



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2  
Wednesday 1st February 2017  
Website: [www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au)

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2017! The first few days of the school year have been busy and from our perspective very successful. Congratulations to everyone on such a successful start to the year – especially to our amazing staff who were ready for our first arrivals and our fabulous parents who had their children ready for school. Thank you for such a smooth start to the school year.

A special welcome to our new families – you are joining a vibrant community and we trust your time with us will be rewarding.

We have many exciting plans for learning this year and I am looking forward to working with you, your child/ren and the staff. If you have any questions or I can assist you in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, Inspire us to do our best this year! Amen.*

Wishing you a very successful 2017.

Richard Blissenden  
PRINCIPAL



## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2017

Friday 27th Jan	Term 1 commences Staff Development Day MAI Testing
Monday 30th Jan	Staff Development Day MAI Testing
Tuesday 31st Jan	Years 1-6 Commence  EYA Testing Kinder
Wednesday 1st Feb	EYA Testing Kinder
Thursday 2nd Feb	Kinder Commence
Thursday 2nd Feb	Tea & Tissues—9:00am All parents welcome
Friday 3rd Feb	Kinder in the Park From 3:30pm
Monday 6th Feb	Parent Information Night Kinder - 6:15pm Year 3 - 7:15pm
Tuesday 7th Feb	Parent Information Night Year 2 - 6:15pm Year 1 - 7:15pm
Wednesday 8th Feb	Band Recommences
Wednesday 8th Feb	Parent Information Night Year 4 - 6:15pm
Thursday 9th Feb	Parent Information Night Year 6 - 6:15pm Year 5 - 7:15pm

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

It is vitally important that your child is at school every school day. Poor attendance patterns can develop as early as Kindergarten and continue throughout your child's schooling. Did you know that missing just two days a month is more than one year of missed learning in 12 years? If they are sick they should be at home but otherwise every day counts so please ensure your child is at school on time ready for learning every school day.

**SCHOOL FEES**

The Term 1 School Fees will be sent out by the Catholic Education Office. Details of payment plans will be included with your account. Please remember to send any correspondence directly to CEDP at Parramatta. If you do not receive them or have any questions regarding the school fees, please contact Maryanne in the office.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

To be able to assist in the classroom, on excursions etc you need to complete the Child Protection Course. This can be done online at:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au>.

Once you have completed the online course we will be notified.

The Course **MUST** be completed every two (2) years. Our records show that a number of parents are now unable to work in the classroom etc as their time has lapsed. If you are unsure whether you are still covered, please contact Angela in the school office.

**SPORTS DAYS**

Children are to wear their Sports Uniform on the following days:

Kinder	Thursday & Friday
Year 1	Monday & Friday
Year 2	Monday & Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday & Thursday
Year 4	Thursday & Friday
Year 5E	Wednesday & Friday
Year 5L	Thursday & Friday
Year 6	Wednesday & Friday

**PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL**

Our Pre-Loved Clothing Pool will be open **every Friday morning between 8:30 and 9:30am**. If you have any uniforms that you would like to donate to our clothing pool, please drop them into the office.

**LINDA'S LUNCHES**

A reminder that Linda's Lunches are available on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please write your order on a brown paper or clip lock bag and place it in the order box outside the school office.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School banking will be processed on Monday mornings. All bank books **must** be dropped into the office before the bell. If you would like your child to start school banking, please see Stacey in the office.

**KISS AND PICK UP**

We have sent home a note regarding volunteers for Kiss and Pick up in the afternoon. Thank you to those parents who have offered their time already. If you are able to assist please send your preferences into the office as soon as possible. **Without your help we will not be able to continue with this service.**

**TEA & TISSUES**

We will be holding a "Tea & Tissues" Morning Tea' on Thursday 2nd February from 9:00am. All parents are most welcome to come along.

**KINDER IN THE PARK**

All of our Kindergarten families are invited to an afternoon of fun at Upjohn Park on Friday 3rd February from 3:30pm.

**~ SPECIAL NOTE ~**

There will be **NO** lunch order service on Friday 10th February.

Lunch orders will resume as normal on Monday 13th February.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Mr Blissenden's Top Tips for a successful 2017

As we start the year I'd like to share some tips on setting yourself and your child up for a successful year...

1. **Ask about your child's day** - Stay involved in your child's education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.
2. **Let your child see you making mistakes** - Parents are their child's first teacher and their life time teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it's not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.
3. **Keep up to date with what is happening at school** - Check for the Newsletter each fortnight and read through all the information, note important dates on your family calendar or in your electronic calendar. You can also follow what is happening on our website and by using the SkoolBag app. Show your child you value education and they will too.
4. **Don't tell your child that you weren't good at school** - ("I was never a good speller" or "I couldn't do maths"). Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of talking with their children about maths, especially in the upper grades, but maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they're not frightened by numbers. Make learning fun!
5. **Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist** - Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to high school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist or photograph of the items by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.
6. **Don't compare your child with others** - Don't put pressure on children to be just like others. There's no such thing as the child that's like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges.
7. **Help your child make connections to literature** - To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don't have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it's hard for them.
8. **Don't do everything for your child.** - Sometimes it's faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don't learn take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

**CLASS TEACHERS FOR 2017**

Below we have listed the 2017 teaching staff:

Kindergarten	Mrs Atkinson (KA) Miss Tomasic (KT)
Year 1	Mrs Fulwood Mrs Rheinberger (1R)
Year 2	Mrs Brewster (2B) Mrs Morgan & Mrs Violaris (2MV)
Year 3	Mrs Gierak (3G) Mr Shaw (3S)
Year 4	Mrs Jordan (4J) Mrs Kemp (4K)
Year 5	Mrs Egan (5E) Mr Loudon (5L)
Year 6	Miss Boidin (6B) Mr Wheadon (6W)
Drama	Mrs Kirkness
Sport	Miss Gonnett
Music	Mrs Dennis
Library	Mrs Radocchia
Learning Support	Mrs Waterhouse
Leadership Team	
Release	Mrs Johnson (KA/4J/4K) Mrs Kirkness (6B) Mrs Violaris (1R)

**STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2017**

Congratulations to our Student Leaders for 2017 who were announced to the school community on Monday at our Awards Ceremony -

**School Captains**

Eve Kannemeyer  
Ben Fairall

**House Captains**

MacKillop	Carissa Gallagher
McCaffery	Leah Kim
MacKinnon	Oliver Homann
Tarrant	Lillyan Ward

**Student Team Leaders**

Hannah Jalil  
Zane White  
Elizabeth Hogan  
Annika Byrne

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

January 2	Gianluca Alcuri
January 3	Kaisei Doggett
January 4	Jonah Watson
January 5	Anthony Asfour Thomas Bryant
January 6	Mia Lucas Brown
January 7	Luke Porter Alyssa Menin Alyssa Tetto
January 8	Riley Watson
January 10	Heidi Waddell
January 11	Irene Baek Cecilia Homann
January 12	Mya Carr Sara Sangachhe Audrey Tomasoni
January 13	Marcus Schembri-Green Dylan Napoli Benjamin Lambert
January 15	Isaac Vinton Hugh Porter
January 16	William Sultana
January 17	Raj Iyer Lucas Nassima
January 19	Jonas Pellegriti
January 23	Tara Newby
January 26	Misa Simili
January 27	Anthony Scott
January 29	Olivia-Rose Boumalhab
January 30	Arsh Kanwar
February 2	Oscar Libbert
February 4	Benjamin Rust Justin Habchy
February 8	Arabela Martinez Scarlett Silvera
February 9	Madison Cantrill Annabella Canale
February 10	Aaron Singh
February 12	Beau Myhill
February 14	Charlotte Bowskill Hayley Ghalloub

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