



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Thank you so very much for the warm welcome I have received since returning this year. It is great to have the kids back for another fabulous year. It has also been a terrific start for our new children at the school including our beautiful kindergartens for 2018.

Did you realise how dedicated and organised your children's teachers are?

One important thing that makes our school an excellent school is the outstanding quality of the teachers who are working with your children. Their commitment to working professionally yet compassionately with the children at St Mary MacKillop, has been obvious to me. Whilst we have been on holidays the work of the teachers and leaders has continued which ensures that they are ready for your child's first day at school.

If you agree with me, why not take the chance to let them know you appreciate it when you see them next?

Staffing News

I write to inform you with very mixed emotions that Mr Carroll has let me know that he will be leaving us this term with his final day at St Mary MacKillop being Friday 23rd February 2018.

Mr Carroll will be taking up a position at All Saints Grammar, Belmore. It is a wonderful opportunity for him as it will allow him to work with pre-school, primary and secondary students across the school, teaching music. Mr Carroll is a very gifted educator who always brings passion to his work. He is a tremendously talented musician and a highly valued member of our staff here at St Mary MacKillop.

The community of All Saints Grammar are so very fortunate to have him join them. We will miss him greatly but I wish him all the very best on this next step of his journey.

We will commence advertising for a replacement immediately and will keep you informed as we know more. Please rest assured that we will minimise disruption for your child and their learning.

Attendance is the key to your child's success!!!

Throughout this year I will be raising the importance of children being **at school** and **on time** every day. It makes sense that for your child to succeed at school and continue to build on their learning, they need to be in the classroom.

Please be aware that current legislation requires that any absence from school other than due to illness, needs to be approved by the school principal. If you are seeking leave for your child, please apply in writing through the school office.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal



**You miss
 100%
 of the shots
 you don't take.**
 - Wayne Gretzky

News from the Assistant Principal

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I am looking forward to working with you again this year.

Today you are receiving a paper copy of the school newsletter - KIT (Keeping In Touch). The KIT is produced every second week, on Thursday and is sent out electronically once you have subscribed to it. Instruction on how to subscribe are on page 5 of this newsletter. Instructions on how to use the Skoolbag are also on page 5 of this newsletter. We post regular updates on the official school Facebook page **St Mary Mackillop Primary, South Penrith**.

Maths Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Thank you to the parents who have brought their children to school out of school hours to sit the MAI. This data serves as a valuable teaching tool to enable targeted, personalised learning for every student.

Early Years Assessment (EYA)

Over the next few weeks our students in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will participate in an Observation Survey of Early Literacy. These assessment inform the teachers and enables them to plan the teaching and learning experiences for our Infants classes. The assessments also help the school to identify vulnerable students for targeted intervention programs.

Sports days for 2018

This year Mrs Crystal Middleton will be joining the staff of St Mary MacKillop as our sport teacher. Sport will be held on the following days

Monday : Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday: Year 3, Year 4 and 5M

Wednesday: Kindergarten, Year 6 and 5PC

BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

‘Building Child Safe Communities’ is an initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers – please access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on ‘Child Protection Training Forms’ (halfway down page on the right hand side).

Then click on ‘**Volunteer Form**’ (halfway down page).

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.

So if you would like to be a parent helper at sports carnivals, reading groups, gala days, excursions etc you will need to complete the form.

If you need to contact me please phone the office or by my email,

mrowan2@parra.catholic.edu.au

Margaret Rowan

Welcome to the 2018 school year. This time of year is always filled with mystery and excitement. Mystery because what the year ahead holds for us is unknown, and excitement because we can be assured that throughout each moment of this year God will be with us.



Lord Jesus,

we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

2017 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting, 7pm Tues 13th Feb

The Parish based Sacramental Program will begin this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with a parent only session on Tuesday, 13th February at 7pm.

If you wish to enrol in this program it is **compulsory that at least one parent/carer attend**. The meeting will be held in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. This program is for all children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised and would like to enrol in the Sacramental Program.

All enquires to Colleen Nichols (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word

Wednesday 14th of February is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The Season of Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count) and is a time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on [Easter Sunday](#).

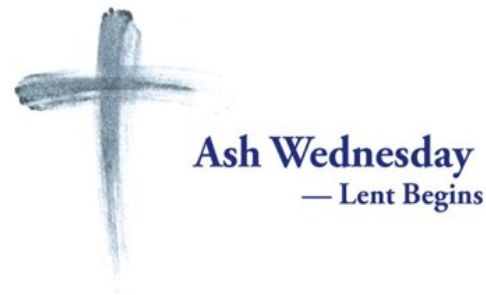
Ash Wednesday is the day for us to take stock of our spiritual lives and we are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. As Lent begins, we should set out specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them—for instance receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To celebrate the beginning of Lent all students will attend an Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word at 9:15am in the hall. All parents and family members are warmly invited to attend this special prayer time.

During the liturgy the ashes, which give Ash Wednesday its name, will be distributed. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

The distribution of ashes, is a tangible reminder of our own need to focus on being better people. Through acts of penance comes a change of heart – a coming back to God. Our personal Lenten journey should be marked with reflection, prayer and penance. Throughout Lent we should strive to model the actions of Christ. As the prophet Joel wrote:

***‘Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart.’***



Opening School Mass and Year Six Leadership Ceremony: 9:15am Friday 23rd February

Please join us for our Opening School Mass on Friday 23rd February at 9:15am. At our mass we will gather as a school community to pray for God's blessing on the school year and welcome Kindergarten and the new students across the grades to St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We will also induct the Year 6 students into their 2018 leadership roles.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate our Catholic Faith together.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Afternoon Pick Up

Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm

Thank you for caring for our staff and kids.

Italian Classes

Following enquiries last year and the positive response we received, we are pleased to announce that we will be offering Italian language classes after school on a Monday afternoon.

If you wish to enrol your child to attend these classes, please collect and return the enrolment form from the school office. Enrolments applications close Friday 9 February.



Subscribing to the KIT (Keeping In Touch)

Our school newsletter is only sent home in hard copy the first newsletter of the year.

The newsletter is available by subscribing on the schools website www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au select News & Events>Newsletter and click on subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

Skool Bag App Instructions

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).

School Fees

The Catholic Education Department will send school fee notifications to parents throughout February. Term 1 school fees are due 21st March 2018. Payment options /plan information will be included on the statement.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our second hand school uniform shop is open the last Friday every month from 2pm - 3.15pm.

Girls summer and winter dresses \$5 each

All other items \$2.



of

School Banking

School banking has commenced for 2018. School banking encourages your child to develop regular savings habits by giving them the opportunity to deposit money into their Youthsaver account at school each week. If you are interested in school banking and your child does not already have a Youthsaver account you can apply online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or visit any CommBank branch.



School Contact Information



Phone Number Change

St Mary MacKillop has migrated to a new digital phone system which in turn means our phone number has changed. The new school phone number is **02 4724 3200**.

The old phone number is still in effect and will be for the next 12 months, however, when we call you the new contact phone number will be shown on your caller id.

REMINDER STAGE 3 STUDENTS: 2018 Parramatta Rep Team Sport Trials Nominations close THIS Friday 2nd February

2018 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials Expression of Interests close THIS Friday 2nd February for ALL TEAM Sports:

AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Football (Soccer), Netball, Rugby League 11 Years, Rugby League Opens, Rugby Union, Softball, Touch Football. Please go to the website to complete registrations.

Please only register once per sport using the link below by choosing the sport that you are nominating your child for and upon pressing the submit button a reply email should be received to confirm the nomination.

Schools will be notified approx 10 days after the closing date of nominations.

<http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au/rep-selections>

Twilight Swimming Carnival

When: Monday 5th February.

Where: St Marys Ripples, Charles Hackett Drive St Marys

Time: Arrive at 4:30pm for a 5:00pm start. Carnival should finish by 7:00pm.

Who: Students aged 8 - 12 years

Events: 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 50m Butterfly

Wear: Swimmers, Thongs, Goggles, Swimming Cap, Towel, MacKillop Sports Shirt

Cost: Students enter free of charge; parents and spectators \$3

We are looking forward to a fun evening at St Marys Ripples! Remember to complete your form indicating your events and return it to the office by FRIDAY 2ND FEB to ensure you are placed into a heat. Forms can be collected from the school office if you missed one last term.

If you would like to submit your 200m medley time, please ensure it is certified / signed off by a swimming coach / official representative and submit to Miss McNally.

We would love parent helpers for time keepers and the like so if you are interested (and have completed your Working with Childrens Check) please get in contact or indicate on the form.



2018 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2018 Information For Parents of **current Year 4** and Year 5 students – Registration window open only for Basketball & Tennis ONLY

All correspondence to:
PDCPSSC
 Aengus Kavanagh Education & Equity Centre
 PO Box 215, Rooty Hill 2788
 Tel (02) 9877 4314
 Mobile 0408 278 918
mthornton@parra.catholic.edu.au
www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au
 Facebook: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2018 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2017 and Term One in 2018. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in years 5 & 6 in 2018 be invited to attend. To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Basketball	Open boys & girls	14th November 2017	Friday 27th October 2017
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Diving	10/11yrs girls & boys & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2018	Registration via CSSS in 2018
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2018	Registration via CSSS in 2018
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Netball	Open girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Rugby League	Open boys & 11yrs boys - NB. No State team selected for 11 yrs	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Rugby Union	Open boys	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Softball	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018
Tennis	Open boys & girls	20th November 2017	Friday 27th October 2017
Touch	Open boys & girls	Term One 2018	Friday 2nd February 2018

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form". **Each sport has a different registration criteria.**

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2018 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport and when completed, click SUBMIT.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience".

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

\$8.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for after school trials & \$10.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for half day and full day trials. – This is to be paid upon registration at the trials once your child has been approved to attend the Parramatta Diocesan Trials.

Please note that the full day trials will be for boys cricket, boys soccer, boys rugby league & boys rugby union. Due to the popularity of boys cricket, boys soccer and girls netball a maximum of 2 children only are eligible to trial from each school. Selection of the 2 boys and girls will be made jointly by the school sport coordinator and principal.

Half day trial for tennis and netball... all other trials will be held after school beginning at 4pm.

MACKILLOP TRIAL

It should be noted that the main purpose of the Mackillop trial is to select a team to compete at the NSW PSSA Championships. The Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Trial is not a competition although a round robin format is often used to facilitate the selection procedure.

NSW PSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Children who are successful at being selected in the Mackillop team will compete at the N.S.W. P.S.S.A. Championships. These championships involve three or four days of competition at various locations in NSW. Children selected in these teams may also be required to attend training sessions. At the NSW PSSA Championships a State team will be selected to participate at the School Sport Australia Inter State Exchange for some sports.

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

To be considered for selection in the NSW PSSA state team for participation at all School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under championships: Students must be turning between the ages of 10 and 12 in the year of competition i.e. Students turning the ages of 8, 9 and 13 in the year of competition are not eligible for NSW PSSA State selection.

Please note the following information:

- Parents are responsible for all transport and supervision arrangements and must remain to supervise their child at the trial at all times.
- Children need to generally be of representative standard.
- Attendance at training days, where applicable is compulsory.
- The selector's decisions are final.
- Parents will need to make their own travel arrangements for children representing Parramatta at Inter-Diocesan MacKillop trials. This may mean travel to Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga or Forbes.
- Please be aware that the teacher conducting the trial and accompanying the team to the venue is a "Team Manager" ~ not a coach.

If you would like your child to participate in one of the Parramatta Diocesan trials please complete the Team Online Registration Form that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form".

**NOMINATIONS close Friday 27th October 2017 for the sports of Basketball & Tennis
and entries close Friday 2nd February 2018 for all other sports.**

Kind Regards,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator Primary Sport ~ CEO Parramatta

WEBSITE: www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

The screenshot shows the PDCPSSC website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'SPORTS & EVENTS', 'CONTACT', 'PDCPSSC', 'PDCPSSC', and 'YOUR NEWS'. The main content area is titled 'Representative Selections' and contains a 'REGISTER' button. A red arrow points from the 'REGISTER' button to the registration form on the right.



This is the message that appears once the registration has been submitted correctly and a NO-REPLY email should be received within 24 hours.

Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form".

St Mary MacKillop School Fete – May 6, 2018

WELCOME BACK!! A warm welcome back to all of our families and hello and welcome to the new families joining our school. As many of you know, the fete is run by volunteering parents, teachers and community members, we are always in need of help and support. If you are able to help out in any way, let us know. Any time given is valued.

WINNER, WINNER! Congratulations to Colleen McHenry and Amanda Nicoll on winning double passes to Hoyts. You can collect your prize from the office. Please continue to share our page on Facebook!

TRASH AND TREASURE – If you're doing a clean out, consider setting aside anything that is no longer useful for you but in good condition to donate it to our Trash and Treasure Stall. Donations will be welcome from the start of the 2018 school year. **Electrical items cannot be accepted.**

GARDEN STALL – Our Garden Stall will be a green thumb's delight, but we need your help to get started. If you have any plants you could start taking cuttings from and/or empty pot plants/containers, get in contact with us. We would love all of the support we can get.

RIDES, RIDES AND MORE RIDES – Once again we will have some amazing rides and inflatables at this year's fete. Ride passes will be available for purchase at early bird prices from week 4. More information in the next KIT.

STALL HOLDERS – This is a final call to stallholders. Over the next 2 weeks we will be finalising our stall holders for the fete, if you would like to be one or know someone who is interested, contact us for an application form today!

DONATIONS FOR RAFFLE – We are in need of donations for our fete raffle and chocolate wheel, if you have anything in mind that would help raise some funds for our school, let us know today! We have some great raffle prizes on offer, so stay tuned for details.

SPONSORS – We would like to express our gratitude to our sponsors who have already come on board. Outback Steakhouse and Uphire Equipment Specialists, who have shown amazing generosity to our school. We feel free to get in contact anytime for anything fete related at smpfete2018@gmail.com or 0408 971 675.



We still have sponsorship opportunities available, starting at just \$250, get in contact now!

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2018

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	5 February	5pm	Twilight Swimming Carnival - Ripples St Marys
Friday	9 February	2.20pm	Whole School Assembly

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!

After School Drama

CLASSES START
WEDNESDAY
7TH FEB

Wednesdays

FREE TRIAL
CLASS!

Enrolment required

St Mary MacKillop School Hall

SUPERVISION AVAILABLE FROM 3PM UNTIL 5.15PM IF REQUIRED

@ 3.15pm SUPER KIDS (K-Yr2)

@ 4.15pm COOL KIDS (Yr3-Yr7)

To enrol

www.kidscanact.com.au

ENQUIRIES:- Mrs Cathie Parkes - 0414 475 158