



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 2 Week 2

Wednesday 6th May, 2009

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 2

<b>Wednesday 6th May</b>	<b>Mother's Day Gift Wrapping 7:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 7th May</b>	<b>Mother's Day Stall</b>
<b>Friday 8th May</b>	<b>Mother's Day Breakfast 8:00am Mother's Day Liturgy 9:15am</b>
<b>Tuesday 12th May</b>	<b>NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th May</b>	<b>NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5</b>
<b>Thursday 14th May</b>	<b>NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5</b>
<b>Friday 15th May</b>	<b>Kindergarten Excursion Sydney Aquarium</b>
<b>Friday 15th May</b>	<b>Stage 3 Boys &amp; Girls Touch Footy Gala Day</b>
<b>Friday 15th May</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION</b>
<b>Mon-Wed 18-20th May</b>	<b>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</b>
<b>Tuesday 19th May</b>	<b>Writers Festival Years 3-5</b>

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY  
FROM EVERYONE  
AT ST MARY'S



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school. I hope you and your families enjoyed the break and the opportunity to share in the celebration of Holy Week. Last Friday as a school community we celebrated our Easter Mass. Throughout the liturgy we focused on the good news of the Gospel that Jesus had overcome the pain and suffering of his crucifixion to rise from the dead, so that one day we will enjoy eternal life with God in Heaven. During this Easter Season, let us renew our faith in the risen Lord through prayer and action as we journey with Jesus leading up to Pentecost and his ascension into Heaven.

Thank you to all parents for sending your children back to school in their winter uniforms. A reminder that boys are to wear their ties correctly with their shirts tucked in. All children are required to wear the correct school jacket and socks (no ankle socks with school uniform please). It is important that we encourage all our children to take care and pride in wearing their school uniform each day. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

During the month of May we are taking enrolments for Kindergarten for 2010. Parents of eligible children are asked to collect an enrolment form from the office and organise an interview time. Interviews will be held in June.

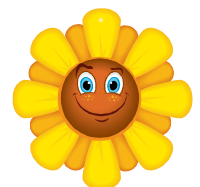
Congratulations to our Cross Country squad who represented our school at the Diocesan event yesterday at Eastern Creek. Many children achieved personal bests on a course that proved most challenging for all competitors. Thank you to the parents who attended on the day and supported the squad and teachers. Thank you to Mrs Brewster for preparing and training the squad over the last few weeks and to Mrs Morgan for attending yesterday.

The accounts for this term's school fees have been issued. It would be greatly appreciated if these accounts could be finalised as soon as possible. If you are experiencing difficulties in paying your child's fees, please make an appointment to see me so we can discuss the matter confidentially.

Last term I advertised for expressions of interest from parents whose children may be interested in learning guitar here at school as part of our musical instrument tuition programme. If you did not indicate an interest last term but would like your child to be involved, please contact the school office ASAP so we can assess the viability of engaging a guitar teacher.

This Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day. May I take this opportunity on behalf of our school community to wish all our Mums a very happy Mother's Day and thank you for all you do for us each day. We will be celebrating this great occasion with our Mother's Day gift stall on Thursday and our breakfast and liturgy on Friday morning.

Over the weekend let's do something special for our mum and take time to pray for all the wonderful things they do for us.



Tony Hughes  
**PRINCIPAL**

**DIOCESAN CROSS COUNTRY**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, St Mary's was represented at the Annual Diocesan Cross Country by 46 excited athletes.

This time the weather was on our side and all of our squad put their training to the test. Special congratulations to Chelsea Loughrey and Tahlia Fraser who both came in 2<sup>nd</sup> and have made it through to the State Carnival. Bridie Hession had a fantastic run coming 10<sup>th</sup>. The majority of the squad who had run the course in previous years attained a personal best. A special thank you to all of our parent helpers - these events cannot occur without your continued support. Congratulations and thank you to all students for their great attitude, behaviour and efforts! Thanks for a fantastic day!

**LOST PROPERTY**

Any unnamed items in the lost property will be donated to the clothing pool on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. If your child is missing anything, please have a look in the bin ASAP. Thanks.

**SPORT UNIFORM DAYS**

Below is a list of days when children are to wear their sports uniform.

Kindy	Tuesday and Friday
Year 1	Tuesday and Friday
Year 2	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 3	3S Tuesday and Friday 3R Thursday and Friday
Year 4	Thursday and Friday
Year 5	Thursday and Friday
Year 6	Tuesday and Friday

**POSITION VACANT—PERMANENT/PART TIME HOUSEKEEPER**

Our parish is looking to employ a part-time housekeeper for the parish presbytery. A minimum of 10 hours must be worked each week. The days of work are Monday and Friday. A job description can be found on the inside notice-board at the back of the Church. If anyone is interested please contact Fr Peter on 9684 1541 or admin@holymary.org.au.

**PARKING**

Just a reminder to all parents about parking in the Family Inn's carpark. They have been kind enough to let us use the larger carpark across from the school, so please **DO NOT** park in front of the pub. Thank you.

**MOTHER'S DAY GIFT WRAPPING**

We need your help!! Tonight the P&F are wrapping the gifts for the Mother's Day Stall, and we are asking for volunteers to come along and help out. Even if you can help out for an hour, it really would be appreciated. The more help we get, the earlier we can go home. We will be in the School Hall from 7:00pm. Thank you!

**MOTHER'S DAY STALL**

Tomorrow we will be holding our Mother's Day Stall in the School Hall. Prices will range from \$3:00—\$6:00. Each child will be able to purchase one gift, and if there are any left over at the end, they will be able to purchase more if they wish. If possible, could you please send in a plastic bag with your child, so they have somewhere to put the present.

**MOTHERS' DAY BREAKFAST**

All mums, grandmothers, aunts and friends are invited to join us for our Mother's Day breakfast this Friday from 8:00am. Please come along and enjoy a nice cuppa and something to eat.

**NAPLAN TESTING**

Next week the children in Years 3 and 5 will sit the NAPLAN tests in Numeracy and Literacy. These series of assessments are undertaken by all year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students across Australia. The results of the test will provide important information to teachers about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programmes. Parents will receive a report early next term indicating their child's level of achievement. The children will sit the language and writing tests on Tuesday, reading on Wednesday and conclude with the numeracy exam on Thursday.

**UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF ANNULMENT**

A session will be held at Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown at 7:30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Any family members are welcome to attend. Please register with Sr Eileen Quade 9890 2968 or equade@bigpond.com.

## FAITH JOURNEY...

### Mother's Day Liturgy

In celebration of all mothers across the world, please join us for a special Mother's Day Liturgy in the hall at 9:15am. Special thanks to Kindergarten and Year 1 for leading the school in this.

### Confirmation

Please keep in your prayers all the children who will be confirmed on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May. The children spent last Saturday or Sunday learning about the Holy Spirit and the wonderful gifts that the Spirit brings to our lives. They should all be commended for the maturity in which they showed through their preparation.



### Easter Mass

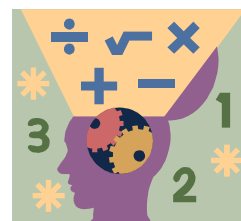
Thank you to all parents who were able to join us for our school Easter Mass. The children of Year 2 and 3 led the school in a beautifully prayerful and joyous occasion and they should be proud of themselves. It was a wonderful way to begin our term as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Mr. S. Stennett  
Religious Education Coordinator

## “MINDQUEST 2009” SAT 4TH & SUN 5TH JULY 2009 QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL LALOR ROAD, QUAKERS HILL

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July 2009 the fiftieth *Mindquest* program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Quakers Hill HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over **38 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program**. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much, much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$150 (including GST).

Quakers Hill HS is easy to get to from most parts of Sydney. If you would like more information, either pick up a brochure from the school office or call Shelagh Poray on (02) 45 731 139.  
**Closing Date: Tuesday 9th June 2009.**



## CURRICULUM UPDATE...

**Human Society and Its Environment** is one of the six key learning areas in the primary curriculum.

In Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) students learn about history, geography, civics and citizenship. They investigate their personal and community identity, and gain an understanding of their nation and its place in the world. They learn to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.

The syllabus is divided into four knowledge and understandings strands as a way of organizing its content. Through these four strands, students will learn about:

**Change and continuity** in their own lives, the lives of others, in communities and in places in Australia and other parts of the world, including significant events and people that have affected the lives of Australians;

**Cultures** – including traditions, religions, beliefs and customs of people in Australia and other parts of the world, both past and present;

**Environments** – natural and built environments in their local area, Australia and other parts of the world, including locating these environments on different maps and responsible environmental practices;

**Social systems and structures** that help to meet the needs of people in Australia, including the government systems of Australia and the principles of democracy.



**Science and Technology** is also one of the six key learning areas in the primary curriculum.

Science and Technology develops students' skills in thinking, investigating and problem-solving. It gives them knowledge and skills in scientific investigation, design and applied technology. This subject builds on the curiosity children have about their natural and built environments.



Both HSIE and Science and Technology need to be taught between 1.5 and 2.5 hours per week. In some grades they will teach a HSIE unit in one term and a Science and Technology unit in the next term. When this occurs the unit will be taught for between 3 and 5 hours per week.

- ⇒ Year 6 this term is studying Australian Democracy/State & Federal Government in HSIE and An Ancient Land in Science and Technology.
- ⇒ Year 5 this term is studying Gold in HSIE.
- ⇒ Year 4 this term is studying A Look Inside –The Human Body in Science and Technology.
- ⇒ Year 3 this term is studying Minibeasts in Science and Technology.
- ⇒ Year 2 this term is studying Nutrition-Healthy Foods in Science and Technology.
- ⇒ Year 1 this term is studying What's Alive? in Science and Technology.
- ⇒ Kinder this term is studying The Sea in HSIE and Science and Technology.