



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6

Wednesday 7th March 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

As we enter into the third week of Lent, St Mark's Gospel this weekend gives us an insight into one of the triggers that would eventually lead to the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. Mark's account of Jesus' displeasure with those who turned the temple into somewhat of a market place, reveals to us His objection of God's house being used for profitmaking ventures at the expense of the many poor who lived in the city. It is a direct example of Christ reaching out to those in need irrespective of their social standing. This is the Lenten message we are endeavouring to pass onto our children as we journey with Christ in reaching out to those in need and making a difference in their lives.

In recent weeks each student received an Acceptable Use Agreement pertaining to the use of technology at school. This agreement outlines the expectations of our students when using technology as part of their daily study. It is important that you have read through the statement with your children and have gained an understanding and knowledge of what is expected. Both you and your child need to sign the agreement and return it to school by this Friday 9th March. Forms not returned by the end of the week will result in students being unable to access our technology at school.

A fortnight ago all families received a letter outlining the Quality Catholic Schooling Project. Today randomly selected families, chosen by the CEO, will have received information regarding the parent survey component of the QCS project. If you have been selected, it would be greatly appreciated if you could complete the survey online or the paper copy contained in the information envelope distributed today and return it to the school at your earliest convenience.

On Monday each family received an invitation to our BER Opening and Blessing on Friday 16th March commencing at 10am. The ceremony will be held under the Mercy Site C.O.L.A. All parents and families are invited to attend this special event as we welcome the Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Anthony Fisher and the Executive Director of Schools Mr Greg Whitby. On the day we will play host to special guests from a number of government departments, staff from the Catholic Education Office and surrounding Diocesan schools and architectural and building staff responsible for our refurbishment and building programme.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 2012

Wednesday **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
14th March "Pupil Free Day"

Friday **BER Blessing & Opening**
16th March Ceremony—10:00am

Monday ~ OPEN DAY ~
19th March 9:15—10:45AM

Tuesday **Cross Country**
20th March

Monday **Year 1 Assembly**
26th March 2:15pm in Hall

Tuesday **Cross Country Back up Date**
27th March

Friday **Stage 3 Touch Football Gala**
30th March Day

Monday **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
2nd April

Tuesday **Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day**
3rd April

Thursday **Term 1 Concludes**
5th April

ST MARY'S RYDALMERE

~ OPEN DAY ~

MONDAY 19TH MARCH 2012
9:15—10:45AM

RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS NEEDED

Dundas Shamrocks Football Club are in need of a few extra players for the Under 10's this year. If you are interested, please call Brett on 0431 989 706. Thank you.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to the Camacho family, Jenna 6R, Jayden 4E and Jaime 1C, on the passing of their grandfather.

Our condolences also go to the Miller family, Jemma 3L and Jakob 1C, on the passing of their great grandfather last week.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Mrs Feher-Hegarty (Tia 5J) for donating games for our lunchtime play on the infants playground. They are very much appreciated.

**ST PATRICK'S MARIST
COLLEGE DUNDAS**

OPEN DAY

**12TH MARCH 2012
4:00—6:00PM**

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 1**



- KD** Giovanna Younis and Joshua Galan
- KL** Lukus Luburic and Sienna Percovich
- 1C** Katelyn Johnson and Caoimhe Coffey
- 1M** Liam Hardman and Jonathan Xiao
- 2K** Lara Mastronardo and Joel Hallit
- 2M** Kate Worsley and Patricia Tipones
- 3L** Jemma Miller and Luke Gabriel
- 3Q/D** Joseph Bayeh and James Ryan
- 4A** Michael Menin and Angelina Di Piazza
- 4E** Lana Bannister and Jonathan Campos
- 5J** Isabella Waterhouse and Bill El Bayeh
- 5M** Elise Blacklaw and Timothy Greig
- 6M** Jennifer Anisse and Jonathon Choi
- 6R** Sidonie Thomas and Lauren Suffling

St Mary's Clubs On Line

If your child is interested in Drama Club, Photography Club, Tiny Techies or Weather Club, they can now get information and correspond with teachers about their interests, do quizzes and polls. Edmodo is a secure education website and parents can join their children by going to www.edmodo.com and requesting to be a member with one of the codes below.

Weather Club: i9nnuv

Drama Club: o2p5n4

Tiny Techies: g5gqz9

Photography Club: 76q9n4

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Greenaway or come to the office.

**ST MARY'S RYDALMERE
OSHC VACATION CARE 10th
April-20th April 2012**

With the autumn school holidays only weeks away, St Mary's Rydalmer OSHC have released their vacation care program. If you need to book your child into vacation care, or they just want to have some fun these school holidays, send them along to St Mary's Rydalmer Vacation Care! Places are limited, with bookings closing on the 28th March 2012. Please contact Maureen or Luke on 9638 2401 or send them an email at stmarysoshc@optusnet.com.au.

**CARE AWARDS
TERM 1**



- KD** Brendan Ipwanshek and Jacob Zaouk
- KL** Sanjana Norris and Patrick Bayeh
- 1C** Mikayla Cotsinis and Hannah Jalil
- 1M** Isabella Filardo and Therese Davidson
- 2K** Ryan Field and Mikeeli Lake
- 2M** Erin Suffling and Sebastian Padden
- 3L** Teagyn Ward and Nikolas Cotsinis
- 3Q/D** Angelina Bartosiak and Holly Lowery
- 4A** Liam Young and Angelina Acosta
- 4E** Jazmin Cleary and Jocelyn Xiao
- 5J** Tia Feher-Kaloudis and Tyler Higgins
- 5M** James Furolo and Claudia Sobral
- 6M** Leslie Lee and Adrian Anderson
- 6R** Kyle Victa and Daniel Delos Reyes

FAITH JOURNEY...

PROJECT COMPASSION

Friday 24th February saw our school community Launch our Project Compassion Appeal through the work of Caritas. We are working towards fulfilling the theme, "If you want peace, work for justice". Each child is being encouraged to bring peace and justice to another member of their class or grade.

We are also investigating how Caritas Australia works globally to promote justice and peace to all nations. Within our individual grades we have looked at Timor Leste and Thailand.

Week 1 brought us the story of Flabiana. Flabiana lives with her family in the remote province of Oe-cusse in Timor Leste. Through our donations to Caritas Australia we can support the people of Timor Leste as they rebuild their lives, as they learn new skills, thus being able to transform their lives, building a future, which they hope will be prosperous and peaceful. Through our involvement with Caritas Australia we can choose to be their partners in the process of renewal.

Week 2, brings us the story of Khin. Khin is 10 years old and lives in Ranong, Thailand, just over the border from Burma. Here the children of migrant workers find it difficult to get into schools. Often they cannot afford fees, do not know the language or do not have the correct paperwork. With support from Caritas Australia, Khin and her friends can attend community-based learning centres offering them primary education and a bridge into Thailand's school system.

We can choose to work for justice – the path to peace.



HARMONY DAY

We will be celebrating Harmony Day on Wednesday 21st March. The Year 6 student leaders are working on this day and a note will come home next week outlining how our school will celebrate this day in 2012.

Rebecca Boidin
Religious Education Coordinator

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING...

To celebrate the National Year of Reading we have decided to highlight a reading strategy each fortnight. During Weeks 6 and 7, all students will be concentrating on the skill of Visualisation to help them comprehend what they read.

Effective readers create mental pictures as they read. It's as though they are running the movie of the story in their head. They can see what the characters and setting look like and they can see the action. Often, if we have read a book and then see the movie of the book we disagree with the director's depiction of a character or event because it doesn't match our own mental image. Visualising is a powerful comprehension strategy because it translates the print into images the reader already knows.

An activity that you could undertake with your child (children) is to read a picture book to them (don't show them the pictures) or read part of a serial reader and ask them to draw a particular section. Compare and discuss the picture your child has drawn and the picture in the book.



Happy Reading!
Margaret Brewster

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS...

During Terms 1 and 2 all children will participate in a Personal Development module centring on Protective Behaviours.

The Protective Behaviour module focuses on identifying actions students can take when they feel unsafe. It also helps them identify warning signals and how to go to a network of people who can help them.

Over these two terms we will include in our newsletter the main themes that students will be discussing in their lessons.

Theme 1: "We will have the right to feel safe all of the time."

In this lesson we discussed:

- What it feels like to feel safe and unsafe
- The difference between feeling safe and being safe
- How some touches can give us a 'yes' feeling or a 'no' feeling.

It is important to teach children the names of their emotions so they can express how they are feeling.

SWIMMING UPDATE...

On 23rd February a group of talented swimmers represented St Mary's at the **Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival**. All students displayed great sportsmanship and achieved amazing results. Jin Woo was the Under 12 Age Champion, Nathan McNamara was the Under 12 Runner Up and Timothy Greig was the Under 11 equal Runner Up.

Following the Carnival, 12 students were successful in proceeding to the **Diocesan Carnival** in their individual events. Our senior boys, junior boys and junior girls relay teams were also successful in proceeding to the Diocesan Swimming Carnival which was held last Friday.

We also achieved successful results at the Diocesan Carnival. Congratulations to the following students Jin Woo, Nathan McNamara, Timothy Greig, James Furolo, Sarah Cantrill, Lana Bannister, Eliza Byrne and Justine Kim who qualified for the **NSW Catholic Primary School Championships** in the Senior Boys and Junior Girls Relay Teams. A special mention to Jin Woo, Timothy Greig and Claude Sortwell who are swimming in individual events at the Championships. We wish these children the best of luck at Homebush on the 26th March.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE...

On Tuesday 28th February, our school leaders went to the Impact Leadership Conference. Here are a few thoughts from the day:

"Lead like a strawberry, not like a watermelon. Let people see the true you, not a hard shell." Antonya/Monique

"Lead with the 5 bus principles." Sarah/Niamh

"Show 'berrygood' integrity at all times." Kaitlyn/Jenna

"Lead by example—not just tell people but show people." Nathan/Mitchell

"Everyone can lead. But it's important to lead to the best of your ability." Jonty/Jonathan

