



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

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Newsletter No 13

## Bulletin

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

### Diary Dates

#### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May

- Kindy 2023 Interviews continue.
- NAPLAN Testing for Yrs 3 & 5

#### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May

#### Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May

- 8:40am Whole School Morning Assembly

#### Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May

- Kindy 2023 Interviews continue.

#### Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May

- Kindy 2023 Interviews continue.

**Staff Professional Learning Day,  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**This is a Pupil Free Day**

**Please see our school website 'Gallery' for more photos from the Mother's Day Liturgy**

### School Website

The school website is [www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au)

## Principal's Message

Dear Parent, Carers & Students,

Last Sunday we celebrated the fourth Sunday of Easter, which is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the community as his sheep has endured for hundreds of years as a primary image in our faith tradition. The image speaks to us about protection, security and care that shepherds represented to their sheep. In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us (from *Holy Spirit bulletin, Nth Ryde*). This is also the role of our parents and carers, as they have chosen to send their children to a Catholic school to build a strong relationship with your God. Sunday's Gospel (Jn 10:27-30) reflects the power of the image of the Good Shepherd:



*I give my sheep eternal life.  
Jesus said:  
'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life;  
They will never be lost  
No one will ever steal them from me.  
The Father who gave them to me  
Is greater than anyone,  
And no one can steal from the Father.  
The Father and I are one.'*

It is the role of all the adults in the lives of our children to be assistant shepherds; to guide, direct, care and support their flock and follow the path of God.

Take care and stay safe

Mr Kevin Mills  
Principal



The painting *The Good Shepherd* by Bernhard Plockhorst

# Administration

## Enrolments K2023

Kindergarten 2023 enrolments will close on Sunday 22nd May. If you have not yet returned your form or do not have an interview time, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

If your child was born between 1st August, 2017 and 31st July, 2018, please collect an enrolment application from the school office. Applications need to be returned as soon as possible. We have received over 100 applications.

Letters of offer will be sent out over the coming weeks.

## School Uniforms

Please email the office if you have any issues with Lowes Parramatta in securing the winter uniform as we are aware of difficulties with stock. Because of this situation we understand that some students will need to wear their summer uniform until stock arrives.

Lowes in Parramatta Westfield is our only supplier of the StMM's school uniform.

Please note: StMM's **does not** have a long sleeve sports polo as part of the school uniform.

## School Communication

There are three main forms of communication for our community.

1. SkoolBag App messages (will transition to Compass Parent Portal by the end of Term 2)
2. Compass Parent Portal (CEDP electronic communication for all schools)
3. StMM's School Bulletin (Paper copy & Electronic)

As we transition from SkoolBag to Compass you may receive a duplication of information. We would suggest you delete your SkoolBag App as this will cease operation at the end of Term 2.

## COVID

Please note the following: 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.

In addition to the above points close contacts must notify StMM's if they are intending to return as we will need to maintain this record on our management systems. Please note at this stage according to NSW Health, no student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.

## Monday Morning Assembly

On Monday, parents joined the school community for our morning assembly. It was great that the weather held off and Mr Mills spoke about 5 main things.

1. Morning Routine - sit, walk or talk before they go up to class.
2. Winter uniform - wear full winter uniform to school everyday.
3. Tennis champions - Xavier and Leeroy Tautu from Year 6 represented our school in the Mackillop Tennis Tournament. They both did very well and we wish them the best of luck in the future.
4. Reading diary - encouraging students to read each night.
5. Good shepherds - our parents are our shepherds just as Jesus was a Good shepherd.



*By Louie Abraham*

## Personnel Growth

### Sports News

#### Whole School Athletics Carnival

On Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, St Margaret Mary's will hold its very first whole School K-6 Athletics Carnival at Holroyd Sportground, Peel St, Merrylands. The carnival will run from 9am to 2pm. More information will be sent home next week.

#### Representative sports singlets

Reminder to anyone who has worn one of our schools representative singlets, could you please wash it and then return it to Mrs Foley.

#### Tennis Championships

Congratulations to Xavier and Leeroy Tautu (Yr 6) and the MacKillop Tennis Team who finished 1st in their pool. The boys team finished 2nd place overall and the MacKillop team as a whole (boys and girls combined) finished 2nd overall at the NSWPSA state Tennis Championships. The boys played 48 matches against 13 teams and 2 pools over the week.

Congratulations on your two silver medals.



### LEGO CLUB

On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, a group of Year 6 students participated in the first Lego club for 2022! Every week, Miss Mekdessi

gives a new theme to inspire our LEGO creations. Each team had 25 minutes to make the best LEGO creation possible before the time ran out. This week, the topic was 'out of this world- space' where many students made fantastic creations such as rocket ships and space stations. It is a very

fun, creative and collaborative experience. LEGO club is held every Tuesday by Miss Mekdessi in the Year 6 classroom, we hope everyone in the club has a great time participating! We can't wait to see what our next themed challenge is!

*By Christian Portelli, Year Six*



## Faith Community

### Mothers Day Liturgy!

On Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May the whole school gathered together after two years for a Mothers Day Liturgy. A large crowd came and watched the choir sing two songs, children read heartfelt messages and Father Janusz reading the Gospel.



The choir sang "Mary Our Mother" By John Burland and "A Song For Mum" By John Burland, which Mrs Del Monte conducted beautifully.

The children had to stand up to bless their loving mothers for always being by their side and always showing kindness and affection towards them.



Afterwards the mothers were able to get a photo in front, of the Mothers Day banner with their children. The mothers and children were able to have a picnic on the playground and go home early. Thank you to Mrs Veness and Mr Mills for hosting that day



of fun and excitement!

*Written by Caroline El Bayeh and Roycelin Amankwaia*



## Fundraising News Term 2

### Blue Colour Mufti Day

Just a reminder that it is Blue Mufti Day on Friday 20/05/22 (Week 4)



Come to school dressed in blue clothing and bring in a gold coin donation for St Vincent de Paul's Winter Appeal. Just a friendly reminder that you must wear closed shoes and have a hat.

There is a fun colouring competition to enter for Infants and Primary this week and there will be one lucky winner from each grade announced on Blue Day.

McGovern Colour Captains - Mikayla Maree Georges and Dia Maria Layouts

## Teaching and Learning

### NAPLAN 2022

Our students in Years 3 & 5 started NAPLAN yesterday and they were happy with what they had written. Wednesday the students are completing a Reading test. On Thursday our students will be completing their Conventions of Language Test and on Friday they will complete the Numeracy test. For those students who are absent contingencies are in place for them to catch up on NAPLAN until Friday week (20th May).

## Partnership

### NCCD Information

**WHAT IS THE NCCD?** The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students (NCCD) takes place every year. The NCCD is a that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability and the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students. Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school to support their learning. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as other students.

**WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?** A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school. Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including: their year of schooling; the level of adjustment received and the broad type of disability. A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for all students.

**WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?** All schools in Australia must collect this information. The NCCD ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable. It provides better information that improves understanding of students and allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students.

**HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?** Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD. Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2022



Sacrament of Reconciliation Enrolments commence from Tuesday, 26 April until Friday, 20 May 2022. (Enrolment Fee \$50 per child). Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or available at our Parish Office during working hours.

**Parents Night:** Monday, 23 May or Wednesday, 25 May at 6pm.  
Venue: Inside the Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation program is divided into two groups taught by Fr. Joseph Maria Buckley & assisted by Monique Kairouz.

#### RECONCILIATION PROGRAM

All preparation sessions held on MONDAYS or WEDNESDAYS at 6:00pm.

**Session 1:** 30 MAY 2022 or 01 JUNE 2022

**Session 2:** 06 JUNE 2022 or 08 JUNE 2022

**Session 3:** 13 JUNE 2022 or 15 JUNE 2022

**Session 4:** 20 JUNE 2022 or 22 JUNE 2022

Venue: Inside the Church

Details of Sacrament of First Reconciliation to follow soon.



Dear Parents and Carers

*I am writing to share with you a letter from Bishop Vincent Long about some changes for Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. From the beginning of 2023, our system of schools will have a new Board made up of community members.*

*This is one of several changes that will further strengthen decision-making and accountability. As Bishop Vincent says in his letter, it is not expected that these changes will have an impact on the day-to-day operation of schools, or upon students, parents and carers, staff and parishes.*

*We will continue to provide local families with great opportunities to grow in faith and learning through our 80 outstanding Catholic schools across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.*

*Thank you for your support and understanding.*

*Kind regards*

**Gregory B Whitby AM KSG**  
**Executive Director**



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

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9 May 2022

Dear friends and colleagues in ministry

From the beginning of 2023, a new structure of governance of Catholic Schools will be created in the Diocese of Parramatta. The current Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) will have a new incorporated governance model centred on a Board made up of community members. The organisation will operate as a company limited by guarantee with the Trustees of the Diocese of Parramatta as the sole Member. It is a carefully considered response to recommendations arising from a comprehensive governance review.

This contemporary model of ecclesiastical and civil governance is aimed at enhancing synodality and subsidiarity. It is designed to enhance collegiality and strengthen decision-making and accountability. It is also about our Catholic community leading together to support the Mission of the Church and continuing to provide local families with great opportunities to grow in faith and learning across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

The change to the new governance model is not expected to have an impact on the day-to-day operation of schools, or on students, staff, parents and carers, and parishes.

Please continue to pray for the Diocese of Parramatta as we work together, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to serve the People of God in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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