



Term 1 Week 6
Wednesday 7th March 2018
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DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2018

Friday 9th March	Open Classrooms for Prospective Parents 9:15–10:45am
Tuesday 13th March	Cross Country Years 2-6
Tuesday 20th March	Phil Kettle Writing Workshop Incursion Years 3-6
Wednesday 21st March	Harmony Day
Friday 30th March	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Monday 2nd April	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
Thursday 5th April	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion
Friday 6th April	Year 5 Bathurst Excursion
Tuesday 10th April	School Photo's
Friday 13th April	Term 1 Concludes

SCHOOL FEES

CEDP still have not mailed the school fee statements to families. We will update families when we receive further information from CEDP.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents

There's nothing quite like a sensational headline to arouse curiosity and make us seek to know more. How about: "God Rescued and Set Free." So, what might such a heading be about? Could it be about prayer and that if we see prayer only as a religious ceremony rather than the expression of a relationship with God, we might restrict our prayer life to Sundays and religious settings. If prayer is a conversation with God, then God needs to be rescued and released from Churches and Religious Ceremonies and brought into daily life.

Often times, our life can be made up of a series of compartments: work, family, entertainment, finances, relationships, God. However, each of these compartments can be integrated into a meaningful whole by prayer.

We have all had times of great wonder during which we experienced God's presence: a sunset, a piece of music or a baby's smile. If we are willing to see and to listen to life around us, we will experience God speaking to us through the wonder of His creation in all its forms.

Often our understanding of prayer can be too narrow and can exclude everyday experiences because they don't fit our definition of what prayer is or is supposed to be. If prayer is any activity that nurtures our relationship with God, then, if having a cup of tea with a friend nurtures this relationship, that is prayer. If sitting still in a park or garden feeds your soul, that is prayer. Listening to music, assisting at children's liturgy, coaching a team, can all be prayer.

We may have stopped praying because our "old" images of God are no longer valid and we have no "new" images to replace them. If we try to figure out who God is before we pray, we might never pray. If we wait to pray till we have the right words, we might never pray. The longer we wait to pray the more we leave God "in the Church" or in a "Religious Ceremony" instead of in a relationship with us.

Sometimes our prayer can be brief but meaningful: "God, I need Your help." "Walk with me, Jesus, for I am unsure of myself." "Spirit of God, I need the gift of understanding – NOW!" "Praise the Lord." "Thanks be to God." These short bursts of prayer, recognise God's on-going presence in our daily lives.

The practice of prayer can be comfortable or challenging, easy or difficult. Like human relationships, our relationship with God will go through many stages; sometimes it will fill us with great joy, other times it will seem boring and stale. We may even have times where we break our relationship with God, going our own way, paying no attention to God or to prayer. But God does not turn away. God keeps calling. After a while, a longing to return to God will arise. This longing is a sign of faithfulness; we have been touched in some way; we have heard God's call. When this occurs it is not a time for feelings of guilt; it is time for rejoicing.

Reflection:

"When you need Me, I am there.

Even if you deny Me, I am there. When you feel most alone, I am there. Even in your fears and pain, I am there. Though your faith in Me is unsure, My faith in you never wavers. For you, I am there. God, thank You for Your on-going presence. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes
Richard Blissenden—Principal



FROM THE P&F

It was fantastic to see so many families attend our first meeting, and congratulations to Caterina Cipri who is our new Treasurer.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT & KIDS NIGHT IN

Mark the date in your Diary for the P&F's first social event of 2018! The P&F, along with the St Marys OSHC, will host a combined event on **Friday 4th of May from 6pm**. This will be a great event for parents to relax and mingle, and to also introduce children to the OSHC services (if they have not been previously) and have a fun night with their friends. More details will come shortly, but mark the date in your diary now!

OSHC services will be available on the night at a cost of \$10 per child, whilst the parents event will be FREE! (unfortunately OSHC cannot accommodate for children NOT currently enrolled at St Marys Primary, including younger or older siblings).

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

A reminder that our goal for student attendance is 92%. Currently we have an attendance rate of 92%. Thank you for all your efforts in ensuring your child is at school each school day!

LIBRARY

As you know, every year we purchase new and exciting books for the children to borrow from the Library. We are now looking for parents to help cover these new books. If you are able to volunteer your time to help out, please see Lia in the Library on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Your help with this is much appreciated.

SEE MY LEARNING

Our assembly alternative for Stage 2 from 2.30pm next Monday 12th March. Come to the classroom and see our Learning in Action.

THANK YOU

(A message from Mrs Johnston)... I just wanted to express my thanks and gratitude to the children I had the pleasure of teaching in 2017 and to their parents, for the kind thoughts and gifts that I received upon leaving the St Mary's community. I unfortunately missed seeing you for the last days of 2017 and although this note is very belated I wanted you to know that it meant a lot to me and I was very touched by your kindness. I would also like to thank the P&F committee and the St Mary's staff for your thoughtful farewell gifts. Hoping that 2018 will be an especially good year for all of you.

Mrs Mary-Lou Johnston

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



March 8	Indiana Liu
March 9	Samantha Giarratano
March 13	Tahlia terWisscha
	Jayden terWisscha
	Laila Riccardi
	Genevieve Boumalhab
March 16	Imogen Piper
March 17	Mitchell Peaty
	Jacinta Boustani
March 19	Chloe Chang
March 20	Keira Gad
	Lukas Luburic

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

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 1—Week 4



KA	Nixon Zwatzka & Harry Gilroy
KT	Alexander Johnson & Natasha Moore
1R	Mina Simili & Xavier Cooper
1W	Xianjin Bugarin & Hayley Ghalloub
2H	Thomas Lowery & Torie Shi
2M	Daashan Wu & Jacinta Boustani
3G	Jackson Henstock & Audrey Lampasona
3S	Eleanor Park & Xaiver McGilly
4J	Sienna Trovato & Eugene Jung
4K	Keira Dixon & Thomas Hill
5E	Kingston Luburic & Liam Storey
5LV	Max Di Sano & Luca McGilly
6B	Beau Myhill & Catherine Lim
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	Lean Kolosakas & Mathew Cotsinis
5LV	Luke Heiler & Marcus Scrivener
6B	Anthony Asfour & Chris Padden
6K	Larissa Laguzza & Mia Northwood

PARENT CYBER SAFETY SESSION..

Our thanks to the P&F for co-ordinating this excellent event. More than 65 parents attended the evening and heard Susan Mclean share some critical ideas for keeping our children safe in the online world. These included:

- The need for a whole of community response to safety – where all families ensure that children younger than 13 ARE NOT using or have accounts on Social Media sites including FaceBook, Snap Chat and YouTube.
- All Social Media sites are for people over 13 years – it is **not acceptable** for parents to say it is OK to be part of any of these sites. You put your child and other children at risk.
- Cyberspace is a public space where nothing can be totally deleted.
- You are never anonymous online and you always leave a digital footprint.
- Postings and comments can be found years later.
- Passwords should never be shared (except with Mum and Dad).

Many parents purchased Susan's book and she also directed families to two websites with more information <http://www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au/> and the Office of the eSafety Commissioner <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

MATHS AT ST MARY'S...

Setting your child up for success in Mathematics can sometimes seem like a daunting task, particularly as they enter the upper primary years and the mathematical concepts they are faced with become more difficult. Often parents feel overwhelmed and unsure of how to tackle these mathematical concepts, especially when there are new ways of problem solving being taught in schools. Below are some helpful tips from Dr Catherine Attard for fostering a love of mathematics in children of all ages. Dr Attard is an Associate Professor in primary mathematics education at Western Sydney University who has transformed teaching and learning in primary mathematics for over 10 years (Western Sydney University).

1. BE POSITIVE ABOUT MATHS!

Conscientiously display a positive attitude towards mathematics, even when it's challenging. This is called a 'growth mindset', encouraging children (and parents) to work on challenging mathematics, understanding that the mathematics is not impossible. Try to use phrases such as "I can't do it yet" or "let's work on this together".

2. KNOW WHAT MATHS YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

The teaching and learning of mathematics has changed significantly over the last decades. You can easily access the mathematics curriculum for free online to discover what your child should be learning (follow the link <http://syllabus.nesa.nsw.edu.au/mathematics/mathematics-k10/>).

Discussions with your child's teacher will also help set up realistic expectations of what your child should know and be able to do. One major change in thinking is about multiplication tables. Whilst this knowledge is still important, we do not want students to rely on rote learning or repetition, rather to develop an understanding of how the numbers work. There are many math games and apps that can help develop speed with number facts.

3. MAKE MATH A PART OF EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

Look for the maths in conversations and activities with your child. For example, if cooking, have your child help measure ingredients. When shopping, have a competition to estimate the total of the grocery bill or ask your child to work out the amount of change if paying with cash. If your child enjoys digital games, download some math apps to use during their screen time or play traditional games like dominoes, playing cards, snakes and ladders or Monopoly.

Parents who can work with their child's teacher, be proactive in their child's education, and demonstrate positive attitudes towards mathematics can make a big difference to their child's success at school. It's an investment worth making.

The above is an extract from Dr Catherine Attard's blog *Engaging Maths*. For the full article "Setting Your Child Up For Success With Maths: Tips For Parents" follow the link below <https://engagingmaths.com/2017/01/13/setting-your-child-up-for-success-with-maths-tips-for-parents/>

