



# St Andrew's Primary School Newsletter

Term 1 Issue 4, March 20th, 2024



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## *Principal's Message*

*Dear St Andrew's Community,*

It is hard to fathom that we are nearing the end of Term 1. The last few weeks have been packed full of exciting learning, sporting, and social experiences.

Once again, we have gained success in the pool, entering many competitors in the next level of competition at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Tuesday, March 12th. Many of our team members achieved their PB in the pool. We are all so proud of you.

Our cross country team has been selected, and we are preparing for our inaugural whole school athletics carnival on Friday, March 22nd. A note went home last week with the details of this event. Please remember to return the permission slip if you haven't done so already.

Two weeks ago, we gathered as a Catholic community to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. The Eucharist celebration began our festivities, as well as sharing a fun school picnic and viewing the great learning during open classrooms. On Thursday, we also opened our doors to new families who are interested in sending their child to school next year. We were overwhelmed by the many families who joined us for a tour around the school. We have begun to interview for Kindergarten enrolment in 2025. I suggest families lodge their applications as soon as possible, as we usually attract more interest than we can accommodate.

We also gathered for our whole school assembly on Friday, March 8th, where we acknowledged the great learning and spiritual leadership of our students. The staff also celebrated International Women's Day with a morning tea.

*From the office team*  
Important Updates

### **Medication at school**

From time to time, it may be necessary for medication to be administered to students during school hours or while on excursions in order to keep them safe.

If it is necessary to administer medication to a student, it is our policy that:

St. Andrew's staff will only administer medication prescribed by a specialist or doctor. (e.g., asthma, anaphylaxis, ADHD, ADD, allergies). An updated action plan from a doctor or specialist needs to be supplied to the school, as well as a Request for Medication form, which can be collected at the front office and is to be filled out by the child's parent.

As action plans require updating, the student's parents will be notified via email.

**Any other medication that needs to be administered during school hours (eg: antibiotics, panadol, cold and flu) will need to be administered by parents.**

For students taking regular medication at the office, the empty container will be sent home with the student. On return to school, an adult must bring the replenished medication to the school administration office.

Only students who require an Epi pen or asthma inhaler are permitted to carry their medication, and only if there has been a written agreement between home and school. Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2, who have an epi pen must give the epi pen with administration instructions to their class teacher each day. The epi pen will be returned to the student at the end of the day.



## NAPLAN

During the past fortnight, our Year 3 and 5 students have been completing their NAPLAN tasks. NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 sit each year. It can be stressful for our students at times, however, the students were very confident and completed each test with a positive mindset. I wish to thank the grade teachers, together with Mr. Haynes and Mr. Bawden, for preparing the students so well for this experience. For more information about NAPLAN, please refer to this link which was also shared to parents on our school Compass app: [NAPLAN Information for Parents and Carers](#)

## School Fees

School Fees are now overdue. If you have paid or set up a payment arrangement, thank you. If not, please arrange payment as soon as possible, or contact Reshma Kerai for further information.

## Year 6 Excursion

On the 14th of March, our Year 6 children experienced a religious formation excursion at the Evan Theatre in Penrith called "Encounter." The day was highly engaging for our students, featuring Australian musician Gen Bryant. Our primary school leaders came to know Jesus in a special encounter with their school friends as well as peers from other schools. We join Year 6 in prayer as we are invited and called to build our relationship with the Lord.

## Harmony Day

Today, our students had the opportunity to share with our school community a little about their family culture and traditions. Harmony Week celebrates all the ways in which Australia is a multicultural country and how different cultures work together to create communities. Australia is a uniquely diverse country, and Harmony Week celebrates this! A note went home last week inviting students to dress in their traditional cultural dress. Some students even dressed in the colours of their flag. The children prayed together, a prayer for peace and tolerance in our world. One of our school goals this year is for every student to feel like they belong to our school. This is an important goal to ensure that students feel pride and acceptance at St. Andrew's and that they can contribute their special gifts and talents to this great school community.



## Working together for Caritas Australia

On **Wednesday, March 26th**, the students are invited to wear mufti clothes for a fundraising event. On this day, we will be collecting much needed funds to support Caritas Australia and the good works they do for impoverished communities around the globe. All donations can be made via the QKR code. **Please be mindful that children wear sensible shoes on this day.**

## Stations of the Cross

Many of our children have been rehearsing after school in preparation for the Stations of the Cross reflection that will take place at school on **Holy Thursday - March 28th**. The children will pray at each station as they relive the journey to the cross with Jesus. This is a very important time in the Catholic liturgical calendar as we prepare our hearts and minds for the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Parents are welcome to join with the Infants grades at 10:00a.m or the Primary grades at 11:45a.m. as our students present this special liturgical event.

## Whole school Assembly- Change of date

**Our next whole school assembly will be on Thursday, March 28th, instead of Friday. Friday is Good Friday, and the school is closed for the Easter break.**

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Just a reminder that our end of term 1 student vacation starts on the 15th of April.**

The Easter break begins with:

Good Friday - 29th March - Public Holiday (no school for students)

Easter Monday - April 1st - Public Holiday (no school for students)

**Students return to school on Tuesday, April 2nd.**

On Tuesday, the students will experience an Easter liturgy to mark the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.



## Kindergarten BBQ and parent social

On **Friday, April 5th**, kindergarten families are invited to reconnect and celebrate the successes of their child's first term at big school. There will be a sausage sizzle and entertainment provided by our very own Kindergarten students. Please put the date in your diary. The afternoon of fun begins at 5pm and concludes at 7pm.

## Please do not park across driveways

I have asked many times for our families to respect the rights of our neighbours and not park across or on their property. Once again, a parent/carer from our school parked across a neighbour's driveway, and very abusive verbal exchange ensued. Please be respectful.



God Bless  
Mrs Yvette McGowen

# We made the news!

## Free health program gives St Andrew's lunches a colour boost

Source: Kids news March 15th 2024 - NewsCorp Australia

New ABS data reveals the number of kids who don't eat any fruit has doubled in a decade but students at St Andrew's Primary School in Marayong are bucking the trend thanks to their teacher.



*St Andrew's Primary School Year 5 students at Marayong in Western Sydney enjoying fresh fruit and vegetables thanks to a new program introduced by teacher Judith McMurrich. From left, Elijah Abboud, Maya Stewart, Narella Kerry, Isabelle Zammit, Olive Jaca, Laya Menon and Jimmy Dinh. Picture: Richard Dobson*

### CARE TO TASTE A RAINBOW?

In an effort to bring some fun and colour into eating well, teachers at St Andrew's Primary School in Marayong have joined a free program that helps teach kids about health and wellbeing.

A report from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) shows that in 2022 the amount of children who don't eat fruit daily has doubled over the last decade. The figure jumped from 2.8 per cent in 2011-12 to 5.8 per cent in 2022, while not eating vegetables daily has tripled from 1.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

Which is why St Andrew's teacher Judith McMurrich happily joined a program to help engage and educate her students.

"This (program) is a way of meeting a need of the growing issues we have around wellbeing, healthy lifestyle, healthy eating, food choices and just generally our environment," she said.

"We were approached to be a part of this pilot program last year where we did some virtual classrooms with experts in each of the fields that AIA Australia is representing.

"Students are really engaged because the virtual classrooms are very interactive. They're finding it really interesting because it's interactive and fun."

Many of her students agree and told The Daily Telegraph that they felt "good" and "excited" about it.

"I feel that it is helping us in every way with our daily needs," Isabelle Zammit, 10, said.

"I can't think of a fruit that I haven't eaten," Elijah Abboud, 9, said.

After signing up for a second go at the program after a successful pilot, Ms McMurrich encourages her fellow teachers to join in.

"(Teachers are) very busy, very packed curriculum and we have a lot to fit in. This is an easy, free initiative," she said.



*St Andrew's Primary School students Jacob Ingram, Isabelle Zammit, Narella Kerry and Rian Keral are now enjoying more fruit at recess. Picture: Richard Dobson*



## HERE'S WHY WE ARE FUNDRAISING FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

Our school is raising funds to help support Project Compassion, Caritas Australia's annual fundraising campaign.

Project Compassion brings together supporters from across Australia to address the challenges of poverty today and drive lasting change for a better tomorrow.

Join us to help support remote and vulnerable communities across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and Australia. Your generosity today can help communities access clean water, food security, skills training, health and sanitation, and disaster risk reduction training.

Together with your support, we can create lasting change today, and for all future generations.

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WE HAVE RAISED \$10.00 SO FAR! HELP US DO MORE THIS YEAR.

Use this link or scan the QR Code below to donate.

<https://schools.projectcompassion.org.au/o/st-andrews-primary-school-marayong>





# Driving Question

How can we be initiated into the Church and how can we grow in relationship with God through the Sacraments?



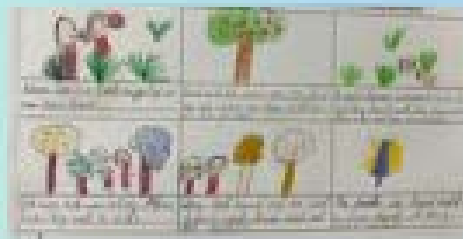
We are learning how we can be initiated into the Church and grow in relationship with God, through the Sacraments.



## Year 3 Faith Page



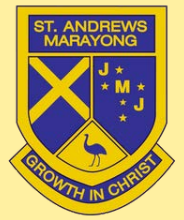
Students were able to visit the St Andrew's church to observe some of the symbols of Baptism and to listen to Rev Kevin Redmond talk about the Sacrament of Baptism.



Students have been learning about the Sacraments through Scripture. To learn about Reconciliation, students read the Scriptures about Adam and Eve and The Forgiving Father. They were then asked to retell one of the passages using a comic strip.

# Student Of The Week

## Term 1 Weeks 6 & 7



|    | WEEK 6           | WEEK 7            |                 | WEEK 6                                      | WEEK 7                 |
|----|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| KB | Vrithika Gade    | Abhiraj Arora     | 3R              | Jasmine Longabella                          | Jastej Sidhu           |
| KG | Vansh Hirani     | Name Withheld     | 3Y              | Laurel Vasek (Week 4)<br>Sanaa Mir (Week 6) | Adol Mayen             |
| KR | Urika Forsythe   | Nyanjok Athieu    | 4B              | Adam Dalzell                                | Ayushi Rawal           |
| KY | Neyon Ranabhat   | Levi Hilal        | 4G              | Nioka Talbot-Bulmer                         | Kishan Kanbi           |
| 1B | Lael Kim         | Cynthia Liu       | 4R              | Arya Shah                                   | Ishaandeep Thind Singh |
| 1G | Yojit Merugumala | Avleen Kaur Sohal | 4Y              | Jacinta Hilal                               | Kane McCarthy          |
| 1R | Mila Badato      | Lucy Sultana      | 5B              | Alice Torosian                              | Sarah Garcia           |
| 1Y | Blair Escandor   | Rabnoor Vaid      | 5G              | Marcell Baumgartner                         | Jared Bala             |
| 2B | Dhiren Sharma    | Angelika Kubik    | 5R              | Rianne Ang                                  | Ariana Trevail         |
| 2G | Navtej Virk      | Arkin Alentajan   | 5Y              | Aiden Futialo                               | Milana Sirianni        |
| 2R | Luke Ilagan      | Kaylee Diana      | 6B              | Annabelle Demian                            | Sophia Santos          |
| 2Y | Ashvir Gill      | Amelia Lucas      | 6G              | Jasmine Lim                                 | Liam Borg              |
| 3B | Jada Faddoul     | Alina Sharma      | 6R              | Hanan Goyal                                 | Aker Deng              |
| 3G | Edlyn Lawson     | Sienna Lim        | CONGRATULATIONS |   |                        |





# SPORTS NEWS



## Diocesan Swimming Carnival Update March 12th 2024

On Tuesday, March 12th, the following students competed as part of the Blacktown Zone Swimming Representative Team at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival.

William Ford  
Benjamin Wilson  
Michael Giffney  
Brianna D'Silva  
Alana Nguyen  
Elaina Kirkham  
Aarika Yashik  
Ruby Gater

The students represented our school extremely well with most of them achieving their personal best. We are so proud of you winning the right to represent our school!

Congratulations to the following student who has been selected to represent the Parramatta Diocese for selection into the Mackillop Teams:

William Ford

William placed in 4 out of his 6 races and will be competing in the NSW Catholic Primary School Swimming Championships!

His results from today were:

4th - 10 years boys 50m freestyle

1st - Junior boys 50m backstroke

4th - Junior boys 50m butterfly

3rd - Junior boys 200m individual medley



## Term 1 Calendar 2024

|    | MONDAY                                     | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   |
|----|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1  | 29   | 30   | 31  | 1st Feb<br>Year 1-6 Return<br>1/2 day Kinder  | 2<br>1/2 day Kinder  |
| 2  | 5  | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9<br>9.15am Opening<br>School Mass                                     |
| 3  | 12<br>6pm P&F AGM<br>Library               | 13   | 14<br>11.45am Ash<br>Wednesday Mass   | 15  | 16<br>2pm Whole School<br>Assembly                                     |
| 4  | 19<br>Year 1 & 2<br>Parent Info            | 20<br>Year 3 & 4 Parent<br>Info night                | 21<br>Year 5 & 6 Parent<br>Info night   | 22  | 23   |
| 5  | night<br>26                                | 27   | 28<br>Zone Swimming<br>Carnival   | 29  | 1st March  |
| 6  | 4<br>Meet & Greet                          | 5<br>Meet & Greet                                    | 6<br>11.45am Catholic<br>School Week Mass,<br>Open Class, Picnic<br>Lunch<br><br>Meet & Greet | 7<br>10-10.30am<br>Open day (2025<br>Parents Only)<br><br>Meet & Greet  | 8<br>Cross Country<br><br>2pm Whole School<br>Assembly<br>Meet & Greet |
| 7  | 11   | 12<br>Diocesan<br>Swimming Carnival                  | 13  | 14  | 15   |
| 8  | 18   | 19   | 20<br>Harmony Day<br>K-6  | 21<br>10-10.30am<br>Open day (2025<br>Parents Only)   | 22<br>School Athletics<br>Carnival                                     |
| 9  | 25   | 26<br>Caritas<br>Fundraising<br>Mufti Day K-6        | 27  | 28<br>Holy Thursday<br>Stations of the<br>Cross<br>10am Infants<br>11.45 Primary<br><br>2 pm Whole<br>School Assembly | 29<br>GOOD FRIDAY<br>NO SCHOOL   |
| 10 | 1st April<br>EASTER<br>MONDAY<br>NO SCHOOL | 2<br>Students Return<br><br>8.50am Easter<br>Liturgy | 3   | 4   | 5  |
| 11 | 8  | 9<br>Infants Disco                                   | 10<br>Stage 2 Disco   | 11<br>Stage 3 Disco   | 12<br>Last Day of<br>Term 1  |

# LENTEN PRAYER COMMUNITY ADVENT PRAYER GROUP

*Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as Year of Prayer.*

We are inviting ALL (parents, grandparents, carers, and staff members) to join us in prayer during Lent.

As we journey together through Lent, we are encouraged to pray and reflect on the Gospel as a St Andrew's School Community.  
We look forward to praying with you each week.



**When : *Thursdays during Lent***

February 15

February 22

February 29

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

**Where : In the School Library**

**Time : 8:30 am - 8:50 am  
(20 minutes)**



# **Sacramental Program Dates for 2024**

## **SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)**

*The Sacrament of First Penance Program will take place in Term 1 for children in Years 3 & above who have been baptised.*

Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office  
from Monday 29th January 2024

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office on  
Sunday 4th February and 11th February 2024 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church

Classes:

Sundays 10th March, 17th March and 24th March 2024

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]



Sacrament of First Penance will be celebrated on :

Saturday 6th April (9:30 am) and/or Saturday 13th April (9:30 am) 2024

## **SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

*This Program will commence in Term 2 for children in Years 3 and above who have received the Sacrament of Penance.*

Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office starting  
Monday 29th April 2024

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sunday 5th May and Sunday 12th May 2024 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Church



Classes: Sunday 26th May & Sunday 9th June 2024

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]

Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Saturday 22nd June (5pm) , Sunday 23rd June (8:45am)

Saturday 29th June (5pm) and Sunday 30th June (8:45 am)

## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

*This Program will commence in Term 3 for children in Years 5 & above who have made their First Holy Communion.*

Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office  
from Monday 22nd July 2024

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sunday 27th July and Sunday 3rd August 2024 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

Registration Evening:

Tuesday 6th August at 7.00 pm in the Church

Classes: Sunday 18th August & Sunday 25th August 2024

[Classes begin with 8.45 am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]

Sacrament of Confirmation Ceremony: (Dates to be confirmed)

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7 pm

OR Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7 pm



# FAMILY FESTIVAL



SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

12:30PM - 3PM

ALL FREE

FACE PAINTING • JUMPING CASTLE  
PETTING ZOO • MUSIC • MAGICIAN  
INTERNATIONAL FOOD  
STALLS + MORE

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
240 RICHMOND ROAD  
WOODCROFT





# ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS

## AUTUMN HOLIDAY CAMP 2024

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM | 9AM TO 3PM**

| Eligibility | Venue                    | Date              | Booking Link   | Fees  |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|-------|
| K - Yr 8    | Hills Grammar School     | 15th & 16th April | <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/CPWOJ">www.trybooking.com/CPWOJ</a> | \$210 |
| K - Yr 8    | The Ponds High School    | 22nd & 23rd April | <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/CPWNY">www.trybooking.com/CPWNY</a> | \$210 |
| K - Yr 6    | Rouse Hill Public School | 24th April        | <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/CPWPG">www.trybooking.com/CPWPG</a> | \$110 |
|             |                          |                   |  |       |
|             |                          |                   |  |       |



**JOIN TODAY AND  
GET TO PLAY!**

**REGISTER NOW**

**f Young Engineers North West Sydney**

For more information please call 0416 100 089

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[www.young-engineers.com.au](http://www.young-engineers.com.au)

