



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 7

Bulletin

Wednesday, 17th March, 2021

Diary Dates

Thursday, 18th March

- Yr 3 The Big Vege Crunch

Friday, 19th March

- Harmony Day - Mufti Day and Gold Coin Donation.

Monday, 22nd March

- 8:40am Whole school assembly. Parents welcome to attend.

Tuesday, 23rd March

-

Wednesday, 24th March

- Principal's Morning Tea.

Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2022 are now taking place. If your child was born between 1st August, 2016 and 31st July, 2017, please collect an enrolment form from the school office. Interviews will commence at the end of April. Last year we had a waiting list with over 120 applications.

Change of Details

If you have moved house or changed your contact details, please notify the school office as soon as possible to update your details in case of an emergency.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school in 2021, 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 is the main preference for communication to all parents. Our School Name for Skoolbag App is SMMPM.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

The word religion comes from the Latin 'ligo' meaning to bind, and 're' meaning again. When things are falling apart, religion is that which binds everything back together again. Religion is meant to bring all our feelings, all our hopes, all our memories, all our longings, and bind them all together, making sense of them and directing them to the deepest purpose of our life. We are made to live in communion with God 'in whom we live and move and have our being'. We are made by love to experience love, to receive it and give it. We lose our bearings, we sin, we wander, and religion is there to get us back on track, back in touch with our hearts.

Religion, for Jesus, was not about the correct weights and measures, and tithes and sizes of goats and lambs and doves - the clutter of the temple. His simple, but all-demanding, command: **'Love one another the way I love you'**. This is our call to be Church and this is our religion. Retired Bishop Pat Power speaks to us of the importance of living as Catholics in today's world:

Our leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, humbly and realistically recognises that he does not have all the answers, but looks to local communities to search out, reflect and take action on the issues which are affecting their people. This would include the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, unemployment, homelessness, poverty in a multitude of forms, domestic violence, suicide, mental illness, Aboriginal disadvantage and rural crises.

At the heart of these tragic stories is the diminishing of the value of human life. Of course, there are many good news stories as well, but unfortunately, they do not always attract the same publicity. Sometimes we can be overwhelmed by the vastness and the complexity of the problems. But I am heartened by the slogan often used by development agencies which encourage us to think globally and act locally. Personal friendships, neighbourly concern and simple acts of kindness can be powerful antidotes to many of our contemporary evils.

I find the image of the pilgrim church an attractive one for today's Catholics. We are not standing still but are being constantly called to move forward, often re-adjusting to changing circumstances, sometimes falling over or getting lost. Always we need Jesus and our fellow Christians as companions on the journey.

Pope Francis gives expression to the deepest sentiments of my heart:

"We have a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive, and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach. Our infinite sadness can only be cured by infinite love".

As we travel our Lenten journey we are call to care and minister to the people Bishop Pat refers to above. We are invited to make a difference, big or small, in someone's life. To connect with people and God, thus living out our faith.

God Bless.

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal



Administration

StMM's Covid Safe Plan for Visitors

Please follow our Procedures to ensure we keep our community safe

- All visitors to our school need to comply with sign-in arrangements including checking in using the Service NSW QR codes and the StMM's Sign-in Sheet (where applicable).
- Anyone attending StMM's must continue to comply with the gathering limits prescribed by the Public Health Orders, physical distancing, hygiene measures and follow COVID-19 Safe Plan and Guidelines.
- Parents and carers can enter the school to drop off and pick up students in accordance with StMM's school arrangements and the above principles. (We will have areas to gather)
- There will be no access to Learning Spaces for Parents & Carers unless they have an appointment.
- Afternoon Dismissal (Car & Parent Pickup) will remain the same until we gauge how well the "Return to School for Adults" is travelling.
- Parents and carers are asked to continue to physically distance from one another and from staff during school pick-up and drop-off.
- Parents and/or community members can gather for StMM's School events.
- Students are now able to mix together across year groups or other cohorts for all school-related activities.

Term 1 School Fees

Term 1 fees are due 17th March, unless you have opted for an arrangement with the school for the year. If you have any queries regarding your statement please contact the school office. **Please note, one terms notice (10 school weeks) in writing, must be given to the principal/school before the removal of a student or a full terms fee will be payable.**

School Hours

We have a number of students arriving at school after 8:40am. Students arriving after this time need to be signed in at the school office by a parent. Parents are reminded of the following rules.:

- 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 8:15am.**
- From 8:15am until 8:30am is a walk and talk time only.
- NO running or ball games in the playground in the mornings.
- 8:30am Students make their way to class.
- Please collect child/ren from school at 3:00pm.

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.

StMM's School Website

Please visit our StMM's School Website:

<https://www.stmmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au>

You will find all the events celebrated at StMM's in Term 1 2021, under the 'Community' heading and in the 'Gallery' section. We hope you enjoy them.

Representative Team Shirts

Just a reminder that if your child has represented St Margaret Mary's and has had the privilege of wearing one of our representative team shirts, could it please be washed and returned to Mrs Foley as soon as possible. Thank you.



Teaching & Learning

School Visitors

On Wednesday, 10th March, two visitors from the National Catholic Education Commission visited our school. Jacinta Collins (Executive Director) and Sally Egan (Deputy Director) met Mr Mills and



Mrs Ryan. They were brought by our two School Captains (Christopher Faddoul and Lucinda Tran) to the infant's building, where they met a few Kindergarten students and the Kindy teachers which are Miss Tan, Mrs Hannah and Miss Fardella. They then were directed

to Year 1 and 2 to meet a few more students, asking more about their learning before meeting with Mr Mills, the Vice captains (Gabriella Mifsud and Benedict Blas) Mrs Debes, Ms Ash and Mrs Yanz in the learning support room.



The Vice Captains directed the visitors to the primary building. Mr Mills and the Vice Captains then presented the Year 3 and 5 learning spaces. After that, they walked through the corridor to go to the school study. As they were in the school study they showed the visitors the different pieces of work that students and teachers have been working on throughout their years at St Margaret Mary's.

We hope that both of the visitors enjoyed their visit at our school and that they will

come back soon.

By: Lucinda Tran, Christopher Faddoul (School Captains), Gabriella Mifsud and Benedict Blas (Vice Captains)



Teaching and Learning

Year Five Discovery Learning IncurSION

On Wednesday 10th March, Year Five students went to a sustainability incurSION in the school hall. Andrew was the presenter from Cleanaway.

He showed us videos about the yellow, green and the red bins. He also explained the process of what happens when recycled items are sorted and taken to different locations for re-processing.

Later we were given an activity to complete in groups where we had to compare different items in terms of packaging and their effect on the environment. During the activity we answered questions about reusing or recycling packaging.

All the Year Five students enjoyed the presentation. Andrew told us many reasons about why we should keep our environment clean and the ways to do it.

We all have a choice to keep our environment sustainable. What will you do to help our environment? Did you know that you can't place plastic bags and chip packets in the yellow recycle bin?

By Marcel Baimi and Nyadeng Manyang



Year 1 Discovery Learning

During Discovery Learning time, Year 1 used recycled materials to create their own musical instruments. The classroom was filled with lots of creative instruments including guitars, drums, triangles and maracas. Year 1 really enjoyed using their instruments to perform to their class.



Personal Growth

Principals Morning Tea

Mr Mills will be holding a Principals morning tea on Wednesday 24th March for the students who have collected all 4 pillar awards. This morning tea is for students only who have gained their Principals award for Term 1.

Our Four Pillars of Learning

Students are reminded of the Four Pillars of Learning and how they are directly linked to our Award system. Mr Mills holds a Principal's Morning Tea with students who have received an award for each Pillar and thus a Principal's Award. These morning tea's are held once a term.

Faith Community

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe our Faith Community encourages us to live our Catholic Faith. We practise our faith by participating in Liturgies, prayer and lessons. We want to follow our School Moto "Love the Truth" by listening, sharing and acting on the word of God.

Teaching & Learning

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Teaching and Learning is working to the best of our ability in all Key Learning Areas. We work with other students, teachers and staff to ensure quality work and our best efforts. We want to work together, listening sharing and helping others at all times.

Partnership

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe that Partnership is communicating, interacting and co-operating with others. Partnership is having a connection with others to have a go, it is agreeing on an idea and completing it together.

Personal Growth

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Personal Growth allows us to set our individual goals and strive to achieve them. We use our gifts and talents when working towards our goals in the areas of learning and attitude. We want to show respect and be more like Jesus.

Faith Community

Harmony Day

On Friday, 19th March, St Margaret Mary's will be celebrating Harmony Day. This is a day to celebrate cultural diversity in our community. We ask that all students wear **orange mufti** and bring in a **gold coin donation**. All donations will go to the Project Compassion Lenten Appeal. Students will participate in a range of activities and work with a buddy class. We look forward to celebrating Harmony Day as a school community.



Vinnies Lenten Appeal Mini

During this season of Lent, Mini Vinnies organised a Lenten Appeal for students to bring in donations such as fruit cups, sultanas, tiny teddies and much more! Each grade was asked to bring in small packets of food so that students in Mini Vinnies can package them into little snack packs for the homeless. They will then be donated to the Vinnies Van Service. Thank you to all the parents and children who have generously donated the snacks, our baskets are overflowing and we know that these donations will make a huge difference to the lives of homeless people this Lent.



By Mikayla Maree Georges, Eva Shrestha & Paea Mataele Media Team

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Last Tuesday 9th March, thirteen students represented St Margaret Mary's and the Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. This carnival was a first for many of our students and it was spectator free. I would like to acknowledge the way these students and their parents supported the event and the behaviour of our students was exceptional. Congratulations goes to Joab Hada, Lisa Shrestha and Jay Shrestha who have now qualified as members of the 2021 Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Team who will compete at the NSW CPCS Swimming Trials on Monday, 22nd March at SOPAC, Homebush. We wish you all the best in the swimming trials.



Whole School Assembly

On Monday, 15th March, the whole school gathered together for our first assembly. Due to Covid-19, this is our first assembly with the parents after 12 months! All the students were facing the LARC windows while the parents were at the back on the steps, behind the students. To welcome everyone back, we said the school prayer. We are looking forward to future events where we can have more parents to attend more assemblies and other events.



By John Forah, Elena Lin, and Nyadeng Manyang Media Team

Personal Growth



WEEK 9 WELLBEING WEEK



As we approach the end of Term 1, in Week 9, 5tMM will again be hosting Wellbeing Week!

The theme of this Term's Wellbeing Week is 'Connection' and students will engage in different activities throughout the week connected to this theme.

There will also be no homework during Wellbeing Week. It will be a week where your child can have a break from their usual homework routine and spend quality time with parents and friends to build on our theme of 'Connection'.

On Monday, students will be given a jigsaw piece with suggested activities to encourage each child to focus on their wellbeing for the week. Each term a new piece of the puzzle will be provided until they have a full puzzle based around the topic of Wellbeing.

Wellbeing Week 9 will also be a 'Free Choice Uniform' week, where the children can choose to wear either their sport uniform or school uniform any day of the week.

Please note that Friday, 26th of March will be a 'Movie & Mufti' day for all students.

Cross Country Team

Congratulations to the following students who will represent St Margaret Mary's at the Diocesan Cross Country on May 4th at Sydney Motorsport Park. The students will receive a note at the beginning of term 2 with all the details of the carnival. It is advised that students are preparing for the carnival. 12 and 11 years will be required to run 3kms. 10, 9 and 8 years will be required to run 2kms. Students are encouraged to bring their sports shoes to train in on Monday - Thursday. Training will occur during recess or lunchtimes.

12 Yrs Boys

Tausinga Langi
Jesse Pickering
Ring Yakmalek
Christian Bounassif
Joshua Khoury
Jo Azzi

12 Yrs Girls

Mabel Sullay
Scarlett Neculman
Lisa Shrestha
Grace Geaitani
Kristine Sarmiento
Aluel Hawach

11 Yrs Boy

Joab Hada
Christos Gavrilos
Sebastian Bedrossian
Xavier Tautu
Joey Leibrandt
John Barakat

11 Yrs Girls

Clara Fetrie
Pavitar Pansi
Alat Juk
Serena Georges
Grace Fakhr
Gabriella Tannous

10 Yr Boys

Sean Ejim
Alexander Khoury
Lucas Vien
Yak Yakmalek
Christopher Ndaira
Jason Zoumpoulis

10 Yr Girls

Jadya Saahene
Jacinta Pickering
Isabella Faddoul
Tia Khouri
Helin Taze
Grace El Rassi

8/9 Yr Boys

Jacob Leke
Jacob Tamer
Deng Deng
Chom Juk
Dominic Chahoud
Luis Frederic Abikhailil

8/9 Yrs Girls

Claire Leke
Iris Shi Wang
Chanelle Haouchab
Valetina Carrano
Rose Tahan
Jessica Halteh

Partnership

P&F Easter Raffle



There was an error in the letter sent home to families with the raffle tickets on Monday. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The P&F will be accepting Easter egg donations and wrapping the Easter prizes on **Friday 26th March 2021**. Students will have a mufti day on this day.

All sold and unsold tickets need to be returned to school by no later than **Wednesday 24th March**.

The P&F are seeking donations of Easter baskets and trays that we could use for the Easter raffle. If you have any spare baskets or trays at home that you no longer need, we would be happy to take them. These items can be left in the school office.

All parents/carers that wish to assist the P&F in any activities, must complete the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities online undertaking form and training module for volunteers. This can be accessed via www.parra.catholic.edu.au

1. Click on About Us
 2. Click on Building Child Safe Communities
- Read the questions and follow the instructions carefully

✂.....

Easter Wrapping Helper

I am **able** to help with the wrapping of Easter Egg Prizes on **Friday, 26th March 2021**.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Time available: _____

✂.....

I am **unable** to help but I am able to provide morning tea e.g. Sandwiches, quiche, biscuits, etc.

Name: _____

Food to be provided: _____

I have completed the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities online undertaking form and training module

Yes No

Once this is completed please forward your approval email to the school stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

