

SCHOOL BROCHURE



MARIA REGINA

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Avalon



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WELCOME



Maria Regina Catholic School is a single stream K to 6 co-educational school, located in the Broken Bay Diocese on Sydney's northern peninsula at Avalon Beach. Students are primarily drawn from the surrounding areas of Avalon, Bilgola, Whale Beach, Palm Beach, Clareville and Newport.

Maria Regina is a community where staff, parents and parish work towards providing children with a happy, challenging environment.

The school enjoys a positive reputation for academic standards, a nurturing, pastoral environment and the engagement of students in a range of key learning opportunities.

We strive to make a difference as a community by embracing and celebrating the uniqueness, creativity and achievements of each individual.

At Maria Regina we have a team of dedicated, highly qualified professionals who bring with them a variety of educational and personal experiences. Our curriculum, instructional practices and intervention programs are all designed to enhance student success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathy Gee'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

Kathy Gee
Principal

HISTORY



Maria Regina Catholic School has a rich past and was opened by the Good Samaritan Sisters in 1959 with Sister Audrey McCabe, a Good Samaritan Sister, as its first Principal.

The Good Samaritans, an Australian Order was founded by Bishop Polding in 1857, had organised and staffed schools in the area since they moved into Manly in 1880. In 1957 the Sisters at Narrabeen were asked to extend their activities to set up a convent and primary school in the fledgling parish of Avalon.

The initial building, facing Central Road, previously consisted of two levels. The top level, opened in 1956 was used as the parish church for many years, whilst the lower level was the beginning of our school.

The involvement of the Good Samaritan Sisters in the commencement and development of Maria Regina School has been invaluable. The Sisters have been traditionally recognised as community builders and evidence of their input can be seen in our strong school community today.

CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION



Maria Regina School is part of the Pittwater Parish community. The school and parish value a strong relationship and work together in partnership. A strong emphasis on prayer, liturgy and Eucharistic celebration is evident within the Maria Regina community.

Students attend regular parish and school Masses and Reconciliation each term. Whole School Family Masses are celebrated regularly providing a rewarding opportunity for both school and parish to celebrate together.

Maria Regina is actively involved in the parish sacramental programs of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist.

VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

'Inspired by the call to discipleship in Christ and committed to excellence in teaching and learning, we strive to "Make a Difference" as a community by embracing and celebrating the uniqueness, creativity and achievements of each individual.'

TEACHING & LEARNING

At Maria Regina, we acknowledge the need for agile minds and ingenuity in our rapidly changing world and we are committed to building a vibrant and creative learning community for all learners underpinned by our Catholic faith and values.

On-going assessment for learning enables teachers to make professional judgments about student achievement and to adjust the teaching program to support each student's learning. Regular and specific feedback is provided for both students and parents to further support effective learning.



KEY LEARNING AREAS

Maria Regina's Teaching and Learning programs are developed and implemented in accordance with the Board of Studies K-12 Curriculum Framework, The Diocese of Broken Bay K-12 Religious Education Curriculum and each of the following mandatory Key Learning Areas for Catholic Schools: English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science & Technology, History, Geography, Physical Education & Personal Development and Creative Arts.

OUR BELIEFS ABOUT LEARNING

Learning is a product of thinking

Great learning occurs when learners are challenged by opportunities to think critically and creatively. For our students to be thinkers, our teachers and leaders must model their thinking and build a culture that values thinking.

Collaboration enhances learning

We acknowledge the fundamentally social nature of learning and believe we learn better as a community. Technology provides significant opportunities to expand our learning networks and increase our learning power.

Learners must have agency in their learning

When learners are aware of how thinking and learning occur, they increase their agency as learners. Providing learners choice and opportunities to co-construct their learning experiences also increases learner agency.



Learning dispositions are as important as skills and knowledge

Learning is profoundly influenced by our emotions. When learners are able to understand the affective domain they are better able to regulate their learning. While skills and knowledge are important, learners must be able to apply them.

Learning is contextual

Learning is most effective when it is embedded in authentic contexts and learners have opportunities to transfer and apply their learning to new situations in flexible and thought-provoking ways that highlight the ethical dimensions of learning.

Learning happens at the point of challenge

Individuals learn differently, but every student deserves to be challenged and supported to meet these challenges through a differentiated and rigorous curriculum.

PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

KIDSMATTER

Maria Regina Catholic Primary School is a recognised and registered Kidsmatter School in which pastoral care fosters the dignity of each person within a faith filled Catholic community. At Maria Regina we believe students with well-developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves, relate to others, develop resilience and a sense of self-worth, resolve conflict, engage in teamwork and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. We provide structured opportunities for students in to work together to develop Social and Emotional skills.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Maria Regina Catholic School provides a safe and supportive environment in which learning takes place. Maria Regina has adopted a whole school approach to bring about positive behaviour; Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). This approach has a strong emphasis on teaching appropriate behaviours and providing systems of support to bring about these positive behaviours.

This program recognises that staff, students and parents all share the responsibility for Behaviour Management, with a positive and pastoral outlook for all. PBL focuses on proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours to create positive school environments.

BUDDY PROGRAM

At Maria Regina, we ensure all students receive a warm welcome and smooth transition into school life. All Kindergarten students are assigned a Senior Student Buddy. This school initiative establishes social networks by introducing Kindergarten children to older school leaders of the school.

STARFISH TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Starfish Transition Program ensures a smooth transition for children from pre-school to kindergarten. It also gives parents an opportunity to find out more about how the school operates and what the children will learn. The program runs for 4 weeks in November on Friday afternoons and aims to familiarise children with the Kindergarten room and school surroundings. They will also meet and work on iPads with their Yr 6 buddies.





STARFISH PROGRAM

The dictionary defines transition as the process of *changing from one form, state, activity, or place to another*.

Throughout our lives each of us will go through many transitions: marriage, beginning a career, the death of a loved one, or becoming a parent. All of these transitions can be difficult as you adjust to the new experiences.

If you were to ask a group of adults about their life transitions, a good many will reflect on their first days of school. Some will recall it as a pleasant, enjoyable experience while others will wince and cringe at the memory.

What we do as parents and as professional educators of young children can make a tremendous difference in how these future adults will respond to the question of how they viewed their first school experiences.

**STARTS IN
NOVEMBER**

Register your interest
by phoning 9918 2608
or email mra@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Program objectives

The aim of the **Starfish Program** is to ensure a smooth transition for your children into **Kindergarten**.

It also gives an opportunity for you as parents to find out more about how the school operates and what the children will learn.

Program schedule and format

The program will run for **4 weeks** and commences in **November**.

While the children are having some "school experiences" the parents will have the opportunity to hear from some professional speakers and also to network with the other Kindergarten Parents.

Afternoon tea will be provided each week. It is necessary for the parents to remain in the school while the children attend the **Starfish Program**.

Program activities

Some of the activities your child will experience during the **Starfish Program** are:

- Working in the Kindergarten classroom
- Using the library and borrowing a library book
- Using computers
- Creating Artwork
- Activities and games
- Meeting their buddies for the start of school

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Maria Regina employs specialist teachers in PE, Music, Visual Arts, Japanese, Dance, Learning Support and Library and also provides a wide variety of co-curricular activities which enhance students' gifts and talents in learning. These include:

- Photography
- Public Speaking
- Debating
- Eco Garden
- Gifted And Talented Programs
- Musical
- Swimming Carnival
- Athletics Carnival
- Cross Country Carnival
- Gala Days

Competitions in sport and academics provide pathways for state and national level.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES

Students at Maria Regina also have opportunities to participate in activities after school provided by specialist private instructors in Band, Guitar, Drums, Robotics and Hoshin Jujitsu.

Maria Regina also provides free extra-curricular activities for interested students during lunch. These currently include Gardening, Science, Games and various special interest clubs especially during Wellbeing Week.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

At Maria Regina School we acknowledge that the school benefits from a strong and responsible student voice and we are committed to increasing relevant opportunities for students to demonstrate their growing skills and maturity. We aim to establish clear expectations of student leadership as well as helping students develop the various skills needed to perform their roles. All Year 6 students are given the opportunity to develop and grow as a leader through the school's highly successful, specifically-tailored, leadership programs. Each senior Leadership Team is given opportunities to initiate, plan, organise, present and represent the school in events that involve the whole school community and the wider community. All Year 6 students will have a designated Leadership role as part of one of the following teams:

SCHOOL CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS

These students lead weekly assemblies and organise speeches to thank and welcome guests to our school. They represent our school at Parliament House and contribute to our Student Representative Council.

SPORTS CAPTAINS

These students promote school spirit, pride and sportsmanship. They motivate students to participate in sport by assisting with game opportunities, equipment rosters, and house chants during carnivals. They acknowledge champion achievements during assemblies.

BAND CAPTAIN

Lead and assist with organising weekly band rehearsals and present band awards at weekly assemblies.

WELL BEING TEAM

Our Well Being team participate in weekly assemblies. They plan and organise Well Being Week activities completed every term during Week 7. They assist with our social justice initiatives and help our school community by promoting local, national and international awareness days. They participate and attend The Peninsula Mission Workshop.



TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Our Technology team has regular professional learning sessions with our skilled teachers to learn how to assist others when computer issues arise. They upload new apps, demonstrate how apps and other programs work to younger students and assist with weekly assemblies.

CREATIVE ARTS TEAM

This team assists with creating school and classroom displays. They work with younger students assisting them with photography and challenging art techniques. They promote music, dance and drama. They assist with organising talent shows, music performances and book week celebrations.

ECO TEAM

Our ECO team work together to promote the school, local, national and international environmental initiatives. They assist in our Eco Garden on Thursdays and Fridays during lunch times. They organise harvest days and sell our school produce after assemblies.

OUR FACILITIES

At Maria Regina every classroom has state of the art technology at their fingertips. Classroom environments are child centred well-resourced and air conditioned. The school has a dedicated Art room and outdoor Creative Play area.

The children have access to a variety of inviting play areas, which include active, passive and creative areas. The students also have the opportunity to participate in caring for our gardens. The school also includes shaded play areas and ocean views from some of the play areas, classrooms and the library.

As we are located across from Avalon Beach, the children, whilst under close supervision of qualified teachers, enjoy utilising the grassed areas for a variety of games and activities.



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS



Maria Regina has supportive and welcoming class parent representatives who support the school community by acting as a link between the classroom, teacher and parents. Their role within the school engages the community to promote pastoral care by welcoming new families and fostering new relationships between parents and students.

The school highly values parents as the first and continuous educators of their children and school takes pride in developing and promoting strong positive relationships between parents and the school in order to achieve optimal learning.

Members of the school community are invited to become fully involved in all aspects of school life including:

- Parents and Friends Team
- Class Parents
- Canteen
- Many various celebrations throughout each year
- Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts
- Grandparents Day
- School Excursions
- School Sport Coaching Assistance
- Reading Volunteers
- Social and Fundraising Teams
- Eco Garden





ENROLMENT

Enrolment applications are available throughout the school year. Applications are available on our website.

Maria Regina Catholic Primary School

Address 42 Central Road Avalon NSW 2107

Phone (02) 9918 2608

Email mra@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Web www.mradbb.catholic.edu.au

