



Term 1 Week 4

Wednesday 19th February 2020

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DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2020

Thursday 20th Feb	Diocesan Swimming Carnival Blacktown
Tuesday 25th Feb	P&F Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday 26th Feb	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15am—Yrs 3-6 K-2 Class Liturgies
Monday 2nd March	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW) COMMENCES
Tuesday 3rd March	School Photos
Wednesday 4th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Open Learning Spaces 9:00-10:00am * CSW Liturgy 10:10—10:30am * Morning Tea 10:30am (parents can stay for a BYO Morning Tea)
Friday 6th March	Open Day for New Enrolments for 2021 9:15—10:45am
Friday 6th March	P&F Welcome Picnic

ADVANCE NOTICE

Staff Development Day (no school for the children) **9th March**. Staff will be engaged in professional learning that day. Thank you for your understanding.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful Opening School Mass we celebrated together last week to herald in a new school year. The children were reverent and participated beautifully. Our community welcomed our new staff and Kindergarten students 'to the family'. We also presented our School Captains and Student Leaders (including all of Year 6) with their badges. Congratulations to our staff who prepared the students for the Mass – it has certainly set the bar high for the year ahead!

We all know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. It is for this reason we start our year with an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to meet each other early in the term. Thank you to the hundreds of parents who made time to visit the school last week to hear from their child's teacher about the learning that is planned, routines of each grade and to hear from the P&F and myself.

Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of teachers. Together, staff and parents can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly academic environment and, when appropriate, celebrate our achievements.

We hope that throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year: *"The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11.

Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will provide experiences of liturgy and prayer to assist the spiritual and moral maturity of all our students. May this school year see staff and parents in partnership in our collective role of secular and faith education.

"God, our Father, we ask that Your Spirit be a constant influence in the lives of all who make up our school community this year. Help our students to be discerning, so that the outcomes of their choices will be in accord with Christian values. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



KISS & GO VOLUNTEERS

We still require parent volunteers to assist with Kiss & Go in the afternoon. We thank those of you who have offered your time. We are still looking for more volunteers on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon. **Without parent volunteers unfortunately this service will no longer be available.**

DOES YOUR CHILD WEAR GLASSES?

All children who are required to wear glasses at school must be responsible to wear the glasses at the appropriate times every day.

Please ensure that all class teachers know when your child is required to wear their glasses (perhaps write a note and give it to the teacher at parent/grade meetings).

Thank you. Mrs Waterhouse

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our school photo's this year will be held on **Tuesday 3rd March**. A personalised envelope will be sent home shortly with your child. **Please ensure you keep it in a safe place.** Your child will be required to bring the completed envelope along on the day and hand it to the photographer. No envelopes are to be handed to the office. We will advise you when the sibling envelopes will be available for collection.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



February 20	Isabella W
February 26	Stella B Brian L
February 27	Joanne J
February 28	Chang Hwi S Hannah P Alice B Mitchell R Charlie F Antony W
February 29	Ava A
March 1	Ava L Sarah S Stephen A
March 2	Sienna C

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

SCHOOL FEES

School fee invoices are due to be mailed out on Friday to your home address. Families are encouraged to set up payment plans, details of which will be attached to the fee invoice. Payment plans should commence or full payment of the first instalment be received by 18th March. All school fee queries should be made to Susan in the office.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS TERM 1—Week 4



KB	Keira D & Anthony C
KGT	Catherine K & Emmeline M
1A	Jemma L & Michael S
1D	Hope E & Riley I
2FM	Jason D & Isabella W
2RM	Hope B & Amanda B
3G	Lara K & Lucas N
3J	Jack L & Josephine L
4D	Michael K & Ailish M
4R	Daashan W & Torie S
5E	Jake B & Hayden G
5K	Ryder A & Benjamin R
6K	Monique G & Kaisei D
6LV	Sienna T & Chad C

CARE AWARDS TERM 1—Week 4



KB	Oscar N & Zachary C
KGT	Annabelle R & Chase M
1A	Sienna D & Louis I
1D	Sophia M & Isabella C
2FM	Nivaan S & Amy L
2RM	Harry g & Aurelia R
3G	Claudia A & Daniel R
3J	Maxwell N & Minnie E
4D	Stephen A & Sienna C
4R	Olivia-Rose B & Antonious M
5E	Flynn s & Irene B
5K	Lucinda B & Rachel G
6K	Amber A & Aidan M
6LV	Connor P & Elise S

BOOK CLUB...

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club is a long established book seller who distributes catalogues to schools allowing students and their parents to purchase books. The catalogues are sent home twice per term. The start of the year is a good opportunity to support your child in their reading through Book Club.

You can order and pay online for your child's Book Club purchases using a credit card via LOOP (the Scholastic online order platform). The order will be electronically linked to our school. No orders will be taken or cash collected by the school. Please order and pay via the website.

HOW TO ORDER USING LOOP

1. Sign on or register an account at: scholastic.com.au/loop or by using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App store or Google Play.
2. Click on ORDER and select school and child's class.
3. Add child's first name and last initial (so we know who the book is for).
4. Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue.
5. Make payment via credit card.
6. All orders will be delivered to St Mary's and distributed to the children.

Book Club benefits our school as every Book Club order placed results in the school receiving 20% of the order spend in reward points which are used to purchase educational resources for the school.

Any questions please contact Kristine Muir—Book Club Organiser on 8844 5700 or by email kmuir2@parra.catholic.edu.au.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS TERM 1..

After School Programme - an optional programme is being offered this term...

Coding (Google CS First) Program

Recommended for students in Years 2, 3 and 4. Students who participated in 2019 program will continue learning from where they left. Fees - \$135 for Term 1.

Robotics Program

Recommended for students in Years 3 and above. Students who participated in 2019 program will continue learning where they left and will have opportunities to participate in Robotics events later in the year. Fees - \$224.25 for Term 1. A 20% discount is offered for girls to encourage them to pursue learning STEM related disciplines.

If your child is interested in taking part, you can visit the Academy's website on <https://www.welovestem.com.au>. Enquiries can also be made via email - hello@welovestem.com.au.

ST MARY'S P&F WELCOME NIGHT PICNIC

The P&F would like to invite you to attend their Community Picnic Night on Friday 6th March from 5pm till 7pm. Bring your picnic blanket and come along to enjoy some live music, a food van and see displays from local community groups. Details have already been shared but if you need more details please contact any member of the P&F Committee.

ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION...

Parramatta City Road Safety Officers presented some very good advice for keeping our children safe around traffic at a P&F meeting last year. Some of what was shared included:

DO

- Familiarise yourself with the parking restrictions around your school using SPOT Parking Finder
- Allow enough time each day for drop offs and pick ups
- Teach your child to use the traffic lights or pedestrian crossing
- Always hold your child's hand when you are crossing
- Drop and collect your child from the kerbside
- Consider parking further away and walking
- Slow down to 40kph

DON'T

- Call out to your child from across the road to come to you
- Use your mobile phone whilst driving
- Conduct a U-turn in a school zone
- Rush or speed

SPOT Parking Pty Ltd in conjunction with Council has developed an online portal for every school within the LGA, it includes;

- User walkthrough/tutorial
- Translated to 13 languages (in addition to English)
- Interactive maps displaying;
 - School boundary
 - Green areas - where parking is allowed
 - Yellow areas - drop off/pick up zones
 - Red zones - no parking permitted at any time
 - Penalty amounts for each offence
 - Information is relevant to the time/day chosen

Check it out at - <https://parramatta.schoolparking.com.au>

ST MARY'S OPEN DAY—KINDERGARTEN 2021

On Friday 6th March we will be holding our Open Day for new families wishing to enrol their child into Kindergarten 2021. If you know of any family with a child eligible to start school in 2021, please let them know to come along. They will be given an enrolment pack full of information on our school and the Diocese and a tour of the school.

Also for any existing families with eligible children, please remember to collect an enrolment form from the office or print one from our website. Interviews will commence the week of 16th March (with times available over 4 weeks). Please ensure you return your Enrolment form and all required information to the office before this date. We will then organise an interview time for your child.

NOTE: Please ensure you get your application in ASAP as positions fill up fast.