



Diary Dates

Thursday, 30th November

Friday, 1st December

- Movember Shave 8:30am in the Hall.
- P&F Christmas Raffle Draw.

Sunday 3rd December

- 1st Sunday of Advent.

Monday, 4th December

- 8:40am Assembly and Advent Prayer Service.
- P&F Second Hand Uniform Shop
Open 9:00am—9:30am (after Assembly).

Tuesday, 5th November

Wednesday, 6th November

- Family Portrait Pick up from the Parish Centre 1:30pm—6:30pm.

Leaving

If you know your child/ren will not be returning to this school in 2018, please let the office know as soon as possible in writing. It is a CEDP Policy that **10 weeks notice** is given to the school, otherwise a full term of fees will be required to be paid prior to leaving the school.

Change of Details

If you have moved house or changed your contact details, please notify the school office as soon as possible to update your details in case of an emergency.

New School Phone Number

The new St Margaret Mary's School phone number is **8633 8400**.

Skoolbag App

All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our **School Name** for Skoolbag App is **SMMPM**.



Principal's Message

Advent? What Questions can I ASK?

Dear Parents, Boys & Girls,

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Baby Jesus is coming and we are called to prepare for his arrival. Just like parents waiting for the birth of their child, preparing for the birth of Jesus is meant to be a joyous season. This involves prayer, penance and fasting. *(Talk to your child about waiting for their birth).*

First we celebrate Christ-become-human. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and effective principles by which we can live true and worthwhile lives. God knew that we could not live alone and so Jesus formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. In that community we discover unlimited possibilities and meaning. Alone we can do nothing. Together we find real meaning. *(Talk to your child about being part of the Catholic community at StMM's Merrylands).*

When Christ left this earth, he did not abandon us. He remains with us in his Spirit, the Church, the sacraments, the Scriptures and each other. He lives in community with us and keeps his vision of life before us. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ. *(Talk to your child about your hope for them).*

Advent is our time to become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. Thus we are preparing not only for Christmas but also for Christ's Second Coming. This means that when he comes again, we will be awake and watchful. He will not find us asleep. *(Talk to your child about how you are involved in your faith journey).*

Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. *(Talk to your child about plans for the family's 2017 Christmas celebrations).*

May your preparations be built upon your deepening faith journey.



KEEP CALM
AND
CELEBRATE
ADVENT

Dear Father in heaven,
Our hearts desire the warmth of your love,
Our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour.
Give us the strength to grow in love,
That the dawn of his coming may find us,
Rejoicing in his presence,
Welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

Peace and Best Wishes,

Kevin Mills
Principal

Administration

Movember Great Shave

To celebrate the support and donations for our 'Grow a Mo for Men's Health' campaign this year, the men of STMM are going to be involved in The Great Shave on Friday, 1st December. This will be held at 8:30am in the hall. Student will be seated in their 'So Energetic' areas. Mrs Rizk will be in charge of the clippers!

Entry for parents is a gold coin donation. We are encouraging as many people to attend as possible. Hope to see you there!

Mr Maunick



Head Lice Alert

We have had a number of reported cases of head lice in different grades across the school. We ask that parents check and treat your child/ren's hair and wash bed linen & school hats accordingly. Head Lice are an ongoing problem within schools which can only be solved with parental support.

Principal's Morning Tea

Mr Mills will be holding the last Principal's Morning Tea for 2017, for Infants and Primary students, on Tuesday, 12th December. This is for students who have received an award for each of the Four Pillars during Term Four.

Important Dates for the End of 2017

Sunday, 3 rd December	1st Sunday of Advent.
Monday, 4 th December	Monday Morning Advent Prayer Service and Assembly.
Wednesday 6 th December	P&F Family Portrait Pick Up.
Thursday, 7 th December	Year Six Graduation Mass 6:00pm.
Friday, 8 th December	Whole School Thanks Giving Mass 9:00am. Year Six Graduation Dinner 6:00pm. Reports go home today with students
Sunday, 10 th December	2nd Sunday Advent.
Monday, 11 th December	Monday Morning Advent Prayer Service and Assembly. Year Six Aquatic Centre Fun Day.
Tuesday, 12 th December	Last Principals Morning Tea for 2017.
Wednesday, 13 th December	Whole School Christmas Concert.
Friday, 15 th December	School closes for students at 3:00pm.

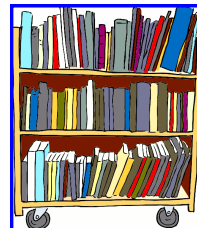
Important Dates for 2018

Monday, 29 th January	Staff return to school.
Tuesday, 30 th January	Years 1-6 MAI Testing. Kindergarten 2018 Best Start Assessment.
Wednesday, 31 st January	Years 1-6 MAI Testing. Kindergarten 2018 Best Start Assessment.
Thursday, 1 st February	Years 1-6 return to school. Kindergarten 2018 Best Start Assessment.
Friday, 2 nd February	Kindergarten 2018 start.

Library Books

All St Margaret Mary's library books are now **OVERDUE**. Please ensure your child/ren have returned all of their library books to the LARC, so our end of year stocktake process can begin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Balogh-Caristo



SCHOOL PHOTOS NEEDED

To complete the photo albums displayed at the School Museum to celebrate our school's 75th Anniversary we require your help to locate missing photos for the years 1975, 1976, 1980 and 1996.

If you or anyone you know has photos from these years it would be appreciated if you could contact the school on **8633-8400** or email an image of any photos directly to:

stmargaretmarysparra.catholic.du.au

Faith Community

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

"Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth"
(1 Jn 3:18)

As part of our Advent program, this year, our school is running a can drive for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. We are asking that students bring in a can of food, by Friday, 8th December which will be used as part of our Advent Prayer for the Second Week of Advent.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Anne Prendergast
REC



Infants Liturgy

The hall was filled to the brim on Friday as all of Infants gathered together with our families to pray. The theme of our liturgy was



"Mission: Helping Others". We shared the story of Zacchaeus and Mrs Prendergast reminded us that acts of Mission don't have to be huge, but can start with giving a kind word or smile to someone close to us.

We finished the liturgy by all getting up to sing and dance.

Thank you to all the parents and families who attended!



Year Five Prayer Service

Last Thursday, Year Five celebrated their last prayer service for the year. The theme of the prayer service was Reach out, Give life. During the prayer service

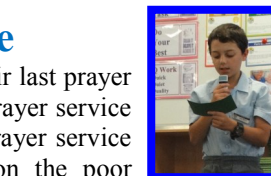


we reflected on the poor and the sick, especially in Uganda. We heard of many touching stories and how Catholic Mission is assisting the people of Uganda.

Thank you parents, for your time and support throughout the year. We appreciated you attending our prayer services and making them special.

On behalf of Year Five we just want to thank you and hope you all have a Merry Christmas.

By: Kobby & Precious



Teaching & Learning

Year Six Coding

Meow, Meow!! Year Six were learning how to code using the program Scratch. Scratch helps us to code and teaches us how to create simple games. We were very lucky to have Jason from the Department of Defence, Australian Government, instructing us on how to use it. Jason is part of the STEM Professionals in school program with the CSIRO. Year Six really enjoyed learning how to code. Thank you Jason for coming to help and also the Year Six teachers for organising this for us. This has been an awesome experience!

By Esther Geaitani & Krystelle Saliba (6Blue)



We learnt how to use the Cartesian plane in Scratch to place our sprites in a specific position. *Gerard*

We learnt that scripts are also called threads. The threads make things happen with the codes. *Raymond*

We learnt if you click on a sprite it can activate a command and that Maths helps a lot with coding. *Melvin*

I learnt that you could make animations on scratch with different frames. I also learnt that when you script something, it works the way it's scripted. *Jessie*

I made a new game with Scratch coding. I shared it with other students so they could play it. Everyone liked it. It was a target game. *Charbel E*



Year One Excursion

On Thursday, Year One packed into buses and headed off to Homebush. Our destination was Bicentennial Park, where we were going to learn about the traditions of the Aboriginal people from the area. We heard the Dreaming story about Gurigan the blue-tongued lizard, and even got to meet and touch a real lizard! We also met Petal, a 25-year-old long-necked turtle.

One of our favourite parts was making our own bracelets with coloured beads that we got to keep. It was a fantastic day and we learnt so much about the special relationship Aboriginal people have with the land, plants and animals.



Personal Growth

School Captain's Speeches

Year Five will be holding School Captain's speeches on Monday, 4th of December, at 11:30am in the Hall. The nominated students will be presenting their speeches to Year Four and Year Five. Parents are welcome to join us on the day. Your child will notify you if they have been nominated to present their speech. Year Five Teachers



BIRTHDAYS



Rachael Mansour

Amol Akoy

Gabriela Stanic

Jemima Afful

Michaela Sullay

Summer Shrestha

Celina Khouri

Isabella Blandon Cano

Ysabelle Jara

Sophia Tannous

Zahra Ibrahim

Gabriella Diab

Luke Choi

Roger Gao

Georgia-Lee McLeay

Natalie Falgiatori

Naydeen Poumale

Evan Kouvas

Grace Neculman

Aluel Hawach

Jolyne Vien

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

Partnership

Sport with Cerdon Students

On Tuesday, the 24th October, Wednesday, the 1st November, Tuesday, the 7th November and on Wednesday, the 15th November, Year Five had been going to the park with Year Ten students from Cerdon College. The Year Ten students were doing this for an assessment for PDHPE.



They separated us into seven groups. The Cerdon girls coached us by helping us learn the activities and making sure we did the right thing so we would not get hurt. Each group completed a different activity. Some students played dodge ball, soccer, netball, football and some played made up games. On the two Tuesdays each group had the same two or four Cerdon students coaching them. On Wednesdays a different group of students coached us. Year Five had a great time with the Cerdon coaches! We learnt a lot about cooperating and working as a team.



P & F News

Family Portraits

Family Portraits can be collected between 1:30pm –6:00pm from the Parish Centre. If you have any queries regarding the Family Portraits, please contact Mrs Pauline Poumale.

Christmas Raffle

Our Christmas raffle will be drawn on Friday, 1st December, 2017. The raffle will be drawn after the November Shave.

P&F Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held tonight. Please come along and support our school.

Time: Wednesday, 29th November, 6:30pm.

Place: The School Staffroom.

Agenda:

- Opening Prayer
- Minutes from previous Meeting
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Fundraising Report
- Election of New Committee for 2018
- General Business
- Meeting Close



Year Six Art Exhibition



Friendly Reminders

Chewing Gum

Parents are asked to remind their child/ren that chewing gum is not permitted at school.

Shoes and Socks

Students are reminded that they need to be wearing the correct footwear to school.

School shoes must be black lace up or .Velcro.

School socks must be the correct colour of light blue for girls and grey for boys.

Sports shoes must be predominantly white. Sport socks must be short white socks with turn over tops. No socks that are to wore that hide under the shoe.

We thank you for your support in this matter.



'GAME ON' SUMMER READING CLUB

Do you enjoy reading? How about getting rewarded for it?

Cumberland Library Service is running a Summer Reading Club for children and youth aged between 5 and 18 years old, from 11 December 2017 until Sunday 21 January 2018.

Come into your local library to pick up a free Starter's Pack and some books and start reading. For every 5 visits to the Library, you will receive a lucky dip and after 10 visits, you will receive an entry into our major prize draw. You can also enter our 'Book Review Competition' and 'Art Competition', for more chances to win!

To join, visit a branch today – Auburn Library, Granville Library, Greystanes Library, Guildford Library, Lidcombe Library, Merrylands Library, Regents Park Library, Wentworthville Library.

For more information see library staff or phone 9735 1399.



MERRYLANDS WEST SCHOOL & WORKWEAR CENTRE

Shop 9-10, Coolibah Centre
9-11 Sherwood Road
Merrylands NSW 2160
(Behind Pizza Hut)

P: 02 9637 4502 F: 02 9637 5859

E: mluniform@tpgi.com.au

****Lay-by Welcome****

Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-3

ALL YOUR UNIFORM NEEDS IN ONE PLACE...

- School uniforms for most local schools
- Grosby school shoes – 30% off second pair (equal or lesser value)
- Boys shirts, shorts and trousers
- Girls dresses, slacks, blouses and skirts
- School socks, sports socks, tights
- School back packs & laptop bags