



Term 1 Week 4
Wednesday 21st February 2018
Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere
Ph: 8844 5700 Fax: 8844 5799
Email: stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

On occasion, it can be quite refreshing when an alternative is offered to something that makes us think that we have "heard it all before", such as:

- On the other hand – you have different fingers!
- To make a long story short – don't tell it!
- Latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people – make up 75% of the world's population.

With the Season of Lent upon us and the old problem of "what to give up for lent" circling around us, perhaps the following might offer some new alternatives:

- Fast from anger and hatred – be more patient and understanding.
- Fast from judging others – think kindly thoughts.
- Fast from discouragement – be full of hope.
- Fast from complaining – focus on gratitude.
- Fast from resentment or bitterness – turn to forgiveness.

The Season of Lent is a time to review the past, admit to our shortcomings, reaffirm our commitment to the higher values that we had actually lived, and prepare ourselves to try harder in the year ahead. It is a time to acknowledge our less than best choices and to feel sorry for the lost opportunities; it is a time to have a clean room to offer the new life of Easter.

The name "Lent" came from an Anglo- Saxon word, "Leetem", which simply means Spring. Easter is always the first moon on or after the first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere. This association of Lent and Spring can carry with it the comparison of our house needing and having a spring cleaning after the difficulties and restrictions of winter, and our spirituality needing a spring cleaning after a year of negative influences and trying to live up to the ideals of being like Christ to others.

"Jesus, May we be encouraged this Lent as we reflect on the difficulties You had in Your life. Give us a like courage to face the challenges that daily enter our lives. Lead us to the joy of resurrection. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2018

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

Tuesday Cross Country
13th March Years 2-6

Tuesday Phil Kettle Writing
20th March Workshop Incursion
Years 3-6

Wednesday Harmony Day
21st March

LUNCH CLUB

This term there will be a lunch club running every Thursday, at lunchtime, for students in Stage 2 (approximately 15 students). The students will be able to play board games and use lego. The lunch club will be supervised by Jeanette Mansour, the school counsellor.

FROM THE P&F...

We need a new Treasurer! Our Treasurer has had to resign and this is a key role for the P&F. It does not require accounting skills but you do need to be familiar with internet banking and basic Excel. We have plenty of people to help and provide information about the role. We will elect a new Treasurer at our Term 1 Meeting on Tues 27th Feb. If you are interested or would like some more information, please see Catherine at school pick up or drop off or email her c.dolle-samuel@unsw.edu.au

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



February 26	Brian Lim
February 27	Gordon Boulous
February 28	Charlie Fang Hannah Peaty
February 29	Ava Alim
March 1	Stephen Azar Sarah Scott Ava Libbert
March 4	Sarah Nam

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

SCHOOL FEE STATEMENTS—Term 1 2018

We have been advised by CEO that there has been a delay in the posting of the school fee statements. Statements should be received in the mail by the end of this week along with information regarding flexible payment plans (FPP). All application forms for FPPs must be returned as per the instructions by Friday 9 March 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Susan in the School Office.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 1—Week 4



KA	Nixon Zwatzka & Harry Gilroy
KT	Alexander Johnson & Natasha Moore
1R	Mina Simili & Xavier Cooper
1W	Xianjin Burgarin & Hayley Ghalloub
2H	Thomas Lowery & Torie Shi
2M	Daashan Wu & Jacinta Boustani
3G	Jackson Henstock & Audrey Lampasona
3S	Eleanor Park & Xavier McGilly
4J	Sienna Trovato & Eugene Jung
4K	Keira Dixon & Thomas Hill
5E	Kingston Luburic & Liam Storey
5LV	Max Di Sano & Luca McGilly
6B	Catherine Lim & Beau Myhill
6K	Laila Riccardi & Lucy Goss

CARE AWARDS
TERM 1—Week 4



KA	Matilda Casey & Zion Kim
KT	Matilda Salter & Archer Weeden
1R	Manuel Sabella & Minnie Elliot
1W	Vianna Kwok & Amelia Marsh
2H	Mia Lucas-Brown & Brody Newby
2M	Isabella Ribera & Lester Wu
3G	Jacob Nassima & Sarah Scott
3S	Robert Flint & Isabel Kable
4J	Katerina Hart & Samuel Nassima
4K	Elise Sultana & Lucas Piper
5E	Leah Kolosakas & Mathew Cotsinis
5LV	Luke Heiler & Marcus Scrivener
6B	Anthony Asfour & Chris Padden
6K	Larissa Laguzza & Mia Northwood

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

CHRISTMAS CARDS

At the end of last year students were invited to write Christmas Cards to people living in Nursing Homes, Retirement Villages and to people in Hospital. Last week we received a phone call thanking us for the time taken to write to these members of the community and wish them a Happy and Holy Christmas. It was so nice to receive the phone call about how much joy this simple gesture brought an older member of our wider community.

DATE CLAIMER

Please keep the evening of the **7th March** clear in your diary. The P&F are hosting a **Cyber Safety Presentation** (6.30pm for tea and coffee for a 7pm presentation) in the Library. This is an important evening not to be missed.

COLES SPORTS VOUCHERS

St Mary's has a connection with Ngalangangpum School in Western Australia – in past years students from our school and Ngalangangpum have communicated and recently one of our families visited while traveling around Australia. The school has contacted us to see if we had any Coles Sports Vouchers we might not be redeeming. As we do not have any current sporting equipment needs we thought that some outreach and support of Ngalangangpum would be an appropriate use of the vouchers. If you have some vouchers and would like to support this school in WA please send your vouchers to the office. Thank you in advance for your support.

SKOOLBAG

During the week the Admin Console for Skoolbag was updated. The new features include an easy email option for messages. It requires a once off sign in and the adding of your email address. This also allows you to subscribe to individual grades so if a push notification or email message specific only to that grade is sent you will receive the most appropriate information. A handy improvement to the app.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

In my reading of some professional journals this week, the author was at pains to make the connection about a student's attendance and their achievement at school and the following line stood out. There is clear evidence that there is a link between attendance and subsequent ***health, wealth and happiness*** in later life. This starts in the early years! Our current attendance is very good – thank you for all your efforts here.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING

Any young parishioner in Year 4 or above who would like to become an altar server are invited to attend training sessions in the church after school on 27th February at 3.30pm. Prospective altar servers must have made their First Holy Communion.

GRADE	LIBRARY DAY	SPORTS DAY
Kindergarten	Wednesday	Thursday and Friday
Year 1	Tuesday	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Tuesday	Thursday and Friday
Year 3	Thursday	Wednesday and Friday
Year 4	Wednesday	Wednesday and Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday	Thursday and Friday
Year 6	Friday	Thursday and Friday

PBS—ANTI BULLYING...

In Term 1 of each year, a Positive Behaviour Program is taught in each grade K-6. This program incorporates social skill development, anti-bullying strategies (based on the Peer Support Foundation Anti-Bullying Program) and behavioural expectations. This results in the formulation of class rules and consequences.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an explanation of our Anti-Bullying Program, and how we deal with bullying at school.

At the bottom of the form is a slip for parents to request to be advised whenever their child is interviewed by our teachers/principal. It is of utmost importance that you return this slip to the school office at your earliest possible convenience. Ideally, if you would like to be advised, we would like the forms to be returned **no later than Friday 2nd March**.

NEW CHANGES TO SCHOOL ZONES...

Get caught queuing across an intersection in a school zone and you'll now be hit with a \$439 fine. Recent changes by the NSW Government will see seven parking-based offences with harsher punishments when committed in a school zone, with fines increasing by up to 200 per cent. As of 1st February 2018 the offences include obstruct access to a ramp/path/passageway, stop on/near children's or pedestrian crossing, and stopping within 10 metres of an intersection without traffic lights.

The biggest change is for stopping over a pedestrian crossing or otherwise obstructing access to a ramp, path or passageway. That normally comes with a \$110 fine but in a school zone it will sting motorists \$330. On top of this, not parking your car in the direction of travel or parking too close the dividing line in the middle of the road will also lose you \$330. Drivers who commit this offence in a school zone will receive a \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.

The heftiest fines of the seven changes are for stopping within 20m of an intersection with traffic lights, stopping within 10m of one without lights or stopping near bicycle lights - each attracting a \$439 fine. None of the seven offences attract demerit points when committed elsewhere on the road but in a school zone they each come with two points. The changes are:

- Stopping in intersection - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stop within 20m of intersection (traffic lights) - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stop within 10m of intersection (no traffic lights) - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Stop near bicycle crossing lights - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$439 and 2 demerit points.
- Obstruct access to ramp/path/passageway - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a penalty of \$330 and 2 demerit points.
- Not parallel park in the direction of travel - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.
- Parallel park close to dividing line - Under the changes if a driver commits this offence in a school zone they will receive a \$330 fine and 2 demerit points.

Council rangers were on site yesterday and noted the excellent driving behaviours of most of the people driving near our school. Thank you for putting safety first around our school.