



Term 2 Week 8
Wednesday 9th June 2021
Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

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

DIARY DATES

TERM 2	2021
Monday 14 th June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Wednesday 16 th June	Pyjama Day
Wednesday 16 th June	Sharing Our Learning 3J – 2:15pm
Thursday 17 th June	Year 4 Excursion to Maritime Museum
Thursday 17 th June	Sharing Our Learning 2FM – 9:30am 2RM – 2:30pm 3VR – 2:15pm
Saturday 19 th June	Prep Session for Year 3 Holy Communion 3:00 – 4:30pm
Tuesday 22 nd June	WOW Word Dress Up Day
Tuesday 22 nd June	Sharing Our Learning 5G – 9:30am 5K – 2:30pm
Wednesday 23 rd June	Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day
Thursday 24 th June	Sharing Our Learning 6K – 9:00am
Friday 25 th June	Sharing Our Learning 6L – 9:00am
Friday 25 th June	Term 2 Concludes
TERM 3	
Monday 12 th July	Term 2 Commences
Friday 16 th July	Indigenous Incursion Gwenda Stanley 9:30 & 11:30am
Wednesday 21 st July	Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome to winter!! For many of us winter signifies cold mornings, going to work in the dark, coming home with the headlights on or open fires and marshmallows! For teachers the start of winter is report writing time and over the past week I have been reading of the successes our students have been achieving to date this year.

As the teachers finalise the reports families are encouraged to re engage with their child/children and their learning goals as discussed and set at the Three-way Interviews held earlier this year. Begin a conversation early with your child/children about their learning this Semester and remind them of the goal they set when you spoke with their teacher.

In the reports you will see that we comment on both achievement and effort. If your child has made a significant effort with their learning this Semester it is important to acknowledge this before looking at and commenting on the achievement. Celebrating the accomplishments of your child builds their confidence step-by-step. This confidence builds itself into achievement and results in big wins for everyone!

Have a successful week as you prepare for the formal Semester One reports!

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
Principal

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

Last week we held our Athletics Carnival. The results were:

McCaffery 320
MacKillop 316
Tarrant 294
Mackinnon 266

DAYS ABSENT IN REPORTS

As you know reports will be made available later this term and in one section of the report the number of days absent for the first half of the year is listed. I am often asked about the number of days absent as parents wonder 'how many days off is too many'? The evidence is very clear about school attendance – **every day counts**. We know that from time to time illness and unexpected events will prevent students from attending school but on the whole children need to be at school at every opportunity. As a guide – multiply the number of days absent on this report by 14 (being the number of reports you will receive during their Primary years) – this will be the number of days (at this rate) that your child will miss in his or her Primary schooling – there are about 200 days in a school year – so 100 absences is the equivalent of half a year of lost learning – which might answer the question 'how many is too many'?

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



June 11	Antonious M
June 14	Aren S
June 17	Majella C Mason R
June 21	Jasmin S Zara F

We wish these children a very Happy Birthday!

CHANGE OF HOME OR EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any changes to your home or emergency contact numbers, please contact the school office as soon as possible. In cases of sickness or emergency, it is important that we have the correct contact details for your child(ren). You can also update your details via the school's the Compass Parent Portal.

USING KISS AND GO

Our video on procedures to keep everyone safe and the traffic flowing while using Kiss and Go can be viewed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z8n_GuP_DBhph4w0KJvuJev_6TJP-izM/view?usp=sharing

PRINCIPAL AWARDS **TERM 2—Week 8**



KB	Jensen M & Kevin M
KBT	Mason R & Kaela T
1A	Zachary C & Gabriella W
1D	Selena K & Luca A
2FM	Olivia W & Jacob H
2RM	Michael S & Alyssa M

CARE AWARDS **TERM 2 – Week 8**



KB	Lucy S & Jahzara F
KBT	Isaac H & Eric Z
1A	Lenny M & Arya W
1D	Ava E & Tristan T
2FM	Arianna A & Sienna G
2RM	Alyssa D & Tyler N

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

DID YOU KNOW?

Our RE Draft New Curriculum has a name! **Living Life to the Full: our Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education** - For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. This draft new curriculum for Religious Education will be known as **Living Life to the Full** and is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website together with a guide to help community members learn more. Faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition, Catholic Teaching and Values, **Living Life to the Full** is designed to be age-appropriate for children and young people. When it is launched in late 2021 'Living Life to the Full' will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years.

TELL THEM FROM ME

Over the next fortnight we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process. We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Mary's. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using this URL: <http://tellthemfromme.com/smr2021>

SEMESTER 1 REPORTS

Semester 1 Reports are changing. With the introduction of COMPASS, a number of changes are being implemented. Here is what is changing and what is staying the same.

What is the same

- Achievement and Effort will continue to be reported in each Key Learning Area
- A comment will continue to be included for Religious Education, English and Mathematics
- The report will conclude with a General Comment
- The report meets the requirements of Federal Government and State Government legislation as well as CEDP requirements
- Number of Days Absent are reported

What is changing

- Reports will not be printed and sent home – families may print the reports at home
- Achievement will be reported on a new 5 point scale 'Requires Support', 'Developing', 'At Level', 'Extensive', 'Outstanding' which continues to align with the Common Grade Scale
- Reports will be available on the Parent Portal on COMPASS and families will be advised via email once the reports are on the portal
- Comparative Grades for each KLA will be available on request

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

DRESS AS A WOW WORD

Students are invited to come dressed as a Wow Word to celebrate the end of a term of creative and fun writing that has featured many Wow Words. The dress up should be no/low cost and you can be as creative as you like. **DRESS UP AS A WOW WORD** on **TUESDAY 22nd JUNE**. You must display your WOW word on your costume, you must wear enclosed shoes and you must bring a hat.

SURVEY

You have until Friday to share your thoughts about School-Home communication via this survey <https://forms.gle/KrHxbR7kx6rWrA6CA>

NOTICE TO PARENTS

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information. Parents and caregivers must advise their school by Wednesday 14 July 2021 if they do not want their child's data included in this report.

E-SAFETY WEBINAR

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) sees parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinar for parents and carers: *eSafety's guide to parental controls* - Thursday 24 June 2021, 12:30 -1.30 pm

This live webinar explores the latest research and is a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. The session is delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

About the webinar *eSafety's guide to parental controls*

This webinar will look at how parents and carers can set up devices and apps to help kids and young people stay safe online. It is designed for parents and carers of children aged 4-13. It will cover:

- the benefits and limitations of parental controls
- how to set up iOS and Android devices for safety
- how to set up popular games and apps like YouTube and Roblox for safety
- using family tech agreements and other parenting strategies to manage online risks
- how eSafety can help when things go wrong.

What you need to do

Please register for the course on the secondary site via the following link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4137910171894370572>

If you have any further enquiries, please email safeguarding@parra.catholic.edu.au.

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

PYJAMA DAY

A reminder that we will be having a whole school pyjama day on Wednesday 16th of June (week 9). On this day, all students will be allowed to wear their favourite winter clothes to school whether that be their pyjamas, onesies, dressing gown, tracksuits, beanies, gloves or scarves. The children, however, must wear appropriate footwear at all times and bring a hat for break times. It's a way for our students to understand the need for warm essentials for those people in our community who may go without any this winter. It is also a way to show our appreciation for the generosity of our St Mary's community in donating to the Winter Appeal.

PARENT EDUCATION SESSIONS

During Term 3 our Leaders of Learning will be conducting some Parent Education Sessions the first of which is Wednesday of Week 3 28th July- 9-9.40am. Vincent Knight our REC will be leading a Parent Education Session on the RE curriculum. Later in the term there will be sessions on Literacy and Numeracy - stay tuned for details!

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Classes are planning a session to invite parents in to visit and see and celebrate learning. Some classes will invite parents in this term while others will do this in Term 3. Dates for the first grades to share are:

Term 2 Week 9	2FM	Thursday 17.6.21 at 9:30 am
	2RM	Thursday 17.6.21 at 2:30 pm
	3J	Wednesday 16.6.21 at 2:15 pm
	3VR	Thursday 17.6.21 at 2:15 pm
Term 2 Week 10	5G	Tuesday 22.6.21 at 9:30 am <i>note change of date</i>
	5K	Tuesday 22.6.21 at 2:30 pm
	6K	Thursday 24.6.21 at 9:00 am
	6L	Friday 25.6.21 at 9:00 am



YEAR 2 DOT PAINTINGS...

Year 2 Dot Paintings telling the story of the Stolen Children.



The black dotted line is the government separating the children from their parents. Red dots are the adults looking for children. Yellow dots are the children separated. White and black circle of dots are the elders telling stories. Orange and red circle of dots are the wood and fire. Orange dots are the parents crying.

Hwi

YEAR 2 DOT PAINTINGS... cont



The white dots are the people telling stories about when the children were stolen to the elders. The black, yellow and red represents the Aboriginal Flag and that it is showing that they love that country. The orange circles are the people coming back in a group together as a family. The yellow is the sadness of the families when they lost their children.

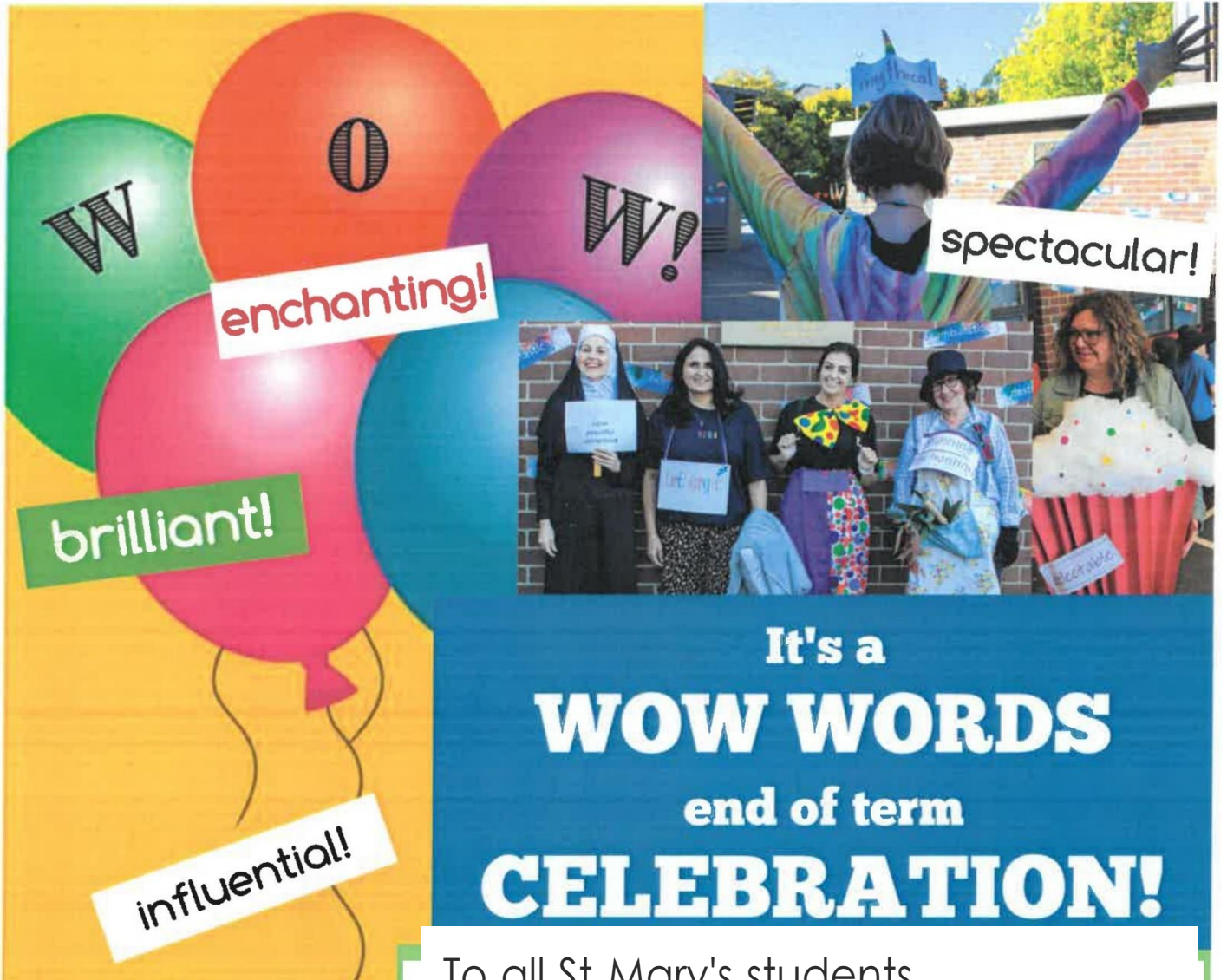
Christian

YEAR 2 DOT PAINTINGS... cont



The red and white dots represents the tears of the mothers. The orange dots represents the mothers. The black represents the childrens homes. The white represents the angry government wanted the escaped children to come back to the children's homes.

Shane



It's a
WOW WORDS
 end of term
CELEBRATION!

To all St Mary's students...

- We started the term with the staff dressing up as their favourite WOW Words.
- You've worked hard to use WOW words in your writing.
- You've written prize winning WOW sentences for the library competition and now it's time for you to join in the fun and...

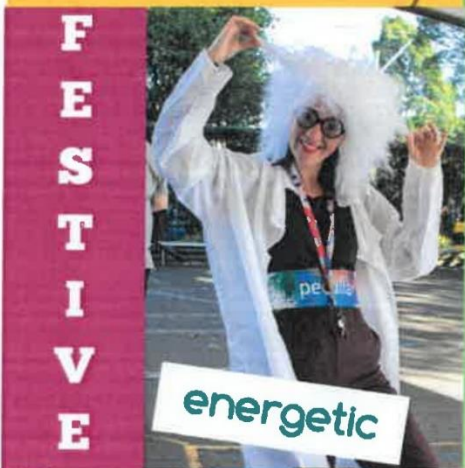
Dress up as your favourite

WOW WORD

on

Tuesday 22nd June!

1. You must display your WOW word on your costume.
2. You must wear enclosed shoes.
3. You must bring a hat.



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Managing Homework: The structured approach

Most kids need to be motivated to complete homework. Rare is the child who will leap at the opportunity to forego social media or the latest app to complete a maths assignment.

Unfortunately, when our kids avoid homework, learning is compromised and, in many cases reduced, their future opportunities appear threatened and we as parents are required to take a stand in one form or another.

Enter the structured homework approach. Not dissimilar to the behavioural boundaries we created when our kids were younger, a parental structured approach to managing homework gives kids clear guidelines regarding boundaries and expectations for successfully complete homework and handing it in on time.

Establishing a Structured Approach

A structured approach to homework applies a combination of principles of reinforcement and assertiveness to managing a child's homework behaviour. It involves initially setting guidelines and boundaries, especially for kids who seem unable, for whatever reason (which can unfortunately include over involvement and misplaced responsibility on our part), to do it on their own.

These guidelines include:

- determining pretty much where our child will study
- time limit
- the level of work that is and is not acceptable
- rewarding or penalising your child's efforts
- being quite firm and assertive about doing schoolwork

A structured approach also includes the use of external motivation to help our kids do what they do not feel like doing, and internal motivation when they are initially attracted to the work.

How parents can help manage homework behaviour

- **Provide a suitable study area:** be guided by your child's learning style. Some kids require a quiet corner, others a desk, and some work better sitting on their bed. Unlike the Internet, the use of Apps or social media is not usually required for homework but working to music with an iPod or iPad may suit some kids.
- **Managing time:** help your child to prioritise what homework needs to be done first, what time to start and finish.
- **Reminders about responsibility:** we need to remind ourselves and our kids that homework is their responsibility.
- **Communicate expectations:** when kids turn in the excuses, be prepared with the classic one liner you have to do it.
- **Appropriate praise and positive incentives:** praise both the process and the end product and initially don't hold back on appropriate incentives until homework behaviour is established.
- **Penalties do apply:** social media and TV are distractions, so identify privileges and valued possessions that can be withdrawn if needs be.
- **Draw up a behavioural contract:** some kids need it in writing, so if homework noncompliance has become an issue, draw up a contract to be signed by both parties. As with all contracts, penalties apply.
- **Communicate with the school:** ongoing dialogue with teachers means kids have nowhere to go with excuses.

By using a combination of principles of reinforcement and assertiveness and showing our kids the basics of how to do their homework, they hopefully will soon have the confidence and skills to take total responsibility for doing it themselves.