



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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 23

Bulletin

Wednesday, 24th November, 2021

Diary Dates

Thursday, 25th November

Friday, 26th November

- StMM's Paper Crane Day

Monday, 29th November

- Year 5 Leadership Speeches
Postponed from 22nd November

Tuesday, 30th November

- Delany Yr7 2022 Orientation Day

Wednesday, 1st December

Medical Information

Parents are reminded of the importance of ensuring all medical information regarding their child is up to date at all times. This includes updating asthma plans, anaphylaxis plans and any medication that your child requires during school time. This updated information allows the school to best treat your child should an emergency arise.

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.

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

First Sunday of Advent Year C

Sr Leone

Dear Parents and Carers,



This Sunday we begin a new liturgical year. Though the civil New Year begins on January 1st, the Christian community begins today with a season of preparation for the special coming of Christ into our community at Christmas: the feast on which we celebrate the most momentous moment in human history – the birth over 2000 years ago of Jesus of Nazareth. Each season has its special grace, and the special grace of Advent is to prepare our world, our nation, our city, our home, and our heart, for the one who is always coming to us to heal us and to make this world a sanctuary in which God's loving will is done.

In the First Reading chosen for today's Mass, Jeremiah, a priest and prophet of Judah, reminds the people of God's promise to anoint someone to come to them and show them the face and the heart of God. He would be anointed in a special way by the chrism of God's Holy Spirit, and so is called 'the Anointed One (the Christ, Hebrew 'Messiah')'. Jeremiah looked forward to the first coming of the Messiah.

In today's Second Reading Paul looks forward to another 'coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints'. With our flair for drama and for the big stage, we sometimes imagine this in terms of the end of this creation. For you and me, however, the coming is simpler and closer to home. We think of the greeting of love that will meet us, please God, when the time of our journey on this earth comes to an end. We would do well to live each day as we would want to have lived when we come to die, and so Saint Paul prays: 'May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another'. Knowing Jesus as he did, and knowing the universal love that God has for everyone, Paul adds: 'May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all'.

Luke, in his Gospel, recalls Jesus' words, reminding us that what ultimately matters is to cast our lot in with the one who is called 'the Son of Man', the one who identified with the poor and the oppressed, those whose fidelity to justice and to love God promised to reward with eternal life and a share in divine glory. Whatever the terror that sin might unleash upon us, Jesus wants us, his disciples, to stand tall, filled with hope, for God will be faithful to God's promise.

As we look forward to the coming of Christ this Christmas we would do well to heed Jesus' warning: 'Be on your guard that your hearts are not weighed down. Be alert, praying at all times'. The beginning of another year in the life of the Christian community is a grace-filled occasion to reflect on the direction of our lives and to renew our commitment to Jesus and to the life of the Spirit which he inspires in us.

'May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life'.

P.S. A big thank you to Sr Leone for providing such wonderful insights into this week's Readings

God Bless and take care

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

StMM's 2022 Building Program

StMM's is receiving more than \$2 500 000 from the Parramatta Catholic Education Office to refurbish our Primary learning spaces. The building program (including a completely new roof for the primary block) will be staged for the first six months of 2022 and we have begun the planning process of transitioning the Year 3, 4 & 5 grades to the Hall and Library areas for the beginning of next year. We are securing the services of a removalist to move furniture and heavy equipment, while relocating several TVs, chromebooks, teachers' desks and cabinets for continued use during the next six months. The teaching resources from the present learning areas will follow the students to their temporary areas along with their chairs and desks.



The next three weeks will be extremely busy, and I am most disappointed that we are not able to call on our parents and carers to support us at this challenging time (Covid restrictions). We have had to plan a very strict timeline to ensure we are able to celebrate our Year 6's Journey, the issuing of reports and Christmas preparation while maintaining the important learning agenda. Please be aware we will be very much focussed on the safety and well-being of our students and staff during the StMM's building program.

StMM's School Library

Our school library is now closed for borrowing for 2021 and will not reopen until the end of our building program in Term 3 2022. Please ensure all library books are returned to the library as soon as possible. Mrs Balogh-Caristo will be taking the opportunity to complete a library stocktake of our book collection during this downtime. Students are encouraged to keep reading, by going to their local library or by borrowing online student eBooks (SORA), and to enter the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.

Important Dates for End of Year

Tuesday, 30 th November	Yr 7 2022 Delany Orientation Day
Thursday, 2 nd December	Principal's Award Morning Tea
Thursday, 9 th December	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy
Friday, 10 th December	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Monday, 13 th December	Year 6 Fun Day
Wednesday, 15 th December	Last Day of School for Students.
Friday, 17 th December	School Closes for 2021
Friday, 28 th January	Staff return for 2022
Monday, 31 st January	MAI Testing & K2022 Best Start Testing
Tuesday, 1 st February	Years 1-6 Student Commence K2022 Best Start Testing
Wednesday, 2 nd February	K2022 Best Start Testing
Thursday, 3 rd February	All Kinder 2022 Commence

Kindergarten 2022 Best Start

Parents who have children attending St Margaret Mary's in 2022, please remember to book your Best Start Appointment. We have plenty of spaces still available.

School Fees

School fees are now overdue, unless you have opted for an arrangement with the school. Final day for payment of school fees at the office will be Friday 10th

December. If you have any queries regarding your statement please contact Maria in the office.



Purchasing Hats & Library Bags

The final day for purchasing hats and library bags at the office will be end of day Friday 10th December.

End of Year Events @ StMM's

Our recent case of Covid has reinforced our decisions around holding our traditional End of Year Events. Two years ago, we had over 2000 people under our COLA watching our students perform the traditional Christmas Carols and the Story of Jesus' Birth. The present circumstances have meant a change to these arrangements. Our Year 6 Student Graduation ceremony will be students and staff only (No invited guests). The Year 6 Graduation Dinner will follow the format from last year, including outside photos with family. There will be more details regarding our Christmas Celebration in next week's bulletin.

StMM's Positive Case

Thank you to all our parents, carers and students of Year 1. We have been overwhelmed by the manner in which you have followed all the NSW Health requests and the large number of well wishes from our wider community. While this has been a challenging situation, the support of our staff has ensured a minimal amount of disruption to the teaching and learning at StMM's.

The following guidelines are in place:

- Each Year 1 student must have their new "Day 12 COVID Test" on Wednesday 24th or Thursday 25th November. A copy of the result must be emailed to stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au by Friday 26th November with the subject heading: **Covid test results.**
- Yr 1 Students who do not email a negative test result are not to attend school until NSW Health has approved their attendance.
- The Siblings of our Year 1 students do not need to be tested on Day 12 and may return to StMM's on Monday unless they are showing Covid/Flu like symptoms.

Please be aware we are in contact with CEDP on a daily basis, so information and instructions may change at any time.

Teaching & Learning

StMM's Semester 2 Reports

StMM's 2021 Semester 2 reports are now being finalised. The reports will be sent home on Friday 10th December with the students. The report recognises the four areas: Religious Education, English, Mathematics & Discovery Learning. This school-based report will look different to Semester One but complies with the Federal and State Government requirements. The report comments reflect the learning journey of each grade during Semester 2. They are written in an inclusive and general format, highlighting content and skills the students were exposed to during Covid. We have included a Personal Growth Award to each student for their application during Home Learning.



Year 6 WestConnex

This year, StMM's was successful in obtaining a grant under the WestConnex|Transurban Community Grant Program. The funds were used to purchase a set of Lumination Virtual Reality headsets. Over the past few weeks we, the Year 6 Technology Committee have been using the



Lumination Virtual Reality headsets to expand our learning experience. We trialled the VR headsets and experienced a whole new world of educational activities and games. It was a time to explore VR with our peers. We'd like to thank Lachlan, our IT Trainee for teaching us how the VR headsets worked. It was a



great experience to learn how to operate these headsets. We would also like to thank the WestConnex group for funding this amazing project.

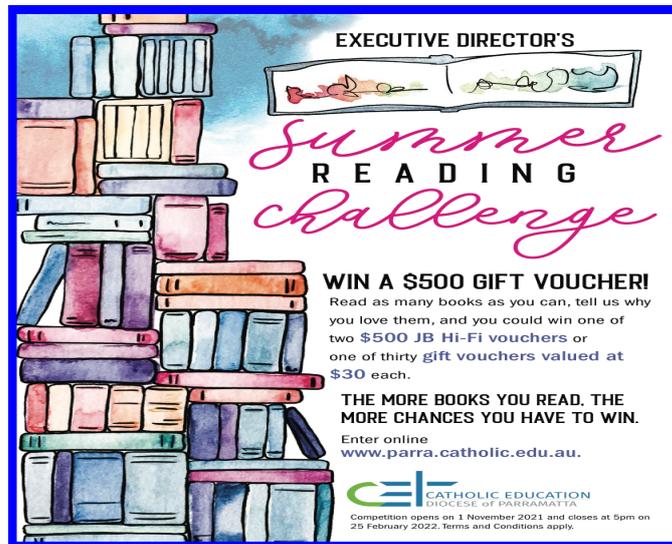
By: Gabriel Akle & Alissia Ali
Year 6 Technology Committee



Personal Growth

Principal's Morning Tea

Our Principal morning tea will be held on Thursday, 2nd December. Students need to have received all 4 Pillar awards to be eligible to attend the Principal's Morning Tea.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
Summer
READING
challenge

WIN A \$500 GIFT VOUCHER!
Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two \$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30 each.

THE MORE BOOKS YOU READ, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE TO WIN.
Enter online
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

CEP CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA
Competition opens on 1 November 2021 and closes at 5pm on 25 February 2022. Terms and Conditions apply.

Faith Community

Email from a Parent

Dear Mr Mills and StMM's Staff

It has been a privilege for our family to be part of the school community over the years.

We will always be grateful for the school's God-centered and nurturing environment. We don't take for granted the dedication of the staff to our precious children. A big thank you for everything - including the car pickup service. May our Heavenly Father be with and bless you all.



Partnership

TRANSFORMING LEARNING



2022 CEDP Parramatta Primary Sport Representative Team Trials Information

2022 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials Expression of Interest registration window open

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2022 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One & Two in 2022. **Students in Year 4 in 2022 MAY nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Tennis & Touch Football only.**

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that **MUST demonstrate an ABOVE AVERAGE** ability, **HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competition outside of school.

To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in some sports and others are through CSNSW Sport at MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2022:.

TEAM SPORTS

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports to select Parramatta Diocesan teams:

- AFL** - Boys/Girls combined team
- Basketball** - Boys and Girls team
- Cricket** - Boys and Girls team
- Hockey** - Boys and Girls team
- Football** - Boys and Girls team
- Hockey** - Boys and Girls team
- Netball** - Boys/Girls combined team
- Rugby League (U11's)** - Boys/Girls combined team
- Rugby League (U12's)** - Boys/Girls combined team
- Rugby Union** - Boys/Girls combined team
- Softball** - Boys and Girls team
- Tennis** - Boys and Girls team
- Touch Football** - Boys and Girls team

The following sports will be held at the MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2022:.

- AFL Girls**
- Diving** - Boys and Girls team
 - *Springboard: 8 Years, 9 Years, 10 Years, 11 Years, 12/13 Years - Girls & Boys
 - *Platform: Open Girls & Open Boys
- Golf** - Boys and Girls team - 18 Hole Competition Students must have a golf link number and handicap.
- Rugby Girls 7's**

All Team Sports trials will be held in Term One & Two in 2022..



2022 CEDP Parramatta Primary Sport Representative Team Trials Information

ELIGIBILITY - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOMINATION FORM OPEN 23rd November

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** Form must be completed. Please visit the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport website or Facebook for the link and information.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Access the information using any below:

1. Registration (Expression of Interest) link

[2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form \(Expression of Interest\) - Sport Trials](#)

2. Primary Sport Parramatta WEBSITE link

www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

3. FACEBOOK link

[Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese](#)

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and MUST be approved by the child's school. For the child to attend the nominated trial or event, the school approves students based on playing history and selection criteria. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" if applicable to the sport MUST be completed. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the **2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

More detailed information can be located in the **2022 CEDP Parra Primary Sport Rep Team Trials Info for Parents COVID19 information sheet**.