



Term 1 Week 6  
Wednesday 4th March 2020  
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## DIARY DATES

### TERM 1 2020

<b>Friday 6th March</b>	<b>Open Day for New Enrolments for 2021 9:15–10:45am</b>
<b>Friday 6th March</b>	<b>P&amp;F Welcome Picnic 5:00–7:00pm</b>
<b>Monday 9th March</b>	<b>Staff Development Day “Pupil Free Day”</b>
<b>Tuesday 10th March</b>	<b>Cross Country Upjohn Park</b>
<b>Wednesday 11th March</b>	<b>4R Bike Education Excursion</b>
<b>Friday 13th March</b>	<b>4D Bike Education Excursion</b>
<b>Monday 16th March</b>	<b>“Sharing our Learning” Assembly—Stage 2 2:30pm</b>
<b>Mon-Wed 23-25 March</b>	<b>Year 6 Overnight Excursion to Canberra</b>
<b>Mon-Thurs 30th Mar— 2nd Apr</b>	<b>3 Way Interviews (3WI's)</b>
<b>Thursday 9th April</b>	<b>Term 1 Concludes</b>
<b>Friday 10th April</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

This week schools across the state (and the ACT) celebrate Catholic Schools Week- an opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful things Catholic Education offers communities – both students and their families. In 2020, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will celebrate the bicentenary of Australia's first Catholic school through continued commitment of growing opportunities of Catholic education for all.



From our first school in 1820, the contribution of the earliest Catholic schools transformed access to education for disadvantaged Australians. Today, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta builds on this legacy through leadership both on equity and the transformation of learning and teaching through innovation.

This milestone will provide the opportunity to learn from one another, inviting the voices, curiosity, and creativity of our students, teachers and parents to celebrate the gifts of faith and learning. In owning the history of Catholic schools in Australia, we recognise the hurts of the past.

We acknowledge the history, stories, and Dreaming of the Darrug people. We learn from the wrongs of the past, and these challenges guide us to a future that is accepting, welcoming and proudly diverse. The history of Catholic education in Australia is far from staid, beginning with Irish insurgency in the early colony. We continue to grow from our beginnings in 1820, acknowledging the spirit, determination, and initiative shown by our earliest lay teachers.

Locally today we welcomed families into our Learning Spaces to see some of our learning in action so far this year. We then celebrated a Catholic Schools Week liturgy with prayers and music celebrating Catholic Education here in Rydalmere (on this site, in particular, for 131 years!)

On Friday we will welcome prospective families as they visit for our Open Morning with tours led by our Student Leaders from Year 6.

Happy Catholic Schools Week to you all.

Mr Blissenden  
PRINCIPAL



### SCHOOL FEES

All families should have received their school fee invoices. A reminder that if you are using the payment plan option, the plan needs to be set up in time for the first payment to be received on or before 18th March. Alternatively, full payment of the first invoice is due by 18th March. Any queries can be discussed with Susan in the office.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONDITION OF USE—STUDENT OPAL CARD

Parents of children who catch the school bus, we are asking you to reiterate the information below with your child/ren. It is of utmost importance that they do this on every trip.

It is a condition of use that students tap on at the start and tap off at the end of each trip with their Student Opal Card. This is important to ensure accurate patronage data is recorded. This data is used to plan school special and regular route bus services and assists State Transit in ensuring adequate capacity is provided, so students can travel to and from school safely.

Current statistics indicate that many students have failed to tap on or off the Opal readers when travelling. If students do not tap on and off the school bus, it may appear underutilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

For more information and to apply for a School Opal card call 131500 or apply online at <https://www.opan.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students>.



### LINDA'S LUNCHES

A reminder, if students want lunch from Linda's Lunches, it must be via a lunch order placed in the lunch order box behind the office. Please do not just send money to buy lunch from the canteen as Linda only sells ice blocks over the counter and not lunch items such as hot dogs etc.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



March 8	Olivia G Samuel V
March 9	Samantha G
March 13	Jayden terW Tahlia terW Genevieve B
March 14	Beau H Ezekiel M

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

### ST MARY'S OPEN DAY ~ KINDERGARTEN 2021 ~

On Friday 6th March (THIS FRIDAY) 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 on Friday. 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 pack from the office or print one from our website. The deadline for accepting enrolment forms is **Friday 13th March**, so please make sure your forms are in on time.

## FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (SDD)

Our next SDD (no school for the children) is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Staff will be engaged in professional learning that day. Thank you for your understanding.

### ST MARY'S P&F WELCOME NIGHT PICNIC

The P&F would like to invite you to attend their Community Picnic Night this Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



### 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. **Without parent volunteers unfortunately this service will no longer be available.** If you are able to assist, please see the ladies in the office.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO CRISTIAN (Kinder)

For the first time, Cristian was able to volunteer to help disabled children learning to surf. He sat on the end of a surfboard while disabled children and adults got on. He spoke to them when they felt uneasy about coming into the water. Well done to Cristian on his first volunteering efforts.

### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME—AFL

Details will be sent home shortly about our next After School Programme to be run by the GWS Giants (AFL). It is a 4 week programme using Rydalmere Park held after school on a Tuesday. Register and pay on line – details to follow.



### TWO EX-STUDENTS THE FACE OF OPEN DAY AT OLMC PARRAMATTA

We were very proud to see two of our ex-students featured in Catholic Outlook this week (copies to be sent home soon) <https://catholicoutlook.org/mercy-girls-walking-the-talk-at-olmc-parramatta-open-day/> A huge congratulations to Sierra and London.

### RECENT UPGRADES

FYI - new soap dispensers and hand driers have been installed in student toilets and large screen TVs have been installed in Kinder, Year 5 and Year 6. New home readers are being placed in Kinder and Year 1. Finally, an air conditioner was replaced in the de-mountable used by OSHC. All these upgrades benefit our students.

# SKOOLBAG...

Did you know you can get the newsletter, events and information all from SkoolBag? Choose St Mary's at the top of the screen, then choose Notices, Events, News or Newsletter! Enjoy!

