



Term 3 Week 2

Wednesday 1st August 2018

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3 – and what a busy start we have had to the term. Last Monday we welcomed the students back to school with our Writing Installation and link to Book Week (which will happen later this term). It can be said that no students were eaten, but they did enjoy seeing the school playground transformed into a pirate's haven complete with a shipwreck and an old chest overflowing with treasures. The scene sets the tone for the school's Book Week festivities. The theme for Children's Book Week is "Find Your Treasure" so we could not resist creating a visual treat for the children. The scene is a fun way to begin the term, but it is also used to inspire the students to write creatively – please see inside the Newsletter for samples of students' writing and more photos from the day.



The other major event of Week 1 was our celebrations for Grandparents Day. Last Thursday we have over 250 visitors in our school for a Mass, Book Fair, Open Learning Spaces, a performance by our Choir and a fabulous Morning Tea hosted by our Parents and Friends. Thank you to the many parents who provided morning tea or transport for a Grandparent or two so they could really enjoy the day with their Grandchildren.

The Newsletter this week has a lot of information and important dates so please find some time to read through all the important details in this edition.

Have a fantastic week.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 3 2018

Wednesday 1st August	Year 1 Excursion
Tuesday 7th August	Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 8th August	Mary MacKillop Mass 9:15am
Tuesday 14th August	Book Week Parade—Come as your favourite character
Tuesday 14th August	ICAS Maths Competition
Wednesday 15th August	Feast of Assumption Years 3-6 Mass 9:15am
Thursday 16th August	Book Week Author Visit 9:30—2:30pm
Monday 20th August	BOOK WEEK
Monday 20th August	Life Education Visit (all week)
Tuesday 21st August	Netball Gala Day
Tuesday 21st August	Captivate Showcase Evening Performance
Wednesday 22nd August	Captivate Showcase Evening Performance
Thursday 23rd August	Diocesan Athletics Carnival

STAFFING UPDATE

Our Maintenance and Groundsman - Mr Frank Pagano recently accepted a position at Catherine McAuley at Westmead and will be finishing up at St Mary's this Friday. "Mr Frank" has been our Maintenance worker for the past 3 years and also works at two other schools in the Diocese. We are sad to see Frank leave but understand that working full time in one school is something he has been looking to do for some time. We wish him well in his new position. We are currently recruiting for a replacement.

BEFORE SCHOOL DROP OFF

We have noticed that a lot of children are being dropped off to school before 8:20am. At the beginning of each term we like to remind parents that supervision on the playground does not commence until 8:30am every morning. Therefore, NO children are to be dropped off to school before this time.

BASKETBALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

A final make up lesson is set for Tuesday 14th August. This is a make up lesson for one lost last term due to inclement weather. Details will also be emailed from No1 Draft Pick.

A SPECIAL THANKS

Our thanks to the St Mary's Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Association for their recent generous donation of \$10,486 which was used to purchase our fantastic picnic tables and complete some gutter work on the COLA. Thank you to all involved.

RECENT LAW CHANGES

New Law change gives the green light for teenagers to ride on footpaths. As students return from the winter holidays, they will no longer have to navigate traffic on busy roads while riding their bikes to school. Children aged up to 16-years-old are now legally allowed to ride on footpaths, after the NSW government overhauled regulations that forced children off footpaths and onto roads once they turned 12-years-old. See this article for more details...

<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/law-change-gives-green-light-for-teenagers-to-ride>

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

August 2	Joseph Sun
	Nixon Zwartzka
	Jack Denholm
August 3	Ryan Dzaru
August 4	Mitchell Biviano
	Elise Sultana
August 5	Sophia Bartosiak
August 6	Lachlan Pitchfork
August 7	Raymond Ghalloub
August 9	Nancyann Bogiso
	Mia Northwood
August 10	Ellie Smith
	John Choi
August 13	Samuel Myhill
August 14	Michela de la Roche
	Tadhg O'Riordan

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION

Congratulations to the 25 students who participated in the NSW Global ICAS Science competition. Two students were awarded Distinctions, three students received a Credit and one student received a Merit Certificate. Well done to all of our participants.

LOWES

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Shiver me timbers!

Last Monday our school was besieged by a plunderous pirate crew. They were led by an infamous Sea Captain who made the students enter the school by commanding they 'Walk the plank' and only look at the amazing treasure!



STAFF ARE LEARNING TOO

Apart from the whole staff attending a full day's professional learning we have had a number of staff involved in other learning opportunities recently – Miss Boidin, Mrs Gieriek and Miss Stevenson attended a Professional Learning Day in RE last week and Miss Tomasic and Mrs Atkinson have been working to complete a national survey on childhood development. This week we are hosting visitors from Texas to further develop our understanding of Project Based Learning (PBL) and this will involve teachers from Years 3, 4 and 5. Next week Mrs Morgan, Mrs Radocchia and Mr Blissenden will attend a 3 day course on PBL and Miss Stevenson and Mr Loudon will attend NAPLAN OnLine Training.

MR BLISSENDEN'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

The Holiday Challenge "Produce a Portrait" was very well received by the students with hundreds of entries. Mr Blissenden has started to share some of the associated stories from the portraits at assembly and there will be a lucky prize draw next Monday at the morning assembly.

FROM MRS RADOCCIA...

A BIG THANK YOU to all the grandparents and families who supported the Book Fair. It was a very successful day not only because the children have some wonderful new books, but also because I will be able to purchase many new titles for our library and for our students to share.

A special thank you to the following families who also donated books to the library: -

McNamara Family

Gilroy Family

Harris Family

Ogrizek Family

Hayes Family and the

Venkteshwar Family



A special thank you also to the mums who donated their time to help at the fair. Gabriella Biviano, Jayde Harris, Sam Keyser and Jenny Hayes. I couldn't have done it without you!

Everyone's support and generosity are very much appreciated.

Inspired by our "Find Your Treasure" day, here are a few creative samples of writing from our infants classes:

Story written by Ava in Year 1

"Ahoy!! Treasure!!" cried the Captain. The box was huge and smelt like treasure. I was excited. I wondered what it was! I was so excited, I carefully opened the box and I saw colourful gems and a pet rabbit and a colourful bird.

Story written by Lester in Year 2

Once upon a time there was a pirate named Tom. There was an evil cloud who blew strong wind. Tom's list was to find a map and treasure.

He drove his ship but he didn't know he was going in circles for two times! Finally he went straight forward and he found the map but the evil cloud was there too!

So Tom got a balloon out and filled it with water and placed it in a cannon and fired the balloon at the evil cloud but, it made him STRONGER! Then he fired a cannon ball at his mouth and he accidentally swallowed it and he exploded! But Tom's boat was stranded on the island. He said to himself, "At least I have the last cannon ball and the map".

The map said 2 islands after then turn right. It also said the evil cloud's dad was there too! So Tom took deep breaths and swam to the island. Tom was hungry by the way.

"Well, well, well", said Evil cloud's dad. "I can't be - WOOSH!

Tom tied a cannon ball with a rope and set it on fire and it whacked him. The evil cloud's dad melted. So Tom swam and got that treasure and got RICH! He used diamond blocks and made a boat. He went back home and ate a T.S.B. (taco spaghetti burger). He also slept for 2 hours.

He lived happily ever after!

