



MARY IMMACULATE PRIMARY

~ NEWSLETTER ~

Term 1 Week 3: Monday 11th February 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

During the recent summer break, Mr. Matulewicz represented our community on the World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Panama. This event is highly significant for the young people who attend and their local communities.

I have invited Mr Matulewicz to share a reflection on the pilgrimage and I offer this to our community in this newsletter. I know you will enjoy reading how important it has been to him and our school.

Images from Diocese of Parramatta.



Coming together in Mass at the hotel in Panama City

Throughout the trip we joined together in prayer, said the rosary, the Angelus. We celebrated mass in hotels, airports, stony carparks, open fields, churches and cathedrals. These experiences quickly drove home that the place doesn't matter, it is the people that make the experience and live the Message.



My group and myself attending the first catechesis event

The connections we made with people in Mexico were a big part of the pilgrimage. Some of us visited 'Hermanas de la Caridad Puebla'. Run by the Sisters of Charity it is a house for the elderly who have been abandoned to get something to eat a meal and celebrate their faith.

It was here that we were not greeted as strangers or volunteers but as family. I was lucky enough to celebrate my birthday during that visit and was told, through a sister who spoke English, that everyone there had to sing a birthday song to me. No negotiations allowed! So I enjoyed my Mexican 'Happy Birthday' but what happened after was truly special. Each person there, who had seen hardship I would not begin to understand, then approached me, shook my hand and gave me a hug. I'm a person that would only be in their life for a few hours yet they showed me the same kind of love that families or close friends would show. It was here, through the genuine actions of people who had been abandoned by others, that I saw Jesus. My group leader, Scott, said it best *"We came expecting to serve food and minister to the community here, but we have been nourished by the experience."* Though I like to think that we made an impression by teaching them how to sing 'Waltzing Matilda'.



I had the pleasure to talk to a US/Canadian man and discuss the differences between Australia and Canada

Arriving in Panama, we started the lead into World Youth Day with catechesis in the mornings, joining in a variety of english speaking events throughout the city in the afternoons and ending the evenings with larger events where all the pilgrims joined together. These evening events provided further opportunities to connect with people and see Jesus through them. The opening mass, said by the Archbishop of Panama, was the first big event where each nation proudly waved their flag but still came together as one Church. I visited as many different people from different countries as I could so I could introduce myself and even share a quick prayer (the Hail Mary is a good one to share!). I was surprised to see the Japanese flag being waved there since only half a percent of the population are Christians. I couldn't pass up the opportunity to practice my Japanese as well and quickly introduced myself.



A small glimpse of the many nations present at the opening mass.

Later, as we said mass together in our own languages, there was a profound experience. I shook the hands of the people around me, said "Peace be with you" and knew they were wishing the same to me even if I didn't understand the words they used.



My group and myself waiting, hoping to catch a glimpse of the Pope at the Stations of the Cross

Lastly, Pope Francis. His presence and calm yet firm voice and message left a lasting impression. Throughout the pilgrimage the group I travelled with were determined to catch a glimpse of our Pope! We went to the Stations of the Cross early and sat down along some barriers that we figured was a route for him to travel. He didn't use that route, sadly, but each of us got to see him closely when we least expected it! My favourite story was from a group member that saw the Pope drive by while they were returning from the toilets. In the end, it wasn't seeing the Pope that stays with me but what he called for us to do. After the Stations of the Cross he addressed the faithful and asked them to be like Mary and place ourselves at the foot of the Cross. She placed herself there to share Jesus' suffering and did not turn away from it. It shows us the strength she had from the moment she said "Yes" up until Jesus' death. In reflection of what the Pope has asked of us, I hope that I have even a small amount of courage that Mary has shown us.

With appreciation for your ongoing support,

Stephen Dowd, Principal

MIPS OPEN DAY for 2020 - March 7

MIPS OPEN DAY for 2020 Enrolments March 7 9:15 - 11am

School Tour and meet the Principal.

Let your friends and Pre schoolers know!



LEARNING AT MIPS

Last week saw our new Kindergarten students begin their schooling journey.

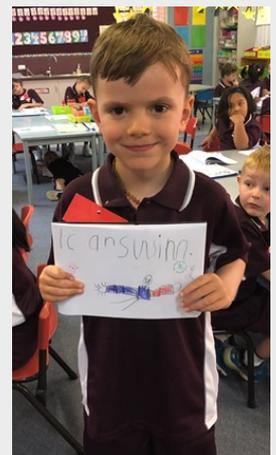
There were lots of excited little faces some eager to get the week started others a little apprehensive about the unknown. As the week progressed our beautiful children settled into their new world wonderfully.

We have already witnessed fabulous learning taking place in the Kinder Spaces.

The children have been participating in activities such as writing sentences, reading, playing maths games, artwork and working on their fine motor skills. Our year six students were keen to meet their Kinder Buddies, which marks the beginning of an ongoing special bond.

The Kindy students were so excited to attend library, dance, sport, music, health and art. We are so proud of the way the children have embraced school and look forward to witnessing their many wonderful achievements to come.

Sharon Mizzi
Assistant Principal



DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

School finishes at 3:20pm and we appreciate your efforts to pick up your child promptly at that time. Supervision ceases at 3:40pm. The 'kiss and drop' zone does not operate in the afternoon. Parents/caregivers are required to park in the top car park and collect children from the designated point outside the building. Please do not go into the building to collect children from classrooms. **Please note, children are not allowed to walk to the car park and meet their parents.** They must be collected from the teacher. The perimeter gates are closed after the last bus leaves in the afternoon. If there is an emergency and you are late to collect your child, please contact the school office. Children can become anxious when parents are late or they are unclear about their afternoon arrangements.

Students arriving before 8:25am or remaining at school after 3:30pm are required to be enrolled in COSHC. Students are not to be left outside the school main gate unsupervised. This is a child protection issue of grave concern.

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking is processed on a Friday. Students are reminded to hand in their bank books in the morning to their class teacher so it can be placed in the office bag.

\$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



UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS

Tuesdays and Fridays—8:30am to 10:00am

Orders are to be placed on the QKR App by 4:00pm Monday and Thursday and delivery will be every Tuesday and Friday Mornings during the school term.

Any further enquiries please email or call Elle—elle@ozfashions.com.au 0421 216 414

BAKE SALE



Sponsored by Kindy Parents Friday 1st March

We will be holding a Bake Sale. This will be the first P&F fundraising event for 2019, run by the Kindy Parents who will prepare Baked Goods and will sell them at a Cake Stall Friday 1-03-2019, to your children.

So please send your children to School with a few gold coins so they can purchase Goodies from \$1 to \$2 prepared by our Great New Kindy Parents.

Should you have any questions please email

MIPSParentsAndFriends@gmail.com with

subject line "Bake Sale" with your questions, for our

Kindy Volunteer Lead, contact Michelle Guelpa mich.guelpa@gmail.com.



A School Community event hosted by MIPS P&F Association