



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 3 Week 6

Wednesday 2nd September, 2009

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DIARY DATES

TERM 3

Thursday 3rd Sept	GRANDPARENTS' MASS 9:15am
Thursday 3rd Sept	MUSICAL MATINEE PERFORMANCE 11:30AM
Thursday 3rd Sept	MUSICAL EVENING PERFORMANCE 7:00PM
Friday 4th Sept	Fathers' Day Breakfast 8:00am
Friday 4th Sept	Fathers' Day Liturgy 9:00am
Wednesday 9th Sept	Tournament of Minds Performance K-2 @ 10:20am 3-6 @ 11:15am
Wednesday 9th Sept	Australian Youth Choir Visit 2:00–3:00pm Years 1-5
Wednesday 9th Sept	Yrs 3&4 Soccer with St Patricks
Thursday 10th Sept	Voice of Youth Cluster Final Year 6 North Rocks
Friday 11th Sept	Year 2 Assembly 2:15pm
Sunday 13th Sept	Holy Name of Mary Parish Feast Day Celebrations
Tuesday 15th Sept	P&F AGM Meeting 7:00pm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This Thursday we celebrate Grandparents day at St Mary's and the significant role they play in the lives of all our families. We also remember those grandparents who are no longer with us. Our memories of them and the times they shared with us will be treasured forever. We pray to St Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus, on this special day for the gift of our grandmas and grandpas. Our day commences with Mass at 9:15am followed by morning tea in the library where our grandparents can view their grandchildren's art work. Following the refreshments our grandparents are asked to join our school community for the premiere of "Remembering the Sounds of Music" in the hall. We look forward to sharing the morning with as many grandparents as possible.

Our school musical will be held tomorrow at 11:30am and 7:00pm. Entry for both shows is by ticket only. Thank you to the staff, especially Mr Rose and Mrs Greenaway [our producer and director], parents and children who have contributed in many ways in bringing this performance together. It will certainly showcase the wonderful musical and acting talents of our children!

It would be greatly appreciated if the small minority of parents who are still parking in the car park adjacent to the hotel in the morning and afternoon please cease to do so. Hotel management are growing impatient with those parents parking there as it is taking up parking spaces for patrons who attend the hotel. We are very fortunate that hotel management allows us to use the larger parking facility across the road all day for both staff and parents to park. We do not want to jeopardise their most generous gesture for the future. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated by all concerned.

Congratulations to our stage three Tournament of the Minds teams that represented St Mary's last Saturday at the annual competition. I had the privilege of watching both teams present their prepared solutions to a panel of judges through the use of drama and song. Thanks to Mrs Jordan and Mrs Morgan who assisted the teams in their preparation.

Lastly, we have noticed some children are not wearing the correct uniform to school. Please note that all children are to wear their **full winter uniform** until the end of term.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



FAITH JOURNEY...

GRANDPARENTS' MASS

On Thursday 3rd September at the 9.15 Parish Mass, we are celebrating the special role that grandparents play in our lives. We warmly invite all grandparents from our school and parish communities to join us for Mass followed by morning tea.

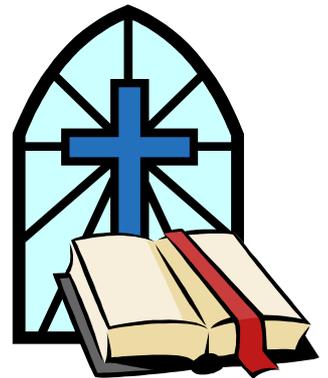
FATHERS' DAY LITURGY

On Friday 4th September, following the Fathers' Day breakfast, there will be a short liturgy in the hall at 9am. Please join us for this special liturgy that recognises the gift of our fathers.

KNOWING ABOUT OUR FAITH

As mentioned previously, our Year 4 students are in the process of completing a two-part Religious Literacy Assessment. We are used to using the word 'literacy' in terms of reading and writing and no doubt most of us have emphasized to our children the importance of being able to read and write. They see us using these skills and we show them the value of reading and of stories by reading to children from an early age. We hope that our children will develop a love of reading and we want to instill in them the value we place on books and of the cultural knowledge we gain from them.

No doubt, it is fairly new for us to start thinking in terms of the *religious* literacy of our students. What do they know and understand about their faith? Children coming to a Catholic school learn many things about all aspects of our Catholic faith; God's love for us and for all creation; the life of Jesus and of his sacrifice; Mary and other great models of faith throughout the ages; the Bible; the sacraments of the Church and about what all this means in terms of the way we live our lives and relate to one another. We hope that our children will develop a love of their faith and that we can instill in them the value we place on that faith. It is often more than something that can be taught. In the words of the old adage it is something that is often 'caught'.



The knowledge of our faith seeps into us when we go to Mass each week and we hear the stories from the Bible; we see the structure of the liturgies and observe the different seasons of the Church year and the rituals and symbols that accompany them. Children see the value we place in our weekly commitment to Mass and the rites and practices of their faith become second nature to them.

The Religious Literacy Assessment is one response to goals outlined in 'Catholic Schools at a Crossroads' the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of NSW and the ACT. Another goal was to witness a deeper involvement in the life of the local Church, especially an increased Mass attendance. In many ways these goals go hand-in-hand. Increased Mass attendance would increase our religious literacy.

Our Parish Mass times are:

Saturday – 5.30pm

Sunday – 7.30am and 9.30am

Mrs Debbie Egan
Religious Education Coordinator

SPORTING NEWS...

As most of you know, over the last few weekends a lot of sporting teams have been competing in finals and grand finals as the winter sporting season comes to an end. Below I have listed some of the wonderful achievements attained this year:

Soccer

Ermington United Under 10's Boys Team

* Jack Pettit, Jordan Jacobs, Curtis Bayeh,
Thomas Gittany, Jacob Genner, Jonah Lin

WINNERS

Dundas United Under 11's Team

* Taylor Johnson, Rhys Rogers

RUNNERS UP



Netball

West Ryde Rovers Under 11's

* Brooke Moussa, Chelsea Loughrey,
Helaina Bayeh

Playing GF this Saturday—good luck girls!!

Rugby League

Dundas Shamrocks Under 10's

* Rebekah Blanchard

WINNERS

Dundas Shamrocks Under 12's

* Jack Clinton

RUNNERS UP



CURRICULUM UPDATE...

BOYS EDUCATION

Continuing on from our last Newsletter, below is the conclusion of our Boys Education Curriculum Update:

Social Behaviour

- **Boys don't ask for help, they act for help**—they will slam a door or bash into furniture to make their presences felt, often they are asking for help but don't like to ask or don't know how to, so they act.
- When you want your son(s) to complete something, don't leave them frustrated, give them clues of how to accomplish the task quickly and correctly—checklists are really useful for boys. Boys like to make them, as they allow them to have some control over their time. Boys really want to control what they do. Offering them choices is a great motivator.
- Boys need a connection to a place, boys need their own space—they need their desk at school, their hook to hang their bag—they are very territorial. They also like their own space at home.
- They like to have their routines explained and then followed—they do not like change. Generally girls adapt much better and quicker to change than boys.
- Participate in their social world—know their friends, know what they like to do, make time to spend time, hover around them so they know you are there.
- Include them in your social world—they need to learn how adults interact, you are their best model.
- Manage the technology, ensure you know what social network sites they are using, check what they are posting. Remember you never really know who they are talking to whilst on the net. Check their user history, ensure the sites they visit are suitable for your child's age group.

Our initiative this year has led us to implement the "Rock and Water Program" in Years 4, 5 & 6 and the "Stones and Streams Program" in Years 2 & 3. These programs were implemented in Term 1. We also intend surveying the Year 4 parents involved in the boy's class.

Margaret Brewster
Year 4 Teacher