



Term 1 Week 8

Wednesday 20th March 2019

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2019

<b>Monday</b> <b>25th March</b>	<b>"Sharing our Learning"</b> <b>Assembly—Stage 3</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>27th March</b>	<b>NSW CPs Swimming</b> <b>Carnival</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>5th April</b>	<b>Choir Concert—Lunchtime</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>9th April</b>	<b>Cross Country Yrs 2-6</b>
<b>Thursday</b> <b>11th April</b>	<b>NSW PSSA Swimming</b> <b>Carnival</b>

### TERM 2 2019

<b>Monday</b> <b>29th April</b>	<b>Term 2 Commences</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>3rd May</b>	<b>Mother's Day Breakfast</b> <b>8:00am</b> <b>Mother's Day Liturgy</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Mother's Day Wrapping</b> <b>10:30—11:30am</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>6th May</b>	<b>Mother's Day Stall</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>7th May</b>	<b>Diocesan Cross Country</b>
<b>Wed-Fri</b> <b>8th-10th May</b>	<b>Year 6 Excursion to</b> <b>Canberra</b>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Harmony Day occurs on the 21st March each year. It is a day in which Australians celebrate the core values of inclusiveness, respect for other cultures, tolerance, and diversity. It is a day that began in 1999 and coincides with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. **Orange** is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. At St Mary's we will be recognising Harmony Day this year with activities throughout the week. Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home, from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. We pray that we continue to be a welcoming people.

The devastating act of violence has shocked the World and I, along with many of others, have struggled to understand how and why such violence could take place. In times like these prayers for the victims and all those related are greatly needed. I know you join with me in keeping our New Zealand 'cousins' in our daily prayers. To the victims, eternal rest grant them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. Assalamu Alaykom

Our Year 6 Student Leaders will lead the community in a special assembly after recess tomorrow for Harmony Day and following the tragedy in New Zealand our prayer of inclusion and diversity is even more poignant.

#### **A Prayer for Harmony Day**

*You created all people in your image. We thank you for the variety of races and cultures in Australia and in our community. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us. Grant that we may always promote the justice and acceptance that ensures lasting peace. Grant that we may show equal respect to all persons of different cultures that we may come across. And help us to remember and appreciate that we are one country, with many stories. Amen*

With Peace and Best Wishes

Richard Blissenden  
PRINCIPAL



**SCHOOL FEES**

All families should now have received their school fee statements, mailed to their home address together with payment plan instructions. Payment of the first instalment or set up of a payment plan is due by 29th March 2019. Any queries in regards to school fees should be directed to Susan in the school office.

**CONGRATULATIONS LIAM— YEAR 6**

Liam won a competition at St Patrick's Open Afternoon to write a 6 Word Story. Liam's story was chosen as the winner and at Morning Assembly yesterday Ms Gray from St Pat's presented Liam with a book and certificate. Liam's 6 Word Story ... *"Crowded but empty. Surrounded but lonely."*



**APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE**

A reminder that in order to receive a Leave Application form you **MUST** first hand in a note requesting leave. The note must include the dates the child will be away, how many days off school and the reason they require leave. Once the office receives this letter, we will then send home Leave Application forms to be completed. No applications will be approved without the request letter from parents.

**LATE TO SCHOOL**

If your child arrives late to school the accompanying parent **MUST** complete a late slip in the school office before taking their child to class. This is a legal requirement.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**



- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 20 | Keira G   |
| March 22 | Monique G<br>Thomas H<br>Brandon E                        |
| March 23 | Sienna A<br>Caleb F<br>Flynn S<br>Manuel S<br>Sebastien P |
| March 24 | Dominic J   |
| March 25 | Thomas L<br>Nishaan V                                     |
| March 26 | Cooper K  |
| March 27 | Zoe A<br>Alice L  |
| March 28 | Amber A   |
| March 30 | Kiara Z<br>Mina S<br>Mia I                                |
| March 31 | Mathew C  |
| April 1  | Maxwell N<br>Phoebe K                                     |
| April 2  | Luca N  |

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

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS**  
**TERM 1—Week 7**



- |     |                          |
|-----|--------------------------|
| KE  | Patrick McN & Amarah K   |
| KS  | Jemma L & Alyssa M       |
| 1C  | Amelia N & Veer D        |
| 1R  | Archer W & Daniel A      |
| 2A  | Joseph S & Hayley G      |
| 2M  | Mina S & Audrey T        |
| 3G  | Olivia-Rose B & Lester W |
| 3M  | Scarlett S & Hannah P    |
| 4E  | Phillip S & Audrey L     |
| 4J  | Roseline H & Chloe M     |
| 5LV | Maiya H Chad C           |
| 5W  | Sandy K & Alexander T    |
| 6E  | Kingston L & Joshua G    |
| 6KB | Nadia La M & Indiana L   |

**CARE AWARDS**  
**TERM 1—Week 7**



- |     |                        |
|-----|------------------------|
| KE  | Olivia W & Jessica B   |
| KS  | Patrick D & Marcus R   |
| 1C  | Josie C & Mitchell B   |
| 1R  | Matilda S & Nixon Z    |
| 2A  | Jacob H & Jasmin S     |
| 2M  | Noah C & Maxwell N     |
| 3G  | Riley W & Alyssa M     |
| 3M  | Mitchell R & Ryan D    |
| 4E  | Ashley A & Rachel G    |
| 4J  | Nate McK & Sebastian J |
| 5LV | Luke P & Joseph N      |
| 5W  | Samuel N & Sienna T    |
| 6E  | Mathew C & Brianna W   |
| 6KB | Isabella P & Joshua T  |

## FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

### ATTENDANCE

It is so important that all children are at school every day. Routines can help. These include:

- A nutritious breakfast - fuel for the day.
- The right amount of sleep - to be alert and ready to learn.
- Be organised the night before - bags packed and lunches organised creates a sense of calm each morning.
- Make time to talk about school and check in regularly about what is happening for your child.

Our attendance is currently excellent – 92% which is our goal this year – thank you for the effort you are making to have your child/ren at school every day!

### TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

As you know apart from planning learning and teaching experiences, our staff are learners too. This week, for example three staff (Mrs Rheinberger, Miss Menday and Miss Elias) have been attending the "Foundations Project Based Learning" professional learning experience with educators from Texas. Recently all the teachers from Kindergarten to Year 2 have begun their year long professional learning in Mathematics in association with Monash University which included a full day off site learning day. This will be supported with further days of learning both at school and off site. These two examples demonstrate the commitment to ongoing professional learning our staff have as learners themselves.

### REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to identify your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff. If you would like to raise a concern, the Catholic Education Office has guidelines for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to handle complaints either informally or formally is available from the school office and/or within the Complaint Handling Guidelines. These documents can be accessed on the system website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

One of our parents passed on some information about a possible After School Program that could involve coding and robotics. The company is "We Love Stem" and they run after school classes for students in Year 2+. The session would run for 1.5 hours with costs of approximately \$160 for an 8 week term. Their website is <https://www.welovestem.com.au>.

Before we commit we are seeking Expressions of Interest for an after school Coding and Robotics class. If you and your child are interested please complete the Expression Of Interest tear off slip below and return it by Monday 25th March and if there is sufficient interest we will make further inquiries.



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

#### "We Love Stem" Coding and Robotics Program

My child \_\_\_\_\_ of class \_\_\_\_\_  
is interested in the "We Love Stem" coding and robotics after school program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

