



Diary Dates

Thursday, 18th February

Friday, 19th February

Monday, 22nd February

Tuesday, 23rd February

- St Pauls Visiting Year 6 Boys

Wednesday, 24th February

Thursday 25th February

Friday, 26th February

- Yrs 5 & 6 Opening School Mass & Commissioning of Student Leaders.
- Cerdon College Visiting Year 6 Girls

Library Borrowing Timetable

Monday	Yrs 2, 4 & 6 B
Tuesday	Kinder, & 6R
Wednesday	6Y
Friday	Yrs 1, 3 & 5

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 StMM's Community,



Today we enter the season of Lent. In Australia the seasons are reversed, and we have to adapt the symbolism. After the heat of summer, perhaps we can pray for the grace of God's Spirit to come with the gentle autumn rains to purify and refresh our hearts.

The ritual of ashes symbolises what happens when we are consumed by the fire of the Spirit (and for us it is the Spirit of Jesus, the fire of Pentecost). But we are more than dust, for God breathed into this dust his breath, the breath of life, his Spirit.

We do not begin Lent by focusing negatively on ourselves. We begin where Jesus began: 'The Kingdom of God is at hand, so repent!' We begin with a profound act of faith in the desire of God to pour his Spirit into our hearts, to renew us with the fire of his Spirit. In accepting the ashes, we are indicating our willingness to undergo whatever God's knows is needed to set our hearts on fire.

Jesus in the Gospel also invites us not only to fast but also to turn our attention in a special way to the needs of our neighbour and to spend time in prayer. The questions we might ask ourselves as Lent begins are: What is God gracing me to change? Where is God's love calling me to grow?

Let our main resolution for Lent be to make space in our day to be alone with God - giving him this time in order that he may love us with his Spirit and awaken us to answer the questions above.

(Taken and adjusted from Sr Leone)

Take care and God bless,

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal



Just a short note: *I would like to pass on my thanks and gratitude for the amazing manner in which your children come to school each day. They are a credit to you and an excellent advert for our school. The students are very settled in their learning spaces and their behaviour on the playground has been great. I also want to thank our community for the support displayed regarding COVID and the number of issues we have had to deal with. Please continue to show your understanding as we transition to different practises. Kevin Mills*

Administration

School Fees

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta have sent out all Invoice/Statements for the 2021 year. If you have not received your statement by the 28th February, please contact Maria in the school office. Term 1 School Fees are due by 17th 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 2021 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano on 8633 8400.

School Hours

Parents are reminded of the following points

Mornings

- 8:15am Playground supervision commence
- 8:30am student should be at school
- Between 8:15am and 8:30am is walk and talk only
- 8:40am lessons commence
- No ball games or running in the morning before school.
- Student arriving before 8:15am are to sit in the COLA area outside the library and read a book.

Afternoon

- School finishes at 3:00pm

Parents are asked to contact the school office if they are running late to collect their child/ren.

School Office open from 8:15am to 3:15pm every day.

Car Pick-up Service.



Please note that this is a voluntary service provided by the school for the safety of each student leaving the school, using this routine. The following points need to be followed by the students and the teachers. We have over 220 families leaving school by this process each afternoon and we are calling the support of students and parents to ensure its smooth running each day. Children who cannot behave for this service will be asked to move to parent pickup area.

Practices for Afternoon Car Pick-Up

- Car Pick-Up commences at 3:00pm
- The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is the length of the school block in Henson Street between the Pick-up Signs.
- Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage.
- Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly, taking into account all signs & road rules.
- The Police and Council Rangers will book cars not following the road rules.

Aspects to follow for Car pick-up

- **Stagger your arrival between 3:00pm and 3:30pm**
- Have your number visible for the teachers to call
- **Remain calm and patient at all times**
- Adults to remain in car
- **Follow all road rules.**
- **Patience, Patience, Patience**

Reading Log

Every student at StMM's is expected to read each night and record their efforts in the Reading Diary. Setting aside a time to read each night at home is an excellent routine to establish before students enter high school. If parents feel their child is responsible (Yrs 5 & 6) the student may do the recording and sign off.

Student Diary

Students in years 3-6 have been given a school diary. Students are required to have their diary at school every day. Mr Mills will be going around to grades and check students have their diary.

COVID Restrictions

There have been a number of changes to NSW Health & CEDP COVID Guidelines. We are looking at different ways we can connect with our Community and maintain the safety and wellbeing for Students and Staff. Please note the following:

- There will be **no changes** to Parent or Car Pickup procedures at this stage.
- Outside Sporting Events are beginning this week.
- Library borrowing & Home Readers has started.
- Next week we will share how we will hold our 2021 Student / Parent / Teacher Interviews.
- Our P&F Meetings will begin again in March (details to follow).
- Information regarding the Parish Sacramental Programs will finalised by April.
- We have booked our Year 6 Students Trip to Canberra.
- Outside excursions will be permitted (if approved COVID safe plans are in place)

School Uniforms

Lowes School wear is the only supplier of the St Margaret Mary's 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.



Students are NOT wearing the correct sports shoes and socks. The school sports shoes should be predominately white and socks should be white with a fold down top. Parents are asked to ensure that students have the correct uniform on at all times.



Faith Community

Year 3 Celebrate Shrove Tuesday



"Would you like Maple Syrup on top or strawberry jam?" The day before Ash Wednesday is Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Tuesday! We celebrate Pancake Tuesday before we fast for Lent. Year 3



made hot sizzling pancakes with Maple syrup drizzled on top! They were very yummy.



LIFTED Live Jnr Zoom Event

On Tuesday 23rd February, 2021, a number of students from Years 5 and 6 will be participating in a free online LIFTED Live Jnr event delivered via Zoom. This contemporary, faith-filled event aims to inspire our students to hear and respond to the 'call to mission' in our community.



Mini Vinnies 2021

Mini Vinnies will begin again soon! It will be open to students in Years 5 and 6 who have a passion for social justice issues. Students who are interested will complete an application form this week and begin working together to plan activities that will make a difference in our school community. We look forward to working with a dedicated and passionate group of students this year.

Mrs Del Monte and Mrs James

Commissioning Mass - Year 6 Student Leaders

On Friday, 26th February a commissioning mass is being held to officially induct the Year 6 student leaders into their respective roles and present them with their badges. This mass will mark our first celebration in the church since February 2020. Under the current NSW restrictions, STMM's church has a maximum capacity of 300 people. As a result, Fr Janusz has kindly offered to host a private mass that will be attended by Year 5 and Year 6 students and staff, as well as invited family members of the Year 6 student leaders. As this event would traditionally be witnessed by the whole school community, the badges will be presented again in a small assembly for the students and staff who are unable to be accommodated in the church. We continue to look forward to a time when we can come together in the church and celebrate with all of the STMM's community.



Partnership

Students Wellbeing



StMM's endeavours to provide a safe environment where all students' needs are catered for equally without further discrimination and fear. The number of children with food allergies in Australia is increasing and it is estimated that 1 in 20 have a food allergy and 1 in 50 have a peanut allergy. The most common food allergies are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, almonds, cashews etc) cow's milk, soy, seafood and eggs. The health and wellbeing of students at this school is carefully considered in all activities.

It is important all families are aware that StMM's has a number of students who have a range of Allergies (Some anaphylaxis). These include, but not limited to the ones listed above with ten students needing an Epi-pen if they come in contact with the trigger allergy.

Allergies: Allergies occur when the immune system produces antibodies against substances in the environment (allergens) that are usually harmless. Once an allergy has developed, exposure to the particular allergen can result in symptoms that vary from mild to life threatening (anaphylaxis).

Anaphylaxis: Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Although there has been an increase in the number of children diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis, deaths are still rare. However, deaths have occurred and anaphylaxis must therefore be regarded as a medical emergency.

Did you know?

- Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency that requires a rapid response.
- A child can have an allergic reaction from simply shaking hands or sharing toys with students who have eaten foods earlier in the day.
- The key to prevention is identifying triggers and preventing exposure to these triggers.
- Adrenaline given through an adrenaline Epi-pen is the first line treatment for anaphylaxis.
- The Epi-pen is designed so anyone can use it in an emergency.

Tips for Students

- Do not swap food
- Wash hands after eating
- Tell the teacher if you are worried about particular food
- Know which friends have an allergy

Tips for Parents

- Discourage children from swapping food
- Check all food labels
- Inform the school of all allergies
- Work with the school to make a Health Care Plan
- Supply an Epi-pen to the school
- Check Epi-pen expiry date regularly
- Teach your child about their allergy

Canteen Lunch Orders/Flexischools Online Ordering

All lunch orders are placed online. It has come to our attention that orders need to be confirmed at the last stage of the process within Flexischools. If "Confirm Order" is not pressed, you will **not** receive an emailed confirmation. If you do not receive an emailed confirmation your order has **NOT** been processed.



Free webinars to help you protect children online

In partnership with the [eSafety Commissioner](#), the Council of Catholic School Parents will be holding two free webinars to provide parents and carers with strategies to establish a safe online environment for their children.

The sessions will be presented by Greg Gebhart, one of Australia's leading online safety presenters. Greg has provided presentations to more than 800,000 participants at state, national and international events.

Tech, teens and time online

One hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 12-18 years old.

The session will cover:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, relationships and online harassment
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- online wellbeing strategies for teens
- how to get help if things go wrong.

7.30 – 8.30 pm Tuesday 23 March 2021

Register at ccsp.catholic.edu.au/webinar

Helping kids thrive online

One hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of children aged 5-12 years old.

This session will cover:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and online bullying
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- skills that young people need to protect themselves online
- how to get help if things go wrong.

12.30 – 1.30 pm Thursday 25 March 2021

Register at ccsp.catholic.edu.au/webinar

For more information contact Clare Dunstan clare.dunstan@ccsp.catholic.edu.au

The Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) is the peak representative body for parents with children in Catholic schools in NSW and ACT.
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OLMC OPEN DAY
Sunday, 7 March 2021
10.00am – 2.00pm

www.olmc.nsw.edu.au
A work of the Sisters of Mary Perpetua since 1857

Ash Wednesday Liturgies



StMM's Cumberland Zone Swimming Team