

St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 1

Bulletin

Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022

Diary Dates

Thursday, 3rd February

Kindergarten 2022 Commence at 9:30am

Friday, 4th February

Kindergarten 2022 Commence at 9:30am

Monday,7th February

Tuesday, 8th February

Wednesday, 9th February

Welcome Kindergarten and our new students to StMM's

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.

School Website

The school website is www.stmmmerrylands. catholic.edu.au

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Welcome back to StMM's for our 2022 school year. A very strange start to the year and one that started well before staff and students returned. We have finally begun our "Primary Building Program" with a new roof and all the upstairs learning spaces demolished during our holiday break. It would be very easy to forget our focus, with the number of things happening in the school this year, but we are a Catholic school and we are responsible for supporting our families to be the best they can be in following in the footsteps of Jesus.

For two thousand years the Sunday Mass has been the most important time when Christians have come together to celebrate and renew their communion with the crucified and risen Jesus and with each other. We talk about the Sunday obligation. The word obligation comes from the Latin word ligare meaning 'to bind', with the prefix ob meaning 'in close contact with'. An obligation, then, is a strong and close bond that holds people together. In this case it is a love-bond, for we need to celebrate and renew our communion with Jesus and we need to celebrate and renew our communion with each other. I need your faith to sustain and strengthen me and it is very loving of you to come and pray with me, and you need my faith to sustain you and I come because I love you. We need each other as a family of faith, and receiving Jesus' love together we are strengthened to carry out the mission he gave us to love one another as he loves us and to go out, each of us into our own area of the world, to take this same love to others.

There is a certain sameness about each Sunday Mass, for we do not come to be entertained. We come to meet others in our faith-family, to pray with each other and to receive the risen Jesus in the extraordinary intimacy of communion. We come also to listen to God speaking to us and it is the word spoken to us that makes each Sunday Mass special. The three readings of today's Mass have a very strong common theme. The Church is inviting us to listen and to reflect on what these readings might mean to us in our lives.

The first reading is from the Hebrew poet, Isaiah. He was a person with a marvellous gift with words. God had given him this gift for his own and other's enjoyment. But, as we know, we can use our God-given gifts in trivial ways. We can ever abuse them for our own selfish ends, hurting ourselves and others in the process. The second reading picks up the same theme. It is from Paul. Paul's gifts were very different from those of Isaiah. Paul was no poet, but he was a man with a brilliant mind, an extraordinary capacity for friendship and a passionate concern for the truth.

Finally, the Gospel has the same message. Peter was a fisherman, good at his trade. God wanted him to use his honesty, his capacity for hard-work, his gift for friendship and leadership, to attract people rather than fish, and to dare to go out of his depth to draw strangers into the boat – symbol of the Church of Jesus' disciples. (Fr Michael)

As we move into the school year we are all called to ensure we are using our gifts to make a difference in the lives of people we meet each and every day. We look outward to others and how we can support them, rather than look inward and looking after self only.

God Bless.

Mr Kevin Mills Principal

Administration

COVID UPDATE

New guidelines from the NSW Government direct school communities to remain open as much as possible for the benefit of students during Term 1. This has changed the manner in which positive cases at school will be handled. Please note the following:

- 1. Parents / Carers must notify StMM's of a positive case in their family and follow all NSW Health Directives.
- 2. StMM's will inform the School Community and share the particular Year Group / Cohort concerned.
- 3. For safety, we strongly recommend that Year Group / Cohort and other members of their household take a PCR test or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) as a precaution.
- The affected areas at the school will also be thoroughly cleaned.
- 5. Students who receive a negative result may return to school the following day.

Changes in payments at StMM's School Office

The Catholic Education Office of Parramatta (CEDP) has instructed all schools to become cashless organisations. This is regarding all payments being made at the front office as well as all transactions at school by all individuals. At this point, the school office is only able to accept Eftpos and Credit Card type payments. Please be aware that this is not a school decision but rather a CEDP directive and one that Mr Mills has not been able to change.

To support our families, St Margaret Mary's Office is currently exploring alternative cashless applications in various forms. Moving forward, the additional payment options will be communicated to our parents in order to assist our community.

Thank you

StMM's School Office Staff

Updating Parent Information

It is important for parents to ensure all information and contact details are up to date.

Please notify the school office via email if you have moved house or changed your contact number. It is also important to update your emergency contacts.

Who can I go home with?

If the occasion arises that you are unable to pick up your child/ren from school, please contact the school office advising who will be picking up your child/ren.

Also a letter advising your child/rens class teacher if you know in advance as to who will be picking up your child.

StMM's School Contact

In the case of a genuine emergency or have any questions please phone the school office on **8633 8400**. If you wish to contact a staff member please do so via the school office. Contact with the office may also be via the school's email address

stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

Photo Permission

From time to time photos and / or video footage of your child will be taken at school and school events.

These photos and video footage may be used in the school newsletter, diocesan newsletter, in newspapers, brochures, advertising, websites or in publications.

If you do not wish for photos or videos of your child to be published or shown on the website please notify the school office in writing by Friday, 11th February, 2022.

Administration

Student Medical Information Allergies

As you may or may not be aware there are a number of children attending our school who have severe allergies to many different foods. This means that if these children come in contact with any food products they will have a severe allergic reaction.

We also ask that you remind your child/ren not to share their lunch or any other food with another child.

Asthma

If your child/ren suffer from asthma or have a medical condition and you have not informed the school office, could you please do so as soon as possible.

For example, if your child suffers from asthma, please supply an updated Asthma Action Plan from your child's doctor.

All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent and a medication form needs to be completed by the parent.

School Uniforms - Lowes

Lowes is our only school supplier for all uniforms.

We understand that there is a short supply of uniforms at Lowes, we will allow a leeway for families who are unable to purchase uniforms.

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly. It is expected that children have suitable hairstyles appropriate to their age and school expectations. Long hair must be tied back. Our Sun Safe programs require 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 earnings may be worn. Simple signet rings may also be worn. No expensive jewellery is to be worn at school.

School Newsletter & Update

For all our new families, especially our Kindy families, the school 'Bulletin' is printed every second Wednesday which is a four page newsletter and sent home with the eldest child. The 'Update' is a small newsletter which is only uploaded onto the Skoolbag App & Website. Both our Bulletin and Update are available on the Skoolbag App.

Important Dates for Term 1 2022

Friday, 18th February Opening School Liturgy and Commissioning of 2022 School

Leaders

Monday, 28th February Cumberland Zone Swimming

Carnival

Wednesday 2nd March Ash Wednesday

Monday 7th March - Friday 11th Catholic Schools Week

March

Tuesday, 8th March Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Thursday, 24th March StMM's Yrs 3-6 Cross Country

Friday 25th March Annunciation

Friday, 8th April School Closes for Term 1

Thursday 14th April Holy Thursday
Friday, 15th April Good Friday
Sunday, 17th April Easter Sunday
Monday 25th April ANZAC Day

Tuesday, 26th April School Resumes for Term 2

RAT Kits

It is recommended that tests should be completed at home in the morning on Mondays and Wednesdays before attending school that week. Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. If your child receives a positive RAT test, you need to:

- record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app
- Notify the school of the positive RAT (or a PCR test) result via school email ASAP
- follow <u>NSW Health advice</u> to isolate for 7 days.

Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school. **Please also note that StMM's school staff will not be administering RATs to students.**

Building Program

Our building work is well underway, the builders returned the main playground to the school on Friday 28th Jan ready for the children's return to school. The demolishing of the upstairs learning spaces has now been completed. They have cleared all the boards and window coverings, and the roof has been replaced.

Codes of Conduct

At our school we have three Codes of Conduct for our students. In our behaviour management policy we show the following:

"The whole school community of St Margaret Mary's continues to provide an environment that enhances our Christian values and embraces the diversity of people and cultures. The members contribute to ensure that each individual receives their basic needs of Love, Belonging, Importance, Freedom and Fun. This is achieved by members knowing they have the......

Right

- to be happy and feel safe
- ♦ to learn
- ♦ to be respected

and the Responsibility

- to allow others to feel happy and safe
- to allow learning to occur
- to show respect for everyone.

Therefore, the school maintains a Code of Conduct that states:

- Everyone has the right to Teach and Learn
- Everyone has the right to feel Valued and Respected
- Everyone has the right to feel Safe and Secure.

We ask that you speak with your children about our three Codes of Conduct. We have high expectations that our students will be consistent with their behaviour and learning.

Crunch and Sip

Just a reminder that Crunch and Sip is a break during class when students can refuel on fruit or vegetables and rehydrate on water. The break assists students with physical and mental performance, and concentration in the classroom





Teaching & Learning

Sports Days

Children are required to wear their sports uniform on their allocated days. Correct sports uniform must be worn along with appropriate shoes. Hats must be worn at all times when outside.

Year 1 Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1 Tuesday and Friday
Year 2 Wednesday and Friday
Year 3 Tuesday and Friday
Year 4 Wednesday and Friday
Year 5 Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6 Monday and Friday

Reading Diary

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.

Library

Book Borrowing

At this stage there will be <u>no</u> library borrowing due to a stocktake and the building work.

Students are encouraged to use their local library, use SORA and / or PM eCollection (K-2) to read at home. Kindergarten students and new students to the school will need to get their login details from their class teacher. Students are to bring a book from home to read at car pick up.

All students have access to SORA from home.

- Primary school students have access to the collection considered appropriate for a 'juvenile' audience by the publishers.
- Students at St Margaret Mary's need to use their Google Login and Password to access the eBooks and ACEN Collection - where school name is required.
- Students can borrow up to 3 eBooks at a time for usually 3 weeks.
- The books can be read on an iPad if you download the SORA app. or on a computer if you use this direct link to SORA: https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau

Faith Community

Opening and Commissioning Mass for Y6 Student Leaders

A Commissioning Mass will be held on Friday, 18th February to celebrate the induction of the Y6 student leaders and the presentation of their badges.

Due to the current COVID-19 guidelines, we are restricted to the number of people that can be accommodated in the church. In light of this, Fr Janouz has kindly offered to host a private mass with only Year 5 and Year 6 students and staff in attendance.

Each student leader is able to have two (2) adult guests to witness and celebrate this momentous occasion with them in the church

Invitations to families of the Y6 student leaders with details of the event will be sent home shortly. In light of the changing nature of COVID-19 restrictions, we will keep you updated if any changes are announced that impact this special event.

2022 STAFF PERSONNEL

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Principal Kevin Mills
Assistant Principal Jennifer Veness
Religious Education
Co-ordinators Dale Yearsley
Diane Antonucci

Melissa Fardella Francine Attard

Instructional CoachSue YanzWellbeingSophie Ryan

THE OFFICE STAFF

Business Manager Bernadette Alexander

Maria Pagano Annmaree McGuirk Domenica Yenco Simone Dore

THE TEACHING TEAM Kindergarten Teaching Team

KBlue Jacinta Iau

KRed Marie Debes/Pina Amond (F)

KYellow Melissa Hanna

Year One Teaching Team

1BlueIsobel Reed1RedAnna Tan1YellowSarah Abraham

Year Two Teaching Team

2Blue Timothy Greaney2Red Melina James

2Yellow Melissa Fardella/Rawa Simhairi (W)

Year Three Teaching Team

3Blue Cara Essey 3Red Helen Golack

3Yellow Diane Antonucci/Rawa Simhairi (T)

Year Four Teaching Team

4Blue Jessica Azar

4Red Kellie Foley/Rwawa Simhairi (F)

4Yellow Emma Downing

Year Five Teaching Team

5Blue Daniel Maunick

5Red Francine Attard/Rawa Simhairi (Th)

5Yellow Chris Tenido

Year Six Teaching Team

6Blue Vanessa Del Monte 6Red Amanda Mekdessi 6Yellow Pauline McFarlane

Librarian Michele Balogh-Caristo

Diversity Team Nicole Ashe

Michele Balogh-Caristo Dale Yearsley

Maxine Allen Meghan O'Brien Karen El-Zakhem Georgette Attard Jennifer Veness Sophie Ryan William Pham Lyn Burton Jill Tate

RFF (Tues/Wed/Thu) Nancy Kubti

Mary Chetty Belinda Martino

Teacher Aides Paulette Albertin

Haifa Rizk Mish Wehbe Suzie Kassis

IT Kyle Mansilongan
School Counsellor Brian Melocco
School Maintenance Joe Culican

Paul Bartolo

Cleaner Annette Zeaiter

Teaching & Learning

Our Four Pillars of Learning

The Four Pillars of StMM's are directly linked to our Award system. Mr Mills holds a Principal's Morning Tea with students who have received an award for each Pillar and thus a Principal's Award. These morning tea's are held once a term.

Faith Community

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe our Faith Community encourages us to live our Catholic Faith. We practise our faith by participating in Liturgies, prayer and lessons. We want to follow our School Motto "Love the Truth" by listening, sharing and acting on the words of God.

Teaching & Learning

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Teaching and Learning is working to the best of our ability in all Key Learning Areas. We work with other students, teachers and staff to ensure quality work and our best efforts. We want to work together, listening, sharing and helping others at all times.

Partnership

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe that Partnership is communication, interacting and co-operating with others. Partnership is having a connection with others to have a go, it is agreeing on an idea and completing it together.

Personal Growth

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Personal Growth allows us to set our individual goals and strive to achieve them. We use our gifts and talents when working towards our goals in the areas of learning and attitude. We want to show respect and be more like Jesus.

Our Four Pointers of Learning









Our Four Pointers for the Playground









Personal Growth

Student Leaders for 2022

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their new positions and we look forward to their enhanced participation and representation in our school community in 2022.

School Captains Tia Khouri

Leeroy Tautu

Vice Captains George Sandys

Stephanie Hewitt

Faith Community: Sophia Caraan

Isabelle Faddoul

Teaching & Learning: Isabella Roach

Paul Baini

Personal Growth: Sarafina Carrano

John Farah

Partnership: Thalia Kovacevic

Christos Gavrilos

Tosi (Yellow)
TBA
Maur (Green)
TBA
Kosta (Red)
TBA
McGovern (Blue)
TBA

Technology Committee Lily Garland

Bianca Poumale Jason Zoumpoulias Nicole Koroma Nyadeng Manyang Nicolas Gaid

Partnership

Parking

Parents, there is no parking before or after school (between signs) in Henson Street and Davies Street. These are drop-off and Car pick up only.

When driving around the school, please obey all road rules especially No U-turns in the school zone and No Parking across the neighbours driveways.

Parish Car Park

The parish car park is for parishioners who attend weekday masses. The parking spaces at the church end of the car park are for the parish office staff and parishioners, this includes the disable spots near the parish office.

If possible, please avoid parking in the Parish Carpark.

Canteen - Update Flexi-schools

Parents are reminded to update your child's class on the Flexi Schools app before ordering lunches. This will ensure that lunches are delivered to the correct class in time for lunch.

StMM's Car Drop Off & Pick Up

10 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL DROP OFF

- 1. All children should be ready for their school day before you reach the drop-off zone.
- 2. If your child is not ready to get out of your car please do not enter the drop-off zone.
- If you have a child that had a meltdown en route to school please pull over somewhere private and address the issue.
- 4. In the interest of public safety do not attempt the double play of talking on your phone and driving while negotiating school drop off.
- 5. Do not get out of your car.
- 6. If your child is carrying a large backpack plus other equipment, please make arrangements to help them unload from the safety of the Parish car Park.
- 7. If you are in a hurry don't honk your horn or attempt to squeeze into a line opening.
- 8. If your child's teacher is on duty please resist the urge to speak about your child.
- 9. Never, ever, park in the drop off-line.
- 10. Remain calm and patient at all times.

In review, the perfect drop off scenario should be as follows:



- 1. Kids are dressed
- 2. Backpacks are ready on the seat
- 3. Approach the drop off zone fully alert
- 4. Hands on steering wheel
- 5. Eyes forward when it's your turn for car unloading
- 6. You initiate the "bye bye, have a great day" sequence
- 7. Children unload swiftly and with all of their belongings
- 8. Ease away from the curb
- 9. Drive away from the school
- 10. Drive away slowly taking the safety of our children into consideration

Practices for Afternoon Car Pick-Up

We have been informed by Police & the Parking Patrol Officers of the Holroyd Area that we only have control of StMM's school block on Henson Street. This means the following:

- The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is the length of the school block in Henson Street
- Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage
- Parents/Carers are now able to join the Car Pick-Up queue via Davies Street & Henson St
- Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly taking into account all signs & road rules
- Cars that are lined up across from the school block in Henson Street will be booked. The police view this as double parking.

Aspects to follow for Car Pick -Up

- Have your number visible for the teacher to call
- Remain calm and patient at all times
- Adults to remain in cars
- Follow all road rules



Skoolbag

Skoolbag Smartphone App for Parents and Students

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It allows the school to keep you up to date with the latest news, notices, alerts, newsletters etc. Parents can check Skoolbag at any time to see the latest updates and information. It is FREE for parents to use.

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for "St Margaret Mary's Primary" in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.





Android Users

Step 1

Tap the Applications icon, then tap the internet icon to open your web browser.



Step 2

Type www.skoolbag.com.au/smmarys into the address bar.



Step 3

Once loaded you can save the Skoolbag icon to your home screen for easy access every day. For example with a Samsung Galaxy S2 & S3 phone, tap the menu button, then tap the "Add Shortcut to Home".



Step 4

The Skoolbag icon will then show on your home screen. This provides a shortcut to make it easy to view updates each day.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! Like

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au





Fresh Salad Box

Greek Salad Reg \$3.00 Lrg \$5.00
Chicken Caesar Salad Reg \$4.00 Lrg \$5.50
Tuna Salad Reg \$4.50
Pesto Pasta Salad Reg \$5.00
Seasonal Fruit Salad Cup 2.00 Reg \$5.00
Fresh Tub of Watermelon Cup 2.00 Reg \$5.00



Hot Food

All foods are grilled or oven baked (No

Baked Vegetable Spring Rolls \$4.00 Chicken Breast Nuggets (5) \$4.00 Grilled lean Cheese Burger \$4.50 Grilled Chicken Burger \$4.50 Lean Meat Pie \$4.00 Potato Pie \$4.50

Lean Meat Pie \$4.00
Potato Pie \$4.50
Baked Potato Wedges \$4.00
Baked Potato Gems \$4.00
Lean Hot Dog \$3.50 add Cheese \$4.00
Lean Sausage Roll \$4.00
Beef or Vegetarian Lasagna \$5.00
Pizza Wrap (Cheese/BBQ/Meat) \$5.00
Macaroni and Cheese \$5.00
Spinach and Feta Roll \$4.50

Snacks(over counter)

Garlic Bread \$2.50 Baked Hash Brown \$1.50 Want Want Rice snacks 2 for 0.50c Assorted Muffins from \$1.00 Carrot/Cucumber Sticks & Hummus \$1.50 Cheese and Cracker \$1.50 Pretzel Cup \$1.50 Home made Pizza Slice \$1.00 Sugar Free Jelly \$1.50 Custard & Jelly \$2.00 Mini Pie \$1.50 Baked potato Chip cup \$1.50 Mini Sausage Roll \$1.50 Noddle Cup \$1.50 Canteen Chips from \$2.00 Fresh Fruit Pieces \$1.00

Many more snacks available on counter

Paul's Choc Yogo \$1.50

Sandwiches/Wraps

Make your own sandwich or wrap

Cheese and Tomato \$3.00
Vegemite or Jam Sandwich \$2.00
Cheese & Salad Sandwich \$4.00
Ham/Cheese/Tom \$4.00
Tuna sandwich \$4.00
Salad + Chicken or Turkey or Tuna \$4.50
Falafel Wrap \$5.00
Chicken Salad Wrap \$5.00
Kafta (lamb Mince) Wrap \$5.00
Lean Turkey or Ham Salad Wrap \$5.00
Tuna Salad Wrap \$5.00
Cheese Salad Wrap \$5.00

Extra Toppings 0.50c

Alternating daily specials

Check the daily special board or Flexischools

Spaghetti Bolognaise \$5.00 Spaghetti Napolitana \$4.00 Sushi Chicken or Tuna \$4.50 Butter Chicken and Rice \$5.00 Beef Nachos \$5.00 Vegetarian Fried Rice \$4.50 2 Kafta patties, Hummus and Lebanese bread \$5.00

Frozen Treats/Drinks

100% Orange Frozen Juice Cup \$2.00 Ice Block \$1.00 Icey Mony \$1.50 Jelly Stick \$0.50c 99% Fruit Juice Slushie \$2.50 Spring Water 600mls \$2.20 Flavoured Milk (Choc/ Strawberry) \$2.80 100% Juice (Apple/Orange) \$2.00 Chill J sparkling Juice \$2.80 Up and Go \$3.00

St Margaret Mary's School Canteen

St Margaret Mary's School Canteen is run by a private company.

All lunch orders must be ordered via the "Flexi-Schools" ordering system by 9am each morning. Details of how to order via Flexi-Schools are listed below. A canteen price list is available on flexischool.

How to register for Flexi-Schools

• Either go to the App Store and search flexischools – it is free to download or log in via your computer www.flexischools.com.au and register





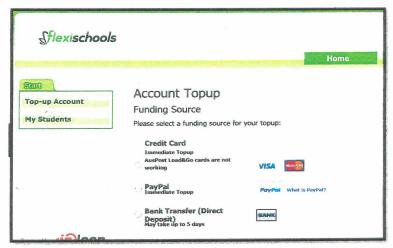
How do I register for a Flexischools account?

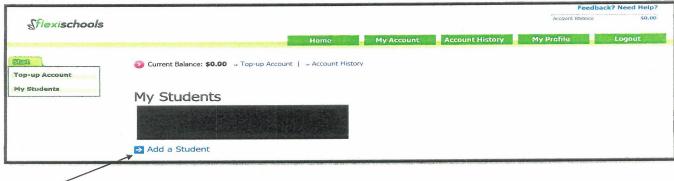
You can register by following these steps:

- You can access the service at by clicking the "Register Now" button below
- Submit your email address to create an account.
- Go to your Inbox and open the registration email from Flexischools.
- Click on the link provided (or copy and paste the link in a new internet browser window).
- Follow the registration process, creating a password and completing your personal details.
- Add users to your account. This could be your students or yourself if you are a staff member,
 Alumni or friend of the school.

Helpful Hints: If you have a Senior Student and you would like them to be able to login to see their balance or place online orders for the canteen, please enter their email address during the setup process and they will be sent a registration email.

Flexi schools will then ask you to set up your students and put some money into your account.





Flexi schools will then ask you to select St Margaret Mary's School and nominate your child/children's class(es).

Once this is done you will be able to make your order.

Ordering is simple and you may order in advance. Warning: All orders must be in before 9.00am

We have simplified our ordering process and would like you to login first so we can customise your ordering experience.

To see the services at your school, go to **My Account** or **Order now** to login and access all the services available to your student.

If you don't have an account with us click "register"

If you are a friend of the school or guest you can still **register** and add yourself as your student at the school you are ordering at.