



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 7

Bulletin

Wednesday, 18th March, 2020

Diary Dates

**All School Activities
have been Cancelled**

Thursday, 19th March

Friday, 20th March

Monday, 23rd March

Tuesday, 24th March

Wednesday, 25th March

COVID 19

See inside for
COVID 19
Update

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.

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.

Skoolbag App

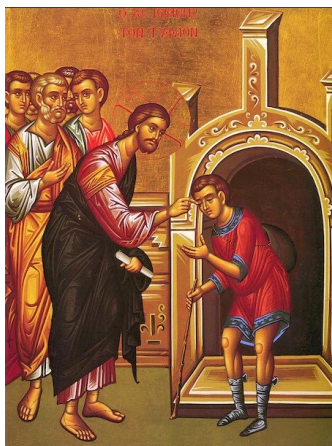
All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our **School Name** for Skoolbag App is **SMMPM**.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Another Lenten Reflection from CEDP.



Theme: "I only know that I was blind and now I see."
John 9:25

Prayer: Generous and gracious God,
At times I can be blind to the path to the path that You
ask me to follow.
Open my eyes so that they may reflect the goodness of
Your love.
Let my eyes feel with mercy and compassion.
Let me eyes understand with wisdom and acceptance.
Let my eyes be Your healing presence.
Amen

Gospel: John 9:1-42

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Neither this man nor his parent sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam." So, the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" He himself insisted, "I am the man."

Reflect:

The encounter of Jesus with the blind man goes through several phases and is surrounded with much observance and conversation. The man, who has been blind since birth, comes to Jesus with the expressed hope and desire to be able to see. The response of Jesus is surprising! He make a mud paste and places it over the eyes of the blind man. Such an action, bewildering to the onlookers, points to the fact that healing comes from the ordinary stuff of life; mud and clay which is very messy. Even though the blind man's journey from darkness to light seemed to take a long route, his final reply was one of sureness and Clarity:

"I only know that I was blind and now I see."

Questions:

- Recall times when you have been led to CLARITY through engaging with the ordinary and messy stuff of life.
- Can you remember a time in your life when you have been in a situation that you found difficult and therefore resisted - but by trusting and remaining faithful to the situation you received insight and clarity.

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 hair-styles 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.

School Caps

We have no **school caps** available at the moment. We are waiting for a delivery. The round hats are still available for \$15.00, from the school office.

Lost Property

We do not have a lost property box at StMM'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 18th 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.

Book Club

The current issue of bookclub was given out on Monday to students. All orders must be received in the school office, by no later than **9am tomorrow, Thursday 19th March, 2020.**

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.

COVID 19 Update

As per the CEDP and the NSW Department of Health Protocol's, the following school events have been cancelled:

- Attendance Month
- Band Practice
- P&F Easter Egg Raffle
- Writer's Festival
- Holy Week Celebrations
- School Assemblies

The following event has been postponed and we are trying to reschedule

- Year 6 Canberra.

Important Notice

Teaching & Learning

NAPLAN 2020:

Next week, Year Three and Year Five students will participate in a 'live' online practice test. No results are recorded for these short tests. The purpose of this testing is to trial the platform with many users from around Australia. This will provide an opportunity to identify any load-related issues that may need to be addressed prior to the NAPLAN tests in May.

Year Five will participate on Monday 23rd March with a practice writing test. On Tuesday, 24th March, Years Five and Three will participate in a short 40-minute practice testing during the day.

Online fact sheets for parents:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-online-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>

Public demonstration for students to practise the skills of NAPLAN:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Youtube: Understanding NAPLAN online

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you

Jennifer Veness

Assistant Principal

Royal Life Saving Australia

On Monday, Year 5 successfully completed the Primary Water Smart Program run by Royal Life Saving NSW. The instructor spoke to us about how to make smart choices when we are around any type of water including oceans, creeks and pools. We practiced how to rescue someone if they are in danger in the water. The most important thing we learnt was to never enter the water if someone is in trouble, we should look for things to help them and stay on land so we don't also end up in a risky situation!



Faith Community

Catholic Schools Week

What do you call a busy week? Catholic school's week! At midday last Friday, the whole school entered the hall and had a liturgy to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The school and the choir



sang beautifully and the readers read loud and clear. We talked about Project Compassion and the Mini Vinnie's Bottle Recycling Program



which is off to a great start.

After that, Father Janusz left and we headed off to our classrooms to enjoy activities with our parents. Grades did all sorts of



activities including creating informative posters to educate students on ways to be more environmentally friendly. When it came to lunch the parents left the classrooms and enjoyed a lovely



lunch with their children. A photobooth was set up in the hall for families to have



their photo taken and it was busy all lunchtime! Everyone shared smiles and had heaps of fun celebrating our great



Catholic School!

By Media Team

StMM's Bottle Recycling Station

Have you heard about the new Bottle Recycling Program at St Margaret Mary's? We are collecting plastic bottles to raise money for Project Compassion this Lent. Every plastic



bottle we collect is worth 10 cents! So far, our school community collected over 400 bottles, which means we raised \$40.00 for Project Compassion in just a few days!



We will continue collecting bottles and we hope that YOU can help us by collecting plastic bottles at home and bringing them into school. There are two bins with yellow lids on the main playground for you to drop off any plastic water bottles or soft drink bottles (no milk or juice bottles) that you have collected.

If you would like to contribute, please make sure that your bottles:

- Have the label on them
- Are plastic (no glass or cans)
- Have the lid on them
- Are not crushed
- Are empty of all liquids



The students at StMM are very excited about this new project and we can't wait to see how much we can raise for people in need this Lent!

Personal Growth

Year 5 & 6 Tour Guides

"Up here and into primary" said the Year 5 and 6 tour guides. Wednesday, 11th March was a memorable morning as a huge



responsibility was given to students in Year 5 and 6. They were in charge of touring the parents around St Margaret Mary's school and speaking to the new parents that are thinking of sending their kids to our school. They showed them all the classes

and how the playgrounds work. The tour guides even told the parents about the basic rules of the 4 Classroom and Playground Pointers and our 4 Pillars. Following that, the tour guides showed the parents around the Primary and Infants buildings and how we use the Chrome-books. Mr Mills was very impressed as many parents commented on how responsible and knowledgeable their Tour Guides were!



By: Thomas Yu and Benedict Blas Media Team

Partnership

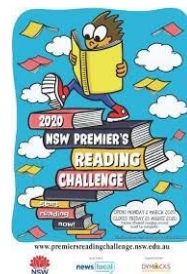
P&F News

All P&F Activities have been cancelled until further notice. Please do not sell or send any raffle tickets or raffle money to the school office.

SORA (eBooks)

Books read on SORA can be included in the PRC (Premier's Reading Challenge), as a free choice book (limit of 5) or if they are on the approved PRC Booklist.

Students are able to access SORA (eBooks) by going through the St Margaret Mary's website:



stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

Once at the website ... Click on Learning (on the top bar) Go down to Library & click Scroll down & click on Access our eLibrary Click on Student eBooks Click on SORA (Overdrive) Select your school - Choose ACEN Member Collection Click Sign in using ACEN Member Collection

If a password is required: it is your child's school computer login i.e. user name and password.

K,1 & 2 password is: **class**

(If you are unsure of your child's user name please see your child's class teacher.)

Then explore & borrow books.

It is great to see some students close to completing the PRC already.

Happy reading!

Mrs Balogh-Caristo

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

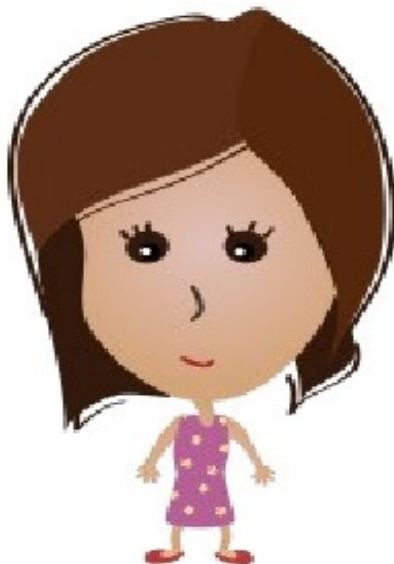
**Cough or sneeze
into your arm**



Use a tissue



What does social distancing look like?



1. Keep a distance (1 metre) when talking with people, if possible.
2. Avoid physical contact.
3. Avoid or cancel unnecessary gatherings.
4. Minimise sharing of personal items.
5. Minimise use of public facilities.