



# 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 5

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

### Diary Dates

#### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March

- Cumberland Council Women in Sport.

#### Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March

- Yr 3 Incursion

#### Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March

- 8:40am Whole School Assembly and Prayer.
- Yrs 1-6 Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews begin.

#### Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

- Yrs 1-6 Parent/Teacher/Student Interview.

#### Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March

- Open Morning tours for New Families of K2021 Students.
- Yrs 1-6 Parent/Teacher/Student Interview.
- Kinder 2020 Parent Meetings

### Open Morning

St Margaret Mary's will be holding an open morning on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 9:00am—10:30am, for New Kindergarten 2021 families.

### 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 May. Last year we had a waiting list with over 130 applications.

### 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, Boys and Girls,

Lent is an important season for our Church and the connection between the community here at Merrylands and the CEDP office is a vital aspect in living out our mission in today's busy world. It is essential we bring the journey of Jesus during this season to as many people as possible and the Office supports us in this work by sending a Lenten reflection for all the communities of the Diocese of Parramatta. This week I thought I would share this with our parents and children.

**Theme: "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10**



**Prayer:** Loving Father,

Open my heart so that I may love like You.  
May I listen to the cry of those who call my name,  
so that I may sing a song of compassion and tolerance.  
Help me to find in You this Lent,  
grace, forgiveness and a fullness of life.

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard

this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear.

But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

**Reflect:**

The landscape of the desert changes dramatically as we meet Jesus leading his close disciples, Peter, James and John up a high mountain. This time it is the disciples themselves who are curious. However, with trust in Jesus they commit themselves to a journey leading to CLARITY. In the solitude and remoteness of the mountain they experience a deep change in the person of Jesus. Through their daily encounters with their inspiring teacher they experienced him as a friend. Yet they were beginning to experience him as "more than" a friend. They were CURIOUS about his deeper identity. Just as in the Baptism of Jesus there is an intervention from the Divine One – who is both in their midst yet beyond. The revelation brings CLARITY revealing Jesus as the Son of God and inviting all "to listen to him".

**Questions:**

- Can you recall a time in your life when you have received CLARITY simply by listening?
- What do we need to do to become better at listening to each other, to the stranger, to those with different opinions and views?

• Take the time and space to read, reflect and respond to the Gospel.

Take care and God bless.

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal

# Administration

## Updating Parent Information

Parents are reminded about the importance of updating their contact details and the emergency contacts with the school. This information is very important to the school especially in an emergency situation.

## School Uniforms

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly. All hairstyles should be appropriate to the students age and the schools expectations. Long hair must be tied back. Our Sun Safe program requires students to wear our school cap or hat when outside: **No Hat No Play**. These hats and caps are available at the school office. Sleeper earrings and stud earrings may be worn. Simple signet rings may also be worn. No expensive jewellery is to be worn at school.

## Lost Property

We do not have a lost property box at St MM's. All items handed into the office clearly labelled are returned to the students via their class teacher. Any item not clearly labelled will be sent for washing and donated to the Second Hand Uniform Shop. All food containers not labelled will be thrown in the bin. As the cooler mornings are fast approaching us, we ask that you please ensure all articles are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Students are reminded not to be borrowing hats for health reasons. Parents are asked to check their child/children have their hats before entering the school grounds each day.

Hats can be purchased from the school office for \$15.00ea

## School Fees

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta have sent out all Invoice/Statements for the 2020 year. If you have not received your statement, please contact Maria in the school office. Term 1 School Fees are due by 18<sup>th</sup> March unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CEDP. Details as per your school statement.

Any queries with regards to your 2020 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano on 8633 8400.

## Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school, please let the office know as soon as possible, in writing. It is a CEDP Policy that 10 school weeks notice is given to the principal before the removal of your child from the school, otherwise a full term fees will be required to be paid.

## Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Tony Maghazli (father of Elissa 4B), for cleaning up the leaves around the school whilst Paul our maintenance man was on sick leave.

## Morning Assembly

On Monday morning, Mr Mills reminded us about the importance of wearing the correct uniform, especially when wearing the sports uniform. Students must remember to wear the correct socks that fold down at the top. We also congratulated the students who participated in the Executive Summer Reading Challenge and they each received a certificate for their effort. Congratulations to all those students! Mrs Balogh-Caristo also reminded us that the Premier's Reading Challenge begins this week and all students are encouraged to take part!



## 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 it is walk and talk time only. Students are reminded that there is to be NO running or ball games in the playground in the mornings. If you are dropping your child/ren off or picking them up from the Parish car park, please remind your child/ren about the safety around cars and the dangers of running in this area.

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.

## Attendance Month

A major learning and pastoral focus of St Margaret Mary's each year is making sure that every student is at school every school day. During the month of March, Personal Growth Awards will be awarded to all students who obtain a 95% or more attendance rate. Following on from this event we will be addressing, in partnership with the CEDP, students who fall below a certain level.

As you are probably aware, attendance at school has a huge impact on a student's academic success, starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day - they understand why attendance is so important for success in school and life.

We realise some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. However, we also know that when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is absent. Absences can add up quickly and if a student is absent one day a fortnight over the course of a school year they will miss 20 days of education, which is almost half a school term.

### We know that research shows:

Attendance affects achievement. Every day counts.

Attendance in Year One is predictive of the pattern in future years.

The effects of absence accumulate over time. Absence in one year affects future academic achievement.

Sporadic absence can affect academic achievement as much as consecutive days of absence.

### Patterns of absence that cause concerns at school and office levels are:

- Unexplained absences.
- Partial attendance and lateness.
- Absence on certain days of the week.
- Frequent presentation to sick bay.
- Long holidays in school time.
- Frequent medical explanations that are not supported by a medical action plan.

### We know that:

- Students that are absent between 20 and 40 days per year lose 1-2 years over 10 school years.
- Students that are absent between 40 and 60 days per year lose 2-3 years of schooling over 10 years.
- Students that are absent for 60 or more days lose more than 3 years of school over 10 years.

We know all our parents want their children to achieve their academic and personal development potential at school, and trust that all of our families will work with us to achieve high rates of attendance and engagement in learning, this term and in the future.

## Attendance Month Began Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March.



# Faith Community

## Catholic Schools Week Open Classroom

Parents are invited to join us on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March for a Liturgy and Open Classroom, to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. A note will go home later this week with more information and times.



## Ash Wednesday Mass

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> February, our school community joined together and celebrated Ash Wednesday at St Margaret Mary's Church. Lent is symbolised by the colour purple and there were purple banners up around the church. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday when we receive the



ashes to reflect on the sacrifices made by Christ. During the Homily, Father Janusz spoke about the season of Lent and that we need to focus on praying more, almsgiving and fasting. When the time came, Father Janusz took the burnt palms and

blessed them with Holy Water. Then, we all went up one by one to receive them. After the Eucharist, we watched a video developed by Project Compassion to encourage us to give generously to their cause this Lent.

By Sienna Tamer, Zahara Ibrahim and Leyla Mazzocco  
Media Team



## Shrove Tuesday

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the Year 5 teachers and some helpers made pancakes for Year 5. We got to choose from many toppings including butter, maple syrup and straw-



berry jam and they were delicious. We call the day Shrove Tuesday or pancake Tuesday as it falls on the day before Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, people gave up animal products such as cheese, beef and eggs, as a sacrifice to remember that Jesus sacrificed himself for us. Then, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the British decided that they would make pancakes to use up all the eggs and milk they had before Lent. The pancakes were soft, buttery and really fluffy. Thank you to the Year 5 teachers for organising this treat, it was amazing.

By Thomas Yu, Leyla Mazzocco and Lucinda Tran



# Teaching & Learning



## Team Work

Showing great work between Year 6 and Kindergarten

## Parent/Teacher/Student

Kindergarten: Your child was given a letter last week for a meeting with Kindergarten teachers on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March. Please return the slip to your child's teacher, by this Friday.

Years 1 – 6: Your child was given a letter with the following code on it: **xrspu** go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) to choose a timeslot for a Parent/Teacher/Student interview time in week 7.

## Year 4



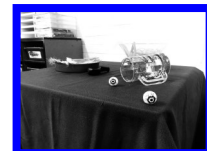
Guess what happened on Monday morning? An amazing scene was placed in the Year Four space and can you guess which book the scene was copied from? **Yes!** That's right, The Twits, written by Roald Dahl and illustrated by



Quentin Blake. There was the tall, wooden walking stick that Mrs Twit struck little kids with all the time. There were a bunch of worms in spaghetti from the scene where the Twits were pranking each other! In the display, there were balloons because Mrs Twit was being stretched. There was a frog on a pillow snoozing and feathers napping in their bowls after being cooked in bird pie. There was a bunch of tape around it that said **CAUTION**. And on one of our doors it said **WARNING: PLEASE DO NOT ENTER!**

And that is what was in the Year 4 classroom on that Monday morning that gave us a huge surprise!

Thank you to the Year 4 teachers for helping us build our imagination. By: Annalise Draiby and Caroline El Bayeh



## Reading Diary

Every student at StMM's is expected to read each night and record their efforts in the Reading Diary. Setting aside a time to read each night at home is an excellent routine to establish before students enter high school. If parents feel their child is responsible (Yrs 5 & 6) the student may do the recording and sign off.

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF  
**READING 20**  
MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads

**20:00**

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

**5:00**

minutes per day

will be exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A student who reads

**1:00**

minute per day

will be exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

## Personal Growth

### Media Team 2020

Congratulations to the following Year 5 students who will be a part of the Media Team for 2020.

Sienna Tamer  
Zahara Ibrahim  
Thomas Yu  
Leyla Mazzocco  
Aluel Hawach  
Benedict Blas

We look forward to seeing your photos and reading your articles about events that happen around the school!



### Year 5 & 6 Working Bee

Students in Yrs 5 & 6 will be holding a working bee after school on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March to spread mulch on the gardens around the school help make our school beautiful for all students, parents and teachers.

### Diocesan Swimming Carnival



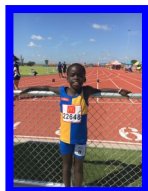
Congratulations to Joab Hada, Isabel la Blandon Cano, Mikayla Gadd, Lisa Shrestha and Angelique Baaini who will now compete as members of the 2020 Parramatta Diocesan Swimming team at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

at SOPAC, Homebush. Well done and good luck!



### Rising Stars

Congratulations to Jacob and Claire Leke, who competed at the State Multi Event Little Athletics Carnival in Tamworth last weekend.



## Partnership

### Important

Today with the newsletter you will receive a letter from the Australian Government regarding 2020 Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection Notice.

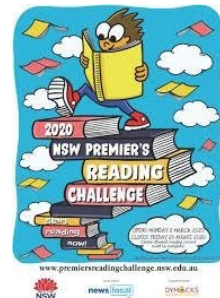


### Church Gates

Due to the church grounds being sprayed on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, the gates at the church will not be opened for afternoon dismissal. All parents must enter the school via the main gates near the office or the car pick up gates.

### Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2020

"The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature." (PRC)



It is a challenge for students to read more and read widely, not a competition. Any child, K-6, wishing to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) this year, may begin to do so online, by going to eLibrary or the PRC website:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

The students at St Margaret Mary's have until Friday, 28th August, to complete the PRC online. You must read the required number of books from the Challenge to complete the PRC. All students in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will read the required number of books to complete the PRC at school, but are welcome to complete the Challenge at home as well. Class teachers have password details. If you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo (Teacher/Librarian)

### Cross Country

Thank you to all the parents who came and supported the students in Yrs 3-6 at our annual cross country. The students all had a great time.

Chloe a future StMM's Cross Country runner



L. Look



L. Listen



L. Learn



D. Do  
Y. Your  
B. Best



Q. Quick  
Q. Quiet  
Q. Quality



K. Keep  
O. On  
T. Task



R. Rubbish  
I. In  
B. Bin



R. Right  
P. Place  
R. Right  
T. Time



H. Hats  
O. On  
H. Hands  
O. Off



B. Be  
F. Friendly  
G. Gentle





## For parents/guardians of students:

### 2020 Student Residential Address and Other Information collection notice

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department), to advise you that the department has requested that your child's school provide a 'statement of addresses', in accordance with the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (Cth) (Regulation).

A *statement of addresses* contains the following information about each student at the school:

- Student residential address (**not student names**)
- Student level of education (i.e. whether the student is a primary or secondary student)
- Student boarding school status (i.e. whether the student is boarding or a day student)
- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and/or guardian(s)

Schools generate a record number for each student for the purposes of this collection, which is also provided to the department.

#### Purpose of the collection

This collection is routinely used to inform Commonwealth school education policy, and to help ensure that Commonwealth funding arrangements for non-government schools are based on need, and are fair and transparent.

The information collected in the *statement of addresses* will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate the estimated capacity of a school community to contribute to the schools' operating costs (capacity to contribute). Australian Government funding to non-government schools takes this estimated capacity to contribute into account.

On 20 September 2018 the Government announced that it will implement a new, improved capacity to contribute methodology used in the calculation of the Commonwealth's needs-based funding arrangements for non-government schools. Known as the direct measure of income (DMI), the proposed new methodology is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school. This is in contrast to the current area based measure which is a point in time analysis based on average circumstances in 2011 of the area in which students at the school lived. This change follows a review of the existing methodology by the National School Resourcing Board. Further information about the review and the Government's response can be found on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/review-socio-economic-status-ses-score-methodology>.

#### Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Any use and disclosure of your personal information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with the Regulation.

Your personal information may be used by the department, or disclosed to the ABS, for the purposes of reviewing capacity to contribute methodology, calculating capacity to contribute and Commonwealth school education policy development (including school funding), or where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.



Your personal information will be provided to the ABS for capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Departmental staff will use the ABS' secure DataLab to undertake analysis and calculate capacity to contribute scores for schools using de-identified data (i.e. data that has had identifiable information such as name and address removed). The linked information will not be used for other purposes. Further information on the MADIP can be found here:

[http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/9099c77cb979d558ca258198001b27a0/\\$FILE/MADIP%20iPIA 2018.pdf](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/9099c77cb979d558ca258198001b27a0/$FILE/MADIP%20iPIA%202018.pdf).

The department may, from time to time, carry out audits of school submissions. In the event of an audit, contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's *statement of addresses* with student enrolment information held by the school. These contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

The department may also be required to disclose your personal information to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) support services to the department.

### **What do you need to do?**

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the requested details to the department, however, you may wish to ensure that your school has the most up-to-date and correct details for your family.

### **Contacts for further information**

Your school can provide additional information about the process of the address collection.

If you have any further questions regarding the collection, you can contact the department by:

- Email: [seshelpdesk@dese.gov.au](mailto:seshelpdesk@dese.gov.au)
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

The department's privacy policy is available on the department's website at [www.dese.gov.au](http://www.dese.gov.au). The privacy policy contains information about:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about breaches of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) can be made; and
- how the department will deal with these complaints.