



## Diary Dates

### Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August

- Yr 6 attending Voice of Youth Cluster Final.
- Students may dress-up in maths inspired clothes.
- Maths Parent workshop in the hall 9am - 10am.

### Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August

- Diocesan Athletics Carnival at Blacktown.

### Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> August

- Whole School Assembly and Prayer

### Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> August

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### Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August

- Stage 3 Netball Gala Day at Penrith.
- Year 5 Debating Team at Delany College.

### Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August

- P&F Father's Day Wrapping 9am - 2pm.
- Yr 5 Attending St Pauls Creative Arts Matinee.

### Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August

- 7am Father's Day Breakfast followed by a Father's Day Liturgy.
- P&F Father's Day Stall 9am - 2pm in the hall.
- Principal's Award Morning Tea.

## 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**.

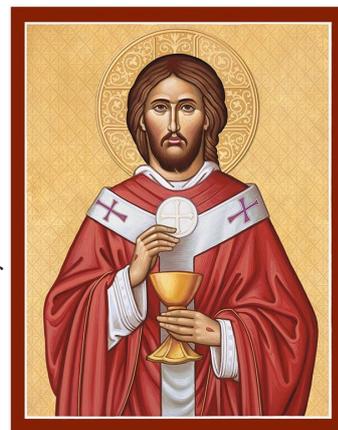


## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, Boys and Girls,

### First Holy Communion is, without question, a time of GREAT JOY!!!

Over the past two weeks a large number of children from StMM's School community will celebrate their First Eucharist in the presence of the parishioners of Merrylands. It is always important to remember our School is a big part of our parish and plays a key role in providing a future for the Catholic community at Merrylands. We know that the Holy Eucharist is the foundation of our faith and unites us in a special way with Jesus Christ.



Pope Francis has called it the "**Sacrament of Love**": "**The Eucharist is at the heart of 'Christian initiation', together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church's life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness.**"

For our children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion, this is a time of great joy, and for all of us, no matter how many times we have received Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, it should always be an occasion when we reflect on our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The sacrament of Holy Communion brings to completion the Christian process of initiation. In this sacrament, our children remember what Jesus did for them in his life, death and resurrection. They remember particularly the Last Supper, the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples. At that meal, Jesus gave us the Eucharist so our children can remember him in a special way. When they receive Communion, they believe that they receive the person of Jesus into their very beings. The children become one with him, and they become one with each other. As a community, we become 'the body of Christ'. We cannot celebrate the Eucharist alone, we all need to be in community, it is a great sign of unity for all who witness this special occasion.

St. Mother Teresa also used the following words: "**Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist...**"

On behalf of St Margaret Mary's School Community, I wish much joy and special blessings for all our children celebrating their First Eucharist. As a united catholic community at Merrylands we acknowledge the support of their parents and fellow students on this joyous occasion.

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

## Wonderful Support

Over the past three weeks and upcoming two weeks, we have received outstanding support from children, parents, grandparents and family members for our school events. We do realise the importance of children seeing their family involved with the school and acknowledge our **WONDERFUL** parents for their ongoing commitment. Thank you.

# Administration

## Term Three School Fees

Term 3 fees are due by 28th August, unless you have opted for an arrangement with the school for the year. Families who have not yet received their statements please contact the school office as soon as possible.

If you have any queries regarding your statements please contact the office.

**Please note, one terms notice (10 school weeks) in writing, must be given to the principal/school before the removal of a student or a full terms fee will be payable.**

## Mrs Anne Prendergast

Mrs Prendergast indicated to me at the beginning of the year that she would be retiring after completing her long service leave. She will be on leave from the beginning of Term 4. A number of parents have already spoken to Anne about her decision and wished her all the best. Mrs Prendergast has taught for 40 years and held positions of leadership in a number of schools over the past 25 years. She has contributed to the education of thousands of students in her care at a school level and has been a part of the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. It would be appropriate on this decision for our community to plan and celebrate this significant event later in the term.

## Afternoon Dismissal

Every afternoon at 3pm we dismiss over 500 students from our school. The 3 main exits are: The Church Gate, The Office Gate and The Driveway Gate. These will be unlocked every afternoon for parents and students to leave the school. In the afternoon we have had to lock the Yr 2 Gate as a number of students are exiting unsupervised. We will be monitoring the Yr 2 Gate in the morning as we have had a number of complaints with regard to the safety of students entering the school each day.

## Car Pickup Service

Mr Mills spoke to a parent regarding the behaviour of their child at car pick up. This service is an option to support the safety of our students and convenience of our parents. Please ask and ensure your children understand what their responsibility is every afternoon.



- Move quickly to the Car pick-up Area
- Sit with members of your family
- Take a book to read & listen for your number
- Move quickly when your number is called
- Follow the staff instructions at the cones
- Move quickly into the car and put your seatbelt on
- Thank the staff member who is helping you

Children who are not able to do this may be asked to move to the Parent Pickup group.

# Faith Community

## Assumption Mass

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption by attending Church as a community. We celebrated Mary going to God, body and soul. Father Janusz spoke to us about why this celebration is a very big event in our Catholic community. It was a big, beautiful mass where everyone gathered and we enjoyed singing and celebrating with the whole school. It was truly a lovely morning.

By Joseph Doueishi and Rhos Shi Wang Media Team



## Mission Mass

On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, Nevah Shrestha, Isabella Youssef, Tamara Elias, Keisha Manalansan, Anthony Baaini and Angelique Baaini from Mini Vinnies went to St Patricks Cathedral in Parramatta to participate in the Mission Mass.



During the Mass, Isabella and Nevah brought the offertory to the Bishop. After the Mass, we set up our table to show what we do in Mini Vinnies. The students from the other schools were impressed with all the work we have

done this year. Thank you to Mrs Attard and Mrs Prendergast for taking us on the day. Thank you Mr Mills for also attending. It was a great experience and we learnt what it means to continue the work of Jesus.

By Tamara Elias, Anthony Baaini, Nevah Shrestha Isabella Youssef, Angelique Baaini and Keisha Manalansan



## Monday Morning Assembly

On Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> August, we started off Maths Week with a maths challenge under the new COLA and an assembly in the morning. Firstly, on Sunday the 18th of August, some Year 3 students celebrated their First Holy Communion. Several other students will be making their First Holy Communion this Sunday.



Secondly, as we mentioned before, this week is Maths Week! Students will be participating in a range of activities throughout the week and on Wednesday night there will be a Trivia Night, an Art Auction and a Parent vs Student battle. We hope to see lots of families there! We are able to wear maths inspired clothes on Thursday and some students gave us costume ideas during assembly. Finally, Mrs Balogh-Caristo gave 3 people from each grade a prize because they won the Book Week competition.

By Talia Moses Media Team



## Father's Day Prayer and Blessing

Fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and uncles are invited to attend the Father's Day Liturgy to be held on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> August at 8:45am.



# Teaching & Learning

## Year 5 Delany Day

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, Year 5 went to Delany College to learn about high school. Every class received a tour of the school and did 3 different activities with recess and



lunch in between every few sessions. We started off with History where we learnt about the Terracotta Warriors and did a craft activity related to it. After we finished History, we went to the I.T man to learn about digital footprints and did

2 activities that were tongue twisters and reading colours. For the final activity of the day we did problem solving where we built a machine in groups of 4 or 5 that would be able to fling a ping pong ball 50cm. It was great fun!

By: David Layous Media Team



# Teaching & Learning

## Year 5 History

### 'Your Story is Our Story'

If you were moving to a new country to live and you were only allowed to take one suitcase with you, what would you take? What would you leave behind?

Since 1788, millions of people have travelled across the oceans to Australia seeking fortune, opportunity and freedom. Along their journey, people carried with them feelings of sadness, excitement, fear and hope.

In our History lessons this term, Year 5 have been learning about the reasons people have migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia. We have been reflecting on the experiences and contributions of different cultural groups to Australia's development. Students created a suitcase with items they would take with them if they were moving to a new country. Students selected items that are special to them, reflects their family heritage and tells their story.

Here are some photos of the Year 5 students with their suitcases and a little explanation about their chosen items and why they are special.

Charbel El Ghoussein: The important items I included in my box were a picture of my family, my birth certificate, a photo of me getting baptised and a photo of my grandfather that has passed away. These items are special to me because they involve my family. A photo of my grandfather that has passed away is special to me because he meant so much to me in my life and we used to visit him often. A photo of me getting baptised is special because it shows that I care about my Godmother and Godfather. My family photo reminds me of every Sunday when we go out together for dinner and how we enjoy our time together. My birth certificate is a memory of when I was in the hospital with my Mum when I was born.



Angellica Langi: The box I made is very special to me! It represents the love I have for my family and the support they give me! The items I have chosen will always make me remember my family, memories, school, sports and much more! The photos I have are memories of me when I was little and makes me feel happy to always look at it. I had a medal to remind me of when I played sports and a mini stapler to remind of school and all my friends! I also had a hat to remind me of going to Niue, a small island near Tonga! These items I have chosen are very important to me and will always make me happy!



Isabella Tilbrook: All of the things that I put into my box reminds me of when I was little and my family history. I chose to put lots of photos because they remind me of my family and I put in some war medals and my family tree because that reminds me of all the great things my family has done for the country. If I had to go to a different country I would take these things to remind me of my home. I put things that will remind me of when I was a baby because the photos make me really happy. These are all the things I would take to a different country to remind me of my own.



### Immigration Story

I was born in Syria on the 23rd September, 2008. Syria was a beautiful country before the war started. It started when I was 2 years old. I used to stay home a lot because it was very dangerous outside, so I used to draw a lot at home. I always wanted to go outside to play in the park but we couldn't go out much. It was hard to go to school sometimes because of the bombing and a lot of kids and many people died because of war. I was very scared and angry. They used to bomb our school where many of my friends passed away and a lot of my teachers died too. Therefore, under very hard conditions, I had to leave my country where I belonged, leaving all my cousins, uncles and aunties. Leaving all my toys and all my friends. I came to Australia in 2017 when I was in Year 3. I didn't know English very well when I came here, but at school I found Liam who was a good friend, he taught me English and he helped me to learn now I am in year 5 growing and learning in Australia.

Thank you *By Adryan AlYoussef 5R*

### Immigration Story

Born: Syria, Alepo

Why I came to Australia: I came to Australia because of the harmful and dangerous War.

Age when I left my country: 4 years

The reason I left my country is because of the war that harmed my country and made some people die. I travelled by a car to Lebanon. I lived there for about 7 months then I knew that I was going to come to Australia, my family and I were pretty excited but also felt sad that we would leave our cousins and our friends. When I arrived in Australia, I kind of felt safe and happy because there was fresh air and we didn't see anything bad happening.

The End! *By Nicole Bahi 5B*

## Kindergarten goes to the Farm!

On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August, a very excited group of Kindergarten children went to Calmsley Hill City Farm.

At the farm, we were greeted by lovely farmers who showed us around and taught us a lot about the animals. We saw lots of different animals. There were camels, wombats, birds, turkeys, pigs, chickens, a koala, goats and a snake. We saw cows and calves and we all took turns to milk the cow! It wasn't hard at all!



Next, we went on a fun and bumpy tractor ride and had so much fun going up and down the hill. Then, we all got to pat the fluffy duckling and the soft rabbit. We also watched some farm shows. We watched the farm dogs rounding up the sheep and watched the whip show. Some children and teachers went up to have a go at cracking the whip.

It was a super fun day at the farm!

*"My favourite part of the day was when we milked the cow" - Charlize*

*"My favourite part of the day was the tractor ride" - Jaxson*

*"I liked petting the fluffy duckling" - Georgina*



# Personal Growth

## Book Week - Mask Day



Last week we celebrated Book Week and on Thursday everyone in the school was waiting for the 10:00am mark so they could finally wear their masks. At Infants recess, some children were wearing their masks and others children waited till after recess to wear their masks. Some of the infants children's masks were bigger than their heads! Everyone made a huge effort, a big thank you to Miss Balogh-Caristo for organising Book Week and making the library look so fantastic.



## Cumberland Council Librarians Visit

What does MCCL stand for? If you were guessing Merrylands Cumberland Council Librarians you are correct! On Mask Day during Book Week three lovely ladies from MCCL paid a visit to St Margaret Mary's and acted out some of the Shortlisted Books for 2019. They got Primary students to participate in a ten second drawing challenge, it was so much fun and they also got to keep the drawings as well. For Infants, they played a memory game where you had to remember where the insect was and everyone had so much fun. Thank



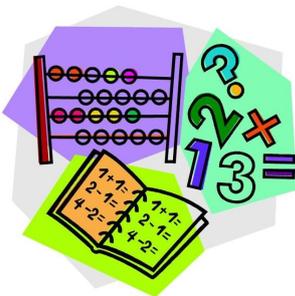
you to the ladies from the Cumberland Council Library in Merrylands, they did a fantastic job and we loved having them here. In your spare time make sure to visit the library and keep on reading.

By: Yasmine Abraham Media Team

## Book Week

Congratulations to the following Book Week Competition winners, who each received a merit certificate and a book of their choice.

Kindergarten	Bella Yim	Year 1	Dominc Chahoud
	Georgina Hickman		Iris Shi Wang
	Gisele Mandavy		Nicola Georges
Year 2	Ameerah Hara	Year 3	Adriana Mekkessi
	Helaina Gadd		Chanel Hak
	Lucas Fisher		Isabella Roach
Year 4	April Zhang	Year 5	Isabella Tilbrook
	Lisa Shrestha		Joanne Farah
	Ryan Bui		Rhos Shi Wang
Year 6	Claudia Ghosn		
	Lydia Neculman		
	Mya Silva		



# Partnership

## P&F News

### FATHERS DAY

On Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, we will be wrapping the gifts for the Father's Day Stall, which will be held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August.

We will require help on both of these days.

If you can spare any time on either or both days, from 9am—1pm and have completed both sections of the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities (<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>), your help will be much appreciated.

If you are unable to help but can send in a plate of food to cater for the helpers on either or both days, this would be greatly appreciated as well.

Please complete the slip below and return to the school office by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August

P&F Committee

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### Father's Day Wrapping and Stall Helpers

- I am able to help with the Father's Day Stall on Friday 30th August 2019.
- I have completed both sections of the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities.
- I am unable to help but I am able to provide morning tea e.g Hot food, Sandwiches, drinks, water
- Thursday  Friday

Parents/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Eldest Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Time available: \_\_\_\_\_

Food/Drink to be provided \_\_\_\_\_



## BIRTHDAYS



Zayne Oadd	Chanel Hak	Isaac Banks
Charlize Toubia	Helaina Gadd	Shi Ying Xue
Charbel Bougoide	Charlize Oddo	Christian Bounassif
Kristine Sarmiento	Sophia Clark	Joshua Khoury
Caitlin Habib	Joshua Clark	Anthony Trentadue
Grace El Rassi	Isabella Trilbrook	Charlie Tilbrook
Lucas Fisher	Nusang Rai	Anthony Baaini
Joshua Salama	Mabel Sullay	Ryan Lin
Mya Silva		

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