



Term 4 Week 11
Thursday 16th December 2021
Website: www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au

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

DIARY DATES

TERM 4	2021
Wednesday 26 th January	Australia Day Holiday
Friday 28 th January	SDD Student MAI's
Monday 31 st January	SDD Student MAI's
Tuesday 1 st February	Years 1 – 6 return
Thursday 3 rd February	Kindergarten Commences
Friday 4 th February	Twilight Swimming Carnival 5 – 7pm

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the end of the year here and Christmas just around the corner this is the final Newsletter of 2021. I am so immensely proud of the way the students with the staff have risen to the challenges of the year. Despite these challenges I think we delivered on the theme of "Resilience and Fun in 2021" – I don't think I will forget the smiles on the faces of the students as they returned to face to face learning this term!

2021 will definitely be a year that the world and the families of our school will not forget quickly. I believe it is also one of which our community can be proud. Proud of the way we all managed disappointments, proud of the creative ways we continued to stay connected – zoom assemblies, phone calls, emails and so on. At last count during remote learning alone our postage budget for the year increased by 2000%, we made over 4000 phone calls home, personally delivered more than 50 care packages to students, conducted in excess of 2500 zoom meetings, arranged 2310 take home packs and sent 23 iLearn@Home Updates to parents. They are figures of which we can be proud. We can be proud of the way our community looked out for each other. We can be proud of all the learning that happened despite the challenges we lived through. We can be proud of the creative thinking we used to overcome obstacles. In many respects we can be justifiably proud of our efforts and achievements in 2021.

Thank you to the many parents who have provided such lovely positive feedback on what they see have been the successes of the year for their child/ren. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback. Most of this feedback has come via emails and letters over the past few weeks and we thank you most sincerely for it.

Cont...

As this is the last Newsletter of the year I would like to express my personal thanks for the hard work and dedication of the staff of our school. I am particularly indebted to the Leadership Team who have supported the learning and spiritual life of our school – my thanks to Mrs Gosper, Mr Knight, Mrs Day, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Jordan. The teaching staff work tirelessly for the children of this school and I continue to be amazed at their talents – a very big thank you to each teacher. Our school is also blessed with an outstanding support team of Office Staff and Teachers' Aids – my thanks to each of them. Being part of the Rydalmere Parish, we are also blessed to have Fr Peter who is always happy to work with us and make our faith community stronger.

We wish those staff members moving on to new challenges the very best for 2022 and beyond.

Finally thank you to each of our families for your support and encouragement. I wish you and every member of your family a very happy and holy Christmas. May 2022 bring you much joy and many successes. For those families moving out of the area or changing schools, we wish you every success. I look forward to seeing all our other families in the New Year – refreshed and ready for learning.

Please find enclosed acknowledgement of student awards and a list of staffing for 2022.

Continue to stay safe
Peace and Best Wishes

Richard Blissenden
Principal

CHRISTMAS MUFTI

Thank you for your generosity. The recent Christmas Outfit Mufti was well supported with \$877.00 raised. **Thank you for your generous donation.** The money raised will be transferred to St Vincent De Paul to support families in need in our local community.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two **\$500 JB Hi-Fi vouchers** or one of thirty **gift vouchers valued at \$30** each.

THE MORE BOOKS YOU READ, THE MORE CHANCES YOU HAVE TO WIN.

Enter online

www.parra.catholic.edu.au

Competition closes 5pm on 25th February 2022.

What do you call a snowman in the summer time?

A puddle.



STAFFING LIST 2022

LEADERSHIP TEAM	
Richard Blissenden	Principal
Deb Sheridan	Acting Assistant Principal
Vincent Knight	Religious Education Co-ordinator
Amanda Day	Leader of Learning
Corena Laso	Leader of Learning
Maree Jordan	Learning Technologies Co-ordinator
DIVERSITY TEAM	
Trish Waterhouse	
Erica Rheinberger	
Jana Clarkson	
Lia Radocchia	
Dianne Sabat	
Dianne Woods	
Helen Lupis	
Louise Hampton	
TEACHERS	
KD	Nicole Dallas
KJ	Samantha Jakelic
1L	Corena Laso & Stephanie Speranza
1M	Clark Mangunay
2FM	Fiona Mead
2RM	Rachael Menday
3J	Maree Jordan
3LV	Troy Loudon & Adele Violaris
4D	Amanda Day
4R	Talise Rosman
5K	Vincent Knight & Ida Orlandi
5C	Taylor Chandler
6K	Belinda Kirkness
6H	Danielle Hartley
LIBRARY TEAM	
Lia Radocchia	
Angela Karam	
OFFICE TEAM	
Susan Albertini	
Kristine Muir	
SPECIALIST TEAM	
Stephanie Speranza	Sport
Michelle Dennis	Music

2021 AWARDS

CLASS	ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	CONSISTENT EFFORT AWARD	CARE AWARD
KB	Alexander G Sofia C	Maison O Aidan S	Zara C Tamara K
KBT	Marcus B Jayden C	Karline E Oliver T	Jacob A Kaela T
1A	Marion P Maya R	Lenny M Gabriella	Anthony C Arya W
1D	Harriet S Cristian A	Catherine K Isaac L	Angela L John R
2FM	Ezekiel L Grace K	Daniel L Sienna D	Theo M Sophie C
2RM	Hayon K Jessica B	Patrick D Tristian Mc	Alice B Olivia N
3J	Matilda S Zion K	Alina N Flynn Y	Amelia N Sienna A
3VR	Anahita W Matilda C	Nivaan S Alexander J	Amy L Nixon Z
4C	Molly L Zi Kei A	Josephine L Joseph S	Grace B Maxwell N
4D	Xianjin B Nicholas K	Lara K Alysha M	Brandon E Renaë A
5G	Chimamanda I Michael K	Scarlett S Mitchell R	Faith L Riley W
5K	Thomas L Antony W	Jiya A Esther L	Olivia-Rose B Gus G
6K	Charlotte L Nate N	Paige B Francesca C	Carey K Chloe M
6L	Hayden G Kristina A	Eddie A Ava L	Aren S Kiara Z

2021 YEAR 6 AWARDS

Jo Skinner C.A.R.E. Award	Alyssa T
Helen Turner Award for Community Service 3 – 6	Lucinda B
Barbara Curran Excellence in Literature Award	Nate N
Reg Kline Lions Club Award for Leadership	Lucinda B
St Mary's Award for Writing	Charlotte L & Kristina A
St Mary's Award for Oral Expression	Charlotte L & Ela T
St Mary's Award for YCDI (Growth)	Jacob N & Jackson H
St Mary's Award for Maths	Jake B & Misha K
St Mary's Award for Citizenship	Audrey L
St Mary's Award for Application	Cecilia H



IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2022

Captains Antony W
 Chimamanda I

Sport House Captains
Tarrant Gus G
MacKillop Finn N
McCaffery Benjamin Lambert
Mackinnon Esther L

Leader – Mission Faith L
Leader – Liturgy Thomas L
Leader – Media Hannah P
Leader – Tech Daashan W

KEEPING HOLIDAY BODIES AND BRAINS ACTIVE – Tips and tricks for the holidays...

Encourage every writing opportunity, from shopping lists to journals.

To get younger children to practise their writing skills you could ask them to write down your shopping list. Or you could suggest they make up their own board game or garden assault course — and ask them to write down the rules. Teenagers enjoy experimenting with blog writing or what they post on social media but they have to feel motivated.

Watch films with subtitles (even the ones in English).

Children often read much faster on the screen than they would normally. Watching subtitled foreign programmes is also an effective method of surreptitiously brushing up on language skills. It's an excellent way to be exposed to the language spoken by a native speaker in a conversational way.

How to help your fidgety five-year-old.

One of the best ways parents can get young children — four and five-year-olds — ready for school, is to keep them physically active and busy over summer. Activities that focus on motor development are really useful. Fiddly stuff, like bead threading, pasta on a necklace, Lego, Meccano, glueing twigs together, are good for writing because they improve the fine motor skills. Developing balance is a key skill for young children and is achieved by working on gross motor skills and muscle strength. Walking along a skipping rope as an imaginary tight rope, or walking along a wall, climbing, standing on one leg, learning how to bounce on a space hopper — that's great for balance and core stability.

Do some engineering projects with your 12-year-old.

Lots of children are bursting to get outside and do some practical learning. They throw themselves into design and engineering projects where they can get out in the garden and be more active.

Try the 44 ingenious science challenges from engineers at Dyson, such as working out how to make an egg fit into a bottle without breaking it (jamesdyson.foundation.co.uk). You can also plan and design projects around the home like a new garden or gate.