



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOUR CHILD

Looking for the perfect gift to give your child? Look no further, for you already have this perfect gift within your power: a happy childhood is one of the best gifts that adults have in their power to bestow upon their children. If we make a child happy today, we will make the child happy twenty years on by the memory of it.

Happiness isn't something that you can give all wrapped up like a present. If we were to shower our children with gifts of toys or shield them from emotional discomfort, they are more likely to grow into adulthood as people who are bored and joyless. The best gifts for happiness are internal not external, an inner set of tools they can rely on for life.

There is no way that parents can make children happy all the time. Children need to learn how to deal with some distress and to figure out how to cope with it. Learning how to deal with life's frustrations and setbacks is essential for future happiness. A parent's role in these situations is to help children find solutions, not provide them. What's more, children need to know that it's all right to be unhappy sometimes; it's part of life.

If we try to eliminate unhappiness, we might be giving the message that it's wrong to feel sad; children need to experience the whole range of human feelings including sadness. However, parents can encourage children to be happy about what's going okay, or what they have, instead of being sad about what's not going okay or what they don't have.

Likewise, conflicts and disagreements are a normal part of life and are important in as much as they allow for the statement of differences and the expression of feelings. However, our behaviour and manner of relating affect those around us profoundly, so, parents need to ensure that differences are reconciled without destroying the differences or the people who hold them. Maybe St Peter's words to his community of believers could be a source of inspiration to us: "And now this word to all of you. You should be like one happy family, full of sympathy towards one another with tender hearts and humble minds." 1 Peter 3: 8.

Most parents can relate to the statement, "Thank heavens, I've got some time to myself!" It is a heavenly feeling not to be at the beck and call of others or on the treadmill of house chores. And why is it a heavenly feeling? Because we have time to be with ourselves to simply do nothing or to do something that is relaxing and pleasing to us personally.

Well, children are no different to adults in this regard. They need to have some scheduled activities, which develop social skills or individual talents. But, like us, they need their own space, their chance to follow their own interests, their time to manage as they choose, their opportunity to build an inner happiness which they will carry on through life.

As parents, we need to keep an eye on the "big picture" of life and set it within a positive and healthy home environment where our children can develop into value-driven, successful and happy people. If they can develop positive attitudes about themselves, their family and their community, they will be less inclined to be lured by the, oftentimes, seductive messages of popular culture. They will want to be successful, happy contributing people.



Their happiness will be our happiness.

**Let us pray:
God, our Father,
we ask that
we and our children
be gifted with a positive inner attitude
of mind and heart
& true happiness.
Amen.**

A HUGE THANKYOU & CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the St Mary MacKillop community I would sincerely like to thank the 2015 Parents and friends Executive committee for their active and tireless dedication to the children of our school. Last night at our Annual General Meeting the following members stepped down from the 2015 positions:

President: Liz Whalen

Vice President: Michelle Darwen

Secretary Jenny Inskip

Treasurer Fiona Bryant

Major Fundraising Michelle Darwen & Jade Billington

General Fundraising Cecily Ellston & Wendy Attard

PRC Reps Rebecca Moxey & Tracey McGuinness

Congratulations to the 2016 St Mary MacKillop P&F Executive committee:

President Michelle Darwen

Vice President Fiona Bryant

Secretary Jenny Inskip,

Treasurer Natalie Cilia

Major Fundraising Erin Carroll

General Fundraising Wendy Attard & Cecily Ellston

PRC Reps Natalie Cilia & Liz Whalen

Thought for the Week

*“Joseph’s noble heart never faltered,
never was deterred by the most trying obstacles”*

Mary MacKillop 1883

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL

Explanation of the Year of Mercy Logo and Motto. The logo and the motto together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto Merciful Like the Father (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38).



The logo – the work of Jesuit Father Marko I. Rupnik – presents a small theological summary of the theme of mercy. In fact, it represents an image quite important to the early Church: that of the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption.

The logo has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

The scene is captured within the so called mandorla (the shape of an almond), a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the two natures of Christ, divine and human. The three concentric ovals, with colours progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death. Conversely, the depth of the darker colour suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all. (Taken from <http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/giubileo/logo.html>)

Whilst this explanation is very detailed I am sure you will find something that speaks to you personally within this logo/motto. Over the next two weeks I encourage you to look closely at it and see what it is revealing to you.

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a liturgical season consisting of forty days beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the 'Triduum', the great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur leading to Easter. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to the, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in the three traditional forms of Lenten observance:

- Fasting (self denial)
- Prayer and confession
- Almsgiving (acts of kindness and mercy)

The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered. Our Lenten journey it is the opportune time to reflect on our personal preparation for the resurrection of Christ at Easter. We ask ourselves: Are we growing in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of love? We acknowledge that we are human and make wrong choices, but are comforted by the knowledge that God unconditionally loves us. No matter how busy you are this Lenten Season make time for HIM through your daily encounters with others.

Religious Education News—Continued

Catholic Schools Week: 6th – 12th March, 2016

From 6-12 March, St Mary MacKillop Primary School will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW).



We are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to celebrating and showcasing the achievements of students in our school. This year's theme is 'I belong. You belong. We belong.'

The 2016 CSW theme ties with the Church's celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which recognises our Catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love.

Our school is proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms everyday, as well as the contribution our schools have made to Australian communities, in particular the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our wider community.

It is for this reason that I would like to extend an invitation to you and your family to join us to participate with members of our parish and wider community in the spirit of this celebration.

Listed below is a schedule of events for the week that you are invited to attend:

Monday 7th March

9:15am Whole School Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, led by Year 2

10am Open classrooms

10:30am World Youth Day BBQ (parents are invited to stay for lunch and purchase something for themselves and their child(ren) to eat. Sausage Sandwich \$2.50, Can of drink/bottled water \$2, Lunch Combo: Sausage Sandwich and drink \$4)

3:15pm – AFL Clinic

Tuesday 8th March

4pm Sacramental Program - Sacrament of First Reconciliation for our students at St Nicholas of Myra

Wednesday 9th March

9am Performance for K-2 of Maruschka and the Twelve Months - an ancient fable that takes students on a magical winter adventure.

11:30am Performance for Yrs 3-6 of Jo Solo - As the students go on the journey of Jo's story they are made aware of the emotions and feelings that being alone can bring. Through empathising with Jo the play encourages children to think beyond themselves and to be sensitive towards the plight of others. The play offers strategies of how students can care for their peers and help make the school a safe and happy place for everybody.

4pm Sacramental Program - Sacrament of First Reconciliation for our students at St Nicholas of Myra

Thursday 10th March

Gold and Fold Mufti for World Youth Day. Each child is asked to bring a gold coin or note to donate to the charity work that will occur in the Philippines during WYD.

Friday 11th March

9:15am Year One Liturgy

2:20pm Whole school assembly and 3W item

Saturday 12th March

11am Sacramental Program - Sacrament of First Reconciliation for our Students at St Nicholas of Myra

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you during CSW 2016.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Many of our students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra next week – Tuesday 8th March at 4pm OR Wednesday 9th March at 4pm OR Saturday 12th March at 11am. I ask that during this special time, you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Religious Education News—Continued

Project Compassion, Week 4, brings you the story of Evangeline from Australia.
Sunday 6th March, the 4th week of Lent:



Fourth
Sunday
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
PROJECT
COMPASSION



First Australian Evangeline lives in a remote community that faces many ongoing challenges. She had a limited vision for her future until three years ago, when she started working at the Djiipin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre, a community-owned venture supported by Caritas Australia. Today Evangeline is flourishing, with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians in remote communities of Australia gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture. You can donate through School boxes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion, Week 5, brings you the story of Mondulkiri from Cambodia
Sunday 13th March, the 5th week of Lent:



Fifth
Sunday
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
PROJECT
COMPASSION



Before enrolling in the Mondulkiri Community Health Program, supported by Caritas Australia, young midwife Sreymom lacked the practical experience necessary to safely assist childbirth. Now, with the skills and knowledge gained through the program, Sreymom is a trusted midwife who is helping to improve the health of indigenous women and children in her region.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help healthcare workers in isolated areas of Cambodia gain vital training to improve the health and wellbeing of the region's indigenous women and children. You can donate through School boxes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Monday 7th March: World Youth Day Fundraising BBQ!

We will be serving sausage sandwiches and cold cans of soft drink and water bottles to all students, parents, staff and St Mary MacKillop Community during lunch time (10:45am- 11:30am.) \$2 for a drink, \$2.50 for a sausage sandwich or \$4 for the drink and sizzle combo. All money raised will go towards Miss McNally's World Youth Day pilgrimage to the Philippines and Krakow, Poland. We look forward to celebrating WYD and Catholic Schools Week with you all on Monday.



From the Assistant Principal

How can I help my child with maths at home?

“The home and local environment is rich with opportunities to explore, practise and apply mathematical knowledge and skills. Indeed, the mathematical role models provided for children by parents, family members, friends and neighbours are very important for establishing the idea that mathematics is a useful aspect of everyday activity. Thus, conversations with children that assist them to notice, explore and discuss mathematical activity, and opportunities to be involved in mathematics at home is a key component of building a positive attitude in children towards learning mathematics.” Extract from “Extending Mathematical Understanding Intervention, Ann Gervasoni, 2015)

School Photo Day

School photo day will be Friday 1st April. Your child should have brought home an envelope outlining the different packages. These envelopes need to be returned on photo day – Friday 1st April. Please come to the office if your child did not receive an envelope.

Family photos will also be taken on the day. If you would like to order a family photo, the envelopes for these are to be picked up at the school office.

ICAS testing

The dates for the ICAS testing in 2016 are as follows:

Science – Tuesday 31st May

Writing – Monday 13th June

English – Tuesday 2nd August

Mathematics – Tuesday 16th August.

The closing date for registration and payment to sit these tests is this Friday March 4th. Please return your form by Friday if you wish for your child to participate in these exams.

AFL Clinics

The after school AFL clinics will begin next Monday afternoon, 3.15-4.15 up on the school fields. A representative attended our school assembly last Friday and spoke to the children about the clinics. You can register online or you can bring your form and payment to the first clinic next Monday afternoon.

Swimming News

Last Tuesday 35 students represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pool. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day; you should be extremely proud of your achievements. Everybody was extremely supportive of one another and showed excellent sportsmanship. A huge congratulations to Xavier X who was awarded with Junior Runner- Up Champion at the Zone Swimming Carnival! Outstanding result!

From our large squad, there were 15 students who qualified and competed at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival which was held last Friday, 26th February at Blacktown. We had 3 relay teams qualify, as well as individual swimmers. Well done to Crystal P, Olivia R, Keely M, Talei S, Xavier X, Jarrod H, William Z, Ciaran M, Harry H, Oliver Z, Liam R, Ben D, Lachlan C, Brock S, Abbi G.

A further congratulations to Xavier X and Jarred H who have again been successful and qualified for the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Team. Xavier will compete in the 200m IM and the 50m Butterfly and Jarred will compete in the 50m Freestyle.

Well done to the boys and all our swimmers!

Mrs Rachel Paine & Miss Maryanne McNally



CONGRATULATIONS TO P & F EXECUTIVE TEAM 2016

President: Michelle Darwen, Vice President: Fiona Bryant, Secretary: Jenny Inskip, Treasurer: Natalie Cilia, Major Fundraising: Erin Carroll, General Fundraising: Wendy Attard and Cecily Ellston, PRC Reps: Natalie Cilia and Liz Whalen.

As I type up my final blurb in the KIT, I wish to congratulate the P & F team of 2016 led by Michelle Darwen, who will lead our school community with fresh ideas throughout the year. Thank you for saying YES to your vocations and helping our school community grow stronger with your passion. CONGRATULATIONS.

I wish to share my humble appreciation to all our past members who worked so hard during 2015, families, friends, gorgeous students, teachers and leaders past and present who have made a huge contribution towards our school community during my time as President. I have enjoyed the challenges and gathered wonderful memories as I learned so much about dynamics, processes and communication. I am very thankful to everyone that stepped up to help out whenever necessary. God bless you and your beautiful hearts. Onwards and upward everyone and please keep yourself involved with our school community and help the new P & F whenever you can. It is our community involvement (apart from our phenomenal leaders and teachers) that makes our school so loved and respected, just like St Mary MacKillop. Over and Out, God Bless. Liz Whalen.

FETE UPDATE!!!

SMMP FETE 2016 - SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, 1st May 2016

Our amazing Fete leaders Michelle Darwen, Erin Carroll, Jenny Inskip, Natalie Cilia and their fantastic team are working hard to bring together our major fundraiser for the year.

FETE STALLHOLDERS WANTED

Currently the fete team are looking for families interested in setting up a Fete stall. For more information on the relevant paperwork please contact Michelle Darwen on michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au.

FETE BUSINESS PROMOTIONS & DONATIONS

Do you own a business and wish to promote it during this huge event? Then why not donate a prize towards the Fete raffle or chocolate wheel (gift or monetary). For more information please contact Erin Carroll on escarroll1@optusnet.com.au

FETE - TRASH & TREASURE DONATIONS

Don't forget ALL DONATIONS for our Trash & Treasure and Garden & Craft stall can be left in the labelled boxes located in the school front office.

Items need to be in good condition and can include books, DVD's , records and CDs.

FETE - GARDEN & CRAFT DONATIONS

Garden - Donations of plants, potted cuttings, seedlings or empty pots (to be delivered to the school between 26 - 29 April).

Craft - anything relating to handiwork including baby wear, beanies, scarves, hand towels, aprons, library bags, hair accessories and jewellery.

Parents Representative Council Meeting

Facebook : PRC parra

PRC website: prc.catholic.edu.au

Next meeting will be Term 2, Monday 20th May at Diocesan Assembly Centre, cnrs Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown- next door to Patrician Brothers. They will have a speaker from ASPECT (Autism Australia)

Please call Natalie Cilia 0478398130 or email tali85@live.com.au for more information if you would like to attend. All welcome and invited.

Zooper Dooper - SALE ON FRIDAY (weather permitting)

Zooper Doopers are on sale every Friday during recess from 1:30pm. Zooper Doopers are sold at 60c for a full size and 30c for a half size (please note: limit 2 per student). Volunteers are always appreciated for these sales, so if you are able to volunteer your time to sell Zoopers Doopers to our gorgeous students, please ensure to leave your name and contact number at the front office for Jenny Inskip.

Michelle Darwen

President

On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	4 March	2:20pm	AFL to join Whole School Assembly
Monday	7 March	9:30am 10:00am 10:45am 3:15pm-4:15pm 7:30pm	Catholic School's Week Liturgy (Year 2) Open Classrooms WYD BBQ Fundraiser AFL Clinic School Fete Meeting in Hall
Tuesday	8 March	4:00pm	Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	9 March	9:00am 11.30am	Performance for K-2 Maruschka and the Twelve Months Performance for Years 3-6 Jo Solo
Thursday	10 March		Gold and Fold Mufti for World Youth Day
Friday	11 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly 3W Item
Saturday	12 March	11:00am	Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra
Monday	14 March	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Tuesday	15 March	9:00am	Year 5 Graffiti Workshop
Thursday	17 March		St Patrick's Day School Cross Country
Friday	18 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Mass Whole School Assembly 6 Mc Item
Sunday	20 March		Palm Sunday
Monday	21 March	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Wednesday	23 March	TBA	Prayer Room Experience
Friday	25 March		Good Friday
Sunday	27 March		Easter Sunday
Tuesday	29 March		Staff Development Day (no school)
Thursday	31 March		NSWCPA Swimming Trials @ Homebush
Friday	1 April	2:20pm	School Photo Day Whole School Assembly
Monday	4 April	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Tuesday	5 April		Year 6 ANZAC Service at Penrith Paceway
Thursday	7 April		P & F wrapping items for Fete in School Hall
Friday	8 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Term 1 Concludes

Kids Can Act

Drama Studio

For kids of all ages



Mrs Parkes presents...

After School Drama Classes

@

St Mary MacKillop School Hall

Wednesdays 2016

@ 3.15pm **Junior Kids** (K-Year 2)

@ 4.15pm **Big Kids** (Years 3- 6)

Enquiries and enrolments to be completed through the website below or call Cathie for further details. Please do not contact the school

www.kidscanact.com.au

kidscanactstudio@gmail.com

Mob. 0414 475 158

Limited Vacancies in the Infants Class at 3.15 pm Wednesdays! Enquiries and enrolments to be completed through the website listed or call Cathie for further details. Please do not contact the school.

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Academic and Trade Training Centre (TTC)

Enrolling now for 2017

Open Morning: Sunday 13 March 2016 **Time:** 9.30am to 11.30am

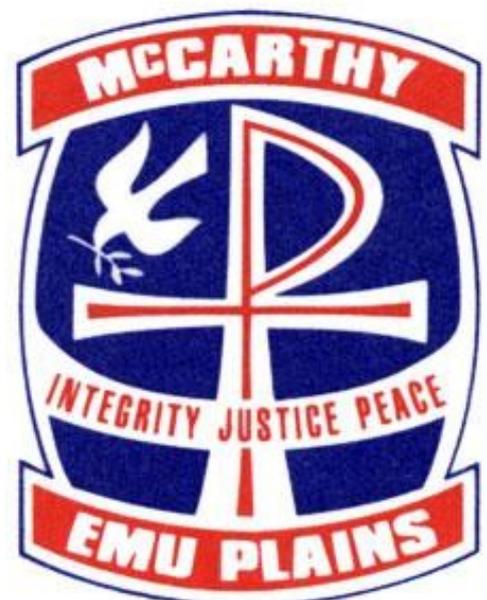
- ◆ Meet the Principal, staff and students
- ◆ Tours of the College facilities
- ◆ TTC information for senior study
- ◆ Enrolment packages available

Enquiries: 4735 3211

Address: 75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Email: mccarthy@parra.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au



Fete 2016



SCHOOL FETE SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2016

**A HUGE "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
PREPARATION FOR OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR 2016.**



CALLING ALL STALL HOLDERS

Places are filling quick!!

Application forms are available
through the school office, SkoolBag
app, or send an email to
michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au

CHOCOLATE WHEEL & RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS

Don't miss this chance to advertise your business!

Contact Erin Carroll by email to
discuss sponsorship at: escarroll1@gmail.com



Fete 2016



GARDEN STALL DONATIONS

Donations of potted *Flowers, herbs, vegetables, citrus, natives and succulents*, all welcome. Donations can be left at the school between 26 – 29 April.

CRAFT STALL DONATIONS

Donations of handiwork including but not limited to *beanies, scarves, hand towels, aprons, library bags, hair accessories & jewellery* can be left at the school office or St Nicholas of Myra Parish Office.



STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

Don't forget, your posters will be displayed at school and in the local community to let everyone know how exciting our fete will be! There will be a winner chosen from each grade! Make sure the day, date, time and school address are included.

Best of luck children! 😊

INFO IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Ride Band Pre Purchase

Major Raffle

Mufti Day - 30 March 2016

“My Penrith” Student Photography Competition

STAY TUNED 😊 ...