



Term 3 Week 6

Wednesday 28th August 2019

Website: [www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au)

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere

Ph: 8844 5700 Fax: 8844 5799

Email: [stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## DIARY DATES

### TERM 3 2019

**Wednesday  
28th August**      **Father's Day Gift Wrapping  
7:00pm**

**Thursday  
29th August**      **Father's Day Stall**

**Thursday  
29th August**      **Coding Workshop 3:15pm  
(students)**

**Friday  
30th August**      **Father's Day Breakfast  
8:00am**  
**Father's Day Liturgy  
9:00am**

**Wednesday  
4th Sept**      **Band Evening—6:30pm**

**Thursday  
5th Sept**      **Coding Workshop 3:15pm  
(Students)**

**Monday  
9th Sept**      **Sharing our Learning  
Assembly—2:30pm**

**Thursday  
12th Sept**      **School Feast Day Mass  
9:15am**

**Thursday  
12th Sept**      **Coding Workshop 3:15pm  
(Students)**

**Friday  
13th Sept**      **Stage 2 Touch Footy Gala  
Day**

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE—LINDA'S LUNCHES

There will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS** on Monday 2nd September. Normal ordering will recommence on Thursday 5th September. Sorry for any inconvenience.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

A few years ago, Pope Benedict had a question and answer session with a group of First Communion children. When the Pope was asked about his memories of his First Communion, his response contained the following: *"I understood that Jesus had entered my heart, he had actually visited me. And with Jesus, God himself was with me. And I realised that this is a gift of love that is truly worth more than all other things that life can give."*

Holy Communion is an incredible gift and the amazing thing about the gift is that it can be unwrapped time and time again in our lives, and every time we do this, the gift will be brand new. Each new unwrapping gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the gift actually is.

In 2003, Pope John Paul 11 published a letter on the Eucharist and gave a clear insight into the nature of the gift: *"We talk of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, because Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is a presence in the fullest sense, where Jesus is wholly and entirely present. The Consecration at Mass changes the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his Blood."*

Adapted version.

When St Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, he gave the earliest description of the Last Supper in the New Testament. Paul points out that Jesus said, *"This is My Body"*, and that he did not say, *"This is a symbol of My Body"*. Jesus was most definite in what he said: *"This is My Body"* and, likewise, *"This is My Blood"*. Pope John Paul further reminds us that we are all united through the Eucharist, that though we are many we share one bread. Bread is made up of many grains of wheat but in the bread the difference between them is not apparent; likewise, we are joined to one another and united in Christ through the Eucharist. Hence, we have good reason for a family to celebrate when a family member receives Communion for the first time.

The people who lived and associated with Jesus, had the comfort and support of his actual presence. Jesus foresaw the need for his presence to remain with them so they could carry on with his mission and so, the events of the Last Supper. For us, who have so many distractions in life, we might sometimes forget about God, forget about the Eucharist, forget to pray each day, forget to read the New Testament. First Communion day for a family member, can be a time of renewal for all family members, perhaps a time to unwrap the gift again and discover an understanding that is truly relevant to where we are in life. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of God's love and love is something that all of us can use plenty of.

*"Jesus, we ask you to bless the children who recently received you in Communion for the first time. We ask you to bless each one of us, so that we might have a renewed understanding of your gift of love. Amen."*

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden—Principal

**FATHER'S DAY**

We are looking forward to celebrating Father's Day this Friday – there is a breakfast, the choir will sing and there is a liturgy at 9am to which everyone is invited. We wish all Fathers, Grandfathers and those special male role models a very happy Father's Day.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

A big congratulations to Keira D (Yr 5) on receiving a special award of excellence from MindQuest 2019 for her work at a recent Enrichment Weekend. Congratulations Keira!

**SCHOOL TIMES / SUPERVISION / IF YOUR CHILD IS AWAY**

Please remember that playground supervision at school commences at 8.20am. For safety reasons, children should not be at school before 8.20am. School starts at 8.50am. Children need to be at school with enough time so they can have a play and socialise with their friends and go to the toilet before lessons start. If your child/ren are away from school, please send an explanation note with your child when they return to school, absent notes can also be sent in via the skoolbag app. If no explanation is received then your child is marked as an unexplained absence. If your child/ren arrive late for school, you need to bring them into the office and sign them in. If you need to collect your child early from school, you must sign them out at the office.

**LEAVE APPLICATIONS—IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If you need to take your child out of school for 5 days or more you need written permission from the Principal. To be able to receive permission, you MUST first send a note or email to the school explaining the reason for leave. We will then send home documents that you are required to complete. Once these are returned, the official paperwork from the Principal will be sent to you.

**PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE**

A reminder that the closing date for the Premiers Reading Challenge is August 30.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE—LINDA'S LUNCHESES**

There will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS** on Monday 2nd September. Normal ordering will recommence on Thursday 5th September. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| August 30    | Jerome S<br>Sophia S                   |
| August 31    | Jackson A<br>Wylie L                   |
| September 1  | Leiden-Aree T                          |
| September 2  | George C                               |
| September 4  | Eva C                                  |
| September 8  | Gabriel P                              |
| September 9  | Rachel G                               |
| September 10 | Christopher O<br>Iago S<br>Charlotte N |

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

**P&F COMMITTEE 2019/20**

Below is the list of our new P&F Committee for 2019/20. These people have generously volunteered their time to help support the school and community:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| President:                             | Anthony Ellard               |
| Vice President:                        | Alex Quinn                   |
| Treasurer:                             | Caterina Cipri               |
| Secretary:                             | Elise Norton                 |
| Social Coordinator:                    | Jenny Hayes<br>Kelly Lambert |
| Mothers/Fathers Day Stall Coordinator: | Katy Noone<br>Caterina Cipri |
| Classroom Parent Coordinator:          | Vanessa Craze                |
| School Diocese Rep:                    | Jenny Hayes<br>Melissa Lewis |
| Clothing Pool:                         | Suzie Hanna                  |

## FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

### STAFFING UPDATE

As previously advised I will be taking some Long Service Leave commencing next Monday. My wife and I are travelling to Europe. During my absence I have every confidence that Mrs Gosper and the Leadership Team will look after the school extremely well. If you have any concerns during my absence please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Gosper.

### OUR WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

As reported in the last Principal's Update, the World Record Attempt was a lot of fun. We had so much support from our community. We send our thanks again to the parents, grandparents and friends of St Mary's along with the Year 7 and 8 students from St Patrick's for all your support.

Additionally, apart from stretching us to be the best we have ever been (after all if you have a World Record you would have to be the best) it was an event that linked to Book Week – many good books have begun with a pencil!

Our attempt linked to our writing goal and here is one piece of writing that the attempt inspired....

*Today was the day, we were going to break a record, hopefully at least. Our class smashed the gates open, we were all so excited! Until it was the walk, nobody likes to walk! The blazing sun was shining down, the air slipped away. It was so humid walking the last couple of steps. They asked us to slow down which everyone enjoyed, we passed the poles and "click!" everyone was wide awake and we all knew it was time to put our game face on.*

*We were given ponchos red and yellow! I was especially excited because I was wearing my house colour! We were formed into our lines and were told to put our hoodies on. The sun was burning especially in these plastic bags people were turning into rubbish bags with water inside!*

*"Honk!" the timer had begun, the standing had begun. The sun was hotter than ever it was like it wanted us to crinkle into pieces. The drone buzzed and buzzed! It was very aggravating listening to a buzzing sound while in the hot sun. We could all visualise the timer ticking away as we stood. Every minute counted, every second was dramatic. "Honk!" time was up, everyone was exhausted but very grateful.*

*As we took our ponchos off, the pencil was being separated every bit. The walk back had begun again, we came back to school to look at the photos. They were exquisite and we were all very excited, we watched videos of the pencil forming and breaking into parts. It all came down to this, did we make it? As we listened eagerly we found we had **BEATEN THE RECORD BY 7 PEOPLE!** We were all so very happy, the enjoyment slowly faded when it was time to go home. That was the day of the world record attempt!*

By Charlotte L—Year 4

### VOICE OF YOUTH

Year 6 travelled to Christ the King last week for the Cluster Final of the Annual Voice of Youth Competition. We were represented by Sierra, Nadia and Luke. Special congratulations to Nadia on her third place in the Cluster Final. A job very well done!

### ROOF UPDATE

As you would be aware the roof above Year 1 and Year 2 is to be replaced and funded by Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta. The project will take approximately 3 weeks and will commence just before the next school holidays and will be completed before we return for Term 4. The roof is now over 40 years old and this will be an excellent investment in the infrastructure of the school. The project cost is just over \$106,000.

