



# St Mary's Rydalmere Newsletter

Term 4 Week 10  
Wednesday 14th December 2016  
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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,  
As we approach Christmas this year, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone in our community who has worked so hard to make our school a fantastic place to learn and work. We are very lucky to have a wonderful staff, supportive parents and happy students. Being part of the Holy Name of Mary Parish, we are also blessed to have Fr Peter who is always happy to work with us and make our faith community stronger.

As this is the last Newsletter of the year please find enclosed acknowledgement of student leaders for 2017, a list of staffing for 2017 and information about starting the new school year (see Diary Dates).

### **A Prayer for Christmas Morning**

by Robert Louis Stevenson

**The day of joy returns**, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

**Help us** rightly to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

**Close the doors** of hate and open the doors of love all over the world.

**Let kindness** come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

**Deliver us** from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. **May the Christmas morning** make us happy to be thy children,

**And the Christmas evening** bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake.

**Amen**

From my family to yours I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Richard Blissenden  
PRINCIPAL



*Why does Santa have 3 gardens? Because he likes to ho ho ho!*

## **DIARY DATES**

### **TERM 4 2016**

**Thursday**      **Swimming Carnival**  
**15th Dec**      **Yrs 2-6**

**Friday**        **End of Year Mass**  
**16th Dec**      **9:15am**

**Friday**        **School Concludes for**  
**16th Dec**      **Students**

**Monday**      **Staff Development Day**  
**19th Dec**      **PUPIL FREE**

**Tuesday**     **Staff Development Day**  
**20th Dec**     **PUPIL FREE**

### **TERM 1 2017**

**Friday**        **MAI Testing Yrs 1-6**  
**27th Jan**     **Kinder Testing**

**Monday**      **MAI Testing Years 1-6**  
**30th Jan**     **Kinder Testing**

**Tuesday**     **School Commences**  
**31st Jan**     **Years 1-6**

**Tuesday**     **Kinder Testing**  
**31st Jan**

**Wednesday** **Kinder Testing**  
**1st Feb**

**Thursday**    **School Commences for**  
**2nd Feb**      **Kindergarten**

**Thursday**    **Kinder Parents Tea**  
**2nd Feb**      **& Tissues—9:00am**

**RECENT PROMOTIONAL FLYER**

Over the past weekend we distributed a new flyer about our school to local addresses. You may have received one at your home! If you know of a family looking for enrolment at our local Catholic School please feel free to pass it along to them. We currently have vacancies in some grades from Year 1 to Year 6.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Thank you to the hundreds of parents who joined us on the 1<sup>st</sup> December for our Christmas Concert. It was a wonderful celebration of song, sacred scripture and song. The children enjoyed sharing the Christmas story. Special thanks to Miss Rebecca Boidin for her co-ordination of the event, to Mrs Kirkness for her integral dance moves, Mrs Dennis for arranging Ben from Teaching Services Australia to run the PA on the night and our staff who prepared the children, were present on the night and even brought their own family members. It was a wonderful group effort!

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

December 14	Ethan Rauniyar Nathaniel Nann
December 15	Sophia Younes
December 18	Sohan Rodrigo
December 19	Maddison Fairall
December 23	Giovanna Younis
December 25	Misha Kim
December 26	Alyssa Villena
December 28	Mikayla Cotsinis
December 29	Amy Malone Lester Wu
December 30	Sienna Percovich
December 31	Alexander Jalil Blake White Alexander Teschke Gus Gilroy

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

**COUNTERACTING SUMMER READING LOSS**

(a phenomenon where students reading skills regress from the end of one year to the start of another.)

Research has shown that not having access to books during the summer holidays can result in a regression of skills of up to 2 months each summer. Research suggests that the key ingredients include:

- ◆ Students choosing their own books based on their interests; this is especially important for early readers; matching books to students' reading levels is less important than interest;
- ◆ Students getting 10-12 books for the summer;
- ◆ Students owning the books (versus borrowing them);
- ◆ Students getting series books with familiar language and literacy elements;
- ◆ Students selecting slightly more challenging books each summer;
- ◆ Students getting e-book or audio formats that provide access to more challenging material;
- ◆ Teachers and parents framing summer reading as fun rather than work, with the goal being enjoyment and exploration rather than remediation and achievement gains.

Additionally students are encouraged to join the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge, visit our Library on its Family Open Day and share pictures of great places to read!



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

### CLASS TEACHERS FOR 2017

Below we have listed the 2017 teaching staff:

Kindergarten	Mrs Atkinson (KA) & Miss Tomasic (KT)
Year 1	Mrs Fulwood (1F) & Mrs Rheinberger (1R)
Year 2	Mrs Brewster (2B) Mrs Morgan & Mrs Violaris (2MV)
Year 3	Mrs Gierak (3G) & Mr Shaw (3S)
Year 4	Mrs Jordan (4J) & Mrs Kemp (4K)
Year 5	Mrs Egan (5E) & Mr Loudon (5L)
Year 6	Miss Boidin (6B) & Mr Wheadon (6W)
Drama	Mrs Kirkness
Sport	Miss Gonnett
Music	Mrs Dennis
Library	Mrs Radocchia
Learning Support	Mrs Waterhouse

### STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2017

Congratulations to our Student Leaders for 2017 who were announced to the school community on Monday at our Awards Ceremony -

School Captains	Eve Kannemeyer and Ben Fairall
MacKillop Captain	Carissa Gallagher
McCaffery Captain	Leah Kim
MacKinnon Captain	Oliver Homann
Tarrant Captain	Lillyan Ward
Student Team Leader	Hannah Jalil
Student Team Leader	Zane White
Student Team Leader	Elizabeth Hogan
Student Team Leader	Annika Byrne

*We would like to wish all of our  
St Mary's families a very  
happy, joyous and safe  
Christmas and we look forward  
to seeing you all back in 2017!!*



