



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 23

Bulletin

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2020

Diary Date

Thursday, 3rd September

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Friday, 4th September

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Sunday, 6th September

Father's Day

Monday, 7th September

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Tuesday, 8th September

Wednesday, 9th September

Drink Bottles

We have made adjustments to our bubblers, so children are able to refill their bottles when needed. It is wonderful to see so many children using their new drink bottles with their names clearly marked.

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.

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.

Principal's Message

Parents and Carers

Lets start at the very beginning! Why does Australia have Catholic schools? The following passage is adapted from the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) which was established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education (Chairperson Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP).



Why do we have Catholic Schools?

St Margaret Mary's Primary School contributes to the Parish's mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, offering the Catholic community of Merrylands an educational foundation for life to the full, meaning the full development of the students - intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally. StMM's fulfils parents' rights in a democratic, free society to choose the schooling for their children which reflects their own values, beliefs and hopes as Australians.



Who Catholic Schools are for?

St Margaret Mary's Primary School is for children who, through baptism, have a right to an education in the Catholic faith in a Catholic school. In addition, StMM's support parents and guardians who wish to entrust their children's future because of their explicit goals and acknowledged educational quality.

What is distinctive about Catholic Schools?

St Margaret Mary's Primary School promotes a particular view of the person, the community, the nation and the world, centred on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. It challenges students to find, through God, meaning and value in their lives. StMM's forms an integral part of our church community in which all generations live, worship and grow together in Merrylands. In critiquing our culture, and challenging community values, as an integral part of their Gospel mission, StMM's aims to be a welcoming and reflective community whose most distinctive sign is the discernment of God's presence in its spiritual life. We promote values which unite Australia by promoting a citizenship infused by a commitment to social justice and encouraging students to develop an international perspective of their own country and how their country can identify and respond justly to its international obligations. StMM's develops a sense of historical perspective by reflecting on the development of societies and cultures over time, a story of human frailty but of continual efforts to live the Gospel message, giving priority to educating the spiritually and financially poor and being their advocates.



The three photos illustrate the importance of Parish, families and school working together. During this time of COVID and our inability to gather, we must always reflect on our relationships with each other and with our God using the lens of our saviour Jesus Christ.

Take care & keep safe.

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Staff Professional Learning Day

Friday 11th September

*This is a student free day
(No students attend school on this day)*

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews Term 3 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Our Term 3 interviews will occur differently due to further Covid-19 restrictions. We will be reporting on your child's learning and progress through phone delivery. This will replace the normal Parent/Student/Teacher interview process.

Teachers will be ringing you at various times during weeks 8 (7th – 11th September) and 9 (14th – 18th September). These could be before school, in their recess and/or lunch breaks, their release from teaching time, after school or in the evenings. No phone calls will occur on Friday 11th September, due to staff having a Professional Learning Day.

These phone interviews will be 10minutes duration only. Please be aware that if teachers are using their mobiles then your phone will show No caller ID.

An email will be sent to you if your teacher is unable to discuss your child's progress.

Thank you for your understanding in this way of delivering information about your child/ren's progress.

Principal Awards

Congratulations to all the students who will receive their Principals Award and, have morning tea with Mr Mills tomorrow Thursday 3rd September..

Canteen

Parents are asked to refrain from sending food to school with your child that requires reheating. The canteen or the school office is unable to do this. All food brought from home must be able to be eaten cold.

Parents are also asked if sending food that requires a fork or spoon, please ensure that it is packed in your child's lunch box, as the canteen will not be supplying spoons or forks for food not sold through the canteen.

Uniform Choice

It will be very warm over the next few days and students will have a choice to wear their winter or summer uniform till Monday. It is important that the students wear their correct uniform including their hat and appropriate shoes. We expect on Monday all students will be required to wear their winter uniform again. This decision was a result of a discussion with a Year 6 group of students.

COVID-19 Information

Important Self Isolation Information regarding Students from St Pauls College Greystanes

Students from St Pauls Greystanes, that have been identified as a close contact by NSW Health, need to get tested and isolate for 14 days, regardless of the test result.

Where families find it difficult to isolate siblings from the St Pauls student, the siblings should not attend St Margaret Mary's School during the period of isolation.

It is important that all people in our communities follow the directives from NSW Health.

Updating our Information

Having accurate, up-to-date information on our students is an important part of maintaining their safety and wellbeing, and supporting their learning. It also assists schools to make good decisions about how best to support and care for all students.

If any of your contact details have changed including emergency contacts, please contact the school office to update these changes.

Sick Leave & Documentation

We ask all our families to follow the guidelines below as we value the well-being and health of the St Margaret Mary's Community.

- Currently, no student should attend school if they are unwell (Doctor's Certificate).
- Each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms, need to see a doctor or must have a COVID-19 test.
- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The notification can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and / or a medical certificate.
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free.

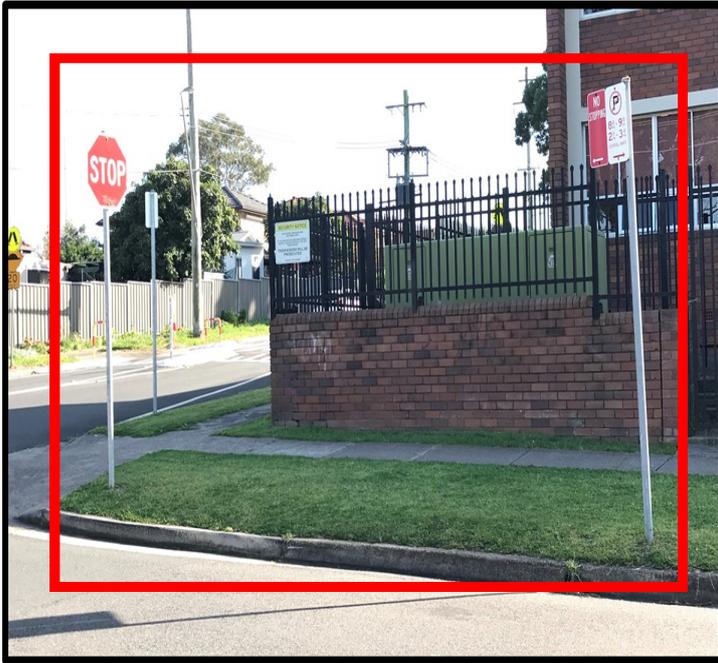


Car Drop Off & Pick Up

StMM's Car Drop Off

Traffic Around StMM's

Yesterday morning Mr Mills and the local Police Area Commander in charge of local traffic around StMM's had a discussion about the corner of Henson St & Davies Street. The following picture indicates an issue around the safety of our community. This sign means that in the area indicated with the direction of the arrow back to the STOP sign you must not stop your vehicle at any point on the road or kerb. Not obeying this road rule will result in a penalty and fine.



The Commander will be patrolling our area for the next four weeks booking cars that are not following all road rules and signage.

Steps to a successful School Drop Off @ StMM's

- In review, the perfect drop off scenario should be as follows:
- Children are dressed, backpacks are ready on the seat.
- Remain calm and patient at all times.
- Approach the drop off zone fully alert.
- Follow all road rules and signage with hands on steering wheel.
- Eyes forward when it's your turn for car unloading.
- You initiate the "Goodbye, have a great day" sequence.
- Children unload swiftly and with all of their belongings.
- Ease away from the curb & drive away from the school.
- Drive away slowly taking the safety of our children into consideration.



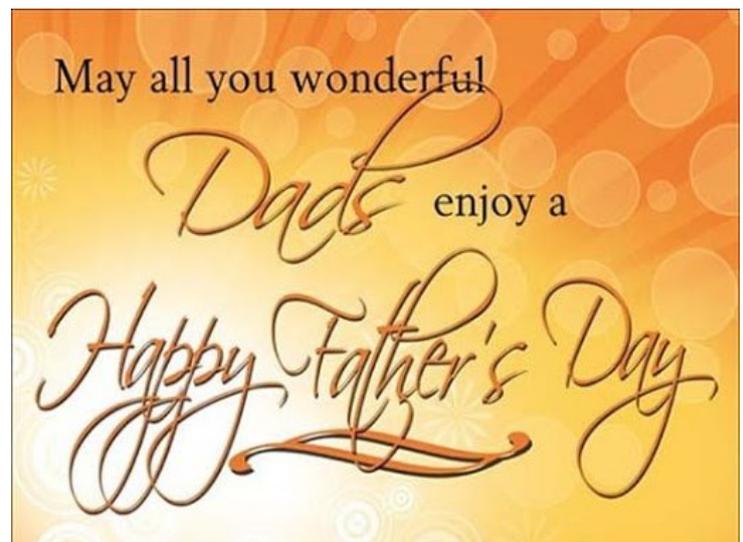
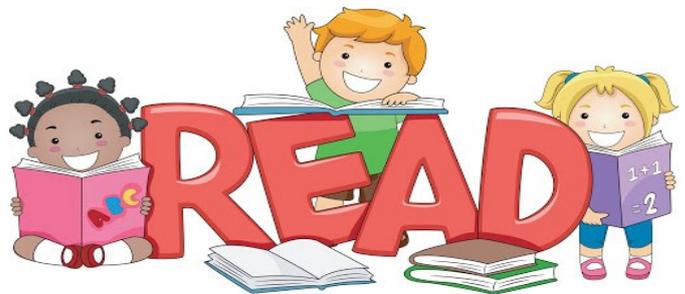
Practices for Afternoon Car Pick-Up @ StMM's

We have been informed by the local Police Area Commander in charge of local traffic 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
- 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
- Ensure you give way correctly taking into account all signage & 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 and signage



Personal Growth

StMM's Pyjama Day

On Friday, 25th September, Year Six will be holding a Pyjama Day. We would like everyone to participate including staff, by wearing their pyjamas! We would also like you to bring your favourite cuddly toy.

Examples: Teddy bears, dolls and other cuddly toys. There will be plenty of fun activities on the day such as;

- Who brings the best cuddly toy?
- Who is wearing the most original pyjamas?
- A TRIVIA CONTEST!!!

So don't forget:

- What: Pyjama Day
- Date: Friday 25th September
- Wear: Comfy Pyjamas & Shoes or Slippers

Bring: Cuddly toy (Dressed-up)

We can't wait to see everybody in their comfy pyjamas!

By: Marissa Rahme, Akuol Mayom, Amol Akoy

Year 5 Suitcase Task - History and Geography

Excitement filled the air as the whole of year 5 came bursting into the classroom, they were all so eager to show what they had in their suitcase! As part of our History and Geography unit on migration, we were asked to pack a suitcase with items that we would take with us if we had to suddenly move to another country.

Gabriel Akle

I would take my Bible and Rosary beads with me because it represents my Religion and my beliefs. It's an excellent guidance in life to overcome the bad times we may experience. The Ipad is important to me because it was my first ever electronic device that I ever had and it has all of my games and my memories on it. My passport, it's important when travelling between countries. A passport is required to cross the border, also it shows that you are a legal citizen of your country of origin. This is what I would like to take with me... What would YOU take?



Samuel Edwards

I had pictures, patches from England, ads for the 10 pound pom, an army shirt, 20 pounds and a flat bear. I chose the army shirt because it belonged to my Poppy from when he was a nurse in WW2. It is really special because it is over 75 years old. I put my material patches in because they are special to me from when I went to England with my family and are irreplaceable. The Windsor Castle patch reminds me of when I saw the Guards in their winter coats (blue not red). The Tower of London patch reminds me of when I almost died in the guillotine but the blade was rubber.



Mabel Sullay

I chose to include photos because the pictures are memories in my family that we like to keep because we work together as a family. I also put in a prayer book to show how significantly important it is to believe in God and in my country we are very focused on prayer. This was especially important because it was a gift from my grandmother. The flag of Sierra Leone is important to me because I am proud of where I am from. Another special item was jewellery which was given to me by my grandmother to pass onto the generation to keep our stories live.



Teaching & Learning

Year 3 Science

On 21st August, Year 3 had a fun day all about Science. We had to make a zoo enclosure for a specific animal we had chosen. I decided to make a polar bear enclosure because I was curious about where polar bears live.

By Ameerah H.



I decided to do a lion enclosure. I found what a lion enclosure looks like by searching for a picture of it. Then I looked around my house and garden to collect my materials.

By Alexander K



I created an enclosure for a Bengal tiger. I had to think about what a tiger's habitat looks like and what it needs to survive. The materials I used were sand, green crepe paper and fake rocks. I put it all together in a shoebox.

By Ruby S.



I made an enclosure for a blue-tongued lizard. I painted my box green and glued in a blue piece of paper to look like water. I also scattered some leaves in it so it looked like the lizard's natural habitat.

By Raymond H.

