



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 8

30th November 2010

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DIARY DATES

TERM 4

Tuesday **Christmas Concert**
7th December **6:45pm Marist COLA**

Friday **Swimming Program**
10th December **Concludes**

Monday **Award Ceremony**
13th December **9:00am**

Monday **Parent Thank You**
13th December **Morning Tea**

Monday **Orientation for new students**
13th December **Years 1-6 2:00pm**

Monday **Year 6 Graduation Mass**
13th December **7:00pm**

Tuesday **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**
14th December

Wednesday **End of School Mass 9:15am**
15th December

Wednesday **Year 6 Graduation Dinner**
15th December **7:00pm**

Wednesday **School Closes for 2010**
15th December

Thurs/Fri **Staff Development Days**
16th/17th
December

TERM 1 - 2011

**SCHOOL COMMENCES
MONDAY 31ST JANUARY**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Advent and the second week of the Church's liturgical year. Advent is portrayed as the four weeks of penance and reflection leading into the birth of Christ and the Christmas season and festivities.

In the Gospel readings however over the next two Sundays we are reintroduced to the adult life of Jesus at the beginning of his public life and ministry. This is somewhat perplexing as we gear up to celebrate our Lord's birth only to be reading about his early adult years. It is the Advent season where John the Baptist becomes prominent in the Sunday scriptures; highlight the significant role he was to play in Christ's life and the mission of the early Church as the Baptiser, the one who was providing purification and absolution for the people until our Saviour was born.

At the end of the term we farewell Mrs Margaret Brewster after many years of service and commitment to our school community. Mrs Brewster has shared her gifts and expertise as a classroom teacher and ESL specialist, as well as being a wonderful literacy resource. Mrs Brewster will take up her role as an ESL teacher at Our Lady of the Rosary at Fairfield in the new year. We wish her and her family every happiness and success for the future.

We also farewell Miss Chatfield and Mrs Haddad who will be taking up permanent positions at Barker College and St Bernadette's Dundas respectively. Farewell also to Mrs Wrightson and Miss Couch, who have been valuable members staff this year. We thank these ladies for all their commitment and contributions throughout the year and wish them every success for the future.

Next Wednesday you will receive your children's second semester report. My thanks to teachers for their efforts in compiling these reports of your child's progress, highlighting their achievement as well as providing areas of development that need to be addressed in the new year. If you have any concerns regarding your children's report do not hesitate in making an appointment with your child's classroom teacher to discuss any issues.

Please take time to read the insert in today's newsletter re the ACARA My School website that will go live later this week. If you have any concerns or questions please contact me.

Next Tuesday our Christmas Carol evening will be held commencing at 7:00pm. We require several parents throughout the day to assist with the setting up of the COLA on the Mercy site. We require several dads in the morning with a ute to move the stages across from the hall to the Mercy playground. If you can assist please contact the office.

Enjoy the last two weeks of term.

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



MATHS OLYMPIAD

This year for the first time, our school entered a team of 22 Stage 3 students in the Australasian Mathematical Olympiad. The Olympiad ran across Terms 2 and 3 and our team competed against almost 30,000 other students from a mix of selective, independent, Catholic and public schools. We congratulate the team on their excellent results. Every member of the team who competed in each Olympiad achieved a total score in the top 50% of participants. 12 members of our team ranked in the top 25%, while 6 team members made the top 10%. A special congratulations to Helaina and Curtis Bayeh who tied as the top scorers for St Mary's, and to Edward Ezzy who received a special award for being our 'most improved' team member. A great effort from all involved!

**PARENT SURVEY**

If you have not yet had an opportunity to complete the parent survey that was circulated several weeks ago, please do so and hand it in at the office before the end of the term. The more feedback we receive assists in making a better learning community for our children. Surveys may be accessed on the school website or from the school office. Results will be published early next year. Thank you.

LEAVE NOTIFICATION

Please don't forget to inform the school office if your child is not returning to St Mary's next year. This excludes Year 6 students. Thank you.

NSW SCHOOL TERMS 2011

Below are the Term dates for 2011:

Term 1

Monday 31 January—Friday 8 April

Term 2

Tuesday 26 April—Friday 1 July

Term 3

Monday 18 July—Friday 23 September

Term 4

Monday 10 October—Tuesday 20 December

TIME CAPSULE

On an initiative from one of our Year 5 students, St Mary's is creating a Time Capsule, which is to be opened in 2026. 2026 is the anniversary of the blessing of the building. Your children have been working on things to include, but contributions are welcome from all members of our community. If you would like to donate something, please bring it into the school office, or drop it into our Time Capsule box outside the office doors.

LUNCH ORDERS—REMINDER

A reminder that during the two week Swimming Program, there will be **NO** lunch orders for our infants classes (Kinder, Year 1 and 2). Lunch orders for the rest of the school will go ahead as normal.

**2010 CHRISTMAS NATIVITY**

This year's parish Christmas Nativity play will be at the 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass. If there is any child who would like to take part, please phone Jacqui Mastroianni on 96380994 / 0405748064.

**PRELOVED CLOTHING POOL**

The PreLoved Clothing Pool will be open for the last time this year from 8:30am—9:30am on Friday 3rd December. If you have any uniforms you would like to donate, please send them into the office. Thank you.

J&E PIANO MUSIC CENTRE

Is your child interested in learning to play the Keyboard? If the answer is yes, please contact J&E Piano Centre on 9651 4892.

* \$12 for 30 minute lesson

* We provide the keyboard for each student **FREE!**

Our J&E Music Teacher, Susan, holds lessons at St Mary's Primary School Rydalmere each Wednesday during school hours.



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT...

Everyone is invited to come and join the St Mary's Primary School community as we sing some of our favourite Christmas Carols.

Where: Under the Marist COLA

When: Tuesday 7th December

Time: 6:45pm the band commences

BYO: Picnic Rugs, nibblies and Christmas cheer.

Glow sticks provided on arrival.

We look forward to seeing you there.



St Mary's P&F Association

THANK YOU MORNING TEA...



Thank You Morning Tea



If you have helped out in the school in any way during 2010

Please join us for a
"Thank You Morning Tea"
on Monday 13th December
at 10:00am (after the Award Ceremony) under the Marist COLA.

PS: Please RSVP for catering purposes by email
(stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au)
or by returning the form below to the office.

Please RSVP by 6th December.

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Thank You Morning Tea

I _____
will be attending the 'Thank You Morning Tea' at 10:00am on December
13th under the Marist COLA.

SPORTING NEWS...

On Monday 29th November 2010, Chelsea Loughrey competed at the Australian National Schools Athletics Carnival in Bendigo. Chelsea competed in the Under 11's 200mtrs and the Relay.

We are very happy to announce that Chelsea came 1st in the 200mtrs and is now the Under 11's National Age Champion.

Congratulations Chelsea!! We are all very proud of your achievements.

**National Age Champion
Under 11's - 200 mtrs
Chelsea Loughrey**



FAITH JOURNEY...

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

Next Tuesday 7th December our school will be having a Carols by "Glow-Stick" evening from 6:45 to 8:15pm. Come along and bring supper and a picnic blanket to share with your family as you sing along to Christmas carols led by some of our staff, our school band, our school choir as well as our drama club.

Dress up in Christmas gear and you could win a prize! Keep your fingers crossed as we may even have a special visitor coming from the North Pole!

Gates open at 6:15pm. Children will sit with their families through the night. Please don't bring any alcohol or glass drinks and cups.

Come along for a super night!



END OF YEAR MASS

On the last day of school, Wednesday 15th December, the school will gather to celebrate 2010 with a mass at 9:15am. Celebrations like this are important for our community as we recognise and thank God for all that we have and all that we share together. Please join us if you are able, as we finish this year as a school together.

ST VINCENT DePAUL HAMPERS

Thank you to everyone who has started to bring in food for our Vinnies Christmas Hamper Appeal. The hampers will be wrapped and sent in the last week of term so please take a look in the cupboard to see if you have something else that you could contribute.

RECONCILIATION - SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2010

Congratulations to all the children across the school and in our broader community that have received Reconciliation for the first time over the past few weeks.

Simon Stennett
Religious Education Coordinator