



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 2nd November 2016

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Ever thought of being a saint? No? Not for you? Probably, two people who were declared as saints in 2010 never thought of being saints either. The two people were St Mary Mackillop, declared on 17th October, and St Damian de Veuster, more easily recognised as Father Damian of Molokai, on 10th October. Though they led vastly different lives, they both had uncommon kindness and both were examples to us not to forget those people who are the "forgettable" in our world.

The saints are always calling us back to our Christian roots. They are real human beings like us with their own personal problems but who battle on to achieve extraordinary deeds. Because of this, we should not leave them as lifeless statues or stained-glass windows and excuse ourselves from our responsibilities to other people on the pretext that we aren't perfect. The very fact that they are human like us, is a reminder to us of our responsibilities even if we are flawed and imperfect persons.

The following two observations highlight the "ordinary person" of St Mary Mackillop: "We want our saints to be inspiring but to understand the pathways we walk. Mary is a model of human possibility and she worked with what she had available to her and made things happen in a practical, humanly sensitive way." Sister Carroll. "The real Mary Mackillop was, in her youth, a rather photogenic, nice nun who grew up to be a remarkable woman of toughness and imagination in the way she lived her faith. But she was also an old lady in a wheelchair nursing her little dog after her active days were over." Fr Tony Kelly.

Father Damian of Molokai was a Belgian missionary priest who worked with Hawaiian people who had leprosy. About 8000 people had been separated from the rest of their society and isolated on the island of Molokai where they were abandoned. It was mostly missionary volunteers like Father Damian who cared for them in three-monthly shifts. After several shifts, Father Damian volunteered to stay permanently and take up the work that needed to be done on behalf of the lepers.

Not surprisingly, after a period of living, working and sharing with the lepers, he caught the disease himself and at only 49 years of age the disease caused his death. His tireless and selfless efforts caught the attention of many who shared his Christian beliefs and people like the famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, eventually forced official assistance to be given to the lepers.

The life of St Damian of Molokai holds out a powerful message that one single life properly motivated and directed to the needs of others, can make a lives-altering difference. Even though the necessary two miracles needed before declaration of Sainthood were proven, Mother Teresa said of Father Damian, "Damian, himself, is a miracle."

Not everyone can be a Mary Mackillop or a Damian of Molokai, but we can all do something, if only of a minor nature, to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged and neglected people. The world needs more saints in the making, so that question again: Ever thought of being a saint?

**St Mary Mackillop of Australia and St Damian of Molokai, may the spirit of your lives live on in the lives of Christian people right now. May we, ordinary people like you, be inspired to reach out to needy people as you did. May God's Spirit be powerful in us as it was in the both of you. Amen.**

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden—PRINCIPAL

## DIARY DATES

### TERM 4 2016

Friday 4th Nov	Year 2 Excursion Penrith Lakes Education
Monday 7th Nov	K2017 Orientation Sessions 9:00—11:00am 12:30—2:30pm
Tuesday 8th Nov	K2017 Orientation Sessions 9:00—11:00am 12:30—2:30pm
Tuesday 8th Nov	P&F Meeting—7:00pm
Wednesday 9th Nov	Stage 3 League Tag Gala Day
Friday 11th Nov	Remembrance Day Liturgy 10:50am
Monday 14th Nov	Year 6 Assembly 2:15pm in the Hall
Sunday 20th Nov	Father Peter's 30th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday 22nd Nov	"Thank You" morning tea for parent helpers 10:30am
Thursday 24th Nov	Musica Viva
Monday 28th Nov	Swimming Program Commences
Thursday 1st Dec	School Christmas Celebration 7:00pm

**WORLD TEACHER'S DAY**

Last Friday our P&F co-ordinated some parents to provide a wonderful Morning Tea for World Teacher's Day. A huge thank you to:

- Anna Pan
- Helen Turner
- Amanda Green
- Nancy Peaty
- Grace Acosta
- Kimberlee Hughes
- Victoria Lucas
- Eli Ogrizek
- Roshinee Weerakkody
- Claudette Kannemeyer
- Kelly Alcuri

for a scrumptious Morning Tea – it was very much appreciated.



**P&F SHOPPING TRIP**

Due to insufficient numbers, the P&F Shopping Trip scheduled for 13 November 2016 has been cancelled.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| November 2  | Ela Torres                                  |
| November 3  | Lucy Goss                                   |
| November 5  | Lucas Piper                                 |
| November 12 | Samuel Nassima                              |
| November 14 | Luke Marnan<br>Bailey Radford               |
| November 15 | Estella Warwick-Smith<br>Isabelle Borkowski |

*We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!*

**IS YOUR CHILD LEAVING ST MARY'S AT THE END OF 2016?**

It is a legal requirement that you inform us of the school your child will be attending in 2017. If you are leaving St Mary's at the end of 2016 (excluding Year 6) please advise the school office in writing of your new contact details and the name of the school your child will be attending. We have a number of families on our waiting list now (people are hearing good things about our school and want to come here) and we would like to offer them places where we can. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS**  
**TERM 4—Week 4**



- KA Kayden Barron-Logan & Olivia Ribera
- KE Ellie Hart & Lachlan Pitchfork
- 1B Genevieve Boumalhab, Sebastian Jalil  
Audrey Lampasona
- 1F David Park, Ashley Adams,  
Xavier McGilly
- 2T Olivia Kostic & Rosalea Brownlie
- 2Q Sami Boustani & Elise Sultana
- 3G Daniel Bietola & Sierra Lake
- 3M Eric Mastronardo & Marcus Schembri-Green
- 4J Sanjana Norris & Dakota Prudnicki
- 4K Annalies Marsh & Lucy Goss
- 5E Sophia Younes & Mikayla Cotsinis
- 5L Therese Davidson & Carissa Gallagher
- 6B Rachael Anderson & Olivia Kim
- 6L Leila Anderson & Sam Schembri-Green

**CARE AWARDS**  
**TERM 4—Week 4**



- KA Scarlett Silvera & Caleb Filardo
- KE Lester Wu & Sebastien Pericaud
- 1B Luca Biviano, Isabelle Borkowski  
Vaiola Bogiso
- 1F Johan Xie, Mya Carr, Natasha Smith
- 2T Elizabeth Samuel, Xavier Roshan
- 2Q Chad Craze & Ruby Northwood
- 3G Gianluca Alcuri & Cian McIndoe
- 3M Ellen Watson & Yanisha Rodrigo
- 4J Beau Myhill & Cristiano Sobral
- 4K Annabella Canale & Tara Newby
- 5E Vazgen Simonyan & Christian  
Boumalhab
- 5L Ryan Vaughan & Georgie Paspalas
- 6B Craig Zvidzo & Ben Tejo-Natoli
- 6L Ben Goss & Kane Vinton

## STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS...

### 2016 STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS FOR SERVICE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Congratulations to our staff who recently received certificates for dedicated service to Catholic Education.

<u>10 Years</u>	Michelle Dennis Deborah Egan Patrice Hanna
<u>15 Years</u>	Helena Lupis
<u>20 Years</u>	Angela Karam Claudia Queixalos Lia Radocchia
<u>25 Years</u>	Amanda Gierak
<u>30 Years</u>	Rosemarie Gosper
<u>10 Years Leadership</u>	Richard Blissenden

We are very lucky at St Mary's to have such a dedicated and professional staff.

## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION...

With Christmas fast approaching, St Mary's students in Years K-2 were invited to take part in the Parramatta Christmas Card competition, run by Julie Owen MP.

The winner's artwork will be featured on the 2016 Christmas Cards sent out to community groups across the Parramatta Electorate.

We are lucky enough to have two (2) finalists for this year's competition, Jake Ban (1B) and Brian Lim (2Q). We are asking that you take a minute of your time to go onto the website below and cast a vote for your winner. I have also displayed both entries on the school notice board.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M7SSK53>

We wish both of our finalists the very best of luck.

Jake Ban



Brian Lim



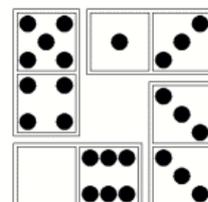
# MATHS...

With the Christmas break fast approaching, here are some fun games children can play over the holidays using decks of cards, dice and dominoes to practise their math skills.

## **GAMES USING DOMINOES**

### **Target Sum (Years K-2)**

Place dominoes in the centre of the players. State a total (e.g. 25). In a two minute time limit players have to collect as many dominoes as they can that add to a certain sum. Score one point for each correct domino.



### **Windows (Years 3-6)**

This is a challenge that children can take on their own or with a group of friends or family. In the diagram the four dominoes make a 'window' with one empty space. The spots on each side total nine. Can you make seven windows like this using all 28 dominoes so that each window has the same spot-sum for each side? One window need not have the same spot-sum as another.

## **GAMES USING PLAYING CARDS**

### **Make 100**

In this game Aces are one, Queens are zero, and Kings and Jacks are wild cards. Each game has 5 rounds. To play, deal six cards to each player. Players choose any four of the cards to make two double-digit numbers that when added come as close as possible to the total of 100. Wild cards can be assigned any value. Players record their numbers and the sums on a score sheet. The player's score for each round is the difference between the sum and 100 (for example sums of 95 and 105 both score 5 points). The used cards are discarded and the two cards remaining in each hand are kept for the next round. For rounds 2 to 5, deal out four cards to each player and make two double-digit numbers, add them, and score your points. At the end of five rounds, the player with the lowest value wins.

## **GAMES USING DICE**

### **Get the Product Dice Game (Years 3-6)**

In this game you will need 3 dice and a piece of paper. Player 1 throws all three dice secretly without player two seeing them. Player 1 then secretly writes the numbers on the dice down on a piece of paper and multiplies them altogether. Player 1 then tells their answer to Player 2. Player 2 has to work out the numbers on the dice from Player 1's answer. When Player 2 thinks they have worked out the correct numbers on the dice, the dice rolls are shown to Player 2.

How to score: If Player 2 got the correct numbers on the 3 dice, then they score 10 points. If Player 2 got the wrong numbers on the dice but the numbers multiply together to make correct product, then Player 2 scores 5 points. If Player 2 made a mistake with their multiplication they score 0 points. If Player 1 made a mistake with their multiplication, Player 2 gets 10 points (unless Player 2 also made a mistake).

Now Player 2 rolls the 3 dice secretly and multiplies all the numbers together, and it is Player 1's turn to guess. The winner is the first player to reach 100.

Variations: Change the number of dice or try playing with an 8 or 10 sided dice.

### **Beat That (Years K-2)**

In this game you will need two dice. Roll the dice and put them in order to make the highest number possible. If you roll a 4 and an 6, for example, your best answer would be 64. Using 3 dice, a roll of 3, 5 and 2 should give you 532, and so on. Write down your answer, pass the dice, and challenge the next player to "Beat That!" Play in rounds and assign a winner to each round. For a change, try making the smallest number possible! This is a great game for reinforcing the concept of place value. If you are playing with younger children, explain your reasoning out loud and encourage them to do the same.

Variations: Change the number of dice or try playing with an 8 or 10 sided dice.

## **MATHEMATICS GAMES WEBSITES:**

[www.transum.org/Software/Game/Dominoes.asp](http://www.transum.org/Software/Game/Dominoes.asp)

<http://www.primaryinteractive.co.uk/maths.htm>

<http://www.gamequarium.org/dir/Gamequarium/Math/>

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/beat-that>