



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 11

Update

Wednesday, 28th April, 2021

Diary Dates

Thursday, 29th April

- Yrs 3-6 Athletics Carnival at Holroyd Sports Ground

Friday, 30th April

- Kindergarten 2022 Interviews continue for Sibling Families.

Monday, 3rd May

- 8:40am Whole School Assembly Parents are welcome to attend.
- Year 4 Excursion to Old Government House and Elizabeth Farm.

Tuesday, 4th May

- Kindergarten 2022 Interviews continue for New and Sibling Families.
- Diocesan Cross Country for Students Representing StMM's

Wednesday, 5th May

- Kindergarten 2022 Interviews continue for New and Sibling Families.

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.



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 have commenced and will continue until the middle of May. If you have collected an enrolment form and not returned it to the school office please do so as soon as possible, along with the relevant documentation then you will receive an interview time for you and your child. We have over 110 applications.

Primary Athletics Carnival Yrs 3-6

Our annual sports carnival for students in Years 3-6 will be held at Holroyd Sports ground. Students who do not return their permission note and payment will not be allowed to attend the carnival and will remain at school. The sports carnival is compulsory for all students in years 3-6.



When: Thursday, 29th April

Where: Holroyd Sports Ground, Cnr Robert St and Peel St, Holroyd

Time: Arrive at school: 8.40am

Bus: Departs: 8.55am
Students will return back to school for normal afternoon dismissal.

What to wear: Full sports uniform including hat. Students may wear a shirt in the colour of their sporting house.

What to bring: Small backpack with recess, lunch and plenty of water (no plastic bags.)
Children are advised to bring something to sit on, as the grounds are often wet e.g. blanket or towel.

Please remember to apply sunscreen in the morning and to label all belongings.

There will be no canteen facilities.

Faith Community

ANZAC Assembly

On Monday, 26th April, St Margaret Mary's held a morning assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. We listened to the Ode of Remembrance which was followed by a minute silence. The whole school closed their eyes and bowed their heads to say a prayer for those who have fought for Australia. The flag was lowered to half mast as a sign of mourning. The choir

led us in the national anthem and we listened to some readings and prayers from Year 6 Leaders. A prayer space was set up on the stage with an ANZAC hat called a slouch hat, some red poppies and a statue of a soldier. A sign saying 'Lest we Forget' was also displayed and that means that we will not forget what the ANZACs have done for us.

By Mikayla Maree Georges and Paea Mataele Media Team



Administration

Morning Drop Off

Parents are reminded, they are not to exit their cars when dropping off their children in the mornings in the Kiss & Drop Zone. Students should be ready to get out of the car as soon as you arrive in the Zone.

Personal Growth

Winter Uniform

Students are required to be dressed in winter uniform for Term 2. There will be a 4 week grace period for students. All students must be in full school winter uniform by Monday, 26th May.

Lowes is the only supplier of StMM's school uniforms. Uniforms brought from any other supplier is in breach of contract and may not be correct.

Parents and students are reminded that they must wear the correct school and sports shoes.



Monitoring Attendance

We monitor students attendance and lateness on a regular basis, throughout the year. School attendance plays a very important role in your child's learning, this includes being late on a regular basis.

Head Lice

We have had a number of reports of headlice in the school. We ask that you check your child/rens hair and treat hair accordingly. Head lice is an ongoing problem within schools which can only be resolved with parents support. Students are also reminded they should not share hats or borrow hats.



Teaching & Learning

Year 2 Anzac Day

On Monday, 26th April, Year 2 learnt about Anzac Day and the different symbols that remind us of the people who fought for us.



We learnt that the soldiers carried Anzac biscuits with them because if they carried other foods like bread, it would become mouldy.

In commemoration of the selfless acts of Anzac soldiers, Year 2 decorated Anzac biscuits with icing and skittles.

By: Mary Chahoud, Carl Bulandi, Xavier Gattuso and Katie Youssef



Partnership

Mother's Day Breakfast

On Friday, 7th May, all mothers grandmothers and children are warmly welcome to attend our Mother's Day Breakfast and Prayer Service, to be held in the school playground.



The Breakfast will run from 7:30am to 8:30am, followed by a Prayer Service.

To assist us with catering there will be an invitation sent home tomorrow, Thursday 29th April to every family. Please return the slip at the bottom of this invitation no later than Monday 3rd May.





Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

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Pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta recently made a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's inquiry into the *Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020* (introduced by the Hon. Mark Latham, NSW State Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party). I felt it was important to write to reassure you that the decision to oppose the Bill was guided both by our strong Catholic faith and teachings, and concern for the wellbeing of our students and their families.

Our Catholic schools remain resolutely committed to our Catholic values which are at the heart of teaching children and young people. This means approaching these matters with sensitivity, compassion and truth, acknowledging at all times the dignity of each person. Dedicated staff respond to the needs of each student in an age-appropriate way.

As the Bishop of Parramatta, with oversight of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, I take seriously the trust you have placed in us to educate your children and will uphold that trust with an education based on Catholic Scripture, Tradition and Values. Parents' role in education is vital, necessary and sought after at all times because parents are their children's first teachers (Canon 793 §1). This is made very clear in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta's submission to the parliamentary inquiry.

At issue is whether or not certain sensitive or challenging topics such as consent, sexuality, gender et cetera can be discussed in the classroom. Some have quickly made a judgment that our Catholic education system panders to dangerous ideology. I can assure you that we take all the vital questions of our culture seriously and reflect on them through the prism of Jesus' solidarity with the marginalised.

As a Catholic community, we believe that all students - including those who identify as gender diverse - should have the opportunity to reach their potential, to learn with their peers and feel a sense of belonging in their school. The Bill prohibits the schools from affirming and supporting these children who are already at risk of marginalisation. We have to remember that at times the teachers are the only people these children might trust in helping them in these sensitive matters. By banning their discussion, the school community is unable to address unhealthy and discriminatory attitudes that may exist in their learning environment.

I emphatically reject the notion of gender ideology. What I advocate for is a compassionate, respectful, inclusive, Gospel-centred learning environment and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of all students, particularly those at risk. Their lives must not be made more intolerable by unjust laws such as elements of the “Latham” Bill that I have articulated above.

We have nothing to fear from a respectful and intelligent dialogue with our sons and daughters, with our deeply committed teaching staff, and in a caring Catholic environment. Life can be complex; but the Church is not a cult that refuses to engage and challenge our contemporary culture. I believe when faced with a choice, we need to acknowledge and stand with those who are ostracised rather than consigning them to the margins of society.

Catholics believe all people are made in the image and likeness of God. As our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us, the Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to accompany all people. As the parable of the Gospel’s Good Samaritan tells us, we are called to walk with and care for everyone in our community.

As always, I welcome respectful discussion and acknowledge the good intentions of many of those with an interest in this important issue. Yet I ask that the dignity of each person be maintained at all times, regardless of the view being expressed. Thank you for working with us in partnership for the best outcomes for children and young people.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Vincent Long Van Nguyen".

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta**

*Given at Parramatta on 27 April 2021
Tuesday of the 4th Week of Easter*