



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6  
3rd March 2010  
Website: [www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au)

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2010

Friday 5th Mar	Clean Up School Day
Friday 5th Mar	Year 4 Assembly 2:30pm
Friday 5th Mar	Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 10th Mar	Year 6 Leadership Day at Homebush
Monday 15th Mar	Liturgy for Catholic Schools Week—9:15am in the Church
Tuesday 16th Mar	<b>ST MARY'S OPEN DAY</b> 9:15—10:45AM
Wednesday 17th Mar	School Photos
Thursday 18th Mar	Peer Support Training Year 5
Friday 19th Mar	Peer Support Training Year 5

### ~ SPECIAL NOTE ~

On Thursday 4th March St Marys' phone system will be down between 7:00am—1:00pm.  
If you need to contact the school during this time, please call 0432 056 959.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

As we journey through the Lenten season we are encouraged to think of others and less about ourselves as individuals and what we want. Lent is a reflective time of the liturgical calendar where we are challenged to look at the way we express our compassion and care of others. Our school motto "Care Always, Respect Everyone" is a great launching pad for us all to reflect upon this Lenten opportunity to think about how we can make a few sacrifices in making a difference in the lives of others. Let's focus on our relationships with others and our God during this period of renewal and learn to forgive and "begin again" as Jesus modelled for us all.

This Thursday Fr Peter and I will be attending the Ordination mass for Bishop Anthony Fisher, the new Bishop of our Diocese. Please remember him in your prayers as he begins his new ministry in the Diocese of Parramatta. Please also keep in your prayers our outgoing Bishop Kevin Manning as he enters retirement and a new phase of his pastoral life.

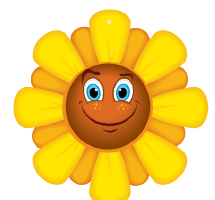
Our first Parents & Friends meeting for the year will be held tonight commencing at 7:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend especially our new Kindergarten mums and dads. These meetings are a great opportunity for parents to meet, be informed of what's happening in our community as well as air any concerns or ask any questions you might have. The meeting will be held in the Hall [Year 3 Learning Space]. Make this the year to get more involved in our community life here at St Mary's.

At the beginning of the week the Federal government launched the draft national curriculum and initiated the consultation process that will take place for the next few months. All Australians are invited to be part of this consultation process on line at [australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://australiancurriculum.edu.au). If you would like to view the draft curriculum you will need to go the website and register before viewing the documents. As parents of children whose education will be directed by this new curriculum, you are invited to be part of the consultation process and comment on this proposed National Curriculum. Be informed and have 'your say' on this important issue in your child's education.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated during Week 8 this term [15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March]. This week of celebration is an opportunity for us as a diocese to showcase what Catholic Education has to offer our families. The week will be celebrated with liturgy, open classrooms and school tours. Inquiries regarding enrolment for K-6 will be taken throughout the course of the week.

Have a great fortnight!

Tony Hughes  
PRINCIPAL



**TOUCH FOOTBALL—STATE CUP**

We would like to congratulate the following children who participated in the Junior Touch Football State Cup in Wollongong.

Justin Frain runner up U12 Boys  
Brooke Moussa, Chelsea Loughrey, Rebekah Blanchard runners up U12 Girls  
 Also Monique Moussa, Mitchell Moses,  
Matthew Arciuli, Jack Pettit, Brad Davoren-Whereat, and Aiden Field who also played well over the weekend.



**BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP INSTALLATION MASS**

On Thursday 4 March, Bishop Anthony Fisher will be installed as the 3rd Bishop of Parramatta in St Patrick's Cathedral. The Mass will commence at 7:30pm and will be streamed live over the web at [www.xt3.com](http://www.xt3.com).

**ASSEMBLY INFORMATION**

The Year 4 assembly on Friday will be held under the Marist COLA. In the event of wet weather or temperatures over 35oC, the assembly will be postponed.

**BABY NEWS**

Congratulations to the Spagnolo family, Adrian of 1H/W, on the birth of their baby daughter Stephanie.



**CUB SCOUTS**

If you are interested in your child attending the Ermington Cub Scouts, please call Tracey Hansford for more information in 9874 2281 or 0416 242 281.



**LIFEHOUSE @ RPA  
 COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
 (Chris O'Brien Cancer Centre)**

**THANK YOU!!**

Thanks to the wonderful people of St Mary's, last week we were able to hand a cheque to Gayle and Juliette O'Brien, the wife and daughter of Chris O'Brien, for the amount of \$630.00, for which they were extremely grateful.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire St Mary's community for their generous contribution in buying chocolates to help support Lifehouse at RPA. Your kindness exceeded all our expectations.

Belinda Bruce and family xxx

**LINDA'S LUNCHES**

This is to let you know in advance that on **Friday 19th March**, there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS**. You can still order your lunch as per normal on Monday and Thursday of that week, just not the Friday.



**ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Last Friday 26 children from St Mary's attended the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival. We would like to congratulate the whole team for their wonderful efforts. For the third year in a row we won the Percentage Trophy. A special congratulations goes to Nathan McNamara who was Junior Boys Runner Up. We congratulate the 10 children who have made it through for individual events at the Diocesan Carnival as well as the Junior and Senior Boys Relay Teams and Senior Girls Relay Team. We wish everyone the best of luck for Friday 5th March.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

Steven Hopley, the Religious Education Coordinator at St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas has kindly offered to begin a ministry for young people in classes 5 & 6, 7 & 8. Due to the Parish Hall currently being used by Year 3, the Youth Group will begin at St Patrick's College on Friday 5th March at 6:00pm. For more information please call Steven Hopley on 0404 099 794.

**YEAR 6 GRADUATION MEETING**

A Year 6 Graduation Meeting will be held on Monday 8th March from 7:00pm in the staffroom. All Year 6 parents are welcome to come along.

**PICK UP AND KISS**

We are still desperate for helpers on a **Monday**. If you can spare 15-20 minutes once a fortnight, please contact the school office. Thank you.

**ST PATRICK'S MARIST COLLEGE**

**~~ OPEN DAY ~~**

On Monday 15th March, St Patrick's Marist College will hold its Open Day from 4:00pm—6:00pm. For those of you with children in Year 6, this is a great opportunity to visit the College and see all the wonderful things it has to offer.

## FAITH JOURNEY...

### **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2010 – “Open Your Minds, Open Your Hearts”**

Across NSW and ACT, Catholic schools will be celebrating Catholic Schools from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The theme for this year is “Open Your Minds, Open Your Hearts”. The main aim of Catholic Schools Week is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools across the State.

St Mary's will be celebrating the week, beginning with a liturgy on Monday morning in the church at 9:15. Classrooms will be opened on Tuesday morning for visitors until recess. During this time the P. & F. are also providing morning tea, so please take the opportunity to drop in, have a peek at our classes and enjoy a cup of coffee. Each day a different grade will lead our morning assembly with a prayer and the children will be involved in various activities through the week in support of our Project Compassion appeal as well as in celebration of our schools catholicity. Where possible, please join us in celebrating our school throughout this significant week.



### **PROJECT COMPASSION**

Throughout the remainder of this term St Mary's, along with most schools in our diocese, will be encouraging our community to support the Caritas Project Compassion appeal. Many of us have grown up contributing to Project Compassion each year during Lent, providing aid for communities across the world faced with poverty or disasters.

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's major annual fundraising and education campaign, providing Caritas' main revenue for relief. Without school and community support for Project Compassion, Caritas' ability to provide aid would be crippled.

Often when there is a major catastrophic event such as the bushfires in Victoria there is an immediate response for the specific needs of the affected community. At times though we hear about devastation in foreign lands such as the recent earthquake in Chile or in Haiti and there may be no significant fundraising effort. Caritas reserves resources and aid for such events in order to provide immediate relief when need arises.

St Mary's tries to support such relief efforts through supporting Caritas' Project Compassion. Please join us this term and give generously during this time.



Mr. Stennett  
Religious Education Coordinator

## CHILD PROTECTION COURSE...

An online training module for use by volunteers is now available online. If you have not completed one of our Child Protection courses this year, or if two years has passed and you need to re-sit the course, please take the time to go on line and complete this module. Remember, to be able to assist at school, you must complete the Child Protection Course.

**The link is <http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>**

Using Child Protection for Volunteers

1. Open the module by clicking for Volunteers.
2. Read through the presentation.
3. Complete and submit quiz questions.
4. After successful completion of the module, fill out the form by typing name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school.
5. A notification of successful completion of the module will be sent via email to the school and also to the volunteers email address.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.

## COMMUNITY NEWS...

### PARRAMATTA PARK EVENTS

There is a great line up of **FREE** events planned for 2010 in Parramatta Park.

#### Sydney Symphony Concert—March 20

Pack your picnic, deckchairs and a rug and join us for a magical evening of classical music under the stars featuring Beethoven's moving overture to Fidelio and the Emperor Piano Concerto and a not to be missed performance of orchestral highlights from Wagner's Ring Cycle. Our conductor for the evening is Alexander Briger and the soloist, pianist Francois-Frederic Guy.

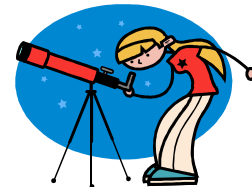
**When:** 20th March 2010  
**Time:** 8:00pm  
**Where:** In The Crescent  
**Park:** Off site—watch our web site for options.  
**Need a mobility access pass?** Call 8833 5020  
 Alcohol is permitted BYO, food for sale on site.  
 Bring low deck chairs, higher chairs not permitted.



#### Star Gazing @ Parramatta Park—April 24

Rug up and come along to view the heavens from Salter's Field in Parramatta Park. Be prepared to be amazed as a group of dedicated amateur astronomers share their passion with you. This year the viewing grounds will be at the northern end of the park where there is less light pollution. The park will stay open for ease of access and the Café will be open. An interesting talk by experts will be in the Event Centre. Watch our website for more information.

**When:** April 24, 2010  
**Where:** Salter's Field  
**Parking:** On site  
 Bring a torch with red cellophane over the lens.



#### Macquarie Bicentenary Commemorations

Parramatta Park is one of Sydney's great parks with a wonderful provenance having been formed from the Domain developed by Governor and Mrs Macquarie. A number of events throughout the year will highlight this very significant period in the history of the park and of Australia.

Look for a series of fun, living history presentations performed by the highly acclaimed Historica Group. Take the opportunity to meet the Macquaries' neighbours and members of their household as they go about their business in the old Domain. They will first be making an appearance at the Sydney Symphony Orchestra concert on 20th March, then next on 4th July and from then on the first Sunday of the month through to December.

In addition there are a number of opportunities to get involved with fundraising events including the Mother's Day Classic on 9th May and Relay for Life at Old Kings Oval on 23rd May. Watch our website for more information.