



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.

As I write this week's newsletter article I am with the teachers from Years 5 and 6 as well as Mrs Joseph attending three days of workshops to seriously look at the challenge of making learning for our kids here at St Mary MacKillop more relevant to the world into which they will graduate. We are working with a team from Texas in the USA as well as teams from 20 schools across our diocese to explore how redesigning teaching and learning to better prepare our kids for tomorrow's world is possible. I look forward to sharing our discoveries with you.

OUR PARENTS – ONE KEY INGREDIENT TO OUR FABULOUS SCHOOL

The banner at the top of my article contains our school vision statement. Importantly one of the three aspects of that vision is the, *"supportive partnership of school, parents and parish"*.

It is no accident that our school is such a fabulous place. Over the past two weeks I have seen this partnership brought to life so many times. Take a look – Year One Liturgy, Parent Literacy Workshop, P and F meeting (biggest turn out ever), Year Five Mass, Fete Team meeting, 'Woolworths Earn and Learn' – prize assembly and the School Cross Country. There is a good chance I saw you somewhere during these events helping to build the community of St Mary MacKillop. For me, there is no better way to showcase Catholic Schools Week at our school.

It is a simple formula; Great community = Great school.

Thanks for being a part of it.

Staffing News

We have been working hard over the past two weeks to recruit a replacement music teacher. We have a promising candidate we hope to secure soon however there are some further checks etc... which have to be completed. In the meantime, classes will recommence music lessons at RFF time from the Creative Arts teaching program whilst being supervised by one of our relief staff.

I will update you as we progress this matter but ask for your continued patience and understanding. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and the community.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

New from The Assistant Principal

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parent Literacy Workshop last Monday night. Classroom teachers will be in touch with those parents who have attended one of the Literacy Workshops held over the last few years, have completed the online Building Child Safe Communities Module and volunteered to assist with literacy groups.

School Photos

Our 2018 school Photos have been scheduled for Thursday 10th May. All students will be required to attend school in full winter uniform. Based on feedback from previous years, we have enlisted a new company for school photos this year. We look forward to working with GS Imaging Group. Further information will be sent out closer to the date.



Kindergarten 2019 Parent Information Night

Enrolments are now open for Kindergarten 2019.

We are holding a Parent Information Night next Monday, 19th March at 7pm in the School Hall. All parents with children who are commencing kindergarten in 2019 are warmly invited to attend.

Enrolment forms will be available on the night, they can be downloaded from the school website
<http://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/how-to-enrol>
or collected from the front office.

If you have any questions, please contact the office on
02 4724 3200



School Hats

Thank you for your patience, school hats are now available at Lowes.

If you need to contact me please phone the office or by my email, mrowan2@parra.catholic.edu.au
Margaret Rowan

Assistant Principal

The Season of Lent

As we move closer towards the end of Lent 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 loves us unconditionally.

Pope Francis' Words:

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR A JUST FUTURE

2018 Social Justice Initiative

This fortnight the students have continued to give generously to our first Social Justice Initiative of 2018. The theme for Project Compassion 2018 is "For a just future" and the St Mary MacKillop community is definitely putting this idea into practice.

So far the St Mary MacKillop Community has raised \$450 which is a huge effort. This means that we can help to provide:

- arts products that will generate an income for First Australians
- food, medical supplies and school uniforms for children in Mozambique
- high school education for young people in the Philippines
- sign language assistance to young deaf people in Cambodia

It would be appreciated if you could continue to support your child(ren) in putting their compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2018 **Project Compassion Appeal**. You can also donate online via the website www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

A Just Future starts with your support!

Project Compassion: Fifth Week of Lent - Ditosa from Mozambique



Ditosa, a young girl from Mozambique, went to live with her grandmother after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses. Featured in Project Compassion during 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. Ditosa and her grandmother found support through the Caritas Australia supported Matuba Children's Centre. Ditosa has now graduated from school and hopes to go to university and secure an even brighter future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help young women like Ditosa have a just future.

Project Compassion: Sixth Week of Lent - Psyche Mae from the Philippines



When Psyche Mae featured in Project Compassion during 2008, she was living in a squatter settlement, on the edge of a giant rubbish dump outside Manila in the Philippines. Her family was forced to pick through the rubbish to sell what they could to survive. Thanks to the support of individuals and Caritas Australia, in 2018, Psyche Mae is now a young social worker, achieving her dream of helping others struggling to leave poverty behind them, with plans to study a Master's degree.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help improve the health and wellbeing of communities in the Philippines so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a just future for all.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone 1800 024 413.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession, Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Healing or Penance) is one of seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Penance is a sacrament instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins (wrong choices) committed after Baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sins and promise to

try to do better in the future. It is called a "sacrament" not simply a ceremony, because it is an outward sign instituted by Christ to impart grace to the soul.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The Sacrament “washes us clean,” and renews us in Christ.

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained’ “ (John 20:21-23)

Congratulations to the following students who made their First Reconciliation on the 15th March:

Wyatt A, Xavier A, Ava A, Lucas B, Anna B, Neve C, Giuseppe C, Macie C, Nixon C, Charlotte C, Mikaylah D, Evelyn D, Claude E, Kelsey E, Bradley F, Rayna G, Lani G, Cadence G, Gabriel G, James G, Jay H, Jake H, Koby L, Blake L, Sienna M, Charlotte M, Gabriel M, Cruz M, Alex M, Jessica M, Joshua M, Luke M, Ava N, Rhys N, Ava P, Cooper P, Madeleine P, Tristan R, Amelia R, Charlotte S, Lillie S, Ella S, Luke S, Taylah T, Emily V and Deklan X,

Easter Celebration:



This year to celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will participate in a ***Stations of the Cross Family Prayer*** during Holy Week.

The children will be divided into family groups and will be led through the Stations of the Cross by a teacher. Parents are warmly invited to share this special preparation for Easter with their child(ren). A more detailed note of times and location will be sent home next week.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Cross Country

On Thursday 8th March we held our whole school cross country. The day was lots of fun and it was fantastic to see every single student having a go and embracing the spirit of fun and fitness! We would like to give a HUGE thank you to our wonderful parent helpers: Nat Sibbald, Suzie Jameson, Alison Randall, Leanne Goncalves, Nat Moroney, Joanne Randall and Nicola McConnell. There weren't many of you but you gave up 5 hours of your day to help run our day and we couldn't have done it without you!

As always, the top 6 finishers in each age group will go on to represent St Mary MacKillop Primary School at the Diocesan Cross Country on Tuesday 8th May. Students who finished 7th and 8th will be invited to train with our Diocesan Team. Training will begin in Week 9.



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.



Changing After School Travel Arrangements



If you need to change the after school travel arrangements for your child on a permanent basis, could you please forward a note to the classroom teacher.

If you need to make a change to after school travel arrangements after you have dropped your child at school, please contact the school office. Please be mindful that the office staff need to communicate this message to staff and students and the process for this is to send a form to the child via the office bag which is collected from the office at 2pm. We ask that you please, where possible, make these requests before 2pm so that we can ensure the message reaches your child in a timely manner.

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).

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 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.

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.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

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

Girls summer and winter dresses \$5 each

All other items \$2.

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

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**.



Phone Number Change

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.

Thank you to all the parents who attended last weeks P&F meeting, it is always great to see new people coming along to be involved.

A reminder that SMMP are participating in the Coles Sports for Schools program. There are only 3 weeks left!

This program gives our school the opportunity to earn sports gear just by collecting vouchers from Coles.

There are collection boxes in the both the parent and student foyers. Thank you to all who have participated so far!



Thursday 12th April

Primary Disco (years 3-6) - More details to follow in the next edition of the KIT

Veronica Neal
President
P&F Association





St Mary MacKillop School Fete – May 6, 2018

PRE-PURCHASE RIDE BANDS, SHOW BAGS & KIDZONE – The school playground and hill will be transformed into a bustling hive of activity for the young and young at heart. Pre-purchasing your tickets can be done ONLINE (www.trybooking.com/345120) or at the OFFICE (for cash payments). Pay before the day and you will save on your ride passes and kidzone activities. This is what your show bags contain, pre-purchase is only \$5 each:

Girls Show bag



Boys Show bag



A special thanks to all of our show bag sponsors:



Commonwealth Bank



Pre-Purchase your ride bands, plenty of fun to be had, pre-purchase price only \$25 for unlimited rides!





RAFFLE TICKETS – We have had a fantastic response from you all, so thank you. We still have plenty of raffle tickets to sell, if you would like more books, let the office know and we will send some home with your child.

Top 10 prizes as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------|---|
| 1 st | \$500 Visa Prepaid Gift Card | 6 th | Scenic World Blue Mountains Family Pass |
| 2 nd | \$300 Elite Sand & Soil Gift Voucher | 7 th | Taronga Zoo Adult Pass for 2 |
| 3 rd | Autographed mini bat signed by Ellyse Perry of | 8 th | Jenolan Caves Tour Family Pass |
| 4 th | Studio 1000 Photography Voucher valued at | 9 th | \$50 Elite Sand & Soil Gift Voucher |
| 5 th | Captain Cook Harbour Story Cruise for 2 | 10 th | TreeTop Adventure Park Children's Entry for 2 |

CRAFT STALL – If you are crafty and would like to make some items for the stall, we would like donations of bibs, kid's aprons, hanging hand towels, cushions, knitted toys, iPad cushions, baby blankets, scarves, library bags.

We would also like some of the following items to use on fete day: ribbon, buttons, beads, material, wool, pom poms, googly eyes, shells, fishing line, timber pegs, pipe cleaners, craft kits, wash tape, tulle, card paper stock...

These can be taken to the office or contact Sonya Peters, smmpfete2018@gmail.com

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



FACEBOOK – Please like and share our Facebook page - **St Mary MacKillop Primary Fete, Penrith**. This is a great way for the fete team to update you all!

Feel free to get in contact anytime for anything fete related at smmpfete2018@gmail.com or 0408 971 675.

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2018

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	16 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Monday	19 March	7 - 8pm	Kindergarten 2019 Parent Information Evening
Friday	23 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	30 March		Good Friday
Monday	2 April		Easter Monday
Friday	6 April	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy
Friday	6 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly– Year 1 Assembly Item
Thursday	12 April	TBA	Primary Disco (Years 3 - 6)
Friday	13 April		Last day - Term 1
Monday	30 April		First day back - Term 2
Thursday	10 May		School Photos

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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provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!



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**ZERO & REWARDS
CARD HOLDERS**

20%*
OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
AND
EVERYTHING ELSE

INSTORE & ONLINE - THURSDAY 15TH MARCH

* Excludes gift-cards & all suit packages. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only.

Styles and colours may vary from store to store.

No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 3% discount.

Offer ends midnight (AEST) 15/3/18. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.

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