



Term 4 Week 6
Wednesday 18th November 2020
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DIARY DATES

TERM 4	2020
Thursday 19 th November	Coding ASP 3:30 – 4:30pm
Monday 23 rd November	Swimming Lessons Commence
Thursday 26 th November	Coding ASP 3:30 – 4:30pm
Thursday 3 rd December	Coding ASP 3:30 – 4:30pm
Friday 4 th December	Swimming Lessons Conclude
Tuesday 8 th December	Seasons Reconnector Session (Mrs Morgan's groups)
Thursday 10 th December	Seasons Reconnector Session (Mrs Violaris' group)
Thursday 10 th December	Coding ASP 3:30 – 4:30pm
Friday 11 th December	Year 6 Graduation Celebration
Monday 14 th December	End of Year Awards K-2 - 9:15am Yrs 3-6 - 10:00am
Monday 14 th December	Meet the 2021 Teachers 1:45 – 3:00pm
Monday 14 th December	Year 6 Graduation Mass
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 6 Fun Day – Motiv8
Wednesday 16 th December	Last day of term for students
Thursday 17 th December	Staff Development Day
Friday 18 th December	Staff Development Day

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven. This parable teaches that our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and each other.

We are fast approaching the end of the school year and we are also fast approaching the end of another kind of year—the Church year. Next Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church year. The following Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, marks the beginning of a new Church year.

May we be grateful for the way in which people within our community and in the wider community have used their talents and gifts this year to support each other. May we continue to use our talents in the year ahead in the service of others. We pray together for God's help to use our talents wisely:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their talents for the good of all people, making the world a fairer place for everyone to live.

We pray for all children around the world: that they may all have the chance to learn new skills and to use their talents to make the world a better place.

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may not hide our talents away, but instead use them to help others, especially people who are in need.

Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us to listen to those in need. You gave us talents.

Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

Have a wonderful week.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL

MATHS OLYMPIAD

Congratulations to the following students for competing in the 2020 Intra-School Maths Olympiad:

Tadhg O
Alexander T
Keira D
Sanderson K
Kaisei D
Kayla G
Joseph N
Misha K
Rachael G
Charlotte L

YEAR 6 GRADUATION DONATION

We would like to thank Blacksheep Espresso for their generous donation towards our Year 6 Graduation. Please support this local business.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

November 18	Chase M Samuel B
November 19	Sophie C
November 20	Skye H Serena G Ho Yin A
November 21	Luca B Chloe M
November 24	Nikita A
November 25	Isabella N
November 27	Gabriella W
November 29	Torie S
December 1	Olivia A

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

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate one of our former students, Maddison Boulous, on being selected as Vice Captain at St Patrick's Marist College for 2021. Well done Maddison, and best of luck next year!

PRINCIPAL AWARDS **TERM 4—Week 6**



KB	Mikayla M & Lisa D
KGT	Enya L & Mikako D
1A	Judah M & Cooper S
1D	Ezekiel M & Adeline T
2FM	Flynn Y & Wilson C
2RM	Isabella C & Jackson N
3G	Molly L & Xavier C
3J	Samuel C & Yomika D
4D	Olivia R & Alessandro B
4R	Matthias N & Lachlan P
5E	Mya C & Flynn S
5K	Madison C & Rachel G
6K	Keira D & Elizabeth S
6LV	Sanderson K & Kayla G

CARE AWARDS **TERM 4—Week 6**



KB	Chantelle G & Arya W
KGT	Elina S & Myles C
1A	Patrick D & Millie P
1D	Olivia W & Serena G
2FM	Kira M & Jason D
2RM	Alexia J & Gabriel P
3G	Michael K & Alexander M
3J	Justin H & Josephine L
4D	Ailish M & Samuel V
4R	Isabella R & Torie S
5E	Ava C & Hyun S
5K	Ryder A & Kristina A
6K	Amber A & Dominic J
6LV	Jordan W & Samuel N

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

LEAVING ST MARY'S AT THE END OF THIS YEAR? (Excluding Year 6 moving to High School)

It is a legal requirement that parents advise the school office in writing:

- The last day of attendance at St Mary's
- Name of the new school your child/ren will be attending
- Any changes to contact information

Please ensure:

- All library books and reading books are returned
- Collect all your child's belongings from the classroom
- An arrangement has been put in place for any outstanding school fees
- Unwanted uniforms are always appreciated as they are added to the secondhand uniform shop.

Please Note: A full term's notice in writing must be received before the parent/guardian terminates the student's enrolment during Terms 1,2 & 3. If sufficient notice is not given, the parent/guardian is to pay the school one terms school fees including any Diocesan fees applicable. Notice is accepted anytime during Term 4.

TIME TO COOK

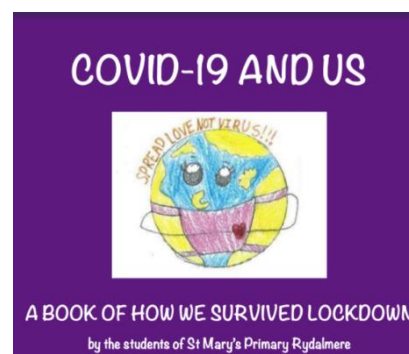
Copies of the Principal's Holiday Challenge "Time To Cook" are available at the office for just \$5 each. The compilation recipe book could make a great Christmas Gift for a family member or friend. Simply send \$5 in an envelope with your name, your child's name and their class and we will send home a copy of this spectacular (and quite tasty) publication!

TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

Last week the staff participated in a Staff Spiritual Formation Day. The day had a focus on the message of "Hope and Joy" – and was led by our Religious Education Co-ordinator – Mr Knight. Thank you to all our families for making arrangements for their child last Monday. In the past fortnight Mr Blissenden and Mrs Gosper have had a number of Zoom professional learning opportunities and a number of staff have continued their learning in understanding the draft new Religious curriculum.

COVID-19 AND US

Last week we reported via the Principal's Update that not only had we produced our own hard cover book of student work about the pandemic, but it was also available on the student borrowing portal - SORA. This week we are excited to report that our publication is being promoted by CNet (Catholic Education Network which links Catholic Schools across NSW, Queensland, ACT and Tasmania). Students in Catholic Schools in these states can read our book. Congratulations to Mrs Radocchia for all her hard work on this project!



FROM MR BLISSENDEN... cont

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO P&F TERM 4

Last night I was able to share some updates and information with the parents at the General Meeting – here are some of the points covered:

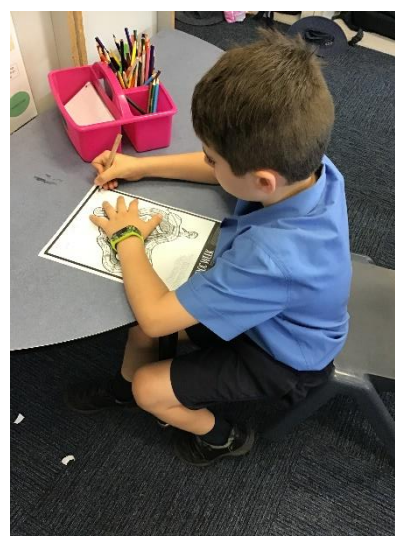
Term 4

- Conducted an information evening for 2021 Kindergarten families with lots of assistance from current parents and staff – making it a very successful evening
- Opened our new play equipment
- Continued implementing the “You Can Do It Programme”
- Successful albeit a different Book Week
- External WHS audit
- World Teachers Day – wonderfully supported by the P&F Executive / Class Parents
- RE - Staff Development Day – Thanks for having your child looked after for the day. Our focus was on “Hope and Joy” incorporating the dispositions of the new draft RE curriculum – Head Heart and Hands
- Literacy and Numeracy - Examining our data which shows some excellent growth for many students

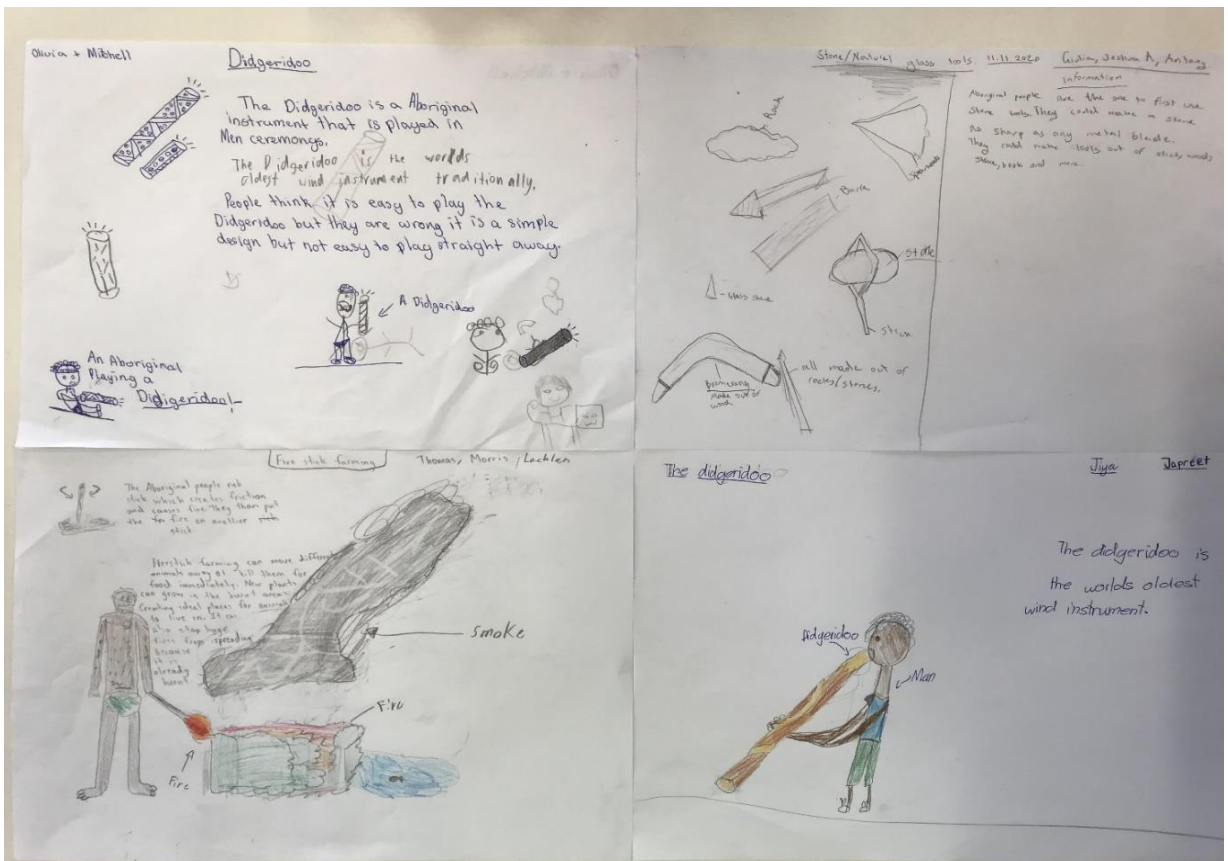


**The last day of school for students for 2020 is
Wednesday, 16th December!**

NAIDOC WEEK ILLUSTRATIONS... Yrs 1 & 2



NAIDOC WEEK ILLUSTRATIONS... Yrs 3 & 4



LET'S HAVE SOME FUN...



CRAZY HAIR DAY

Gold Coin Donation

Friday 20th November 2020

**JOIN IN THE FUN,
FOR CRAZY HAIR DAY!**

A gold coin is appreciated for your crazy hair! Proceeds raised will be donated towards the 2020 Year 6 End-of-Year Graduation Events (Year 6 thanks you all in advance)

For Crazy Hair - consider adding a ribbon or headband, wearing a wig or temporary hair spray.

Nutrition Snippet

SILLY SEASON SNACKS.

Healthy party food doesn't have to be boring!



Try these healthy ideas:

- [Christmas tree pizzas](#)
- [Banana pikelet](#) reindeer
- [Tzatziki](#) snowman vegetable platter

Find more healthy party snack ideas at healthylunchbox.com.au

healthylunchbox.com.au



Nutrition Snippet

SUMMER FRUIT AND VEG.



Try these summer sizzlers:

- [Lamb and veg meatballs](#)
- [Coleslaw](#)
- [Frozen fruit puree](#)

Check out our [blog](#) to find out more about what's in season.

healthylunchbox.com.au



ParentBrief



Solutions for an under-achieving child

Every kid is unique. No child is the same when it comes to temperament, interests, activities, capabilities, strengths and talents. The same goes for their motivation to achieve. When a child's unique needs are not sufficiently understood and catered for, motivation drops, and they are at risk of **underachieving**. For different reasons, it is common for children and adolescents to achieve at a lower level than they are capable of – this is what is meant by under-achievement.

This can be quite frustrating and scary for parents.

Light at the end of the tunnel

Sometimes we might think there is nothing else we can do for our child to help him or her perform better at school. We might feel like we are in a big black tunnel with no light at the end.

However, it is worth knowing that many students recycle into achievement at various stages of their schooling. Some do so because of a favourite teacher who maintained an interest and faith in them over the years and whom students remember as making a big difference.

Others recycle because their parents were sensible enough not to withdraw them from extracurricular activities as punishment for their poor performance at school. For some students, the confidence they receive from their hobbies and activities enables them to take the risk of trying once again in their schoolwork.

5 steps to helping an under-achieving child

When this happens, you will want an action plan to turn things around. If you have a child who is under-achieving, here are five steps you can take:

Step #1: Call a family meeting

- Identify any barriers to schoolwork
- If additional coaching or mentorship is needed, decide on ways to resolve this
- Talk about ways to provide your child with necessary structure and support
- Discuss, and where possible resolve issues such as criticism, teasing, sibling fighting, or any other existing family conflict
- Where possible create a studyspace
- Communicate realistic expectations

Step #2: Schedule a parent-teacher interview

- Email or phone the teacher to make an appointment
- Set out in the email the purpose of the interview
- Share your concerns with the teacher, indicating your willingness to enter into a partnership to address the problem
- At interview, establish that your child is in fact underachieving, and the teacher's viewpoint as to reasons why
- Identify your child's learning style and how to work with it
- Establish regular communication with the teacher to put plans into action

Step #3: Doing it tough and persisting

- Ensure your child takes responsibility for completion of ALL schoolwork, not just work he/she finds interesting
- Help with homework where possible
- Find someone interested in his/her welfare and progress at school (one or other parent, grandparent, relative, family friend). Ensure your child reports on a regular basis
- Offer appropriate praise for persistence

Step #4: Provide frequent reinforcement for effort

- Focus on current and future progress, not past under-achievement
- Put personal expectations on the backburner
- Provide positive reinforcement immediately following achieving behaviour or attitude
- Encourage, smile, be enthusiastic

Step #5: Monitor ongoing progress for all to see

- Establish with your child's teacher how to keep track of progress on a daily basis
- Visually display a representation (graph, spreadsheet) of the progress of your child's work
- For younger children, introduce incentives – gold stars, happy stickers
- For older children, establish privileges and rewards