



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

7 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands 2160 Tel (02) 8633 8400 Fax (02) 8633 8499  
Email: stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au



Newsletter No 11

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

### Diary Date

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May**

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**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

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**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May**

- Pentecost

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June**

- Kindergarten 2021 Interviews Commence.

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

- Kindergarten 2021 Interviews continue

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

- Kindergarten 2021 Interviews continue

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

**Our school was a very different place without the children!**



COVID-19 has presented many challenges to StMM's Community over the past three months and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. I am very thankful and proud of all in our community for the way everyone has supported each other during this difficult time.

StMM's staff managed and adjusted their teaching, resourcing and the delivery of learning for their students, having all this completed by the end of term 1. A sign of a truly professional and creative team with the children's wellbeing at the forefront of their minds. The office staff were certainly the link between parents and staff and carried out this role of communication with great expertise, making sure all questions and issues were addressed. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my staff for all their hard work and efforts during this time.

I was also overwhelmed by the kindness of our parent community during this time. I realised very quickly that the StMM's Community works well together and is very generous in supporting the children and their educational journey. The school and staff were blessed with food, flowers, soap, sanitiser, beautiful emails, lovely letters and many gifts as signs of appreciation. These wonderful acts of thoughtfulness encouraged the staff during this time of disconnect.

While we have been transitioning our students over the past two weeks, it was great to see all the smiling Kinder, Yr 1 & Yr 2 faces walking back through the gates on Monday. At this point in time we have 94% of our students attending school each day. A credit to everyone working together.

My personal thanks to all StMM's Community and I look forward to supporting our children in their future learning journey.

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

### Skoolbag App -

Our **School Name** for Skoolbag App is **SMMPM**.

The Skoolbag App is our main source of communication to our families. If you do not have this App on your phone you are missing out on a lot of information.



**Welcome Back  
to our School  
Community**

### Enrolment

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2021 are now taking place. If your child was born between 1st August, 2015 and 31st July, 2016, please collect an enrolment form from the school office. Interviews will commence in June. Last year we had a waiting list with over 130 applications.



# Administration

## COVID – 19 StMM's Changes

Moving forward there will be a number of changes to admin areas, procedures and protocols to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all StMM's Community. Some of these are listed in this bulletin.

## Semester 1 Reports

In response to changes to the learning and teaching environment during COVID-19, schools have needed to adjust their assessment and reporting processes. While the StMM's report will look different, it will still provide you with valuable information about your child's learning, while complying with government requirements.

This 2020 first semester report recognises and reflects each student's learning in three key areas: English, Mathematics and Religious Education. The report will be issued during the last two weeks of this term. The 2020 second semester report will return to documenting progress in all key learning areas.

## School Uniforms

As COVID-19, has increased the washing of student's uniforms, the students have permission to wear the correct Winter, Summer or Sport Uniform until further notice. Please note students **MUST** wear their sport uniform on Sport days.

## Return School Property.

Thank you to all the families who have returned library books, home readers, chromebooks and Ipads. Unfortunately we have had many chromebooks and iPads returned without chargers. Could you please check at home and return any outstanding chargers and items to the school via your child's class teacher not the front office as soon as possible.

## Lunch Orders & Canteen

The school canteen is open to students during the day. All lunch orders **MUST** be ordered through the Flexischools online ordering and must be ordered by 9am.

## Drink Bottles

Due to the COVID-19 the school bubblers are closed and students need to bring their own water bottles. Students can refill their water bottles from the taps in their learning spaces.

## Students Unwell

As per the Government guidelines, children who are not 100% well, must stay at home. If your child/ren will not be attending school on any day, please advise the school via the Skoolbag App Absentee notification. This will then be forwarded to your child's class teacher.

## Entering and Exiting the School for Students

There are now two ways for student entering and exiting the school in the mornings and afternoons from now on.

### Morning Arrivals

1. Top Church Gate
2. Car Drop off

### Afternoon Dismissal

1. Top Church Gate
2. Car Pick-up

Please note the Year 2 Gates will not be open for general traffic as a matter of safety.

## Changing Practices for Afternoon Car Pick-Up

We have been informed by Police & the Parking Patrol Officers of the Holroyd Area that we only have control of StMM's school block on Henson Street.

This means the following:

- We will aim to start Car Pick-Up at 3.00pm (We will stagger this for the next 3 weeks)
- The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is the length of the school block in Henson Street
- Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage
- Parents/Carers are now able to join the Car Pick-Up queue via Davies Street & Henson St
- Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly taking into account all signs & road rules
- Cars that are lined up across from the school block in Henson Street will be booked. The police view this as double parking.

### Aspects to follow for Car Pick-Up

- **Stagger your arrival between 3.00pm and 3.30pm**
- Have your number visible for the teacher to call
- **Remain calm and patient at all times**
- Adults to remain in cars
- **Follow all road rules**

## "At Home Learning" Survey

Staff of St MM's are keen to receive parents/carers feedback on their child/children's learning while they were working online over the last three months. An "At Home Learning" survey has been shared on the Skoolbag App for you to complete.

The Primary survey was sent out last week and the Infants survey was sent out yesterday. Please take the time to share your reflections on your child's attitude, work and learning habits.

Thank you to the parents who have already completed the survey.

# Administration

## What we have done and will continue for the safety of StMM's Community

**Environmental Cleaning;** Coronaviruses, including COVID-19, are readily inactivated by cleaning and disinfection. To increase the safety of students and staff we have:

- cleaned and disinfect used high-touch surfaces such as benchtops, desks, doorknobs, taps, and hand-rails during the holidays
- This will continue at regular intervals throughout the day with a detergent solution or detergent/disinfectant wipes
- cleaned and disinfect frequently used objects such as computers and photocopiers with detergent solution or detergent/disinfectant wipes and will continue to do so
- increase the amount of fresh air available indoors by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning
- provide bins in every classroom for used tissues, and empty them regularly throughout the day
- cleaned and disinfect used high-touch surfaces in toilets at regular intervals as more students return to school

**Hygiene;** Everyone must practise good hygiene to protect against infection and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will continue good hygiene practises, including:

- all students and staff use hand sanitiser when entering school
- washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds at regular intervals
- covering coughs and sneezes with one's elbow or a tissue
- placing used tissues straight into the bin
- avoiding touching one's eyes, nose and mouth
- not sharing food or drink
- bubblers will be closed until further notice

Please remember, until further notice,  
Parents and Carers are  
**NOT ALLOWED**  
on the school grounds.

### HEALTH ADVICE - coronavirus (COVID-19)



**[ PRACTISE GOOD HYGIENE ]**

# Uniforms

## Lowes Uniforms

Unfortunately Lowes are out of stock of our school uniforms in some sizes. They are replenishing their stock as soon as they can.

## Hats and Caps

We have received our order of caps and they can be purchased from the school office for \$15.00ea.

The round hats will now be \$10.00 until all sold. When the new stock is ordered and ready for sale they will go back to \$15.00.

# Partnership

## Library News

### Library Books

Please return all of StMM's library books and Home Readers to the school hall by **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May (this week)**, so our cleaning procedures can be followed. Our school library is closed for borrowing until further notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo

### Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) Update

The Premier's Reading Challenge dates for 2020 remain the same. Students must still complete reading and entering the books online by **Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> August (Term 3, Week 6)**.

This year, all students will be able to include 10 own choice books instead of the usual 5 choice books to accommodate limited access to PRC titles. To include the extra 5 books the child must type in 2020 Bonus Choice Book 1 (2, 3, 4 or 5) in the title search and then press add **or** type in the following codes:

685957, 685958, 685959, 685960 and 685961.

(It does not matter that it says Year 5-6 Bonus Choice.)

The Infant students will continue to complete the challenge within their learning space.

If you have any problems or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo



# Faith Community

## Loving God,

we rejoice in Your love for us,  
and in the life we have been given  
through the gift of Your Son, Jesus.  
Open our eyes to recognise Your presence among us;  
open our hearts to the love that You have for us;  
open our minds to the truth You would reveal to us.  
Amen

## WE LISTEN

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6)*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## WE REFLECT

“In my Father’s house there are many rooms.” (John 14:2)  
In speaking of the Father’s house, Jesus is not pointing to a mansion in the sky, but to God’s heart. God’s heart is big, wide-open and generous. It embraces everything. We are assured that in the heart of God there is room enough even for us. Often the Psalms describe God as our psychical “dwelling place” (PS 90:1, 91:9) and other times it refers to the whole of creation or universe. God’s “house” or “dwelling place” is where God is and wherever God’s presence is, there is an abundance of love and grace. John 14:2 simply reminds us that that there is plenty of room when it comes to our God.

*Pause for a moment of reflection.*

## WE RESPOND

In this time of COVID-19 we have seen many instances of simple and extraordinary acts of generosity. Many have purchased groceries for a neighbour in need, children have used their pocket money to assist those most affected, small businesses have opened their doors to letters of hope and care. There is something about this pandemic that is binding people together. These generous acts of love and kindness are a welcome antidote to the background hum of worry during this pandemic.

*What are the opportunities to show others the big, wide-open and generous heart of God through us this week?*

## Loving God,

we rejoice in Your love for us,  
and in the life we have been given  
through the gift of Your Son, Jesus.  
Open our eyes to recognise Your presence among us;  
open our hearts to the love that You have for us;  
open our minds to the truth You would reveal to us.  
Amen

## Let us pray:

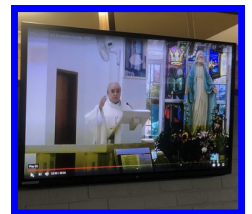
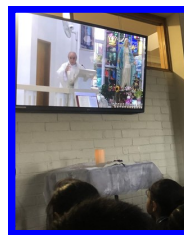
Lord Jesus, teach us to be generous;  
teach us to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to seek reward,  
except that of knowing that I do your will.  
*St. Ignatius Loyola*

## Year 4 Digital Mass

On Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> May, Year 4 went digital! We celebrated the Mass of the Ascension held at St Margaret Mary’s Parish last weekend. We finally saw our church once again and were allowed to pray reverently along with Father Janusz. Year 4 felt

connected to the church community again and we were sharing our faith together. It felt different without the parish there with us, but we know that no matter what happens, our connection to the parish and God is still strong. Gather your family and watch the Mass held at St Margaret Mary’s parish online!

By: Stephanie Hewitt, Isabella Roach and Bianca Poumale



# Teaching & Learning

## Mrs Ryan's Writing Group Year 5 Writing Group Best Sentences

It was deep, dark and quiet, Amy slowly floated above the water to the place that she once called home.

By Patrick Nguyen 5B

It was absolutely stunning, everything was so ornate and textured.

By Lisa Shrestha 5R

I avoided the twisted branches as I maneuvered my way towards something that probably didn't even exist.

By Sienna Perez 5B

But, did they know that their hearts would change the old man's own heart.

By Lucinda Tran 5R

In a flash she rode on her broomstick back to her underground home where she lived with bats, rats and more revolting creatures.

By Gabriella Mifsud 5Y

So I will never give up, even if I fail what seems like another hundred times.

By Serena Georges 5Y

As the bubbles grew more intense the witch let out a hearty cackle with exhilarating anticipation.

By May Derbas 5B

She reluctantly opened the big, ornate door handle and found herself sliding on the wet, icy floor of her mammoth ice castle.

By Joshua Khoury 5Y

My friend was desperate to get the job, for he was being kicked out of his own house.

By April Zhang 5B

There were books swimming in water and to the left of Elsa she could see the gold ornate door handle turning to open.

By Edwin Khairallah 5R

## Year 6 Writing Group Best Sentences

Instantaneously I sauntered through the prepossessing, colour-coated ornate library, I inhaled the fresh air, it was like I had put an amazing mint into my engaging mouth.

By Cooper Smith 6B

Carefully opening the rusty door, he slowly crept in, making sure to not leave any footprints and waking up his snoring dad upstairs.

By Lucas Chang 6B

Sophie covered her ears and in a split second the teapot had fallen apart and the truth had been unleashed . . .

By Isabella Tilbrook 6Y

Her belligerent behaviour escaped unknowingly, she was cured.

By Isabella Blandon Cano 6B

She carefully placed the ladder onto the side of the teapot and made sure it was secure, she placed a foot on the ladder but it was starting to shake really violently.

By Isabella Pendes 6R

I held the handles, struggling to open the great oak doors with gold embedded in stone rings.

By Felicity Roach 6Y

Briskly stepping on a ledge, a herd of pebble fell to the ground, heights had never really frightened me, but I couldn't help but release a shudder.

By Rhos Shi Wang 6Y

As Anni screamed all the way home, her dreams faded away in the shadows of darkness.

By Jayden Othman 6B

We were devastated as we watched the whole city burn into ashes and become debris, bit by bit it began to float away with the wind.

By Sophia Tannous 6B

It was just the gravestones and I, they stood silently, row upon row like soldiers long forgotten, when a shrill cry echoed through mist calling my name.

By Mikayla Gadd 6R

As I peeked through the window my surprise turned into horror, their eyes turned red and their hair turned as dark as a soul.

By Angelique Baaini 6R

