



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 15

Bulletin

Wednesday, 24th June, 2020

Diary Date

Thursday, 25th June

Friday, 26th June

- Reports go home today

Monday, 29th June

- StMM's Parish Reconciliation Program 6pm in the Hall

Tuesday, 30th June

Wednesday, 1st July

- Kindergarten Enrolment offer and deposits are due today.
- StMM's Parish Reconciliation Program 6pm in the Hall

Drink Bottles

Due to the COVID-19 the school bubblers are closed and students need to bring their own water 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.

There will be no more daily updates as we will revert to sending important messages as appropriate.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Children

The Difference Between Being Nice and Doing Good.

(Part of an article I read two years ago and links with "We are all in this together")

Being nice and doing good. They're both important but not the same.

Being nice is step one. Just be nice each day, wave when you're let into traffic, smile and say thank you when you get your coffee, help your friends when they need a hand. Just Be Nice. If everyone was nice, all the time, the world would be a much better place to live. Consistency is more important than intensity. It should become habit, so if you remember the time that you were nice, you are probably not being that nice.

Doing good however, is a slightly different proposition. Everyone can achieve the same level of being nice, because it's about what you do. However, the truth is; not everyone can do the same amount of good. Doing good is about helping others. Doing good is less about what you do and more about what happens for the person getting help.



If you want to be nice, it is simple. Show compassion, pay attention, be kind, be nice to everyone you can, including people doing it tough. If you want to do good, take the time working out the best way to do that. Starting by understanding what you really excel at, then speaking to us about what things you could possibly do that make sense for your skill set. Remember, it starts with being nice, as close to all the time as you can!

We are all in this Together.

I have been very please and impressed with the general response of the StMM's Community to the changes regarding arrival and dismissal of the students each day. It feels very different not having parents or carers allowed on site. The new procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the students and staff of StMM's during this time of COVID 19. We are in the process of writing a new policy on this matter and will share this with all in our community when we have finished.



It disappoints to hear how a small number in our Community fail to understand the importance of being patient during drop off or pick up. The most important aspect during these times is the safety of our young children. Please take your time and don't hurry as this may cause an accident.

Our two major afternoon dismissals are Car Pick-Up and Parent Pick-Up. It is vital that all Parents and Carers have the safety of the children at the forefront of their mind when involved in these activities. Everyone must follow the road rules.



Car parks can be dangerous places for young children. Drivers are concentrating on moving their cars in and out of parking bays and don't always think to check for pedestrians. Because our children are small it makes them even harder to be seen. Drivers must take all care and travel at a speed that will allow them to ensure the safety of all pedestrians, young and old.

The recent changes to Car Pick-Up have been made to ensure we are complying with the road rules. It is very important that all drivers are to be patient and courteous, while ensuring they are focussed on the safety of StMM's children.

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Enrolment

Interviews 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. Enrolments will be closing in the near future.

Letter of Offer

All letters of offers have been posted out to all eligible families. **Please return the slip along with the deposit by Wednesday 1st July, as we have families on our waiting list.** If you have not received your letter of offer in the mail please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Kellie Foley

During the past 12 months Mrs Foley has been having treatment for Breast Cancer. She has had the complication of experiencing this during COVID-19, which has impacted upon her recovery and her ability to be at school. We are looking forward to her return when she has a medical clearance by her specialist. She has been amazing working from home and engaging her students via a range of formats and the staff are in awe of her resilience coping with family, work and treatment since May last year. Please keep her in your prayers and thoughts.

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
- 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 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 & 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



Winter Uniform

As from the beginning of next term all students will be required to wear the full winter uniform. This includes ties for boys and girls.

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.

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.

COVID-19 News

Tune into Your Child's Feelings

Some children might not be worried about coronavirus (COVID-19), but some might be frightened, upset or worried. They might be worried about the virus itself or about how it might affect their lives.

Ask your child how they are feeling and listen to what they say. You can also ask them what they need to feel better. It might reassure your child if you share your own feelings and let them know what you're doing to cope with them.

2020 Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place towards the end of Term Three due to:

- Our hope of having face-to-face interviews occurring, based on updated Government Health Guidelines
- Teachers and Staff working with students in the classroom to further determine the student's learning strengths and their areas of improvements

These interviews may still need to occur through Zoom meetings or phone conversations, depending on COVID-19 restrictions at the end of Term 3.

StMM's staff are always available and welcome conversations about your child's learning and wellbeing. Please ring the office to make contact if you feel the need. Thank you for your understanding during this process.

Activities/site usage that can take place from Monday 15 June 2020

- School assemblies limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors
- Choirs and performing arts at school, with safety protocols in place
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum related reasons or placements
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum
- School photos.

Teaching & Learning

Semester One Reports

At St Margaret Mary's Merrylands we have greatly appreciated and valued the support and input you gave and continually give to your child's/children's learning during this challenging time.

As a result of the disruption to our regular teaching and learning programs we have had limited opportunities to observe your child/children in a formal school setting. For some students this has impacted on their learning outcomes.

In response, you will receive a modified Semester One Report that recognises and reflects each student's learning in three key areas: English, Mathematics and Religious Education. It will not be an A-E Report or be as detailed as the previous reports due to Covid-19. This report will indicate each student's current progress in the three key areas.

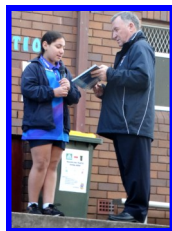
Staff at St Margaret Mary's will continue to support parents and remain committed to each student's ongoing education.

Personal Growth

Monday Morning Assembly

First School Assembly of Term 2

On Monday, 22nd June we had our first assembly of Term 2! Mr Mills first reminded us about the school Playground Pointers. They are Hats On Hands Off, Be Friendly And Gentle, Rubbish In The Bin and The Right Place At The Right Time. Mr Mills then told us he had ordered 30 new Chromebooks for the school because we had been looking after



them so well! Also, in the newsletter this week, Mr Mills explained that it will say we need to wear our Winter Uniform in Term 3 because it is getting colder.



He also gave us some reminders, if students in grades above Year 4 need to bring a phone to school, they are expected to put

it in the school office as soon as they walk in. Lastly, just a reminder to parents, the students will be having Monday morning assemblies but still no parents are allowed on school grounds.

By Zahara Ibrahim and Sienna Tamer Media Team

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020
Reconciliation
Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation open until Friday, 19 June 2020
Sacrament of Reconciliation program is divided into two groups to be taught by Fr. Joseph Maria Buckley.
RECONCILIATION PROGRAM:
All preparation sessions held on **MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS** at 6:00pm.
Session 1: 22 JUNE 2020 & 24 JUNE 2020
Session 2: 29 JUNE 2020 & 01 JULY 2020
Session 3: 06 JULY 2020 & 08 JULY 2020
Session 4: 13 JULY 2020 & 15 JULY 2020
Venue: Church Hall at St. Margaret Mary's School.
Details for Holy Communion and Confirmation to follow soon.
Please contact the Parish Office during office hours for the enrolment forms.

First Reconciliation
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ENROLMENT PRAYER
On the weekend (20-21 June 2020) Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses, all the children enrolled for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are requested along with their parents to attend any one of the weekend Mass. At the end of the Mass, they will be invited forward to say the Enrolment Prayer as a spiritual beginning to the child's formation in the Sacrament.

Faith Community

Mini Vinnies

After a long break, Mini Vinnies is finally starting again!

On Tuesday, 23rd June, Mini Vinnies had their meeting for the first time in about 15 weeks. We



discussed two areas that we would be focusing on for the end of Term 2. These are prayer and the bottle recycling program. Next Monday, Year 5 and 6 students from Mini

Vinnies will be running a prayer meditation afternoon with each class. Other students from Mini Vinnies will be in charge of visiting the grades to remind them about the bottle recycling program. So far we have raised \$100 for charity. Next term, we



will spend time researching different charities to choose where the money will go.

By Leyla Mazzocco, Zahara Ibrahim, Sienna Tamer Media Team

Partnership

10 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL DROP OFF

- All children should be ready for their school day before you reach the drop-off zone.
- If your child is not ready to get out of your car please do not enter the drop-off zone.
- If you have a child that had a melt down en route to school please pull over somewhere private and address the issue.
- In the interest of public safety do not attempt the double play of talking on your phone and driving while negotiating school drop off.
- Do not get out of your car.
- If your child is carrying a large backpack plus other equipment, please make arrangements to help them unload from the safety of the parking lot.
- If you are in a hurry don't honk your horn or attempt to squeeze into a line opening.
- If your child's teacher is on duty please resist the urge to speak about your child
- Never, ever, park in the drop off-line.



In review, the perfect drop off scenario should be as follows:

1. Kids are dressed
2. Backpacks are ready
3. Approach the drop off zone fully alert
4. Hands on steering wheel
5. Eyes forward when it's your turn for car unloading
6. You initiate the "bye bye, have a great day" sequence
7. Children unload swiftly and with all of their belongings

L. Look 
L. Listen 
L. Learn 




Four Pillars of Learning

Q. Quick 
Q. Quiet 
Q. Quality 

Four Playground Pillars

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

R. Rubbish 
I. In 
B. Bin 

K. Keep 
O. On 
T. Task 

B. Be 
F. Friendly 
G. Gentle 

D. Do 
Y. Your 
B. Best 

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

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

**Cough or sneeze
into your arm**



Use a tissue

