



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 3 Week 8

8th September 2010

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DIARY DATES

TERM 3

Friday 10th Sep	School Feast Day Celebrations
Friday 10th Sep	ST MARY'S TRIVIA NIGHT La Valla Room St Patrick's
Sun 12th Sep	Holy Name of Mary Feast Day
Monday 13th Sep	Years 3/4 Sport with St Patrick's Marist College
Thursday 16th Sep	Inter-Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Friday 17th Sep	Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day
Monday 20th Sep	Grandparents Day Liturgy 9:15am
Wednesday 22nd Sep	Voice of Youth Grand Final
Friday 24th Sep	TERM 3 CONCLUDES

~CAPTAIN CARE~ LAUNCH

Monday 18th October
at 9:15am in the
Church!!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This weekend as a parish and school community we celebrate our Feast Day- Holy Name of Mary. This celebration allows us all to give thanks to God for all members of our community, the work we do, for the faith opportunities we share together as well as the outreach activities we are involved with. On Friday we are privileged to have with us several of the Sisters of Mercy who were either teachers or principals at St Mary's in the eighty years or so of their administration of our school. The day will begin with mass at which we will launch our school prayer followed by a history workshop conducted by the Sisters. The day will conclude with our picnic at Upjohn Park whereby all families and friends are invited to join us. My thanks to Mr Simon Stennett who has co-ordinated the day working in collaboration with the staff, the Sisters of Mercy and our parent body.

Tomorrow you will receive a letter outlining new pick up procedures that will be trialled over the last two weeks of this term. The changes have been made to ease the congestion under the Marist COLA allowing for easier entry and exit from the site in the afternoon. Please take the time to read the letter and discuss the changes with your children. We will be having a practice with the children next Monday during the day. Your co-operation and feed back during the trial period will be much appreciated.

It has come to my attention in recent weeks that some children are frequently being picked up ten to fifteen minutes before the dismal bell every afternoon. The school day does not finish until 3:10pm. The last quarter of an hour each day is a significant part of the school day for teachers and children as they organise homework, pack up in preparation for the following day, as well as being a time for disseminating information. Your support in this will be greatly appreciated.

This week our Year 3 and 4 children moved into their new spaces upstairs on the Mercy Site. Thank you to the teachers and parents who contributed to making the transition in the new room a smooth one. Year 2 have moved into the hall for the next couple of months. Year 1 will be moving into the old Kindergarten rooms this weekend while the first floor of the Marist Site is being refurbished. Kindergarten will move into their new space this Saturday. Exciting times ahead for us all!

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Annie Murray has been appointed as our new Office Secretary. Mrs Murray comes to us with a variety of administrative experience. We welcome Annie to our community at St Mary's.

Thank you to those families who are shopping at Coles and supporting the sports equipment initiative. All vouchers can be dropped in the box outside the main door to the office.

Have a great fortnight.

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL



INFORMATION CHANGES

This is to remind everyone that it is very important if you change your contact details, ie: new phone numbers, change of address etc, that you please inform the school office as soon as possible. We have had a few occasions where we were unable to contact families due to us not having the correct information. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

VOICE OF YOUTH COMPETITION

On Tuesday 7th September at St Monica's North Parramatta, Georgina Gibson and Alana Mastroianni represented St Mary's at the Annual Year 6 Voice of Youth Competition. The girls' speeches were well crafted and brilliantly presented. We are very proud to announce that Georgina came first and Alana was judged as runner up. Congratulations—a fantastic effort by both girls. Congratulations also to our Year 6 audience, who were great ambassadors for St Mary's.

BAND NEWS

Congratulations to all our star performers who put on such a great show last Friday night. You are all so very talented and should be proud of your efforts. A big thank you to our fantastic audience, and special thanks to the Year 5 teachers and students who so generously gave up their learning space for the evening. We also hope all the dads who attended the Father's Day breakfast enjoyed your special 'sneak peak' preview performance before school and you all enjoyed your special day on Sunday.



Morning Band will go ahead as usual this Friday but there will be no group tuition due to the School Feast Day Activities. Instead, the band will perform for the school before assembly and mass.

MOBILE PHONES

Children who bring phones to school should only be doing so because they are catching buses or walking to and from school. Phones are to be handed in at the office on arrival at school and picked up once the children are dismissed in the afternoon. Once collected, phones are to **remain in the students' bags** and are only to be used for emergencies. The school takes no responsibility for any student phones that are damaged or stolen.

ICAS ENGLISH COMPETITION

A few weeks ago, a group of children sat for the ICAS English Competition. All the children did well, with our school receiving 5 Distinctions, 14 Credits and 29 Participation certificates. Well done to everyone who participated!

ATHLETICS NEWS

On Friday 27th August 12 students represented St Mary's at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival. At this carnival Georgina Gibson was presented with the 12 Yr Girls Runner Up Age Champion from the Zone Carnival held on 5th August.

From the Diocesan Carnival results, 3 students have been successful and will compete in the Inter-Diocesan Carnival being held on 16th September. Chelsea Loughrey was awarded 11Yrs Girls Champion and also ran a carnival record in the 100 mtrs. She will now proceed to the Inter-Diocesan along with Rebekah Meafou and Georgina Gibson.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

I am very proud to congratulate all the students who completed the 2010 Premier's Reading Challenge! Despite not having access to our school library, a record number registered this year and 120 students completed the challenge. Well done to them and their parents who took the time to take their children to their local libraries to borrow books. Certificates will be given to the participants on the school's awards day towards the end of the year.



Congratulations 6M! This year 6M will be receiving the class prize (on a day to be decided) as all the students completed the 2010 Premier's Reading Challenge. Well done.

WHAT'S ON AT PARRAMATTA PARK

On Sunday 12th September 2010 it's "FAMILY DAY" at Parramatta Park. It's the park's annual history week event 'Colonial Kids Down at the Dairy'. As always, it's a lot of fun with horse and cart rides, bush band and farm animals, 3RF Australia doing solar spotting demonstrations and much more..... Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun!

**SPORTING NEWS**

Last weekend Lachlan Mayfield's rugby league team, The Winston Hills Tigers, played in the Grand Final against Canley Vale and had a convincing win 16-10. It was the first time since 2005 that a Tigers team has made the grand final. During the season Lachlan, who plays fullback, scored over 6 tries. Well done to Lachlan and his team.



FAITH JOURNEY...

SCHOOL FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS THIS FRIDAY!!

Please come along for a very important day as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. The day will be a one-off occasion as we launch our **school prayer** and are joined by some of the **Sisters of Mercy** nuns who helped lead our school in the past.

Our school prayer will be blessed and launched during a whole school morning mass at 9:15am. The children will then be learning about the story of our school and parish with the help of some of the Sisters.

After recess, classes will walk to Upjohn Park for games and sport followed by lunch starting at approximately 12:30pm. All family and friends are welcome to join us and have a sausage sandwich.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A permission slip was sent home last week. This slip must be signed and returned for your child to be able to walk to the park. Please make sure that if you are joining us for lunch, you indicate this on the permission slip so we can cater accordingly. Parent helpers at the park are also appreciated, which again can be indicated on the slip.

If the weather is against us then we will cancel our walk to Upjohn Park and have our sausage sandwiches back at school during lunch time. We will make the call on the weather at morning assembly.

It was wonderful to see so many dads and mums join us for our Father's Day breakfast and mass last Friday. We hope you can again all take some time out of your day to join us for this special occasion.



RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT

Across the diocese, Year 4 classes have been working on forgiveness and reconciliation in religion lessons. This work involved a formal assessment project which is graded, as is all assessment at school. Together with results from an online religion assessment which occurs early in Term 4, grades are forwarded to the Bishop. This is to help the Bishop have an insight into the children's learning across the diocese and help direct future plans and teaching.

The Year 4 classes have found the experience deeply rewarding as they have not seen it as just an assessment task but rather as a rich learning experience.

Some of the students have shared their thoughts:

"I think the RLA project was a good chance to show how well we can organise our work, and to learn about God and his forgiveness. We had a choice of either presenting our work as a poster, slide show, diorama, banner, song, dance or book." Rebecca

"We had five weeks to do it. I thought it was a long time then five weeks went past and then I realised that it wasn't that long. I understand that I have to forgive people and I need to seek forgiveness more and that Jesus and God will forgive anyone. I enjoyed making my power point." Brandon

"I learnt that forgiveness isn't all about saying sorry, it's about looking to God when you're upset or have upset another person." Niamh

If any parents have any queries regarding the Religious Literacy Assessment, please contact me at school.

GRANDPARENTS LITURGY

Please keep in your diaries Monday 20th September as we will be celebrating our wonderful grandparents with a liturgy and morning tea. If you have not yet returned your RSVP, please do so by Thursday 9th September.

VACATION CARE SPRING 2010...

SCHOOL HOLIDAY IDEAS!!

Looking for some fun idea's for the school holidays? Why not take a look at these...

Tues 28 Sept & Tues 5 Oct 2010

~ Petting Zoo at the Dairy ~

Free event.— Time 10.00 til 2.00 pm

Get close up and personal with the animals.

Thu 30 Sept & Thurs 7 Oct 2010

~ Multisport's at Old Kings Oval ~

\$15.00 per child - Time 9.00am—12 noon

OzTag—play this non contact sport. Aim of the game is to take the tag off the opponents belt before they score a try.

Cricket—Basic Drills including batting catching and bowling.

Softball—Learn the rules and how to play this fast paced fun sport .

AFL at Old Kings Oval behind Parramatta Stadium. 9.00 am—12noon \$15 per child
Learn the skills of the game and about the Team GWS coming to our back yard.

Bookings are essential. Phone 8833 5000 or go to the web address.

Further events and information go to
www.parrapark.com.au or call 8833 5000