



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Every Day is Anti Bullying Day at SMMK! Next Wednesday 12 March at 1.30-3:00pm, Mr Vic and Mrs Liz O'Callaghan will present a Restorative Practices Kindergarten Parent afternoon as a part of the induction into the school community. It is also open to all parents to refresh their understanding of Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices has been developed with one specific goal in mind; to support and facilitate the building of healthy relationships. The MacKillop Model of Restorative Practices was initiated in 2003 and during the past eleven years the MacKillop Model of Restorative Practices has been instrumental in changing practice in schools and homes around the world. By naming this process of interaction the MacKillop Model, we were conscious of the place of St Mary MacKillop in our lives. Basic to the Restorative Practices process, characterised by common language, shared practice and consistency of practice, are the Restorative Questions. All staff and students use these questions not only as tools of enquiry, but also as effective means of developing relationships during times of stress and difficulty. Key to our operation in education is the centrality of our Catholic tradition. To this end, Restorative Practices provides us with the capacity to teach forgiveness and healing in the real context as illustrated by Jesus. His is a way of living that acknowledges difficulties not as problems, but as opportunities for learning. A part of this is creating a plan for the future. What a wonderful opportunity to welcome back Mrs Liz O'Callaghan, who was Principal at St Mary MacKillop during the 90s, by attending this meeting next Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm in the school library.

Ash Wednesday:

Yesterday we gathered on Ash Wednesday at St Mary MacKillop in prayer to begin the forty days of lent during which we prepare for the new life of Easter. The ashes we received yesterday remind us to follow Jesus in word and action during lent and throughout all our lives. Let us Pray

*Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting.
 O Jesus, you place on my forehead
 the sign of your saving Cross:
 "Turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel."
 How can I turn from sin
 unless I turn to you?
 You speak, you raise your hand,
 you touch my mind and call my name,
 "Turn to the Lord your God again."
 These days of your favor
 leave a blessing as you pass
 on me and all your people.
 Turn to us, Lord God,
 and we shall turn to you.
 Amen*

More Than a Great Education:

Next week St Mary MacKillop we will join Catholic Schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week from 9-15 March. The theme for CSW 2014 is 'more than a great education' which encourages schools to showcase for the community what's happening in our classrooms. Check the diary section of our newsletter for the date and times of the SMMK Catholic Schools Week events which include:

- Liturgy, open classrooms, Restorative Practice Parent Information session
- Captivate Orchestra performance and school cross country.

Thought for the Week

*"Everybody is a genius.
 But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree,
 it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."*
 Albert Einstein

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL



The Season of Lent:

The Season of Lent began yesterday with Ash Wednesday. Lent offers us all a chance to grow in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of love. 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 mission that Christ gave us:

*Feed the hungry
Welcome the stranger
Clothe the naked
Comfort the sick
Visit the imprisoned*

During this Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit?

Project Compassion 2014:

Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. This year's Project Compassion stories are about our desire for a full and beautiful life within the surroundings of home. Not just a house to live in, but a life filled with certainty, free from the burden of poverty with access to food, water, education, healthcare and shelter.

Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work towards this creation of a more just and fair world for whole communities. This week all classes received a Project Compassion box to place in their sacred space. 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 children in putting their compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2014 **Project Compassion Appeal**. You can also donate online via the website www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

Project Compassion, Week 1, brings you the story of Maristely. An advocacy program in São Paulo, Brazil, enables *favela* (city slum) residents to gain legal deeds for their land, as well as securing access to basic services. A youth empowerment program is enabling young people from the *favelas*, like Maristely, to work for justice so that peace, rather than violence, rules the streets where they live. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion provides young people like Maristely with the opportunity to become leaders for justice.



Project Compassion, Week 2, brings you the story of Deng. For Deng in South Sudan, the cycle of poverty and disability was made worse with the civil war, which led him and his family to flee their village and live in the bush for many years. Deng and his family are rebuilding their lives through their participation in a Caritas Australia food security program. Your donation to Project Compassion can help individuals like Deng to rebuild their lives post-conflict. www.caritas.org.au



Catholic Schools Week

As part of our celebration for Catholic Schools Week (10th-14th March) we will have a whole school liturgy at 2pm followed by open classrooms on Tuesday 11 March. All parents are warmly invited to attend this celebration of faith and learning.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

School Cross Country

Just a reminder that the school Cross Country carnival will be held next Friday 14th March within the school grounds. Thank you to the parents who have offered to assist with timekeeping, place judging or course marshalling. The 8years, 9years and 10years events will be run over 2km and the 11years and 12years events will be 3km. The day will commence at 9:00am.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

PUPIL FREE DAY

Primary Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival on Friday 28 February; Joel C, Ben B, Samuel D, Tyson G, Laura C, Arianna T, Alison G, Claudia S, Malachi L, Harry H, Ben D, Elise F, Samanatha G, Georgia Y, Talei S, Alex C, Caleb E, Matthew F, Brock S, and Xavier X. Everyone should be extremely proud of their efforts and be commended on their excellent sportsmanship. A HUGE congratulations to our Senior Boys Relay Team; Joel C, Ben B, Samuel D and Tyson G who will be competing at the NSWCPSS Swimming Trials as a member of the 2014 Parramatta Diocesan Swimming Team. We wish the boys all the best on Friday 28 March.

P & F News

Annual General Meeting 2014 Results:

Thank you to all the parents and friends that attended the AGM on Tuesday, 4 March 2014. Your presence signifies that you are very much interested in sharing your much respected thoughts and ideas in promoting our school with positivity and connectivity between families, students, teachers and leaders of our school community in an amicable place. I give me great pleasure to announce and congratulate the P & F Executive Team for 2014: President: Liz Whalen, Vice President: Lee Hooker, Secretary: Jade Billington, Treasurer: Jenny Inskip, Fundraising: Veronica Neal, Major Fundraising: Rachel Townsend & Michelle Darwen, PRC: Rebecca Moxey and Tracey McGuinness, Maintenance: Fiona Bryant and Cecily Ellston. Looking forward to a fruitful year with all you amazing people.

Parent Representative Council (PRC) Meeting - Wednesday, 26 March 2014:

This is a meeting for parents and carers with children in Year 6, 7 and 8 who are looking to enhance their child's early high school experience. "The Transition to High School: Helping your child to build resilience & navigate change" meeting is taking place at **St Paul's Catholic College, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes**. For more information or to confirm your seat please email Selina on: prcparrapresident@gmail.com.

Zooper Dooper days: The following days Zooper Doopers will be sold to the students during the 1:30pm recess. Prices are 60c for a whole and 30c for half. **March:** Thursday 6, Monday 10, Wednesday 12, Friday 14, Tuesday 18, Thursday 20, Monday 24, Wednesday 26 and Friday 28.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete 2014:-

Next fete meeting - Monday, 10 March 2014 @ 6:45pm in the Multi Purpose Centre.

STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION closing date: 7 March 2014:

The day is drawing closer for 7 creative students in our school. Keep handing in your entries you amazing students. Mr Siciliano will be judging the best design poster, 1 from each grade and the lucky winners will receive a **\$20 Smiggle voucher** thanks to the generous donation by Mr Stevenson of NEPEAN FINANCIAL PTY LTD. Conditions of entry have been displayed around the school, so get creative and have a go.

RIDES WRISTBAND orders due: 28 March 2014:

Just a reminder that we have a pre-order special for rides wristbands selling at \$20 each for unlimited rides. Place in your order early to avoid the extra cost on the day of the fete as wristbands will be sold for \$25 each.

SHOWBAG orders due: 21 March 2014:

Showbag order forms were sent home last week. They are selling at 1 for \$8, 2 for \$15, 3 for \$20. Samples have been displayed around the school for your viewing. So get your orders in early to avoid disappointment. LOOK OUT for the GOLDEN TICKET on the day of the fete, as you may be 1 of the 5 lucky winners. Good Luck.

BOOKSTALL Donations: A note went out last week asking our wonderful families and friends to donate any books they no longer read or need. Your kind donation can be dropped into the box labelled 'BOOK DONATIONS' located at the student foyer. Thank you kindly for your generosity and support.

ROAD SAFETY - Take care of your precious cherubs:

Parents and friends, please lead by example and use the crossing that has been provided for you and your children's safety. Children can only learn through repetitive practice - such as using the crossing on Fragar Road during the peak school hours, or whenever a crossing is available to use. Parents and caregivers please know that you have a key role and responsibility in educating your children about road safety.

Thank you and God Bless

Liz Whalen

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	7 March	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly-Multi Purpose Centre
Tuesday	11 March	2:00pm	Catholic Schools Week-Liturgy and Open Classrooms
Thursday	13 March	2:00pm	Catholic Schools Week-Captivate Orchestra Performance
Wednesday	12 March	1:30pm-3:00pm	Restorative Practice Parent Workshop
Friday	14 March	9:00am	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	9:30am	Easter Celebration
Friday	11 April		Staff Development Day-Pupil Free Day Last Day of Term 1

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	28 April	8:45am	Kindergarten-Year 6 students return (Winter Uniform)
Tuesday	29 April	9:00am	Resurrection/ANZAC Day Prayer (Lead by Year 5)
Friday	2 May	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	6 May		Diocesan Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Friday	9 May	TBA 2:30pm	Mother's Day Liturgy and Stall Whole School Assembly
Monday	12 May	2:15pm	6PM Assembly
Friday	16 May	9:15am 2:30pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Whole School Assembly
Friday	23 May	9:15am 2:30pm	Year 2 Liturgy Whole School Assembly

XAVIER COLLEGE LANDILLO Enrolling now for 2015

Open Night: Monday 10 March 2014
Display and Tours of the College 5:00pm-7:00pm
Information Session: 7:00pm - 7:30pm

All are welcome to attend

McCARTHY CATHOLIC COLLEGE 75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains Enrolling now for 2015

Open Day: Sunday 23 March 2014
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
Meet the Principal, staff and students
Tours of the College facilities
Trade Training Centre information
Enrolment packages available

Enquiries: Mrs Sharon Clarke - 4735 3211
Website: www.mccarthyemuplains.catholic.edu.au