



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 23

Bulletin

Wednesday, 7th August 2019

Diary Dates

Thursday, 8th August

- St Mary of the Cross Prayer Service 11:30 - 12:30

Friday, 9th August

Staff Professional Learning Day. This is a Student Free Day

Monday, 12th August

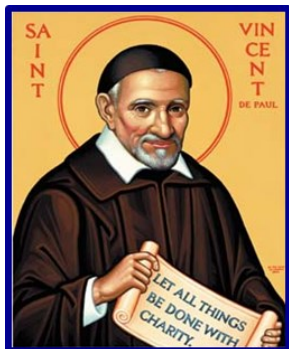
- Whole School Assembly and Prayer

Tuesday, 13th August

- Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm
- Selected Students attending the Education Mass at Parramatta Cathedral 10:00am - 12:30pm.

Wednesday, 14th August

Principal's Message



Why do We have the Mini Vinnies @ at StMMs

Dear Parents, Guardians, Boys and Girls,

Housing is a human right, but on any given night in Australia more than 116,000 people are homeless. Homelessness doesn't discriminate – the homeless population comprises people of all ages and backgrounds. For some, homelessness is a one-off occurrence. For others, it is a prolonged experience that may be interspersed with periods of being housed. The experience of homelessness in Australia can also vary greatly – from sleeping on the streets or moving between temporary situations, to living in a crowded or unsafe dwelling that effects a person's ability to participate in family and community life.

There is simply not enough affordable housing to meet demand, and the situation has been getting steadily worse. Growing numbers of people are living without secure accommodation or are experiencing housing stress (paying more than 30 per cent of household income on their housing)... Australia has no national plan to tackle the housing affordability and homelessness crisis. Deep and sustained reform is urgently needed on a number of fronts.

Refugees and Migrants

Many countries in the world do not enjoy the peace and democracy of Australia. This can often lead to terrible conflict and warfare, and persecution of minority groups in much of the world.... This forces many millions of people around the world to migrate out of their home countries. A small number of these people use their human right under the Refugee Convention to come to Australia and seek asylum here. We are fortunate enough to be a wealthy country, with the ability to welcome many of the people who seek safety here, and in turn we benefit enormously from their skills, perspectives and experiences.

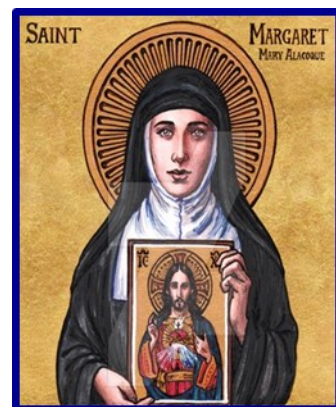
The St Vincent de Paul Society has a long history of helping migrants and refugees. They do this both by providing services to asylum seekers and refugees in Australia, and by advocating to government on their behalf. Their services include providing financial and information support to migrants and refugees, for example through home visitation, food and financial help, visits to detention centres, and homework centres. Their main areas of concern are the negative outcomes of detention centres, which they absolutely oppose, and inadequate financial support for refugees and asylum seekers living in the community. For more information read St Vincent de Paul's Refugee Policy and their latest media releases. You may also wish to read the life stories of asylum seekers and refugees who have been assisted by Vinnies.

(Taken from the St Vincent de Paul Website)

This event really sets a foundation for us to have conversations about the importance of ACTION rather than just words. Our words show intent...our ACTIONS make the difference. Jesus moved from his words to ACTION....he made a difference. We are seeking to instil this characteristic in the children at StMM's.

God Bless and thank you for your generosity

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal



Change of Details

If you have moved house or changed your contact details, please notify the school office as soon as possible to update your details in case of an emergency.

Skoolbag App

All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our School Name for Skoolbag App is SMMPM.



Administration

Staff Professional Learning Day Friday, 9th August

This is a Student Free Day

School Uniforms

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly. It is expected that children have suitable hairstyles appropriate for their age and school expectations. Long hair must be tied back. Our Sun Safe program—No Hat No Play requires students to wear our school cap or school hat when outside. These hats and caps are available to purchase at the school office. Sleeper earrings and stud earrings may be worn. Please be aware that these can be dangerous during sports time. Simple signet rings may also be worn. No expensive jewellery is to be worn at school.

Principal Awards

Mr Mills was very disappointed with the low number of students receiving a Principals Awards last term. Students are asked to try hard to receive an award in each of the Four Pillars. Once students have obtained 4 awards they are then eligible for a Principals Award and to attend Morning Tea with Mr Mills.

Our Four Pillars of Learning

Students are reminded of the Four Pillars of Learning and how they are directly linked to our Award system. Mr Mills will hold a Principal's Morning Tea with students who have received an award for each Pillar and thus a Principal's Award. These morning tea's are held once a term.

Faith Community

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe our Faith Community encourages us to live our Catholic Faith. We practise our faith by participating in Liturgies, prayer and lessons. We want to follow our School Moto "Love the Truth" by listening, sharing and acting on the word of God.

Teaching & Learning

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Teaching and Learning is working to the best of our ability in all Key Learning Areas. We work with other students, teachers and staff to ensure quality work and our best efforts. We want to work together, listening, sharing and helping others at all times.

Partnership

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe that Partnership is communicating, interacting and co-operating with others. Partnership is having a connection with others to have a go, it is agreeing on an idea and completing it together.

Personal Growth

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Personal Growth allows us to set our individual goals and strive to achieve them. We use our gifts and talents when working towards our goals in the areas of learning and attitude. We want to show respect and be more like Jesus.

School Hours

Parents are reminded that lessons begin at 8:40am and finish at 3:00pm. Children should be at school by 8:30am. There is no supervision in the mornings before the 8:15am bell. From 8:15am until 8:30am bell it is a walk and talk time only. Students are reminded that there is to be NO running or ball games in the playground in the mornings. Parents are also reminded that they need to collect their child/ren from school at 3:00pm. If you are running late please contact the school office. The school office is open from 8:15am to 3:15pm every day.

Faith Community

Mini Vinnies Sleepout

Children arrived with excited faces to start the night. The girls and boys said their goodbyes to their parents while Mrs Attard was making sure that everyone who signed up for the sleepout was there. After all the parents left, Mr Mills wanted to begin the sleepout by playing a game of soccer under the new COLA. Then, Mrs Attard organised a special prayer service for the children before eating dinner, which was noodles, water and a bread roll. Zoe from St Vincent De Paul came and spoke about how Vinnies volunteers help the less fortunate. Soon after the talk, we split into three groups and began doing three activities. Everyone got a turn to do the three activities and enjoyed it. When we finished all the



activities we played another game of soccer against the teachers and ate supper. When everyone calmed down it was time to have a rest and watch a movie. The boys slept in the school study and the girls slept in the Year Four classroom. At 6:00am, Mr Mills woke us up by ringing the bell and we had to pack up our things. For breakfast we ate egg and bacon rolls with our choice of drink. The children went home one by one and



definitely needed a nap that day! Mini Vinnies would like to say a big thank you to all the teachers that came and gave up their Friday night for us, we really appreciate it and learnt lots from this experience.

By Cheska Mendoza and Isaac Zoumpoulis



Pyjama Day

Waking up in pyjamas on a Friday morning and going to school in them was a blast! On the 2nd of August, we were all happy to wear onesies, dressing gowns, slippers and pyjamas! To get the day started we had a Family Liturgy and it was magnificent!



It was great to see many parents there to celebrate with us. We had lovely reflections from some Year 6's about their families and a liturgical movement that was beautiful! After that, infants had their lunch while primary went inside their classrooms and showed their parents around. During lunch,

the Mini Vinnies canteen sold Zooper Doopers, lollies and chips and all the money went to charity! After infants lunch, primary had a delicious lunch! We got to have sausages and they were tasty! All the money raised is going to Catholic Care and the money raised from the Winter sleepout will be going to the St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal! A huge thanks to the teachers that helped with the sausage sizzle, Mrs Prendergast for setting up the beautiful liturgy and Mrs Attard for setting up the Winter Sleepout! It was a big success!

By Angellica Langi and Jayden Othman



Teaching & Learning

Year 6 Poems

Last Week Year Six explored “What is a Refugee?” Six Yellow have written some poems about refugees. Below are some examples of the poems 6 Yellow have written.

Refugee Poem

Home was my refuge, the war took it away from me
I have fled this country.....so now they call me ‘refugee.’
I find myself on a weird-looking boat, and that’s when I hear the thunder;
Raindrops plop right down on me, so I crawl to the deck right under.
My eyes follow to a dirt-stained window, and I gaze into the sea,
The sea creatures swim away from home, just like a refugee.

I am woken up still on the boat and I realise we have arrived.
I wake up within an instant....but I miss my home, so I cry.
Wiping the teardrops off my face, I step onto new land.
I don’t think I should cry; this is a new opportunity at hand!
I am able to have a better life, even if it is not my home.
But now I realise, I can have manyAustralia is my *new* abode
By Effie

Refugee Poem

The sound of exploding bombs rings in my ears.
I run through the ruins trembling.
The sky grows darker and so does my soul.
Blazing fires rage all around me
I have to escape.

I dash back to the ruins of my house
Tears running down my face in head inside
I grasp a ripped up bag and shove all or my things in it
As I grab each item a memory enters my brain
My head lowered I dash from my broken home

I sprint towards the dock and see my family
Though they are all sad just like me
The boat creaked looking like it will break and second
The waves splash like earthquakes
I am a refugee
By Jackson

A Refugees Poem—Freedom

I am trapped in this war torn country,
I want to leave but there’s no one help,
I scream but get bashed,
It’s no use, I AM TRAPPED!!!

I turn left and right, I see only one thing,
WAR and big machine guns shooting,
I try to block it out but there is no use,
The only thing that happens is it gets louder and louder,
I AM TRAPPED!!!

I try to scream again but there is no use,
Everyone has fled but I am not able to, There is one reason I am a
GIRL, I AM TRAPPED!!!
By Nikki Oates

Refugee Poem

Running from dropping bombs feeling scared and frightened.
Escaping my country due to the terrifying war.
Falling on my knees feeling pain and weak because I’ve been beaten.
Under my small blanket hiding from the scary soldiers.
Giving up my time to work for hours and protecting my family.
Education is not enough I can’t read or write.
Exiting war and entering a beautiful new safe country.
Starving of has nothing to eat.
By Abuk

Refugee

Is the start of the day and I ran away
My life went wrong soon I’ll be gone
The boat is old but it’s getting cold
Having nothing but a soul leaving me as a whole
My life is the worst this stone to get cursed
I’m a refugee so don’t leave me be
I’m trapped I’m tired I’m lonely I’m cold
Can someone help me cos I don’t have a home?
By Jessica

Home
Sweat dripping off my skin,
I’m In a ship.
I’ve packed my trunk,
I’m on my way to a new life that has just began,
My old like is done the **horror** and sadness,
The screaming and shouting it’s all gone away,
The new life is good but I miss my hometown,
My brother and sisters,
It’s time to go on,
No going back,
I wish I could just see them one more before the war.

It’s all over.
By Cecelia Pickering

Year 3 Excursion

Five, four, three, two, ONE! Bing Bing! The long, grey bus was here. It was Friday July 26th and the clouds were out. Year 3 were going to Featherdale Wildlife Park with six amazing teachers: Miss Swan-

son, Mrs Golack, Mr Tenido, Mrs Rizk, Mrs Burton and Ms Verness.
By Eva S



We had heaps of fun! We learnt that koalas sleep for 21 hours. We also learnt that crocodiles can stay underwater for 2 hours. *By Leah M*

My favourite animal was the fairy penguin. I learnt that they are the smallest penguins in the world. My favourite part was when we got to feed and pat the grey kangaroo.
By Michaela S



We had a great day. One thing I learnt was that a tawny frogmouth has a yellow mouth that attracts flies because they think its a light. Then he just eats them!
By Nickolas K



Personal Growth

100 Days of Kindy

On 3rd July, 2019, Kindy celebrated their 100 days of school! The children participated in a range of fun activities that involved the number 100.



They wrote about what they could and couldn't do if they were 100 years old. They made fruit loop necklaces using 100 fruit loops and participated in 100 second challenges outdoors. The children had a fun filled day and enjoyed dressing up like 100 year olds.



Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day

I shoot, it curves past the keeper, goal! On Tuesday, 30th July, some students from Year 3 and 4 went to Jamison Park in Penrith to compete at the Soccer Gala Day! We versed other schools and had some tough competition. We had lots of fun, scored



lots of goals and improved our skills. This day was all about teamwork, sportsmanship and most of all fun! We thank our coaches Miss Laguzza, Mrs Del Monte and Mrs Rizk and all the parents who came out and supported our teams on the day.



Book Week Celebrations

The theme for Book Week this year is: **Reading is My Secret Power.**



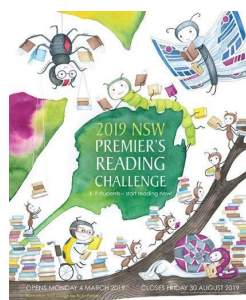
At St Margaret Mary's we will be celebrating Book Week on Thursday, 15th August, in Week 4. On this day students are to wear full school uniform (sports uniform, if it is your child's sports day). After the Assumption of Our Lady Mass, students are encouraged to wear a mask or badge depicting their own 'Secret Power'. As part of our Book Week celebrations Cumberland Librarians will also be visiting our school and entertaining the students with a variety of shortlisted books from The Children's Book of the Year Awards.



Thursday, 15th August (Week 4)

- 9:00am The Assumption of Our Lady Mass.
- 10:00am Students return to classes. (Normal split Primary/ Infants timetable)
- 10:10am Students can wear their 'Secret Power' mask/badge
- 11:20am - 12:20pm Years 3 & 4 - Cumberland Librarians. (Hall)
- 12:20pm - 1:20pm Years 5 & 6 - Cumberland Librarians. (Hall)
- 1:45pm - 2:45pm Years K, 1 & 2 - Cumberland Librarians. (Hall)

We are encouraging everyone to have fun celebrating reading. Perhaps share your Secret Reading Power by reading with your family.



Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

PRC Closes: Friday, 30th August

There is still time to complete the challenge!



BIRTHDAYS



Julian El Khoury	Joshua Farhart	Nicole Bahi
Steven Harrison	Jacinta Pickering	Joe Azzi
Gabriel Sahyoun	Daniel Saliba	Adut Hawach
George Notaras	Isabella Tawill	Zahra Moussa
Nicholas Bani Ayoub	Joey Molluso	Solomon Williams
Celine Oncu		

Congratulations to all those children who celebrated their birthday around this time.