



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

*** WELCOME BACK *** **INFORMATION UPDATE** **Week 1, Term 1**



Welcome back to St Mary's for 2009. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. The children seem happy to return to school and have settled well in their new classes.

A special welcome to our new staff members, Jenna Petrocco—1P, Carmen Apap—4Q/A and Carmel Galvin—2G. We also welcome back to St Mary's School, Rosemarie Gosper our Assistant Principal and Jan Schroder, Special Needs Teacher.

Congratulations to Mrs Spicer and her husband on the birth of their son, Erik Sven Anthony Spicer born on 31st December 2008. Both mum, dad and baby doing well!!

As in previous years, the school Newsletter will be sent home every second Wednesday. Below I have listed some important dates for you to mark in your diaries.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS—WEEK 3

In Week 3 we will be holding Parent Information sessions. The dates are as follows:

Monday 9th February	6:30pm	Year 4
Monday 9th February	7:30pm	Year 5
Tuesday 10th February	6:30pm	Year 3
Tuesday 10th February	7:30pm	Year 6
Wednesday 11th February	6:30pm	Kindergarten
Wednesday 11th February	7:30pm	Year 2
Tuesday 10th/Thursday 12th February		Year 1 Meet & Greet (individual times)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—FRIDAY, 13th FEBRUARY

On Friday the 13th February there will be a staff development day. This is a pupil free day with classes being suspended. I apologise for the late notice and its scheduling so early in the term. This was unavoidable as we needed to complete the staff training early so the programme could be taught in the second half of term 1. We also had to accommodate the availability of the training facilitator.

The staff will be participating in a training day to enable us to implement a new social skills programme "Rock and Water". The programme provides strategies for students that increase their self esteem, self realisation and self respect. Stage 2 and 3 children will complete the programme throughout this term. All teachers will complete the training as all staff have contact with the children [Yrs 3-6] at various times during the school day. This initiative will enhance our student management as well as allowing teachers to be proactive in tackling bullying issues at school.

The St Mary's School OOSH will be operating on the day for those parents who require supervision.

Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

PICK UP AND KISS—[Afternoons]

In the event of afternoon thunderstorms or torrential rain, the afternoon “Pickup and Kiss” procedure will be cancelled due to the safety concerns of students, teachers and parents. Signs will be posted on the Marist site fences informing everyone of the cancellation. Parents will be asked to park their cars and collect their children from under the Shade area on the Marist site. We appreciate your co-operation in regards to this safety issue.

TEACHERS INDUSTRIAL ACTION—THURSDAY, 5th FEBRUARY

At present the Independent Education Union and Catholic Education Offices across the state are negotiating teacher’s wages and conditions agreement for the next three years. The union has called on its members to stop work on **Thursday 5th February** for two hours as employers have refused as yet to match a Government sector pay rise awarded last week. Classes will commence at 10:30am. Parents are asked to keep their children at home until school commences at 10:30am. Limited supervision will be available between 8:30 and 10:30am if required. My apologies for any inconvenienced caused.

ASSEMBLIES FOR TERM 1

There will be two (2) assemblies this Term which will be held in the School Hall.

Kindergarten and Year 5	Friday 20th February (Wk 4)	2:15pm
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Year 3	Friday 20th March (Wk 8)	2:15pm
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KEY BOARD LESSONS — Keyboard lessons will resume next Wednesday 4th February.

BAND NEWS—Welcome back to band for 2009 and a big welcome to all our newest band members! ***Band will resume for this year on Friday, 6th February*** , so all students, both new and continuing will need to ***bring their instruments and band books/folders to school on this day***. If you have hired or purchased an instrument or accessories through TSA, this will be delivered to you at school on this day. You will be called for, from class, when it is your lesson time.

Morning Band Rehearsals will also commence on this day so *all students continuing from 2008* should meet their Band Director, Miss Collett, in the **Hall at 8.00am**. ***New beginners for 2009 will not be required to attend band rehearsals*** until they learn the basics of their instrument so keep your eyes peeled for further notices later in the term.

If you are yet to finalise your enrolment for band in 2009 and you are joining the band for the first time ***please contact TSA immediately on 9651 7333***.

LOST PROPERTY—Please check the lost property bin for lost items. Any unlabeled items will be donated to the clothing pool. The clothing pool will be open at 8.30am on Friday, 6th February and then every fortnight on even weeks during the term.

Could parents please be diligent in labelling their children’s clothing and check bags and lost property regularly for lost items.

Have a great weekend,

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL