



# St Margaret Mary's School

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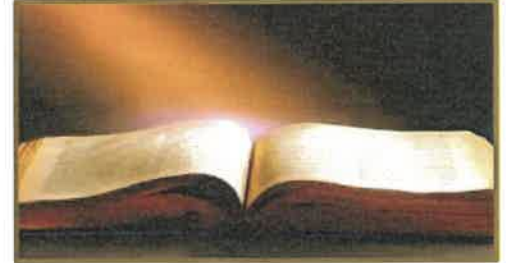
[www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November **Bulletin** 2023 Term 4 Week 7

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The Catholic Church places great emphasis on the Sacred Scriptures as the foundational keys to unlocking our faith. The belief that Scripture is sacred stems from various sources and factors within religious traditions:



**Divine Inspiration:** Christians believe that our sacred texts are inspired and directly revealed by the divine. This divine inspiration is seen as the foundation for considering these texts as sacred and authoritative.

**Historical and Religious Authority:** Our Sacred texts have a long history and are considered authoritative. They are passed down through generations and held in high regard for their teachings, moral guidance, and religious significance.

**Impact and Influence:** Sacred texts have had a profound impact on us as individuals, our community, and our history. They have shaped our moral codes, laws, cultural practices, and ethical norms, further contributing to their recognition as sacred.

**Consistency and Continuity:** They often demonstrate internal reason, consistency, and continuity in their messages and teachings. This consistency over time and across various sections of the text strengthens the belief in their sacredness.

**Spiritual Experience and Revelation:** Many Catholics (Saints and others) claim to have experienced spiritual insights, guidance, and transformation through their engagement with sacred texts. These personal encounters with the divine within the text reinforce their sacredness.

We as Catholics, believe in the sacredness of Scripture, specifically the Bible, and that it is founded on the idea of divine inspiration. We



believe that the Bible is inspired by God and contains truths essential to our faith and life. This belief is reinforced by the teachings of our Church and the acceptance of the Bible as the authoritative Word of God within the Catholic faith. Overall, the sacredness of our Scripture is a deeply held belief rooted in faith, tradition, historical context, and the personal experiences of believers within their religious communities.

God Bless & Take Care,

Kevin Mills  
Principal

# Administration

## Diary Dates

<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year Three Kaleidoscope Science Incursion</li></ul>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year Five Motiv8sports Incursion</li></ul>
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feast of Christ the King</li></ul>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P&amp;F Second hand Uniform Sale 9:00am – 9:30am Last one for the Year</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delany College 2024 Year 7 Orientation Day</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year Five Kaleidoscope Incursion</li><li>• Year Three 'Zingactiv' dance classes</li></ul>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>School Office Closed</b> 10:30am - 2:30pm Mr Mills Farewell Mass for Staff and Invited Guests only</li></ul>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Year Three Motiv8sports Incursion</li></ul>

## School Office Closed

The school office will be closed on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 10:30am-2:30pm**. In the event of an emergency please phone the school office and your call will be diverted to the school mobile.

All other enquires please email the school and they will be answered as soon as possible.

## End of Year Celebrations and Mr Mills' Farewell

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** will be our last official function for 2023.

- The parents and StMM's community are invited to attend the End of Year Celebrations where we will have the opportunity to farewell members of our community and Mr Mills on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**.
- This day of celebration will start at 11:00 am with a Thanksgiving Liturgy and Concert. All parents are invited to stay and have a picnic lunch with their child/ren after the concert.
- Children are asked to wear Christmas clothes on the day.

A Mass for Mr Mills will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Staff, students and official guests will be attending the Mass.

## Enrolment for 2024

We have a limited number of vacancies in our Infant grades and in our Primary grades for 2024. If you know of any family wishing to enrol at St Margaret Mary's school, please contact the school office for an enrolment form.

## Change of Details

If you have moved house or changed your contact details, please contact the school office as soon as possible to update your details.

## Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term Four 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.

## COVID-19

We wish to advise our families that COVID is still within the community. If your child is feeling sick or has flu-like symptoms, please follow the NSW health advice. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

## Semester Reports

Semester 2 Reports are currently being finalised.

These reports will be sent home in Week 9 via Compass. This report is

designed to provide information about your child's learning and their goals for future success. This report will provide parents with information on how your child is progressing spiritually, academically and socially. It is extremely important to celebrate your child's achievements in all areas as well as acknowledge and begin to work on their next steps within their learning.

As noted earlier this term, our semester reports will be sent to parents via the Compass parent portal. Parents will be able to access their child's report online via their phone, iPad or computer. All parents are strongly encouraged to download their child's report and retain this file on their device for future reference.

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. **Please see the instructions on the last page of this newsletter.**

## Website Gallery

Parents and students wishing to view more of the photos from activities and incursions happening at our school, can be seen on our school website by following the following steps. [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

- Community
- Gallery
- Activity eg Father Jemery Visit to Infants

Student Reports



# Faith Community

## Father Jeremy Visited Stage 2



Father Jeremy came to the Year Four learning space to talk to the Years Three and Four students about Advent and touched on the book of Exodus. We learned about the Advent wreath in detail, like the orange flower is a symbol of what the Roman soldiers used to wear on their heads. Father Jeremy explained the meaning and symbolism of the candles on the Advent Wreath- Joy is pink, Love, Peace and Hope is purple and the Jesus candle is always white.



Father Jeremy was kind and took the time to explain Advent to us in an understandable way- he didn't make it complicated for us. We can't wait for him to visit us again!

From Matthew B and Rafqa B

## Father Jeremy Visited Infants

Last Friday, the students from Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two gathered together in the Year Five learning space for a special visit from Father Jeremy. During his visit, Father Jeremy taught us about the significance of Advent and the importance of preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ. Father Jeremy gave the students an opportunity to ask questions and they were so excited to find out more about his personal life and why he chose the vocation of becoming a priest.



Father Jeremy taught us about the Advent wreath candles. - Sofia R (Kindy)

Father Jeremy told us about why he became a priest and I really enjoyed his visit. - Nadeen K (Year One)

I liked how we could ask Father Jeremy questions to find out more about him. - Evellyn K (Year Two)



## Father Wojcich Visiting Stage 3

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Father Wojciech visited the Year Five learning space to teach the Year Five and Six students about Advent. Mr. Mills came to join the students. We all asked questions such as if he had any siblings, where he came from, and what made him become a priest. Interestingly, the question about playing soccer came up twice. We all learned many things and would like to thank Father for taking the time to come and teach us.



By: Iris S.W and Ayen T



## Teaching & Learning

### Year Five Kaleidoscope Science Incursion

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November the Year 5 students will be involved in a Science Incursion provided by Kaleidoscope Science Pty Ltd. This incursion will link to our term 4 unit of work called 'Light it up'. Students will have the opportunity to watch several demonstrations focused on light and sound.

### Library News

Return of library books by Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

As we approach the end of the year, we kindly request that all library books be returned by Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Mrs Balogh-Caristo

### Kindergarten 2024 Parent Session

Last Wednesday morning, the 2024 Kindergarten Parents learnt all about why Maths is Fun! It was a great opportunity for our parents to connect with each other and learn about strategies they can use at home to prepare their children to start Kindergarten in 2024.



# Teaching & Learning

## Kindergarten 2024 Orientation

We are thrilled to report the overwhelming success of our three kindergarten orientation sessions! The energy and excitement that filled the Kindergarten learning space during these events was truly heartwarming. The children gleefully explored their new



learning environment, forged new friendships and embraced the joy of discovery. As we reflect on these orientation sessions, we believe that the foundation has been laid for a successful and enriching educational journey for

our newest students. We look forward to welcoming our new students officially and continuing to foster a love for learning in 2024. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these invaluable sessions!



## Year Six Haiku Poems

These poems are from Year Six Students

### Snake Plant

Looks like an emerald,  
Grows in the depths of roots.  
Shines like a beacon.

By: Thanasi G

### Seaweed Haiku Poem

Dark green arms waving  
Submerged deep in the water  
Synchronised swaying

By: Jacob N

### Mountains

Majestic peaks rise,  
Kissing clouds and touching skies,  
Nature's grand surprise.

By: Mikhaelo S

### Autumn

Nightfall in Autumn  
The leaves falling gracefully.  
The beauty of it

By: Bridget L

### Waterfalls

Shining like diamonds  
Glistening in the bright sun  
Plunging into sea

By: Jayda S

### Frogs

Slimy and stealthy  
Ponds of goop and lily pads  
Hop on rocks and leaves.

By: Lucas F

## Mysterious Mountains

Towering cliffs, dark  
Carved sculptures frozen in time  
To last forever  
By: Charlie B

## Atlantis

A mystic realm drowned,  
Atlantis whispers allure,  
Seas hidden city.  
By: Lucas V

# Personal Growth

## Principals Morning Tea

The last Principal's Morning Tea for 2023 will be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. 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.

## Monday Morning Assembly

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, Mrs. Borg lead our morning assembly. She spoke about last Sunday's Gospel reading, focusing on talents and the uniqueness of each individual's abilities. Mrs Borg emphasised that people excel in diverse areas and may have more talents than others.

During her address, Mrs. Borg also shared the success of the epic disco held last Friday. She highlighted the enjoyable atmosphere and the vibrant energy that characterised the event. Additionally, she noted that the



infants' disco was also highly successful, ensuring that everyone was safe and had a great time on the jumping castles.

By Prince B. and Roy K.



## Invitational Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Invitational Swimming Carnival. It was a fun morning with some very fast, competitive swimming. The students who have qualified for the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival will be notified at the beginning of Term One, 2024.





## Personal Growth

### Year Five Teen Ranch

On Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November in week 6, Year Five embarked on an excursion to Teen Ranch in Cobbitty, which was a journey of 1 hour and 15 minutes from St. Margaret Mary's. We were assigned various tasks, including rock climbing, wet games, and archery tag, all of which were brimming with excitement. Each class followed a unique order for the activities, ensuring that everyone had a fantastic time. Teen Ranch generously provided us with recess, lunch, and afternoon tea.



In the Archery tag segment, we engaged in different games such as shooting targets, a medic-involved game, and a soccer match where we aimed to shoot the ball with arrows.

Following the archery tag,

we dove into wet games. Among these, "drip drip drop" stood out, resembling duck duck goose but with a refreshing water element. Another wet game involved relay races, where we sprinted around our team, located a ping pong ball in a bucket, and raced back.

During the wet games, the excitement continued as 5 Blue and 5Red participants enjoyed a thrilling ride on the 50-metre water slide, lubricated with water and soap to enhance the sliding experience. Lunch was a welcome break, followed by a 15-minute playtime. Subsequently, we engaged in our last activity, rock climbing, featuring two sets of walls. The first wall presented an additional challenge with logs, while the second was a conventional rock climbing wall.



After a day filled with adventure and camaraderie, we returned to school, cherishing the memories of a memorable excursion.

By Joshua N and Ryan C



### Year 6 Basketball Gala Day

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 9 boys and 8 girls went to Penrith to compete against many other schools in the Stage 3 Basketball Gala Day. We played 7 games each and it was a lot of fun. The 9 boys and 8 girls who participated did very well and the boys even tied first, winning 6 out of the 7 games they played. The girls also played their best, scoring many points throughout each game.

By: Ruby S & Christian N



## Partnership

### P&F News

#### Second Hand Uniforms Sale

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 9:00am - 9:30am. This will be the last day the Secondhand Uniform Shop will be opened for 2023. All Items \$5 each (Cash Only)

### Disco

We would like to thank all the parents and staff who helped out at the school disco last Friday night. Your help was greatly appreciated by the students. All the students had a wonderful time.





# Partnership

## P&F Disco

Last Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, infants and primary students had a disco—one of the activities involved in this wonderful day. The introduction of jumping castles, available for the first time in years, added an extra layer of joy to the festivities, making this day truly special. The staff and P&F members worked very hard to prepare a sausage sizzle for all students to enjoy.



In the hall, the main disco party started. Families and students were able to purchase snacks and foam glow sticks at the mini stall hosted by the P&F. Notably, the infants' disco was a resounding

success. The little ones had lots of fun on the jumping castle, and it's important to mention that every student stayed safe during this enjoyable activity.

We would like to express our thanks to the staff, Mr Mills, Mrs Borg, and the P&F for their dedicated efforts in preparing this amazing evening! By: Prince.B & Roy.K



## 2024 CSPD Parramatta Primary Sport Rep Team Trials Information for Parents

The sports of **BASKETBALL & TENNIS** are now **CLOSED** and the sports of **AFL, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball & Touch Football** **ARE NOW OPEN**.

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 One & Two in 2024. **Students in Year 4 in 2024 MAY nominate for the sports of Hockey, Softball & Touch Football only.**

*Students should have prior experience competing regularly outside of school in most sports. Students **MUST** demonstrate an **ABOVE AVERAGE** ability, **HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT**, or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport.*

The Session 2 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.

[Session 2 - 2024 Representative Sport Trials Parent Information sheet](#)

Parents are to REGISTER using the link below which will be available on:

- Facebook - Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese
- CSPD Primary Sport website:

[2024 CDP Primary Sport TEAM Expression of Interest Nomination](#)

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

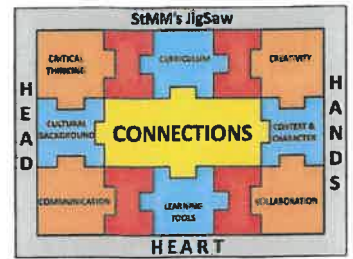
To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in some sports and others through CSNSW Sport at the MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2024.

Any further information, please contact Mrs Foley or email [stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)



# JigSaw Corner

StMM's JigSaw Pedagogy



## How have Year 2 used JigSaw in their learning this week?



### Motiv8 Team Activities

We used Communication and Critical Thinking to talk with our team about tactics so we could win the game! We used Collaboration by making sure we took turns being the leader and no one was left out. The day was full of Connections and fun!

By Skye, Leila and Charbel

### Music Lesson

In our music lesson, we used all different musical instruments as a Learning Tool. We used triangles, clapping sticks and tambourines and we had to collaborate when we worked as a group to share the instruments. Year 2 also used Critical Thinking in many ways. We had to tap the beat of a song while singing it in a Torres Strait Islander language. By Alessia and Jacob



### Religion Lesson

In Religion, we have been reading and learning about the Parable of the Sower and we are using Creativity to design an artwork to reflect the passage. We also need to be Critical Thinkers so that we can find the main message of the passage and include it in our design.

By Emilia, Olivia and Jessie

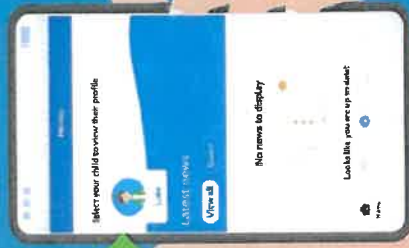




# Find my child's semester report



1 Select your child's profile picture



3

Click to view your child's semester report



2 Tap or swipe to reports

4 Select the icon to generate the report



5

Option to view, print or save to file

