



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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

Wednesday, 31st May 2023 **Bulletin** 2023 Term 2, Week 6

Diary Dates

Thursday, 1 st June	• Year Five Excursion to Sydney Museum
Friday, 2 nd June	• Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day at Penrith
Sunday, 4 th June	• Holy Trinity Sunday
Monday, 5 th June	• Year Six Canberra Excursion
Tuesday, 6 th June	• Year Six Return from Canberra
Thursday, 8 th June	• Year Two Discovery Learning Incursion
Friday, 9 th June	• Principal's Morning Tea



Principal's Message

Dear Parent, Boys & Girls,

At Monday's morning assembly we made the **CONNECTION** between our sacrament of Reconciliation, the Feast of Pentecost, the Diocesan Synod launch and Australia's Reconciliation Week.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; **27 May to 3 June**. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, **Be a Voice for Generations**, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, let's choose to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme, **Be a Voice for Generations**, urges all Australians to use their power, their words and their actions to create a better, more just Australia for all of us.

God Bless & Take care,




Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Tell Them From Me Survey

The Tell Them From Me survey is now open. This survey provides Parents and Carers an opportunity to give feedback on their experience at our school.



Tell Them From Me

We are asking all in our community to take part in the survey as the online tool is an important part of St Margaret Mary's whole school evaluation and planning process. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at StMM's.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete, closing on Friday 9th June. Please complete the survey using the following link.

<http://tellthemfromme.com/stmms2023>

Updating StMM's Photo Boards

We are in the process of removing and replacing the old external photo boards. Our Year Six students are planning, designing, and storyboarding a new series of photos for our community. They will present these to our Leadership Team at StMM's for a final decision. Once this has been finalised, we will contact the parents of each student selected for photos, seeking permission for their child's participation. A student's involvement in the final photo board will be at their parents' discretion.

Enrolments 2024

We have sent out our 1st round of offers to families wishing to send their children to StMM's in 2024. We have also closed our application process for Kinder 2024. We have very limited vacancies in other years, if you know of anyone wishing to become part of our community.

School Fees

Term Two School Fees are due by 31st May, Term 2 unless you have entered 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.

School Photos 2023

StMM's School Photo Day this year is Tuesday 13th June 2023, Term 2, Week 8.

Don Wood Photography will be taking our photos on the day. www.donwoodphotography.com.au
The preferred method of payment is online.

Closer to the day we will provide families with more information regarding online payments.

Faith Community

Diocesan Synod

Announced by Bishop Long on 5 March, the Diocesan Synod will gather clergy, consecrated people and the laity across our Diocese to listen, discern, and respond to the Holy Spirit through voices of the People of God in Western Sydney and The Blue Mountains.

The theme that the Bishop has chosen for the Synod is Isaiah 43:19 **"Behold! I am doing a new thing."**

These are the words of the prophet Isaiah calling his people to embrace a new future out of the long exile. We too are being called today to embody anew God's transforming power in the world. It is Bishop Long's hope is that our Synod gathers the fruits of the Spirit grown in various fields, including the recent Plenary Council, and invigorates us for greater participation, communion, and mission in the life of our local Church.

Our Lady Help of Christians

Last Wednesday, our school celebrated the Feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians. Father Jeremy welcomed everyone to the celebration.



The choir lead us in song and we all sang beautifully. In the Homily, Father Jeremy said, "Whenever we are down or sad, we weep to our mothers just like the

Church weeps to Our Lady Help Of Christians." He also said that "Australia strongly trusted and followed God after Pope Pius VII was released out of jail after five years."



Years Five and Six read to the audience spreading the word of Christ, especially about Our Lady Help Of Christians. Father Jeremy did an amazing job leading the mass.

By Luis - Frederic A & Jayden O



Faith Community

Monday Morning Assembly

On Monday 29th May, Mr Mills greeted us and talked to us about Pentecost and Reconciliation. Marcus P from 5B went to the Cathedral last Sunday and was given a candle from the bishop for the school. Four students from Kindergarten were presented on the steps and were holding the three symbols of the Holy Spirit such as a dove, a flame and the wind. Year Three students held the colouring sheets.

Soon after each class would be given a set of colouring pages that every student must hand in. We bowed our heads, closed our eyes and we thought about what we could do to help our families. We ended the assembly by singing the National Anthem and then everyone was sent to their classes.

By Tanix P & Esther B



Teaching & Learning

Semester One Reports

The teachers are in the final stages of writing report comments for each student based on their learning throughout the first Semester. When writing student reports, our teachers use data from many assessments, daily work samples, participation and student responses during class activities and daily observations, in accordance with the outcomes and standards outlined in the NSW Curriculum.

Each grade introduces different concepts, content units and skills which can increase in difficulty from the year before. It is therefore possible that your child's achievement level in a particular Key Learning Area may change.

Semester One Reports will be sent home to parents Friday 16th June, Week 8.

Parent, Student and Teacher Conferences

During Week 9 and 10 parents, students and teachers will be able to meet and connect regarding your child's strengths and on-going learning goals.



We would like to remind all parents to ensure their child accompanies them to this meeting. True partnership between school and home means that common goals can be established and developed more effectively and efficiently. Working together assists the children's development and learning in so many ways.

Parents will need to log on to the Compass Parent Portal App to book an individual 10 minute time slot to meet their child's teacher. Bookings will open next week. Further details and information will be sent to all parents early next week.

Year Two Science Incursion

On Thursday 8th June, Year Two will be participating in a incursion presented by Fizzics Education. The incursion is part of our science unit of work 'All Mixed Up'. The incursion is a hands-on science workshop that will explore different materials and mixtures.



Teaching & Learning

JigSaw Challenge Winners

On Tuesday morning Mrs Attard held an assembly to announce the winners of the JigSaw Challenges.

Congratulations to the following students.

Infants Foil Boat Challenge

Kindergarten: Antonie S
Year One: Maddison H
Year Two: Anastasia R

Primary Rocket Challenge

Year Three: Pierre S
Year Four: John G
Year Five: Jay S
Year Six: Lucas F



Teaching & Learning

Mrs Ryan's Year Six Writing Group

No Escape

When dreams become reality

(Or nightmares)

By Jayda S

Chapter 4

Previously

This voice wasn't any voice. It was Dakotas....

This doesn't make sense, Dakoto and I had gone different ways, there's no way she could be so close to me. Who was it? The guards couldn't have done it, so who did?

My mind was spinning "Look around" a voice echoed through the maze. I crept towards the next turn.

What happened?

A wave of terror struck my spine and my head creating more thoughts and scenarios in my mind than can ever be. My steps were at a slow pace and my heart was beating like a stampede of elephants. I sighed. Why couldn't I just be good and stay in my room? Why?

Dakotas Pov

The night was dark and eerie, cold and creepy. Without Jacie by my side, I felt useless and hopeless. I felt like nothing.

You're weak, give up! A quiet voice echoed, piercing my mind.

"You're hopeless, NOTHING!". The worst curse is known to humankind. Doubt. How could it let a voice control me? But it was so meaningful, so powerful. Words and sentences of doubt controlled me, and my mind filled with nothing by them. "You're useless, you're nothing,

GIVE UP!"

I crept towards a wall, it was like I was being controlled, like a puppet. But the more I moved, the louder the voices spoke, the more they meant, and how it could hurt me, not just my feelings, but my physical self.

My body ached. Sharp pains stung my arms. My head darted to the pain. "What...How could this be?" scars all over my skin. My skin turned pale as a ghost, my heart thumping faster than ever. I lifted my head up, only to see a monstrous figure. Then it hit me, My nightmare was becoming a reality. I crept into a small hole, trembling in fear.

"You can run but you can't hide"

When Dreams Become Reality

By Angela S



(I fantasise every night what I wish to come to life)

I climbed into bed, worn out and weary and my bones aching as I clenched the sheets. My head sank into my pillow as my eyes fluttered closed. My head up in the clouds, counting sheep and ready for a deep sleep.

My imagination is my favourite vacation. I enter a new world every time but sometimes I ponder if I'd ever be trapped in one. I close my eyes and fantasise....

A world of mysteries, sometimes even misery. I look forth and see a door and as I step closer it vanishes. Everything vanishes. Plain white was what I saw. I ran and ran but it was hopeless, I was stuck.....

Personal Growth

Principal's Morning Tea

The Principal's morning tea with Mr Mills will be held on Friday 9th June. Students who have received a Pillar Award in each of the following: Faith Community, Teaching & Learning, Personal Growth & Partnership, will receive a Principal's Award and attend the morning tea with Mr Mills.

Mr Mills is looking forward to the celebration with the students.

StMM's Tour Guides

A number of students have represented our Community as StMM's Tour Guides. Mr Mills has called on students from Yrs 4, 5 and 6 to show people around the school. This has included new parents, CSPD visitors and other individuals. Our students love to speak about our school and show people all the wonderful places, people and learning that happens here at StMM's. They do a great job and always receive beautiful and positive comments.

Selection to Represent StMM's

Following our guideline of **ARM** is a key to be selected to represent StMM's at an event outside the school. We have in the past declined students the privilege of representing StMM's due to their inability to live out these guidelines.

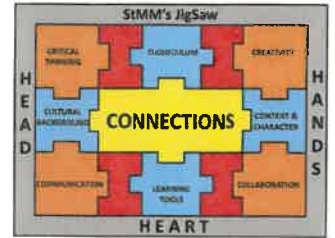
Attitude: you must choose and bring a positive attitude to the event.

Respect: you must show respect to all individuals: staff referees, competitors, teammates.

Manners: you must use your manners at all times: at school, travelling, during the competition.

JigSaw Corner

StMM's JigSaw Pedagogy



Foil Boat Challenge

As part of the JigSaw challenge this term, the infant students made a foil boat at home. They were very excited to bring in their boats for testing on Tuesday. We tested the boats to see how much rice they could hold. One boat could hold 3 ½ cups of rice!

Here is what our infants students had to say about the foil boat challenge:

I couldn't believe how much rice my boat could hold.

Mayette (Kindergarten)

I enjoyed getting to test my boat to see how much rice it could hold.

Gabriella (Year 2)

It was so fun to test the boats. I like putting my boat in the water.

James (Year 1)



We are excited to announce the winners of our foil boat challenge:

Kindergarten: Antoine S

Year 1: Maddison H

Year 2: Anastasia R



Rocket Challenge

As part of the JigSaw challenge this term, the primary students made a rocket at home using a straw, paper and tape. The students were very excited to see which rocket could travel the furthest. One of the rockets was able to travel 6.9m!

Here is what some of our students have to say about the rocket challenge:

I like how we used communication to cheer our friends as we tested our rockets. Pierre (Year 3)

I liked how I used critical thinking to improve the distance the rocket travelled. John (Year 4)

I liked seeing the different rocket designs and seeing how far each rocket travelled. Jacob (Year 5)

I enjoyed making my own design and seeing how far it travelled compared to other students. Yugh (Year 6)

We are excited to announce the winners of our rocket challenge:

Year 3: Pierre Sassine

Year 4: John Georges

Year 5: Jay Shrestha

Year 6: Lucas Fisher





25 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The NSW Curriculum is undergoing significant change right now. These changes are the result of the first major review of the curriculum since 1989 and so require our teachers to make changes to the way in which they are delivering learning to your children so that they can be well prepared for their future lives.

NSW primary schools are currently implementing the new Mathematics and English syllabuses in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 and planning for the implementation of English and Mathematics in Years 3 - 6 in 2024. In secondary schools, planning is underway for the implementation in 2024 of new English and Mathematics syllabuses and new syllabuses in a small number of other subjects. Further new syllabus documents for all subject areas in both primary and secondary schools will be released progressively over the next few years.

To ensure that all of our teachers can respond effectively to these changes, there will be three additional professional development days allocated for staff in Catholic schools in 2023, 2024 and 2025. These days will be used for planning, collaboration with colleagues and sharing of ideas and content on the new syllabuses. Teachers in the Department of Education school system have also been granted similar extra planning days.

The scheduled planning days for CSPD staff for the remainder of 2023 are:

- **Monday 17 July (Day 1 Term 3)**
- **Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 October (Days 1 and 2, Term 4).**

These will be pupil-free days but, as always, supervision will be provided at schools for families who are not able to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

At schools where vacation care programs currently exist, these services will also be available on these days. Further information can be obtained from the Ambrose Service Coordinator.

In a small number of cases, a school may need to change one of these dates because of another school event that cannot be moved. Your child's school will contact you directly if this is the case and advise you of the alternative date.

Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to create the best learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students.

Yours sincerely

Christine Howe OAM
Deputy Executive Director
Director Learning
Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese