



Term 1 Week 10
Wednesday 3rd April 2019
Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

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

DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2019

Thursday 4th April	Kinder 2020 Interviews All Day
Friday 5th April	Choir Concert—Lunchtime
Monday 8th April	“Sharing our Learning” Assembly Stage 3—2:30pm
Tuesday 9th April	Cross Country for Years 2-6
Tuesday 9th April	Kinder 2020 Interviews 2:00—3:00pm
Wednesday 10th April	Kinder 2020 Interviews 2:00—3:00pm
Thursday 11th April	Year 4 Reconciliation 10am & 11:20am
Thursday 11th April	Kinder 2020 Interviews 2:00-3:00pm
Friday 12th April	Term 1 Concludes

TERM 2

Monday 29th April	Term 2 Commences
Friday 3rd May	Mother's Day Breakfast—8am Mother's Day Liturgy—9am Mother's Day Wrapping—7pm
Monday 6th May	Mother's Day Stall
Tuesday 7th May	Diocesan Cross Country
Wed/Fri 8th/10th May	Year 6 Excursion to Canberra

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

As a young child I spent many hours searching for cicadas. Even now with my own children we have enjoyed many an afternoon collecting cicada shells. No matter how old you are, there is always a sense of wonder and fascination, when you come across a cicada shell still clinging to the bark on a tree. It looked dead but somehow you knew, that in some mysterious way, it was alive; the neat split down its back was from where the living creature inside had escaped and taken flight. You couldn't actually see it anywhere but at some point you would hear it singing away in some tree.

The cicada shell is a good analogy for the empty tomb that was found by the women then Peter and John on Easter Sunday. The resurrected, living Jesus, who had once been inside it, was gone. He was out amongst the living to whom he appeared several times. Every time he came to his friends, they became stronger, wiser, kinder, more daring. Every time he came to them, they became more like him.

Now that Jesus was raised from the dead, the Apostles and disciples, his followers, were commissioned to give witness to his death and resurrection. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, they fearlessly preached what, previously, they had not understood. We see this clearly in the transformation of Peter, who went from misunderstanding the scriptures to interpreting them through the lens of the resurrection. We see it in Paul, who had set out to put Christians to death, only to become the champion of the fledgling church.

By rising from the dead, Jesus shattered the hold that death had over all of us. Death could not keep him down and, if we are joined to him, neither can it keep us down for we are “Easter People”, full of the new life of Jesus. This is why Christian faith does not rest on the death of Jesus and an empty tomb but on the continuing experience of the risen Jesus.

We Christians today are summoned to live, proclaim and celebrate Jesus' victory over death by resisting all those forms of death and violence that saturate our society and not only unjustly take the lives of innocent people, but can desensitize our spirit and damage our belief in freedom and justice for all.

The Resurrection announced that human values cannot be extinguished by violence or death; no one can be forgotten. Here and now, God holds onto the lives of all the departed including the lives that have been wasted, violently cut short, damaged by oppression. All have worth in God's sight.

There are constant hints of resurrection in our daily lives, foretastes of our ultimate resurrection. These are found daily in our downs and ups, our sorrows and joys, our worries and relief, our disappointments and successes. Easter Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate all our small, personal “resurrections” and unite them with Jesus' Resurrection. It offers us renewal to be people of faith, hope and love in our home and in our community.

“Lord, we ask this Easter to become more like you. Help us to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life's situations. Help us to provide a place in our heart where you reside. Amen.”

I wish each of our families a very Happy Easter – filled with the joy the resurrection brings to each of us during this season.

With Peace and Best Wishes,
Richard Blissenden—PRINCIPAL

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2020

Interviews for Kindergarten 2020 are now almost complete with letters of offer due to be mailed out very soon. Families with a younger sibling due to commence school in 2020 must contact the school office this week if you have not lodged an enrolment application and booked an interview time.

LIBRARY NEWS

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.

**PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2019**

Holy Name of Mary is having its second Trivia Night. Last year was a great success and we hope to have an even better night this year. Details for teams and registration will be announced closer to the date. This year there will be a Raffle and Silent Auction. ALL funds raised will go towards the building project. Donations for the Silent Auction and Raffle would be gratefully appreciated, ie: any boxed items (unwanted Christmas presents), bottles of wine, books, cafe/restaurant vouchers or Department Store vouchers etc. A box will be placed at the back of the Church during Mass on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings or you can drop them at the Parish Office. You might like to attach a monetary value to your donation that we can put alongside the prize. Further information can be obtained by contacting Allison Markarian 0411 013 032 or Cathy Saad 0408 669 138.

SCHOOL FEES

The first School Fee invoice for 2019 should now have been paid or a payment plan entered into. Any queries regarding payment or setting up a payment plan should be directed to Susan in the school office.

**BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS**

April 1	Eddie A
April 4	Serena K Giorgia T
April 6	Kimiko C Michael K
April 9	Adeline T Roseline H
April 10	Sophie C Ava A
April 13	Andriana S
April 16	Veer D
April 17	Dominic H
April 19	Lucinda B
April 23	Rayn G Jordan W Elizabeth S
April 24	Jack L
April 26	Finn N
April 27	Amelia M
April 30	Matthew O Ana O
May 1	Emma A
May 2	Joseph L
May 3	Claudia A Ellen W Ahmani Y Xianjin B
May 4	Aurelia R
May 5	Isabelle C Siena C
May 7	Kira M

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

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO CANBERRA..

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

ATTENDANCE

Our overall attendance rate remains *very high* – currently at 94%. Thank you for your efforts in having your child at school, ready for learning, every school day. An area of focus for the coming fortnight is 'Be On Time For 10 To 9'.

IS IT?

Over the past week I had an interesting conversation with one parent where we talked about what she thought was a 'bullying incident'. On reflection it turned out that their child's friend had been "mean" to her child but that it did not really fall into the category of bullying as the incident had been a 'once off'. We talked about strategies her child could use when these situations arise. I then found this graphic a day later which can help in determining if an incident is 'not nice', 'mean' or the more serious 'bullying'.

Following our very *successful Harmony Day and Anti-bullying work* I thought it worth sharing what staff do in line with our policies in this area to respond to issues as they arise. Often a lot of time is spent (sometimes many hours) working with students as issues arise to ascertain what actually happened, what steps the child could take to solve the situation themselves and finally implementing consequences for students who have been found to have done the wrong thing. Additionally, all staff record incidents in the playground so we can track and monitor when and where situations are happening and if the same students are involved. Students have access to 'bullying forms', which are used to inform staff of incidents, and these are followed up by a member of the Leadership Team. Parents are kept informed by teachers if incidents arise and all classes work through programmes to develop their social skills.

TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

It has been an extremely busy fortnight for professional learning for our staff. In the past week our Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers have continued their Professional Learning in 'Challenging Mathematical Tasks'. Mr Blissenden attended, with the team, a full professional learning day last week and the team participated in some on-site and off-site learning as well. Mrs Gosper attended her continuing professional learning for Reading Recovery and Mrs Gieriek attended a day for Religious Education Co-ordinators. Miss Boulos attended a day on the new PDPHE Syllabus to be implemented in 2020 and Mrs McFarlane and Miss Menday attended a full day's professional learning to integrate Catholic Values across the curriculum. In the past fortnight the whole staff also completed in the biennial 'Work, Health and Safety' training.

CONGRATULATIONS

Recently I attended the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta's Staff Recognition Awards Evening where Mrs Morgan and Mrs Waterhouse were recognised for their long-standing service to Catholic Education. Congratulations to them both.

HAIR COLOUR AND STYLES

We would ask that particular attention is made to the uniform policy with regard to 'no colouring of hair' and no steps etc – haircuts should be blended and without very long and very short sections. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

IS IT BULLYING?

NOT NICE

When someone says or does something **unintentionally** hurtful and they only do it **once...**

That is **Not Nice**

MEAN


When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they do it **once...**

That is **Mean**

BULLYING

When someone says or does something **intentionally** hurtful and they **keep doing it, over a period of time, even when you tell them to stop or show them that you are upset...**

That is **Bullying**



FROM MR BLISSENDEN (CONT)....

STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Miss Boidin who has been seconded for an additional term as Acting Assistant Principal at St Monica's North Parramatta. Congratulations also to Mrs Gierek who has been appointed as Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator here at St Mary's for Term 2. Other staffing arrangements will also continue with Miss Boulous continuing as PE teacher, Miss Orlandi as Executive Release Teacher for 3G and Miss Kirkness as the teacher of 6KB through Term 2. In addition, Mr Ben Gately, our Maintenance Man has accepted a full time position and will finish his work with us at the end of this term. We are currently recruiting for a replacement. While we are sad to see Ben move on to full time work we know this is the right decision for his young family.

THINK U KNOW

As part of our ongoing **Parental Education Programme** we have booked an Internet Safety presentation for parents called "ThinkUKnow". This presentation comes highly recommended and will be presented by experienced Australian Federal Police Officers. This presentation will form part of our next P&F Meeting. Please mark the date in your diary – 28th May (arrive from 6pm with the presentation to **commence at 6.30pm**).

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY (for Years 2-6)

Our Cross Country has been moved to its backup date of Tuesday 9th April. Students should arrive at school at the normal time and classes will walk to Rydalmere Park. Students will then run the course in age groups. Please refer to the information letter sent home with specific details.

FROM THE ASTHMA FOUNDATION

What is Asthma?

Asthma is a long-term lung condition. People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which react to triggers, causing a 'flare-up'. In a flare-up, the muscles around the airway squeeze tight, the airways swell and become narrow and there is more mucus. These things make it harder to breathe.

An asthma flare-up can come on slowly (over hours, days or even weeks) or very quickly (over minutes). A sudden or severe asthma flare-up is sometimes called an asthma attack.

One in nine people in Australia has asthma. It affects people of all ages. Some people get asthma when they are young; others when they are older. Asthma cannot be cured, but for most people it can be well controlled by following a daily management plan.

What are the symptoms of Asthma?

A person's asthma symptoms can vary over time - sometimes they will have no symptoms, especially when their asthma is well-controlled. Symptoms often vary from person to person, but they are most commonly:

- Breathlessness
- Wheezing
- Tight feeling in the chest
- Continuing cough

Symptoms often occur at night, early in the morning or during/just after activity. They are caused by the narrowing of the airways. If your asthma is well controlled, you should only have occasional asthma symptoms.

MARK TAYLOR SHIELD CRICKET...

By Marcus S-G and Gordon B

On the 1st of April 13 students went out to Narellan Vale to play cricket in the Mark Taylor Shield for Round 2. The day started off with St Clair's Narellan Vale winning the toss and electing to bowl first. At 7 overs in, our team was 4/20. Our team finished the inning 9/104 with Kaisei D top scoring with 31*. St Clair's needed 11 off 18 balls. We battled down to the last over when they only needed 1 run. We were very unfortunate to lose the match. All of the boys in the team showed great sportsmanship and represented our school with pride. Well done to the whole team—Sam, Nate M, Robbie, Jonathon, Connor, Chad, Kaisei, Marcus S, Marcus SG, Gordon, Luke, Joel and Isaac.

We would like to thank Daniel Green for giving us the best experience in cricket. We would like to thank Paul Craze for umpiring our team and our two scorers Susan Boulous and Marta Myhill. Thank you Mrs Morgan and Mrs Mrs McFarlane for organizing the game.