



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 1 Week 8

Wednesday 21st March 2012

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

With less than three weeks of the Lenten season remaining, St John's Gospel this Sunday uses the grain analogy to describe the death and resurrection of our Lord at Easter. Jesus explains his passion and resurrection to Andrew and Phillip in terms of a grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies in order for it to grow and bear fruit. Wheat is seen as a staple food of our diet much in the same way that Christ is at the centre of our existence. Christ's suffering and eventual death was inevitable as his resurrection was the catalyst for us all to achieve eternal life in heaven. We are Easter people, the fruits of His suffering, the grains of wheat that fell on the ground and died and rose to eternal life with our Lord.

Thanks to those parents selected to complete the QCS surveys who have returned them to school or who have completed them on line. It would be greatly appreciated if all surveys can be completed and returned by this Friday 23rd March. The data collected from this survey, combined with staff and student reflections, will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

Thank you to those parents who joined us last Friday for the official opening and blessing of the new Mercy Site wing and classroom refurbishments. Bishop Anthony Fisher and Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools joined distinguished guests, government officials, staff, parents and students in asking God's blessing upon our new learning spaces. Thank you to the catering students from St Patrick's College Dundas who provided the food for morning tea. Photographs and a report on the ceremony can be found on the school website.

The school website is evolving into a great resource for both parents and the wider community, thanks to the consistent efforts of our "webmasters" Stacey Crismale and Rachel Hogan. Thanks to both ladies for their diligence and hard work throughout the term. Can I encourage you all to register for the alerts that you can receive in regards to school news, postponements, cancellations and upcoming events via our website www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au. Our school twitter account is also another means of keeping up to date on what's happening at school. You can follow us on twitter at **#StMarysRydal** for all the up to date news from the school.

Our final Staff Development Day for the year will be held on Monday the 30th April [Week 2]. The staff will focus on the analysis of the data gained from the MAIs conducted throughout the term. The day will assist teachers in identifying vulnerable children in regards to numeracy as well as allowing them to plan for future intervention. There will be no classes on this day.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2012

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

Tuesday **Cross Country**
27th March

Monday **SCHOOL PHOTOS**
2nd April

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

Thursday **Term 1 Concludes**
5th April

TERM 2 2012

Wednesday **ANZAC DAY**
25th April **HOLIDAY**

Thursday **ANZAC Day Ceremony**
26th April

Monday **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
30th April **"Pupil Free Day"**

Monday **Catholic Schools Week**
30th April **Commences**

Tuesday **Diocesan Cross Country**
1st May

Friday **Mother's Day Breakfast**
11th May **Mother's Day Liturgy**

ENROLMENTS FOR 2013

We are currently taking enrolments for Kindergarten for 2013. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or picked up from the school office. It would be appreciated if the enrolment forms could be handed in at the office before the Easter holidays so interviews can be arranged for the first few weeks of next term.

SCHOOL FEES

Just a friendly reminder that Term 1 school fees are **now overdue**. Please refer to your fees for payment options.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go to the Pellegriti family, Luca 2M and Jonas KL, whose great grandfather passed away last week.

Also to the Riccardi family, Laila KD, whose grandmother passed away over the weekend.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.



PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL

The Clothing Pool will be open this Friday from 8:30–9:30am.

**MARIST COLLEGE
EASTWOOD**

OPEN DAY

**1ST APRIL 2012
12 NOON–3:00PM**

For further information regarding the Open Day, please contact the College.

**BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS**



- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 21 | Jurgen Martinez |
| | Elouiza Stefulj |
| March 25 | Jayden Camacho |
| March 27 | James McCaughey |
| March 29 | Vincent Genner |
| March 31 | Khurshid Manal |
| April 2 | Georgie Paspalas |
| | Arman Gharemanian |

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

**St Mary's Rydalmere
Vacation Care**

10th April-20th April 2012

With the autumn school holidays only weeks away, St Mary's Rydalmere 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 Rydalmere Vacation Care! Some of the fun activities that are planned include an excursion to the Circus Factory at Hornsby, a Zumba day, autumn craft, an excursion to the Big Blast Play Centre in Brookvale, OOSH Project Runway, a lego building workshop and many more exciting activities! Places are limited, with bookings closing on the 28th March 2012, so to make a booking or to make an enquiry about the program please contact Maureen or Luke on 9638 2401 or send them an email at stmarysoshc@optusnet.com.au

FAITH JOURNEY...

HARMONY DAY

This year we will be celebrating Harmony Day through sport. Sport brings people together and allows us an opportunity to engage with others. We will participate in games from around the world which demonstrate how children cooperate with each other to develop a sense of belonging, peace and acceptance. When this occurs there is harmony not only within ourselves but within our communities as well.

We thank the children and their families for their continued support of Caritas Australia through their donations made today for the exchange of wearing Sport- Mufti clothes.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Please join us on April 4th at 12.30pm in the church for our Holy Week liturgy. Something a little different this year- the teachers will present a liturgy through music for the children. This will be a representation of the Passion of Christ through mime. **Children and parents are asked not to applaud at any stage through the liturgy.**

CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Confirmation in our Parish this year is Friday 11th May at 7:30pm. If your child has received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion and are in Year 5 and up, they are eligible for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Enrolment forms are available from the school office, alternatively you can contact Diane O'Shea (96138801), or the Parish Office (9684 1541) for an enrolment form.

First Holy Communion dates for this year are 8th July; 15th July and 22nd July at the 9:30am masses.

The dates for the **Parent Information Nights** and preparation days will be advised shortly.

Rebecca Boidin
Religious Education Coordinator



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING...

During weeks 8, 9 and 10 the comprehension strategy we are concentrating on is the skill of Predicting. Predicting promotes engagement and interest in a text. In reading it means trying to work out what is likely to come next in a text. An able reader is able to make predictions about what a text might contain and about likely events in a narrative. A reader can predict before, during and after reading a text.

Prior to reading ask your child if the text will give information or tell a story?

I think this book will tell me about _____ because _____. The clues I used to make my predictions are _____. During reading, ask your child what the character (s) will do next? Will the setting change? What will the characters do if _____? After reading, could the author write another book with the same characters? Did your predictions come true?

Happy Reading!
Margaret Brewster
Literacy Coordinator



IMPORTANT DATES...

Please find below a list of dates for all upcoming **Sporting Events for 2012**.
Please note that these dates are subject to change:

EVENT	DATE
Cross Country	Tuesday 27th March
Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Tuesday 3rd April
Diocesan Cross Country	Tuesday 1st May
Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day (boys, girls and mixed)	Friday 18th May
Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day	Tuesday 29th May
Athletics Carnival	Wednesday 13th June
Stage 2 Boys Soccer Gala Day	Tuesday 26th June
Stage 2 Girls Soccer Gala Day	Wednesday 27th June
Netball Gala Day (girls, boys and mixed)	Tuesday 21st August
Zone Athletics Carnival	Wednesday 8th August
Diocesan Athletics Carnival	Friday 24th August
Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day (boys and girls)	Friday 7th September
Stage 3 (Yr 6 only) Basketball Gala Day (boys and girls)	Tuesday 23rd October
Swimming Program	Mon 26th November - Fri 7th December
Swimming Carnival	Tuesday 18th December

PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS...

Theme 1 (Part 2) - "We all have the right to feel safe all of the time".

Safety is an emotional, psychological and physical experience that differs for everyone.

Safety

Safety may feel different from child to child. Students discuss what makes them feel safe and protected. They discuss how some situations may start off feeling safe but can escalate to a situation where they feel unsafe.

Fun to Feel Scared

It can be fun to feel scared sometimes. You may get your Early Warning Signs, and this is where we reinforce the formula: Safety = Choice + Control + Time Limit on the activity.

Risking on Purpose

We discuss with students that sometimes they have to risk on purpose to get better at things, to meet their goals or for the times that if they don't do something there could be a negative consequence. We discuss the difference between positive, healthy risk taking and being reckless or destructive. Some examples of risk on purpose are when having a needle, learning to swim or going to the dentist.

Unsafe

Unsafe may also feel different from child to child. We explore with students what makes them feel unsafe, threatened, insecure or unprotected. We discuss how you can start off feeling unsafe in a situation and continue down the continuum and end in feeling safe. We reinforce the formula: Safety + Choice + Control + Time Limit by using an example such as learning to ride a bike, learning to swim etc. In the beginning they may have started out feeling unsafe, but because they risked on purpose and persisted they can now feel safe in that situation.