



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4

18th February 2009

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DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2009

Thursday 19th Feb	Child Protection Course 2:30pm Library
Friday 20th Feb	"Commencement Party" From 6:30pm - School Hall
Tuesday 24th Feb	Child Protection Course 2:00pm Staffroom
Tuesday 24th Feb	Parent Tutor Program 2:30pm Staffroom
Tuesday 25th Feb	P&F Meeting—7:30pm
Wednesday 25th Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY Years K-2 Liturgy—Classrooms Years 3-6 Mass in Church
Thursday 26th Feb	Year 6 Incursion Antarctica
Thursday 26th Feb	Parent Tutor Program 9:00am Library
Thursday 26th Feb	Child Protection Course 9:30am Library
Friday 27th Feb	Zone Swimming Carnival Auburn
Monday 2nd Mar	Launch of Project Compassion
Friday 6th Mar	Diocesan Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt Pool
Friday 6th Mar	World Day of Prayer



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Last Sunday's gospel and this week's contribution by St Mark promotes a strong message of inclusiveness of others. Both Gospels highlight Christ's love for those who lived in his time who were marginalised by society because of leprosy and disabilities. Whilst on Earth Jesus ministered and associated with those less fortunate. These pieces of scripture encourage us all to reach out to those in need, to be inclusive and welcome them into our lives and communities as Christ himself did. Our Catholic community is characterised by being inclusive and responsive to the needs and cries for help of others.

In many ways Australians across the country in the last ten days have been touched by the tragedy and loss of life and property as a result of the Victorian bush fires and have responded very much in a Christ like manner through prayer, donations and offers of assistance. We too, as a community, are responding by setting up an appeal to assist several schools that have been damaged or destroyed by collecting items [see Monday's appeal letter] to restock classrooms to assist teachers and student resuming their schooling. Thank you to all those families and companies who have already responded to the call for assistance.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent Information evenings for 2009. It was most encouraging to see so many families represented at each of the sessions. Your attendance is greatly appreciated by both myself and teachers. Thank you to the teachers for giving of their time across the week and the preparation of the evenings. Please remember that if you have any concerns regarding your children please make an appointment to discuss the matter with their teacher.

Due to next week's Ash Wednesday Mass (7:00pm in the Church) this term's Parents & Friends Association meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday 24th February 2009 in the Library. All parents are invited to attend. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the father except by me" John 14:6

Have great week!



Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL

FAITH JOURNEY...

ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday 25th February is 'Ash Wednesday' - the first day of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we gather as a Catholic community to reaffirm our faith and our commitment to better ourselves during the Lenten season. Next week, Primary classes will attend the Parish Mass at 9:15am, where they will receive the ashes. Children in K-2 will celebrate grade or class para-liturgies later in the day. Times for the infants' liturgies will be forwarded through the infants' class groups. Please feel welcome to join the school at either the Parish Mass or during the infants para-liturgies.



OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Thank you to our parents who either joined us for the Opening Mass or helped in the celebration.

Mr Simon Stennett
Religious Education Coordinator

CURRICULUM UPDATE - MATHS...

Mathematics is one of six key learning areas for the primary curriculum. It builds upon the considerable mathematical learning that students acquire before entering school. Learning in mathematics will be influenced by children's experiences at school, at home and in the wider community. It will be most effective when parents, caregivers and teachers work together. The aim of Mathematics at St Mary's is to develop students' thinking, understanding, competence and confidence in the application of mathematics. It will also develop their creativity, enjoyment and appreciation of the subject, and their engagement in lifelong learning (extract from St Mary's Mathematics Policy 2005).

Throughout 2009 there will be regular updates on what is happening in mathematics at St Mary's, and suggestions for how you can help your children with mathematics outside the classroom environment.

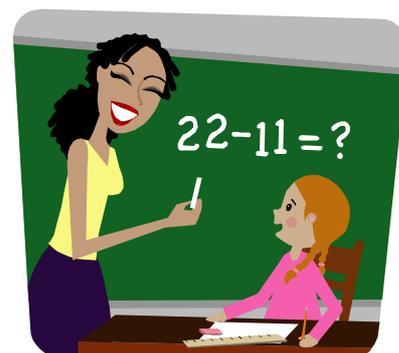
The following extract has been obtained from the Mathematics K-6 Syllabus Parent Support Document, 2002:

How Can You Support your Child's Learning of Mathematics

- * Show an interest in your child's school work
- * Share a positive attitude towards mathematics with your child
- * Support your child's interest in mathematics
- * Talk about mathematics and solving problems
- * Point out how mathematics is used everyday
- * Support the school's mathematics program

If you have any queries, or you would like further information on mathematical strategies, please contact your child's teacher or one of the Mathematics Coordinators:

Years K-2 Miss Rebecca Boidin
Years 3-6 Mrs Louise Caruana



ST MARY'S GARDEN...



Help needed!!!



The School Garden Project
Saturday 28th February from 9am- 11am

Thanks to the summer break and now all the rain, the school garden needs some attention. Please come along and help clean up and prepare the garden for this year's planting.

Please bring any of the following with you: garden forks, spades, trowels and gloves. Some examples of what the children can learn about in our outdoor "classroom":

- sustainable living
- recycling and reducing waste
- different types of fruit and veggies and healthy eating choices
- involving the wider community

For more information please contact either Maree Jordan at school or Rachel Jones on 0414571165.

ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS FOR PARENTS...

Over the next few weeks, we will be providing some information about road safety around schools. Almost half of all child pedestrian (aged 5-18) injuries occur during school travel times according to research by NRMA Insurance (2006), which is why parents need to be especially vigilant around schools during these times.



The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority offer parents the following guidelines:

- *School-aged children should always travel in the back seat of your vehicle. Each child must be firmly buckled into an appropriate seatbelt or child restraint. NEVER share a seatbelt.*
- *Children should always get in and out of the car through the rear kerb side or 'safety door'.*

To be continued...

COLLEGE OPEN DAYS...

ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE

OPEN DAY

17th March 2009
4:00–6:00pm

Staff of the College will be available to answer questions and guided tours of the College will also be conducted.

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

OPEN DAYS

Monday March 9, 2009
 and
Monday March 16, 2009

For more booking information go to our website www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or contact the Enrolment Secretary on 8838 1251.