



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 10

Wednesday 30th March 2011

Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

Ph: 9684 4044 Fax: 9684 2262

Email: stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

TERM 1

**Tuesday
5th April** **Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala
Day - Aquilina Reserve**

**Friday
8th April** **Stage 3 Touch Football Gala
Day - St Mary's**

**Friday
8th April** **Term 1 Concludes**

TERM 2

**Wednesday
27th April** **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
"PUPIL FREE"**

**Thursday
28th April** **Students Return for Term 2**

**Thursday
28th April** **ANZAC Day Ceremony TBC**

**Monday
2nd May** **Catholic Schools Week
Begins**

**Tuesday
3rd May** **Diocesan Cross Country**

**Friday
6th May** **Mother's Day Breakfast and
Liturgy**

**Tues-Thurs
10-12 May** **NAPLAN Testing
Years 3 and 5**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

As the term draws to an end, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and assistance throughout the term. Our school community has begun the school year in a most positive manner following a year of refurbishment and building. May the upcoming vacation be a restful time for you and your families to relax and enjoy some recreational time together.

In a few weeks we celebrate the Passion of our Lord and his Glorious Resurrection through the events of Holy Week and Easter. The Easter season signals the conclusion of Lent and the continuation of our repentance, prayer devotion, renewal, and outreach to those in need, all aspects of our Christian faith nurtured in recent weeks. May this Easter Season be one of celebration and spiritual uplifting for you and your families.

Last Friday Mrs Spicer commenced her maternity leave as she and her husband await the birth of their second child. We ask God's blessing upon Mrs Spicer and her family and thank her for her dedication and commitment to our students and community over recent years. Mrs Susan Dixon will take up the fulltime teaching position with Mrs Jordan in Year 4.

On Monday we held our Open Day and school tours for prospective families planning to enrol their children in Kindergarten in 2012. It was great to welcome several new families to our community. Thank you to our Year 6 students who hosted the tours for the new families. Enrolment forms and information packs for kindergarten next year are available from the office. Positions are also available in Years 1-6 for 2012.

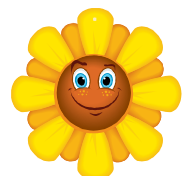
On returning to school next term, parents are asked to use their discretion for the first two weeks in regards to the uniform their child wears. Depending on the weather, children can wear either their full summer or winter uniform. Children are to be in their winter uniforms for the commencement of Week 3. It is important to note that children are to wear black leather school shoes with their school uniform not joggers. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

A new website designed for parents has been launched to support the educational partnership in our Catholic school communities. The website is called **"Partners 4 Learning"** [www.partners4learning.edu.au]. This is an initiative of the Council of Catholic School Parents designed for school communities wishing to build stronger family, school and community partnerships and is funded by the Federal Governments Smarter Schools Teacher Quality national Partnership.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and have a happy and holy Easter.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
Principal



IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be a Staff Development Day on Wednesday 27th April. This is a 'pupil free' day. Students are to return to school on Thursday 28th April.

ST MARY'S OPEN DAY AND TOURS

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who led our tours on Monday for the Open Day. I have received many positive comments from people who attended on the day. Mr & Mrs O'Donahue took the time to compliment the fine young men and women of our school.

*"To Mr Hughes,
I thought I would just take the time to say thank you for the school open day today (Monday). The two students that showed us around were very professional and informative. They should be acknowledged. You should be proud to have such leaders at your school. Thanks again."*

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL

The Pre-Loved Clothing Pool will be open this Friday 18th March from 8:30–9:30am. If you have any items of clothing you would like to donate to the clothing pool, please drop them into the school office.



Thank you.

J&E PIANO KEYBOARD LESSONS

If you would like to enrol your child in Keyboard Lessons for next term, please contact J&E Pianos on 9651 4892 or go to the website www.jekeyboardmusic.com.au.



- * Won Music & Arts Achievement Award
- * Experienced Keyboard teacher Ms.Ronna
- * \$12.50 per lesson for 30/mins Term 2
- * Certificate Grade 1-5 after test
- * We provide a keyboard for each student
- * Additional charge, \$30 for set of 3 books used for 1-2 yrs

Classes are held every Wednesday in the Music Room.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate the Feherkaloudis family, Tia in 4J, on the birth of their baby daughter Alannah Heidi.

SPORTS DAYS

There will be a change to sport days for some grades starting in Term 2.

Year 4 Monday and Thursday
Stage 3 Monday and Friday

Children in these years are to wear their sports uniform on these days.

PRAYER GROUP

Holy Name of Mary prayer group is held every Wednesday in the Church after morning Mass. During Lent, we will be holding the Stations of the Cross. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us at this special time of year.

VACATION CARE

The St Mary's OOSH Vacation Care program is available from the school office.

SAFE4KIDS PARENT WORKSHOP

Holly-ann Martin from the Safe4Kids Company will provide a two hour informal workshop, specifically for parents, with plenty of practical and fun ideas on developing a common family language around safety, and the necessity for reflecting on the ways we care for our children and strive to keep them safe from any form of abuse—physical, emotional, sexual, bullying/cyberbullying.

This will be an evening workshop which will be held:

Date: Tuesday 10th May 2011

Time: 7pm–9pm

Venue: ACU room Aengus Kavanagh Ctr
 Enter via Emergency Entrance
 Mt Druitt Hospital
 (off Railway St) then second
 driveway on the left

Any parents interested in attending should contact Carmel Bartkiewicz either by email carmel.bartkiewicz@parra.catholic.edu.au or mobile 0407 406 668.

SWIMMING NEWS

Congratulations to the 5 students who represented St Mary's and the Parramatta Diocese at the Inter-Diocesan Swimming Carnival last week. All students received excellent results. A huge congratulations goes to Claude Sortwell who made it through to the State Swimming Championships being held at Homebush on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th March.

FAITH JOURNEY...



LENTEN LITURGIES

Next week each stage will be responsible for leading the school community in a Lenten Liturgy. These will be held in the church on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons commencing at 2:30pm. The liturgies will focus on the countries of Nepal, Australia and Samoa and they will draw on the knowledge the students have learnt about their country as well as the knowledge from their unit of work that relates to the Season of Lent. This is a time for the school community to come together and focus on how we can reach out to others during Lent and throughout the year.

EASTER MASS AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus as well as Catholic Schools Week in Week 2 of Term 2. A mass will be held on Wednesday 4th May.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DATES

If your child is making their First Holy Communion this year, please mark the following dates in your diary:

Parent Night: May 17th—7:30pm (in the church)

Enrolment: Saturday 25th June—Vigil Mass 5:30pm

or

Sunday 26th June—9:30am

Sessions (all day): Saturday 23rd July

or

Sunday 24th July

First Holy Communion

Choice of one: Sat 20th August or Sunday 21st August or Sunday 28th August
 Vigil—5:30pm 9:30am 9:30am



Rebecca Boidin

Acting Religious Co-ordinator

BIRD SCARER...

In an effort to reduce bird droppings on our playground seats, I have bought a 'bird scarer'. This hangs in the tree to frighten away the birds.

I am asking for assistance from the students to help place the scarer into a tree. Students are invited to come up with a plan to get the bird scarer in place. There are a couple of rules:

- For safety, we can't climb the tree and we can't use ladders.
- The plan needs to include the materials / equipment needed and a plan of action.

The student who submits the best plan will be asked to help put the plan into action! Please submit your plan to the office no later than Wednesday 6th April.

Mrs Schroder



CARITAS....

Project Compassion, brings you the story of Kose.

Kose, 26, lives in Samoa. In 2009 a tsunami destroyed his home and belongings. Within hours of the tsunami, Caritas had mobilised a response through their strong community networks to provide food, safe drinking water, shelter and medical supplies. Since the tsunami, Caritas has been working with Kose and other community members to rebuild their homes and learn skills to prepare for any future disasters.

Your donation to Project Compassion ensures that, around the world, Caritas is there, working with communities before, during and after the headlines.

Project Compassion, also brings you the story of Judy.

Judy is a Murrawarri woman living in Western Sydney, who is a part of a Caritas Australian-supported training program at Aboriginal Catholic Social Services. Caritas has been working in partnership with Indigenous organisations and communities for over 30 years recognising that poverty and injustice can be found everywhere, not just overseas. Judy is an Aboriginal facilitator at the centre providing support and training for community members. Your donation at Project Compassion helps Judy, and other indigenous people in Australia, work towards a life of self-determination.

The St Mary's community has been very generous with financially supporting Project Compassion so far this Lent. We have currently raised \$500 for Caritas, and we are endeavouring to increase this amount in the last two weeks of the school term. We thank our children and families for their generosity as we continue to reach out to those that are less fortunate than ourselves.

MATHS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED..

We are looking for parents who would be available once a term from 9:00– 11:00am to help make maths resources for use in the classrooms. This would involve mainly photocopying, cutting and laminating. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd May. Morning tea will be supplied. Please return the slip below if you are able to assist.

✂ _____

MATHS VOLUNTEERS

I, _____, am able with assist making maths resources on Tuesday 3rd May from 9:00–11:00am.

Signed _____

Contact Number _____