



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 18

Update

Wednesday, 29th July, 2020

Diary Date

Thursday, 30th July

- Kindy Celebrate 100 Days (Students Only)

Friday, 31st July

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Monday, 3rd August

- 8:40am Whole School Assembly and Prayer Service. (Students Only)

Tuesday, 4th August

Wednesday, 5th August

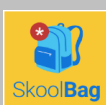
Drink Bottles

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.

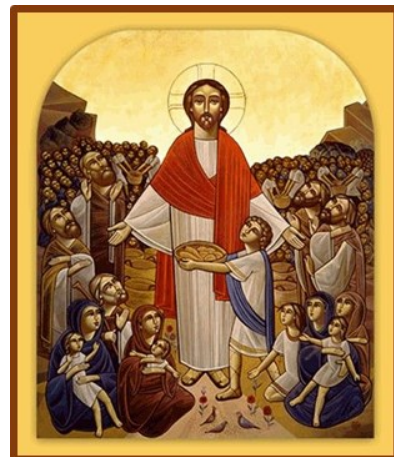
Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Boys and Girls,

Sunday's Gospel; Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand.



Sunday's Gospel seems like a very simple story on the surface of things. Our Catholic faith is a lot like that too. The Catholic faith is simple enough for even children to understand, and yet, it is so complex. We must remember that our Catholic faith is meant to be for everyone, from all walks of life. The young, the old, the rich, the poor, the educated or uneducated, everyone is welcome and has a place in the Catholic church. Bishop Vincent wants us to be a welcoming Church for all.

Jesus looked with compassion at the crowds who came to see him. They were tired and hungry and had travelled a long way just to see him. It did not matter to Jesus why the crowds were there, he simply loved them, without regard to their religious background, station in life, or the sins that were on their soul.

Before Jesus performed this miracle on such a grand scale, he did a very simple thing. He thanked his Father first. This is a lesson for all of us, because Jesus recognized that all good gifts come from our Heavenly Father. Even Jesus knew that he did not perform miracles on his own, but only by the power that God had given him. (Laura Kazlas)

This reflects the importance of prayer and reflection. In Australia today and during this time of need, we must take the time to talk to our God, reflect on our actions and make a difference to the lives of others, just as Jesus did when we walked among us.

Take care and look after each other.

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

School Photos



School Photos have been **postponed** until Term 4. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Canteen

Canteen Breakfast Cancelled

It has been decided to cancel serving breakfast before school effective immediately. All lunch orders must be placed online via the Flexischools ordering app before 9am.

COVID-19

At St Margaret Mary's School we follow the Catholic Education Department Parramatta guidelines in conjunction with the NSW Health Department. If you have any concerns please contact the school office via the school email stmarginetmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

Winter Uniform

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly **including neck ties** for boys and girls.

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.

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.

Student Medical Information

If your child/ren suffers from asthma or has a medical condition, and you have not informed the school office, could you please do so as soon as possible. For example, if your child suffers from asthma, please supply an updated Asthma Action Plan from your child's doctor. All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent and a medication form needs to be completed by the parent.

COVID-19 Information

Students Unwell

If your child/ren are unwell, please keep them at home until they are better. Please notify the school of your child's absence via the Skoolbag App Absentee form.



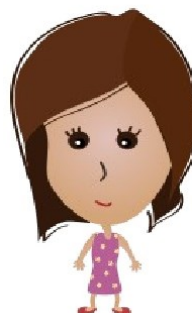
Help us

stop the spread

-  **Clean your hands thoroughly**
for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
-  **Cover your nose and mouth**
when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow. Put the tissues in the bin.
-  **Avoid close contact**
with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
-  **Stay home** if you are sick.

health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus

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.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

GBW:vt

27 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is changing the way students learn about their faith in response to changing times. A bold new approach to Religious Education has been developed based on the big questions students ask about life, identity and belonging.

I can now report that our Draft New Curriculum for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 have been approved by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA). This is a great outcome and supports the important work that is already underway with schools trialling the new approach for many of the other year groups. We are now looking forward to completing the final version of the curriculum so it can be launched in Term 2, 2021.

With a strong focus on connecting students' faith through a framework we call 'Head, Heart and Hands', the new approach is about all aspects of school and parish life here in Parramatta. We encourage everyone to learn more and there will be information about this from your school soon.

Many people have contributed to this once-in-a-generation draft curriculum particularly our Principals, teachers, Religious Education Coordinators, clergy and Catholic Education staff. Bishop Vincent's pastoral leadership has also been critical in guiding this work. It has been a very collaborative process and I particularly want to thank families who have been involved.

This is a very exciting time for our school communities. We look forward with confidence to the launch in 2021 as we 'go into the deep' together to support the faith life of our students and their families.

Yours sincerely

Gregory B Whitby AM KSG
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



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ABN 86 875 623 906



Australian Government
Department of Education, Skills and Employment

Dear parent / guardian / staff member

2020 Non-Government School Census collection notice

The Australian Government provides funding to Australian schools under the *Australian Education Act 2013* (AE Act). The AE Act and the associated *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (the AE Regulation) require that a school authority provides the Australian Government with certain information about the school, its staff, and student body to ensure the school's funding is properly calculated and appropriately managed. This information is collected by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) on behalf of the Australian Government.

What information does the department collect in the Non-Government Schools Census?

Any personal information collected is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988*, and will be handled in accordance with that Act, the AE Act and the AE Regulation.

The authorities that operate schools, such as a Catholic Education Office or an independent school authority, will provide basic information about the school to the Australian Government. This includes its name, address, contact details and years of schooling offered.

The school authority must provide information to the department about the makeup of the school's staff and student body during an annual school census. This is because Australian Government funding varies according to whether students are primary, secondary, receiving distance education, or are overseas students and is calculated to provide additional funding, called 'loadings', for students at educational disadvantage.

The school authority must provide the department with information about the number of staff and students at the school (no names are provided), including the number of:

- teaching and non-teaching staff
- primary and secondary students
- full-time and part-time students
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students
- students with disability
- students receiving distance education
- boarding students
- overseas students.

The department will also collect the name, position and contact details of the staff member nominated as the primary contact for the annual census.

The authority is required to publish some of this information, and it is also published by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) on the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

There may be circumstances in which a school authority will voluntarily provide personal information about individual students to the department. Where a student has not attended a school during the annual Census Reference Period, but the authority wishes to receive funding for them, the authority will provide the department with information about a student showing they meet funding criteria. The department does not require information that identifies an individual student and asks the authority to censor any documents before providing them. The department will destroy any documents it deems sensitive immediately upon receiving them.

Why is this information collected?

The department collects the information outlined above for the purposes of the AE Act, which include:

- calculation of Australian Government funding
- publishing and providing information about schools to the public.

The department also uses the information for research, statistical analysis, and policy development on school education for the Australian Government.

Aggregated information from the annual school census about the school's student body may also be used to validate data from other collections undertaken by the department, such as the Student Residential Address And Other Information Collection.

Who receives this information?

School authorities provide this information directly to the department. The department may in turn pass the information on to ACARA, state and territory education departments and authorities, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and the Productivity Commission. Information passed to ACARA, state and territory education authorities, the ABS, and the Productivity Commission is used by those organisations for their public purposes. For example, the information collected from school authorities under the AE Act forms part of the national statistical collection maintained by the ABS.

From time to time, the department engages contractors to audit or verify school records to ensure that the information a school authority provides to the department on behalf of a school is accurate. The information previously collected by the department may also be passed onto these contractors for this purpose. When carrying out an audit, the contractors may need to access information about individual students from the school's records. This information may be 'personal information' within the meaning given in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contractors may pass this information onto officers within the department if there is a discrepancy in the data provided by the school and the school's records and further investigation is required.

The department will also provide the information to other organisations if required or authorised by law to do so. Other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, investigation of fraud relating to overseas students), the department does not disclose any of the personal information collected to overseas recipients.

Contacts for further information

If you have questions about the collection of information about schools by the Australian Government under the *Australian Education Act 2013*, please contact:

The Recurrent Assistance for Schools team at: schools@dese.gov.au.

You can get more information about the way in which the department will manage any personal information collected, including information on accessing or correcting that personal information, and how to make a complaint, in our full privacy policy at www.dese.gov.au/privacy or by requesting a copy from the department at privacy@dese.gov.au.