



Diary Date

Thursday, 20th August

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Friday, 21st August

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Monday, 24th August

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Tuesday, 25th August

Wednesday, 26th August

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

The Importance of the Institution of the Papacy

(Adjusted from an article sent to Mr Mills by Sr Leone)

The purpose of our life is to be in communion with God. We are all called to this communion and we can all help each other. Our best help comes from the saints in our midst – those who love with Jesus' love.

The local church community is a family into which we have been baptised. We belong to each other. Now it was Jesus' dream that every single human being would come to know his Father, and that the whole world would learn to love as he loved. We are not meant to identify only with the local Christian community. The Church is meant to be universal – that is to say 'Catholic', and it is here that the Pope, the bishop of Rome, has an especially graced role.

As he faced death, Jesus asked Peter to strengthen the other apostles and the community of believers (Luke 22:31-32). This request was made while Jesus was warning Peter that he was going to deny him three times. Paul's ministry, like that of Peter, is not dependent on Paul's personal strength but on God's grace. 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'. This enables Paul to say: 'When I am weak, then I am strong' (2Corinthians 12:9-10).



Jesus promised to be with his Church till the end of time. He prayed to his Father that his followers would remain united, and it is this promise and this prayer that sustained Peter in his difficult ministry. When Peter died his successors in the church of Rome continued Peter's role of holding all the various local churches together in one family. Like Peter, other popes have denied Jesus and have been responsible for very un-Christlike behaviour. While we recognise the human weakness of individual Popes, let us remember the enormity of the ministry that the Pope has to carry. We have also been blessed with men of extraordinary courage and sanctity. Jesus promised that his Spirit would never abandon us.



The Pope's ministry is to hold the whole of the Catholic world together. If that is truly of value, surely we can afford a little patience when Rome seems to be moving too slowly. Let us pay him the respect of our humble obedience as he guides us in our teaching, our governing and the loving that makes us holy.

We pray that our Pope, Francis, will be faithful to the grace given him in his important office of guiding us so that we may grow together in holiness.

Kevin Mills

Principal

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.

Administration

Staff Professional Learning Day

Friday 11th September

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

My Thanks

The past two weeks have been very challenging for our community in a number of ways. I have been very proud of the attitude and work of staff, students, parents and carers in providing a positive atmosphere and environment during this difficult time. The wonderful qualities of the St Margaret Mary's Community have enabled us to rebound very quickly back to normality for our students and their learning journey. It would be fair to say, prayer and talking to my God, became my bedrock very much during the uncertain of our experience. I will continue to keep all our Community in my prayers, and I ask God to bless us and keep us safe.

Enrolments

We have had an overwhelming number of students applying for places in Kindergarten 2021. We only have a limited number of places in other grades. If you know of any one interested in a place for these grades, please have them contact the school office as soon as possible.

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.

Water Bottles

If you require a replacement Drink Bottle, they can be purchased from the school office for \$5.00ea. We only have a limited number.

All students must have a drink bottle at school.

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**. Sleeper earrings and stud earrings may be worn. Simple signet rings may also be worn. No expensive jewellery is to be worn at school.

COVID-19 Information

COVID –19 Cancelled Activities

Due to COVID-19 the following activities have been cancelled:

- Year 6 Canberra Overnight excursion
- Year 5 Leadership Overnight excursion
- Year 6 Graduation Dinner
- Year 6 Aquatic Centre Fun Day. Year 6 will be looking into activities for a fun day at school.
- StMM's Primary Schools Carnivals

We will review

- We will be reviewing the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and information will be sent out in term 4.
- Kindergarten 2021 Parent Information evening and orientation is on hold and we will advise parents in term 4.

Partnership

Tell Them from Me Survey



We are inviting students, staff and **Tell Them From Me** parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey called *Tell Them From Me*. *The survey window is now open and will close on the 28th of August.*

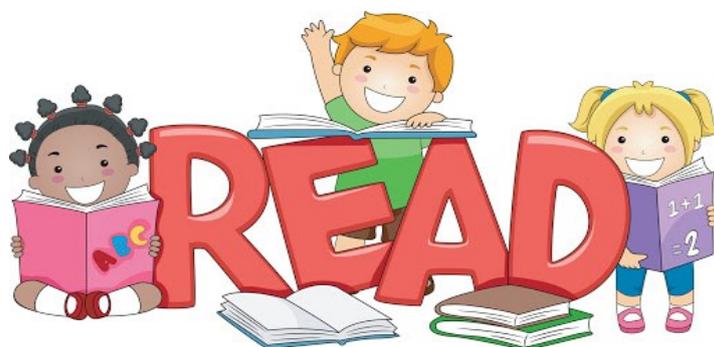
We are asking all parents in our community to take part in the survey as the online tool will become an important part of St Margaret Mary's whole school evaluation and planning process.

The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Margaret Mary's.

This year's survey will include five additional questions relating to the 'At Home Learning' experience as a result of the Covid-19 situation.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer by using the URL

<http://tellthemfromme.com/stmms2020>



Personal Growth

Voice of Youth 2020

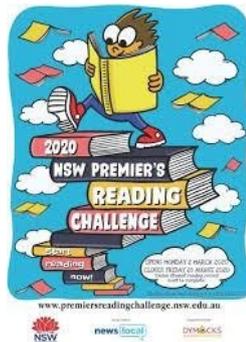
Every year, Year Six students take part in a public speaking contest called 'Voice of Youth'. The process begins in Year Six where every student writes and presents a speech on a chosen topic. The top twelve students then are listened to by Year Five and their teachers and our winner that would normally represent our school against other schools is chosen. The winner from Year Six this year was Isabella Blandon Cano with a speech on 'Reading'. Congratulations to Isabella and all our other finalists for 2020.



Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

There is still time to complete the PRC.

Books read on SORA can be included in the PRC, as a Free Choice book (limit of 5), a Bonus Choice 2020 book (limit of 5), or if they are on the approved PRC Booklist.



PRC Closes: Friday, 28th August.

Partnership

Holroyd Little Athletics

Wishes to invite boys and girls, of any ability, aged from 5 to 16 years to join us for a season of athletics. We offer a COVID Safe environment, where the emphasis is on self improvement. We have qualified coaches to instruct in all aspects of running, jumping and throwing. Little Athletics is fun, as well as being a health sport.

Cost of \$100 up until 28th September, is covered by an Active Kids Voucher. Season commences Friday 11th September 6pm, at Holroyd Sports Ground, corner of Peel and Roberts Street, Holroyd. Go to our website www.holroydlac.com.au for links to register and redeem the Active Kids voucher and for all information. For enquires ring 0409 658 591 or 0423 745 074.

Parents are reminded that this is an outside activity.



COME RUN, JUMP AND THROW WITH US!



Teaching & Learning

Year 4 IncurSION

On Wednesday, 12th August 2020, Year Four had a virtual excursion to learn about what life was like in the new colony at Hyde Park Barracks. We were lucky because even the other students who were at home were able to participate via zoom!



Let's take you back 200 years ago in the new colony...

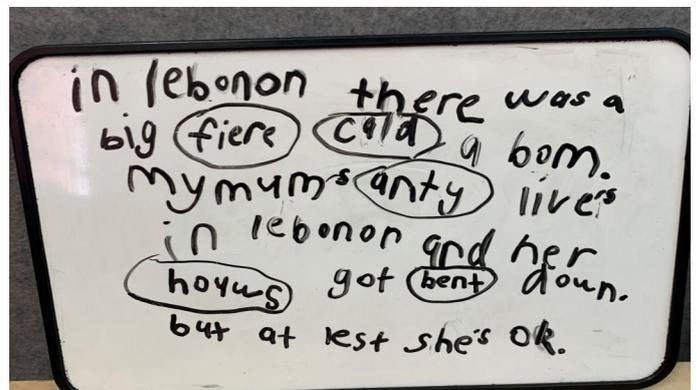
- The male convicts needed to make 1000 bricks a day. They used clay and moulds to form and shape the bricks. This was very tiring and stressful for the convicts.
- They would count how many bricks they made by putting their fingers into the bricks. One mark represented 100 bricks.
- Convicts worked at sunrise until sunset. They had two meals a day including dinner at 2pm. After dinner they went back to work.
- Cobblers are shoemakers and they needed to make one pair of shoes per day!
- The female convicts worked at the Female Factory and made slops (outfits) during the day.
- This might sound a bit gross but, did you know that in the barracks, (where the male convicts lived) there were no toilets so they did their business in a BUCKET!



We loved our zoom experience.

By: Tia Khouri, Michelle Wang and Lily Garland

Kindergarten Writing



In Lebanon there was a big fire called a bomb. My mum's Aunty lives in Lebanon and her house got burnt down but at least she is ok. *By Olivia Haddad KBlue*

COVID-19 Information

NSW Health Guidelines and Protocols (as of 17th August 2020)

The following list contains the up-to-date information and guidelines on Covid-19 from the NSW Government. These will be up-dated as new information and decisions are shared with CEDP. We do acknowledge and understand the difficulty and disappointment of the impact of these new guidelines, but also appreciate the importance of following these protocols. StMM's will always work together to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our Students, Staff, Parents and Carers.

Safety and Hygiene

- Students do not attend St Margaret Mary's Primary School if they are unwell.
- Each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home due to flu like symptoms **must be tested**
- Students **must not return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free**
- Our Office must **sight the negative COVID-19 test result** prior to allowing students to return to school
i.e. NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre correspondence (SMS or email or hard copy) and/or a medical certificate must be provided to the school and a record of this kept by the school

School Operations

- Students to stay within their year group for all learning activities, wherever possible.
- StMM's will not travel outside of their local community area or zone.
- Only external providers essential to the delivery of curriculum may continue. This decision remains at the discretion of the Principal, according to its importance to the delivery of the curriculum.

School Related Activities

- The StMM's Choir and Band will not be operating on site.
- Year 6 Graduation assembly is allowed with restrictions.
- **Formal graduation ceremonies are now not allowed.**
- P&F social events or functions are not permitted.

Additional Advice

- 2021 StMM's Kindergarten orientation and transition to school activities **remain on hold until further notice.**
- We will regularly share messages on StMM's Skoolbag App & Website reminding families if their child is unwell, to get them tested and keep them at home.

Stopping of certain practices

- Our school-related overnight events (retreats, camps, excursions,)
- StMM's activities (e.g. sports carnivals, school formals, dinners or dances, graduation ceremonies or parent engagement functions)

Ongoing measures

NSW Health continues to advise schools to:

- exclude students and staff with even mild symptoms of COVID-19
- encourage immediate testing for any symptomatic child(ren) or staff
- ensure that adults maintain physical distancing at all times
- ensure good hand hygiene at all times (e.g. upon entry to the school, entry to the classroom and upon exit of the classroom)
- limit activities that result in the mixing of students and staff from schools from the local area