



Term2 Week 4

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

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DIARY DATES

TERM 2 2019

Monday 27th May	Stage 1 'Sharing our Learning' Assembly 2:30pm
Tuesday 28th May	Think U Know Presentation 6:30pm
Tuesday 28th May	P&F Meeting—8:00pm
Wednesday 29th May	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day
Saturday 1st June	Enrolment for Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30pm Mass
Sunday 2nd June	Enrolment for Sacrament of Reconciliation 9:30pm Mass
Monday 3rd June	Sticks & Stones Incursion K-2 12:15pm Yrs 3-6 2:00pm
Tuesday 4th June	Athletics Carnival
Friday 7th June	Pentecost Liturgy 9:15am
Monday 10th June	QUEENS BIRTHDAY "Public Holiday"
Tuesday 11th June	Athletics Carnival Back Up Date

**DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT
YOUR EARN & LEARN STICKERS
FROM WOOLWORTHS**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Here's a little story about a donkey, and at the end you will understand why the story is titled, "The Wise Donkey".

"One day a farmer's donkey fell into a well. The animal cried miserably for hours as the farmer tried to work out what to do. Finally, the farmer decided that the donkey was old and the well had to be filled in anyway; it just wasn't worth the effort to retrieve the old donkey. The farmer invited his neighbours to come over and help him. Each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. When the donkey realised what was happening, it cried horribly, then, to everyone's amazement it quietened down. When the farmer looked into the well, he was astonished to see the donkey shake each shovel of dirt off its back and take a step upwards. This sequence continued until the donkey began to appear. Before long, it stepped over the edge of the well and trotted off." Author unknown.

And the moral? Well, use each of your problems as stepping stones. We will never get out of our "deepest wells" by doing nothing. We need to shake off the negatives and "make way for a positive day". Additionally, acting in a positive way does not mean that we ignore life's less pleasant situations but that we approach the unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. What a Wise Donkey! So, how do we teach our children to be wise and positive in the decisions and choices they will have to make? Ron Disney gives good advice when he says, "It is not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are." St. Paul, when he wrote to his church at Philippi, suggested some great values: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is excellent or worthy of praise, think of these things." Phil, 4: 8.

As Christians, we believe in a positive outcome in life by our faith in a loving God. Through prayer, Christians believe that we can make use of what Jesus called, "the Kingdom of God within you." Luke 17:21. When we are tempted to give in and say we can't do something, St. Paul has this encouragement, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." Phil. 4: 8.

Christians realise that optimistic, positive thinking needs to be tempered with realism, which is not the same as being negative. A favourite saying is to "Act as if everything depended on you, pray as if everything depended on God." In other words we should not use faith in God as a substitute for living in positive ways that will likely improve our chances of having positive outcomes; the two go hand in hand. St. Paul again: "There is no limit to the blessings which God can send you; He will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance and still have something to spare for all sorts of good work." 2 Cor. 9:8. No wonder Christians are such a positive lot! And if we aren't, we should be!

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



LIBRARY NEWS

Lots of new library books means there is a lot of covering needed before they can be borrowed by the students.

If you would like to help cover some of these books, please see Mrs Radocchia in the library between Monday and Wednesday.

Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Mrs Radocchia
LIBRARIAN



CONGRATULATIONS TO KIMIKO C—Yr 6

Congratulations to Kimiko on her recent success representing MacKillop in Tennis. She spent a week at the NSW PSSA Tennis State Championships representing the MacKillop team. The MacKillop team won the overall championship. In addition, Kimiko has been selected into the NSW Bruce Cup team, representing NSW in the Bruce Cup National Championship in October. We are very proud of her achievements – congratulations Kimi!



TRANSPORT FOR A STUDENT SOME AFTERNOONS ... CAN YOU ASSIST?

We are looking for a parent who may travel towards Ermington some afternoons that could drop one younger student home. If you might be able to assist please leave your details in the front office – many thanks.

TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

Over the past fortnight our staff have engaged in a number of professional learning opportunities – including a Saturday Literacy session on writing attended by Miss Eid, Miss Stevenson and Mrs Radocchia. Mrs Rheinberger, Mrs Gierek, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Gosper and Mr Blissenden attended a half day session with three other schools to discuss and share progress on our School Goals. This week Mr Blissenden is attending the Association of Catholic School Principals biennial conference.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



May 22	Sarayah A
May 23	Aidan M Zion K
May 24	Amanda B Stefanie G
May 25	Lucas L
May 26	Tristian McV
May 28	Ashley A
May 29	Grace B
May 31	Yujin C Max Di S
June 1	Seojin C
June 3	Alexander M Oliver T

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

PRINCIPAL AWARDS TERM 2—Week 3



KE	Hayley A & Shane B
KS	Harrison W & Hope E
1C	Alexander J & Amanda B
1R	Anson Y & Hope B
2A	Molly L & Heidi W
2M	Daniel R & Manuel S
3G	Olivia Q & Benjamin L
3M	Alessandro B & Mia L-B
4E	Kristina A & Flynn S
4J	Ava L & Lorelai T
5LV	Joseph N & Samuel P
5W	Stella N & Kaisei D
6E	Kimiko C & Tara Q
6KB	Marcus S & Orlando B

CARE AWARDS TERM 2—Week 3



KE	Aaron A & Oscar G
KS	Olivia N & Sophie C
1C	Beau H & Matilda C
1R	Kira M & Daniel A
2A	Mia I & Jamie J
2M	Grace H & Lucas N
3G	Sienna C & Michael K
3M	Scarlett S & Giulia N
4E	Jessica A & Isabel K
4J	Jacob N & Nico F
5LV	Tadhg O'R & Ayva Y
5W	Johnathan K & Connor P
6E	Luke H & Mathew C
6KB	Emma A & Zoe A

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

INVITATION

Join Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, for a transparent and engaging Q&A session with parents and guardians from learning communities throughout the diocese. Held at St Andrews College in Marayong, the event will begin at 7pm with light refreshments, followed by a Q&A session with Executive Director Greg Whitby where parents will have the chance to raise their questions around education and school in today's world. Can't make it in person? This event will also be live-streamed via the CEDP Facebook page. Be sure to click on 'Interested' or 'Going' to be reminded before the discussion goes live! You can do this via the event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1988053254654264/>

Free ticket registration for this event is available at www.chatterbox.parra.catholic.edu.au If you have any questions or would like further information in regards to this event, please contact Lachlan Andrews from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta via landrews8@parra.catholic.edu.au or on 9840 5790.

STAFFING UPDATE

We recently completed the recruitment process for a new Grounds and Outdoor worker and are very pleased to welcome Barry Lincoln to our staff. Barry is an experienced carpenter and outdoor worker who has worked in a number of schools in our Diocese. Miss Orlandi has joined the Year 5 teaching team as part replacement for Mr Wheadon with Mrs Violaris and Mr Loudon increasing their workload to minimise the change in Year 5. Finally the recruitment process for a replacement for Mrs Clarkson, who had her baby 7 weeks early last week, has been completed and we are pleased to welcome Miss Samantha Brimfield to the role of class teacher. Samantha is an experienced educator who has worked in schools in our Diocese and overseas. I know you join with me in welcoming these new members of staff.

PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT SAVE THE DATE.....Saturday June 29th 2019

6.30pm for a 7.00pm start finish at 9.30pm. Venue is the Parish Hall.

WHAT ARE 3 WAY INTERVIEWS

If you are a new family to St Mary's you may be unfamiliar with the Three Way Interviews (3WIs). The 3WI is part of our assessing and reporting process and it involves the child, parent and teacher in a 15 minute interview. This interview replaces the traditional mid year interview. It also provides a forum for teachers, students and parents to acknowledge student progress and achievement. It may involve students taking work home that has been assessed by the teacher and themselves. Parents then respond with a comment regarding their child's achievement and progress during the 3WI and learning goals are set for the rest of the year. 3WIs will be held in the last week of this term and information about times etc will be sent home soon.

In three way interviews (3WIs) students typically lead by explaining their learning achievements, as well as areas for further improvement. This may include displays of student work across a number of subjects and across a semester. Both strategies are important avenues for involving parents and students in the learning process and help parents understand the teaching and learning, assessment and reporting process. Three way interviews have benefits for teachers, parents and schools. Some of these benefits are outlined in the table below:

TEACHERS	Allows for shared responsibility of student learning, assessment and reporting. Flows naturally from work produced in class. Strengthens communication channels with parents about student's learning and progress.
STUDENTS	Enhances self esteem by allowing them to share their learning opportunities in a positive environment. Critically involves students in self assessment and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning. Empowers students as they work toward and achieve syllabus outcomes.
PARENTS	Increases their understanding of learning and assessment. Allows them to participate in the reporting process rather than merely responding to it. Provides evidence to support twice yearly written reports.

WHOLE SCHOOL INCURSION...

Award-Winning In-School Theatre Performances

Brainstorm
Productions

Sticks & Stones

On **Monday, 3 June 2019** Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their student wellbeing program 'Sticks & Stones' for all students in K-6.

Seen and enjoyed by over 1.7 million students, Sticks & Stones is a live educational theatre experience that tells the story of two students who are angry, frustrated and always in trouble. They have to learn to control their anger and to treat people with respect. Ultimately, they discover they've got more in common than they could ever imagine and form a friendship that heals them both. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to learn practical skills on how to deal with anger, aggression and resolving conflict.

Sticks & Stones is part of our student wellbeing curriculum (PDHPE) and the program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, as well as real-life student experiences. The methodology of the program is safe, supportive and nonjudgmental and designed to provide students with positive and useful tools that they can use in their everyday lives.

Brainstorm Productions is Australia's largest educational touring theatre company. Their programs cater to the specific wellbeing needs of students, helping to create a healthy and harmonious school environment. If you would like to know more about Brainstorm Productions, visit their website at www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

Kinder-Year 2 will see the show at 12:15pm and Years 3-6 at 2:00pm. Each session is one hour in duration. The cost of this incursion has been covered in your school fees.

THINK U KNOW PRESENTATION...

As part of our ongoing **Parental Education Programme** we have booked an Internet Safety presentation for parents called "ThinkUKnow". If you would like to attend, please complete the tear off slip below and return it to the office as soon as possible.



Parents are asked to arrive from 6pm with the presentation to **commence at 6.30pm**.

✂ _____

THINK U KNOW PRESENTATION

I/We would like to attend the Think U Know Presentation on Tuesday 28th May.

Name: _____ No. of People: _____