



St Margaret Mary's School

A Dynamic Community of Learners in Action

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Wednesday 5th November 2014

Newsletter No 34

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Many parents have asked me about my recent time away from school. Some thought I was continuing the holiday break while others just inquired about my leave. I had the great privilege of attending Bishop Anthony's Pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St Paul". Just before we were about to leave Bishop Anthony was appointed as Arch Bishop of Sydney and was unable to attend. We were lucky to have Fr Chris (Vica General for Education) accompany us on our Pilgrimage. The whole experience was an amazing spirit-filled opportunity to explore the importance of St Paul and his impact on the early Catholic church.

I intend to share a range of experiences from my travels with the children and hopefully the parents of our community here at St Margaret Mary's. Please check upcoming issues for more reflections. The following is some basic information on St Paul taken from the internet:

Paul the Apostle (Greek: Παῦλος *Paulos*; c. 5 – c. 67), original name **Saul of Tarsus** (Greek: Σαῦλος Ταρσεύς *Saulos Tarseus*), as an apostle (though not one of the Twelve Apostles) who taught the gospel of Christ to the first-century world.^[7] He is generally considered one of the most important figures of the Apostolic Age. In the mid-30s to the mid-50s, he founded several churches in Asia Minor and Europe. Paul used his status as both a Jew and a Roman citizen to advantage in his ministry to both Jewish and Roman audiences.

St. Paul, the indefatigable Apostle of the Gentiles, was converted from Judaism on the road to Damascus. He remained some days in Damascus after his Baptism, and then went to Arabia, possibly for a year or two to prepare himself for his future missionary activity. Having returned to Damascus, he stayed there for a time, preaching in the synagogues that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. For this he incurred the hatred of the Jews and had to flee from the city. He then went to Jerusalem to see Peter and pay his homage to the head of the Church.

Later he went back to his native Tarsus, where he began to evangelize his own province until called by Barnabus to Antioch. After one year, on the occasion of a famine, both Barnabus and Paul were sent with alms to the poor Christian community at Jerusalem. Having fulfilled their mission they returned to Antioch. Soon after this, Paul and Barnabus made the first missionary journey, visiting the island of Cypress, then Pamphylia, Pisidia, and Lycaonia, all in Asia Minor, and establishing churches at Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

After the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem Paul, accompanied by Silas and later also by Timothy and Luke, made his second missionary journey, first revisiting the churches previously established by him in Asia Minor, and then passing through Galatia. At Troas a vision of a Macedonian was had by Paul, which impressed him as a call from God to evangelize in Macedonia. He accordingly sailed for Europe, and preached the Gospel in Philippi, Thessalonica, Beroea, Athens, and Corinth. Then he returned to Antioch by way of Ephesus and Jerusalem.

On his third missionary journey, Paul visited nearly the same regions as on the second trip, but made Ephesus where he remained nearly three years, the center of his missionary activity. He laid plans also for another missionary journey, intending to leave Jerusalem for Rome and Spain. Persecutions by the Jews hindered him from accomplishing his purpose. After two years of imprisonment at Caesarea he finally reached Rome, where he was kept another two years in chains.

The Acts of the Apostles gives us no further information on the life of the Apostle. We gather, however, from the Pastoral Epistles and from tradition that at the end of the two years St. Paul was released from his Roman imprisonment, and then travelled to Spain, later to the East again, and then back to Rome, where he was imprisoned a second time and in the year 67, was beheaded.

St. Paul's untiring interest in and paternal affection for the churches established by him have given us fourteen canonical Epistles. It is, however, quite certain that he wrote other letters which are no longer extant. In his Epistles, St. Paul shows himself to be a profound religious thinker and he has had an enduring formative influence in the development of Christianity. The centuries only make more apparent his greatness of mind and spirit. His feast day is June 29th.

God Bless.

Kevin Mills
Principal

Students Late to School

Parents are reminded that students who are consistently late for school with no apparent reason will have some of their play time at recess or lunch taken from then, to make up the time that has been missed from the morning lesson.

School Start Time

Students need to start making their way to class at 8:30am, music will play from 8:30am to 8:40am. All gates will be locked at 8:40am. This means that any student not here before 8:40am are late for class. At 8:40am on Monday mornings we assemble as a whole school.

Uniform

I have notice a trend in multi colours sports shoes being worn by students.

Parents are reminded that when purchasing new sports shoes for their child they must be predominately white. Multi coloured are not an acceptable part of the school uniform

Absentee Notes

Parents are reminded that they must send a note to their child's class teacher explaining the absence on the child's return to school. This note is a legal requirement for all students in all grades.

Year Six Shared Reflection

I WISH

I Wish I could challenge myself to different heights because I can see what I have regretted. I wish that I could stop being so afraid of heights so I know.

By Suzanne Mekdessi

Year Two

Year Two have moved from their learning space to the LARC for approximately 3 weeks. There will be building work happening in the Year Two Learning space over the next 2-3 weeks.

Thank you to all the staff who have been involved in the move for your hard work and the many after hours staying back to empty the learning space. It has been greatly appreciated.

Year Six

We apologise for all the chalk marks on the footpath around the office area and the main gate at the front of the school. We have a group of Year Six students designing a garden for the front of the school.

Next Weeks Happenings

Thursday 6th November

Sacrament of Confirmation 7pm

Friday 7th November

Kindergarten 2015 group 3
Orientation Morning 9am-11:30am
Second hand Uniform shop will be opened from 9am—11:30am

Monday 10th November

8:40am Morning Assembly and Prayer Service

Tuesday 11th November

Remembrance Day

Wednesday 12th November

Students Morning Prayer 8.15am in the LARC. Students, Parents and Teachers welcome.
Year Five Prayer Service

Did you know that

St. Margaret Mary's School students are artists?

Please come along and visit our
2014 Visual Arts Exhibition
featuring works from Grades K-6.

When: Term 4, Week 10

Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th December

Time: 8:15 – 8:40am

&

3:00 – 3:30pm

Where: LARC



Parent to Parent

It's MOVEMBER TIME

It's Movember time and we want your support! Support Movember, support men's health by growing a moustache, beard or goatee through the month of November, and join Mr Tenido, Mr Manuick who are growing a moustache. Mr Eid is also participating by cutting off his "Plait". This will all be done in front of everyone at our last disco of the year, Friday 5th December.

If you or any of your family members would like to make an extra donation, you can go online to: au.movember.com/mospace/team/

Enter our team name :**SMM MO KIDDIES** then go to "DONATE" box on the top right corner and follow the steps.



*So come on go online
and make a donation
for a worthy cause.*

Mr Eid has said he will cut off his plait if we can raise \$300.00 online.

Don't forget to send in your selfie's dad, granddads uncles, and brothers supporting this great cause.

All Photos need to be sent to the school office with your child.

Car Pick Up

Just a reminder that each car must display the family number in the front window of the car.

As the car pulls up the number will be called and that family will be placed in the car. Also please remind your child/ren of the number that will be called for your family.

Diocesan Works Fund Appeal

Today we will be asking the eldest member of each family to take home a DWF APPEAL envelope.

The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one church family to support ministries and services that no single parish or school can offer. It is Faith at Work!

Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Diocesan Works Fund. All envelopes need to be returned to the school office by **Friday 14th November 2014**.

Preferred method of donations are online at www.parra.catholic.org.au or by credit card and/or cheque as indicated on the envelope.

We will accept cash donations as well.

With all payments **please ensure that the envelope is completed correctly for receipting and processing as all receipts can be used by families as a tax deduction on their income tax return.**

Tuckshop

Roster

Thursday November 6th

Friday November 7th *M. Cheng*

Monday November 10th

Tuesday November 11th *M Rafferty*

Wednesday November 12th *L McLeay*

CatholicCare

Bereavement Support Program Springwood

Catholiccare Solo Parent Services is holding its fortnightly Bereavement support session on Wednesday 12th November for those whose spouse or long term partner has died. The topic for this session is "Is it Grief or Depression". **Venue:** Springwood Baptist Church Macquarie St Springwood from 10.30—12.30. Details and Registration: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

Younger Widowed Support Group

CCSS Solo Parent Services is holding a monthly support group for men and women widowed at a younger age with or without children. It will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18th November

Venue: CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown.

Time: 7pm-9pm

Cost: \$5.00.

Details and Registration: Ph: 9933 0205 or

Email: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au

Discover OLMC Parramatta

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on November 17, the last tour for 2014.

In this special 125th anniversary year, tour the College and discover contemporary learning and academic excellence in the Mercy tradition before enjoying a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team.

The College is now enrolling for 2015 and 2016.

Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1207 to reserve your place or obtain further information.



BIRTHDAYS



Victoria Georges

Vanessa Youssef

John Flanagan

Jacob Kastoun

Raquel Nasr

Jayden Othman

Noah Fernandes

Yasmine Abraham

Tiana Venditti

Nathan Fua

Paula Kahwajy

Maddison Laing

Effie Kapetangianni

Vanessa Cheng

Lily Hawach

Suzanne Mekdessi

Elizabeth Lawlache

Hannah-Lois Williams

Rita Bougoide

Gianni Luccitti

Congratulations to all those children who celebrate their birthday around this time.