



St Margaret Mary's School

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Wednesday, 6th September 2023

Update

Term 3, Week 8

Principal's Message



Dear Parents, Carers and children,
Over the last two weeks we have been blessed with a large number of our children celebrating their First Holy Communion. These occasions are a significant religious event in the lives of our young students and our Catholic church and we congratulate all the children and their families in continuing the sacramental journey of living a Catholic life. It holds great importance for the StMM's community for a number of reasons including the following three.

1. **Spiritual Significance:** First Holy Communion marks the moment when a baptised child or individual receives the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the form of bread and wine. We see this as a deeply spiritual and transformative experience, where we are united with Christ in a unique way in our parish church in Merrylands. It is one of the three sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church, along with Baptism and Confirmation. First Communion is often considered the second step in the journey of faith, as it further integrates the individual into the Christian community.
2. **Preparation and Family Celebration:** Prior to receiving First Holy Communion, our children undergo religious education and preparation with the parish and our families. This process provides them with a deeper understanding of the faith, the sacrament, and its significance in their spiritual journey. As was seen recently at StMM's the event is often celebrated with family and friends. It is our faith's way of emphasising the importance of community and our shared faith experiences. It is a time for joy and celebration within the Merryland's Parish.
3. **Tradition and Rite of Passage:** First Holy Communion is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church and is considered a rite of passage for our young Catholics. It is a milestone in their religious upbringing and a step towards greater participation in the church. On Sunday, for many individuals, receiving First Holy Communion is the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. It can instil a sense of commitment and responsibility to continue practicing their faith and participating in the life of the Church at StMM's.

In summary, participating in First Holy Communion reinforces a sense of belonging to a faith community. It helps our children feel connected to a larger group of believers who share similar beliefs and values.... St Margaret Mary's Parish. Lastly, First Holy Communion is a significant event in the lives of Catholics as It represents our deep spiritual connection with God and the continuation of one's faith journey, at the same time emphasising the importance of community and tradition.

God Bless & Take Care

Kevin Mills
Principal

A

R

M

Administration

Diary Dates

Thursday 7 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delany Shield Debating Competition at Delany
Friday, 8 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary
Monday, 11 th – Friday 15 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing Week Free Choice of Uniform this week
Monday, 11 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&F Second hand Uniform Sale 9:00am – 9:30am (Cash Only)
Thursday 14 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R U Ok Day (Wear a splash of Yellow) Delany Shield Debating Competition at Delany
Friday 15 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 2 Boys & Girls Touch Football Gala Day at Penrith Touch Fields The Kingsway, St Marys
Monday 18 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MacKillop Athletics Carnival Sydney Olympic Park
Tuesday 19 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal's Morning Tea Yr 5 Literacy Movie Day
Wednesday, 20 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yrs 3 & 4 Cumberland Police Cyber Security Talk
Thursday 21 st September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students Last day for Term 3
Friday 22 nd September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Professional Learning Day. This is a student Free Day Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch Football Gala Day at Penrith Touch Fields The Kingsway, St Marys. School Closes for Term 3
Monday 9 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Opens for Term 4 Staff Professional Learning Day This is a student Free Day
Tuesday 10 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Professional Learning Day This is a student Free Day
Wednesday 11 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students return in Full Summer Uniform for Term 4

School Fees

School fees for Term 3 are now overdue unless you have entered into an arrangement with the school or CSPD. Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding your school fees.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to StMM's in Term 4, please let the office know in writing as soon as possible, as we have several families on our waiting list. It is a CSPD 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.

StMM's School Photos and Videos

Please visit our StMM's School Website:

<https://www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au>

All photos and videos taken by Mrs Albertin and the Media team are placed in the folders on our school website. Under the "Community" heading and the "Gallery" section you will find all the events celebrated at StMM's school.

Infectious Diseases

We have had Infectious Diseases reported (Chicken Pox). Parents please contact your doctor if you have any concerns regarding your child's health.



Staff Development Days

StMM's will be holding our next Staff Development Day on **Friday 22nd September** (Last Day of Term 3). This day will be a pupil free day as our staff will be focused on deepening our school JigSaw pedagogical framework and developing engaging learning tools. Families will need to make alternative care arrangements for their children.

As previously mentioned, the first two days of Term 4 being **Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th October** are Staff Development Days. These Staff Development Days have been provided to all Parramatta Diocesan schools in order for staff to plan and prepare for the new English and Mathematics Curriculum. Students will return to school on **Wednesday 11th October**, after the school holidays. Please note we will also have a Spirituality Staff Formation day in Term 4, which will also be a pupil free day. We encourage all families to add these important dates into their calendars.

Car Pick Up

When picking your child up in the afternoon please remember the following expectations:

- Follow all road and traffic rules at all times
 - The only dedicated Car Pick-Up queue is clearly marked as per the signage
 - Joining this queue must be done following all road and traffic rules including signage
 - Parents/Carers are able to join the Car Pick-up queue via Davies Street and Henson Street
 - Parents/Carers are to ensure they give way correctly, taking into account all signs and road rules
 - Cars that are lined up, waiting to enter the Car Pick-Up queue either in Henson Street or Davies Street will be booked. The police view this as double parking.
 - Avoid queueing over the crossing on Davies Street**
 - We recommend staggering the time you come to collect your child(ren) from Car Pick-Up.**
- Supervision of students is provided from 3:00-3:30pm.

Personal Growth

School Uniforms

Due to the unseasonable and changeable weather over the next few weeks, children can choose to wear either their full summer uniform or full winter uniform until the end of term. Children will still wear their sports uniform on their respective sports days.

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly, including the correct socks. All students must have a school hat, that can be purchased from the school office.

Principal's Morning Tea

The principal's morning tea with Mr Mills will be held on Tuesday 19th September. 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.

Social Media

Please take this opportunity to speak to your child about the dangers of using Social Media and importance of sharing and sending information with others.

- Not to share your personal information to people you haven't met online.
- Being aware of cyberbullying
- Remember if it is going to get you into trouble, do not send it.
- Sending messages online to others that can hurt or upset other people.

Stage 3 Netball Gala Day

Cheers rang out around Jamison Park last Wednesday as the Stage 3 netball teams represented STMM with pride and excitement! It was such a fantastic opportunity for the girls and boys to showcase their skills and show everyone what they're made of!



Netball is a sport which involves a lot of teamwork! It's all about those lightning-fast passes, epic jumps, and incredible shooting skills. Plus, the court is like a playground where you get to show off your agility and collaboration skills. It's a sport that brings friends together and boosts confidence. Congratulations to everyone who participated on the day, they showed ARM and good sportsmanship to everyone they encountered.

Also, we would like to thank Mr Mills for purchasing netball rings for us so that we could practise at school in the lead up to the gala day and thank you to Mrs Madeleine, Mrs Foley and Mrs James for their training and support.

By Kayla M and Daniel K



Morning Assembly

On Monday, 4th September, Mr Mills hosted our weekly assembly in the hall. He summarised 'A.R.M' (Attitude, Respect & Manners). Mrs



Foley and some Year 6 students congratulated the children who represented our school in the Diocesan Athletics Carnival. The students received a participation award, and Mrs Foley also congratulated those who set a new record, and made it into the next round, Mackillop.

This week is known as 'Science Week' meaning Mrs. Chetty and the 'STEM Mad' students (Year 5 & Year 6) announced that there will be challenges provided in the hall for you and your families to complete. Year 5 STEM Mad students showed one of the



challenges that will be held in the hall as an example for what activities students can look forward to completing.



The example challenge was to build the highest tower using 20 paper cups. The example teams were

Zara, Hunter and Marcus vs Mrs Borg, Miss Mekdessi & Mrs James. They had 2 minutes and 30 seconds to complete. The winning team were the teachers.

Mrs Kubti and some Year 6 children handed out Mini Vinnies badges and beanies to the teachers and students to show their appreciation for attending and helping organise the Mini Vinnies sleepout experience.

By Ella.K, Iris S.W & Lydia.Z



Teaching & Learning

Writers Festival

On the 29th August we had a wonderful Writing Festival that occurred in the hall. There was writing from each grade and



they were all different types of texts. Parents and carers were invited to come and see the students work. There were different time periods for each grade and a parent

session at the end of the day at 2:20 pm. Every student had to write FeedBack and FeedForward towards each grade. There were tables for each grade to display their work in different ways.



Some grades made booklets, QR codes and some printed their work. There was also a table with amazing pieces of writing from Mrs Ryan's Writing Group.

Students from Mrs Ryan's Writing group had a roster to guide the parents and carers throughout the day. At the end of the day parents were allowed to pick up their children earlier than usual. A big thank you to Mrs Antonucci for all her hard work, setting up this brilliant Writing Festival.

By: Rebecca.S & Louna.M



WOW Maths Day

On the 31st August, Week 7, the primary and infants students participated in Working Out Wednesday Mathematics. This day involved doing Maths challenges throughout the day, as a way of



celebrating Literacy & Numeracy Week. Some of the challenges included finding the missing numbers

then adding

or multiplying them. To complete these challenges we had to use all the pieces in the Jigsaw, such as the 4C. We used communication by figuring out the answer with a partner or group. We had to think critically to find the answer in different ways and use different strategies. We used creativity to figure out the different methods of working out the equations. We enjoyed completing these Maths challenges.

By: Iris S.W & Marcus P



Did you solve the great StMM's Math Challenge?

As part of Numeracy Week, StMM's shared two puzzles for families to collaborate and solve. Did you manage to solve the puzzles below?

Did you solve it the same way as the StMM's Staff?

Puzzle 1

Answer:

Red Apple = 10

Cherry = 2

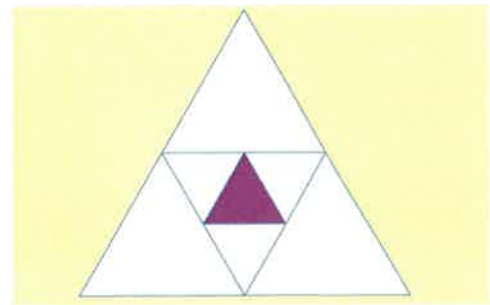
Green Apple = 3

$10 + 4 \times 3 = 22$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Red Apple} + \text{Red Apple} + \text{Red Apple} &= 30 \\ \text{Red Apple} + \text{Cherry} + \text{Cherry} &= 18 \\ \text{Green Apple} + \text{Green Apple} - \text{Cherry} &= 08 \\ \text{Red Apple} + \text{Cherry} \times \text{Green Apple} &= ?? \end{aligned}$$

Puzzle 2

All of the triangles below are equilateral, meaning all of their sides have an equal length. If the purple shaded triangle has an area of 2, what is the area of the largest triangle?



Answer:

The best way to solve this puzzle is to work your way from the centre out. The 3 small triangles in the middle are all the same size as the shaded triangle, and so they each have an area of 2.

Together with the shaded triangle, these 4 make up a medium-sized triangle. It has an area of $4 \times 2 = 8$. And this triangle is exactly the same size as the other 3 medium triangles!

To calculate the area of the whole big triangle, we just need to add everything up. $8 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 32$

TALK TO US FOR ANY QUESTIONS:

THE WRITING GROUP:

- Angela Saliman
- Bridget Langi
- Alexander Khoury
- Jacob Nguyen
- Jason Lou
- Valentina Carrano
- Ameerah Hara
- Jayda Soahene
- Joyce William
- Ysabelle Jara



LITERACY & NUMERACY WEEK



WRITING CAN BE HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED.

WRITING COMPETITION!

School-Wide! Across from K-6!

THIS COMPETITION STARTS DURING WEEK 7 AND IT IS DUE 15TH SEPTEMBER.

PLEASE HAND IT TO YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER.



IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD, THEN PICK UP YOUR PEN AND WRITE.

-MARTIN LUTHER

Partnership

P&F News

Second Hand Uniforms Sale
Monday 11th September, 9am - 9:30am
All Items \$5 each (Cash Only)

Father's Day Stall and Wrapping

We would like to thank all the parents who helped with our Father's Day stall and wrapping. We would also like to thank all the families who donated food for the helpers.

Father's Day Celebrations

On Friday morning 1st September, as early as 6:30am, the staff of St Margaret Mary's started cooking bacon and egg rolls for students, their fathers, grandfathers and uncles that were able to come early to be a part of the Father's Day celebrations. We participated in a brilliant liturgy that acknowledged our dads and male figures in our lives. The Father's Day liturgy started off with a warm welcome. Father Jeremy read a Father's day Gospel. Year 1 danced through two different songs all about our faith and our loving fathers, with perfect choreography.



figures in our lives. The Father's Day liturgy started off with a warm welcome. Father Jeremy read a Father's day Gospel. Year 1 danced through two different songs all about our faith and our loving fathers, with perfect choreography.



Later that day, our school followed a timetable where one by one, each grade went to the Father's Day stall in the hall. Items included pens, mugs, car washing equipment, letters and more. Some of the P & F members helped with the stall by wrapping and selling all the special gifts for our amazing fathers and father figures.

By Luis-Frederic.AK, Deng D, Hunter P, Marcus P



WEEK 9 WELLBEING WEEK

As we approach the end of Term 3, in Week 9, StMM will be hosting Wellbeing Week!

Students will engage in different activities throughout the week connected to Wellbeing.

There will also be no homework during Wellbeing Week. It will be a week where your child can have a break from their usual homework routine and spend quality time with parents and friends to build on their wellbeing!

Wellbeing Week 9 will also be a 'Free Choice Uniform' week, where the children can choose to wear either their sport uniform or school uniform any day of the week.

On Thursday students will celebrate 'R U OK?' Day and can wear a splash of yellow with their uniform, eg: yellow socks, ribbon in hair, head band, wrist band, hat, etc.

Make time
to ask
R U OK?