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# St. Matt's Matters Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Over the past 2 weeks we have celebrated the launch of our Positive Behaviour Support For Learning initiative as well as our Welcome BBQ. Thank you to all those who worked towards making these great community events a huge success. Mrs Williams, Mrs Larnach and Miss Keane who led the PBS4L event. Mrs Babazogli for her organisation for the Welcome BBQ, staff who stayed to assist on the evening and the following parents who assisted with the BBQ and drinks stall - Andrew Beattie, Therese Pullen, Shane Hurdis, Paula Diab, Suzie Deguara, Sarah Jordan, Michelle Muscat and Natalie Miskelly.

## Catholic Schools Week

Next week St Matthew's School will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week is about forging and strengthening connections between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community – by showcasing our activities and actions.

During Catholic Schools Week, we take the opportunity to highlight not only the best of what we do, but also what happens in our school every day.

We invite you and your family to join us at St Matthew's School throughout this week to celebrate with our school and parish community during Catholic Schools Week 2019.

Our school will celebrate with the following events -

**Tuesday 5th March - 9:00 am - Sunshine Reading and School Tours;**

**2:30 pm - Preparing the Ashes for Ash Wednesday liturgies;**

**Wednesday - 9:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass Years 3-6; 10:30 am Ash Wednesday Liturgy K, 1 & 2;**

**Thursday - 9:00 am -10:45 am New Families Information session and school Tours;**

**Friday - 9:10 am -10:00 am Mathematics Madness in classrooms.**

Our school has a supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to give students the best education possible.

This special week on the Catholic Schools' calendar provides an opportunity for the community to recognise our committed and gifted teachers and support staff for their work in encouraging success, promoting discipline, supporting creativity and instilling compassion in our young people.

Thank you for all your support of St Matthew's School and we look forward to celebrating Catholic Schools Week with you next week.

**Lord Jesus,**

***You came among us as teacher, to reveal to us the Father's endless love and mercy.***

***Our Catholic schools continue to give witness to your compassion and wisdom,***

***seeking always to ensure that we are all welcome no matter who we are.***

***May our Catholic schools continue to be places of connection and sources of hope and enthusiasm for our young people and their families.***

***May the work of our Catholic schools always be guided by the inspiration of your Spirit.***

***We ask this through Christ our Lord,***

***Amen.***

## **Parent Forum**

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Forums. The purpose of these forums is to gather parent input and feedback on school initiatives. Forums will be held throughout the year. An update on the discussions from our first Parent Forum will be shared in the next Newsletter.

*In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children the desire to seek truth in everything they do.*

Peace and best wishes for the fortnight ahead

Tim Vane-Tempest

Principal

Mon 4 Mar	Assembly 2:45 pm presented by Year 4
Tues 5 Mar	Catholic Schools Week Sunshine reading 9:10 am
Tues 5 Mar	Burning of the Ashes 2:45 pm SRC & Sports Captains Grip conference Sydney Olympic Park 7:00 am Windsor Station
Wed 6 Mar	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 am in the church
Thur 7 Mar	Kindergarten 2020 Enrolment info session & school tours 9:00 am in the hall. Tours commence 9:15 am - 10:45 am
Fri 8 Mar	Mathematics Madness join us in the classrooms 9:10 am
Mon 11 Mar	Assembly 2:45 pm presented by Year 1
Fri 15 Mar	Cross Country Don't Worry Oval McQuade Park 9:15 am
Mon 18 Mar	Assembly 2:45 pm presented by Year 3



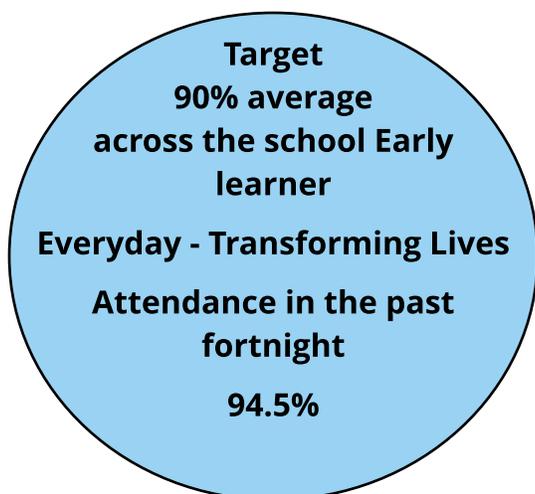
## **Attendance**

As a school we are aiming for an average attendance of above 90% across the year. Regular and continuous attendance at school is essential for all children to maintain continuity with their learning and assist with sustained progress. It is important that interruptions are kept to a minimum. If your child is away for a period of time please provide a note/certificate so that our school records are accurate. Please note all absences are recorded on the student's half year and end of year achievement reports. Absences can also be reported via SkoolBag, email or telephone call.

The school day begins with certain routines and activities so it is essential that children arrive at school by **8.55 am**. The school grounds are open to pupils from 8.30 am each morning and remain open to pupils until 3.35 pm each afternoon. Children are not supervised prior to 8.30 am each morning and after 3.35 pm. Parents are requested not to bring children prior to 8.30 am or pick them up after 3.35 pm.

Once the 8:55 am bell sounds all teaching staff have taken responsibility for the care and learning of the children and need to be fully focused on this very important task. Parents who are not acting to assist with exchanging readers or other tasks are asked not to enter the classroom during teaching and learning time.

If any parent needs to share information with their child's teacher this should be done before the morning bell rings. Alternatively, if the matter requires more than a quick chat, all staff are more than happy to make an appointment to discuss matters in detail. We thank all parents in advance for your assistance with these matters.



## **Teachers As Learners**

The ongoing professional development of our teaching staff is a critical part of providing our students with the best possible learning. It has been a very busy time of learning for several of our teachers in the early weeks of this school year. Mrs Larnach has begun her training as a Reading Recovery teacher. Mrs Williams, Mrs Larnach, Miss Keane and Mr Vane-Tempest have continued working with our school mentor to continue the implementation of the Positive Behaviour Supports For Learning (PBS4L) project. Throughout the year teachers will be attending a range of courses which we will update the community on in this section of the newsletter.

## **Canteen Service Begins**

Our new canteen service began this week. Our canteen operator Melissa Basha is committed to providing a variety of quality, healthy food for the students. There have been delays in setting up the flexischools payment option. It is hoped that this will be organised in the very near future. In the meantime orders can be placed directly over the counter at the canteen. The canteen is trading Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the aim to expand the service if the demand is there. A canteen menu is included in this newsletter for your reference.

## **Kindergarten 2020 Enrolment information session and school tours**

Thursday 7th March, Information Session in the Hall at 9:00 am with tours between 9:15-10:45 am. Please pass this information onto neighbours, friends etc. who may be interested in enrolling their child in our great school.

## **School Fees**

School fee invoices were due to be posted out this week however, the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta has advised that they are dealing with some system issues. At this stage they cannot give the school a date that the invoices will be sent out.

If you have difficulties with the payment of your school fees, you are encouraged to contact the school to arrange an appointment with the Principal to discuss payment options and any questions or concerns regarding school fees, please don't hesitate to contact Stacey Roberts in the front office.

## **General Information & Reminders**

### ***St Matthew's Primary School – An area of safety for children, staff, families and visitors alike!***

We have a range of procedures in place here at St Matthew's School to create a Safe & Supportive Environment for all members of the community but especially the children. The following are some points we would like to highlight and remind all parents about. These are a requirement of School Compliance and School Registration and are in place even though no significant issues of major concern have arisen at St Matthew's.

#### **Supervision commences at 8:30 a.m. each day.**

Children who are at school before 8:30 am must sit on the steps outside the school office until the teacher is on duty. The school does not take responsibility for supervising children prior to 8:30 am.

#### **Collecting children from school and late arrivals**

If parents wish to collect children from school before 3.15 pm the school must be notified. No child would ever be allowed to leave school early on his/her own.

**If your child is late for school they must be accompanied by their parent or carer to the office to fill out and sign a late note, your child then moves to their class by themselves.**

In the event of late bus school staff will sign the child/ren in for the day.

It is important to notify the school of any changes to your child/ren's afternoon pick up routine. If there is a change to your child's afternoon pick up routine i.e. a family member or friend is picking up the child/ren, please write a note to your child/ren's teacher.

#### **Child Protection Procedures**

**Schools are obliged to report any incidents or suspected incidents of harm to children. As mandatory reporters St Matthew's staff are obliged to:**

- Report children who staff believe may be at risk of significant harm.
- Participate in staff training in Child Protection and their legal responsibility to report children at risk of significant harm.

- Follow clear procedures set out within daily routines such as children doing messages in pairs
- conduct parent briefing and screening procedures for anyone who visits or works at St. Matthew's School – staff, parents, volunteers, tradesmen, visitors and guests.

The safety and wellbeing of the children remain our first and highest priorities. Having established a caring and safe environment for the children we can then focus our attention on their learning.

#### **Corporal punishment is not used at St Matthew's School.**

We do not sanction the use of corporal punishment by parents. Our belief is that children need to be guided and supported as they learn to make safe, positive choices and take responsibility for their own actions. Support can be provided for any family in need and all matters will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively. Support may include, for example, our Child and Family Counselling service.

#### **Illegal Substances are prohibited at St. Matthew's School.**

We have clear procedures for dealing with such circumstances and follow the Diocesan procedures. Any matter relating to the use of illegal substances would be immediately referred to the appropriate authorities.

#### **Work Health Safety (WHS)**

Procedures are in place to ensure a safe physical environment at all times. We have a staff WHS Committee and all staff share in the responsibility for maintaining safe and orderly school facilities. If parents see anything they consider to be unsafe we would ask you to contact the school office immediately so the matter can be addressed.

# FLYING HIGH CERTIFICATES

<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>	<b>Ellena, Emily</b>
<b>YEAR1</b>	<b>Lily, Anna, Zander, Alison</b>
<b>YEAR2</b>	<b>Charlotte, Victoria, Hamish, Levi</b>
<b>YEAR3</b>	<b>Oscar &amp; Gabriella</b>
<b>YEAR4</b>	<b>Charlotte G, Anna, Noah, Harry</b>
<b>STAGE 3</b>	<b>Gemma, Ruby, Emily, Natalia, Andrew, Elkha, Ashton, Hannah, Sean</b>



Catholic Schools Week  
**Celebrate At St Matthew's**  
Every Learner - Every Day - Transforming Lives



**Tuesday 5th March**  
**Come and Read with Me!**

This is a great opportunity for our students and their families to share a love of literature. Parents are invited to join classes at 9:10 for approx 30 minutes of sunshine reading! Students are welcome to bring their favourite book to share with a family member or friend.



**Thursday 7th March**  
**New Families Open Day**

**See why we love St Matthew's!**  
Know of a family looking to enrol at a new school in 2020? Invite them to come to our Open Day between 9:15 10:30 am

**Wednesday 6th March**  
**Celebrating Our Faith**  
Join Us to Celebrate Ash  
Wednesday Mass at 9:00am in  
St Matthew's Parish Church



**Friday 8th March**  
**Mathematics Madness**  
Join us in the classrooms at 9:10am as we investigate a rich task with a focus on multiplicative thinking, visualisation and reasoning.



# Canteen Menu

All Sauce portions are 40c each

## LUNCH MENU

Sausage rolls \$3.00  
 Beef pie \$3.50  
 Homemade Pizzas – Hawaiian, Cheese or BBQ Chicken \$4.00  
 Hot dogs \$3.00 add cheese 40c sauce 40c  
 Chicken burger – crumbed chicken, Lettuce, Cheese and Mayo \$4.50  
 Cheeseburger – beef, cheese, tomato sauce \$4.50  
 Aussie Beef – lettuce, tomato, beetroot, BBQ sauce \$4.50  
 Aussie chicken burger – Grilled chicken, lettuce, BBQ sauce, cheese \$5.00  
 6 Chicken Nuggets \$3.50  
 Homemade Lasagne \$4.00  
 GF \$4.50  
 Penne Napolitano \$3.50  
 GF \$4.00  
 Homemade Mac and Cheese \$3.50  
 GF \$4.00  
 Frittata - veggie or cheese and ham \$3.50 GF  
 Rice paper rolls (veggie, chicken or tuna) \$3.00 each  
 Corn cob \$1.00

## SALADS

Caesar Salad \$4.00 GF available  
 Chicken Caesar Salad \$5.00 GF available  
 Garden Salad \$4.00  
 Ham and Garden salad \$5.00  
 Chicken and Garden salad \$5.00  
 Tuna and garden salad \$5.00

## EXTRAS

Cheese, Egg, Chicken \$1.00

## SANDWICHES

Toasted add 40c extra  
 Wraps add 50c extra  
 Rolls 50c extra  
 Gluten Free \$1.00 extra  
 Vegemite, honey or jam \$2.00  
 Ham \$2.50  
 Cheese \$2.00  
 Salad – tomato, cucumber, carrot, beetroot, lettuce \$3.50  
 Chicken, cheese, lettuce and mayo \$3.50  
 Egg, lettuce and mayo \$3.50  
 Tuna, lettuce and mayo \$3.50  
 Chicken and salad \$4.50

Choose from white or wholemeal  
 Add avocado, cheese or tomato 40c extra

## SNACKS

Popcorn \$1.50  
 Chips Assorted \$1.50 (Honey soy Chicken, Sea salt)  
 Vege Chips \$1.50 (Salt and Vinegar)  
 Jelly cups 50c  
 Vanilla Custard 60c  
 Vanilla yoghurt 60c  
 Bread sticks 10c each  
 Freshly baked brownies \$1.00  
 Carrot or cucumber sticks with cream cheese dip \$2.00  
 Corn cob \$1.00  
 Apple \$1.00  
 Pear \$1.00  
 Banana \$1.00  
 Orange \$1.00



# Canteen Menu

## DRINKS

Water \$2.00  
 Hot chocolates \$2.00  
 Milk – Chocolate, Strawberry or Banana \$2.50 G  
 Up and Go's – Vanilla or Chocolate \$2.50 G  
 Poppers – Orange, Apple or Apple Blackcurrant \$1.50 G  
 Glee's - Tropical, Raspberry, Grape \$2.20

## ICE CREAMS

Berri Queich sticks (Apple, Blackcurrant, Tropical, Orange and mango) \$1.00  
 Ice Many freeze pops - Chocolate \$1.20  
 TNT blue raspberry \$1.20  
 Frozen Juice cups – apple or Orange \$1.20  
 Vanilla ice cream cup 99% fat free Gluten free \$1.50





### Parent/Carer Volunteers

The participation of parent volunteers and helpers in school activities is greatly valued and appreciated at St Matthew's. We know that the school home relationship enhances and supports the learning for all of our children.

In order to volunteer in the classroom, at swimming or sports carnivals or on school excursions all parents/carers and grandparents are required to complete the Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking For Volunteers. Building Child Safe Communities' is a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta requirement that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care.

The Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking For Volunteers form can be accessed via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>. Click on the Child Protection Training Forms – Volunteer Form.

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

Thank You In Advance For Your Ongoing Support

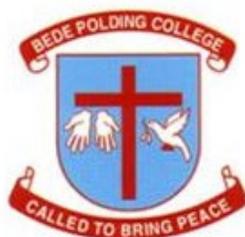
Janine Whiteman  
Assistant Principal.

## Year 7 Enrolments 2020

Enrolment forms for Year 7 2020 will be available from the Bede Polding office from **Monday 4 March 2019**. Current Year 6 students **will receive an enrolment form via their classrooms**. Completed applications **MUST** be returned to the College no later than Friday **24 May 2019**.

It is absolutely essential that any families with children already at Bede Polding ensure that they complete an enrolment form if they have a child they wish to enrol at Bede Polding in Year 7 2020. **The school has no way of knowing that you wish to enrol a sibling unless you submit an application.**

School tours will be conducted during Catholic Schools Week. If you wish to come to a tour of the College on Wednesday 7th March from 3:30pm to 5:30pm, please call the office to express your interest.



Greetings St Matthew's School Community! Thank you to everyone who came to our Welcoming School Mass on Friday 15th February. St Matthew's students participated reverently during Mass and our school leaders recited their Leaders Pledge with conviction. We welcomed all our new students and their families, staff and our youngest members – Kindergarten to St Matthew's. Well done St. Matthew's students.

## **Lent**

Next Wednesday 6th March is Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent comes before Easter. Jesus spent forty days and forty nights fasting and praying in the desert preparing Himself before His ministry to teach, heal and care for others.

Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves and reflect on how to live and act. We remember that Jesus died for our sins and during this time of Lent we ask for forgiveness. During Lent Christians are also called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Some suggestions to prepare ourselves during Lent-

- Family prayer each night.
- Prayer before and after meals.
- Going to Mass on Sunday.
- Helping a person in need – cooking a meal for someone.
- Visiting someone you know who is lonely.
- Going to Reconciliation.
- Giving money to Project Compassion.

Students from Years 3 to 6 will be attending Parish Mass at 9:00 am on Ash Wednesday. All welcome.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 10:30 am for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. All welcome. Palm Burning Liturgy.

Everyone is invited to our Palm Burning Liturgy next Tuesday, 5th March, at 2.45 pm. The palms from last year's Palm Sunday will be burned under the Cola. Fr. Gayan will explain the meaning of the burning of ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Join us in prayer.

## **Catholic School's Week.**

Next week we celebrate Catholic School's Week. This will give us all an opportunity to reflect on and thank the many people who have helped to develop and enhance Catholic Education. We will celebrate all people, past and present that have helped to make our Catholic schools places of faith, hope and learning.



## First Eucharist Program.

Students in our school and parish will continue their journey in faith by commencing their First Eucharist Program in a few weeks. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

If anyone would like their child baptised, please let me know and this can be easily arranged through the Parish office.

## Actors and Readers Wanted

If any families are available on Good Friday, 19th April, (School holidays), St Matthew's Parish are requesting if any students in the Primary grades are available to be part of the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross will be at 10:00 am on Good Friday and will be re-enacted by students from St Matthew's, Chisholm Primary School and Bede Polding College.

If you are able to assist, please let me know. Students will be practicing during lunchtimes. Thank you for your help.



You are able to go onto this site and learn more about Lent and Easter.

<https://primary.understandingfaith.edu.au>

Username: ceo.parra.1875

Password: ceo.2019.parra

May the Holy Spirit guide us here at St Matthew's and help us to be safe, respectful and responsible learners.

God Bless.

Ann Climpson

" In all things glorify God."

## **Gala Days 2019**

There will be many opportunities during the course of the year for children to participate in a variety of sporting activities. Some of the most memorable and anticipated events are Gala Days when representing our school in a chosen sport. Other events are our Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming Carnivals, which can all lead to Diocesan and MacKillop representation.

Representation for St Matthew's at events such as Gala Days, Zone and Diocesan carnivals are an opportunity to represent our school and are therefore considered a privilege rather than a right. Representing our school at these events, is earned by contributing positively to all aspects of school life, especially following our school expectations of being a safe, responsible and respectful learner.

Gala Days in particular are a great opportunity for students to compete in a fun atmosphere. These days have a focus on fun, teamwork, discipline and technique rather than high intensity competition.

The process for selection for Gala Days is as follows:

- Students in Yrs 3-6 will be given the opportunity to nominate for any Gala Day that is offered (Stage 1 students are invited to nominate for the Netball Gala Day in Term 3.)
- Depending on the number of students who nominate, trials will be run to select teams.
- Teachers will make decisions on who will represent based on a number of factors including those listed above as well as students sense of fair-play, contribution to the team for which they are selected, cooperation during trials and training leading up to the Gala Day.
- Once selections have been made those chosen will be provided with a permission note, which needs to be signed and returned to school by the due date with any monies which are required.
- The opportunity to attend these events is conditional on student behaviour and commitment to school/class expectations and to the team for which they are chosen being of the highest standard.

Parent assistance is essential to the participation of the children at these sporting days. We appreciate all the assistance we have received in the past from our St Matthew's families. We look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as new faces throughout the year at our carnivals and gala days. Parent assistance with transport, coaching and refereeing for gala days is always gratefully accepted.

As a staff we thank you for your support of the school in ensuring that we are represented in a way that reflects positively on our entire community. If you have any queries regarding Gala Days or any sport event please contact me at school.

### **Important Dates for Term 1**

Week 6 - Stage 3 Touch Football Trials

Week 7 - Friday March 15 - Whole School Cross Country Carnival at Don't Worry Oval, Windsor

Week 10 - Stage 3 Soccer Trials

Week 11 - Wednesday April 10 - Wanderers Soccer Clinic - Years 2-6 TBC

Friday April 12 - Stage 3 Touch Gala Day

**Hill's Zone Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to all of our competitors at the recent swimming carnival!! There were school records broken as well as several PB's. Once again thank you again to all of the parents who helped with timekeeping on the day.

**St Matthew's Cross Country Carnival**

Our Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday March 15 from 9:00 am to approx 12:00 pm. All students will take place in this event, however, only 8-12 year olds will be eligible to move onto the next level. As usual we will need some parent helpers on the day marking the course, assisting in time keeping as well as record keeping and ribbons.

Kindergarten - approx 500 m

Year 1 & all 7 year olds in 2019 - 1 km

8, 9 & 10 year olds (turning in 2019) - 2 km

11 & 12 year olds (turning in 2019) - 3 km

I would advise all competitors (particularly 8+) to start training when possible. This will assist them with endurance for other activities such as soccer, netball, football, swimming, etc. We will start training at school in PE lessons on Thursdays.

**Morning Tennis Lessons**

Starting on Wednesday March 6 we will commence a 5 week Tennis Skill Program. This will be for students in years 2-6. If your child is not part of a sporting event give this a go. It is great for overall fitness, gross motor skill and endurance. Our coach Fiona Roseby has been teaching tennis to students in the Hawkesburv for a few years and is excited to be back doing morning lessons to get students



is on again!! Every Thursday morning at 8:00 am students are invited to come along for some extra fitness. 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.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Brand





## ST MATTHEW SUPERSTARS



### Max Turner

Here at St Matthew's we are really proud of Max in Year Six.

Max is taking part in the Be Brave and Shave cause next month. His team name is "For Maddie". His sister Maddison is 8 years old and was diagnosed with Leukaemia in August last year.

Max will be shaving at Easy Lane (Windsor RSL) on the 17th of March from 12:00-1:00pm if anyone wanted to come along to support him.

You can sponsor Max and the 'For Maddie' team at:

### Jacob Dessmann

Jacob has recently attended the Parramatta Rep Trials for our Diocese and successfully qualified on their team. Good luck this Friday!

### Noah Beattie

Noah has been training and preparing for the Mackillop Basketball trials. All the best on the day on Friday Noah!

### Chloe Baffo

Congratulations to Chloe in Year Two! She came second overall in the 8 years girls 50 m Freestyle at the Hill's Zone Swimming Carnival last week and qualified to attend Diocesan the following Friday. Chloe swam her best and came an impressive 8th place overall on the day. Well done Chloe!

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?Referrer=%26>

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HEALTHY  
LUNCH  
BOX

# The simplest way

... to ensure your child gets the nutrients they need at school

Simply pack something from each of the 5 food groups plus water. Try this great example lunch box:



**Wholegrain Breads & Cereals:** Bread Sushi

**Vegetables and salads:** Corn cob

**Meat & Alternatives:** Baked bean muffin

**Dairy:** Yoghurt tub

**Fruit:** Strawberries

**Water:** Always pack a bottle of water

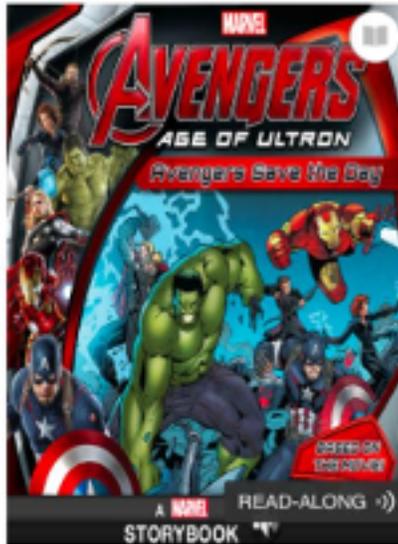
For these recipes and more examples of healthy lunch boxes visit our [website](http://healthylunchbox.com.au).

[healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)

## Student eBook Of The Week



Primary Schools  
Feb 27 2019



<https://goo.gl/VHSXD1>

Years 2 - 4

After storming a Hydra base in the forests of Europe, the Avengers return to New York. Just as Tony Stark, Steve Rogers, Dr. Bruce Banner, Thor, Natasha Romanoff, and Clint Barton begin to celebrate their victory, a new enemy introduces himself. Ultron is the planet's biggest threat yet!

Read-along  
Marvel  
Comic

# PREMIER'S READING Challenge

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian is encouraging school students to find the same joy in books that she has had since she was a child.

"It's important for children to discover what books have to offer because we know a passion for learning will set them up for the future," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The great thing about books is they cover just about any issue or story you can imagine."

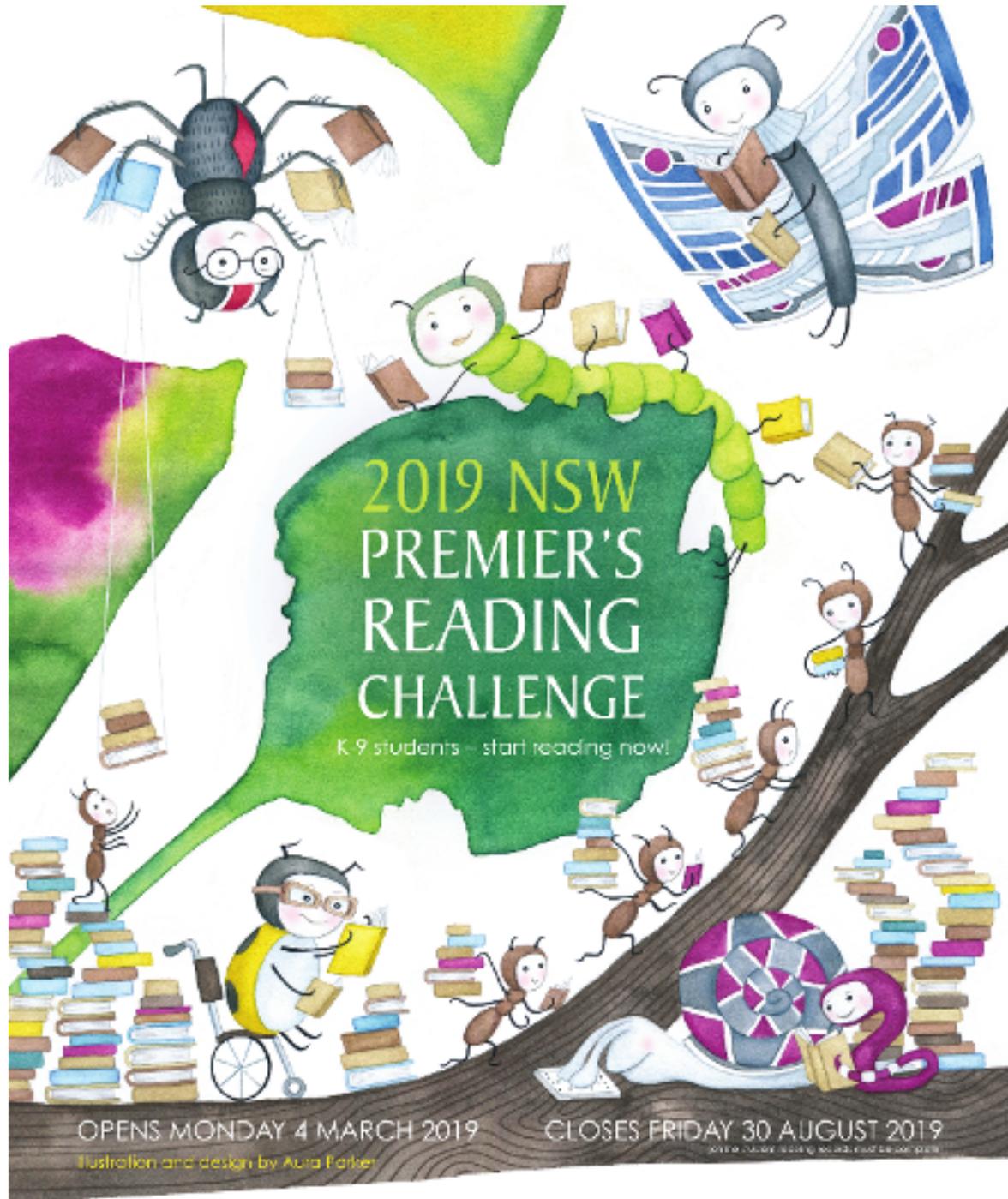
The challenge is not a competition, but a way to foster a love of reading for pleasure in kindergarten to year 9 students in NSW government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Premier Berejiklian has previously spoken about how, as a child of Armenian immigrants, her passion for reading books helped her to learn English when she started school.

"I would love to see as many children as possible develop an interest in reading like I did when I was at school," she said.

Students must finish between 20 and 30 books (depending on their age) to complete the challenge before it closes on August 30.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is proudly supported by major partner Modern Teaching Aids, supporting partner Dymocks Children's Charities and media partner NewsLocal.



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



Media Partner



Supporting Partner

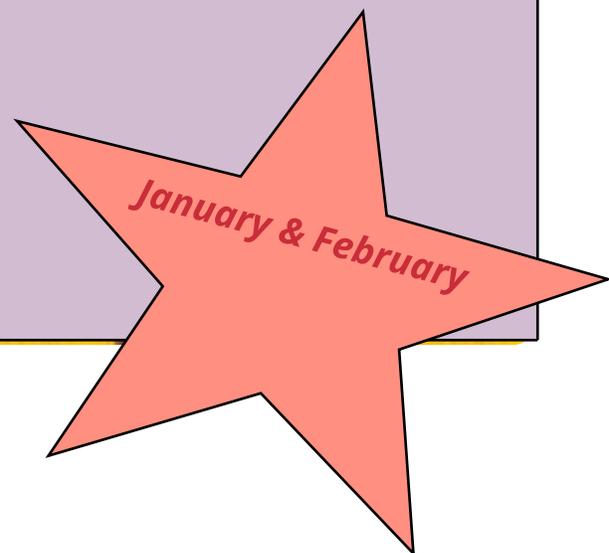


Mrs Bennett will be keeping a record of the Premier's Reading Challenge books that she reads during library time each week. At the end of each term Mrs Bennett will send the list home with students, so parents can easily log the books into their Premier's Reading Challenge.



# Happy Birthday

<b>Kinder</b>	<b>Alice, Tina, Preston, Simone</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Katalina, Callum, Chloe</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Victoria, Caelen, Billie, Jenson, Pia</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Zahlia, Nicholas, Pyper, Zach, Jack,</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Gwen, Alishya, Dominique, Savannah, Louis, Joshua</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Luka, Hannah, Emily, Lucas, Abby, Nicholas</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Darcy, Jasmin, Rylan</b>



# Catholic Education Office

## NAIDOC Week 2019 - Voice, Treaty, Truth

NAIDOC Week 2019 will run nationally from 7-14 July 2019 and is an occasion for all Australians to come together to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people - the oldest continuing cultures on the planet.

These dates occur during the school holiday break so schools usually celebrate:

- in the last week of term 2 (1 to 5 July) or
- in the first week of term 3 (22 to 26 July)

It is recommended to start planning 3 significant activities to highlight this special event in 2019.

## NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook

A new edition of the NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook is now available online. A resource for all parents, carers and teachers proudly brought to you by NSW Police Legacy. Download the latest edition via this [link](#) and discuss the safety content with your children or students today.

## NSW Youth Week 2019 Design Competition

Youth Week is fast approaching. This year, the NSW Youth Week theme is: Coming together to Connect, Share, Speak out, and Celebrate. The theme was decided by the NSW Youth Advisory Council 2018. Youth Week will run from 10-18 April 2019.

To celebrate NSW Youth Week this year, the Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) is inviting young people between 12 and 24 years of age to enter the NSW Youth Week Design Competition.

The winner will be presented with an award and will receive shoe slides with their design printed on them for themselves, their family and friends at the NSW Youth Week Forum at NSW Parliament House on Monday 8 April 2019.

Designs can include drawings, paintings, photographs and digital illustrations. It's not about being a good artist, it's about young people showing us what inspires them.

Entries close Sunday 17 March 2019.

Click on the [link](#) to find out more and submit your application.

## \$100 Creative Kids Vouchers Go Live

As parents begin planning for the year ahead, they can now access Creative Kids vouchers, providing them with \$100 for every school-age child to help cover the cost of enrolment for creative and cultural learning activities. Parents can use one voucher for every school-age child per year to help meet the cost of structured creative and cultural activities, such as music lessons, languages, coding, drama and theatre, photography and graphic design. Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said the NSW Government's Creative Kids program builds on the success of the Active Kids program, which is back this year, helping to reduce the cost of registration for sport and organised physical activity.

## \$1000 Literary Award for Senior Secondary Students (Ref: 21/19)

Applications are invited from senior secondary students residing in Australia or New Zealand for the 2019 Liam and Frankie Davison Award for outstanding achievement in literary writing on an issue in women's health thanks to the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RANZCOG).

Applications opened 31 January and close Tuesday 30 April 2019.

This \$1000\* award provides an exciting opportunity for students, whether they are interested in medicine, science, health, sociology, politics or law. Launched in 2014, the award was renamed in 2015 in honour of RANZCOG staff member and award-winning author, Liam Davison and his wife Frankie, a secondary school teacher, in recognition of their shared passion for nurturing and encouraging young writers.

Entrants can write about any issue in women's health that interests them. Previous submissions have included fictional and non-fictional pieces addressing a broad range of issues including anorexia, child marriage, pregnancy in third world countries, assisted reproductive technology and violence against women.

For further information please contact the RANZCOG Foundation Coordinator by email at [lfaward@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:lfaward@ranzcog.edu.au)

## Bishop Office

### Join St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir, Parramatta is recruiting singers! This is an exciting opportunity to join a group of highly talented musicians. Choral scholarships are also available to singers who demonstrate advanced vocal skills and musical leadership qualities. For further information visit [stpatscathedral.com.au/music](http://stpatscathedral.com.au/music) or contact the Music Director, Bernard Kirkpatrick on 0430 431 884.

## Dr Laurie Woods

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in the Diocese of Parramatta has engaged Dr Laurie Woods to present on the Gospel of St Luke.

Venue: IFM Marion St Blacktown

Time: 10am - 2pm

Dates: Fridays March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12

All are welcome. BYO lunch.

Please register with Maree on 02 8838 3486

## Volunteers Urgently Needed for Visiting Residents of Aged Care Facility

Are you interested in visiting an elderly person in a nursing home who has no or very few visitors? This service is organised through CatholicCare. You would visit on average once every two weeks with CatholicCare providing training and other support. After talking with you about your interests, we will match you with a resident in a nursing home within approximately 10km of your home. The visit is entirely within the nursing home – you do not take the person on outings or shopping etc. For more information, contact Deb Woolacott on 0418 114 055 or [deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au](mailto:deb.woolacott@ccss.org.au).

## Communion to the Sick at Blacktown Hospital

We urgently require people to take Holy Communion to patients in Blacktown Hospital on Sundays. Volunteers are currently rostered on every second month (6 times annually). Distribution of Communion takes about 2 to 3 hours. Security checks required and carpark access available. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who can help with this important ministry please contact Deacon George Bryan at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown either via the parish office or via at [George.Bryan@parracatholic.org](mailto:George.Bryan@parracatholic.org)

## Time is running out for Plenary Council 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019. YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit: [parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/](http://parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/)

## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands of Jordan and Israel, escorted by Father Peter Blayney, Parish Priest, St Patrick's Guildford, 30 October – 13 November 2019. Organised by Olive Tree Travel (Melbourne). For details of itinerary, cost etc., please contact the Parish Secretary, Guildford, on 9632 2672 or [patricksguilford@bigpond.com](mailto:patricksguilford@bigpond.com) or Olive Tree Travel on 03 8488 9696.

## Bishop's Lenten Appeal

The Ephpheta Centre, supported by the Parramatta Catholic Foundation, gives hope, compassion, connectivity and care to the deaf and hard of hearing. Your kind-hearted support will provide chaplaincy and pastoral care for the vulnerable and isolated, in homes, hospitals, prison and aged-care facilities. Please be a channel of hope and give generously via the Appeal envelopes or online at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal).

## St Patrick's Day Picnic in the Northern Deanery: 17 March

Parishes of the Northern Deanery will hold a picnic for St Patrick's Day, on Sunday 17 March from midday-4pm, at St Madeleine's Primary School, 28 Annangrove Rd, Kenthurst. Bring your own picnic and enjoy entertainment and children's activities provided by the youth ministries of the deanery. Enquiries to Wendy on 0427863149 or [deanerypc@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au](mailto:deanerypc@parishofbaulkhamhills.org.au)

## Fertility Awareness Evening: 19 March

Abnormalities in a woman's menstrual cycle can indicate underlying health issues. Hear about how irregularities to a normal cycle can be addressed and how an awareness of a regular cycle is a sign of good health. You're warmly welcomed to attend this free event. This topic is of interest to women of all ages. For further information please contact Catherine on 02 8838 3460 or 0400 427 605 [catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org](mailto:catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org) and [www.parralmf.org.au/nfs](http://www.parralmf.org.au/nfs)

## Dr Austen Ivereigh: 20 March

You are warmly invited to a public conversation between papal biographer & UK Catholic journalist Dr Austen Ivereigh and Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv as they discuss Pope Francis and becoming a humble, listening and learning Church. Wednesday 20 March at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. RSVP by 13 March to Br Mark O'Connor on [mark.oconnor@parracatholic.org](mailto:mark.oconnor@parracatholic.org).

## Positions Vacant

- Director Mission Integration - St John of God Health Care

More details at: [www.sjog.org.au](http://www.sjog.org.au)

## Catholic Institute of Sydney

The Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS) promotes study with a focus on theology and ministry. Courses are open to lay people, religious and seminarians. Award, non-award and audit students are welcome to study at introductory, undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Courses are offered in a variety of modes of study including weekly face to face teaching, intensive (5 consecutive days), extensive (5 days during the semester) and independent guided study. What's on in Semester 1 2019 information is available at [www.cis.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cis.catholic.edu.au)

## Healing after Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. Rachel's Vineyard offers a confidential voicemail number: 0400 092 555 or email [info@rachelsvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelsvineyard.org.au). The retreats for 2019 will be held at Varroville, NSW on April 5-7 and Oct 25-27. Brochures are in the church or see the website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au)

## Mount St Benedict: 9 March

Mount St Benedict Centre invites you to the last ever Lenten Reflection day prior to the closure of the Centre. The day will include input, time for reflection and conversation on scripture and the themes of Lent in conversation with contemporary issues and spirituality. Saturday 9 March 10am-3pm. Facilitators Sr Catherine McCahill sgs and Sr Patty Fawkner sgs. For information and RSVP [mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au) or 02 8752 5390.

## Affordable Housing Assembly: 14 March

Join 2,000 leaders and citizens on 14 March at Sydney Town Hall to stand together for the common good. Together we will be seeking clear, concrete commitments on affordable housing, household energy and rental reform from both state and federal politicians. The Diocese of Parramatta Social Justice Office, Sydney Alliance, Vinnies NSW and the Everybody's Home Campaign are jointly working on this campaign. For more information: [www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing](http://www.sydneyalliance.org.au/housing)

## Mt Schoenstatt: 22 - 24 March

Mind, Body & Soul Retreat at Mt Schoenstatt for Mature Catholic Women who feel on the Fringe of the Church. Facilitator: Andrea Dean. Where: Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Time: 5 pm 22nd March to 2 pm 24 March. Cost: \$230 includes two nights private, ensuite accommodation and all meals. For more information or to book: [manager@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:manager@schoenstatt.org.au) or phone Ann-Maree: 02 4773 8338

## Mt Schoenstatt: 29 - 30 March

24 hours of Adoration for the Lord, 2019 at Mt Schoenstatt. Where: Shrine, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Time: Begins with Holy Mass at 6pm on Friday 29 March, finishing with Holy Mass at 5pm on Saturday 30 March. Each hour will have reflection and music presented by different groups and individuals. Every half hour the Shrine will be silent for prayer and reflection. Come for 1 hour or 24, no obligation for a particular time period. Enquires for groups or individuals: [manager@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:manager@schoenstatt.org.au) or phone Ann-Maree: 02 4773 8338.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: 26-28 April

This is 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! 26-28 April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings 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)

## Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See [www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues)

**For more events please go to:** [parracatholic.org/events](http://parracatholic.org/events)



Parents Representative Council

SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



## HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE ANXIETY



Learn effective way to deal with child anxiety and positive behavior practices  
What can you do?

How is the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP) helping?

Our guest speaker for the evening is:

### Anoushka Houseman

#### Clinical Psychologist

Wellbeing Coordinator - Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP)

Register FREE now: [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)**

(PRC AGM- will be held prior to guest speaker)

**St Patrick's Primary School: 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown**

Light supper and refreshments will be provided and  
a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)



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### Floral Expressions

For details on the school fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116



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Oakhill College

# OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2019

11.00AM – 3.00PM



Principal's  
Address  
at 11.30am,  
12.30pm  
and 1.30pm

Register at [www.trybooking.com/XWGW](http://www.trybooking.com/XWGW)

Feet on the ground. *Aiming for the stars.*

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

St Dominic's College

# Open Day 2019

Sunday, 3rd March

**You are invited to join us for our Annual Open Day at the College from 10:00am to 2:30pm.**

**The morning session starts at 10:00am, followed by a tour of the College at 10:30am.**

**The afternoon session starts at 12:30pm, followed by a tour of the College at 1:00pm.**

St Dominic's College  
54 - 94 Gascoigne Street Kingswood NSW 2747  
Ph: 02 4731 1933  
Email: [info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au)



## **You're invited to the Santa Sophia Catholic College (Box Hill) Open Nights**

**Secondary: March 20th, 4pm-7pm**

85 Hambledon Road, Schofields

Principal's Address (4pm, 5pm, 6pm)

From 4:30pm onwards: School Tour. Demonstrations on Maths, STEM and music.  
Students showcasing digital portfolios and project based learning overview

Now enrolling year 7 2020 (limited spots for year 8 and 9)

For details and full schedule see our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SantaSophiaCC/>

**SANTA SOPHIA**  
**CATHOLIC COLLEGE**



St Luke's Catholic College, Marsden Park

*You're invited!*

## OPEN NIGHT

**4pm-7pm Thursday 7 March 2019**

Principal's address at 4:30pm with a repeat address at 6:00pm

[www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au)



- We are a family
- We are passionate
- We are creative
- We thrive on quality and continuous improvement

#### Contact details:

56 Church Street  
 South Windsor, 2756  
 1300 582 032  
 Web: [littletwinklechildcare.com.au](http://littletwinklechildcare.com.au)  
 Email: [hel@littletwinklechildcare.com.au](mailto:hel@littletwinklechildcare.com.au)

## Opening Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Brand new, modern, state of the art, quality child care centre to encourage and foster children's natural curiosity and creativity.

Operating Monday to Friday – 7.00am – 6.00pm

Open Saturday 9.30am – 10.30 for any enquiries

- Open ended play based educational experiences
  - Fully qualified and experienced educators
- Healthy Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea provided

**For more information or to enrol your child please call, email or drop into the centre.**

**HAWKESBURY VALLEY JUNIOR RUGBY UNION**

# **PLAY JUNIOR RUGBY FOR FREE\***



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NOT TACKLE**

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MODIFIED TACKLE**

**2019 REGISTRATIONS**

**OPEN NOW**

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UNDER 5 - UNDER 16 YEARS**

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THURSDAYS  
21 & 28 FEBRUARY  
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5:30 - 6:30PM**



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