



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 4

Wednesday 22nd February 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. This is a time of reaching out to others, as Christ would do. Being more "Christ" like in our relationship with others is the message we wish to convey to our children this Lent. Let's make a difference in the life of someone who needs the love of Jesus. This outreach will involve us making the time and the sacrifice to think of those in need and be proactive in our actions and prayer.

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent information evenings last week. It was a great opportunity for teachers to share their expectations and outline the curriculum for each key learning area. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to be "class parents" or to assist in the classroom throughout the year. Your support and assistance will be greatly appreciated by both the students and staff. My thanks to the teachers for their time in preparing for the beginning of the school year and for preparing last week's sessions.

Next Monday is our Staff Development Day. The teachers will be conducting MAIs throughout the day. Thank you to those parents who have returned their interview preferences. It is imperative that you are on time for your interviews, as these have been scheduled for every thirty minutes. It would be recommended that you arrive 10 minutes prior to your interview time. Students who are not being tested next Monday will be interviewed over the next few weeks. Thank you for your co-operation with this initiative.

Our Open Day will be held on Monday 19th March. Parents of new students wishing to enrol in Kindergarten next year are encouraged to attend the morning session which will be held between 9:15—10:45am. Enrolment forms are available on our school website. The invitation is also open for any families who are considering enrolling their child at the school. We currently have vacancies in all grades K-6. Please pass on these details to any families considering enrolling their children at St Mary's over the next eighteen months.

Our Official Opening and Blessing will be held on Friday morning the 16th March commencing at 10am. Mr Greg Whitby [Executive Director of Schools] and Bishop Anthony Fisher [Bishop of Parramatta] will join CEO staff and surrounding school principals together with local government officials who will officiate at this occasion. Parents and friends of St Mary's are invited to attend the morning's festivities as we give thanks to those who made our refurbishments a reality.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 2012

Wednesday 22nd Feb **Ash Wednesday**
Yrs 3-6 Mass 9:15am
K-2 Class Liturgies
(Kinder @ 11:15am; Yrs 1-2 @ 12:00pm)

Thursday 23rd Feb **Zone Swimming Carnival**

Friday 24th Feb **COMMENCEMENT PARTY**
7:00PM

Monday 27th Feb **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
"PUPIL FREE DAY"

Tuesday 28th Feb **Student Leaders' Conference**

Thursday 1st Mar **Stage 3 Girls Cricket Gala Day**

Friday 2nd Mar **Diocesan Swimming Carnival**

Friday 2nd Mar **Clean Up Australia Day**

Monday 5th Mar **Year 4 Assembly**
2:15pm in the Hall

ST MARY'S RYDALMERE

~ OPEN DAY ~

MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2012
9:15—10:45AM

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the families who sent their shopping dockets to school throughout the Woolworths Earn and Learn promotion last year. Through your wonderful generosity (and some good weekly spending) St Mary's has been able to redeem the points accrued to obtain Maths and English resources to the value of \$1,360.00. These resources have been distributed to the classrooms for your children to use. Once again, a huge thank you for your support of this worthwhile promotion.

**ST PATRICK'S MARIST
COLLEGE DUNDAS**

OPEN DAY

12TH MARCH 2012
4:00—6:00PM

Staff of the College will be available to answer questions and guided tours will also be conducted.

For more information, please contact the College.

OLMC OPEN DAY

Our Lady of Mercy College at Parramatta will be holding an Open Day on March 8, 2012. For more information, please contact the College.

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 1**



- 3L Liam Fitzgerald and Tanya Francis
- 3Q/D Elissa Bayeh and Samuel Jacobs
- 4A Eve Watson and Eliza Arathoon
- 4E Deanna Emerson-Vickary and Siddhant Kalra
- 5J Jack Brady and Lizetta Sison
- 5M Emma Gallagher and Kiyah Spinetti
- 6M Sarah Donaghy and Kaitlyn Salter
- 6R Alison Rigby and Jenna Camacho

**CARE AWARDS
TERM 1**



- 3L Ashleigh Stevens and Rhys Hallit
- 3Q/D Rosemary Javian and Nicholas Norris
- 4A Bailey Nann and Thomas Scrivener
- 4E Alex Cimillo and Bethany Bayeh
- 5J Jack Martic and Nikita Tuite
- 5M Joshua Lovisa and Rebecca Donaghy
- 6M Zac Bohan and April Calara
- 6R Alana Liversage and Jordan Huntly

ALLERGIES - URGENT

In Week 1 we sent a note home to every parent requesting information regarding any allergies their children may suffer from. We still have several children who have previously informed the school of certain allergies who are yet to return this form. Can you please return this information to us ASAP. If you have misplaced the previous note, you can go onto our website and print out a new one. It is located under Parents/School Notes/Whole School. We would appreciate a quick response to this matter. Thank you.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND ANTI-BULLYING UPDATE

Last week every family should have received the St Mary's Guide to Managing and Preventing Bullying at School. This has many useful ideas about how to deal with bullying situations. If you did not receive your copy you can download it from the school website or ask your child's class teacher.

Children are encouraged to speak to their class teacher if they feel they are experiencing bullying. They can complete a bullying form which is available from the office or their teacher.

If your child does not feel comfortable talking to their teacher, we ask that parents meet with the teacher to discuss the issues.

FAITH JOURNEY...

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Last Tuesday we celebrated our Opening School Mass where we welcomed our newest family members into the school community. It was themed "Children of Peace" and we were reminded that our school community is the special place that it is because of the service and friendship we extend to one another. As we move into the season of Lent we remember that it is in giving that we receive. The children are to be congratulated on their participation during the Mass. It was a lovely start to the school's liturgical gatherings.

We also commissioned our School Captains and Sport House Captains as they embark on the journey as leaders in 2012, knowing they have a strong group of Year 6 students working with them to make the year ahead a success for all the students at St Mary's.

It also saw the commissioning of the Year 5 children who will take up the role of Library Monitors for 2012.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Thank you to all parents who were able to join us today at our parish Ash Wednesday Mass or class liturgies. Ash Wednesday allows us to gather as a Catholic community to reaffirm our faith and our commitment to better ourselves during the Lenten season. In doing so, we can see that through Christ we can aim to overcome our failures.

During Lent we are invited to respond to Jesus' invitation in a real and practical way through prayer, fasting and works of charity that express our solidarity with Christ and with our neighbour. Lent is about focusing on changes that we can make in our lives to so we can become closer to Christ.

PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH

Our school community will hold a liturgy on Friday morning at 11:15am to mark the start of our Alms giving during Lent through Project Compassion and Caritas Australia. This year's theme is, "If you want peace, work for justice". We aim to bring awareness locally, within our school, and globally to the need for peace and justice. Through Caritas we will explore some of the countries that this agency works with to make a difference to those that live in communities that are not as fortunate as ours. It is important for students to gain an understanding of the difference our actions can make in our world.

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Letter was published in the February issue of Catholic Outlook. Included with this newsletter is a bookmark copy of the Pastoral Planning Prayer. We encourage you to continue to pray for wisdom and courage for our diocese, as we plan for our mission for the next generation.

Rebecca Boidin
Religious Education Coordinator



P&F NEWS...

Firstly, welcome back to school for all of our returning families, and welcome to our new families. Once again the weeks are flying by, and our first major social event is almost upon us. For all of those who have never been to a Commencement Party, it is a great way to meet new people or catch up with old friends, while sampling some amazing food and enjoying a glass of bubbly. We hope to see you there!

Our first General Meeting was held last Friday, and it was wonderful to see some new faces mixed in with some more familiar ones. If you have the time in the future I would encourage you to come along to our meetings as it is a good way to find out what is happening in our school, while also learning about the roles of some of our specialist teachers as you listen to our guest speakers. Our next meeting is scheduled to be held on the Friday of Week 5 next term.

For those of you who would like to support the P&F, we will be asking for assistance throughout the year with baking, setting up or packing away or even some assistance with planning and preparing for the various social events. We hope that you won't see this as an imposition, but simply a way to contribute your own skills / interests, while also working closely with other parents to ensure a successful event. If you think you would like to take a more active role, such as a committee position, please feel free to speak to one of the current committee members. Looking forward to seeing / meeting you on Friday night!

Jennene Gillies
P&F President



MOTHER'S DAY 2012

I know it's hard to believe, but Mother's Day will be upon us in no time at all! It would be great if you could join us for these activities. Pop these dates into your diaries and on your calendars so you don't miss out!

Gift wrapping Wednesday 9th May @ 7pm in the school hall.

Mother's Day Stall Thursday 10th May during school hours (helpers would be greatly appreciated).

Mother's Day Breakfast Friday 11th May—8am in the school grounds.

Your help with any or all of these activities would be greatly appreciated. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you.

With thanks,
Anne Louise Young
Mother's Day Stall Coordinator



P&F CALENDAR

24th February – Commencement Party

9th May – Mother's Day Wrapping

10th May – Mother's Day Stall

11th May – Mother's Day Breakfast

1st June - PJ Disco

29th August – Father's Day Wrapping (TBC)

30th August- Father's Day Stall (TBC)

31st August –Father's Day Breakfast (TBC)

7th September – Movie Night (TBC)

