



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 11th November 2009

Website: [www.stmarys.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmarys.parra.catholic.edu.au)

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 4

**Friday  
13th Nov**      **St Patrick's College  
Orientation Day for Year 6**

**Friday  
13th Nov**      **FAMILY BUSH DANCE**

**Weekend  
Sat 14 Nov**      **Preparation Sessions for  
Sacraments - 10am to 4pm**

**Monday  
16th Nov**      **Kindergarten 2010  
Orientation**

**Monday  
16th Nov**      **Kindy Chickens Arrive**

**Wednesday  
18th Nov**      **Kindergarten 2010  
Orientation**

**Wednesday  
18th Nov**      **Talent Quest—1:45pm**

**Wednesday  
18th Nov**      **P&F Meeting 7:00pm**

**Friday  
20th Nov**      **9:00am Band Concert  
Years 2-5**

**Friday  
20th Nov**      **Sacraments of Penance  
Liturgy 7:30pm**

**Friday  
27th Nov**      **Kindergarten Assembly  
2:15pm**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Last Wednesday our school leaders attended the Diocesan celebration in commemoration of the one hundred year anniversary of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop. The celebration commenced with a role play presentation depicting the life of Mary and the role she played in establishing Catholic Education in the Colony for those children from underprivileged families. The occasion concluded with a mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin Manning and a presentation to the Josephite order that Mary MacKillop established.

Our Kindergarten children for 2010 are well underway with their transition programme in preparation for their entry into school next year. We welcome new families to our community for the first time and hope that your time with us will be both rewarding and fulfilling for both your children and yourselves.

Our family Bush Dance will be held this Friday evening commencing at 6pm. All children and their families are invited to attend what will be a fun social evening for all. A sausage sizzle, corn and gelato, as well as our famous St Mary's Espresso Café will be available on the night. On Wednesday all children will participate in workshops that will teach the students some of the basic steps in preparation for Friday evening. It would be greatly appreciated if families could return their RSVPs by tomorrow so that catering can be finalised. Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association social committee for organising this event.

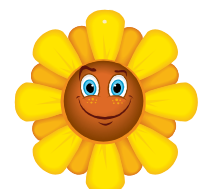
Morning playground supervision commences at 8:30am. Children should not be left in the school grounds or outside the school gates before this time. Your co-operation in this regard is imperative in ensuring the safety of our children. St Mary's "Before and After School Care Centre" has positions for children who require care before school of a morning from 7am.

A reminder that the parent information evening for Year 7 students commencing at St Pats Dundas will be held this evening commencing at 7pm. All students enrolled in the college for Year 7 next year are asked to attend the evening with their parents.

Information and permission notes regarding the upcoming swimming programme have been distributed in recent weeks. All students are expected to attend the ten day programme as swimming is a part of the children's physical education programme. If you are experiencing financial difficulty in paying for the programme please make an appointment to see me as no child will be forced to miss the programme because of financial hardship.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes  
**PRINCIPAL**



### **ST MARY'S FAMILY BUSH DANCE**

**Friday 13th November**

**PLEASE RETURN NOTES ASAP!!!!**

**FAMILY PORTRAITS**

The Family Portraits scheduled to take place on 14 November 2009 have unfortunately been **CANCELLED** due to lack of interest. We only had 14 families wishing to have portraits taken and we needed at least 25 families. Deposit money will be returned. Any queries you can contact me on my mobile 0404 981 467. Thanks Michelle.

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION SESSIONS**

A reminder that all children preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation must complete one of the preparation sessions on either Sat 14th November or Sunday 15th November from 10:00–4:00pm.

If you have any questions, please call me on 9613 8801. Thanks, Diane O'Shea.

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS – TERM 4**

The NSW Government has made changes for all schools regarding Staff Development Days. Each school must have two Staff Development Days on the last two days of Term 4. **Therefore the last day for all children at St Mary's School is Wednesday, 16th December.**

**END OF YEAR**

This is to request that all families who will not be returning to St Mary's next year, with the exception of our Year 6 families, please notify Mr Hughes in writing as soon as possible. Any families who will be finishing school before the end of term, Wednesday 16th December 2009, or returning to school after school commences, Thursday 28th January 2010, are asked to send a letter to Mr Hughes stating your child's last day at school in 2009 and the date they will return in 2010. This is an audit requirement. Thank you.

**TALENT QUEST**

A reminder to all parents that the Annual Talent Quest will be held next Wednesday 18th November from 1:45pm in the school hall. Everyone is most welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon showcasing the wonderful talent that St Mary's children have to offer.

**Important Library News:**

As most of you are aware, the library will be moving in 2010. This means that this term, I am busy culling and packing in anticipation of this move. Unfortunately and unavoidably, this will mean that borrowing will have to cease in Week 6 as everything will need to be returned in the subsequent weeks and packed up. Please have a good hunt around for any outstanding library books and readers and return them to me or the class teacher.

If you are able to volunteer some time next week (Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday) and would like to get a workout, I need a few parents to help pack books and move some resources upstairs to a new location. Just pop in on one of those days. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Lia Radocchia  
Teacher Librarian

**BUSH DANCE HELPERS  
NEEDED**

If anyone can assist in making this night a huge success, we need help with:



- \* Setting up Friday afternoon from 2:30pm onwards.
- \* Baking some homemade treats for the Bushtucker Café.
- \* Serving at the food stalls on the night.
- \* Cleaning up afterwards.

If you can help out with any of the above, please call Sue Thomas on 0403 576 490.

Thank you so much, and here's to enjoyable night for everyone!!

## FAITH JOURNEY...

### **SCHOOL LED PARISH MASS**

Fr Peter has asked the children of St Marys to lead the parish for the first Sunday of Advent mass, at 9:30am on 29<sup>th</sup> November. This is a great opportunity for the children to not only celebrate their faith but to also take a leading role in the community. Please make note of the date and time so that your family is able to attend. I will be asking the children if they are able to come so that we can organise roles for them during mass.



### **DATES FOR THE CALENDAR**

As we are heading into the busiest time of year, it would be worthwhile to jot down a few of our major school events in December.

#### **~ End of Year Mass ~**

Our school will gather to give thanks for our year together on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Not only will we reflect on the year, we will acknowledge all students who are leaving us as well as celebrate present and future student leaders.

#### **~ St Mary's Christmas Carol Evening ~**

This year we will be celebrating Christmas with an evening for a family picnic and carols sing-a-long. This will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. More detailed information will be sent home, though at this stage, we hope to begin at 7:30pm.



### **RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

Next week the Year 2 children from our school and parish will be making their First Reconciliation. This sacrament of healing is the beginning of a twelve month period in the children's lives where they will be fully initiated into our church community on reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist mid next year. Next Friday night these children will receive Gods love and forgiveness in a formal way through the sacrament of penance. As a parish community, please keep children and their families in your prayers.

Mr Stennett  
Religious Education Coordinator

## BAND NEWS 2010...

St Mary's Rydalmere School Band is now taking enrolments for 2010. Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. Any student from year 3-6 in 2010 is welcome to join.

**Students will have the opportunity to attend a Demonstration Concert by your school band and TSA teachers at school on Friday 20th November.** Further information on the band program and enrolling will be sent home at this time and will also appear in upcoming newsletters.

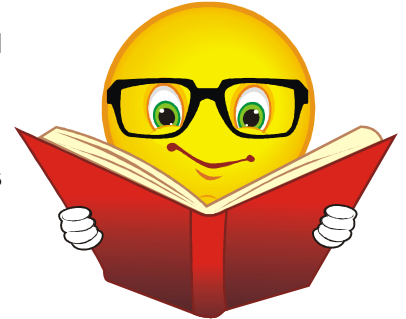
For many families the current financial pinch makes co-curricular activities such as band challenging. This is why TSA is committed to providing a variety of options for parents of students who may otherwise miss out on the benefits of a music education. Group tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire are just some of the ways we keep lessons affordable and unchanged for 2010, despite increases in the cost of business.

For further information on how we can make the band more affordable for you, contact TSA on **9651 7333**.

## CURRICULUM UPDATE...

### HELPING RELUCTANT READERS

Reading is an important life skill. It develops our imagination and helps us to learn by sharing the experiences of others. However, some children struggle with reading and get discouraged by their lack of progress. Others may be reluctant because they are not engaged in reading as an activity. Children who see their families involved in reading are more likely to be encouraged to read themselves. The following is a list of some activities which nurture literacy skills:



1. Read regularly to your child both before and after they start to learn to read.
2. Expose children to reading materials—magazines, story books, card games, word games eg: I Spy, newspapers, TV and movie guides, restaurant menus.
3. Have your child see you read books, magazines or newspapers.
4. Find books and activities with the right level of challenge—if a book is too hard a child may give up. Aim to build confidence and reading fluency by offering books that are within a comfortable level.
5. Create frequent opportunities to read and write—notes on the bench or calendar, shopping lists or tasks to complete. Gradually the child will recognise familiar words. Eg: money on bench.
6. When moving onto chapter books, share the load by reading a few pages to your child.
7. Asking questions about what they are reading helps to monitor their understanding. What is the boy's name? Where are they going? Who did they see? The purpose of reading is to develop meaning so always discuss what is happening and why, and what might happen next?
8. Try to find books that interest your child. If you need advice, see the school or local librarian or ask your child's teacher.

Below are two websites which have further information on assisting your child in developing literacy. If you would like any other information, please call me at the school.

Jan Schroder  
Learning Support Teacher / Acting Literacy Coordinator

<http://www.loveandreilly.com.au/articleandextras.html>

<http://www.speech-language-therapy.com/pre-literacy.html>

## COMMUNITY NEWS...

### NEW CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS ARE COMING!

From March 1, 2010 all children up to the age of seven years must be correctly restrained in an approved child restraint, suitable for their size and age. All children under four years must be transported on the rear seat of a motor vehicle with two or more rows.

A child between the ages of four and seven can only travel in the front passenger seat of a vehicle if all available seating positions in the rear seat have been occupied by a child under four years in a child restraint.

