



St Margaret Mary's School

A Dynamic Community of Learners in Action

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Newsletter No 13 Wednesday 6th May 2015

Diary Dates

Thursday 7th May

- P&F Mother's Day Wrapping to be held in the Staff Study Area.
- Year Two Excursion to Central Gardens, Merrylands.
- Stage Three Girls Soccer Gala Day.

Friday 8th May

- Mother's Day Liturgy 9:00am in the Hall.
- P&F Mother's Day Stall to be held in the Staff Study Area.

Sunday 10th May

Mother's Day

Monday 11th May

- 8:40am Morning Assembly and Prayer.

Tuesday 12th May

- NAPLAN testing for Years Three and Five.
Please see Timetable in newsletter.

Wednesday 13th May

- NAPLAN testing for Years Three and Five.
Please see Timetable in newsletter.

Thursday 14th May

- NAPLAN testing for Years Three and Five.
Please see Timetable in newsletter.

2016 Enrolment

Enrolment forms for Kindergarten 2016 are available for collection from the school office.

If your child was born between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011 you will need to contact the school office to collect an enrolment form.

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

It has been a very busy week at St Margaret Mary's with a great deal of things happening or about to happen (Mother's Day Liturgy)! I spoke at Monday's Assembly outlining how hard all in our community have worked to improve the physical state of our school and more importantly the educational agenda in our learning spaces. With this time and energy comes greater ownership of our school and a need to acknowledge people's efforts.

The staff are undertaking their second Annual Professional Learning Plan, along with working with Teacher Educators from the Catholic Education Office at Parramatta. I have been very pleased and impressed with the students and their commitment to their school, including their reading folders, understanding of the Four Pillars and their positive behaviour in the playground. In addition to this I am always amazed at the ability of our parent community to support all aspects of our children's learning. It is important that we stop and show our thanks as a school.

St Paul often expressed thanks and gratitude to the early Christian churches as a way of building on the Word of God. This enabled him to connect to a wide range of communities who were settled across a vast area of the world. (During my pilgrimage last year I was truly amazed at the physical distances he covered during his preaching missions). Each person at St Margaret Mary's has a part to play in building our Christian Community here at Merrylands. We must ensure that we are supportive of everyone's efforts and realise that individuals come and go in our world, but we should always give thanks for their contributions.

We farewell Fr Albert and Fr Damien from our StMM's Community at Merrylands this week. They are men of great strength and character who have lead the community through a very difficult time of change, which has included the building and opening of the new Parish Centre. I have only had the pleasure of working with these men for a short period of time, but have certainly appreciated their gentle nature, sense of humour, depth of knowledge, caring attitude and most importantly their commitment to their faith. St Margaret Mary's was certainly lucky to have these two men as God's Shepherds. They followed very much what St Peter asked of us:

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care,
watching over them — not because you must, but
because you are willing.

Both Fr Albert and Fr Damien are men willing to do the extra things that matter in our Community. They are also men of great faith, willing to be sent to new places, to start again, to form new relationships and to build strong Christian communities. These are lucky parishes blessed with two guiding lights of our Church.

God Bless,

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal



Administration

Professional Learning Day (Staff Development Day)

We will be having a Professional Learning Day on **Friday, 5th June**. This day is a Pupil Free Day.

NAPLAN Timetable

Year Three Timetable

Tuesday 12 th May	Language Conventions	9:15am
Tuesday 12 th May	Writing	11:40am
Wednesday 13 th May	Reading	9:15am
Thursday 14 th May	Numeracy	9:15am
Friday 15 th May	Make up Day	

Year Five Timetable

Tuesday 12 th May	Language Conventions	9:15am
Tuesday 12 th May	Writing	11:40am
Wednesday 13 th May	Reading	9:15am
Thursday 14 th May	Numeracy	9:15am
Friday 15 th May	Make up Day	

Car Pick - up

All cars must have their car pick up number displayed clearly in their front window.

Car Pick-up is a service we are able to offer at StMM's because of the generosity of the staff. Every weekday in the afternoon, rain, hail or shine (lucky not so much hail!!!) the staff commit to ensuring the safety of our students travelling home by car. Most, 99%, of our parents are excellent at following the procedures and are very appreciative of this service. Their smiling faces and happy nature says so every afternoon. So I felt great disappointment last week when I asked a parent, who had parked illegally, to move their car, only to be ignored and another person speak rudely about the process.

The number plate of the illegally parked car has been registered with the office and the information will be passed on to the local authorities. It is always a school decision to allow families to be part of Car Pick-up. The Catholic Education Office will be notified of the individuals who are unable to follow the procedures.

We have worked hard at ensuring the afternoon procedure works smoothly. Over 130 cars pull in and depart within a short time without any major problems. This is because most people are patient and realise the benefit of the service. Car Pick-up is working so well that we very rarely have visits from the police or council rangers (1 visit in 12 months). I would like to thank my staff for their generosity in this matter and all our parents who are following the procedures for our Car Pick-up Service and showing patience to support the school.

Uniforms

All students should now be wearing the full winter uniform. Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform and is neat and tidy.

Parents are asked to check that their child's name is clearly marked on each item of clothing especially jumpers and jackets.

Parent Education Evenings

As mentioned in last weeks newsletter. We will be holding four Parent Education Evenings on the following topics on the following dates:

Wednesday 20th May 6:30pm—7:30pm	Goal Setting for Students
Wednesday 27th May 6:30pm—7:30pm	Literacy All Round
Wednesday 10th June 6:30pm—7:30pm	Numeracy for Our Children

The Religion Literacy will be held in Term Three. Date will be advertised in later bulletins.

Supportive Community

Mr Bleeker (father of Gerard in Year Five and Anastasia in Year Three) was farewelled from St Margaret Mary's today with a beautiful Mass. The family are long standing members of our community and our School was represented by the Student Leadership Team and a number of Staff. Stage Three Students also formed a Guard of Honour outside the Church and are a credit to their families and school. Thanks to the parents for allowing the children to participate and to other families for all their offers of support to the Bleeker family.

Help Needed:

If anyone is able to spare some time to help clean some of the school laptops and cover some new library books please see Mrs Balogh-Caristo in the LARC

Mr Mills' Reading Diaries

All students should be reading every day. Mr Mills will be randomly checking students diaries

Monday Morning Assembly

During our Monday Morning Assembly, Mr Mills reminded us that we need to have the correct uniform and to look neat and tidy at all times. A few students wearing the correct uniform were asked to stand at the front of the Assembly to demonstrate what the correct uniform looks like including having tidy hair. We were also reminded, that we need to take care of our playground and learning spaces.



School Fees

All families should have received their statements in the mail. School fees are due by 25th May 2015, unless arrangement have been made, or a flexible payment plan option has been entered into.

If you have not yet received your statement please contact Mrs Maria Pagano at the school office.

Teaching and Learning

Guiding Writers to Independence

Oral language is important for English language learners. At St Margaret Mary's, we have a wonderfully diverse mixture of students from different cultures and language groups. All are in the process not only of becoming literate, but also of learning all aspects of English. Language is taught through interaction. Students will listen and learn, but they will learn even more as they begin to produce language. Their growth will be scaffolded by the language of the people who talk with them.

The conversations that students have with adults and each other set the tone for their learning. Talk creates a literate culture within the classroom. Through talk, concepts flow across whatever the particular activity might be.

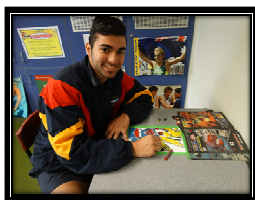
Developing oral language helps children expand their writing abilities. Here is a summary of some important points that can guide our examination of the developing writer:

1. Oral language is a complex, integrated system with many subsystems—sound, language structure or syntax, and meaning.
2. Writers and readers use their knowledge of the sound system of language and link it with letters and letter clusters.
3. Writers and readers use their knowledge of the syntactic system of language to create and access meaning.
4. Writers and readers use their background knowledge of the world and language to create and understand texts.
5. Language is learned through use and is supported and expanded by interaction with more expert users.
6. Talking about texts is a way to expand oral language to take on the particular characteristics of written language.
7. School offers the opportunity for children to use oral language as a primary resource in becoming literate.

(Excerpt Patricia.L. Scharer & Gay Su Pinnel Guiding K-3 Writers to Independence)

Working Together

Baran Oncu, an ex-student of St Margaret Mary's, joined the workshop for our Year Six students led by Johnny Romeo (CAPTIVATE Team Member and artist) and Elisa Pettenon (Visual Arts Teacher,



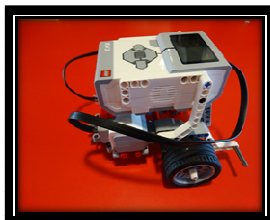
at St Paul's, and artist). The students were shown techniques for using oil pastels to create artworks using a superhero theme. Baran will use these skills when creating his HSC artwork to be submitted for marking this year.



Robotics Fun

Every Monday we go down to the LARC to do robotics. It was so exciting to find out we were going to build a robot! We are using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 Education Robotics Kit.

First we sorted out the parts. Then we watched short demonstration video clips and followed the manual to construct a basic robot. We got our robot to move forwards and turn by programing the brick to do what we wanted. Now we are working on getting our robot to perform specific tasks. We look forward to being able to solve problems and test the robot we have built. Robotics is so much fun!



By Elissa Miraziz, Jarrod Dickson and Elizabeth Lawlache (Year Six)

Faith Community

Mother's Day Liturgy

All parents and grandparents, and especially our mothers, are warmly invited to join us to celebrate our Mother's Day Liturgy beginning at 9.00am in the hall.

Mrs Prendergast Pilgrimage

In the weeks following Easter I made a pilgrimage, with other Religious Education Coordinators from the Parramatta Diocese, to the Holy Land and to Italy. Throughout the pilgrimage we came closer to Christ by following in His footsteps, reading the Gospels,



celebrating Mass and immersing ourselves in the places central to our faith.

Some of the memorable places were: celebrating Mass on the Sea of Galilee, visiting the place of Christ's birth at the Church of the Nativity, spending an hour of silent prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, walking the stations of the Cross and finally celebrating Mass at the place of Christ's Crucifixion at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

We then flew to Rome where we visited the centre of our Catholic faith today. One of the highlights was celebrating Mass in a chapel near the tomb of St Peter and taking a tour under the Basilica to the ancient excavations and to the actual tomb of St Peter.



Lastly, we visited the town of Assisi the home of St Francis. This place is a beautiful, peaceful place where we can still feel the presence and influence of St Francis. Through this pilgrimage and the people I met has helped me to grow in my faith and to realise how lucky we are that we can practise our faith safely and openly. I have been very privileged and blessed to be part of this pilgrimage.

Tuckshop

Thursday May 7th

Friday May 8th

Monday May 11th

Tuesday May 12th

Wednesday May 13th

Roster

M.Aoun

L. McLeay

M.Raftery

Personal Growth

Mangahigh

Well done to the Star Performers for April:

Charbel Ndaira (Yr 5)	Luke Choi (Yr 2)
Vatsal Sharma (Yr 5)	Nevah Shrestha (Yr 2)
Tamara Elias (Yr 2)	Nicholas Tan (Yr 4)
Dennis Asante (Yr 5)	Charbel Sahyoun (Yr 6)
Coby Kasparian (Yr 2)	Shivam Malhotra (Yr 6)

We encourage all students from Years 2-6 to continue to go on Mangahigh to help with their Mathematics. Our school's Mangahigh homepage is: <http://www.mangahigh.com/en-au/myschool/stmm1>

Miss Teulan
Numeracy Coordinator

BIRTHDAYS



Christopher Faddoul	Patrick Abou Zeid	Arvin Manalang
Patrick Saba	Anthony Geaitani	Noelle Nakhoul
Isaac Abousleiman	Jack Bedrossian	Audrey Afful
Joseph El Rassi	Lian Chen	Georgia Diab
Danielle Horish	Claudia Ghosn	Andrea Boutros
Michael Aoun	Salem El Khoury	Almah Yaghya
Patrick Nguyen	George El-Hajjeh	Gabriella Nikua

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

Partnership

Captivate

Captivate's got talent Masterclass. Are you a dancer, musician or actor?

Music & Drama Auditions Wednesday 22th July at Nagle College - 58 A Orwell Street, Blacktown South.

Dance Auditions Friday 24th July at St Agnes Catholic High School - Evans Road, Rooty Hill.

Performance - Thursday 13th August.

To register go to www.captivate.catholic.edu.au. All enquires please call 9840 5649.

Captivate Showcase

The annual Captivate Showcase presents the culmination of the work of the various combined Parramatta Diocesan Catholic schools' ensembles in music, drama and dance.

Concerts will be held from 11-19 June at Nagle College 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown South.

For all enquires please contact 9840 5649 or www.captivate.catholic.edu.au

25th Anniversary

Holy Family Primary School, Luddenham, is celebrating their 25th Anniversary on Friday, 25th June, at 9:15am in the church followed by morning tea in the school hall.

For further information contact the Holy Family Primary School office on 4773 4485 or email Luddenham@parra.catholic.edu.au

Partnership

Mother's Day



On Thursday, 7th May from 9:00am we will have our Wrapping Day where we wrap all the lovely gifts ready for the stall. We don't have too many things to wrap so we hope to be finished by midday if we have enough helpers. Morning tea will be provided.

On Friday, 8th May, after the Mother's Day Liturgy, we have our famous annual Mother's Day Stall. Your children will have the chance to come and buy a couple of nice gifts for Mum, grandmother, or aunty, to say, "Thank you" for all she does.

The gifts range from \$1:00—\$10.00 with a huge variety of gifts from funky bed socks, soaps, jewellery stands, cooler bags, even "selfie sticks" and so many other great gift ideas in-between. Dads please send money to school with Mum's little angels to spoil her with something special.

Helpers needed for Mother's Day Stall.

To make the day a success we need at least 20 volunteers to help sell the gifts and help the children when they come to the stall.

It is a fun day and special day to be part of. Seeing all the children so excited and such keen shoppers, for one common cause to impress Mum.

We have it so well organised that we usually finish the whole school by lunch time or not long after. So if you can help, for the morning or just an hour or two, it will all help and be very much appreciated. We'll have morning tea and a nice lunch provided.

Please return the slip below to the school office by Monday, 4th May, to let us know if you can help.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Please tick the day and note the time you can help with your name and contact number (your contact number will only be used if we finish early and you're not at the school, we will then call you to let you know we have finished to save you coming in).



Mother's Day Wrapping and Stall Helpers

- ☐ I am able to help with the Mother's Day Wrapping on Thursday 7th May.
- ☐ I am able to help with the Mother's Day stall on Friday 8th May.
- ☐ I have completed the Child Protection Module.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Time available: _____

