



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 6

Wednesday 6th March 2013

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2013

Friday 8th Mar	P&F Meeting 9:00am Library
Monday 11th Mar	Catholic Schools Week Commences
Wednesday 13th Mar	Catholic Schools Week Mass 9:15am
Wednesday 13th Mar	Open Classrooms 10:15–11:00am
Monday 18th Mar	Year 1 Assembly 2:15pm in Hall
Wednesday 27th Mar	Procession of Holy Week Events 11:30am
Thursday 28th Mar	Holy Thursday
Friday 29th Mar	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Monday 1st Apr	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Wednesday 3rd Apr	Easter Mass—K-6 9:15am
Saturday 6th Apr	Trivia Night 7:00pm
Monday 8th Apr	Year 2 Assembly 2:15pm

Dear Parents,

As we enter into the third week of Lent this Sunday, the parable of the *Prodigal Son* will take centre stage as our focus for mass this weekend. This is probably one of the most well known parables, often being used for when we deal with themes such as reconciliation, repentance and forgiveness. This parable is about taking risks, growing up and maturing and most importantly about being able to love and forgive when others have hurt us. As we reflect this week on the Gospel, let us pray for the many "prodigals" in our world and those in our own lives. Let's pray for the courage of our convictions and the ability to love and forgive as Christ did.

Next week in NSW Catholic schools across the many dioceses, communities will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many outstanding achievements of students and staff in our Catholic schools. Next Wednesday at we will be celebrating CSW with Mass at 9:15am followed by Open Classrooms at 10:15am. This is a great opportunity for new parents who wish to enrol their children in Kindergarten for 2014 to enjoy a guided tour of the school led by our senior students. Enrolment information packs will be available on the day as well as opportunities for parents to ask questions pertaining to the enrolment process and our community. Everyone is most welcome.

Can I encourage parents to be more punctual each morning in ensuring their children are at school prior to the bell. There are far too many children arriving during assembly, which is disruptive to the whole school community. Children who are late are missing out on the dissemination of information for that particular day. As adults and parents we need to be role models for our children in this particular aspect of their life. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Each afternoon, I encourage everyone to be diligent in ensuring that all students and their families get home safely. At times this requires patience and consideration of others on everyone's behalf especially during afternoons of inclement weather. We are constantly looking for ways in which to improve our afternoon dismissal procedures. Procedures are put in place to ensure the safe departure of all our families. It is expected that all members of our community follow these. Thank you.

Congratulations to all our swimmers who participated in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival last Friday. Thank you to the parents who bravely battled the cold and wet conditions out at Mt Druitt Aquatic Centre and supported our swimmers throughout the day. Thank you to Miss Lopresti for managing the team on the day and for co-ordinating the various carnivals over recent weeks.

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



SCHOOL & PARISH FETE CRAFT STALL

The St Mary's School and Parish Fete Craft Stall will be starting fortnightly craft sessions from Monday 4th March in the school hall. They will held from 9:00 am -11:00am. Any enquires please contact Fiona Feher-Hegarty on 0427 444 140.

If you have any donations you would like to make to the stall, please drop them into the office and we will pass them onto the ladies. Thank you.

OPEN CLASSROOMS

We will be holding our Open Classrooms on Wednesday 13th March from 10:15– 11:00am following our Catholic Schools Week Mass at 9:15am. If you know of any family or friends wanting to enrol their child into Kindergarten for 2014, this is the perfect opportunity for them to come and have a look around the school and classrooms. Enrolment packs will also be available on the day.

IT'S ACADEMIC

As some of you may remember, last year Mrs Brewster took a group of our Year 6 students to participate on It's Academic. The first episode will be televised on Monday 18th March at 4:00pm on Channel 7. Then the Semi-Finals will be televised from 15-19 April at 4:00pm. We urge you to watch and enjoy our 2012 Year 6 students.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Are you interested in issues like curriculum development, school resources, student well-being, school transport, Indigenous education, school affordability, building stronger partnerships between home and school, Catholic identity? Then we need you! Parents and carers with children in Catholic schools are able to participate in discussion and action around these sorts of issues in a variety of ways and at different levels. (<http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/dbpage.php?pg=getinvolved&navlink=15>)

If you are interested in any of the above mentioned items, and have the time to attend one meeting a term (or possibly one every two terms if we have more than one representative), please contact either Jenene Gillies (thegillies4@bigpond.com) or Heidi Cleary (heidi_jayne_c@hotmail.com) for more information.

TUTOR READING PROGRAM HELPERS

We are urgently looking for parents who are able to assist with our Tutor Reading Program. If you are interested, please speak to the ladies in the office or Mrs Gosper for more details. Thank you.

~ LINDA'S LUNCHES NEWS ~

SUSHI TRIAL

In trying to keep the canteen menu as fresh and exciting as possible, Linda has decided to do a taste test of Sushi Rolls. There will be three flavours to try: Vegetable, Tuna and California. If the tasting is successful, Linda will include the Sushi Rolls on her menu.



The taste test will be held on Thursday 14th March at lunch time.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We realise that not every child will want to taste the Sushi, but if your child has allergies or you don't want them to taste it, can you please inform the school office ASAP.

NO LUNCH ORDERS ON FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

There will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS on Friday 15th March 2013**. You can still order your lunch as per normal on Monday or Thursday of that week, just not Friday.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



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|----------|----------------|
| March 8 | Indiana Liu |
| March 10 | Emma Gallagher |
| | Georgia Owtrim |
| | Mia Ezzy |
| March 13 | Laila Riccardi |
| March 15 | Trinity Tecala |
| March 17 | Mitchell Peaty |
| March 18 | Sarah Cantrill |
| | Oliver Homann |

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

FAITH JOURNEY...

2013 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Confirmation: Aged 10 and over. Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Wednesday 5th June 2013 at 7:30pm. The Parent Night will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 7:30pm.

First Holy Communion: Must have made their First Reconciliation. Parent Night will be on 11th June 2013 at 7:30pm. Masses—maximum of 15 children per mass—dates 29th June 5:30pm, 30th June 9:30am, 6th July 5:30pm, 7th July 9:30am, 14th July 9:30am.

Reconciliation: Over the age of 7. Celebration for the Sacrament of Penance Friday 8th November and Saturday 9th November. Parent Night will be held on 8th October at 7:30pm.

A full list of all relevant dates for these Sacraments are at the rear of the church.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS

We will be holding our Catholic Schools Week Mass on Wednesday 13th March at 9:15am. Everyone is most welcome to come along and join us.

GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Last Wednesday our student leaders attended a leadership conference. The children were excited at the prospect of learning more about what leadership means. They were able to see the link between our recently completed servant leadership unit in religion and how this personally relates to their role within the school.

The students worked through a variety of scenarios on the day and realised that different leadership skills and methods are needed within their role. An important learning curve for some of them was that a leader isn't necessarily the best speaker, and doesn't always have to be the same person.



Our future is in the hands of these young people. People who will lead by example and through positive actions to bring about change through developing relationships that are honest, open and that reflect the catholic values and teachings of Jesus.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2013

Project Compassion 2013 carries the message: "Open doors into the future" which is taken from Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 encyclical Spe Salvi, 35, "We work towards a brighter and more humane world so as to open doors into the future".

This year the children will focus on stories from Mozambique, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indigenous Australia and Papua New Guinea. The stories are humbling and inspiring and show how contributions to Project Compassion help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/about>

Reflection: What can you do to open the door into the future for someone near or far this Lent? I encourage you to visit the project compassion website and see how Caritas Australia works with our less advantaged brothers and sisters.

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 Friday 1st March, 20 children went to Mt Druitt Swimming Pool to participate in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. All the children represented St Mary's with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. We have 11 swimmers that will now progress to the next stage of competition. Our individual event swimmers are Patrick Cleary - 50m freestyle, Timothy Greig - 50m Butterfly and Justine Kim - 50m Backstroke.



We also have two Relay Teams progressing through as well. Our Junior Boys team consisting of Andrew Park, Ryan Field, Connor Lyons-Singer and Zane Watson. As well as our Senior Girls Relay Team, consisting of Chelsea Gruber, Thalia Lake, Sarah Cantrill and Kaitlen Byrne. We wish all of these children the best of luck!!

COMMENCEMENT PARTY...

The annual Commencement Party was held on Friday 22nd February. Thank you so much, Lana Venckus, for the excellent decorations, as always, you made our theme come alive! Thanks also to the Riverside Brewing Co, the beer on tap was a hit. This enterprise is an example of what can happen to those who attend a commencement party. These two St Mary's school dads met at their first Commencement Party, and look where it got them! It was wonderful to see so many of the staff early in the night, and as always the array of food was astounding. It was great to see everyone getting into the spirit of the night, wearing masks or trying one on for a photo. Thanks also to everyone who helped tidy up afterwards, we really appreciate it.

