



# St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 20

## Update

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Diary Dates

#### Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June

- Stop Work Action for Staff

#### Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July

- School closes at 3pm for Term 2

#### Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> July

- School Resumes for Term 3
- 8:40am Whole School Morning Assembly.

#### Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July

- Year 4 Ranger Jamie Excursion

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

The upcoming holidays will provide all in the StMM's community an opportunity to rest, relax, rejuvenate and restore our energy levels in preparation for the second half of the year. We have much to celebrate after an amazing six months of hard work, patience, understanding and great learning opportunities.

There are many different groups to thank:

- Our students for maintaining their focus
- Our parents for supporting their child's learning
- Our staff for their flexibility and understanding
- Our builders for keeping to the timeline and expertise
- Our Community for the journey of a strong Catholic school.

We are blessed for all the effort and work they have demonstrated. Please take the time to spend time with family and friends and celebrate a fantastic Semester One 2022.

### A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thank you, God, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family.

Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow, and for the whole of our lives.

Thank you for friends, for health, and for grace.

May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us."

—From *The Catholic Prayer Book*

Take care and God bless,

Kevin Mills  
Principal

## Teachers Stop Work Action Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

What does this mean for StMM's Community:

- Families are strongly encouraged **not** to send their children to school.
- No formal classes/lessons will be held
- Only supervision of students will be provided
- **No Canteen Facilities**
- Student absences are not recorded or counted for this day

**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.**  
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.  
COUNT YOUR  
**MANY BLESSINGS**  
SEE WHAT **GOD** HAS DONE.

**DEAR GOD,  
I WANNA TAKE A  
MINUTE. NOT TO ASK  
FOR ANYTHING FROM  
YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO  
SAY THANK YOU,  
FOR ALL I HAVE.**

# Administration

## School Website

Please visit our StMM's School Website: <https://www.stmmerylands.catholic.edu.au>  
Under the "Community" heading and the "Gallery" section you will find all the events celebrated at StMM's school for Term 1 & Term 2, 2022.

## Compass

Parents are reminded that all communication to parents from the school will be via the COMPASS Portal.

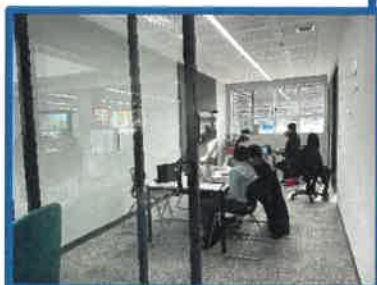
Absentee notes for all students **must** be completed on the **Compass portal** and **not** via the Skoolbag app as the school can no longer access the app and will not receive your child's notifications.

If you have any questions regarding the Compass Portal, please email the school office and we will endeavour to help you.

## Building Update

Our Years 3, 4 & 5 students have now moved into their new learning spaces upstairs. There are still a number of items to be finished and we still have some work being performed. The children are very excited and extremely happy being in the wonderful spaces.

Year 6 have now moved into the LARC, so that their space can undergo refurbishment.



## Important Dates for Term 3

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> July                      | School Resumes for Term 3           |
| Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July                     | Year 4 Ranger Jamie Excursion       |
| Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July                      | Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day       |
| Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> July                     | Kindergarten Farm Excursion         |
| Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August                  | Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival. |
| Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> August                     | St Mary of the Cross Feast Day.     |
| Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> August                  | Year 6 Voice of Youth Cluster Final |
| Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> August                    | Feast of the Assumption             |
| Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August                    | Diocesan Athletics Carnival         |
| Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> August | Book Week                           |
| Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August                   | Year 3 Sydney Zoo                   |
| Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> August                    | Literacy & Numeracy Week            |
| Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September                  | Father's Day                        |
| Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September                | Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary     |
| Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September               | School Photos                       |
| Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September                 | Stage 2 Boys & Girls Touch Gala Day |
| Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September                 | Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch Gala Day |
|  | School Closes for Term 3            |
| Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Students Return for Term 4          |

## COVID & Its Impact

We are continuing to issue COVID notifications as required by NSW Health. We also are required to rerun the following information:

If your child returns a positive Covid test, they are unable to attend school for the duration of their isolation. Close contacts do not have to isolate if they have no Covid symptoms and comply with the following guidelines in relation to school:

- Notify StMM's that they are positive or a close contact.
- It is suggested to wear a face mask indoors (chn under 12)
- Undertake daily Rapid Antigen tests (RATS) before school each day.
- RAT kits will be issued to student or staff members if they become symptomatic.
- Guidelines in place for 7 days from the time a person in their household tested positive for COVID-19.



# Faith Community

## Red Colour Mufti Day

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, we



celebrated Red Day! The Kostka captains, Laura and Marcel, led the Mini Vinnies students at the "Red Sweets



Stall" at recess where there were jelly cups and red lollies as far as the eyes could see! There was also a basketball shootout and soccer shootout competition at lunch time for Infants and Primary. Competition was so close but we were able to find winners!



Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised a total of \$887.15 for the House of Welcome at Granville to help refugees and asylum seekers. A BIG thank you to the Year 6 parents and students for donating a mountain of jelly and sweets to sell at our stall!



## The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Liturgy

On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 St Margaret Mary's school attended Church to celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The choir sang while the infants performed some of the actions to the songs. It was a great gathering after nearly 3 years to come together to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



By: Miranda Tran 5Blue & Ysabelle Jara 5Red



# Personal Growth

## Primary Athletics Carnival

On Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, Primary had their Sports Carnival. There were many races, relay races and different things to do like egg & spoon race, ball games and much more! Everyone was very excited and really wanted their team to win! There were amazing cheers and lots of loud voices.



Many parents had come to cheer for their children, and have lunch with them. Some parents cheered



for **Kostsa**, **McGovern**, **Tuohi** or **Maur**. Everyone had good sportsmanship and cheered on all the other teams.

Once we finished the races, we cheered. In the cheer everyone was shouting, trying to win but in the end **McGovern** had won the cheer. Good job to all the cheerleaders who tried their best. After lunch, we had the parents, teacher and students race. The parents ran so fast! We really hope everyone had a good time and enjoyed the Primary Athletics Carnival.



We would like to thank Mrs Foley for arranging the sports carnival!

By: :Miranda Tran 5-Blue and Jayda Saahene 5-Red





## Personal Growth

### Morning Assembly

On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> June, we all gathered for our weekly assembly. During assembly we proudly congratulated all the people who attended the Diocesan Cross Country. We also congratulated Claire Leke who ran at the NSW state cross country representing StMM's and the Parramatta Diocese.



Mrs Foley asked if any parents were interested in participating in a parents, teachers, and students relay race to be held at the primary athletics carnival. Parents were asked to give their names to Mrs Foley.

*By Jessica Halteh and Mikhaelo Santos*



## Teaching & Learning

### Mrs Ryan's Writing Group

This first 3 paragraphs of work by a student from Mrs Ryan's writing group.

#### Flora

*The Tribe of Flora had always been a happy one. Since the reign of King Oak, Flora has always been a happy and prosperous place. Queen Ivy, the current queen and a Direct descendant of King Conifer, was a merciful, cheerful queen who was skilled at making medicine and cared deeply about the people of her tribe. She was quite naive and childish at times, but she was a good listener and great compromiser, and her advisors and friends always helped her make her decisions. The people loved her, and the time of her reign was called a "Golden Age" of Flora.*

*Her lively, vivid jade eyes, smile and merry laugh captivated the men of the tribe and courtiers from all around flooded to her palace to try and win her heart, but her innocent nature made her oblivious to such feelings, so she never saw them as any more than good friends.*

*Queen Ivy, like all of the other monarchs before her, lived in the Great Oak Tree, a grand house that had sprouted many years ago when Flora was still unofficially considered a region, not a tribe. It had grown for centuries, and had become a home. The Great Oak Tree had its insides hollowed out and entrances carved into the trunk of the tree. Moss grew between the ridges of the trunk and crawled up the trunk. The Great Oak Tree was tall and its many branches stretched up into the sky. It*

*was the tallest and grandest of all of the trees in the Tribe of Flora.*

*One fateful day, Queen Ivy mysteriously disappeared. The Great Oak tree was searched from top to bottom, and all of her favourite places were inspected thoroughly, though not a trace of her was found. Not a stone was left unturned. Her relatives were all questioned, but no one knew or saw anything. Some say that she was looking for a remedial herb, but had been bitten by a viper and died. The snake was also coincidentally her spirit animal, which Elementans could transform into and back.*

*Without a leader, someone had to do something, before the tribe fell into anarchy. Ivy's distant cousin, Rose, seized the throne. Rose was sweet in both appearance and name, but had a sour personality. The "Golden Age" of Flora became a dystopia. Rose was a ruthless dictator who ruled with an iron rod and soon enough, Flora fell into ruin.*

## Partnership

### Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2022

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

- Students have until Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> August, to complete the PRC online. Students 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 Mrs Balogh-Caristo in the library.
- SORA ebook collection has a wide variety of PRC books available to read.



### Holiday Reading with SORA eBooks

All students at St Margaret Mary's are encouraged to read daily during the holidays and have access to SORA eBooks from home. Students need to use their Google Login and Password to access the eBooks and then click on 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 the direct link to SORA: <https://soraapp.com/library/cenetau>

Mrs Balogh-Caristo (Teacher/Librarian)