



St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 8

Wednesday 27th November 2013

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This Sunday heralds the beginning of the Church's new liturgical year and the commencement of the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of repentance and renewal. It is also a time to prepare for the celebrations of Christmas as we await the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. It's a time of silence as we listen to our hearts through prayer and reflection as we await one of God's greatest gifts that he ever shared with mankind, his Son, the Messiah. The new liturgical year brings with it a new perspective of writing with the Gospels for the next twelve months from St Matthew's Gospels.

On Monday you would have received information regarding MAI interviews for early next year. Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January will be Staff Development Days and used for teachers to conduct these Mathematical Assessment Interviews for all students [Yr 1-6] over these two days. Students commencing Kindergarten in 2014 will have their interviews in early December 2013 and will not be required on these days. You are asked to select five interview times in order of preference and return your interview form to school by next Monday 2nd December. **Please note that school in 2014 will now commence on Thursday 30th January for all children K-6. Kinder children will finish at 12:30pm on the Thursday and Friday of the first week of school.**

In the next two weeks the double gate on the Marist site leading up to the school office will be automated. This is a new security initiative that was identified and approved following our school audit in Term 3. To access the Marist site during school hours 9am-3pm, you will need to use the intercom system on the gate to speak with office staff who will unlock the gate allowing you access. Please be reminded that if you are picking up students early from school you need to visit the office first to complete an early leavers form prior to picking up your children. If your child is late in the morning parents are to visit the office to complete a late arrival form. These procedures are mandatory and enforced by the Parramatta CEO and the Department of Education.

Our annual intensive swimming program commences for all children next Thursday 5th December and concludes on Friday the 13th December. It would be appreciated if all payments for the program be finalized by Friday. If you are having difficulty in meeting this deadline please contact the school office or myself.



Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL

DIARY DATES

TERM 4 2013

Monday Year 3 Assembly
2nd Dec 2:15pm

Friday Year 6 Fun Day
29th Nov

Thurs 5th Dec Swimming Program
- Fri 13th Dec

Mon-Tues K2014 MAI Testing
9th-10th Dec

Thursday Christmas Concert
12th Dec 7:00pm under the COLA
(gates open at 6:00pm)

Monday End of Year Awards
16th Dec Ceremony 9:00am

Monday New Children Orientation
16th Dec Afternoon 2:00pm

Monday Graduation Mass 7:00pm
16th Dec

Tuesday Swimming Carnival
17th Dec Years 2-6

Tuesday Educational Sports
17th Dec K- Year 1

Wednesday End of Year Mass 9:15am
18th Dec

Wednesday Thank You Morning Tea for
18th Dec Parent Helpers 10:15am

Wednesday LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS
18th Dec

Thurs-Fri Staff Development Days
19th-20th Dec

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

All Swimming Carnival permission envelopes and Event Forms are due by Friday 29th November. **NO** event forms will be accepted after this date.

NOT RETURNING IN 2014

If your child is not returning to St Mary's in 2014 could you please inform their teacher or Mr Hughes in writing as soon as possible (excluding Year 6 students). Your prompt assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

LIBRARY HELP NEEDED

Our book covering pile is stacking up so if you can lend a hand to cover books in contact please see Mrs Radocchia in the library.

HEAD LICE

Please be aware that we have had several cases of head lice throughout the school. We ask that all parents check their child's hair for lice. Children are not to return to school until all lice and eggs are removed from their hair. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



GUITAR LESSONS

Enrolments are now being taken for guitar lessons in 2014. If your child is interested in learning to play the guitar and you would like more information, please contact Michael Sheridan on 0413 559 784 to discuss this further.

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS

Time to get practising for our Christmas Eve 6:30pm Children's Mass. First practice is Sunday 8th December 4:00pm at St Mary's Church Rydalmere. Any questions, please contact Anne Marie Lyons on 0410 299 681.

MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS (MAI 2014)

MAIs for Years 1-6 will be completed on Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th January. A letter with the details for booking assessments has been sent home.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 28 | Natasha Ball
Daniel Bietola |
| November 29 | Larissa Laguzza
Luca McGilly |
| December 1 | Katelyn Johnson |
| December 2 | Mark Wahbe |
| December 4 | Samuel Peddell |
| December 5 | Jaime Camacho |
| December 6 | Patrick Bayeh |
| December 7 | Stephanie Blanchard
Bernhard Tandean |
| December 8 | Teagyn Ward |
| December 9 | Therese Davidson |
| December 10 | Joel Hallit
Ethan Lee
Jorja Munoz-Cruz |

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

PRINCIPAL AWARDS TERM 4—Week 6



- | | |
|----|--|
| 3B | Kate Worsley and Cameron Menin |
| 3J | Mikeeli Lake and Benjamin Teto-Natoli |
| 4E | Ashleigh Stevens and Ben Gosper |
| 4O | Samuel Jacobs and Andrew Park |
| 5G | Claudia Ball and Watson Bogiso |
| 5J | Jocelyn Xiao and Isabella Schembri-Green |
| 6B | Sarah Cantrill and Rachael Dick |
| 6L | Jack Martic and Georgia Hogan |

CARE AWARDS TERM 4—Week 6



- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 3B | Erin Suffling and James McCaughey |
| 3J | Zane Watson and Tamara Markarian |
| 4E | Elissa Bayeh and Teagyn Ward |
| 4O | Xavier Homann and Peter Sheslow |
| 5G | Michael Menin and Jonathan Campos |
| 5J | Thalia Lake and Alex Padden |
| 6B | Rebecca Donaghy and Marcus Spinetti |
| 6L | Will Squire and Jacob Cotsinis |

2014	DATE CHANGES—IMPORTANT
Tues 28th January	Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years 1-6
Wed 29th January	Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day—MAI Testing Years 1-6
Thurs 30th January	Years 1-6 commence—full day Kindergarten Students commence 9:00-12:30pm
Friday 31st January	Kindergarten 9:00—12:30pm

FAITH JOURNEY...

CONSECRATION THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PRAY

On the 13th October, 2013, Pope Francis celebrated mass in St Peter's square in honour of Mary. It was an event organised as part of the Year of Faith on the anniversary of the final apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima (13th of October 1917). He also consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The children, today, were given a prayer card to take home and use as part of their family pray time. I encourage our families to pray to Mary. When we offer ourselves to Mary to lead and guide us, we are asking her to lead us to be faithful to God, to praise and thank him, for he is our strength.

SEASON of ADVENT

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and marks the start of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew.

The Nativity is one of the two greatest Christian feasts. It is preceded by a time of preparation: Advent. Advent is a time to focus on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God becoming human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.



This Sunday's Gospel is Matthew 24:37-44- *Stay awake, you must be ready.*

What are some things you look forward to?

How do you get ready to prepare for them?

This week we begin Advent – a time where we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Jesus asks us to live properly. How can we live properly?

How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?

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ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Once again we will be collecting items for the St Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas Hampers. A note will be sent home at the end of the week with more details.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We will be celebrating the season of Christmas with an end of year concert on Thursday 12th December. **Gates will open at 6:00pm.** Our school band will perform at 6:15pm and then the school Glee Club will perform at 6:50pm.

Our concert will commence at 7pm. All children will need to be at school by 6:40pm.

END OF YEAR MASS

Our End of Year Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 18th December. We ask that you join us on this day to give thanks for the wonderful school year we have shared together.

GRADUATION MASS

Please keep the Graduating class of 2013 in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to prepare for their Graduation Mass which will be held on Monday 16th December at 7pm.

Rebecca Boidin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

MATHS OLYMPIAD 2013...

This year 12 students from Year 5 and 14 students from Year 6 participated against more than 28,000 other students across Australia in the Maths Olympiad.

Five students in total were awarded medals for perfect scores out of only 1450 perfect scores in Australia. In total 14 students achieved results in the top 10% of students and 8 achieved scores in the top 25% of students.

The Year 6 Team was awarded a certificate of High Achievement for having a team score in the top 25% of competitors. The Year 5 Team was awarded an Outstanding Team Achievement plaque for having a team score in the top 10% of participants.

Well done to both these teams. They are to be congratulated on both their achievements and on the enthusiasm with which they approached all 5 of the Maths Olympiads.

Year 5

Justine Kim
Sophie Vaughan
Siddhant Kalra
Lana Bannister
Deanna Emerson- Vickary
Alexandria Padden
Isabella Padden
Bethany Bayeh
Jonathan Campos
Bailey Nann
Eve Watson
Claudia Ball

Year 6

YeSung Cho
Clare Kuys
Kiyah Spinetti
Julie Saba
Hovig Melkonyants
Gianni Puglisi
Luke Gosper
Marcus Spinetti
Rachael Dick
Jack Brady
Elie Saba
Josh Tetto
Georgia Hogan
Paul Restuccia

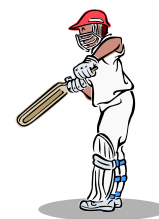
SPORTING NEWS...

CRICKET

We would like to congratulate **Sophie Vaughan** from 5J, who in the last week of October represented MacKillop in the 2013 NSW PSSA State Cricket Carnival in Nowra.

After 4 days of play in the sweltering heat, bushfire smoke, and showering rain, MacKillop placed 3rd out of 13 teams.

Sophie really enjoyed the experience of meeting girls from across the whole of the state who love the game of cricket as much as she does.



LITTLE ATHLETICS

The NSW Little Athletics State Relays were held over the last 2 weekends at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre.

Madison Sloane and her Parramatta Team earned a Gold Medal in the Shot Put/Discus Relay and a Bronze Medal for the High/Long Jump Relay.

Luke Gosper and his Team earned a Gold Medal in the 1500m walk.

