



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 5

Bulletin

Wednesday, 3rd March, 2021

Season of Lent



God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent.

Open Morning

St Margaret Mary's will be holding an open morning on Wednesday 17th March from 9:00am—10:30am, for New Kindergarten 2022 families.

Asthma

With the unusual seasonal weather parents are reminded to ensure their child understands the importance of controlling their Asthma by taking the prescribe medication correctly.

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, Carers, Boys & Girls,

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

Mark's Gospel last week portrays the scene of the Transfiguration. It was an experience shrouded in mystery for the three apostles who accompanied Jesus. We know that there are five people in the story and each is given a name; Moses, Elijah, Jesus, Peter, James and John.

The Gospel of the Transfiguration reveals to us the importance of having a group identity. The two ancestors of Jesus' kinship, Moses and Elijah represent two important pillars of a faith community – the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). As we move further into our Lenten journey let us reflect on our identity in our Christian faith community and ways in which we can deepen this understanding of our kinship in Christ.



We have a strong identity of service and belonging at StMM's, one which we have worked hard to strengthen, under our Faith Community pillar. Building on our relationship with our parish is vital to understand our connection to Jesus and his mission. We often use the phrase "What would Jesus do?" with the children as a link to his actions on earth.

The following questions can focus your attention on your own personal Lenten journey.

- Where do you find your true identity and your secure place of belonging?
- Jesus had many significant signposts or touchstones in the unfolding of his journey. What are your signposts?

Remember our Lenten Journey is an opportunity to do better and bring us closer to our God.

God bless and take care,

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

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.

School Fees

All Invoice/Statements have been sent out by CEDP. Please contact Maria in the school office if you have not yet received your statement. Term 1 School Fees are due by 17th March unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CEDP. If you have queries with regards to your 2021 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano on 8633 8400 in the school office.

Canteen

We would like to apologise for the problems caused with ordering lunches last Friday through the Flexischools App. We have spoken to Flexischools and this should now have been rectified. The Flexischools is a third party to the school and some issues are out of our control.



Entering and Exiting the School for Students

There are two ways for students to enter and exit the school in the mornings and afternoons from now on.

Morning Arrivals

1. Top Church Gate
2. Car Drop off

Afternoon Dismissal

1. Top Church Gate
2. Car Pick-up

Please note the Year 2 Gates will not be open for general traffic as a matter of safety.

All visitors to the school including parents enter the school via the school office and must sign in.

Excursions

It is important for all students and parents to note that all incursions and excursions are an important part of learning at STMM's. With regards to children attending (including sporting events), the school has a process whereby children with inappropriate behaviour may be unable to participate in these events. The decisions regarding students attendance is the responsibility of the Principal and Assistant Principal. The school will endeavour to consult and inform parents if there are concerns about a child's attendance at these events.



Car Pick Up

Please be aware, the Car pick up is a voluntary service for our school community. Thank you to all the parents and students who are following the guidelines. It is expected all students read a book while they are sitting with their family waiting for their number to be called. Student who are unable to do this will not be able to participate in the Car pick up service.

- Space your arrivals after 3pm.
- All students must have a book to read
- Be patient, attentive and obey all road rule
- Police will book parents

Teacher/Parent/Student Interviews

We appreciate all the parents that have already booked online for the upcoming Teacher/Parent/Student Interviews. We look forward to having our community on-site for this occasion and ask that you follow all our procedures as the safety and wellbeing of our community members is very important to us.

NSW Department of Education & CEDP request that we have a COVID Safe Plan in place and all individuals must follow the following procedures:

- Parents/carers may only enter the school for these interviews after booking a time with your child's class teacher. (Completed via 'schoolinterviews' website.)
- Parents/carers will be required to scan the QR code using Service NSW app
- Staff will record the name/s of the parent/carer for StMM's records.
- Parents/carers are to sanitise hands upon entering the learning space/s and keep 1.5m distance between other adults.

For the beginning of the school days Monday 15th March - Thursday 18th March, all students when entering the school will go to one of the following areas.

- All primary students (3-6) will go to the lower grass
- All infants (K-2) will go the covered area on the top playground
- All students will remain here until their class teachers collect them. (This is part of COVID safe practices for schools).

For Interviews before school:

Please enter the top parish gate ONLY, have your name ticked off then proceed straight to the assigned waiting area.

For interviews after school

You may enter from the top parish gate, as well as the lower gate (car pick-up area) and go straight to the assigned waiting area.

Assigned Waiting Areas:

1. **Infants:-** Go straight to the outside undercover area in infants and wait there for the teacher - do not enter the corridors please
2. **Primary:-** Go straight to the seats in the corridor outside your child's learning space.

Please note:

1. No other older students/family members are allowed on premises.
2. Children must remain with the adult - they are not to walk along corridors, nor play outside
3. You are requested to come on time and exit as soon as possible after your interview/s
4. There will be a range of staff on duty to support the procedures listed above.

StMM's School Website

Please visit our StMM's School Website:

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

By the end of the week, under the 'Community' heading and in the 'Gallery' section you will find the following events celebrated at StMM's School in Term 1 2021 so far.

1. 2021 Commissioning Mass for StMM's School Leaders.
2. Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival.
3. StMM's Ash Wednesday Liturgy.
4. First Day of Kindergarten.

We hope you enjoy them.

Faith Community

Mini Vinnies News

On Tuesday 23rd February, Mini Vinnies participated in Lifted Live. This was a zoom concert online where we linked up with other schools in our diocese and we heard Gen Bryant sing songs including "Send Us Out". The theme of this day was BE MORE. We were able to ask the presenters questions and our question "How long has Caritas been running for?" was answered! We learnt that over the 54 years it has been running, over \$500 million dollars has been raised. We are energised to BE MORE



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Project Compassion

This year, during Lent we are raising money for Project Compassion. We want this year to be a better year for everyone and so far we have raised \$215.80 in just one week! We would like to motivate and encourage our students to donate more money, even if it's only a little bit.

Our Year 5 and 6 students in the Mini Vinnies group have also been discussing how to make a difference in our world and community so this is a great chance to do that! To us, it is nice to see people smile, so if you have extra money for the canteen don't forget to think about people in need!

By Eva Shrestha, Mikayla Maree Georges, and Elena Lin Media Team



Opening Mass

On Friday, 26th February, Years 5 and 6, along with some of the Year 6 leaders' parents came together to attend the 2021 Commissioning Mass. This Mass is an important occasion because it congratulates all the Year 6 leaders of 2021. Father Janusz welcomed everyone back and told us all about trusting one another and that we should be gracious to one another. When the Mass was about to finish, Father Janusz blessed the badges so the parents could put the badge on their child. After the Mass the parents and the Year 6's had a morning tea. At the end of the morning tea, Year 6 leaders took a group photo with Mr Mills. Unfortunately, due to restrictions only the parents of Year 6 leaders could attend this Mass, but we look forward to having more parents attending events on school grounds this year!



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By Media Team



Personal Growth

Diocesan Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following swimmers who will represent St Margaret Mary's and Cumberland Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival next Tuesday, 9th March at Blacktown Aquatic Centre.



Jay Shrestha	Ruby Shrestha	Jacinta Pickering
Helaina Gadd	Isabella Haddad	Leeroy Tautu
Xavier Tautu	David Choi	Joab Hada
May Derbas	Havana Smith	Serena Georges
Lisa Shrestha		

We wish you all the best of luck!

Cross Country

On Tuesday, 2nd March, Years 3-6 were running laps around the school. The students turning 8,9 and 10 ran 8 laps around the school which is 2



km in total, while students turning 11 and 12 had to run 12 laps which is 3km! The children who completed the laps in the fastest time are going through to the Diocesan Carnival.



A special thanks to the teachers who participated in helping the children with directions, warm ups and also a huge thank you to Mrs Foley who organised the whole Cross Country.

By John Farah, Paea Mataele and Nyadeng Manyang Media Team



Partnership

Parents & Friends

The Parents & Friends will be holding a meeting this evening at 6pm—7pm for the 2020 Committee.

High School Open Morning

CERDON COLLEGE MERRYLANDS
Aspire to Great Heights



2021 Open Day will be held on Tuesday 9 March commencing at 4:30 pm and concluding at 7:00 pm.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions THIS WILL BE A TICKETED EVENT ONLY for prospective enrolment into Year 7 2022

5 x 30 minute sessions are available (1 x adult, 1 x child - please choose 1 session only as numbers are limited)

Scan this code to make a booking



Enrolments are now open for Year 7 2022 and 2023
Enrolment Packages are available from the College Office or on our Website
cerdonmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

Please contact the College on 8724 7300 should you require any further information

Teaching & Learning

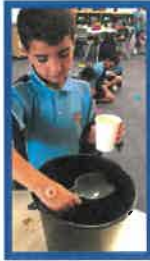
Year 2(RFF)

During Discovery Learning we have been learning about natural resources and ways to care about them. We planned an experiment to test which natural resources plants need to grow. We planned our experiment, by writing our aim, hypothesis (prediction), materials and method. We are recording our results each week.



Each class tested a different resource in a controlled experiment. We learnt about only changing one variable to make it a fair test. 2 Red tested sunlight by placing a plant in the cupboard, 2 Blue tested air by placing the plant in a bag and 2 Yellow

tested water by not watering the control plant. We have been watching the seeds grow into grass seedlings. So far, the seeds that were not watered and did not have air, have not grown. To our surprise the plant that has no sunlight is growing slowly but it is yellow. Some of our seeds are already more than 10cm tall, after one week. We are excited to see what will happen with our controlled experiments. I wonder if you have planted a seed at home and watched it grow?



Every plant helps our planet!
Discovery Learning Team

Library News



Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to these students who participated in the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays:

Gabriel Akle	Marcus Caraan	Sophia Caraan
Gabriella Mifsud	Kayla Mifsud	Patrick Nguyen
Ameerah Hara	Lucinda Tran	Adriana Mekdessi
Ashley Mekdessi	Bianca Mekdessi	Joyce Williams
Valentine Williams	Nusang Rai	Alyssa Khamis
Jayda Saahene	Amelia Kassis	Daniel Kassis

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2021

"The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature." (PRC)

It is a challenge for students to read more and read widely, not a competition. Any child, K-6, wishing to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) this year, may begin to do so online, by going to eLibrary or the PRC website:



<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

- The students at St Margaret Mary's have until **Friday, 20th August**, to complete the PRC online. You must read the required number of books from the Challenge to complete the PRC.
- All students in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will read the required number of books to complete the PRC at school, but are welcome to complete the Challenge at home as well.
- Class teachers have password details. If you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo (Teacher/Librarian)

Welcome to the Literacy Portal

- **This Literacy Site is for parents and students to gain an insight into some of our resources and news about our Literacy work.**
- **To explore the Literacy Portal, click on the link [St Margaret Mary's Literacy Site](#)**

Entries Close
MAR 2021
24th

WIN A PRIZE
HOW TO WIN

- Draw or print out a picture of your favourite character from a book.
- Write a description about that character. *This can be completed on computer or hand written.*
- This work is to be completed in your own time.
- Your entry is to be handed to your class teacher.

High School Open Morning

Open Day

Wednesday 3rd March
4.00pm—7.00pm

- College Tours
- Lesson Demonstrations
- Parents & Friends Association
- Staff & Students available to answer your questions

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