kindergarten 2024 Parent information Session 9am – 10:30am Year Three 'Zingactiv' dance classes |
| Thursday 2nd November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Souls Day |
| Monday 6th November | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 5 Junkyard Beats Incursion P&F Second Hand Uniform Shop 9am – 10am |

Student Reports

Do you have access to our StMM's Compass Parent Portal?

It is extremely important for all parents to be able to access the Compass Parent Portal to ensure you are kept up to date with what is happening at St Margaret Marys. This is the platform all parents and carers can access to gain daily information about their child's attendance, notices and semester reports.



Your child's Semester Two report will only be available for parents to access via the Compass Portal, as we will no longer be printing our student reports. Student Reports will be available for parents to view and download in Week 9. [Find my child's semester report.](#)

Student Reports

To ensure you are able to access your child's report, please read the following instructions to access your child's Semester One Report. If you are unable to view your child's Semester One Report via the Compass parent portal please email the school office for assistance.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 4 or in 2024, 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 fee will be required to be paid.

Late Morning Arrival

We are very concerned with the large number of students arriving late to school each morning. While the number is getting smaller each day, as a community, we must do better. Each morning Mr Mills is in the playground ensuring all students get to their classes. It is hard to find the right reason as most children say their parents are at fault. A number of students are regularly late for no good reason. We will keep you informed about future consequences that will come into play.

Kindergarten 2024

Parent Information Evening (Parents Only)

Wednesday, 25th October, 2023 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Orientation Mornings

Wednesday, 1st November, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

Wednesday, 15th November 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

Parent Information Sessions

StMM's JigSaw & Religious Education

Wednesday, 1st November, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

English

Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

Mathematics

Wednesday, 15th November 2023 9:00am – 10:30am

School Hats and Library bags will be available for purchase on the mornings of 1st & 8th November, 2023. Please note that payments are to be made by **EFTPOS ONLY** as no cash can be accepted at the school.

Uniform

Mr Mills spoke to the students on Monday regarding their uniform. He was very pleased with all the effort parents and carers have made to ensure the children look very smart. All students must wear the correct uniform, including sock and shoes. Classes have specific sports days where correct sport shoes may be worn. *Please do not let your child tell you that basketball shoes are allowed!!!*

StMM's New Principal

StMM's school community would like to welcome Ms Grace Carlo-Stella as our New Principal 2024.

Grace is a committed Catholic and the values cherished by the StMM's school community align with her love of learning, teaching and the education of every child. She plans to be actively engaged in the life of the school and parish community, promoting events and activities that create a sense of belonging and support for students, staff, families and the wide community. I know she is very much looking forward to becoming part of this vibrant community.



Teaching and Learning

Mr Mills Reading Logs

This whole school strategy is very important to our children's ability to travel their learning journey. "We are learning to read" then "we are reading to learn". The more your child reads each and every day, the more they will experience success at school. Mr Mills has awarded a number of reading badges in the Infants classes over the past week.

Kindergarten - Binwise Incursion

Kindergarten students will be attending an incursion titled "Binwise" on Monday 30th October. The students will learn about waste, recycling, incorporating sustainability, whilst encouraging students to respect, care and take responsibility for their community and environment.



Year 2 – Motiv8sport Incursion

On Thursday 9th November, Year 2 will be participating in an incursion run by Motiv8sports. The day will take place at school and students will need to wear their sports uniform. Year 2 will take part in a range of fun activities that promote teamwork and communication.



Personal Growth

Morning Assembly

On Monday 23rd October, St. Margaret Mary's had a morning assembly. Two Year Four students began the assembly by congratulating the students who represented our school at the



Stage Two Football Gala Day. They were handed certificates for participating in that event. Mr. Mills briefly summarised what was happening in the last hour of school on Monday,

which was Miss Fardella's Farewell Liturgy. After that, a Year Six student led the school prayer. To conclude the morning assembly, the Australian flag was raised, and Mr. Mills dismissed all students back to their classrooms with their teachers.

By Mariam G and Ella K

Touch Football Gala Day

At the end of Term 3, a group of selected students from Years Five and Six represented St Margaret Mary's at the Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day. It was held on Friday 22nd September.



The Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day teams were determined to put on their best performance and demonstrate our ARM. The girls showcased their skills, winning and drawing games. The boys spectacularly showed their skills and became the undefeated team on the day.



Both teams showed great respect for each other and other teams, with their outstanding sportsmanship. Thank you to Mr Greaney and Mr Maunick for supporting us on this day, and to our amazing referees from St Pauls, parents and families who came to cheer us on!



2024 CSPD Parramatta Primary Sport Rep Team Trials

OPENS 10th October 2023 - Basketball, Tennis ONLY - closes 8th November 2023

OPENS 8th November 2023 - AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball & Touch - closes 13th February 2024

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Years 5 and 6 in 2024 are invited to complete a nomination to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2023 and in 2024. Students in Year 4 in 2024 MAY nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Tennis and Touch Football only.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that **MUST** demonstrate an **ABOVE AVERAGE** ability, **HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competitions outside of school.

The parent information sheet for Years 5 and 6 students in 2024 is available below and as listed above opportunities for students in Year 4 in 2024 in some sports.

[2024 Representative Sport Trials Parent Information sheet](#)

Parents are to register using the link below for Basketball & Tennis, which will be available on Facebook as well as the CSPD Primary Sport website:

[2024 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Expression of Interest Nomination](#)
<https://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au/>

To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in some sports and others through CSNSW Sport at the MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2024.

Any further information, please contact Mrs Foley or email stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

Faith Community

The Rosary

Did You Know?

The rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. Introduced by the Creed, the Our Father, three Hail Marys and the Doxology ("Glory Be"), and concluded with the Salve Regina, the rosary involves the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the Doxology. During this recitation, the individual meditates on the saving mysteries of our Lord's life and the faithful witness of our Blessed Mother. In so doing, the rosary assists us in growing in a deeper appreciation of these mysteries, in uniting our life more closely to our Lord and in imploring His graced assistance to live the faith. We also ask for the prayers of our Blessed Mother, who leads all believers to her Son.

Staff Formation Day

StMM's will be holding our Staff Formation Day on Friday 10th November. This day will be a pupil free day as staff will be focused on deepening our understanding of our Catholic faith, formation and identity.



As previously mentioned, the first two days of Term 4 were staff development days provided to all Parramatta Diocesan schools in order for staff to plan and prepare for the new English and Mathematics Curriculum.

We encourage all families to add Friday 10th November as an important date into their calendars and to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

Miss Fardella's Farewell

On Monday 23rd October, we held a farewell liturgy for Miss Fardella as she left our school at the end of Semester One to help children in need at the Children's Hospital Westmead.

We began our liturgy with a warm welcome and sang a song called "God's Not Done with You." We then presented some items that



Miss Fardella holds dear to her and things that made her teaching style unique for the



students at St Margaret Mary's. Next, we read Miss Fardella's favourite scripture passage, which reminds us all, that it's okay not to always be busy and to take a break. Following this, we offered our prayers of the faithful, students then shared some of their favourite memories from their time with Miss Fardella.

To conclude the liturgy, we presented her with a gift from the P&F and one from the school to express our gratitude for all the wonderful things she has done for the school. At the end, we opened a chest, and inside, we found a bible, which was for her.



By Jacob T & George H

Feast Day Colour Fun Day

On 19th October, the entire school celebrated a Colour Fun Day, after 4 years! Children were able to dress up in white tops, accessories, old clothes, and more. Students had to bring spare mufti clothes after finishing the course because of the mess it would cause. Parents and carers were welcome to come, spectate and participate. Kindergartens were paired with Year Five, Year Two were partnered with Year Four, and other grades were supervised by their teachers. Mrs Borg and Mr Mills walked the course with Year Six and got sprayed with colour. After every grade had a chance to go, parents were allowed to walk the course as well. Teachers and Year Six students were spraying the colours onto



us, while other teachers were spraying us with water from the hose. Mr Mills and Mrs Borg gave out speeding fines to children who were running. After the Colour Fun Day, students were allowed to change in the bathrooms. It was a whole school lunch where you could eat with your parents or carers or your grade and teacher. The P&F cooked a sausage sizzle for all students and teachers who were



there. There was also slushies, chips, and poppers available to buy. During the entire event, a DJ provided music. After this amazing event, students could go home early with their parents at 1:15 pm.

We thank Mr Mills, Mrs Borg, teachers, and all the P&F that organised this spectacular day for us.

More photos from the day can be found on our school website.
By: Iris S.W and Ella K



Partnership

Craft Market Greystanes

OLQP CAMILLERI HALL SATURDAY 18
198 OLD PROSPECT ROAD NOVEMBER 2023
GREYSTANES 2145 8AM - 2PM

COME & ENJOY THE ANNUAL CRAFT MARKET GREYSTANES

INCLUDING:

Devonshire Tea / Sausage Sizzle
Super Raffle

FIND THE PERFECT GIFT & BAG A BARGAIN ON:

Arts & Crafts / Jewellery
Children's & Baby 's clothes
Christmas Decorations
Embroidered Items / Quilts
Paper Tole / Bags
Candies / Edible Treats
And so much more!

PROUDLY
SUPPORTING



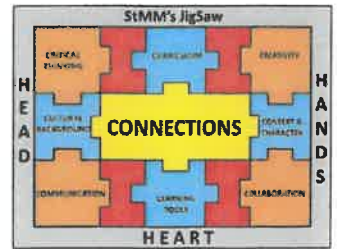
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JigSaw Corner

StMM's JigSaw Pedagogy



The Head, Heart and Hands



The Head, Heart and Hands at St Margaret Mary's involves learning about our faith, feeling love and compassion in our hearts and showing kindness to others.

We use our Head to deepen our understanding of scripture. We learn how to be a disciple of Jesus and are guided by Jesus' actions.



We open our Heart to God's love, mercy, and grace to develop a personal relationship with God. The Holy Spirit inspires us to show empathy towards others and treat them the way we want to be treated.



We use our Hands to put our faith into action through charity, service, and social justice to make a positive difference in our community. We are called to actively live God's mission.

Making Connection with the Head, Heart and Hands and our St Margaret Mary's Liturgy

When St Margaret Mary was sick she prayed to Mary and made a promise that if she was healed she would become a nun. Later on Jesus thought St Margaret Mary forgot about that promise and she became a nun.

Marcus Year 5

St Margaret Mary showed love to God by praying everyday and receiving Holy Communion. *Theresa Year 5*

St Margaret Mary showed love to God by becoming a nun and spreading the Word of God. *Gabriel Year 5*

I will pray today for all those who need help. I will pray for the people in war and who are going through hard times in their life. *Jacob Year 5*

Today I am going to help my teacher and friends with anything they need. I will also do chores around the house to help. *Louna Year 5*

