



Term 1 Week 2

Wednesday 7th February 2018

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Do you know the difference between an optimist and a pessimist? Well, the optimist laughs to forget and the pessimist forgets to laugh. Perhaps during the holiday break, you found yourself moving in and out of the two camps. Whatever your state of humour, welcome to the new School Year.

Even though the holidays are over, our role as parents continues and picks up again on being co-partners in the education of our children. As we all know, education goes beyond imparting facts and information, it also entails the imparting of the values of the community. Because of our choice to send our children to this school, the values that are imparted are those of a Christian community. We live in a time when the broader community's values and Christian values continue to diverge; more than ever there is a need for Christian values to be lived and witnessed equally in the school, the Church and the home.

If we simply exist within the broader community, we can come to a point where we give up our Christian beliefs, values and ideals and eventually stand for nothing. In her book, *North of the Orient*, Anne Lindbergh tells about the oriental symbolism of trees: the bamboo stands for prosperity; the pine for long life; the plum tree suggests courage, because it puts out blossoms while the snow is still on the ground. Christians might adopt the plum tree as their symbol and show Christ-like attitudes when they are needed most: be kind and forgiving to those who hold opposite opinions and might be aggressive towards us; stand up for moral ideals when it is contrary to popular opinion; have the courage and strength to do the difficult things by "putting out our blossoms" when it is not easy to do so.

We all know the effect on children, if parents are not in harmony with each other within the family. The same effect is present if there is a lack of harmony between teacher and parent, between school and the home. The chief purpose of this Catholic school is to help parents bring up their children in the Catholic faith as well as providing a sound comprehensive education. The whole school community is responsible for creating a climate in the school that is permeated by the Gospel Spirit of freedom and love. When students observe their parents sharing common beliefs, attitudes and values, they feel more secure and purposeful within their own lives.

"God, we ask You to be ever with us in our role of Christian parenting. As Christian parents, we have chosen to proclaim You to our children in a clear and unmistakable manner. May Your truths be strong within us and may Your Spirit enable us to nurture our children with wisdom and authority. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2018

Thursday Parent Information Night
8th February 6:15pm—Year 2

Friday Opening School Mass
9th February 9:15am

Friday Kinder in the Park
9th February From 3:30pm

Tuesday Cumberland Zone
13th February Swimming Carnival

Wednesday Ash Wednesday Mass
14th February 9:15am—Years 3-6

Friday Diocesan Swimming
23rd February Carnival, Blacktown

Monday OOSH Meeting 6:00pm
26th February

Tuesday Band—Parent Information
27th February Evening 6:30pm

Tuesday P&F Meeting 7:00pm
27th February

Monday CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
5th March COMMENCES

Monday CSW Liturgy 9:15am
5th March Open Classrooms K-6
10:00am—10:50am

Friday Open Day
9th March Open Classrooms for
Prospective Parents
9:15—10:45am

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child. If you intend taking your child out of school for five days or more you must make a **formal application in writing** to me and fill out an application for extended leave which is available from the school office once we have received your written application. It is important for you to know that, depending on circumstances, this leave may not be granted. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress. These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and I know you will understand the reasoning behind them.

SCHOOL FEES

The first instalment school fee invoices for the year will be mailed to families by 19th February 2018 along with information regarding options for flexible payment plans. All queries regarding school fees should be directed to Susan in the office.

CHILD PROTECTION

To be able to assist in the classroom, on excursions etc you need to complete the Child Protection Course. This can be done online at:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au>.

Once you have completed the online course we will be notified.

The Course **MUST** be completed every two (2) years. Our records show that a number of parents are now unable to work in the classroom etc as their time has lapsed. If you are unsure whether you are still covered, please contact Angela in the school office.

TWITTER

This year you can follow all grades via the school twitter account @StMarysRydal your one stop shop for all things twitter!

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING POOL

Our Pre-Loved Clothing Pool will be open **every Friday morning between 8:30 and 9:30am**. If you have any uniforms that you would like to donate to our clothing pool, please drop them into the office.

LINDA'S LUNCHES

A reminder that Linda's Lunches are available on a Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please write your order on a brown paper or clip lock bag and place it in the order box outside the school office.

SCHOOL BANKING

School banking will be processed on Monday mornings. All bank books **must** be dropped into the office before the bell. If you would like your child to start school banking, please see Stacey in the office.

KISS AND PICK UP

We have sent home a note regarding volunteers for Kiss and Pick up in the afternoon. Thank you to those parents who have offered their time already. If you are able to assist please send your preferences into the office as soon as possible.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

This year our Assemblies will take a slightly different form. To promote "*Making Our Learning Seen*" grades will be hosting the 'Learning Assembly' in their spaces. Students from other grades will visit the host grade, interact with the students as they present and share their learnings during the nominated day. Parents will then be invited into the space to view work and share in the learning that has happened in the host grade from 2.30pm on that nominated day. Details will follow but we hope this will give students more opportunities to 'present' and also give parents more opportunities to see what is happening in the school.

PE/DANCE/DRAMA

Mrs Kirkness will be taking all classes for sport this year—replacing Miss Gonnert. Class teachers will incorporate Drama and Mrs Kirkness will teach Dance and PE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr Blissenden's Top Tips for a successful 2018

As we start the year I'd like to share some tips on setting yourself and your child up for a successful year...

1. **Ask about your child's day** - Stay involved in your child's education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.
2. **Let your child see you making mistakes** - Parents are their child's first teacher and their life time teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it's not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.
3. **Keep up to date with what is happening at school** - Check for the Newsletter each fortnight and read through all the information, note important dates on your family calendar or in your electronic calendar. You can also follow what is happening on our website and by using the SkoolBag app. Show your child you value education and they will too.
4. **Don't tell your child that you weren't good at school** - ("I was never a good speller" or "I couldn't do maths"). Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of talking with their children about maths, especially in the upper grades, but maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they're not frightened by numbers. Make learning fun!
5. **Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist** - Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to high school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist or photograph of the items by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.
6. **Don't compare your child with others** - Don't put pressure on children to be just like others. There's no such thing as the child that's like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges.
7. **Help your child make connections to literature** - To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don't have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it's hard for them.
8. **Don't do everything for your child.** - Sometimes it's faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don't learn take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

CLASS TEACHERS FOR 2018

Below we have listed the 2018 teaching staff:

Kindergarten	Mrs Atkinson (KA) Miss Tomasic (KT)
Year 1	Mrs Rheinberger (1R) Miss Webb (1W)
Year 2	Mr Horne (2H) Mrs McFarlane (2M)
Year 3	Mrs Gierek (3G) Miss Stevenson (3S)
Year 4	Mrs Jordan (4J) Mrs Kemp (4K)
Year 5	Mrs Egan (5E) Mr Loudon (5LV) / Mrs Violaris (5LV)
Year 6	Miss Boidin (6B) Mr Kroon (6K)
PE/Dance	Mrs Kirkness
Music	Mrs Dennis
Library	Mrs Radocchia
Learning Support	Mrs Waterhouse
Leadership Team	
Release	Mrs Morgan (1R/4J/4K) Mrs Kirkness (6B) Mrs Gillies (KA)

STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2018

Congratulations to our Student Leaders for 2018:

School Captains

Josephine Keyser
Cooper Frain

House Captains

MacKillop:	Mia Northwood
McCaffery:	Larissa Laguzza
MacKinnon:	Tara Newby
Tarrant:	Anthony Asfour

Student Team Leaders

Cristiano Sobral
Zechariah Acosta
Emma Biviano
Annalies Marsh

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

January 2	Gianluca Alcuri Oscar Libbert
January 3	Kaisei Doggett
January 5	Anthony Asfour
January 6	Mia Lucas Brown
January 7	Luke Porter Alyssa Menin Alyssa Tetto
January 8	Riley Watson
January 10	Irene Baek
January 11	Cecilia Homann Mya Carr Sara Sangachhe Audrey Tomasoni
January 12	Marcus Schembri-Green Dylan Napoli Benjamin Lambert
January 13	Isaac Vinton Hugh Porter
January 15	William Sultana
January 16	Lucas Nassima
January 17	Jonas Pellegriti
January 19	Heidi Waddell Sirat Ghangas
January 20	Anson Yang
January 21	Tara Newby
January 23	Misa Simili
January 26	Anthony Scott
January 27	Olivia-Rose Boumalhab
January 29	Arsh Kanwar Priscilla Miller
January 30	Anahita Wu
February 1	Benjamin Rust Justin Habchy
February 4	James Flint Arabela Martinez Scarlett Silvera
February 7	Madison Cantrill Annabella Canale
February 8	Aaron Singh
February 9	Beau Myhill
February 10	Hope Bailey
February 12	Hayley Ghalloub
February 13	Orlando Ballout
February 14	Bianca Tandean
February 15	Romaisa Malik
February 16	Isabella Ward
February 20	

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