



# St Margaret Mary's School

*Listen Share Act*

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Newsletter No 6

## Update

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

### Diary Dates

#### Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March

- Year Three Prayer Service  
2:15pm in Learning Space.

#### Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March

- Wear a green item of clothing for  
St Patricks Day.

#### Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March

- **St Patricks Day**

#### Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> March

- 8:40am Whole School Assembly  
and Prayer.

#### Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March

- Year Five Prayer Service  
2:15pm in Learning Space.

#### Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March

- Year Four Prayer Service  
2:15pm in Learning Space.

### St Patricks Day

To celebrate St Patricks Day students will be allowed to wear one item of clothing or accessory eg. green T-shirt, green socks, green shorts, green hair tie, bow, ribbon or a green hat. Students will still need to wear the rest of their school/sports uniform correctly.

### 2019 Enrolment

Kindergarten 2019 enrolments are now open. Enrolment forms can be collected from the school office.

### 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.

### 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**.



## Administration

### Attendance Month

#### **Attendance Month has begun!**

As you are probably aware, attendance at school has a huge impact on a student's academic success, starting in Kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day - they understand why attendance is so important for success in school and life.

We realise some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. However, we also know that when students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is absent. Absences can add up quickly and if a student is absent one day a fortnight over the course of a school year they will miss 20 days of education, which is almost half a school term.

#### **We know that research shows:**

Attendance affects achievement. Every day counts.

Attendance in Year One is predictive of the pattern in future years.

The effects of absence accumulate over time.

Absence in one year affects future academic achievement.

Sporadic absence can affect academic achievement as much as consecutive days of absence.

#### **Patterns of absence that cause concerns at school and office levels are:**

- Unexplained absences.
- Partial attendance and lateness.
- Absence on certain days of the week.
- Frequent presentation to sick bay.
- Long holidays in school time.
- Frequent medical explanations that are not supported by a medical action plan.

#### **We know that:**

- Students that are absent between 20 and 40 days per year lose 1-2 years over 10 school years.
- Students that are absent between 40 and 60 days per year lose 2-3 years of schooling over 10 years.
- Students that are absent for 60 or more days lose more than 3 years of school over 10 years.

We know all our parents want their children to achieve their academic and personal development potential at school, and trust that all of our families will work with us to achieve high rates of attendance and engagement in learning, this term and in the future.

### Car Pick Up

Just a reminder to parents joining the car pick line. You must join the line on the other side of Henson Street via Mason Street. You must **NOT** join the line from Davies Street, as this will allow the flow of traffic through Car Pick up. Double parking is illegal especially around schools.

### Monday Morning Assembly

On Monday morning, two people from the So Energetic crew announced to us that So Energetic will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting this week. We would also like to thank the Mini Vinnies group for the delicious treats they made for us to sell, enabling us to raise money for Project Compassion. Stage 3 were also thanked for representing our school at the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at Parramatta Riverside last Friday. Mr Mills reminded us about four important rules during this month, such as, wearing the right uniform at the right time and attending school everyday. astly to wear our hats everyday, otherwise no play, and to follow the pointers to keep everyone safe.

*By Jayden Nguyen and Raquel Nasr.*



# Faith Community

## Lent

The following passage is an extract from our Bishop's Homily for Ash Wednesday. I have also taken the liberty of converting his last paragraph into our school prayer for Lent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday, we begin a season of Lent which is meant to be a journey of renewal and transformation. Lent invites us to live the wilderness experience of Jesus, to walk the same long and hard road with him to Jerusalem and to embrace a discipleship of humility, weakness and vulnerability. The 40 days of Lent also remind us of the 40 years that God's people wandered in the wilderness. It was a challenging but transformative journey. For they were purified and cleansed of all that was unworthy of God. They grew not only in their understanding of who God was but also what it meant to be his people. The 40 years in the wilderness helped them live as a more humble, patient and faithful people.

The focus of Lent is not to give up certain things, to give away our surpluses and then to feel good about ourselves. Pope Francis says "I distrust the charity that costs nothing and doesn't hurt". Instead, he appeals to us to imitate Christ who became poor to make us rich. That means we have to live every day the self-emptying love of Christ. It is this divine compassion that makes us give not only our resources but our very selves. This is how, as St Paul says in the second reading, we can become ambassadors for Christ.

Project Compassion is about us becoming ambassadors for Christ. It is a means through which we express our communion, show solidarity and above all share the Good News of Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This year, the focus is to empower young people to lead their communities to a better, just, future. We stand in solidarity with young people living in poverty by giving alms to create real change. Let us through our support of Caritas Australia walk alongside those whose lives are threatened by poverty, conflict and injustice, and enable them to attain a life full of human dignity.

*Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD*

## Mini Vinnies

On Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, St Margaret Mary's had a "Purple Day" for Lent. Students wore purple mufti. Mini Vinnies held a cake stall with yummy treats like cupcakes, toffees, popcorn and lollies! We raised over \$1300 dollars for Project Compassion! Thank you to all the families for bringing in the food. It was a great day!

*By Zahra and Jayden*

## Holy Week Art Competition

Mini Vinnies will be having an art competition for Holy Week.

Create a poster of one of the following events of Holy Week;

- Palm Sunday
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday

Complete your poster on an A4 piece of paper.

You can use paint, pencils, crayons, textas and coloured paper to make your poster.

All artwork will displayed in the LARC for the whole school to see, so remember to put your name and class on the front of the poster.

The entry fee for the competition is \$1.00. All money raised will go to Project Compassion.

There will be prizes for each stage for the most creative poster.

All posters are to be given to Mrs Attard in Year Four by **Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.**



## Catholic Schools Week Liturgy

On Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, the St Margaret Mary's school community gathered in the hall to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Our theme for the liturgy was 'Opening Doors to the Future'. Mr Mills welcomed parents, friends, teachers and students and



reminded them of the importance of Catholic Schools and the amazing work they do. Year Five made bookmarks about the theme 'Opening Doors to the Future'. During the liturgy, Year Five distributed these bookmarks to

the parents and family members that were present. We would especially like to



thank Father Janusz for taking time out of his day to read the Gospel and share the Word of God with us.



## Personal Growth

### Cross Country

As the sweat trickles slowly down my face, my heart races, the finish line is in sight, I hear the crowd chanting, "Go, Go!" On Thursday,



8<sup>th</sup> March, primary students from StMM's competed in the School Cross Country at King Park. The 12 year old boys & girls ran first. What a race it was. The 11's, 10's, 9's & 8 year old boys & girls followed. Each race was close, the

tension could be cut with a knife, you could feel the rush of excitement tingling through their veins. In each age group students qualified to compete in the Zone Cross Country later on in the year. We'd like to thank Mrs Foley for the great organisation of the event and the students and teachers who helped on the day.



*By Matteo Luccitti & Sophie Hatter.*



## Partnership

### Easter Raffle

Each family should have received a book of raffle tickets for our Annual Easter Raffle. It is not compulsory to buy/sell these tickets.

You are very welcome to return unsold tickets to the office, to buy just one ticket, the whole book or even ask for more books from the office. The tickets are 50c each, 3 for \$1 or \$10 for the book.

Another reminder, if anyone has baskets of any size or sweet platters they no longer need, please donate them to the school for our Easter Raffle. Baskets and sweet platters can be left at the school office.

