



School Newsletter

From the Principal

Term 1 Week 4 2023

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Year 3 and Year 5 have been very busy preparing for NAPLAN.

The Man on the Beach

Hayley Trigger 5B

"I joined the army to protect you, but I was not there, I failed!" he whispered to himself. The Voices of his family screamed in his ears, "Edward! Help! Edward! Daddy, Daddy". His wife and child were lost to the flames of the war. "My love, dear Abelene". Edwards daughter loved flowers, but he was always too busy making chairs and furniture, to make flowers for Abelene.

Suddenly, his hat lifted into the air, and slowly, the flower he made for Abelene turned into dust and zoomed into his body! He was lifted into the air as if gravity had switched off, and he was jolted into the earth and after a few seconds he popped out the other side of the planet. He was screaming at the top of his lungs and eventually all went blank. Hours later he slowly opened his eyes, and he was laying on a white bed made of stone. He sprang to his knees and immediately scanned the room!

In the corner was a tall woman, with long black hair and a soft face with beautiful brown eyes. It was his beloved wife Mary! "Mary". He spoke with much confusion and alert in his voice. "Edward my love, welcome to heaven!" replied Mary. But before he could respond, Abelene skipped in, "Hi Daddy. So ..." she stopped and slowly turned to face Edward, "Daddy!!!" Abelene jumped and started flying!

In heaven all angels have wings, so they can all fly. Month after month, Edward gets more used to heaven and he can fly with ease! So now, Edward and his family live so happily in heaven together.

The Poppy

Benjamin McLaren 5B

The man sat on the small bench on the snowy hilltop overlooking the blood bath in the valley below. He was holding the poppy from his mate's grave in Gallipoli as gun fire took place from below. The flower was still alive, and the man believed that the soul of his mate was perfectly preserved inside it.

He stared at the flower for hours, completely oblivious to his surroundings and was shot at the back of the head killing him instantly. He woke up on a fluffy, white gate that was made of clouds. He found a mirror and looked at himself in awe. He looked strong and in shape like when he was young, without wrinkle or grey hairs on his head. After ages of admiring himself, he heard a deep voice saying, "Welcome to heaven!"

He thought he would be afraid, but he couldn't feel fear anymore and he walked into the centre part of heaven. As soon as he walked in, his childhood dog jumped on him, then did his son, then his Dad and then his mate from Gallipoli.

Have a wonderful week!

With my best wishes,

Barbara Young

Principal

"The Lord looks for us where we are, he loves us as we are and he patiently walks by our side."

Pope Francis@Pontifex

From the Assistant Principal

Meet and Greet

Thank you to all our families who have responded to our Parent/Student/ Teacher Meet and Greet sessions which are taking place on Wednesday 22nd February. We are really looking forward to your presence as we work together in partnership for your children. If you haven't already responded to the google form that went out via Skoolbag last Friday, could you please do so by Tuesday afternoon 21st February at 3:30pm.

Just a reminder that Kindergarten's meet and greet session will be slightly different to Yrs 1-6, however, if you have children in multiple classes you will still be able to visit your other children's learning spaces within the session that you have chosen.

NAPLAN UPDATE

A note went out last week to Parents and Carers of Year 3 and 5 students giving them further information about NAPLAN 2023. Some key points and takeaways from this information are

- Naplan provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The test's are just one aspect of the school's assessment and reporting process- it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance
- Naplan has become a tailored style of testing which provides a more precise assessment of a student's performance. A student's Naplan result is based on both the amount and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly.
- The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can.

Further information about NAPLAN will be sent out to Parents and carers concerning a change in how NAPLAN is reported to parents.

Thomas Crowley

Assistant Principal

From the Religious Education Coordinator

Please join us for the following celebrations - *everyone is always welcome.*

- **Friday 17/02: Beginning Year School Mass & Commissioning of Student Leaders in the church 9.15am**
 - All students to wear school summer uniform
 - Kindergarten students will process in after communion with their Yr 6 Buddies
- **Wednesday 22/02: Ash Wednesday Mass in the church 9.15am Yrs 3-6**
- **Wednesday 22/02: Ash Wednesday Liturgy in the church 11.30am K-2**

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023 - SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

GOSPEL REFLECTION

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching. ©Dianne Bergant CSA

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 FUNDRAISING EVENT - FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY

Sincere thanks and gratitude to all families for supporting this very worthy cause. Our community raised **\$479.00** for the World Youth Day (WYD) Fundraising Event.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the parish office if you have any questions (Sandra De Nardi, Parish Secretary & Sacramental Coordinator **Ph:** 9654 2260 **Tues - Fri Email:** [http://mailto:stmad.sacraments@gmail.com/](mailto:stmad.sacraments@gmail.com)). The parish manages all aspects of the programs.

What we pray, is what we believe, is what we do.

Please join us in the celebration of the Eucharist this Sunday at St Madeleine Sophie Barat Church. Mass times are listed on the parish website - [St Madeleine Sophie Barat Parish](#)

Kathy Fisher

Religious Education Coordinator



Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese

Enrolment for 2024

Enrolment Forms are on our school website

Student Birthdays

Student Birthdays are wonderful times to celebrate for many of the students they wish to share this experience with their classmates and peers.

If students wish to celebrate their birthday at School, we request cupcakes or pre-cut cakes be sent in, preferably in disposable containers as we cannot guarantee the immediate return of containers.

If you wish to supply cupcakes etc for your child's birthday please email classroom teacher through stmadeleines@parra.catholic.edu.au prior to the day as there may be children in the classroom with food allergies or special dietary requirements that restrict/prohibit their treats.

Please ensure when bringing in Birthday Cakes and Treats for the Class, to ensure that all ingredients are labeled with all ingredients and individual cupcakes are wrapped.

This enables other students with Allergies and Anaphylaxis keeping Safe from eating food that they have allergies and Anaphylaxis.





Parent Calendar Link

Morning Assemblies - Mondays 9am (BOLA)

Afternoon Assemblies - Fridays Even Weeks at 2pm (Hall)

Dates to Remember

Term 1 (Summer Uniform)

Beginning Year School Mass - Friday 17th February 9:15am (All students to wear school uniform - Church)

Parent/Student/Teacher Meet & Greet - Wednesday 22nd February 3:30pm or 5:30pm

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) - Tuesday 21st February

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 22nd February (Yrs 3 - 6 9:15am) (K - Yr2 11:30am)

P&F Welcome Picnic Disco - Friday 3rd March 5pm - 8pm (Hall)

Cross Country - Monday 6th March (School Oval)

Parent Confirmation Information Evening - Tuesday 7th March 4:30pm or 7pm

Open Day - Thursday 9th March 9:15am (New Enrolments for 2024)

Hills Zone Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt Pool - Thursday 9th March

Confirmation Commitment Mass - Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th March

Diocesan Swimming Carnival Blacktown Pool - Tuesday 14th March

Naplan Yr 3 & Yr 5 - Wednesday 15th March - Monday 27th March

Silly Sock Day - Friday 24th March

Photo Day - Thursday 30th March (Summer Uniform)

St Madeleine's Easter Liturgy - Tuesday 4th April 9:15am & Easter Egg Raffle 2:15pm Hall

NSW PSSA Swimming Carnival Homebush - Wed 5th & Thurs 6th April

Term 1 Concludes - Thursday 6th April

Good Friday - Friday 7th April

School Holidays - Monday 10th April – Sunday 23rd April

Term 2 (Winter Uniform)

School Resumes - Monday 24th April (Anzac Day Prayer Service 9:15am COLA)

Anzac Day - Tuesday 25th April (**Public Holiday**)

Confirmation - Wednesday 3rd May & Friday 5th May 7pm

Diocesan Cross Country Eastern Creek - Wednesday 10th May

St Madeleine's Feast Day Celebration MOTIV8 - Friday 26th May

Athletic Carnival - Friday 2nd June (**NO ASSEMBLY**)

NSWCPS Cross Country Eastern Creek - Tuesday 13th June

Silly Sock Day - Friday 16th June

Parent/Teacher Interviews - Monday 19th June & Tuesday 20th June

Year 6 Canberra Excursion - Thursday 22nd & Friday 23rd June

Term 2 Concludes - Friday 30th June

School Holidays - Monday 3rd July - Sunday 16th July

Term 3 Begins (Winter Uniform) - Monday 17th July

[2023 Year Dates](#)

Payments at St Madeleine's

No cash accepted at school

Qkr App payment link





Community

Band Lessons - Fridays <http://www.teachingservices.com.au/EOI>

Uniform Shop Opens - Terms 1 and 4 Tuesday 8am to 11am & Thursday 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Terms 2 and 3 Tuesday 8am to 11am

Ph: 9654 6761

Summer Uniform Terms - 1 & 4 **Winter Uniform Terms** - 2 & 3

Email: stmadeleinesps@theschoollocker.com.au/

Ordering online website: <http://theschoollocker.com.au/>

Company Ph: 1800 826 155 or 02 87962100 [St Madeleine's Uniform & Grooming Policy](#)

Lost Property - Library

Canteen Opens - Monday - Friday Ph: 9654 6760 [Canteen Menu](#) [How to Order](#)

Ambrose Before & After School Care <https://www.ambrose.org.au/school-age-care/>

Transport [Opal Transport](#) [Hillsbus Timetable](#) [Busways Timetable](#)

[NSW Health](#)

The background of the poster is dark blue with stylized fireworks in red, green, and purple. A large green semi-circle is on the left and a red semi-circle is on the right. A blue banner with a black border is in the center.

WELCOME PICNIC & DJ DISCO

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH
5PM - 8PM
SCHOOL HALL

SPECIAL GUEST DJ AND DISCO PARTY AS WELL AS FOOD TRUCKS.

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING
EVENING CELEBRATING TOGETHER
AS A COMMUNITY.



CSPD Billing department have advised us that school fees will be sent by post on Wednesday 15 February. Included in this school fee statement is information regarding *flexible payment plans* to make school fee management easier.

Please be aware that unless you are on a payment plan, **the due date for the first installment is 15 MARCH 2023.**

Diocesan School Fees for Kindergarten to Year 11 are an annual charge deemed to cover a 40 week school year (Terms 1 to 4) but are *billed as three equal instalments in Terms 1, 2 & 3.*



All parent volunteers (e.g. Kiss & Drop, excursions, carnivals) need to complete the Building Child Safe Communities for volunteers as set out by CEDP prior to volunteering for any activities or events. CEDP sends notifications to our school office regarding the completion of the modules. You can send an email to notify us as well. The modules are valid for **2 years**. Parents will be required to complete and supply your **BCSC number and expiry date to the class teacher.**

These modules can be found on the CEDP website titled Building Child Safe Communities.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/VolunteerTraining>



Before and After School Procedures

Arrival and Dismissal

Attendance at school is compulsory and being at school on time and remaining for the whole day ensures that your child has the best opportunity to engage fully in all the learning activities available.

Arrival at school

- School begins at **8:50am**.
- A warning bell is rung at **8:45am**.
- Supervision begins at 8:20am. K - Yr2 students remain on the Cola. Yr 3 - 6 students move to the Friendship Garden. One staff member will be on duty on the front verandah each morning at 8am to supervise the students who arrive on the early morning buses.

If any parent or guardian has difficulty in ensuring that their child does not attend school until 8.20a.m. and / or ensuring that their child leaves school by 3.30p.m. (bus passengers only excepted), they should contact:

Ambrose Activities

When you need care for your child out of school supervision times.

Call 0460 021 667 Email stmadeleines@ambrose.org.au

Extra-curricular Activity Program for Years K – 6 including before school care, after school activities and vacation care. Or contact the school in order to discuss what special arrangements might be made for their child.

- When the warning bell sounds, children line up in their respective class lines in the **COLA** area or Friendship Garden.
- A final bell is rung at 8:50 am to indicate commencement of assembly – all students should be lined up.
- Children are considered to be late if they arrive after the conclusion of assembly and the classes have forwarded into their respective rooms.
- Late children ***must be accompanied by a parent to the school office*** and a 'late arrival' slip is to be completed by the parent.

The student then proceeds to their classroom and presents the teacher with the 'late arrival' slip. Details of arrival time and partial absence are noted electronically in the class roll by the office staff.

Parents must not drop their children at the classroom after the bell.

Morning use of the Kiss and Drop / Car Park. A teacher is on duty at the COLA from 8:20 am. All children being dropped off at school are to use the "kiss and drop" **COLA** area. A parent volunteer will open the car door and assist the students onto the playground. If you wish to park and come into the playground area there is ample parking onsite. Any child needing to be dropped off before 8:20 am is encouraged to contact the school principal and/or make use of the Before and After School Care.

Afternoon Dismissal

- Parents wishing to collect a child before the 3:00pm dismissal must notify the teacher in writing and collect the child from the office.
- The note must include the time the child will be collected and the reason for early collection.
- In an emergency situation - office staff will contact the teacher to indicate that the child is being collected early.
- The office staff will note the departure time and partial absence on the class roll.

Parents should not collect children from the classroom.

Afternoon use of the Pick-Up Area / Car Park / Bus Lines.

In the afternoon, there are three ways students go home:

1. **Picked Up (by parents/guardians)** - students can be picked up at the **COLA** by their parents or guardians in person at 3pm depending on **COVID RESTRICTIONS**. **By Bus** - children walk with a teacher from their grade to the **COLA** and are supervised as they wait for the buses to arrive at the bus bay.
Bus numbers are called over the microphone and students walk to the teacher and board the bus. **No children are to be picked up by parents in this area.**
2. **Student drive-through pick-up** - at 3pm the students are accompanied to car pick up or bus lines at the COLA.
 - Your family name is called over the microphone and students walk to the teacher in the pick up area.
 - The driver is not to get out of the car.
 - Make sure that your family name can be seen clearly.
 - Children are to enter the car on the passenger side - if this is a problem then the parent will need to park and walk the child to the car.
 - Students not picked up by 3:30pm will be taken to the office and parents notified.

No child is to be asked to wait in an unsupervised area.

Child Protection — Volunteer Helpers

It is a Diocesan requirement that parents who volunteer at the school e.g.

Reading Groups, Kiss & Drop or Excursions.

Must complete the CEO online Child Protection Module ***Building Child Safe Communities*** which needs to be completed **every two years** and is emailed to the school after completion. We suggest that this is done each even year.

You **do not** need to do the Working with Children Check at Service NSW.

POSITION VACANT

School Band Tutor

Teaching Services Australia (TSA) provides multi-instrumental tuition, individually and in small groups, along with full band rehearsals to over 60 schools in the greater Sydney area.

We are currently seeking assistant tutors to direct lessons at our after school programs in **Parramatta, The Hills** and **The Inner-West**.

We are particularly looking for teachers with experience teaching brass and woodwind. You would be joining a strong team of existing tutors and conductors with support from TSA admin.

Successful candidates must have a valid WWC clearance and be available between 3pm-5:30pm on weekday afternoons.

The role would suit a university student studying education/music or someone who plays woodwind/brass and has experience working in schools.

To apply please send a cover letter with CV to steve@teachingservices.com.au or call 9651 7333 for further details.



(02) 9651 7333
enrolments@teachingservices.com.au
www.teachingservices.com.au

