



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 2

22nd October 2008

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 4

<b>Saturday 25th Oct</b>	<b>SCHOOL/PARISH FETE 10AM—4PM</b>
<b>Monday 27th Oct</b>	<b>Kindy Chickens Arrive</b>
<b>Wednesday 29th Oct</b>	<b>Sacramental Meeting for Reconciliation 7:30pm in Church</b>
<b>Friday 31st Oct</b>	<b>All Saints Day Mass—9:15am</b>
<b>Friday 31st Oct</b>	<b>Year 6 Orientation Day at St Patrick's Marist College</b>
<b>Friday 31st Oct</b>	<b>Year 4 Assembly—2:15pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 4th Nov</b>	<b>Kindergarten 2009 Parent Information Evening 7:30pm in the Library</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th Nov</b>	<b>Kindergarten 2009 Transition Session 9:30—11:30am</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th Nov</b>	<b>P&amp;F Executive Meeting 6:30pm</b>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This Saturday, our Parish and School Fete will take place commencing at 10am. Congratulations and thank you to Jennie Blacklaw [fete coordinator] and her committee for their time and commitment in planning this great community event over the last twelve months. Thank you also to the children and their families who have supported the preparation for this fundraising event in recent times. We pray for a fine and sunny day and a great day of fun and excitement for all.

Next Friday is International Teachers Day. At St Mary's we are very fortunate to have a committed and most professional group of educators who are dedicated and passionate about what they do each day in partnership with you in educating your children.

Below is an extract from Greg Whitby's [Parramatta Diocese CEO] weekly Ed Online blog reflecting on this year's theme: "Teachers matter!"

### Helping Teachers to Really Matter

*'Teachers matter!' is the theme of this year's World Teachers' Day. Of course they matter. The research consistently stresses the importance of the individual teacher in the achieving of student learning outcomes. And generations of students see this as quite self-evident. Our diocesan system of schools recognises the significance of teachers in its Framework for Improvements. Here we express our intention of doing everything we can to help them enjoy rewarding professional lives, as an essential part of a drive to improve the learning outcomes of all students. There is no simple formula for achieving this intention, although research does point us in certain directions. We know, for instance, that teachers who find the greatest satisfaction in teaching share certain characteristics. They believe that the work they do is significant. They work purposefully and receive positive feedback. They see themselves as members of a team, sharing 'the buzz' of collaborative achievement. They have reasonable control over their work and feel accountable for its outcomes. They take risks and, hence, build a capacity for development and change. When you think about it, these five characteristics are pretty self-evident. However, they are more than simple truisms in that they provide a most useful, simple framework for leader's intent on helping teachers to enjoy a rewarding, professional life.*

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes  
**PRINCIPAL**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This is to make you aware that due to a change in our phone system, when we call a mobile phone number, our number now comes up as 'private number' on your phone. We understand that some people don't like answering private number calls, but this can cause us problems, as we would generally only call you in regards to your child. Please be aware of this when screening your calls. Thanks.

**SIGNATURE BEARS - "LAST CHANCE"**

This is it!! Your last chance to order a Signature Bear. As you know they are only available every two years as part of fete fundraising, so time is running out. This year there are 3 different options: a boy bear with the St Mary's tie; a girl bear



with her own St Mary's skirt; and a football bear decked out in your favourite teams colours. Samples of all three bears will be on display in the office until October 25. Purchase is by pre-order and pre-payment of

\$20.00 each. Please complete the order sheet in the office. Any queries, please contact Sue Thomas on 0403 576 490.

**PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL**

We are open Friday mornings from **8:30am–9:30am** the same week as the Newsletter. If you need something and can't make it in, please send a note to the office with your contact details and we will try to fill your order and you can pay at the office when you pick up your items.

**LOST PROPERTY**

Any items of clothing without a name, or where the name is unreadable, will be donated to the clothing pool this Friday.

**CBD DIRECTORY**

If you are still interested in advertising your business in St Mary's CBD Directory, it's not too late. This is your last chance to send in your details, along with payment. Please forward it to the school office ASAP. Thanks.

**BABY NEWS**

We would like to congratulate the Dahdah family, Brandon in 2L and Nathan in 1R, on the birth of their baby sister Brianna last week.

**\*\*\* FETE PARKING \*\*\***

As at all times, there will definitely be **NO PARKING** in the Family Hotel Carpark on the day of the Fete. The Hotel are kind enough to let us use the larger carpark on the opposite side of the road, so please abide by their request and not park in the one attached to the Hotel. Any cars found parked there will be fined and towed away at the owner's expense.

**IT'S A BOY**

We would like to congratulate Mrs Tutt and her husband Jason on the birth of their baby boy. Austin James Tutt was born this morning, weighing a healthy 3.7kgs. Both mum and bub are doing well!!

**PARKING CHANGES**

The school made a request to Parramatta Council and the RTA to have changes made to the parking zones on Myrtle Street. In order to create a safe turning circle for Kiss and

Drop parents, the 'no parking zone' has been extended all the way past the hall to Victoria Road. The new signs are now in place, so please be aware of these changes.

**BEHAVIOUR AUDIT**

We recently conducted a bullying survey across grades 1-6. We were happy to see the majority of students felt safe within our school community and were able to implement strategies they had learnt throughout the year. All children were asked to identify the type of bullying they may have experienced and briefly recount specific details of the incident and those involved. All information gathered in these surveys will remain strictly confidential. Incidents were classified under the four main types of bullying – mind, body, word and group. The main type of bullying identified was word bullying.

Teachers and students are re-addressing these issues in class during PDHPE lessons. We ask parents to speak to their children about speaking nicely to others. Children need to realize that their words can be extremely hurtful and damaging to others. Remind them to Care for others by speaking nicely.

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**FETE NEWS—THE TIME IS HERE...**

**VOLUNTEERS**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out at this year's Fete—we are sure you will have a great time.

We are **still** looking for help on the day. Please call Jennie on 0421 278 602 if you can spare even half an hour to help out.

**MEGA RAFFLE TICKETS**

All raffle tickets, sold and unsold, need to be returned with the money to the office **immediately**. We need to make sure we have them all back to put into the raffle. Thank you to everyone for selling the tickets. Good luck!!!



**ARE YOU READY TO RIDE!!!**

Get your unlimited ride tickets now. Prepaid tickets for the Fete rides are available NOW for a discounted price of \$15—WOW! That's great value.....



Tickets will also be available on the day of the Fete for \$20, or individual rides are available for \$4 per ride. Why not save money and pre-order your tickets now.

Please return your order form and payment (in a marked envelope) to the office ASAP. Pre-ordered tickets will be given out to the children by Friday afternoon.

**CAKE STALL**

Just a quick reminder for those of you kind enough to donate cakes, slices, biscuits etc for our cake stall, we have cake boxes and bags in the school office. The cakes can be either dropped off on the Friday or you can bring them along on Saturday morning. Thank you to everyone who helps out!!



**ENTERTAINMENT ON FETE DAY!!!**

Here's a list of the wonderful talent performing on the day. Mark these times down so you don't miss a thing:

**STAGE EVENTS**  
(Parish Hall)

- |         |                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00am | - The Edge Ballet Academy                                                |
| 11:30am | - Westside Talent School                                                 |
| 12:00pm | - Vibz Performing Artz                                                   |
| 12:30pm | - Dance 2 Music                                                          |
| 1:00pm  | - Jane's Dance School                                                    |
| 1:30pm  | - St Mary's School Choir                                                 |
| 1:45pm  | - One Step St Mary's Youth Group                                         |
| 2:00pm  | - St Mary's School Band                                                  |
| 2:30pm  | - Olanna Matkovich and Christina Pelaez<br>Los Carmonas Flamenco Dancing |



## FAITH JOURNEY...

### **2008—2009 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

Every parent wants the very best for their child. If given the opportunity, they would provide them with every need and every comfort. They would do their best to guarantee that their children became confident, knowledgeable, wise and compassionate people. As a parent, have you ever considered that, by ensuring that your child receives the Sacraments, they will be empowered with unique, rich gifts that are life long and are at the core of our faith?

Next Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be a parent information evening at 7:30pm concerning the Sacramental program for 2008 / 2009 in the church.

Through **Reconciliation** they recognise and experience God's lasting love and invitation. As well, they learn to see their own actions in relation to those around them. Reconciliation is usually received when children are in Year 2, though can be received any time after that.

Through **Confirmation**, they are blessed with the many gifts of the Holy Spirit as they come to know their faith more deeply and confirm their belief.

Through the **Eucharist**, which is at the heart of the Sacraments, they receive Christ in body and blood, experiencing Mass in full.

Receiving the Sacraments is not a thing to be taken lightly. It calls for preparation, devotion and prayer. It is also a necessary process that as Catholics we should undertake to become closer to Christ as we mature in our faith.

Please consider coming along to enroll your child for this year. If you have any concerns or queries please contact the Parish or myself.



### **MISSION WEEK**

For the past two weeks across the Diocese schools have been celebrating Mission Week. During this time we reflect on our own mission in our lives to follow Jesus' work in service of others.

Across the year we attempt to support local, national and international initiatives that offer aid and relief to the most needy people in our community and abroad. In our classrooms, we have been learning about our individual calling to be proactive in helping others and how as Catholics we are charged with the responsibility to consider those who need support.

Each class and grade has chosen a particular mission initiative to enact on during this time and through the term. Please talk with your child about what their class is doing to see if you are able to support it at home.

### **ALL SAINTS DAY SCHOOL MASS**

Next Friday 31<sup>st</sup>, our school will gather to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. On this occasion we commemorate all people who have ever lived and have followed Christ in a saintly way, regardless whether they have been publicly celebrated or not. If able, please join us for mass at 9:15am.

Mr. S. Stennett  
Religious Education Coordinator

## BOYS EDUCATION...

Last Term we were fortunate enough to attend valuable Professional Development on Boys Education with Mr Ian Lillico. Ian has been involved in action research on gender education and has also formulated a homework grid.

Ian spoke about how homework has become a chore and intruded on family life to the same extent as television. In today's society, where family life has changed, we need to broaden the definition of Homework to Home Work or work at home and make it more 'family friendly'.

Some grades trialled the Homework Grid last term and for Term 4 Grades 1-6 will be using the grid. Each grade will organise the grid to suit their children's needs. More information can be found on the site [www.boysforward.com](http://www.boysforward.com).



**Mrs Brewster and Mrs Morgan**