



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

To all families and friends I offer the warmest of welcome to the 2014 School Year. I hope that any smouldering embers of regret about the passing of the holiday period will soon be extinguished by the desire to learn and catching up with friends. I remind myself and others at these times, *'Don't be sad because its over but celebrate that it happened!'*

We know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of our teachers. Together, staff and parents at St Mary MacKillop can provide educational excellence for every child, so that they can achieve their personal best. Together, we can support one another to provide a friendly academic environment and, when appropriate, celebrate our achievements. We hope that throughout the year, St Mary MacKillop Primary will continue to be a place where staff, children and families have opportunities to experience Christ's presence in our lives. Although he lived about two and a half thousand years ago, the prophet, Jeremiah, has words that are still relevant for us at the beginning of this new school year:

***"The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
 Jeremiah 29:11.***

Within our school, we can all try to model God's love for each one of us, by being a renewing community where all members are valued, affirmed and empowered; where our commitment to Gospel values is expressed in every facet of our school's endeavours. For this sentiment to continue throughout the year, it will require our collective wisdom and generosity of spirit to be at the forefront of all our communications. Education today is a complex engagement because of the intensity and variety of external influences particularly through various forms of media and electronic communications. Our school has a special role in assisting every parent with the education of their children, so that all children will develop a sense of personal responsibility and learn the correct use of freedom. Throughout the year, our school will provide many experiences of liturgy and prayer to assist the spiritual and moral maturity of all our children. May this 2014 school year continue to see St Mary MacKillop staff and parents in partnership in our collective role of Catholic Education.

***"God, our Father,
 We ask that Your Spirit be a constant influence
 in the lives of all who make up our St Mary MacKillop school community this year.
 Help our students to be discerning,
 so that the outcomes of their choices will be in accord with Christian values.
 Amen."***

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL



From the Assistant Principal

MAI'S:

Over the past two weeks, the teachers have been busily conducting the Maths Assessment Interview with all the students in their class. Thank you to the parents who were able to bring their children in the holidays, or stay back after school in order to complete the MAI. The information gathered from this assessment tool will help the teacher in understanding how your child thinks about mathematics. It enables the teacher to personalise the learning so that maths lessons and tasks are catered for each child's ability. The data is also used by the school and the Catholic Education Office to track students mathematical thinking over time. Students who have not yet completed the MAI will do so in the next week during class time.

Year 1-6 Meet the Teacher Afternoon:

This is organised for next Monday 10 February between 3:30-5:30pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's 2014 teacher and observe the learning spaces. Year 1-6 teachers will be available in their classrooms during this time. You are invited to bring your child to the classroom **at any time** during this two hour period for about 15minutes. During this time your child will be asked to lead you through a tour of the classroom. Your child will also discuss with you a hand out which communicates important information that the classroom teacher would like you to know about the year. It is also an opportunity for you to introduce your self to the teacher. Please note, this is **NOT** a Parent-teacher interview time. Should you require a more detailed time to meet with your classroom teacher to discuss specific learning needs of your child, you will need to make a separate appointment. This will replace our more traditional Parent teacher nights that usually occur at this time. There will be tea and coffee provided by the P&F from 3:00pm at the Multi Purpose Centre.

Sports Equipment:

The school has recently purchased 10 sets of portable soccer goal posts, a portable shade structure and upgraded the portable Basketball rings. This was partly funded by the \$3000 grant given to us from last years Southlands shopper docket promotion. We are also currently awaiting our items that we ordered from the Woolworths shopper docket promotion from last year. We have ordered classroom teaching material and resources for use in Kindergarten to Year 6.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News

Prayer to Begin a School Year:

As we begin the 2014 school year I share the following prayer with you:

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit.

Be with our children as they begin a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and staff.

Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow;

wisdom and knowledge to their minds

as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Year Six Leadership Induction Ceremony:

Please join us at 2:00pm on Wednesday 17 February in our Multi Purpose Centre as the Year 6 students are inducted into their 2014 Leadership Roles.

Opening School Mass:

Please join us for our Opening School Mass on Friday 21 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 our Kindergarten students, new students across the grades and new teachers to St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our catholic Faith together.

Prayer Bags:

Prayer is an important part of the life of a Catholic school and this year the St Mary MacKillop School community will once again embrace the concept of a class Prayer Bag. This Prayer Bag offers a link between home and school through prayer. We hope that when your child brings home this bag for the period of four nights (Monday-Thursday, **(please return to school on Friday)**) that you will gather together as a family, with your child to write a prayer in the prayer journal. The prayer written by your child will become part of the class prayer on the Friday afternoon.

The Prayer Bag consists of:

A cloth, St Mary MacKillop Prayer card, Prayer book, Student Prayer Journal, Prayer card: *Our Father and Hail Mary (Kinder only)*, Prayer card: *Our Father , Hail Mary, Glory Be and Angel of God (Years 1-4)*, Rosary Beads and how to pray the Rosary prayer card **(Years 3-6)**, a copy of The Angelus **(Years 3 - 6)** and God is With Us - A Prayer Book for Families **(Years 4-6)**. The Prayer Bag is a very special and sacred bag. We know that you, with your child will take care of it and see that it is *completely and safely* returned to school to ensure every child is given the same prayerful opportunity. Thank you for joining with the St Mary MacKillop Community in prayer.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Child Protection

We are required to provide information about Child Protection information and procedures at our school for all Parent and Volunteer helpers. Your involvement in our school is greatly appreciated as the service you offer assists us to provide quality education for our students.

Principals are responsible to ensure that **all persons** performing child related tasks in, or for the school, complete the training module before they undertake a task on behalf of the school. This includes volunteers for excursion, school functions, reading groups etc., The training module can be completed online from the Catholic Education Office website which is accessed via the following address:

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au>

After successful completion of the module, fill out the form at the end by typing your name, email address, contact number, contact address and the school;

- A notification of successful completion of the module will be sent via email to the school and also to the volunteer's email address;
- Please note the module must be completed every two years.

For those families wishing to complete the module and do not have access to the web please contact the office.

Reminders:

Student Absences:

A reminder that if your child/children are away from school due to family holidays, you are required to complete the **'Application for Exemption from Attendance at School'**. This needs to be completed even if your child misses one day at school. This application can be found on our school website or can be picked up from the school office. If your child is away for more than 20 days a copy of your travel itinerary details are required.

School Fees:

School Fees for Term 1 are due to be sent out on Friday 7 February 2014. If you have not received your fees please contact the office. **Fees are due by Friday 7 March 2013.** If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment please contact the office to arrange a meeting with Mr Siciliano. Payment can be cash, cheque, eftpos, BPay, AusBillPost and credit card facilities via the phone or through the office. Payments can be made to the office from 8:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

P & F News

Welcome back everyone. A very special welcome to all our new families and their children. We look forward to meeting you and assisting you as you familiarise yourselves with the school environment, the students and the amazing teachers.

P & F Welcome BBQ: - ALL WELCOME

We are organising a Welcome BBQ on **Thursday, 6 February 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Outback Steakhouse Restaurant (Hicks family) for hosting this event for us with their delicious food and fantastic skills in cooking. Looking forward to seeing you all there. If you are able to help on the day, it would be very much appreciated.

Zooper Dooper Sales:

We will be commencing the Zooper Dooper sales soon. If you are able to volunteer your time to sell Zooper Doopers between 1:20pm to 2:00pm, then it would be very much appreciated. Just contact Jenny Inskip on 0419 017 715 and a roster will be distributed by the end of Week 3.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete - Sunday 18 May 2014 - SAVE THE DATE

Pen it in your diaries and calendars, the big fundraising event for 2014 is the Autumn School Fete and it won't be successful without the help of wonderful volunteers. We are giving everyone a heads up, as paperwork begins to be sent home for volunteers, wristbands orders for rides and showbag orders, mufti-days etc... **SAVE THE DATE Sunday, 18 May 2014.**

If you own a business or know someone who does and would be willing to donate a prize and promote their business at the same time, please phone Liz Whalen on 0416 102 233. These donations would be greatly appreciated towards our raffle draw for our Autumn Fete 2014.



SMMPS Autumn School Fete student Poster design competition commences Friday, 7 February. Entries close Friday, 7 March 2014. All students are enthusiastically encouraged to enter. Conditions apply for entries, stay tuned to find out more details at Friday's school assembly. A winner will be nominated from each class to win a prize for best poster design. Good Luck students and let your imagination run free.

Liz Whalen
P&F President
On behalf of the P&F Executive

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	6 February	5:30pm-7:30pm	P&F Welcome BBQ - All Welcome
Friday	7 February	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly-Multi-Purpose Centre
Monday	10 February	3:00pm 3:30pm-5:30pm	P&F Afternoon Tea Year's 1-6 'Meet the Teacher'
Thursday	13 February	8:30am	Second Hand Uniform Sale near Year 3 classrooms
Friday	14 February	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly-Multi-Purpose Centre
Monday	17 February	2:00pm	Year 6 Leadership Ceremony
Friday	21 February	9:15am	Opening School Mass
Tuesday	25 February		Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook Pool
Wednesday	26 February	2:00pm	Literacy Parent Workshop
Friday	28 February	9:15am 2:30pm	Diocesan Swimming Carnival @ Blacktown Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly-Multi-Purpose Centre
Monday	3 March		2015 Kindergarten Enrolments Open
Tuesday	4 March	7:00pm 7:30pm 7:00pm	Parent Rep. Meeting P & F AGM Meeting Parent Meeting for Reconciliation @ St Nicholas
Wednesday	5 March	10:00am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy-Lead by Year 2
Friday	7 March	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly-Multi Purpose Centre
Monday-Friday	10-14 March		Catholic Schools Week
Wednesday	12 March	1:30pm-3:00pm	Restorative Practice Parent Workshop
Friday	14 March		School Cross Country
Friday	21 March	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy
Monday	24 March	2:15pm 7:00pm	5M Assembly 2015 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening
Friday	28 March	2:30pm	NSWCPS Swimming trials @ Homebush Whole School Assembly-Multi Purpose Centre
Monday	31 March	2:15pm	3W Assembly
Tuesday	1 April	7:00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation @ St Nicholas
Tuesday	8 April	10:45am	Year 6 ANZAC Day Service @ Penrith Paceway
Wednesday	9 April	TBA	Easter Celebration/Pageant
Friday	11 April		Staff Development Day-Pupil Free Day Last Day of Term 1

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE
THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY FROM 8:30AM