



Term 2 Week 10
Wednesday 1st July 2020
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DIARY DATES

TERM 2	2020
Wednesday 1 st July	Parent/Teacher Phone Call Interviews
Thursday 2 nd July	Parent/Teacher Phone Call Interviews
Friday 3 rd July	Term 2 Concludes
TERM 3	
Monday 20 th July	Term 3 Commences
Wednesday 29 th July	Indigenous Incurion Gwenda Stanley 9:30 and 11:25am
Friday 7 th August	Music-a-Viva 12:15 and 2:00pm
Friday 14 th August	Year 3 Excursion
Tuesday 18 th August	Author Visit (3 sessions): 9:45 – 10:45am 11:25 – 12:25pm 12:30 – 1:30pm

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of Term 2 and reflect on the past 6 months, I can honestly say it has been like no other in my 30-year teaching career. On reflection I am sure the same can be said for your family life, your work life, and the juggling of the COVID-19 restrictions for you too. This term alone we began with iLearn@Home, transitioned back to school a day a week, then re-launched the year with iLearn@School and have finished the term with reports and reporting – and we did all of that in just 10 weeks. Thank you for your support and encouragement during these unprecedented times. My sincere thanks, also, to the entire staff who have supported learning this year. Below are just some of the messages sent by parents via the survey shared a few weeks ago to our staff who have done an amazing job.

The care, support, agility and adaptability of the teachers was amazing. You demonstrated how well the current learning program transitions to remote / online, encouraged and showed depth of understanding of the 'whole child' by ensuring work included opportunities for art expression, physical activity and meditation - all of which greatly assist in times of stress and crisis.

A very BIG THANK YOU to Mr Blissenden and all Teachers, Teaching Assistants, School Administrators and other staff members at St Mary's who looked after our children in school while teaching online and took care of everything smoothly so that our amazing health workers and carers could take care of the sick and the vulnerable, our shops could stay open and services could continue. You all are our true heroes! Stay safe!

I appreciate that the teachers were able to adjust over the weeks of school from home.

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Thank you for the way in which you all quickly and professionally changed to providing learning and support for children both at home and school.

I think the Seesaw app was great for the young years, it was my first time using it. All the packs were brilliant and helpful. Mother's Day and the holiday video were touching. The daily zooms for the older kids, kept them in touch. The stories read by teachers were lovely for the young ones too. Mrs Radocchia's library updates were appreciated. Video assemblies were great too. Thank you to all during this tough time!!

Thank you for your rapid response in giving our children a safe environment to learn, and for your support of the parents who were struggling to work out how to do year 3 maths!

Over the coming holiday period please take the time to enjoy a break from the routines of school and continue to stay safe. We look forward to seeing our students back for Term 3 on Monday 20th July.

With peace and best wishes,

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL

LIBRARY BOOKS, HOME READERS AND READERS CIRCLE BOOKS

Have you found any of our missing books? Please return any books before the end of the term! Thank you.

BOOK COVERING

The library needs some help with contacting new books. If you can assist, please come and collect a bag of books to cover over the holidays. Contact will be supplied.

Thanks so much.

Lia Radocchia - Teacher Librarian

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

July 2	Antony D
July 3	Nathanael X
July 11	Ava E
July 15	Zara W
July 16	Zain S
	Elizabeth L
	Nicholas K
July 17	Patrick Mc
July 19	Bonnie W
	Nate Mc
July 20	Alyssa M
July 21	Sebastian J
July 24	Lochlainn M
July 26	Alexia J
July 27	Joseph N
July 28	Gabriel N

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

HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

This week at our Monday Zoom Assembly I launched my next Holiday Challenge in which students, with their family, are encouraged to cook, bake or create food together and then write about it.

Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and grandparents to find the best (or family favourite recipe) that could be shared with the whole school community. Importantly, students need to write about why this recipe is important to them and their family, or the history of the dish etc.

Entries will be accepted online with a flyer about the challenge being sent home, electronically, before the end of the term. So, it is time to cook up a storm, bake a treat or two and share the story of why that is special. We hope our students enjoy this tasty challenge!

NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYLLABUS...

Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has undergone much change in the last two years. Term 3 2020 marks the next step towards a new curriculum that will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for over 20 years.

The process of developing a new approach, currently known as the Draft New Curriculum, has been a collaboration with students, parents, teachers, clergy, and system leaders. This innovative and ambitious project has led to the development of Learning Cycles (one per term), that apply scripture and tradition in a meaningful way to the contemporary life of young people. This endeavour supports our students to grow in faith and understanding through prayer, reason and action in daily life.

In Term 3, using experiential learning through student inquiry, students in Year 4 will engage with one Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum. In preparation for the 2021 implementation, teachers are continuing to participate in extensive theological formation and professional learning.

This is an exciting opportunity for our faith community of St Mary's to further exclaim our commitment to empowering all our young people to discover a meaningful and flourishing life.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you throughout the term and will keep you updated about opportunities that will extend the learning experience further for students and their families.

Wishing all of our families a very safe and relaxing break. See you all back in Term 3!

iLearn@School.... From Year 4

This is the class letter from Year 4 to the Australia Post Dear Australia campaign.

Dear Australia,

2020 has been a very hard year. COVID-19 has had a massive impact on pretty much every person in every part of Australia. The whole of Australia, actually the whole of the world, went into a self-imposed isolation. It was very weird and frightening at first, but we soon got used to it.

School was closed down, but we still had to do our work from home. This was especially hard if you needed extra help with your learning because your teacher wasn't there. We had to email our teachers if we needed help and wait for them to answer. Sometimes they rang us at home! We had to be careful with our hygiene all the time and started using hand sanitiser constantly. Toilet paper ran out and so did lots of other kitchen groceries. It was hard to get some food items because it was all selling out so quickly. We had to keep 1.5m away from everyone else and we stopped shaking hands and giving hugs. Some adults lost their jobs and lots of adults started working from home every single day.

Apart from our schoolwork, all we could do is: call our friends, watch television, or play outside in our own yards. There was no sports training or music lessons. No playdates and parties. No weddings, no shopping, and no visits to the park playground. The movies were closed and so were all the national sporting comps like NRL and AFL. Even going to funerals was restricted! All of our holiday plans were cancelled, and we were not allowed to travel anywhere. We couldn't visit our grandparents when they were sick, which was hard, and we couldn't see some members of our family if they lived with someone else. Everyone was scared that you had COVID-19 and would pass it on to them. We were not really allowed to leave the house at all.

On the positive side, we spent more time with our own family than ever before and played lots of family games. But there was more relaxing and more jigsaw puzzles too! We learnt to use Zoom and Google Classroom and online learning was kind of fun. There was no traffic on the roads, and we could wear comfortable clothes all the time. We had more breaks in our learning day and could choose what work to focus on. Another good thing was that you could play on your electronic devices once you had finished your work!

During the pandemic, we were scared and worried that someone in our family would get COVID-19. One of the students said that they'll never forget crying themselves to sleep again and again. Whenever someone got a little bit sick, we were worried about what would happen. Another student said that they couldn't see their baby brother because his mum was too scared to have anyone visit. COVID-19 was very bad, but we got through it!

From Mrs Rheinberger, Mrs Day and Year 4 St Mary's Rydalmere

iLearn@School.... From Year 5

Year 5 have been writing ballads. This is one by Eddie A. It's called "The 3 Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark".

Part 1

In the clear waters of the Great Barrier Reef,
There lived a school of fish whose greatest belief,
Was to learn and to sing and to dance and to play,
And to make new good friends, each and every day.

Fish 1 was the smartest and top of the class,
Fish 2 was the cool one who was bold as brass,
And Fish 3 was more timid and followed the rules.
They all played together in the little rock pools.

Today was quite special, in a very awesome way,
The day had finally arrived, their graduation day!
Most were excited, throwing their hats in the air,
Others were very sad, crying literally everywhere.

Every single fish wore their finest and best clothes,
Some even wore their polished tux-sea-dos!
They all brushed their teeth, as shiny as can be,
And all got prepared for the big par-ty!

Mr Mack Erel took the fish towards the sea
Fishes 1-3 followed, swimming fast as a bee.
The cabins were up ahead, just over the ark,
When Fish 1 saw something glowing in the dark

"Hey! Check this out!" shouted Fish 1 with glee,
He pointed at the pearl to show Fish 2 and 3
"Guy's we'll be late" said Fish 3 with worry
"And if you don't listen, you *will* be quite sorry!"

"Stop being a worry wart" said Fish 2 heading its way,
"It looks so very pretty, a present for Mother's Day"
They headed towards the shimmering sphere,
Each racing each other, as fast as a deer

Fish 2 got the pearl, trying to get it himself,
But Fish 1 told him "you can't get it yourself".
"I can't pull it out!" he said, without any spark
Then soon out of nowhere came a great white shark!

The great white shark said to the little frightened fish,
"You little specks will now be my afternoon dish!
I'm Mr S.T, the biggest and baddest shark,
And you can't escape me, or you'll be lost in the dark!"

He chased them around, snapping his very sharp teeth
And the scared fish screamed swimming down to the reef.

Soon Fish 1 remembered his favourite sport class,
"Guys! Do the spin that we all did on the grass!"

They all spun around and moved to Mr S.T,
And they spun around him, making him very dizzy.
He dropped to the floor and couldn't move at all,
And the fishes swam back, just before morning call.

Part 2

After the party, the fishes all swam back home,
Then they went on hangouts (it's on google chrome)
The fishes were doing dares, 1 had to fetch a mouse

When suddenly Mr S.T swam right by Fish 2's house.

They all stopped in silence, not even moving a fin,
Or else they will be in a mouth, as filthy as a bin!
When the shark went away, Fish 2 had a plan,
He told his 2 friends, as quiet as batman.

They met up near a cage, as big as a whale
And they shouted out, "Come here you big slow snail!"

Mr S.T heard, and charged at them like a bull,
"Don't you dare call me that, you little piece of wool!"

The giggling fish swam up, down, left, and right,
Until the smart fish left Mr Sharp Tooth's sight.
Fish 1 and 3 did a dance right near the cage,
And Mr S.T filled up with extreme rage.

He moved so quickly, his fins could have snapped,
But then, 'BAM!' the mad shark finally got trapped!
The fish swam around him shouting, "in your face!"
Then the fish hi-fived with glorious grace.

The next day, the school of fish met right near the ark
Fish 2 started bragging that he faced a real life shark.
The other fish said bye near the little rock pool,
Because tomorrow, they are starting fish high school.

