



# St. Matt's Matters Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Christ's unconditional love for each and every one of us is clearly evident as we recall and reflect on the upcoming key events from Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday, the sadness of Good Friday and finally the glorious 'Resurrection' on Easter Sunday. I hope that Easter will be a happy and Holy time for you and your family, full of Christ's blessings and certainly an opportunity for prayer and renewal. The many ceremonies over Easter that await us tell the story of Christ's journey to the cross and of new life. Our rich Catholic culture and tradition is very much evident at this pinnacle point of our liturgical year.

During this week we have spent time as a school community walking with Jesus through the events of Holy Week. The children have been extremely reverent and joyous throughout this experience. Thank you to the parents that joined us in prayer.

Throughout the term we have had many opportunities to gather in prayer as a Christ centred community. Unlike the doubting Thomas, the children's love of their faith is strong and just beautiful to behold. You should be extremely proud of the wonderful work you have begun and continue to do in your children's lives as the primary educators of their faith.

With so much that is happening in our world, the Resurrection of Christ and the story of Easter calls us to be people of peace, joy, compassion, respect, forgiveness and prayer.

I hope that all in our community have the opportunity to make and take time as a family to enjoy each other this Easter. The Primary years are certainly precious and pass quickly. The time invested now is paid back ten fold in the quality of your child's relationships with you and others. Happy Easter to one and all.

In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts.

Peace and best wishes

Tim Vane-Tempest  
Principal

## CHANGING PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS FOR STUDENTS

If there is a planned change to the pick up arrangements for your child or children we require that the school is informed prior to the pickup to ensure that we are aware of the arrangement. If the school has not been informed of the change we will attempt to contact parents/caregivers. If, in the event that the change cannot be confirmed through contacting parents/caregivers, your child or children will not be permitted to leave the school grounds. This is an important part of our Child Protection/Duty of Care obligations. Contact can be made with school using letter, email or a phone call.

## TELL THEM FROM ME A CHANCE FOR PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER VOICES

For the previous 5 years the Parramatta Diocesan Schools have used the Quality Catholic Schools Survey as a way to gather input from parents, students and teachers about the the school and the areas of strength as well as the areas for further development. From this year we will change to a new survey called Tell Them From Me (TTFM).

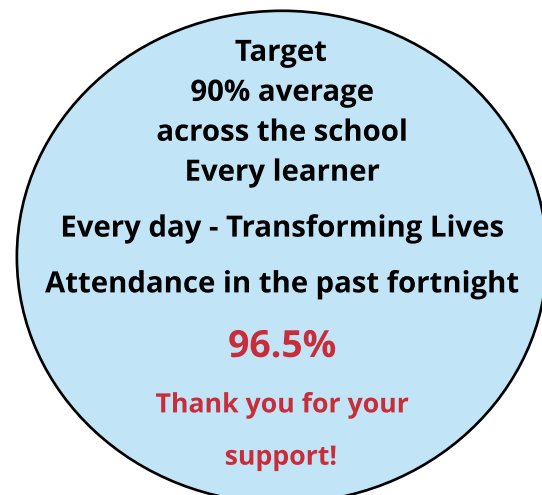
TTFM is an online survey system for parents, students and teachers - designed to gauge student engagement and wellbeing as well as gain teacher input and parent feedback on the effectiveness of our school.

The survey will be made available to students, parents and staff in Term 2. More information to come.

Mar 29 Thu	Holy Week Prayer 9:00 am Liturgy
Mar 30 Fri	Good Friday Public Holiday
Apr 2 Mon	Easter Monday Public Holiday
Apr 3 Tues	Easter Liturgy 9:00 am
Apr 4 Wed	Year 1 Parish Mass 9:00 am
Apr 9 Mon	Assembly 2:45 pm Presented by Year 4 Captive Rehearsal
Apr 11 Wed	ES1 Parish Mass 9:00 am
Apr 13 Fri	Stage 3 Touch Gala Day
Apr 13 Fri	Last day Term 1

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT – ATTENDANCE

Thank you to all families for your wonderful support of our focus on attendance. Our attendance rate has increased significantly on 2017 with our average attendance being well in excess of 96%. This is result that we can all take great pride in as we know that regular and continuous attendance at school is essential for all children to maintain continuity with their learning and assist with sustained progress.



# TEACHERS AS LEARNERS

In the past two weeks many of our staff have been involved in a range of professional learning. Mrs Galea, Miss Viviani, Mrs Burke, Miss Schembri and Miss Sant attended Numeracy professional learning. Mrs Whiteman attended a day for newly appointed Assistant Principals.

# STAFFING UPDATE

Our new COSHC supervisor has been announced. We congratulate and welcome Mrs Keira Lahoud to the role. Keira will take up the position in the coming weeks.

Baby news - We congratulate Mrs Moussa on the announcement that she is expecting her first baby later this year. This is a very special and exciting time for Mrs Moussa and her husband. We wish them all the best as they experience this precious gift.

# NAPLAN 2018

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit for the [National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy](#) (NAPLAN) test in May. The assessments are an opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class. Teachers use these results to meet the individual literacy and numeracy needs of all students. The dates for NAPLAN 2018 are 15th-17th May.

There are four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

	Tuesday 15th May	Wednesday 16th May	Thursday 17th May
Year 3	<b>Language Conventions</b> <i>40 minutes</i> <b>Writing</b> <i>40 minutes</i>	<b>Reading</b> <i>45 minutes</i>	<b>Numeracy</b> <i>45 minutes</i>
Year 5	<b>Language Conventions</b> <i>40 minutes</i> <b>Writing</b> <i>40 minutes</i>	<b>Reading</b> <i>50 minutes</i>	<b>Numeracy</b> <i>50 minutes</i>

The NAPLAN assessments will be conducted in the Year 3 and Stage 3 learning spaces. Year 6 will relocate for the assessment times.

# ENROLLING FOR 2019

The enrolment process has begun for Kindergarten 2019. If your child turns 5 before the 31st July, 2019 and you would like them to start at St Matthew's please contact the school office to pick up or have an enrolment pack sent to you. If you know of any family who are seeking enrolment for this year or 2019 and are not yet connected with the St Matthew's your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.

## ENROLMENT POLICY

Our Enrolment policy is in-line with the Diocesan Policy. The enrolment criteria is included below:

\*Children of Catholic families who:

i) live within the geographic boundaries of the parish (or parishes) for which the school was established, on which the school depends; OR

ii) live outside the parish geographic boundaries but regularly attend such a parish.

\*Children of Catholic families who are parishioners of a parish other than the parish of the school they intend their child to attend provided there are no vacancies at the child's own designated community parish school

\* Children of other Christian churches who, with their parents, respect and agree to support the Catholic mission of the school including the religious education it offers for their children.

\* Children of other faiths who, with their parents, respect and agree to support the Catholic mission of the school including the religious education it offers for their children.

\* Children who, with their parents, respect and agree to support the Catholic mission of the school including the religious education it offers for their children.

We are continuing to accept applications for enrolment for Years 1-6 for 2018.

The school office can be contacted on 4560 2300 for an enrolment pack or to have any enrolment questions answered.

## ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

St Matthew's students have been invited to witness and participate in the annual ANZAC Day commemorations that are to be held at McQuade Park on the 25th April. We are extending an invitation to all students and their families to attend this important local and national day of commemoration. The commemoration service will begin at 6:00 a.m. and will conclude by 7:00am. The school has been invited to lay a wreath at the Dawn Service, which will be done on behalf of the school by a selected delegation of students. Following the ceremony the children parents/carers are invited to make their way to the Windsor RSL Club for a complimentary light breakfast and refreshments.

For those attending we will assemble as a school community at 5:30am on the green beside St Matthew's Church. I ask that all students wear their winter uniform if they are joining us in the commemoration. Any students who are entitled to wear the medals of a departed relative are invited to do so. All medals must be worn on the right hand side of the shirt/jacket.



Greetings St Matthew's School Community! Harmony Day was a very calm day filled with prayer, song and learning. The orange bands stating our school name and rules-

" St Matthew's Catholic Primary Safe, Respectful, Responsible" given out to everyone was a pleasant surprise gift to all of us. Even though the rain prevented us as a school to be together for our liturgy, the Year 6 students did a wonderful job over the microphone to unite us in prayer and song. Thank you Year 6 students. We celebrate the diversity of culture at St Matthew's as we work together in peace, tolerance, compassion, understanding and harmony.

### **Parent Reflection Day**

Thursday 3 May, 9.30am - 2.00pm, Holy Shrine of the Innocents, Kellyville.

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

All are welcome to come together with other parents to pray and meet new people.

### **International Family Day**

The 15th May has been designated by the United Nations as International Family Day in every country in the world. Bishop Vincent Long has declared this day also as a day of awareness and fundraising for the organisation CatholicCare. CatholicCare offers many services to support families in need. Examples of assistance include counselling, assisting people who are sick or dying, providing services for disabled people, helping refugee families settle in – the list of help and support is endless.

Bishop Vincent has asked each school in our Diocese to support this organisation by holding a fundraising event. St Matthew's will be having a **Gold Coin Donation Mufti Day on Friday the 18th May** to support CatholicCare. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

If you want to know more about CatholicCare, you can log onto their website: <http://www.ccss.org.au/>

### **Easter**

This Sunday is Easter Sunday. Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. His Resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death.

Early Sunday morning, a group of women arrived at Jesus' tomb to find the tomb empty.

What a shock these women must have experienced.

Easter is about hope.

The empty tomb was evidence that Jesus had risen from the dead. The empty tomb symbolises a new journey of hope for us. It is an opportunity for us to start fresh- to live in the way Jesus has taught us.

We thank God for the gift of new life we have received through the Resurrection of Jesus.

### **Heritage:**

**The Easter fire-** At the Vigil Mass, a fire is lit to remind us of that first Easter morning.

**Colour of Easter-** The Church is decorated in white and will remain white liturgically for fifty days until Pentecost.

**Water-** Water is a sign of new life in Baptism.

**Pascal Candle-** The Pascal Candle reminds us of Jesus' delivery from death to new life.

**At Mass-** We remember the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Wishing everyone a Holy, Safe and Happy Easter.

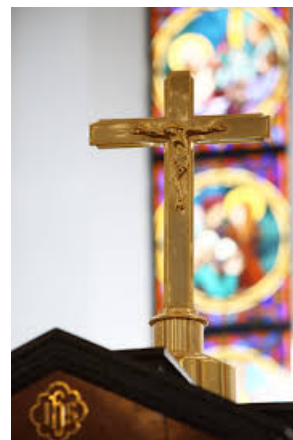
Thank you. God Bless.

Ann Climpson

Jesus in our hearts – Forever!

Mary Our Mother– Pray for us.

St Matthew- Pray for us.







## WELCOME BBQ

Photo's taken on the night are on display in glass cabinet near office.

Copies of photos can be emailed to parents by giving the front office the jpeg no. adjacent to photo.

## CAR SEAT CHECKS

As many families will be traveling these school holidays, now is a good time to ensure your car seats are fitted correctly.

Blacktown Council is going to be at The Ponds Shopping Centre on Tuesday 10th April from 8:30am - 1:30pm offering Car Seat Checks, No booking required.

## 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE

On Thursday 5th April from 8:30 am in the hall, 2nd hand uniforms will be available to purchase between \$5-\$10.



Canteen open Tuesday,  
Wednesday & Thursday for  
recess.

Selling Water, Juice, Chips,  
Ice blocks & Ice creams.

Thank you to our  
volunteer helpers.



Monday & Friday

Order before 11 pm on Thursday  
night & Sunday night

<https://tuckshop2u.com.au>

Payment options include PayPal and Credit Card  
(VISA, MasterCard and American Express)



## HOLY WEEK MASSES AND SERVICES

### EASTER 2018



#### **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**

9.00am Communion Service

7.30pm Communal Rite Reconciliation at  
Richmond Parish

#### **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March**

9.00am Mass

#### **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March**

9.00am Mass

7.30pm Chrism Mass (St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta)

#### **Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**

No Morning Mass

9.30am – 10.30am Individual Reconciliation

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by "Reflecting with Jesus in the Garden" - until 10.00pm (Jesus in the garden is when groups and individuals spend time before the Blessed Sacrament to pray)

#### **Good Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March**

No Morning Mass

10.00am Family Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

#### **Holy Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**

No Morning Mass

6.00pm Easter Vigil

#### **Easter Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April**

7.30am Mass

9.00am Family Mass

9.30am Family Mass at Bligh Park

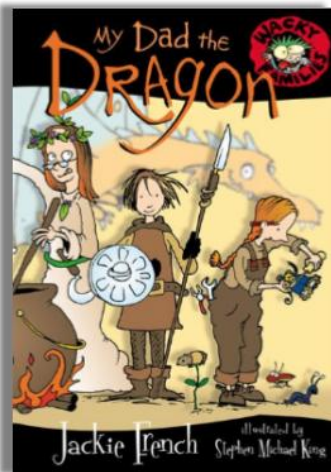
**##### NO 5PM EVENING MASS #####**





## Student eBook Of The Week

~ Primary Schools  
Mar 26 2018



<https://goo.gl/iNBwR9>

**Premier's  
Reading  
Challenge**

Sir Sneazle tells the boys that for their homework they must write a one hundred page essay - and kill a dragon! How will the boys of King Arthur's School for Knights manage? Especially as Horace's dad is secretly a dragon!

Their saviour is Horace's sister, Fayre Elayne, a remarkable inventor AND a fair damsel. And, of course, a connection to dragons that leads to a fiery conclusion.

CEDP Wheelers  
eBooks

Suitable for years 3 - 6

learning exchange



[www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au)





Please take note of the following important sport related dates over the next term:

Sport Agenda

## **Term 1**

*Week 10*

Stage 3 Girls and Boys Soccer Gala Day Trials

*Week 11*

Stage 3 Touch Gala Day at St Mary's Friday April 13



## **Term 2**

*Week 2*

Tuesday May 1 - Diocesan Cross Country PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Wednesday May 9 - Wanderers Soccer Clinic



Hot Shots Tennis

Thank you to all of our students who committed themselves to learning a new skill or worked on improving their tennis skills over the past few weeks. There were great achievements made over the weeks! A huge thank you to our coaches Fiona Roseby and Kim Baffo from Simply Smashing Tennis.

## **Touch Gala Day**

The touch gala day is soon approaching, thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time to help manage a team. We have some very excited Stage 3 students attending the day. Just a reminder the bus will be leaving from St Matthew's on Friday April 13 at 7:30 am. Training will take place through the week during class (sport) and break times.



BOOTCAMP is every Thursday morning at 8:00 am. Students will meet at the front gate of the school each morning. If your child attends COSHC in the morning please speak to them regarding permission to attend. The focus this term is to build up strength and endurance for events such as Swimming, Cross Country and upcoming gala days.

**BOOTCAMP WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY APRIL 12 - WEEK 11**

***Congratulations to Xander Ridgeway*** who achieved his junior black belt in martial arts. This is a great accomplishment for Xander - well done.

### Healthy Eating Facts:

You've spent all that time planning and preparing the contents. Here's how to make packing, and eating it, easy for you and your child.

- Choose a lunch box that is easy to clean, seals well and fits in the school bag.
- Some families prefer lunch boxes with compartments, some like a large container that can hold a collection of small containers or packages such as freezer bags – the important thing is that you find a lunch box that works for your family and that can keep food cold.
- Make sure the lunch box and the containers inside are easy to open. Small containers stop food from getting squashed and bruised and can be labelled for lunch, recess or [Crunch & Sip](#).
- Remember to include a fork or spoon when needed.
- Look for drink containers that fit inside lunch boxes if you want to freeze liquids in them.
- Don't use breakable glass or other containers that crack and leak under pressure.
- Mark containers clearly with your child's name using a permanent marker or stickers.
- Allocate a drawer or area of the kitchen where lunch boxes and containers are kept, so you can streamline packing.
- Do a test run at home with the foods your child will take in the lunch box. This will help familiarise them with the foods and help you to work out what they like and what works for them in the lunch box.
- If you get food coming home uneaten, ask your child why, as there might be a simple reason, like it's getting soggy in the lunch box, it takes too long to eat or you are packing a little too much for them.
- Prevent soggy sandwiches – pack fillings such as tomato and cucumber slices separately to be added to bread at lunch time, or pat slices dry with paper towel at home before adding to a sandwich.
- For small appetites or younger children, packing smaller serves can help – like cutting sandwiches into quarters and chopping up fruit.



# Little munch, BIG crunch = Power-packed school lunch

Kids relish variety so swap those everyday sandwiches for fresh veggies. Loaded with colourful and crunchy seasonal produce, these dishes are sure to satisfy hungry tummies. Simply prepare the night before and refrigerate in an airtight container to maintain crispness.



## HONEY & SOY VEGGIES & CHICKEN NOODLE SALAD

Preparation 26 mins | Makes 6

We packed the salad into 500ml disposable plastic containers however you can use any container or lunchbox to serve this salad.

500g fresh Singapore noodles  
2 carrots, peeled  
2 green onions (shallots), trimmed and thinly sliced  
3 Lebanese cucumbers, diced  
½ small red cabbage, finely shredded  
1 barbecued chicken, skin and bones discarded, flesh shredded

### Soy and honey dressing:

½ cup honey  
2 tbs salt reduced soy sauce  
2 tsp sesame oil

**Step 1** Place noodles into a large heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water. Stand for 1 minute. Drain, refresh in cold water and set aside for a few minutes to dry. Place noodles into a large bowl.

**Step 2** Using a julienne peeler, slice carrots lengthways into long thin strips. Add carrots, green onions, cucumbers, cabbage and chicken to noodles.

**Step 3** To make soy and honey dressing, combine all ingredients in a screw-top jar. Shake until well combined.

**Step 4** Just before serving, drizzle dressing over salad and gently toss to combine. Spoon into serving containers and serve.



## AVOCADO, LETTUCE & EGG RICE PAPER ROLLS

Preparation 30 mins | Cooking 9 mins | Makes 8 rolls

6 free-range eggs, (at room temperature)

¼ cup whole egg mayonnaise

2 tbs finely chopped chives

1 large carrot, peeled

1 lettuce, leaves removed and roughly torn

1 just-ripe avocado, halved, peeled, deseeded and cut lengthways into thin wedges

8 large rice paper wrappers

**Step 1** Place eggs into a saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over medium-high heat. Gently boil eggs for 5 minutes, drain, cool under cold water and peel. Place eggs into a bowl. Add mayonnaise. Roughly mash the egg mixture using a fork. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir through chives.

**Step 2** Using a julienne peeler, slice carrot lengthways into long thin strips.

**Step 3** To make wraps, arrange all ingredients around a clean board. Pour warm water in a shallow bowl (large enough to fit the rice papers). Dip a rice paper into the water until just softening. Place onto the board. Pile a few pieces lettuce into centre, top with a large spoonful of the egg mixture, avocado and carrot. Roll up to enclose filling. Repeat using remaining ingredients. Cover and chill until ready to serve.



# It's Aussie-grown pear season

*Get snacking on these high-fibre Autumn gems*

## STORAGE

Leave pears to ripen in a single layer, out of direct sunlight, at room temperature. Once ripe, store in the fridge and use within a few days.

## WHEN IS A PEAR READY TO EAT?

Pears are ripe and ready to eat when they yield to gentle pressure around the stem. They can be eaten while still firm and crisp or fully ripe and super-tender.



### First in season is the WILLIAMS

This juicy pear is available from January through to May. Its skin turns from green to vibrant yellow with ripening.

Enjoy its sweet and succulent tender flesh when full ripe.

Williams pears are perfect in smoothies.

### ...followed by the CORELLA

This attractive pear develops a pink blush when fully ripe and is juicy and sweet. Available from April through to October, the Corella has dense white flesh and a delicate crunch making it easy to slice. It is small to medium in size so is perfect for little hands.

- Team sliced Corella pear with wedges of reduced-fat cheddar or Colby cheese.
- Top wholegrain toast with reduced-fat cream cheese, sliced Corella pear and a drizzle of honey.

### ...and then, the JOSEPHINE

Available from April, the Josephine is a versatile squat and shiny green pear with thin skin. It can be eaten while crisp and crunchy or left to ripen for a richer flavour. The Josephine has buttery juicy flesh with a delicate taste.

- Wrap sliced ham around quartered and cored wedges of just-ripe Josephine pears.
- Fold chopped Josephine pear through thick Greek-style yoghurt with a swirl of maple syrup and top with toasted almond flakes.



## SCRUMPTIOUS PEAR & MUESLI MUFFINS

- Cut 3 cm from the top of 6 small just-ripe pears (Williams, Corella or Packham), leaving the stem intact. Set tops aside. Chop 3 of the remaining pears and drizzle with 1 tbs lemon juice.
- Combine 1½ cups sifted self-raising flour, ½ cup caster sugar, 1 tsp ground cinnamon and ½ cup muesli in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and set aside.
- Combine ¾ cup buttermilk, 2 free-range eggs and ½ cup rice bran oil or vegetable oil in a jug. Whisk until smooth. Add buttermilk mixture and chopped pears to flour mixture. Using a large spoon, mix until just combined.
- Spoon mixture into a 6 x ¾ cup capacity muffin pan lined with muffin cases. Top each with a pear top and sprinkle evenly with ¼ cup muesli and 2 tbs demerara sugar. Bake at 180°C fan-forced for 20-25 minutes until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Stand for 10 minutes before turning onto a wire rack to cool.



# STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDERGARTEN	<p>Abbigail - for trying her best in writing time! Well done!</p> <p>Nicholas - for working hard in writing time to "bubble-gum" stretch words.</p> <p>William - for excellent effort in reading groups.</p> <p>Anna - for excellent effort in reading groups.</p>
YEAR1	<p>Savanah - for showing focus and determination when attempting open ended maths tasks.</p> <p>Alannah - being a fabulous listener and gaining confidence in group discussions.</p> <p>Hamish - for showing focus and commitment to his learning in all areas. Keep it up Hamish!</p> <p>Hayden - for working diligently to complete an informative letter to our class pet Koko.</p>
YEAR2	<p>Gabriella - for her consistent effort in all learning areas and for being a responsible and respectful class member. Well Done!</p> <p>Mia - for participating in group discussions during reciprocal teaching, well done!</p> <p>Mala - for excellent participation in reciprocal teaching discussions. Well done!</p> <p>Flynn - for a huge improvement in listening attentively during shared reading. Well done!</p>
YEAR3	<p>Alexander - for drawing a fantastic treasure map in Maths and labelling the coordinates to reflect the position of different items.</p> <p>Emily - for writing a convincing persuasive letter, using words of modality to express her point of view,</p> <p>Taylah - for showing initiative and independence to work on her PBL project.</p> <p>Talon - for making good choices including following instructions and having a go at tasks.</p>
YEAR4	<p>Hannah - for her enthusiasm in all areas of her school work.</p> <p>Myah - for her enthusiasm in all areas of her school work.</p> <p>Patrick - for his enthusiasm and confidence in his oral speaking workshop for PBL.</p> <p>William - for answering questions in discussion time to further enhance his learning.</p>
STAGE3	<p>Emerson - for a consistently neat approach to her bookwork presentation for all subjects.</p> <p>Rylan - for a commendable effort towards his narrative on the Tiny Crusader.</p> <p>Alex - for a good understanding of 12 hour and 24 hour time</p> <p>Noah - for displaying a great understanding of length, perimeter and area.</p> <p>Isabella - for taking pride in all tasks undertaken.</p> <p>Christopher - for a neat and organised approach to his bookwork.</p> <p>Taylah - her work ethic in everything she does.</p> <p>Sharna - for her creative vocabulary in her narrative writing .</p> <p>Jackson - for being a responsible member of Stage 3.</p>

## **Catholic Education Office**

### **PRC 2018 Calendar of Events**

A copy of the calendar can be downloaded via [2018 Calendar of Events](#) for the Parents Representative Council (PRC). All parents and friends are welcome to attend.

### **Bishop Office**

### **Happy Easter from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and the Diocese of Parramatta.**

### **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Lecture Series**

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of Mark. Venue: IFM, Marion St, Blacktown. Time: 10 am - 2pm. Dates: Friday April 6, Friday April 13. All are welcome. BYO lunch. RSVPs to Maree 02 9890 4731

### **Positions Vacant**

- Credo Youth Group Coordinator - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

For further information, please visit [www.stpatscathedral.com.au](http://www.stpatscathedral.com.au)

### **Be part of history at St Luke's Marsden Park: 8 April**

Catholics from the Diocese of Parramatta and beyond are invited to attend the first Mass at Marsden Park on Sunday, April 8. Mass will be held at St Luke's Catholic College (enter carpark via Frontier Avenue, Marsden Park). Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv will be the celebrant for this first Mass which will commence at 10am. Bishop Vincent has appointed Deacon Tony Hoban as the Pastoral Director for the new St Luke's Catholic Faith Community. Deacon Tony and his wife Annette look forward to welcoming many people to join them for this historic occasion. Marsden Park is on Richmond Road between Blacktown and Windsor. Further details are on the St Luke's website: [stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au](http://stlukesmarsdenpark.org.au) or via [facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark](https://facebook.com/stlukesmarsdenpark) or by calling 02 8605 2623.

### **The Feast of Divine Mercy: 8 April**

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated on 8 April 2018 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. Celebrations will commence at 3pm with Chaplet, Confessions, Benediction and Mass. There will be fellowship after Mass, please bring a plate to share. No RSVP required.

### **Discussion on Asylum Seekers and Refugees: 16 April**

The Social Justice Commission of Holy Spirit Parish, St Clair invites you to a Table Talk: WALKING WITH REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING PROTECTION. Monday 16 April from 7.30pm-9pm at Holy Spirit Church (5 Todd Row, St Clair). RSVP to Jacinta before Tuesday 10 April via [admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au](mailto:admin@holyspiritstclair.com.au) or 02 9670 8222.

### **NSW Pastoral Conference: 1 May**

NSW Pastoral Conference: Forming Missionary Disciples - Join with pastoral council members, parish clergy, staff and volunteers across NSW to explore strategies for forming missionary disciples. How do we renew our baptismal call and enable our gifts in parish and school life? Tuesday 1 May, Lidcombe, cost \$65. Find out more:

[www.tinyurl.com/disciples2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/disciples2018) or contact Tanya Quinn: 02 8838 3441 or [tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org](mailto:tanya.quinn@parracatholic.org)

## **The Permanent Diaconate: 6 May**

The discernment program for those who are interested in finding out more about this Vocation will be held at St John 23rd Parish, 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens 2768. Come and learn more about vocations to the Diaconate and have a chat with our team members. We are looking for men aged between 35 to 55 and residing in the Diocese of Parramatta. Our discernment program consists of five sessions, with each session dealing with different aspects of the Diaconate. The meetings will commence at 3.00pm until 6.00pm followed by the Parish Mass and Fellowship. The 2018 dates on Sundays: 8 July, 9 September, 4 November. For further information visit [www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate](http://www.parracatholic.org/permanent-diaconate) or please contact any of the following deacons: Deacon James – 0425 213 832, Deacon Tan – 0407 270 782, Deacon George – 0408 440 769

## **Plenary Council 2020**

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. All people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?" Find out more at: [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## **PROCLAIM 2018: National Conference on Parish Renewal and Evangelisation 12 – 14 July 2018**

The Archdiocese of Brisbane, in collaboration with the ACBC's National Centre for Evangelisation, will host PROCLAIM 2018. This national conference will engage parishes and faith communities in a conversation focusing on five key areas: Leadership, Culture Change, Young People, Belonging and Evangelisation.

During the conference participants can attend keynote presentations, expert panel sessions and discussions facilitated by leaders with 'on the ground' experience. Ideally, this will help those participants to contribute to the formulation of some practical strategies to assist your parish or faith community's own goals in the areas of renewal and evangelisation. Keynote speakers include Cardinal John Dew (Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand), Ron Huntley (Divine Renovation – Canada), Ms Lana Turvey-Collins (Plenary Council 2020 Facilitator), Mons Enrique Fiqueredo SJ (Cambodia) and host of PROCLAIM 2018 Archbishop Mark Coleridge (Archdiocese of Brisbane). To find out more visit [www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au) and register at our early bird rate.

## **Holy Hour for Vocations: 5 April**

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (age 18-35) to join us for Holy Hour for Vocations on Thursday, 5 April at 7:00 pm. Join us also for the pizza at 8:00pm, Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP: Sr Paula by 1st June, e-mail: [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscsfn@gmail.com) mob: 0449 656 406

## **Nigerian Mass in Igbo: 8 April**

Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174 438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

## **Grief to Grace: 8 - 13 April**

Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing [info@griegtograceaus.org.au](mailto:info@griegtograceaus.org.au) or phone 0407704539. For more information visit [www.griegtograce.org](http://www.griegtograce.org)

## **Healing After Abortion Retreat: 13 - 15 April**

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, Sydney offers regular healing retreats for those who have experienced an abortion. The retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. Information and a brochure can found at: [www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au) or call us on our confidential voicemail number 0400 092 555 or email [info@rachelsvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelsvineyard.org.au).

## **Easter Reflections and Prayer: 14 April**

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite YOUTH (age 18-35) to join us for a day of Easter Reflections and Prayer on Saturday, 14 April at 2:30pm. Holy Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way, Plumpton. RSVP: Sr Paula by 1st June, e-mail: [vocationscsfn@gmail.com](mailto:vocationscsfn@gmail.com) mob: 0449 656 406

## **Australian Catholic Historical Society Lecture: 15 April**

Mr Stephen Crittenden, Ms Maha Melhem, Ms Anna Tydd, - The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Admission is free and open to all. Visit the ACHS website [www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au) for more information.

## **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 27-29 April**

A marriage enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! Date: 27–29 April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)

## **Marist Sisters College Woolwich Annual Reunion: 6 May**

Annual Reunion Day for Marist Sisters College Woolwich will be held 6 May at the College, 66 Woolwich Road Woolwich, with Mass at 11am in the School Chapel, followed by luncheon in the School Hall. It will be the 50th anniversary for those who left school in 1968 either in Year 10 or Year 12. For more information please contact MSCW Ex-Students Association, PO Box 96 Hunters Hill NSW 2110, email: [MSCWexstudents@gmail.com](mailto:MSCWexstudents@gmail.com), or FaceBook: MSCW Ex-Students' Association. OR call Julie Biber McLeay 0414 689 462 or Louise Shapter Hymas 0403 779 155. RSVP by 15 April.

**For more events please go to:** <http://parracatholic.org/events/>



Unfortunately St. Matthew's Windsor is unable to offer Vocational Care. Below is information for Catholic Out of School hours care at Quakers Hill.





# AUTUMN 2018 VACATION CARE

Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 20
Space Theme Day	Koori Kinnections (Incursion)	Foot Golf (Excursion)	Independent Film Day	FIFA World Cup Day
Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27
ANZAC Theme Day	Event Cinemas Castle Hill (Excursion)	<b>CLOSED (ANZAC DAY)</b>	Basketball & Soccerroo's Clinic (Incursion)	In Europe for a Day!

Care is available each day from 6:30am—6:30pm. All excursions will depart by 8:00am and return by 4:00pm unless otherwise specified

Please return booking form in person or email to: [coshmaryimmaculate@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:coshmaryimmaculate@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Contact Centre Supervisor on 0417 203 333

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS & PAYMENT: THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> March, 2018.**



## AUTUMN 2018 VACATION CARE PROGRAM

Week 1: Apr 16 - 20
<b>Space Theme Day:</b> Calling all astronauts to come enjoy our Space themed day to kick-start our Vacation Care! We will be going to infinity and beyond with exciting games and activities all day. Come and explore outer space like you never seen before.
<b>Koori Konnections:</b> Come along as we learn all about the First Australians. Immerse yourself and discover about Indigenous Heritage, The Land, Culture and Dream time stories. We will also get our faces painted in traditional Aboriginal artwork and dance the afternoon away.
<b>Foot Golf:</b> Source your inner Greg Norman and Leo Messi for this fun-filled excursion. Challenge your friends in this soccer-style game of golf where we kick a soccer ball down the fairway. Combine your love of golf and soccer in one fantastic and exciting fun filled game.
<b>Independent Film Day:</b> Hollywood here we come!! Learn all about how Independent Film began and what films are classified as independent. We will let our creative imagination run wild as we produce our very own film. Then walk the red carpet as we premier our blockbusters.
<b>FIFA World Cup Day:</b> Get ready Russia 2018 here comes COSHC Mary Immaculate. With a day full of excitement including Soccer games, craft and a World Cup style tournament.
Week 2: Apr 23-
<b>ANZAC Theme Day:</b> Lest we forget. Today we reflect and learn about the Battle of Gallipoli where Australians and New Zealand fought in the First World War. We will remember them by celebrating with a game of Two Up and honoring the heroes of this important day.
<b>Event Cinemas:</b> What's a cow's favourite place to go for fun? The mooovies! Come along for this excursion where we watch the latest kid's film at Event Cinemas.
<b>CLOSED for ANZAC Day</b>
<b>Basketball &amp; Wanderer's Clinic:</b> Will be joined by ex-Sydney Kings players and Wanderer's coaches who will take us through some drills and activities. We will finish this exciting day with a playoff. Bring you're A game!
<b>In Europe For a Day:</b> On our flying carpet we travel to exotic countries from Paris to Rome in an adventure fun filled day. Learn about other cultures as we explore exciting places and cities and cook some exciting exotic foods!

**Children Must Bring:** Fruit snacks, morning tea, lunch and a refillable drink bottle unless otherwise indicated. COSHC will supply breakfast and afternoon tea each day. Children will not be able to purchase food while off site. COSHC is a NUT FREE Zone!!!

**Children Must Wear:** As per our Sun Safe Policy, all children must wear sun-safe clothing with sleeves and collar, enclosed sport shoes & socks and a sun-safe hat (*Legionnaire hat or Bucket hat with a deep crown and wide brim*) for all outdoor play including all excursions. Children must wear COSHC Hi-Vis Vests on all off site excursions.

**Child Information** (As listed on your enrolment form)

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Are children currently enrolled in COSHC for Before/After School Care? YES / NO **If this is the first time booking for Mary Immaculate VAC you will need to also complete an enrolment form.**

If YES, which COSHC Service do they attend? \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby give my permission for my child/ren to participate in the excursions and incursions on the dates I have indicated on this booking form:**

Preferred Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial the box for each child, for each day of care that you require**

Child's Name	\$50	\$55	\$70	\$50	\$50	Total \$
						\$
						\$
						\$
Child's Name	\$50	\$70	CLOSED	\$55	\$50	Total \$
						\$
						\$
						\$
						\$
CLOSING DATE FOR PAYMENTS APRIL 4, 2018					TOTAL: \$	



**Parent / Guardian Permission**  
(Please read and initial every statement)

I understand that failure to make the full Vacation Care fee payment by April 4, will result in my child/ren's position at Vacation Care being cancelled without notice.	
I understand that no further bookings OR changes to bookings will be accepted after THURSDAY March 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2018.	
I agree to abide by all policies and procedures of Catholic Out of School Hours Care.	
I accept that children will be supervised at all times, and that all travel between the Centre and excursion venue will be in privately booked buses with seatbelts.	
I understand that excursions are compulsory for all children booked in on that day to attend and that the number of participants will not exceed the licensed number.	
I understand that "Excursion and Incursion Risk Assessments" have been completed prior to the event and are available to me upon request.	
I understand that the ratio's that COSHC adheres to is 1:15 for onsite days and 1:8 for all excursions (water based excursions are 1:5). Additional carers will be rostered where it is deemed to be necessary, based on the activity risk assessment.	
I accept that it is my responsibility to ensure we are at the Centre by 5:00am on excursion days (unless another time is specified). I understand that the bus will not wait and I will need to make alternative care arrangements for my child/ren if we arrive late.	
I understand that I am required to sign my child in and out of the program each day. Written notification is required to allow another person to collect my child if they are not listed as an authorised contact.	
I understand that my children may be required to participate in activities that may be physically and emotionally demanding. My children's participation in any activity is non compulsory. COSHC staff will duly exercise their Duty of Care.	
I agree to support the centre in implementing the Sun Protection Policy by my child/ren wearing Sun-safe clothing with sleeves & collar, sun-safe hat and sports shoes & socks.	
I understand that all programs will continue in the event of inclement weather unless notified. I understand that should the scheduled venue need to change due to inclement weather, the back up venues COSHC will use are the Movies, Bowling and Sydney Aquarium/Wildlife World.	
I understand that COSHC will take no responsibility for lost property. This includes all electronic devices.	
I give permission for my child/ren to have their face painted and hair sprayed as part of the centre program throughout the holidays.	
Parent 1 Signature: _____ Date: _____ Parent 2 Signature: _____ Date: _____ Staff Signature: _____ Date Received: _____	



A SPECIAL DAY FOR PARENTS  
ACROSS PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS

LAUGH  
PRAY  
REFLECT

TAKE TIME  
OUT FOR  
YOURSELF

FREE  
DAY SPA  
FOR THE  
SOUL

Bring a friend!

**BOOK NOW!**  
**LIMITED SPACES**  
**AVAILABLE**

Enquire and register  
by 12 April with Tania  
Melki via email:  
tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au  
Ph:0429375226

**Thursday 3rd May**  
**9:30am-2 pm**

**MORNING TEA AND**  
**LUNCH INCLUDED**

The Franciscan Shrine of  
The Holy Innocents  
8 Greyfriar Place Kellyville

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