



St Margaret Mary's School

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Newsletter No 22

Bulletin

Wednesday, 20th July, 2016

Diary Dates

Thursday, 21st July

- Stage Three Soccer Gala Day at Penrith.
- Year Four Excursion to Elizabeth Farm and Old Government House.

Monday, 25th July

- 8:40am Assembly and Prayer Service.

Tuesday, 26th July

- Netball Gala Day for Selected Student at Kellyville.

Wednesday, 27th July

- Student Prayer.
- Kindergarten Excursion to Fairfield City Farm.

Weeks 6 & 7

- StMM's Ten Top Days

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Each week I receive a reflection on Sunday's Gospel written by Fr Michael Fallon MSC. It is a small way for me to understand Sunday's readings in the context of my life. The following passage is a selection about prayer that I thought might interest StMM's Community.

Jesus is telling us to pray for whatever we want, but always to pray, trusting that our Father knows what is best for us and for those for whom we pray. Our prayer will always be answered - not necessarily in the way we expect, but always what is really needed will be given; always God will give his Holy Spirit, his love to us and to those whose needs brings us to prayer. And it is this Spirit of love that will bring real healing and real life and real peace to us according to our real need. but not necessarily in line with the object of our request. In all our intercessions we are to follow the example of Jesus himself and say: 'Not my will but thine be done'.

Sometimes we wonder how prayer works. I do not think that we should imagine that prayer changes God. God is love. God is pouring out his Holy Spirit upon us and upon every person walking this earth, whether we are praying or not. Prayer changes us and it opens us up to receive the grace that is already being offered. It is like opening up the roof to let in the rain, or drawing the blinds to let the sun into a cold, dark room. It is like throwing open a window to allow the fragrant Spring air to enter a home. When we pray we are looking towards God. Our heart is sensitive to God and more likely to notice and to receive the grace God is offering.

To pray for others we do not have to be clever or eloquent or even perceptive of their needs; just be ourselves as we are: simple, a little confused perhaps, but wanting God's will, or wanting to want God's will for ourselves and others. It is God's business to take things on from there. We are to fill the water pots with water – and we are to fill them to the brim – the wine-making is for God to do (see John 2:7-10). We are to remove the stone: <Lazarus, come forth> belongs to God (see John 11:41-44). We are the dry bones; the clothing with flesh, and the breathing upon them is God's (see Ezekiel 37:1-14).

In this way the prayers we pray for others are more trusting. We take these people into our own hearts and entrust them to the heart of God. Then the best thing we can do is not go over and over their problems, but to be ourselves in communion with God, in simple trust, and to spend the time of prayer open to God's grace and praying that the will of God will be done in our lives and in the world, and that we may be a vehicle of God's grace to others.

Taking time for prayer can be one of the great luxuries in our lives, but we need to plan for this time. If we do not plan and set aside an opportunity, we get consumed by the day-to-day grind of our lives. I often remain in Church at the end of Mass and take some moments for a conversation with my God. At other times in the early hours of the day I take 15 minutes to read my Bible. I will make time to write about Prayer for each Bulletin in Term 3.

God Bless

Kevin Mills
Principal



Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school in 2016/17, please let the office know as soon as possible.

Reminder

Parents are reminded not to park across or stop in driveways. Our neighbours and the school can and will notify police of parents parking across and in driveways.

Lunch Orders

All lunch orders are to handed in at the canteen before going to class at 8:40am. If your child is making a lunch order please ensure that they are at school before 8:30am to have their lunch ordered and ready for class when the 8:40am bell goes.

Crunch and Sip

Just a reminder Crunch and Sip is a break during class when students can refuel on fruit or vegetables and rehydrate on water. The break assists students with physical and mental performance, and concentration in the classroom.

Administration

Parent/Teacher/Students Interviews

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended their interviews at the end of last term.

School Newsletters

Parents just a reminder you can access our school newsletters via the school website or the skoolbag app.

Winter Uniform

Students are reminded to wear their school uniform correctly. This includes black polished shoes. Long hair must be tied back. Our Sun Safe program also states—No Hat No Play, so this requires students to wear our school cap or school hat when outside. These hats and caps are available at the school office at a cost of \$10.00ea.

Attendance

Just a reminder to all students and parents that it is important for students to attend school on time every day. Our school times are 8:40am to 3:00pm. All students are expected to be at school by 8:30am ready for the 8:40am bell, and collected from school at 3pm in the afternoon.

Parents are reminded that there is no supervision in the mornings before 8:15am and it is expected that all students have left the premises by 3:15pm.

Student Medical Information

If your child/ren suffer from Asthma or have a medical condition, and have not informed the school office could you please do so as soon as possible.

For example, if your child suffers from Asthma, please supply an updated Asthma action plan from your child's doctor.

All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent and a medication form completed.

Enrolments

We have had more than enough students applying for places in Kindergarten 2017. We only have a limited number of places in other grades. If you know of any one interested in a place for these grades, please have them contact the school office as soon as possible.

StMM's Top Ten Days (Weeks 6 & 7)

During these two weeks of school we will be coordinating a range of activities around our 4 Pillars: Faith Community, Teaching & Learning, Personal Growth and Partnership. These activities will include activities for Parents, Liturgies for our community, open classrooms and opportunities for students to showcase all the great learning happening at StMM's. We will also be holding the Scholastic Book Fair during this time. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase books with their children on Monday 22nd August.

Teaching and Learning

Owl Badges

Mr Mills has been visiting students in Kindy and Year One handing out Owl Badges to students who completed the holiday reading challenge. Daily Reading is the key to learning now and everyday of our lives.

Congratulations to all those students who received an Owl Badge this week.



Visitors from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)

On the 29th of July, visitors from the CEDP came to our school on a learning walk to observe the students' activities. Mrs Sue Walsh (Director System Learning, CEDP), Ms Trudie Hill (Team leader System Learning) and Ms Liz McQuade-Jones visited all the learning spaces from K-6, the LARC and the Learning Support space. During their visit they ques-



tioned students on what they were learning about in class. They were also interested in getting the teachers outlook of their students' learning environment.

The visitors were very impressed with St Margaret Mary's bright learning spaces and commented that the students seemed happy and relaxed. Seeing the students having fun and enjoying what they were learning showed the visitors a unique view of our wonderful school.

The guests had some useful advice to give our students and staff. When reviewing the students' work and assessments it is helpful to give two positive remarks and one area of improvement for the students to work towards when they go back and edit their work. It is also important to encourage the students to improve on their efforts. Positive reinforcement is a useful tool to work towards better outcomes, along with goal setting, planning and reviewing of all tasks. All of these will place the students in a pleasing position in their journey of education.



By Grazia Carrano (Media Team)

Faith Community

Way of Mercy Cross and Relics

The Way of Mercy Cross and Relics will be at St Margaret Mary's on Friday, 9th August, at 9:00am.

The Way of Mercy is a Diocesan-wide initiative of the Pastoral Planning Office in cooperation with the Year of Mercy Committee, centred upon the journey of a large Cross of Mercy. Where possible, the



Picture by: Elizabeth McFarlane

Cross will be accompanied by a relic of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and a Relic of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata. The Cross and Relics will be hosted at various locations by local parish communities, with celebrations including procession, prayer, veneration, music, testimonial and a sending forth. Parishes, ethnic groups, schools and religious institutes and Catholic movements in each region will be invited to attend the local visit of the Cross and Relics.

Personal Growth

Morning Assembly

On the 18th of July, the whole school gathered together for the first few minutes as Mrs Rodricks welcomed everyone back to another term of hard



work and fun learning. The flag was raised to half-mast as we remembered all the sad things happening in our world.

We were also made aware that the roof over the canteen area, Year Five and Staff Study area has been replaced. During the holidays more seats have been placed in the Car Pick-Up area and there is now a new grass area near the infants' classrooms.



By Angelina Georges (Media

St Margaret Mary's Award System

Mr Mills is working with each year level to revisit the Four Pillars of StMM's. These are directly linked to our Award system. Mr Mills will be holding a Principal's Morning Tea with students who have received an award for each Pillar and thus a Principal's Award. There will be two Principal's Morning Tea this term.

1. Friday, 5th August
2. Friday, 2nd September

Faith Community

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe our Faith Community encourages us to live our Catholic faith. We practise our faith by participating in Liturgies, prayer and lessons. We want to follow our School Moto "Love the Truth" by listening, sharing and acting on the Word of God.

Teaching & Learning

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Teaching and Learning is working to the best of our ability in all Key Learning Areas. We work with other students, teachers and staff to ensure quality work and our best efforts. We want to work together, listening, sharing and helping others at all times.

Partnership

At St Margaret Mary's school we believe that Partnership is communicating, interacting and co-operating with others. Partnership is having a connection with others to have a go, it is agreeing on a idea and completing it together.

Personal Growth

At St Margaret Mary's School with believe Personal Growth allows us to set our individual goals and strive to achieve them. We use our gifts and talents when working towards our goals in the areas of learning and attitude. We want to show respect and be more like Jesus.

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Just a reminder, that the children at St Margaret Mary's have until the **19th of August** (the end of Week 5) to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge online.

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Mrs Balogh-Caristo (Teacher/Librarian)



Partnership

Cerdon College Year Nine

Students Working With Year Three

On Thursday, the 30th June, approximately forty-six students from Cerdon College, Merrylands, came to our school. These Year Nine students had been learning about the Eucharist in their RE unit so they came to our school to visit the Year Three students and teach them about it. The Cerdon College students, who were also interviewed by the STMM's Media Team, came with their teachers Miss Herrera, Miss Ackoui and Mrs Schinella. The students captivated each group of Year Three students with their impressive and well-presented work. Some students came up with an activity using the following: Kahoot, slideshow, presentations, games and even their own websites. Others made Google Slides, and used YouTube clips to explain the Eucharist. The students



entertained each group of Year Three students with their impressive and well-presented work and information. Their activities were inspiring for St Margaret Mary's students and "Food for thought" when faced with designing and presenting their own RE Assessments.

By Angelina Georges (Media Team)

Child Protection for Volunteers

Parents wishing to help out at St Margaret Mary's by either, helping on excursions, sporting activities or P&F fundraising must complete the following Building Child Safe Communities as part of the CEDP new Child Protection modules for parents.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Building Child Safe Communities – New procedures reminder for volunteers

Volunteers make a significant contribution to students and our community. As part of our new 'Building Child Safe Communities' initiatives, we request the following from volunteers:

Step 1: Complete the 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form for each volunteer location

[VOLUNTEER FORM](#)

Step 2: Complete the online training module – required every second year.

[TRAINING MODULE](#)

These can be accessed by visiting the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta homepage

<http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then scrolling down to 'Volunteers and Contractors – click here'.

Please contact your school if you require any assistance. We thank all volunteers for their continued support.

Teaching and Learning

Year Five Poetry

Happiness

By Aluel Juk

Happiness is food
spaghetti slithering down
my smooth lips
with spicy tomato
barbecue sauce
playing like a baby
with meat.

Happiness is a river
by a beach
with seagulls and bluebirds
chirping with joy
Quak! Quak!

Happiness is a bed
at night at home
with the heater in my room
And a bambillow pillow
comfortable with my pink
and bluish teddy bears.

Happiness is junk food
at KFC
Nothing is better than
drumstick chicken
I love the crispy chicken
and spicy sauce.

Friendship

By Kirpatric Manalansan

Friendship is God
Kind and loving
Forgiving and gentle
When we pray everyday
When we go to church.

Friendship is parents
Kind and loving
Happily and excitedly
Tickling me
At home.

Friendship is playful
Fun and games
Warm
And cool
On the playground.

Friendship is people
Kind and happy
Serious
But cool
In the world.

Memory

By Dilara Sarikci

Memory is a shell
Washed up on the sandy
beach
Music to my ears
As I listen to it in the night.

Memory is a puppet
Evil but sweet
That I saw in the circus long
ago
Makes you laugh till you fall
to your feet.

Memory is an egg
Warm, speckled and white
Held in my palm
With my fluffy, knitted glove.

Memory is a medal
Gold, shiny and bold
Waiting on my shiny shelf
To be taken back to my
grandpapa.

Action

By Aluel Juk

Balancing
Cat shifting
Falling and scared
Rain splattering on head
Kids flying kites for fun

Happiness

By Elizabeth McFarlane

Happiness is a beach
The sand between your toes
As you breathe in you can smell
the salty sea water
Then you fall
and your world comes to an end.

Happiness is family
As you run
into the open arms
of your mum
When the school bell rings.

Happiness is friends
Ones who you tell secrets
Ones who listen and try to help
If you have all these things in a
friend
Then they are a true friend.

Happiness is pets
As they jump up and push you
over
I fall with a thump
as I try to get up
Their slobber fills my face.



YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

MONSIGNOR MCGOVERN PORTRAIT PRIZE
2016
For Year 5 and Year 6 Students

5:00PM - 6:30PM
TUESDAY 26TH JULY

SENIOR STUDY
DELANY COLLEGE - GRIMWOOD STREET, GRANVILLE
EXHIBITION - 26TH JULY TO 31ST JULY

JUDGE: RENOWNED AUSTRALIAN POP ARTIST
MR JOHNNY ROMEO

AT Design

Freedom

By Anthony Lim

Freedom is land
Brown and green
On tropical a island
In 1916.

Freedom is fresh air
soft and fresh
Everywhere I go
In the city as well.

Freedom is a road
Long and rough
Far from home
In Spring.

Freedom is a mountain
Rocky and rough
In California
During Summer.

The Birds

Harrison Edwards

Fly!
Birds glide.
Soaring through air.
Happily thrusting past
people...
Thinking about dove.

Go!

By Elizabeth McFarlane

Zooming,
Harry rushed
Out the door
With his ears flapping,
And trunk up.

Jungle Mischief

By Danielle Horish

Run!
Elie stomped,
In the mud.
Monkeys swayed in the trees...
There's chaos in the Jungle.