



Term 1 Week 2

Wednesday 5th February 2020

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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2020

Friday 7th Feb	Kinder in the Park 3:30pm
Monday 10th Feb	Parent Information Session Year 4—6:15pm Year 1—7:15pm
Tuesday 11th Feb	Parent Information Session Year 6—6:15pm Year 5—7:15pm
Wednesday 12th Feb	Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt Pool
Wednesday 12th Feb	Parent Information Session Year 3—6:15pm Year 2—7:15pm
Thursday 13th Feb	Opening School Mass 9:15am
Thursday 13th Feb	Parent Information Session Kinder—6:15pm
Thursday 20th Feb	Diocesan Swimming Carnival—Blacktown
Tuesday 25th Feb	P&F Meeting—7:00pm
Wednesday 26th Feb	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15am—Years 3-6 K-2 Liturgies in Class
Monday 2nd Mar	Catholic Schools Week Commences

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2020. This is our regular fortnightly communication with our families. I encourage you to read this with your children, sharing, as appropriate, the information it contains.

The year has certainly started with great excitement from our new and returning students alike. There were surprises for everyone on the first day and the sense of Leaping into Learning has been evident right from those first moments of the year. I really love the start of the year – the excitement, the anticipation, the goal setting and so on. There is a sense finishing the way we started! Here are a few tips to help start the year and finish the year successfully...

**Help children develop predictable routines** around waking up, getting ready for the day, eating nutritious meals, taking care of their bodies, going to bed at a regular time, getting enough sleep and arriving at school *on time* ready for learning every day. Children are more likely to be successful when their routines help them thrive.

**Build on your children's interests.** They're more likely to meet high expectations when they're doing things they enjoy.

**Talk with your children about the goals you've set and achieved in your life.** Explain how you overcame obstacles to meet your goals. Check in today about your child's goal and how it is progressing – does it need modification or changing?

**Expect bumps along the way.** Achieving high expectations is not like climbing a ladder where each step is a step up. Expect setbacks and doubts. They're all part of the process. The key is to work through the difficulties along the way.

**Encourage children to grow and develop at their own pace.** Don't compare your child to other children. Some are early walkers. Some are late walkers. Both are normal. Follow your child's lead and be supportive.

**Give young children extra time to practise new things.** Expect the process to be bumpy and slow. Be encouraging and don't expect perfection. Research tells us we need 200 "hits" to learn a new skill – if done once every school day that learning will require a full school year!

**Help children break large, difficult tasks into smaller, more manageable tasks.** This is called 'chunking' and can build confidence as they achieve each part.

**Find activities that get your children excited.** Encourage them to set goals and to have fun at the same time.

On a different note please continue to keep families and communities devastated by the recent bush fires and drought in your prayers. Prayers are also needed for the families affected by the tragedy in Oatlands over the weekend. *"Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may Perpetual Light shine upon them. May they rest in peace"*.

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden  
PRINCIPAL

**2020 SCHOOL TERM DATES**

Term 1 Tues 28 January—Thurs 9 April  
 Term 2 Mon 27 April—Fri 3 July  
 Term 3 Mon 20 July—Fri 25 September  
 Term 4 Mon 12 October—Fri 18 December

**FAMILY LOOKING FOR TRANSPORT**

We have a family who live towards Telopea and who are looking for another family who may be able to assist with transport in the afternoons – please contact the office if you can assist.

**SCHOOL FEES**

School fee statements should be posted to all families by mid-February along with options for setting up payment plans for your 2020 fees. Please ensure you have advised the office if you changed address in the holidays.

**MOBILE PHONES**

Students are not permitted to have mobile phones with them during the day at school. All children who carry a phone to school must come to the office and sign their phone in each morning. It can be collected each afternoon prior to afternoon dismissal.

**STUDENT MEDICATION**

A reminder that students are not to carry medication with them or in their bags. If a child requires medication during the day, the relevant paperwork must be completed and medication dropped at the office. Office staff will coordinate the dispensing of medication at the appropriate times.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BRIAN (Yr6)**

Congratulations on his recent results in his music exams- Seventh Grade Certificate Pass with Credit(B), Certificate of Performance(AKA Cmus) Pass with Credit(B) and finally, the Theory Grade 4 Certificate Pass with Honours(A).

**ST MARYS P&F WELCOME  
PICNIC NIGHT**

**Save the Date ...** Our P&F Picnic is set for Friday 6th March here at school. It will be held on the Marist Site from 5-7pm. Please mark the date in your diaries and come along. Details to come home next week.

**BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATIONS**

January 1	Luca A
January 2	Oscar L
January 3	Kaisei D
January 4	Benjamin Y
January 5	Oscar M
January 6	Mia LB
January 7	Alyssa M
January 8	Alyssa T
	Hope E
January 10	Riley W
January 11	Irene B
	Cecilia H
January 12	Audrey T
	Mya C
	Sara S
January 13	Benjamin L
January 16	William S
January 17	Lucas N
January 19	Heidi W
January 20	Enya L
January 21	Anson Y
January 22	Zachary C
January 23	Hayon K
January 24	Jenny L
January 27	Anthony S
	Ryder A
January 28	Jessica B
January 29	Olivia-Rose B
January 30	Maisie T
	Arsh K
	Priscilla M
	Chang Hyun S
	Oscar G
February 1	Anahita W
February 2	Catherine K
February 3	Romeo D
February 4	Benjamin R
	Justin H
February 6	Jordan H
	Ailish M
February 7	Ella Mc
	James F
	Patrick D
	Valeriy S
February 8	Scarlett S
February 9	Madison C
February 10	Aaron S
February 12	Siyun K
February 13	Hope B
February 14	Hayley G
February 17	Riley I
	Josephine L

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for five days or more you must make a **formal application in writing to Mr Blissenden**. This can either be a letter handed to the office or via email. A "Leave Application Form" will then be sent home for you to complete. Once this is returned to the office, we will process the paperwork and send home the approved 'Certificate for Extended Leave'. It is important for you to know that, depending on circumstances, this leave may not be granted. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress. These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and we know you will understand the reasoning behind them.

### **SPORTS DAYS & LIBRARY DAYS**

Please see below the days that each grade are required to wear their Sport Uniform and bring their Library bag to school:

GRADE	WEAR SPORTS UNIFORM	BRING LIBRARY BAG
Kinder	Wednesday & Friday	Wednesday
Year 1	Wednesday & Thursday	Tuesday
Year 2	Wednesday & Friday	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday & Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Wednesday & Thursday	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday & Friday	Thursday
Year 6	Thursday & Friday	Thursday

### **RETURNING NOTES TO SCHOOL**

It is extremely important when returning notes to the school office, you make sure you send in **all requested information**. On occasion, ie: sport gala days, excursions etc, we will send home 2-3 pages that require information or signatures. It is difficult to collate information when we aren't receiving all the paperwork at once. Please take the time to check that all information is returned at the same time (on time) when sending notes into the office.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

There are some items without names in the lost property box – please check here if you think there may be an item belonging to your child. Unclaimed items will be donated to the Clothing Pool on Friday.

### **SAFER INTERNET DAY**

Safer Internet Day will be held around the country next Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. Consider joining the chat – a flyer is included with this Newsletter.

### **EMAILS OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS**

St Mary's recognises that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher. We wish to remind you that teachers read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Further, teachers are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents and students outside of normal working hours. In the case of a genuine emergency please contact the school office during business hours on [stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au) or phone 8844 5700. We appreciate your assistance and understanding.