



Term 1 Week 10
Wednesday 31st March 2021
Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere
Ph: 8844 5700
Email: stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au

DIARY DATES

TERM 1	2021
Wednesday 31 st March	3WI's
Thursday 1 st April	Term 1 Concludes
Friday 2 nd April	GOOD FRIDAY
TERM 2	
Monday 19 th April	Term 2 Commences
Sunday 25 th April	ANZAC DAY
Saturday 1 st May	Prep Session for Year 4 and up for Reconciliation 3:00 – 4:30pm
Tuesday 4 th May	P&F Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday 5 th May	Parent Session for Reconciliation 7:30pm in the Parish Hall
Thursday 6 th May	Mother's Day Stall
Sunday 9 th May	MOTHER'S DAY
Saturday 8 th May	Prep Session for Year 3 for Reconciliation 3:00 – 4:30pm

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

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents

Do you have "small people" in your household who are counting the sleeps until Easter Sunday, when rabbits and eggs undergo a remarkable change and assume the luscious texture and taste of chocolate? Do you have "grown-up-people" in your household who are?" Of course you do, for Easter is a time of celebration.

We all know that rabbits and eggs, as such, do not turn into chocolate especially for Easter. The Resurrection of Jesus is central to Christian faith; indeed, to be a Christian it is essential to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. About 25 years after the Resurrection, St Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth, stated, *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."* 1 Cor. 15: 13,14.

It is clear from all the earliest accounts of the Resurrection that Christ was preached as having appeared to His followers not once only, but several times over many weeks. According to the Acts of the Apostles, in the years immediately following Christ's death, His disciples suffered imprisonment, flogging, stoning and execution. And according to the Roman historian, Tacitus, the majority of people held them in contempt and Nero had them burnt to death. The Apostles had no motive to preach the Resurrection unless they believed it, and no motive to believe it unless they had seen Christ risen again.

The Resurrection does not mean that Jesus resumed His previous life as an ordinary person, rather, it means that Jesus entered another kind and level of existence. This, Jesus alluded to when He said to the robber crucified next to Him, *"Truly, this day you will be with Me in paradise."* Luke 23:43.

Before we settle too comfortably into the celebrations on Easter Sunday, we might slip into Martha's shoes and see what answer we come up with when Jesus said to her, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

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God, our Father, we thank You for Your Son, Jesus, and for the direction His life gives to our lives. We ask for perseverance in faith, so that we, too, will join Jesus in His Resurrection.
Amen.

With Peace and Best Wishes,
Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL FEES

All families should have received their first school fee invoice for the year via Australia Post. The first instalment is now due for payment or a payment plan arranged. Please contact Susan in the school office if you have not received your invoice or have any queries regarding setting up a payment plan.

Please note that we can no longer accept cash for school fees at the school. If you wish to pay by cash, you will need to go to the post office.

Please ensure you take your fee statement with you to the post office as it contains the relevant reference codes for payment. Payments by credit card and EFTPOS can still be made at the school office.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS TERM 1—Week 9&10



KB	Ethan C & Gabriel T
KBT	Kyah K & Daniel C
1A	Benjamin Y & Anthony C
1D	Jacob K & Annabelle R
2FM	Grace K & Amandi D
2RM	Alyssa D & Qiuchi Z
3J	Josie C & Isabelle W
3VR	Anahita W & Alexia J
4C	Jamie J & Zi Kei A
4D	Imogen S & Brandon E
5G	Finn N & Isabella R
5K	Sienna C & Samantha G
6K	Charlotte L & Misha K
6L	Flynn S & Lucinda B

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



April 1	Eddie A John R
April 2	Emmeline M Luca N
April 4	Giorgia T
April 6	Michael K
April 9	Adeline T Matias H
April 10	Sophia C
April 13	Andriana S
April 14	Liu T
April 16	Jake F
April 18	Ryan M
April 19	Hayden A Lucinda B
April 23	Nathaniel M
April 26	Finn N Sylvie A
April 27	Amelia M

We wish these children a very Happy Birthday!

CARE AWARDS TERM 1—Week 9&10



KB	Tamara K & Zara N
KBT	Portia T & Tristan G
1A	Taliya A & Ariya S
1D	Catherine K & Isaac L
2FM	Theo M & Sienna D
2RM	Amarah K & Arnav V
3J	Paris S & Christopher O
3VR	Wilson C & Jayden T
4C	Mia I & Majella C
4D	Giorgia T & Renae A
5G	Alessandro B & Ailish M
5K	Selina L & Alyssa M
6K	Samuel M & Chloe M
6L	Kiara Z & Cecilia H

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 AND 2023

We are processing application NOW – if you have not returned your forms to the school office please do so as soon as possible.

DO YOU KNOW THESE ACRONYMS?

CEDP – Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta

KLA – Key Learning Area (used to be known as subjects)

RE – a KLA – Religious Education

COVID-19 UPDATES

With the easing of restrictions, we will be making a number of changes to our procedures. The feedback from families is that while it is nice to come into the playground for drop offs our afternoon procedures are safer, more organised and faster so only a minor tweak will be made at this point to the afternoon collections. A separate update will be shared but in summary:

Procedure	Update
Morning Drop Offs	No changes to current procedures
Afternoon Collections	We will keep two group times for dismissal, but Group 1 (A-K) will now be ready for collection at 3.05pm and Group 2 (L-Z) will remain the same time
Additional Cleaning	No changes to current procedures
Recess Playgrounds for playing	No changes to current procedures
Lunch Playgrounds for playing	Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2 – Mercy Playground Years 3-6 – Marist Playgrounds
Lunch Equipment	Equipment including balls, cars, blocks for the Mercy Playground and giant chess, jenga, connect 4 for the Marist playground will be returned
Playground Piano	Will be able to be used
Morning Assemblies	We will continue with only one Assembly per week. From term 2 we will have a whole school assembly for students only after recess on a Monday.
Excursions	Are being planned for various grades

FROM MR BLISSENDEN cont...

THE MAKE OF OUR PRINT AND E-BOOK 'COVID-19 AND US'

Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta has made a video explaining the process we undertook in making the book COVID-19 and Us. It features two students and Lia Radocchia our Teacher Librarian. Lia presented to an Apple Teachers Online conference last week and the video was launched. You can view it here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0FS_iLs7E

THREE WAY INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all our families who were able to visit the school, with their child, to meet the teachers. This week we welcomed back families into the Learning Spaces – which we know was greatly appreciated by families and the teachers loved having you visit. We know parents now have a clear idea of the learning goal their child will be working towards and that our students know that mum/dad are on the same page as the teachers! A win-win! Thank you to the staff and to all our families for your time this week.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Students in every grade worked on a reflective piece of the Stations of the Cross which Mr Knight put together as a reflection for Holy Week (the period from Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday evening). Congratulations to all involved.

DRIVING AND PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Please be advised that the NSW Police Force is enforcing school zone speed limits and targeting illegal behaviour by motorists. Parramatta Council Rangers are also patrolling the school precinct. Please ensure you place the safety of the children first – do not illegally park, speed or fail to stop at stop signs and crossings – the life you save might be a child's. This is particularly important with 'drop offs' and 'pickups.' Please drive safely.



UNIFORMS

As the weather begins to cool the students may begin to wear the school jacket with their school uniform. As it is often cooler in the mornings and then warmer later in the day, it is important that jumpers are clearly labelled with your child's name. Thank you for your understanding. Please take the time these holidays to update labels with your child's name.

WATER BOTTLE FILLER

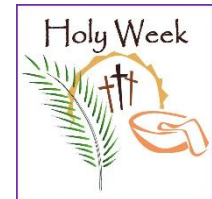
We recently installed this water bottle refilling station on the Marist Site. This re-filler is proving very popular with students. It is easy to operate with a simple push button mechanism. We are looking to install them in other locations of the school.



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME...

CEREMONIES

Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7.30pm Adoration till 10.00pm, concluding with Night Prayer
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross – 10.00am Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3.00pm
Holy Saturday Easter	Vigil Mass – 7.30pm
Easter Sunday	7.30am and 9.30am



RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Good Friday	After Stations of the Cross After Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	10.00am – 11.00am. 4.00pm – 5.00pm

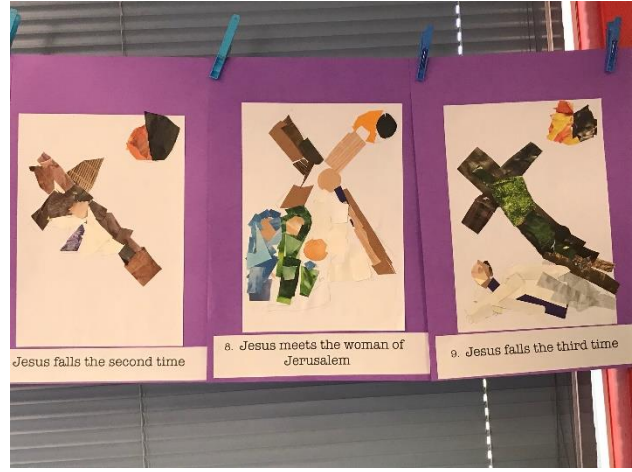
Please note there will be NO Mass on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday mornings.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS...

We would like to congratulate the following students who have progressed to the next level of the Cross Country. We wish them all the very best of luck!

Hayden G	Samuel M	Flynn S	Carey K
Marc N	Lucinda B	Michael K	John C
Eddie A	Daashan W	Gus G	Thomas L
Faith L	Alyssa T	Cecilia H	Esther L
Ava L	Kiara Z	Nishaan V	Benjamin L
Antony W	Akito D	Michael K	Finn N
Grace B	Minnie E	Max A	Oscar L
Lucas N	Harry G	Wilson C	Archer W
Sienna D	Amelia M	Jemma L	Heidi W
Anahita W	Matilda S		

YEAR 2 STATIONS OF THE CROSS...



ParentBrief



RESISTING PEER PRESSURE: TEACHING KIDS HOW

Peer pressure can begin early, take many forms and impact kids negatively. Standing up to peer pressure is often one of the greatest challenges any kid can face. As kids become more independent, they connect with others with similar interests and experiences. No child wants to feel excluded, and no child wants to feel 'different'.

Most children will at some time feel uncomfortable about either saying yes to something that doesn't feel right, or no to their friends. Knowing how to recognise peer pressure and ways to resist it, is essential learning for all school-aged kids.

What is peer pressure?

Peer pressure is all about fitting in. It's about acceptance. It's about conforming to a certain dress code, behaviour or preference. Kids of any age can either apply peer pressure or be influenced by their peers. Some kids want to fit in, others want to do what others are doing and some kids just want what others have. There are those kids who don't recognise peer pressure for what it is and there are others who are so super-sensitive, they crumble under the weight. It's important that as parents, we teach our kids what peer pressure is and isn't. This is especially important for younger kids, so that they know how to recognise it, and how to react.

Peer pressure can be positive

Peer pressure often gets bad press, but peers can play an important role in our kids' lives. Hanging out with other kids of similar age (or older) provides opportunities for friendship and acceptance. Kids learn about social skills and how relationships are formed and kept. Within a peer group kids can find encouragement, ask for advice, share experiences and benefit from other kids who set a good example and show leadership. In a positive peer group, kids will often cotton on to another's risky behaviour or silly decisions and be quick to say so.

Cont....

... 'but everyone else is doing it' ...

Kids often give in to peer pressure if they're led to believe this is the only way they'll keep their friends. A child who is easily influenced may look to others to follow their lead and think it must be OK because everyone else is doing it. Once at school, kids are quickly into all things 'cool' – language, clothes, electronic devices and toys. As kids get older, peer pressure can be more subtle: cool kids wear this wristband, so let's laugh at the ones who don't...his haircut sucks, let's not let him into the group.

If we're hearing 'everyone else is doing it', or 'everyone else has one', and 'it's unfair that I don't, can't, am not allowed'...it's time to sit them down for a little chat.

Ways to help our kids handle pressure

When kids are coached in how to stand up to negative peer pressure, their confidence soars. They can recognise peer pressure for what it is and have the courage to say no.

We can help our kids by:

- Building their self-esteem
- Offering genuine praise when it's appropriate
- Role modelling responses
- Teaching ways to say no and feel comfortable
- Encouraging independence, including developing good decision making skills
- Keeping home communication lines open
- Talking about our own experiences

Kids who are comfortable in their own skin usually do better at resisting peer pressure. They know their opinion matters, that true friends can take no for an answer, and that walking away from risk taking behaviour is good thinking. They're also the kids who know how much they mean to us, and how much they matter.