



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

7 Chetwynd Road, Merrylands 2160 Tel (02) 8633 8400
Email: stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

Wednesday, 8th March

Bulletin

2023 Term 1, Week 7

Diary Dates

Thursday 9 th March	Yr 3-6 School Cross Country.
Friday, 10 th March	Tuning in to Kids Meeting 8:30am – 10:30am in the library
Monday, 13 th March	Whole School Morning Assembly & Prayer Kindergarten Parent Connection Meeting
Tuesday 14 th March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival for selected students Kindergarten Connection Meeting
Wednesday 15 th March	Yrs 3 & 5 NAPLAN Commences Yrs 1 & 2 Parent Connection Meeting

Cross Country

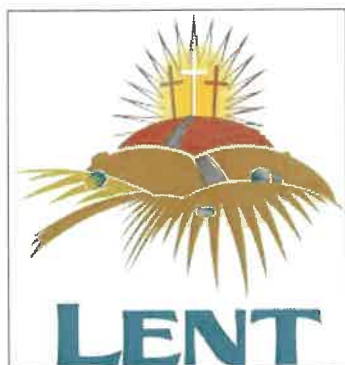
Please see timetable for Cross Country in this Bulletin

NAPLAN

NAPLAN commences for students in Years 3 & 5 on Wednesday 15th March 2023. Please see timetable in this Bulletin.

Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2024 are now taking place. If your child was born between 1st August, 2018 and 31st July, 2019, please collect an enrolment form from the school office.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Since the beginning of the term there has been an increasing number of social media issues that I have had to deal with. This was a result of inappropriate access to Apps and poor students' choices. These issues range across a number of Primary grades, and while these have been dealt with at a school level it is important students are aware of their responsibilities. I have reinforced this with a number of phone calls to parents of children who were unaware of their child's online actions and activities.

I have drawn from a range of resources on the internet to share a number of helpful hits. A great website to visit and share with your child is the: eSafety Commissioner's <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

The following key questions can help you determine your child's readiness for social media:

- Is your child old enough to access the social media platform?
- Does your child know how to deal with negative online experiences?
- Does your child understand the importance of protecting their personal information?
- Does your child understand how privacy settings for social media work?
- Does your child understand what is safe to share online?
- Does your child know how to report cyberbullying and other kinds of abusive content?

Parents can use a three-step approach to establish a good framework for both safeguarding their children's privacy and guiding them to make safe independent choices. Although you can start to implement these steps at any point, starting early will help it become a normal part of a child's life.

TEACH YOURSELF: Get to know how the privacy settings on your (and your children's) devices and how they work.

BOUNDARIES, GUIDELINES, AND LIMITS: Set up age appropriate and realistic expectations about how online devices are used in your household.

DO IT TOGETHER: Joining in and sharing digital activities with your child is one of the most effective ways of protecting them against privacy risks.

Some last words of wisdom!

- Most social media platforms have minimum age of 13 years and older.
- Please don't believe your child when they say, "Everyone at school has a mobile and I need one!" (this is far from the truth!!!)
- All primary aged children should share their passwords with their parents
- Always be positive in your dealing online and if you don't like what is happening remove yourself from the platform.

We will continue to work with our students to educate them around the positive use of the internet. We appreciate the support of our community with this work.

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Parent Connection Meetings

Please find below a table outlining the date, available session time and additional information for each grade's parent connection meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend only one of the session times for your child's grade.

Grade	Date	Time
Kindergarten	Week 8 Monday 13 March Tuesday 14 March	Individual 10 minute Parent Teacher Meeting book via Compass.
Year 1	Week 8 Wednesday 15 March	Session 1 - 4:30pm Session 2 - 6:00pm
Year 2	Week 8 Wednesday 15 March	Session 1 - 3:30pm Session 2 - 5:30pm
Year 3	Week 7 Wednesday 8 March	Session 1 - 3:15pm Session 2 - 4:30pm
Year 4	Week 9 Wednesday 22 March	Open Classroom 3:15-4:30pm
Year 5	Week 7 Wednesday 8 March	Session 1 - 3:30pm Session 2 - 5:30pm
Year 6	Week 9 Wednesday 22 March	Session 1 - 4:00pm Session 2 - 6:00pm

Teaching & Learning

Student Reading Log

Every student at StMM's is expected to read each night and record their efforts in the Reading Diary. Setting aside 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.

Naplan Year 3 & 5 students

Over the next two weeks, all students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be participating in the annual NAPLAN Assessments. The Naplan testing window begins on Wednesday 15 March and concludes on Monday 27 March. Students who are absent when their class participates in the tests can sit catch-up tests later in the test window. If your child will be away during the NAPLAN testing time, please ensure you have notified your child's teacher via the school office.

All students in Year 3 and 5 must have working **headphones or earbuds** at school for the duration of the two weeks. If your child **does not** have a pair of headphones or earbuds at school already, we kindly ask parents to purchase these over the weekend and to bring them to school on Monday 13 March.

NAPLAN timetable 2023

Week 8	Monday 13 th March	Tuesday 14 th March	Wednesday 15 th March	Thursday 16 th March	Friday 17 th March
Year 3	Preparation Day No assessments are to be scheduled		Writing (40 minutes)	Reading (45 minutes)	Make up sessions for any student who has missed the Writing or Reading test.
Year 5			Writing (42 minutes)	Reading (50 minutes)	
Week 9	Monday 20 th March	Tuesday 21 st March	Wednesday 22 nd - Monday 27 th March		
Year 3	Language Conventions (45 minutes)	Mathematics (45 minutes)	Make up sessions for any student who is away on any of the NAPLAN assessment days.		
Year 5	Language Conventions (45 minutes)	Mathematics (50 minutes)			

Water Bottles

Students are reminded to have a drink bottle at school especially during these very hot days.

We have reinstated the bubblers in the school.



School Fees

Term One School Fees are due by 17th March, unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or with CSPD details as per your statement. If you have any questions regarding your 2023 statement or arrangement, please contact Maria at the school office.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 2, please let the office know in writing as soon as possible, as we have several families on our waiting list. It is a CEDP Policy that 10 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.

We ask the St Margaret Mary's community to keep our Year 3 and 5 students in their prayers over the coming weeks.

Faith Community

Project Compassion

This year, the theme for Project Compassion is "For All Future Generations." We are reminded that just like Mary, who freely said 'yes' to God's invitation, we too are called to play our part in making the world a better place for us and for the generations to come. Project Compassion boxes have been placed in all Learning Spaces and children are encouraged to donate any spare coins that they have to this worthwhile cause.



This year, to put our compassion into action, St Margaret Mary's will be holding a Compassion Day celebration on Friday 24th March, 2023 where students will participate in a range of activities to highlight that what we do today could have an impact on the future of others.

In the lead up to this event, we are kindly asking families to make a contribution of \$5 through the Qkr! App to 'buy' a water droplet. Each water droplet will be added to our Water Wall display to emphasise the need for all people around the world to have access to clean drinking water. Cash donations will also be accepted at school if any family is unable to access the app. If you are making a cash donation, please ensure that it is placed in an envelope with the full name/s of your child/ren, and handed to your child's class teacher. The final day for donations to be made is Friday 17th March, 2023.



The grade that raises the most money will have the chance to 'dunk' a teacher... who could it be?

Letter from the Bishop

Dear Parents and Carers

In this newsletter is an important letter from Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta, announcing the first ever Synod in the Diocese of Parramatta. This will be a chance to have your say about the future of the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The details about how and when these discussions will take place will be provided very soon.

I hope that some of you will be able to take part in what will be an exciting time for the Church in Parramatta.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mills
Principal

Personal Growth

Monday Assembly

On Monday Mr Mills led the whole school assembly. He talked about the Tuning in to Kids program for the parents. Mr Mills presented some of our staff a certificate of recognition for



years of service to the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Mr Mills revealed the gift he brought whilst he was overseas. He shared some students' guesses such as a school candle, holy water, new school hats and many more. Mrs Golack was

asked to open his present for the school from his pilgrimage. He bought the school a bell from Jerusalem. He mentioned that cross country was coming up this Thursday.

The swimming carnival is this Tuesday. There are 9 students in the squad. Lastly, he reminded us of the behaviour in the toilets and not to play around the toilet area. He also mentioned about the temper of students playing on the soccer field and not putting hands on.



By: Katrina Y and Jay S



Friday Bark Day

On Friday morning, 3rd March, Mr Mills called everyone for an assembly.



All students that wore mufti were asked to go onto the stage. He explained that the

students were going to move the bark that was on the playground into the garden beds. During recess, every child who had volunteered to help



move 2 cubic metres of bark worked hard to move it to the gardens to make them beautiful



for the kindergarten 2024 Open Morning and parents and teachers' meetings that are happening in the coming weeks. Everyone took a bucket from the silver seats and had to get it filled from the huge pile of bark. After students had finished the work, Mr Mills



rewarded them with an ice block and bottle of water. It was hard work but also fun at the same time. By Wendy W and Siddiqah M



Personal Growth

Sports News

Primary Cross Country

On Thursday, 9th March, students from Years 3-6 will participate in our school cross country. Students turning 8, 9, and 10 will need to be able to run 2kms. Students turning 11 and 12 will need to be able to run 3kms.

Students are required to:

- Wear their sports uniforms.
- They must have a school hat or cap.
- Water bottle.
- Asthma medication if required

This is the timetable for when the Cross Country will be run. All students will be sitting in their Colour House Area:

Time	Event
9am	The Colour Captains will walk the track.
9.10am	12 year old boys will run the track, followed by 12 year old girls.
9.45am	10 year old boys will run the track, followed by 10 year old girls.
10.10am	11 year old boys will run the track, followed by 11 year old girls.
10.25am	8 and 9 year old boys will run the track, followed by 8 and 9 year old girls.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Thanasi G (Year Six) who displayed amazing sportsmanship at the Parramatta Diocesan Soccer Trials



Personal Growth

Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

This year StMM took a squad of 9 students to Mount Druitt Swimming Pool to compete in the Cumberland Zone swimming Carnival.



Each and every student displayed great team work, sportsmanship, achieved their own personal bests and encouraged others.

Ryan C was presented with the 11 years boy runner up for all his

hard work at the carnival. StMM is pleased to



announce that 5 of our swimmers will now progress to the Diocesan Swimming Carnival, next Tuesday at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. Congratulations to:

Ryan C - 2nd in 50m freestyle, 2nd in breaststroke and 3rd in butterfly.

Alexander K - 4th in backstroke and 4th

in breaststroke.

Anastasia K - 1st in 50m freestyle.

Jay S - 1st in 50m freestyle, 4th in backstroke, 2nd in breaststroke, 3rd in butterfly.

Ruby S - 3rd in 50m freestyle and 2nd in breaststroke.

We wish these students the best of luck at the Diocesan Carnival!



Partnership

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2023

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

- The students at St Margaret Mary's have until **Friday, 18th August**, to complete the PRC online. Students must read the required number of books from the Challenge to complete the PRC.
- The PRC rules have been updated for the 2023 challenge. Students can now include up to **10** choice books on their reading records, and can count **5** books from an approved series as PRC books.
- 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.



Partnership

StMM's Parent & Friends

Annual General Meeting

Would you like to be part of events such as our Annual Mother's & Father's Day Stalls and our huge Easter Raffle or our School Discos? Do you have some fun ideas so we can try to help raise funds for the school?

The P&F, is a way parents can have a voice in the school, it is an excellent forum to be involved in. Nominations for the following positions will be taken at the meeting:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Second-Hand Uniform Shop, and Fundraising Committee.

Please join us for our 2023 AGM (Annual General Meeting)

When: Wednesday 8th March

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Place: The School Staffroom. (Please enter the school via the front gate in the office)

We look forward to seeing you there.

Easter Raffle

In preparation for the P&F Easter Raffle, if anyone has any empty baskets and would like to donate these, please send them to the school office.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

P&F will be having a second-hand uniform sale on Wednesday 29th March, 8:15am - 9:30am.

CASH ONLY. All items \$5 each

BCSC (Building Child Safe Communities)

All parents/carers that wish to volunteer and assist the P&F with any activities, must complete the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities online undertaking form and training module for volunteers.

This can be accessed via www.parra.catholic.edu.au

1. Hover your cursor over 'About'
2. Click on 'Student Safety'
3. Scroll down & Click on 'Start Training Now'
4. Scroll down & Click on 'Start Now'
5. Click on 'Begin Undertaking'
6. When you get to screen 5 - only click on/highlight 'I am a parent or close relative of a child at all of the selected location(s)'

Once your form has been "Submitted", the system will generate an automated email to confirm and approve the status of your submission within 24 hours. All Volunteers need a BCSC status that is Approved to provide services to our school.

Please forward this approval email to the school stmargaretmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

LOWES
2 DAY VIP EVENT
20% OFF
SCHOOLWEAR & EVERYTHING ELSE*
MARCH 9TH & 10TH
ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS USE YOUR CARD AT CHECKOUT
SHOP INSTORE & ONLINE
*TAXES APPLY. SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES.

St Pauls
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Many Gifts - One Community
OPEN DAY
SUNDAY, 12 MARCH | 11:30AM - 2:30PM

- College Tours
- Lesson Demonstrations
- Parents & Friends Association
- Staff and Students available to answer your questions

CONTACT US
02 8868 3700
St Pauls Catholic College Greystanes
[stpaulscollegegreystanes](https://www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au)

www.stpaulsgreystanes.catholic.edu.au

Partnership



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

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ bishop@parracatholic.org

🌐 parracatholic.org

March 5th, 2023.

The Second Sunday of Lent and the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Dear friends in Christ,

Not long after my Installation as your pastor, I desired to hold a Diocesan Synod in order to develop a pastoral plan which would follow my predecessor's "Faith in Our Future" and chart a new pathway for the Diocese. However, we had to wait for the long-delayed national Plenary Council to conclude.

Today, after much prayer and consultation, I formally announce the convocation of the Synod in the Diocese of Parramatta. This will be the first Synod in the history of our young Diocese. Like the national and universal synods, ours will be also held in two phases. The first assembly will be held from Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 October 2023 and the final assembly will be held near the middle of next year 2024.

Recognising the fruits of the Plenary Council and in the spirit of synodality, to which you have already contributed so deeply, I invite you to walk with me as we discern further a framework by which we can revitalise our Church in the Diocese and discover together a path of renewal for all of us.

I have appointed a Preparatory Commission to lead this process, chaired by Sr Ailsa Mackinnon RSM, Chancellor of Ministries and Qwayne Guevara as the Lead Facilitator.

Pope Francis has called the entire People of God into a journey of listening and discernment, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us towards personal conversion and renewal in the Church. Pope Francis explains that *'The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from His church in the third millennium'*.

In preparation towards the Synod, I encourage you to participate in prayer, listening, discernment and local action, guided by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to witness to the Gospel and foster a more welcoming, compassionate, and humble Church. The Diocesan Synod will have a significant impact on the way in which we live out community and mission.

The time is now, here in the Diocese of Parramatta, for us to 'go out into the deep' (Luke 5:4) and step into the future that awaits us - one that is inspired by the deep understanding that God's love is not reserved for a few, but for all. Let us accompany one another along this path with firm hope and abiding trust in our God who desires our good, and who dwells among us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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