



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop

Our school constantly strives to be a "Christ centred community".

As we enter the season of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of Christ at the centre of how we live, how we think and how we behave. The message of **'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR'** captures the very essence of Christ as a model for us. The time of Lent challenges each of us to check on how we treat each other and work towards a more peaceful and loving community. It is like a 40 day Boot Camp for us to develop our relationships to be more Christ-like.

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's school liturgy. Your attendance added life to our celebration and modelled the partnership of school and parents that we constantly seek. Thank you also to Mrs Gillard, Mrs Fox and Mr McErlain for leading the staff and students in this celebration.



**Have you ever noticed that each year there seem to be more teachers in the school than there are classrooms?** Some classes seem to have two or more adults working in them rather than the one teacher we were used to at school.

In most cases the extra staff in the classrooms are Teacher Assistants. At St Mary MacKillop we have three outstanding Teacher Assistants who support our classroom teachers to personalise the learning for all the students in their classes. Mrs Inskip, Mrs Breia and Mrs Daines, are very good at adapting to the specific support needs of our teachers – and these do vary a lot from day to day and subject to subject. Guided by the direction of the classroom teacher, they are persistent, insistent and consistent in supporting all students to develop their unique gifts and talents. From swimming carnivals to reading groups, these caring ladies are integral in making our school a success.



**When is it a good time to take a holiday?**

Time together as a family, enjoying exciting new destinations and/or relaxing quality moments with each other, are very important in maintaining good quality family relationships. The time spent on family holidays create many of the memories that define our lives.

As a parent myself, it is challenging when the desire to take holidays collides with the need for our children to be at school building success for their future. Ideally we should take holidays during the school holiday periods to resolve this but this is not always possible. When we consider that ten days away from school on a holiday reduces your child's learning at school by 5% it becomes a very difficult decision for parents to make.

Wherever possible I will encourage you to take family holidays during school holiday periods but in those times when you choose to holiday during school terms I require notification in writing. If the time away is for ten days or more it is necessary to complete an Application for Extended Leave Form from the office. In cases of extended leave I will make contact with you to discuss the implications for your child and work in partnership with you to minimise disruption to your child's learning.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

## News from the Assistant Principal

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On Tuesday, 7 March 2017 at 2:15pm in the library, there will be an information workshop on reading and comprehension. The focus of this session will be on the process of reading and using prompts to assist children in becoming independent, successful readers. This workshop is essential for any parent or caregiver who wishes to assist with the St Mary MacKillop Reading Tutor program, however, if you are just interested in learning more about how we teach reading, you are also very welcome to attend.

If you wish to assist with the Reading Tutor program and have previously completed this workshop, you do not need to attend. Just a reminder, that if you wish to assist in any capacity in the school, the Building Child Safe Communities module needs to be completed online every two years.

The link to this is <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers>.

Mrs Margaret Rowan  
Assistant Principal

## Religious Education News

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### The Season of Lent

The first week of Lent begins this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. The Season of Lent offers us all a chance to grow in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of mercy. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to come back to God with a change of heart.

During Lent we look for a renewal of our lives and we seek the meaning of Jesus' self-less love, so that we might reflect that love to others. We have to work hard to resist temptation and to change some of our bad habits. We know that this will not be easy but we are encouraged by the works of mercy that Christ gave us:

*Feed the hungry*

*Welcome the stranger*

*Clothe the naked*

*Comfort the sick*

*Visit the imprisoned*



During Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit? Let us show Mercy to those who are most in need.



**Project Compassion 2017**  
**Lent Calendar**



Did you know Caritas Australia has created a free reflective Lent Calendar app for your Apple, Android and web devices?

Use the calendar to deepen your spirituality this Lent and learn about Caritas Australia's work in five countries across the globe. Explore Project Compassion, meet inspiring people and reflect on the Lenten period through daily readings, prayers and social justice actions.

A children's version is available online also; reflect together as a class, whole school, family and parish!

View or download at [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/lent-calendar)



### **Project Compassion 2017 (Social Justice Initiative)**

Yesterday the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is “Love your Neighbour”.



The six stories Caritas share with us for the six weeks of Lent reveal some of the ways lives can be transformed when we follow Jesus' instruction to “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Matt. 22:39).

The call of Jesus shakes us out of preoccupation with ourselves. Christ asks us to acknowledge in our lives that we are all members of the one human family. Each one of us is equally worthy of respect and compassion. Love for our neighbours can transform lives. When mutual respect is fostered, communities become stronger and more resilient. This can only lead to a better future for our world, the world that Pope Francis has recently called “our common home”. For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in Australian communities and in many other countries. Through working with partner agencies in those communities, Caritas, has developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person.

This week all classes received a 2017 Project Compassion box to place on their prayer space in their classroom. Over the next few weeks the students will be encouraged to give generously to those less fortunate than themselves. It would be appreciated if you could support your child(ren) in putting their compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2017 **Project Compassion Appeal**. You can also donate online via the website [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

	
<b>Week one of Lent: Dinia, Philippines</b>	
<p>Dinia, widowed and shy, struggled on her own to make ends meet until her community encouraged her to participate in the Socio Pastoral Action Center Foundation Inc. (SPACFI) program, supported by Caritas Australia. SPACFI's Integrated Community Development Program helped her develop diverse ways to gain a sustainable livelihood, continue to send her children to school and contribute to her community. Now she inspires her neighbours through her commitment to the common good.</p> <p><b>Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help our most vulnerable neighbours in the Philippines to build a stronger future for their families and their communities.</b></p> <p>You can donate through School boxes, by visiting <a href="http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion">www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion</a> or phoning 1800 024 413.</p>	
	



**Week two of Lent:  
Martina, Timor-Leste**

**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

For Martina, a mother of eight, escaping domestic violence was the first step in her journey to a new life. Uma PAS, the shelter where she sought refuge, is a partner in Caritas Australia's Protection Program, a holistic community-wide program that offers women like Martina economic empowerment and a life of safety in a supportive community.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help domestic violence victims in Timor-Leste to build a secure future, and live in communities that uphold everyone's dignity.** You can donate through School boxes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)



### **Sacramental Program – Reconciliation**

A reminder that the Enrolment Masses for First Reconciliation are this weekend; Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. You can attend any of the mass at St Nicholas:

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7am, 8:30am, 10am or 6pm.

At the Enrolment Mass you will need to present your completed Enrolment Form that was handed out at the Parent meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

All children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation **must** be enrolled in the program.



### **9:15am Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Catholic Schools Week: Liturgy and Fr Joe's Farewell**

As part of our Catholic School's Week celebrations we will have a whole school Liturgy of the Word, at 9:15am on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

This liturgy will be led by Year 2 and will include a farewell to Fr Joe. Fr Joe has been appointed as Administrator at St Anthony's Toongabbie. At our liturgy we will acknowledge Fr Joe's commitment to St Mary MacKillop and wish him every blessing for the future. After the liturgy all parents and parishioners will be invited to a morning tea in Fr Joe's honour in the library.

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

### **ONE A PENNY, TWO A PENNY ... HOT CROSS BUNS!!**

Our first fundraiser for the year, with the support of Bakers Delight Nepean Square, will be an Easter Hot Cross Bun Drive.

Flavours available will be Mocha, Choc Chip, Traditional, Fruitless and a new addition ... APPLE CINNAMON!

Packs are \$7 and contain 6 buns each. \$2 from every pack goes directly to the school.

Order forms will be sent home to each family today... So spread the word and get your family and friends involved :)

In appreciation of your support, each pack ordered will receive a ticket in our Easter giveaway; a basket of holiday goodies to share with the family (drawn on the last day of Term 1).

All orders and payments must be received by Wednesday, 29 March 2017 and buns will be distributed on Tuesday, 4 April 2017.

Natalie Borg and Veronica Neal  
P&F Fundraising

### **WELCOME BBQ**

We had a lovely afternoon as a school community, meeting some of the new families and catching up with friends. Thank you to all the parents helpers for your hard work.

Our many thanks to the Hicks Family and Outback Steakhouse for your generous support on the day. Your dedication to our school on every level is a true blessing.

### **P&F & SCHOOL SPORT SHED**

The P&F storage and school Sports shed have undergone refurbishment over the past week. Both have been lined, painted and had lighting added.

Our thanks to the Mathewson, Wernicke, Borg and Carroll families for their help cleaning out and reorganising the shed.

Wishing everyone a restful weekend :)

Erin Carroll  
P & F President

## Strings Program

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Please note that the Strings Programme Fees were not able to be put on School Fees before they were posted.

They are \$100 per term and if you have started a Flexible Payment Plan this will be extended to pay these fees.

If you have any queries please contact Chris Capolupo in the office or email her at [ccapolupo@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ccapolupo@parra.catholic.edu.au)





## Sport News

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"Tuesday the 21st February marked another successful day at Glenbrook Swimming Pool. We had 32 students represent our school at the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival. Everyone should be extremely proud of their efforts and sportsmanship on the day. Thank you to our supportive parents and grandparents who joined us, we know that the children appreciated your love and support. " Mrs Rachel Paine

A big thank you to Mrs Paine for attending the Zone swimming carnival with our students. The Zone Squad will receive their certificates at this Friday's whole school assembly at 2:20pm.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for, and competed in the Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Blacktown Pool on Friday 24th February. Xavier X, Ella G, Deklan X, Wyatt A, Oliver N, Crystal P, Ky B, Jarred H, Lachlan C, Hannah S, Olivia E, William Z, Ciaran M, Amber S, Rafferti G, Madeleine S, Brayden K, Brock S, Keely M, & Olivia R. A big thank you to Mrs Breia who attended the carnival and to the parents who transported their children to the event.

One last but not least congratulations to two MacKillop boys who have qualified for the Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Team. Wyatt A - 8YO 50m Freestyle and Oliver N - 9YO 50m Freestyle. This is an outstanding achievement and we are very proud of these young athletes. The boys will be competing at the NSWCPs Swimming Trials on Wednesday 22nd March. We wish Wyatt and Oliver the very best of luck!

### Cross Country

The annual school Cross Country will take place on site on Thursday 9th March from 9:00am. We look forward to a fun day of exercise and energy. If you are able to assist on the day with timekeeping, ribbon writing or place judging, please indicate so on the slip you return to school with your child. Many hands make light work!

Miss Maryanne McNally  
Sport Co Ordinator



## Dates for Your Diary Term 1—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Thursday	2 March	11:30am	Year 5 Graffiti Talk
Friday	3 March	2:20pm	Year 6 Leaders Conference Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	7 March	2:00pm	Parent Reading Workshop
Thursday	9 March	9:00am	School Cross Country
Friday	10 March	9:15am 9:50am 10:15am	Whole School Liturgy & Fr Joe Farewell Parent Morning Tea with Fr Joe Open Classrooms
Monday	13 March	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Friday	17 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 5 Mass Whole School Assembly (4M Item)
Monday	20 March	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Friday	24 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly (5PC Item)
Wednesday	29 March		Hot Cross Bun Final Orders Due
Friday	31 March	2:20pm	School Photos Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	4 April		Hot Cross Buns Distributed
Friday	7 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly <b>Last Day of Term 1</b>

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	24 April		<b>Term 2 Commences</b>
Tuesday	25 April		Anzac Day Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY





# McCarthy Catholic College

Emu Plains

Co-educational 7 - 12

## OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2017

4.00PM TO 7.00PM



- Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders
- Tours of the College facilities led by student leaders
- Trade Training Centre Information
- Enrolment packages will be available
- Opportunity to ask questions and receive important information

Presentations will take place at:

4.15pm 5.15pm and 6.15pm



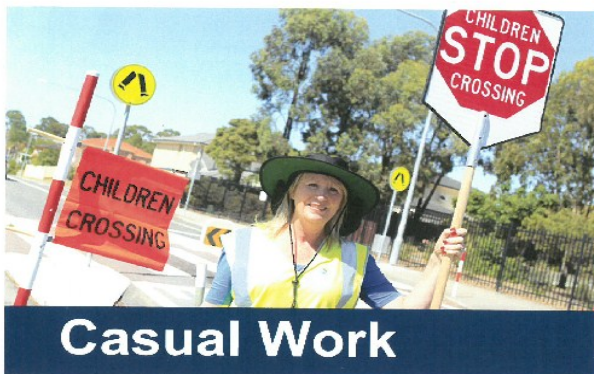
## ENROLLING NOW FOR 2018

Website: [www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au)

75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Telephone: 4735 3211





## Casual Work

School Crossing Supervisors - Work with your community  
2 x Casual positions - Penrith Local Government Area (00005267)

An important person in a child's school life is the School Crossing Supervisor, who ensures they cross the road safely. The role requires minimal time out of your day and gives something worthwhile back to the community.

This role is usually 8.00am to 8.30am and/or 2.30 to 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school terms. The base rate is \$21.91 \$48.20 per hour.

All the qualifications you need are community spirit, good communication skills, an alert and professional attitude to work and a reliable personality. The casual hours and school holidays would suit a parent or grandparent, a retiree or anyone wanting to do useful work - but not full-time.


Training for your key responsibilities of directing traffic to stop at the designated crossing and giving clear instructions to infants and primary school students to cross the road safely will be provided. You may be required to attend a health assessment. Appointment is subject to a Working with Children Check clearance.

Roads and Maritime Services is an equal opportunity employer.

For further information on this exciting opportunity please call 1800 206 206 or go to [workforus.nsw.gov.au](http://workforus.nsw.gov.au)

Applications close Sunday 5 March 2017






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## SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES

Increased penalties for School Zones. Current as at 1 July 2016



Means that in the area in the direction of the arrow, you **must NOT STOP your vehicle** at any point on the road or kerb, unless there is a medical or other emergency.

**Maximum Penalty**

**\$433**

**+ 2 Demerit Points**



Means that you have no more than 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick-ups of passengers or goods and the driver must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.

**Penalty**

**\$180**

**+ 2 Demerit Points**



Means that in the direction of the arrow or arrows you are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.

**Penalty**

**\$325**

**+ 2 Demerit Points**



### DOUBLE PARKING

You are **NOT PERMITTED** to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb.

**Penalty**

**\$325**

**+ 2 Demerit Points**

- STOP in a NO STOPPING zone: **\$325 + 2 Demerit Points**, or STOP on or near a Children's or Pedestrian Crossing: **\$433 + 2 Demerit Points**
- STOP on path/strip in built up area: **\$180 + 2 Demerit Points**
- STOP or Park in a Disabled Marked Area without a permit: **\$541**

**Please Note:** fines subject to change without notice. Current to 30 June 2017.  
These penalties apply to offences in school zones during posted school hours.