



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6

4th March 2009

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2009

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Friday<br>6th Mar     | Diocesan Swimming Carnival<br>Mt Druitt Pool   |
| Friday<br>6th Mar     | World Day of Prayer  |
| Monday<br>16th Mar    | Catholic Schools Week<br>Begins  |
| Tuesday<br>17th Mar   | Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day  |
| Tuesday<br>17th Mar   | St Patricks Marist College<br>OPEN DAY 4:00–6:00pm   |
| Thursday<br>19th Mar  | Years 6 Cricket Excursion  |
| Friday<br>20th Mar    | Year 3 Assembly 2:15pm   |
| Tuesday<br>24th Mar   | Year 2 Excursion to<br>"The Rocks"   |
| Wednesday<br>25th Mar | ST MARY'S "OPEN DAY"<br>For parents seeking new<br>Enrolments 9:30–11:00am                             |
| Thursday<br>26th Mar  | Inter-diocesan Swimming<br>Carnival Homebush   |
| Friday<br>27th Mar    | Cross Country for Years 2-6<br>Upjohn Park   |

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Last Wednesday heralded the commencement of the season of Lent with the children and staff attending Ash Wednesday Mass. Lent is a time of renewal and repentance, a time of reaching out to those in need and a time of self sacrifice as we grow in our faith and love of our God. As part of our Lenten practice we are encouraged to support the work of Caritas through the church's Project Compassion. Our Year 5 children, at last Monday's morning's assembly, reminded us that the ashes received last week are a reminder to live our life the way Jesus would. This is a call to action on our behalf to change and think of others in a Christ like manner.

As you have probably heard or read in the media over the last few weeks, the Australian Government's \$42 billion economic stimulus package is about to impact our schools in a most positive way. "Building the Education Revolution", as it has been tagged, is a building and maintenance programme from which every primary school across Australia will benefit. Please find enclosed an information letter regarding *Project Genesis* [The Parramatta Diocesan name for our part of this initiative]. This is a once in a life time opportunity for all schools in the diocese to receive a substantial amount of capital funding for building and maintenance purposes.

Could I please remind parents not to park in the pub car park adjacent to the Marist site. The school for years has had a most positive working relationship with hotel management, which has resulted in them allowing us to utilise the larger car park opposite the Marist site during school hours. For this we are greatly appreciative. With our community using the main car park, management has asked that we don't use the smaller one allowing their patrons who attend the hotel somewhere to park. Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

As you would be aware St Mary's already offers opportunities for children to receive band instrument and keyboard lessons utilising outside teachers who come in on a weekly basis for small group tuition. Several parents have approached me about the possibility of providing opportunities for students to learn the guitar or drums. If we have enough interest we will investigate the possibility of engaging a teacher in a similar way to how our other instrument tuition operates. If you are interested please email me [ahughes@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ahughes@parra.catholic.edu.au) by the end of next week.

Thank you to the Parents and Friends association who organised our Welcoming Party last week. It was great to see so many new families come along. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Have great week!

Tony Hughes  
**PRINCIPAL**



**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

As you may remember, a couple of weeks ago we sent out a form (as part of the Newsletter) requesting you indicate what your preference was regarding distribution of the fortnightly Newsletter.

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who took the time to respond to our request. Unfortunately the response wasn't as good as we had hoped for, and with only a very small portion of the school requesting the Newsletter be emailed to them, we have decided, at this time, not to change the distribution method.



**PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL**

The pre-loved clothing pool will be open this Friday 6th March from 8:30am to 9:30am.



**ATHLETICS**

Last weekend, Chelsea Loughrey competed in an Athletics Carnival on the Central Coast.

Chelsea did very well and received a silver medal in the hurdles.

Chelsea will now compete in the State Cup at the end of March. We wish her the best of luck!!



**EARLY YEARS ASSESSMENT**

Over the last few weeks Kindergarten and Year 1 teachers have been doing the Early Years assessments. This is a directive from the Catholic Education Office, where every child in Kindy and Year 1 in the Diocese is assessed at the beginning and at the end of the year to identify the learning needs in Literacy and Numeracy of each child. These assessments are to be done on a one-to-one basis and are to be administered by the child's teacher only. While it may appear to be a time consuming process and other people could administer tests, the teachers have found it provides valuable information and insight into your child's learning abilities.

**DUNDAS SHAMROCKS**

Dundas Shamrocks Football Association are looking for boys to play in their Under 10 team. For more information please call Bob on 9874 9033.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Today we have sent home an Emergency Contact Information sheet to each family. Please make any changes necessary, sign the form and return it to the school office ASAP. Even if there are no changes to be made, please sign and return the form so we can keep a track of who has and hasn't returned this important information. Thank you.

**LINDA'S LUNCHES**

This is to let you know in advance that on **Friday 20th March**, there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS**. You can still order your lunch as per normal on Monday and Thursday of that week, just not the Friday.



**COMMENCEMENT PARTY**

Our School commencement Party held on 20th February was a great night out!

It was wonderful to have Jurg and Erika Martinez sharing their Caribbean culture with us. Thank you both for the fantastic music, dance lessons and sangria!

We would like to thank Sue Thomas and her Social Committee for organising this evening for us and to everyone who helped on the night, thank you for your generosity.

We look forward to seeing you at the social events planned throughout the year, and hope that you will enjoy 2009 with your school community.



## FAITH JOURNEY...

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

During Week 8 schools across the diocese will celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Through the week schools will celebrate their Catholicity in many ways. As we are now in Lent, we have decided to follow the Lenten actions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we reflect on our faith community. The week will conclude with a whole school Liturgy of the Word on Friday 20th March. Next week a separate note will go home outlining the different activities throughout the week.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM—CONFIRMATION

For those parents who wish to find out about the continuing sacramental program from last year, or wish to have their child confirmed, the parent information evening will be held on Thursday 26th March. Enrolment will be at the Sunday Mass on 5th April.



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This Friday is World Day of Prayer. You may want to mark this day with your family with a special prayer before meal time or in another way. There are many events going on across the world and in our own country that need our prayers.

**Mr Simon Stennett**  
**Religious Education Coordinator**

## LIBRARY NEWS...

### BOOK LAUNCH AT CERDON COLLEGE, MERRYLANDS

Our School Leaders and Library Monitors had the unique opportunity to attend Pamela Freeman's book launch on Tuesday 17th February at Cerdon College. Along with them, Mrs Spinetti, Mrs Young and Ms Vickery (who so kindly drove the children), as well as Mr Hughes and myself, enjoyed meeting Pamela who was actually an ex-student of St Mary's. The children did a great job representing our school. They asked Pamela questions in front of a packed auditorium, and learned a lot about the process of writing and publishing, and about what inspires Pamela to write her books. We were very proud of them! Her most popular books, *Victor's Quest* and *Victor's Challenge* are now available in the library. Other photos of the launch can be viewed in CEnet on the Library Page.



Happy Reading!  
Lia Radocchia



## St Mary's Newsletter....

### CRICKET GALA DAY...

Last week Mr Hughes took some of our Year 5 and 6 students to Baulkham Hills to participate in the Mark Taylor Shield Cricket match. We would like to congratulate the children on not only their wonderful effort, but also their wonderful behaviour and good sportsmanship. Well done to everyone involved!!



### ROAD SAFETY CONT...

Following on from last week, here are a few more guidelines for you to have a look at:

- *Always drop your children on the school side of the road.*
- *Meet your children on the school side of the road, preferably at the school gate. This is particularly important in wet weather.*
- *NEVER call to your children from across the road. Teach them to wait until you come to them. Talk to them about what they should do if you are not there on time.*
- *Children up to at least eight years old should hold an adult's hand in the car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Children between eight and at least ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult in the traffic environment and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.*



To be continued...

### QUALITY TEACHING AT ST MARY'S...

The NSW Quality Teaching framework has been implemented at St Mary's through a series of projects since the latter half of 2005.

Teachers at St Mary's are committed to:

- Improving student outcomes across the curriculum through engagement in consistent high quality learning tasks which aim to transform learners into ethical active participants in their society.
- Structuring professional learning teams and partnerships in which colleagues assist each other to improve in the areas of Teaching and Learning.
- Developing a professional climate where data driven local research is used to improve student outcomes and teacher performance and satisfaction.



(An extract from St Mary's report on Leaders Transforming Leadership and Learning 2006)

During 2008 in partnership with Newcastle University and the Parramatta Diocese our school embarked on the next phase of this commitment to our teaching and learning by participating in the development of a professional learning community (PLC). In 2009 we are aiming to continue our involvement in this project and further our commitment to the developing of quality teaching and learning opportunities for the teachers and students of our school community at Rydalmere.

Regular updates of progress in our Quality Teaching projects will be published in the school newsletter throughout the year.

Louise Caruana  
Quality Teaching Coordinator