



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 6

Wednesday 25th November 2009

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DIARY DATES

TERM 4

Friday 27th Nov	Kindergarten Assembly 2:15pm
Monday 30th Nov	Swimming Program Starts
Friday 4th Dec	Year 6 Assembly 2:15pm
Tuesday 8th Dec	Christmas Celebration 7:00pm
Friday 11th Dec	Swimming Program Concludes
Monday 14th Dec	Award Ceremony 9:00am
Monday 14th Dec	Orientation for new Students Years 1-6 2010
Monday 14th Dec	Year 6 Graduation Mass 7:00pm
Tuesday 15th Dec	SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Wednesday 16th Dec	End of Year Mass
Wednesday 16th Dec	Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Thursday 17th Dec	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY "PUPIL FREE"
Friday 18th Dec	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY "PUPIL FREE"

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

On Monday the school leadership team had the privilege to attend the annual Diocesan Early Career Teachers presentation. This presentation acknowledges our young teachers completion of their first two years in the profession in regards to attaining their Institute of Teachers Accreditation. Congratulations to Miss Kirsty Reynolds and Miss Rosemary Lopresti on attaining their teaching accreditation.

As part of the accreditation ceremony the people gathered in prayer to give thanks for these young educationalists and the work that they and teachers throughout the diocese do for our children on a daily basis. At this time of the year, I believe it is important to acknowledge and thank the staff in our school for the commitment and passion they share with our children each day. They assist our students to grow spiritually, socially and academically.

Below is an extract from the prayer shared by those who attended the ceremony. We are reminded that we all members of the Kingdom of God and that we all have a significant role to play in the evangelisation of the "Word" in our families and school / parish communities. The following extract I believe summarises well the significant role we as teachers play in proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

"The Kingdom of God is like a teacher who walks into a classroom and sees each child as not just another student in their class but as a human being with real needs and wants, with strengths and weaknesses."

"The Kingdom of God is made up of teachers who are true to their students and true to themselves."

"The Kingdom of God has teachers who guide students on the right path of learning through all the twists and turns, the light and darkness, the ups and downs."

"The kingdom of God is like teachers who are helpful, intelligent and patient. Their guidance provides a compass which gives direction and sets nurturing boundaries."

"The Kingdom of God is like a teacher who enables the student's voice to be heard and say, "I feel valued. Someone took the time to reach in and look past my outer shell. Now I don't want to fight so much." "

"The Kingdom of God is like a teacher who enables a students to say, "Someone noticed me, someone understood, someone had compassion, someone helped" "

At present I am finalising staff for 2010. In three weeks time we will be farewelling Miss Reynolds, Mrs Salkeld, and Mrs Haddad. Miss Reynolds is heading off to England to teach for twelve months while Mrs Salkeld has accepted a teaching position at Holy Cross Glenwood. Mrs Spicer will return from maternity leave to take up the vacant job share position with Mrs Queixalos. Mrs Haddad will make way for Mrs Tutt who will return one day a week from maternity leave. On behalf of the community I would like to thank these ladies for the gifts and talents they shared with us all at St Mary's in recent times. We wish them God's blessing and every success in their future endeavours. We also welcome Miss Mary -Anne Chatfield who will be joining our teaching staff next year.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes—**PRINCIPAL**



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.**

AWARDS CEREMONY

On Monday 14th December, we will be holding our end of year Awards Ceremony. At this ceremony we will also be announcing our new leaders for 2010. It will commence at 9:00am under the COLA on the Mercy site. All parents and grandparents are invited to come along.



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.

PRAYER GROUP—NEW DAY

The Christ's Catholic Community prayer group are going to be changing days. As of 2nd December, the group will be meeting on a Wednesday instead of Thursday. Come and listen to the explanation of Sunday's Liturgy of the Word. Every Wednesday morning, after the 9:15am Mass, inside the church. For more details contact Irene on 0418 403 358. Come and hear what God has to say and allow Him to bring peace and joy into your life.



VACATION CARE

St Mary's Rydalmere OSHC will be open for Vacation Care from Thursday 17th December to Wednesday 23rd December. We will reopen Monday 18th January 2010. For all enquiries, please call 9638 2401.

HEALEY'S QUALITY MEATS—LOYALTY CARD

Healey's Quality Meats (formally Rob & Raes Meats) at Telopea have a loyalty program with the school, where they donate 5% of the total sales made using the loyalty card back to the school. If you would like to participate in this scheme, you can collect a loyalty card from the school office. You then need to produce this card when you make your purchases from Healey's Quality Meats. Those families that already have a card can continue to use their existing one. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Hogan on 0400 880 839.



LOST PROPERTY

Thank you to everyone who has recently donated baked goods to the school and/or lent items for the School Musical. If you have not already done so, can you please collect your property from the Office as soon as possible. If your items are not there, please contact Fran Cutler on 0413 328 344.

We are looking for one item in particular that may have gone back to the wrong home. Can you please check and return to the office if found:

1. Large biscuit tin with Christmas decorations painted on it. It was last seen at the Year 6 Cake Stall.

Thank you,
P&F Committee.



VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA

We extend an invitation to all parents and grandparents who have helped in the school in any way this year to a special "Thank You Morning Tea".

When: Monday December 14th

Time: 10:00–11:00am

(after Awards Assembly)

Where: In the Library.

Please RSVP by December 7th for catering purposes by contacting the office or by email at stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au.

We look forward to seeing you there!



FAITH JOURNEY...

SCHOOL / PARISH MASS

Fr Peter has invited the children of St Mary's to help lead this Sunday's morning mass at 9:30am. Please try to come along to support the children. Thank you to the children who have returned their notes saying that they can come along. This helps in organising any jobs and roles that need to be prepared.

ST VINCENT DEPAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Each class will be given a shopping basket this week to create a hamper for the St Vincent DePaul Christmas Appeal. This food is greatly needed by Vinnies to support many families and individuals within our own community during the Christmas season. As more and more of our neighbours have lost jobs, families are falling on tough times. Please join the school in supporting Vinnies by sending in non-perishable festive food and drink. Making a point of grabbing one more food item when you go grocery shopping will help.

SAM CLEAR—WALK4ONE by Eliza Gittany from 5J

On Monday 23rd Year 5 and Year 6 were invited to listen to a man named Sam Clear. Sam walked around the world for Christian unity. On the way he met many people who he now stays in contact with. At times he was at knife-point, gun-point, he met many dangerous animals for example a puma, tarantulas, snakes and scorpions, he was arrested on suspicion of terrorism, and he was hospitalised though he did not give up. It was inspirational!



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING

Please remember to set aside the evening of Tuesday 8th December to join us for an evening of carols and relaxation to celebrate the year and the Christmas season. A detailed flyer will be sent home soon.

CARITAS CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you are stuck for a gift for someone special this year, Caritas Australia offers Gifts of Life which can make considerable differences to lives of individuals, families and entire communities around the globe. There are nine different Gifts of Life ranging from food security, to water, child and maternal health and education. Caritas is a Catholic aid organisation that works tirelessly to support the needy across the world. These gifts can be viewed and purchased online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts.



COMMUNITY NEWS...

RYDALMERE PUBLIC SCHOOL – FETE & CHRISTMAS CAROLS 4TH DECEMBER 2009

Fete 3:00—7:00pm - Carols 7:00—8:30pm

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| * Trash & Treasure | * 2nd Hand books |
| * Raffles | * Tombola |
| * International Food Stalls | * Silent Auction |

Plus... Rides

~ Fun for all the Family ~



ASTHMA INFO UPDATE...

SPRING WARNING

Pollen grains are released from certain grasses, weeds and trees. They are coated in proteins that can trigger allergic reactions - commonly asthma and hay fever. Spring and summer can often be difficult times for people with allergic conditions. The height of grass pollen season is from late September to late December, and the highest amount of pollen can be found in the air between 6am and noon.



What if the pollen count is high?

If the count is estimated to be high, then it is important to be prepared. People with asthma should have reliever medication readily available at all times.

Tips to reduce pollen exposure

When the pollen count is high:

- Pollen can stick to clothes. Consider hanging clothes inside on windy days.
- Keep the windows and doors closed to prevent the pollens from coming inside.
- Shower/change clothes after being outside.
- Avoid activities that expose you to pollen, such as mowing lawns.
- Protect your eyes with sunglasses.
- Use re-circulated air in the car.
- Check tomorrow's pollen count by visiting our website www.asthmansw.org.au

BRIGHT LIGHTS COMPETITION...

~ PARRAMATTA'S BRIGHT LIGHTS CHRISTMAS COMPETITION 2009 ~

Dear Parents & Friends of St Mary's,

As we approach the Christmas season this year, Parramatta City Council invites you to get creative and decorate your home in true Christmas style. In previous years it has been fantastic fun to drive around the streets and see the Christmas lights all over our communities. This year we want to make it the best year ever.

As your City Councillor, and also a parent at St Mary's, I urge you to consider participating and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

There are two categories you can enter this year and win great prizes. These are:

- * Best Nativity Display
- * Best General Display

This really is a great way for our community to get into the Christmas spirit and show what Christmas is really about.

You can nominate yourself or someone else in the 2009 Parramatta Christmas Lights Competition. To enter simply go to the Parramatta City Council website at www.parracity.nsw.gov.au where you will see the link for Christmas Lights Competition. From here you can download the entry form. The only criteria to enter is that you live in the Parramatta Local Government area and be a registered entrant.

So please join in and make the Christmas Lights Competition something we can all be proud of in Parramatta.

Regards,

Michael McDermott
Ward Councillor—Elizabeth Macarthur Ward
Parramatta City Council

