



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6

Wednesday 2nd 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

Wednesday 2nd March	P&F Meeting 7:00pm in the Staffroom
Friday 4th March	Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt Pool
Tuesday 8th March	Year 6 Graduation Meeting 7:00pm in the Staffroom
Wednesday 9th March	Ash Wednesday
Friday 11th March	COMMENCEMENT PARTY 7:00pm
Wednesday 16th March	Fete Meeting 7:00pm in the Staffroom
Monday 21st March	School Cross Country
Tuesday 5th April	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day - Aquilina Reserve
Friday 8th April	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day - St Mary's

**ST PATRICK'S MARIST
COLLEGE**

~~ OPEN DAY ~~

**MONDAY 14TH MARCH
4:00—6:00pm**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Next week we celebrate the start of the Lenten liturgical season on Ash Wednesday. The ashes we receive next Wednesday are symbols of our fragility, our frailty, our imperfect humanity. Lent is an invitation to acknowledge these human imperfections and grow as people and followers of Jesus. Lent is a time of fasting, a time of renewal, and an opportunity to reignite our faith through penance and prayer. It is a period of reflection, a time to listen, a time to reach out to others in need as well as to get to know God better and the role He plays in our lives. Lent is a wonderful time to reflect upon the gospel readings as we journey with Christ in his final weeks leading up to his death and resurrection.

This Thursday Bishop Anthony Fischer will celebrate the annual teacher's Education Mass at St Patrick's Blacktown. This important occasion is the one time of the year when a large percentage of our teachers come together in prayer to ask God's blessing upon the academic year. Please continue to pray for our teachers in their ministry as they strive, in partnership with parents, to educate and bring the Gospel message to our children.

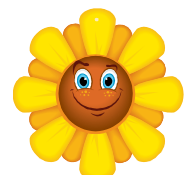
Congratulations to all our children who represented St Mary's at last week's Zone Swimming Carnival. Their team spirit, efforts and behaviour were exemplary and a credit to our school community. Thank you the many family members who supported our squad on such a hot day. The success of our swimmers saw us win the Percentage School trophy for the third year in succession. Best wishes to those children who have successfully made it through to the Diocesan carnival this Friday.

Over the next few weeks can I encourage you all to support various events and initiatives taking place at school starting with our first P&F meeting tonight commencing at 7pm in the Staffroom. Come along and be part of the planning for 2011. We are still seeking parent volunteers to assist as tutors in our Reading Tutor Program and "valets" for our afternoon "kiss and pick up" zone. If you can assist please contact Mrs Gosper. Throughout March two social occasions, "The Commencement Party" and the "Toy Story 3" outdoor film night, have been organised for parents and families to get together as a school community. Please support these initiatives and the people organising them.

I have been informed by the Road Traffic Authority that school zone 40km flashing lights will be installed within our school precinct by the end of June. This state government initiative will further enhance safety in the area for our children and families as they journey to and from school each day.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
Principal



P&F MEETING

The P&F Committee will be holding our first P&F Meeting for 2011 **tonight, 2nd March from 7:00pm** in the Staffroom. Everyone is welcome to come!

FETE MEETING

Our Fete Committee will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 16th March from 7:00pm in the Staffroom. Everyone is more than welcome to come along!

YEAR 6 GRADUATION MEETING

Our Year 6 parents are holding the first Graduation meeting on Tuesday 8th March from 7:00pm in the Staffroom. All Year 6 parents are invited to come along to discuss the end of year festivities.

STUDENT BANKING

This year we will be processing all Student Banking on a **Monday**. Please make sure your child/children hand their banking in to the **office** first thing on a Monday morning. Books will be returned on Monday afternoon.

**PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL**

The Pre-Loved Clothing Pool will be open this Friday 4th 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.

**BABY CONGRATULATIONS**

We would like to congratulate the Menin family, Michael in 3G and Cameron in 1C, on the birth of their baby girl Alyssa during the school holidays.

We would also like to congratulate the Alley family, Tionne in 4J, on the birth their baby boy Bodell last week.

**ASTHMA FORMS**

If you received an Asthma form for your child, can you please return it to the office ASAP so we can update our files. Thanks.

LINDA'S LUNCHES

A reminder that there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS this Friday 4th March**. You can still order your lunch as per normal on Thursday, just not the Friday.

**KISS AND PICK UP HELPERS**

We are still in urgent need of parent helpers for our Kiss and Pick Up Zone each afternoon. We require people for:

~Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays ~

Please, if you can help out, contact the school office ASAP. It is for the safety of the children that we do this, and it will only take 15 minutes of your time.

Thank you.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
READING TUTOR PROGRAM**

We are in desperate need for additional helpers for our Reading Tutor Program in Years 1, 2 and 3.

This is a one to one reading program that supports children in developing their literacy skills.

This program is easy to administer and training is provided. It only takes 20 minutes for the training. We are not only encouraging parents, but also grandparents to help out.

If you are able to give us 1/2 or 1 hour per week it will enable us to include more children in the program.

If you are able to assist, please leave your name and contact details at the school office. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Jan Schroder & Rosemarie Gosper



FAITH JOURNEY...



ASH WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday 9th March is 'Ash Wednesday' - the first day of Lent. On Ash Wednesday we gather as a Catholic community to reaffirm our faith and our commitment to better ourselves during the Lenten season. Next week, Primary classes will attend the Parish Mass at 9:15am, where they will receive the ashes. Children in K-2 will celebrate grade or class para-liturgies later in the day. Times for the infants' liturgies will be forwarded through the infants' class groups. Please feel welcome to join the school at either the Parish Mass or during the infants para-liturgies.

PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH

Our school community will hold a liturgy on Thursday morning to mark the start of our Almsgiving during Lent through Project Compassion and Caritas Australia. This year's theme is "Partner with us to Make a Difference". Within our Stage groups we will be focusing on how we can 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 what difference our actions can make in our world.

Rebecca Boidin
Acting Religious Co-ordinator



MY SCHOOL WEBSITE...

ACARA

On March 4, 2011 the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority will launch the My School 2.0 website (www.myschool.edu.au).

The website provides profiles on each school, including ours, and includes information about the school such as numbers of students and staff, attendance rates and results from the national literacy and numeracy tests. For the first time, the website now also includes information about school finances and student gain in NAPLAN.

The website shows comparisons between our school's NAPLAN results and those from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia—we can see how our school is performing against other schools with statistically similar students. From this, we can see in what areas our school is doing well and where we need to look to make improvements. The website also now shows student gain information. So that we can acknowledge how our students have progressed over time.

There is a lot of information contained on the website, and we encourage parents, carers and other interested members of the school community to view the website. If you have any questions you can go directly to the ACARA information desk (at 1300 895 563) or please contact the school office.

SPORTING NEWS...

ZONE & DIOCESAN SWIMMING

Last Thursday a group of talented swimmers represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. They were outstanding sportsmen and women and achieved amazing results. We were the winners of the Percentage Trophy for the 3rd year in a row. Timothy Greig was the Under 10 Age Champion, Nathan McNamara was the Under 11 Age Champion and Jin Woo was the Under 11 Runner Up.

At the Diocesan Carnival next Friday, 8 children will compete in individual events, as well as both boys relay teams. Congratulations and good luck to Jin Woo, Nathan McNamara, Timothy Greig, Justine Kim, Claude Sortwell, James Furolo, Sarah Cantrill, Dominic Gibson, Kiyah Spinetti, Aiden Field, Raphael Purnama and Mason Douglass-Hanna.



2011 Zone Swimming Carnival Team



MACKILLOP GIRLS SOCCER

Congratulations to Erin Hann on qualifying for the MacKillop Girls Soccer Team.

Erin will compete in Canberra during May. We are very proud of your achievements and wish you all the best of luck in the competition.

P&F REMINDERS...



ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR ALL ST MARY'S PARENTS



Feel like a star at the 2011 St Mary's Commencement Party!!

Friday 11th March

7:00—11:00pm

St Mary's Primary School

Under the COLA on the Mercy Site

RSVP: Please return your acceptance slip to the School Office by 2nd March to assist with catering.

And remember, it's parents only, so organise those sitters now!!