



St Margaret Mary's School

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7 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands 2160 Tel (02) 8633 8400 Fax (02) 8633 8499
Email: stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

Newsletter No 6

Update

Wednesday, 10th March, 2021

Diary Dates

Thursday, 11th March

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Friday, 12th March

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Monday, 15th March

- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Tuesday, 16th March

- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Wednesday, 17th March

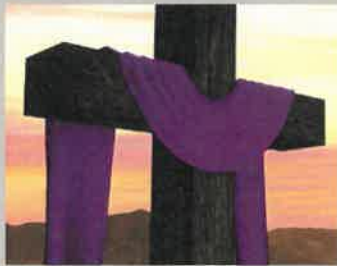
St Patricks Day

- K2022 New Families Open Morning 9am—10:30am
- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Thursday, 18th March

- Parent/Teacher/Student interviews

Season of Lent



This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe in the Gospel.
Mark 1:15

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.



Administration

StMM's COVID Safe Procedures

(Return to School for Adults)

Following the relaxation of COVID restrictions in schools we are adjusting our procedures for our community to access St Margaret Mary's. This will be done in Stages with the safety and wellbeing of our children at the forefront of these decisions. We thank everyone for their continued support and acknowledge the difficulty and complexity of these arrangements over the past 12 months

Stage 1 (Will include the following procedures)

- 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.

K2022 Enrolments and 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.

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.

Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews

Dear Parents/Carers of Years K-6

Thank you to those parents who have booked their student/parent/teacher interview times. If you have not booked, please go to: www.schoolinterviews.com.au then enter the following code: **jb7nm**. All interviews are of a ten-minute duration. Your child's interview will occur in their learning space. It is an expectation that your child attends the interview with you.

If you are having any problems, please feel free to contact me via the school office
Jennifer Veness

Assistant Principal

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.

Teaching & Learning

Year 5 Length Activity



On the 5th March, as part of their unit on 'Length' in Mathematics, Year 5 created a huge line made out of coins. We were asked to bring in silver coins from home which we used to answer a lot of questions based around length. All the money that was put in the line was donated to Project Compassion. The amount of money that Year 5 raised was \$83.70. Year 5 then decided to measure the whole line with a trundle wheel. The line was 12.7m



long and that is equal to 27 Year 5 students sitting side by side.

We were so pleased that while we were doing math we were able to also help Project Compassion!

By Nyadeng Manyang, Eva Shrestha, John Farah and Mikayla Maree Georges
Media Team



Down The Rabbit Hole

April Zhang

Another day, another long list of old chores. But these chores were no ordinary ones, they were all long, boring AND disgusting. Absolutely revolting. Last year I had to do gardening in their enormous garden. When I say something is big, I mean big. The garden that belonged to Mr Carlington and Mrs Carlington was the size of TWO over-sized houses. When I did the gardening last year, I went to bed with the taste of dirt in my mouth for 5 WHOLE MONTHS. But in the end, it was worth watching those glamorous cornflowers grow. Today when I went to check up on the filthy yet snobby people who took care of me, they didn't even say good morning; they simply waved their perfectly groomed hands which were filled with glistening diamonds and said: "Chimney". I sighed and reached for my tools, but Mrs Carlington batted my hands away and harshly (if that was even possible) gestured towards a dusty blue cloth. One, mouldy, holey cloth. I quickly took my chance to leave the only messy room in the mansion and grabbed my cloth which I held up as far from my body as I could.

The smell was overwhelming, and anger had begun to boil like an angry kettle in my body. As I stomped towards the living room that was the size of *three* football fields, I felt as if steam was bursting out of my ears. I wanted to lash out at Mr Carlington. I loathed him. I eventually reached the living room after walking in an endless - yet perfectly decorated - hallway. I put out the blazing fire with a soft blow from my breath and ran outside; I wanted to run away, forever. I kicked the perfect grass. I cursed at Mr and Mrs Carlington under my breath as I climbed up the ladder that led to the glamorous roof.

I carefully climbed up the side of the triangle roof. I knelt down next to the chimney and stared inside, it was covered with layers and layers of old, black dust and soot. The chimney was so wide that I knew if Santa exists, he would be able to go through. It was so wide I had to lean forward a bit a lot. I began cleaning and cleaning, but when I leaned a bit too far, I fell. I braced for impact from the bottom of the chimney, but it never came. I waited long hours, but nothing came. Suddenly, it felt like I couldn't breathe gasping for air, I fell unconscious.

I slowly opened my eyes and instantly felt that something was wrong. Instead of falling down a dark, pitiless hole, I was surrounded by light. As my eyes adjusted to the light, I noticed that I was surrounded by enormous blades of grass as big as trees. Everything was abnormally large. I tried to tilt my head towards the bright light from above as I noticed that my neck is limited with movement. I no longer felt the back pains I had when work-



ing long hours as a maid. I felt somewhat fresh and springy; like when I was a kid. Curiosity led me to explore my surroundings. As I jumped around, I spotted small familiar features like the tall black fences and perfectly cut berry-less bushes. I spotted from the corner of my eyes, a familiar wood building. I jumped towards it like a mad man. I heard the familiar shouts coming from inside and as I jumped closer to one of the many corners of the house, the shouting got louder. I noticed a loose board creak beside me and I hopped inside. I noticed the familiar scent and familiar surroundings. As I hopped through an awfully familiar yet endless hallway, I spotted a bathroom. I knew that I wasn't no maid anymore so out of curiosity, I jumped into the brightly lit bathroom. I hopped onto one of the creaky stools, then the bright white toilet seat (whilst leaving *tiny* muddy footprints), then I hopped onto the sink. I closed my eyes and wondered what I could possibly be.

I opened my eyes and gasped. I had long straight ears, short fluffy hair and feet that were as long as a sausage that you would put in a hotdog.

I stood there in disbelief; the reason why I was so limited to things was because... because... I was a... I was a rabbit!!!

THE END
Or IS IT???

Personal Growth

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.



Partnership

P&F Easter Raffle

Raffle tickets will be distributed on Monday, 15th March along with information regarding a mufti day where students are able to donate an Easter Egg. All sold and unsold tickets need to be returned to school by no later than Wednesday, 24th March. All sold tickets returned in 2020 will be added to the 2021 draw.



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

1. www.parra.catholic.edu.au
2. Click on About Us
3. Click on Building Child Safe Communities
4. Read the questions and follow the instructions carefully

Bookclub

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club

Bookclub will recommence soon with some slight changes. Ordering will move to online ordering only, no cash payments will be accepted. This process will be phased in by the end of Term 2.

Student Banking

We are currently reviewing the Dollarmite program for our school community. If you are interested in this banking program for your child please email the school by Friday 12th March. stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

