



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 2 Week 2

Wednesday 4th May 2011

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DIARY DATES

TERM 2

Thursday 5th May	OPEN CLASSROOMS 9:15–10:50am
Friday 6th May	Mother's Day B/fast 7:45am Mother's Day Liturgy 9:15am
Monday 9th May	Year 6 Graduation Meeting 7:00pm in the Library
Monday 9th May	P&F Executive Meeting 8:00pm in the Library
Tue-Wed-Thu 10/11/12 May	NAPLAN Testing Years 3 and 5
Thursday 12th May	Kinder-Year 2 Drama Incursion
Tuesday 17th May	Sydney Writers' Festival
Tuesday 17th May	Year 2 Assembly 2:30pm
Tuesday 17th May	First Holy Communion Parent Night 7:30pm in the Church
Wednesday 18th May	P&F Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday 19th May	Years 3 & 4 Drama Incursion
Friday 20th May	Kinder 2012 Enrolment Interviews
Mon-Wed 23rd -25th May	Stage 3 Excursion to Canberra

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

As we move further into the Easter Season of the Church's Liturgical calendar, we are reminded of our own Faith and the stories of Christ following his resurrection that substantiate it. This Sunday's Gospel reading is the account of the two apostles on the road to Emmaus and their encounter with the risen Lord. Luke in this gospel passage highlights for us our Christian life as a journey, our faith of the unseen, and the significance of "breaking bread" as a sign Christ's presence in our lives. This resurrection encounter as well as the story of the doubting apostle Thomas, highlights Jesus' call for "those who have not seen and yet believe!" This is the premise for our faith today in the twenty-first century.

This week across the country we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. As part of this week's celebrations, we will celebrate our Easter liturgy on Wednesday at the 9:15am parish mass. On Thursday our school will be open between 9:15 and 10:50pm to allow parents and friends to visit our learning spaces. This will be a great opportunity for new parents planning to enrol their children in Kindergarten in 2012 to tour the school and its facilities. Please pass this invitation onto prospective new families. The week will conclude with our Mother's Day breakfast commencing at 7:45am concluding with mass at 9:15am.

Kindergarten enrolments for 2012 are now being taken. Enrolment interviews will be held over the next five to six weeks. Enrolment forms are available from the office or on the school website.

All children are to be in their full winter uniform by Monday 9th May [Week 3]. Parents may use their discretion this week, depending on the weather, as to what uniform their children wear. The difficulties experienced by parents in recent weeks purchasing the girls' winter tunics from Lowes Carlingford are being addressed. My apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Please record on your calendar our next Staff Development Day being held on Friday the 27th May [Week 5]. Last Wednesday the staff and teachers from several other schools spent the day working with Kath Murdoch around the pedagogy of Inquiry Based Learning. Kath will return in several weeks to work with the staff in developing their teaching units for the remainder of the year.

Parents are reminded that morning supervision does not commence until 8:30am. Therefore, children are not to be dropped off before this time for their own safety. If you need to drop your children off before 8:30am please utilize our Before and After School facilities [OSHC].

Happy Catholic Schools Week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



YEAR 6 GRADUATION MEETING

A reminder that there will be a Year 6 Graduation meeting held on Monday 9th May from 7:00pm in the Library. All Year 6 parents are welcome to come along.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

This term we will be recommencing our whole school assemblies in the school hall. For those new to the school, this is where each grade is responsible for presenting an assembly. This is also where we will be handing out the Principal and Care Awards. At this point we have two scheduled for Term 2:

Year 2 Tuesday 17th May—2:30pm

Year 4 Tuesday 7th June—2:30pm

Everyone is most welcome to come along!

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to Miss Boidin and Mrs Delbridge and their families on the passing of their fathers during the holidays. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Our sympathy also goes to the Azize family, Catherine in 3S/Q and David in St3M, whose grandmother passed away.

SPORTS DAYS

A reminder that there will be a change to sport days for some grades starting in Term 2. They are:

Year 4 Monday and Thursday

Stage 3 Monday and Friday

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

NAPLAN TESTING...

“The National Assessment Program” - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008. On Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May, students will undertake the 2011 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

An individual students NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.naplan.edu.au.

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.

J&E PIANO KEYBOARD LESSONS

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



Classes are held every Wednesday in the Music Room.

FAITH JOURNEY...



MOTHER'S DAY

As we remember our holy mother Mary during this month of May, we also pay special tribute to all our wonderful mums who care for us and love us unconditionally. This Friday we will be celebrating our mothers at a special school mass at 9:15am. Please come along for this special occasion.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2011—FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Tuesday 17th May there will be a Parent Information evening in the church at 7:30pm regarding this year's First Holy Communion program. If you would like your child to participate please attend this meeting.

Simon Stennett
Religious Education Coordinator



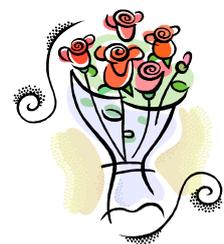
P&F NEWS...

With the holidays behind us once again it is time for the P&F to get busy again and continue planning and implementing some more social activities for the school community to enjoy. We will kick it all off this week with our Mother's Day celebrations. We hope to see all of our wonderful mums on Friday morning as we enjoy a relaxed breakfast with our children. As always, the P&F appreciates any help you can offer us, and on this occasion we look forward to some treats from our wonderful bakers. The breakfast will be followed by a liturgy in the church which is a fantastic way to conclude the morning's celebrations. In coming weeks we will be holding our next P&F general meeting, which is always a good forum for hearing about what is going on in our school, and clarifying any questions you may have. So if you can spare an hour, it would be wonderful to see some new and old faces there.

For those of you who have been looking forward to our next school disco, we have set the date for Friday 17th June. Due to popular demand this will be a pyjama disco, and will be held in the school hall. You will receive more information about this closer to the time, but remember to put the date in your diary.

I will conclude by wishing all of our wonderful mums a very happy Mother's Day on Sunday, may your day be everything you hope it will be.

Jennene Gillies
P&F President



STAGE 3 INCURSION—PARKOUR..

Parkour, the Art of Displacement, is an urban sport requiring grace, strength and agility. Our Stage 3 students had the chance to train with members of the prestigious Nine Lives Team. Leaping, diving and rolling, the students tested themselves physically while keeping their mind focussed and 'present'. This workshop was part of the 'Hero Project' created by the Powerhouse Youth Theatre. And our students loved it!



TERM 2 PLANNER...