



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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK was a fantastic showcase of how we bring this vision to life. We had visitors from three other schools come and tour our classrooms on Monday. On Tuesday we held a workshop on supporting children's reading for parents. On Monday and Wednesday we had ex-students from our local high schools visit Year Six. Thursday was our St Mary MacKillop Cross Country Carnival and finally Friday was our CSW Liturgy, farewell for Fr Joe and Open Classrooms for family and friends.



Lots of events in a busy week but typical of the range of experiences we provide each and every week to fulfil our brilliant vision for an excellent school community.

Thank you for being a part of it all.

Do we need more 'P' in our P and F?

Our school has a great Parents and Friends group led by a fantastic executive team. The 2017 team consist of; Erin Carroll, Tracey Marsh, Fiona Bryant, Veronica Neal, Natalie Borg, Natalie Cilia, Sonya Peters and Michelle Darwen. (Staff representatives: Margaret Rowan and Scott Buchan.)

There are two major areas of impact that the team is seeking to work on this year – **fundraising and community building.**

So far community building initiatives have included the fantastic Welcome BBQ and the Catholic Schools Week morning tea.

In 2017 the executive has agreed to work with the school to fundraise a target amount of \$15,000 to purchase a bundle of 30 Chromebook computers to support learning through technology. These Chromebooks can be used by classes across the school to allow learning activities where every child in the class needs to access a computer of their own. Having trialed a smaller bundle of Chromebooks that were purchased in 2016, the staff are confident that this is a great addition to our learning technology resources. To raise the requested funds the P and F have put these events forward;

Thursday 6th April - K-2 Disco Friday 26th May – Girls Night In Friday 23rd June – Trivia Night Friday 15th September – Boys Night In Thursday 19th October – 3-6 Disco

In answer to my title question - Do we need more parents in our Parents and Friends group? – **The answer is definitely yes!** If you are able to donate time to attend our meetings each term, help out at these events, come to our community building activities or contribute to planning and organizing events, the end result is a better school community for our kids.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

Religious Education News

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, charity 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.

Project Compassion 2017 (Social Justice Initiative)

We are well under way with our first Social Justice Initiative of 2017 and the students have been giving generously to those less fortunate than themselves. The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is "Love your Neighbour".

So far the St Mary MacKillop Community has raised over \$300 which is a huge effort. This means that we can help to provide:

- food for people in East Timor
- Counselling for parents who have children with disabilities in Vietnam
- First aid courses for people in the Philippines

It would be appreciated if you could continue to 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.



Week three of Lent:
Uncle Richard, Australia



First Australian Uncle Richard was kidnapped from his family as a child under policies that gave rise to the Stolen Generations. Uncle Richard was taken to Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) in NSW, and spent his childhood there. Today he is part of the KBH Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC), established by KBH survivors to reconnect with one another and begin a healing and truth telling process for themselves, their families, and the wider Australian community. Caritas Australia supports KBHAC.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help Australia's Stolen Generations and their families to heal from the pain of the past. You can donate through School boxes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion





**Week one of Lent:
Dinia, Philippines**

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

A severe disability kept young Nguyet behind closed doors: inhibited by her condition, her family had little connection with their neighbours. But their confidence and skill grew when they participated in the Catholic Relief Services' program, Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities, supported by Caritas Australia. The program offered Nguyet home-based education, and as her skills have grown she is increasingly engaging with her community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help children with disabilities in Vietnam to learn new skills and connect with their communities. You can donate through School boxes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion



St Patrick – Feast Day Friday 17th March

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.



A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision, which prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. He converted thousands of people and began building churches across the country. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. He died at Saul, where he had built the first Irish church.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing - not even death.

St. Patrick's Breastplate, a prayer attributed to Ireland's beloved patron saint, is a powerful prayer for God's help in adversity. It reads:

Christ be within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger." <http://www.catholic.org/>

Religious Education News—Continued

St Joseph – Feast Day Monday 20th March

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter - a working man, but despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. He was a descendant from David, the greatest king of Israel. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. He loved Mary and Jesus, and was deeply concerned for the safety of the child entrusted to him. We know Joseph respected God and he followed God's commands.



Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry.

Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

Joseph is also patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

Whole School Easter Celebration – 9:15am Friday 7th April

This year to celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will focus on the last week of Jesus' life as the students dramatise the events of Holy Week. Please join us in the hall on Friday 7th April at 9:15am for our celebration of Easter.

After we return from the school holidays we will gather together to celebrate the Resurrection and ANZAC Day.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



Lion King Jnr DVD's

Don't forget to purchase your Lion King Jnr DVD's we have plenty in stock!

Strings Program

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

Sport News

Our School Cross Country was held last Thursday and we wouldn't have been able to run it without the help of a few wonderful parents and friends. Thank you to Lee Anderton, Catherine King, Jacinta Selby, David Selby, Jared Amies, Rebecca Glynn-Armstrong, Suzie Jameson, Nat Sibbald and Erin Carroll.

The top 6 finishers in each age group have qualified for the Diocesan Cross Country which will take place at Eastern Creek Raceway on Tuesday 2nd May. (Term 2 Week 2.) A note will be going home with these students in the next few days, detailing the Diocesan carnival and inviting them to participate in a training squad with myself and Miss Jones.

We are very proud of all students who participated so enthusiastically in the cross country! Well Done for completing such a long run!

Parramatta Representative Trials

Trials are currently underway for the Parramatta Representative Teams. These trials are open to Stage 3 students who display high levels of skills and have previous representative experience in their chosen sport.

We are extremely proud of the following students who have trialled and been selected for the Parramatta Team:

Riley Brandl - Cricket
Liam Phillips - Basketball
Marcus Bishop - AFL
Kye Raven - Rugby League
Amelia McDonald - Softball
Hannah Selby—Netball

A huge congratulations to these exceptional students; the trials are very competitive! Good luck to our Stage 3 athletes who are awaiting their trials in Netball, Soccer, Rugby Union and Touch Football.

Maryanne McNally
Sport Co Ordinator



St Mary MacKillop Homework Site

Our St Mary MacKillop Parent Community site is our official homework site which will give you access to a grade page and any announcements or updates from your child's teacher and it will also contain their homework sheet.

To access this site please visit <https://goo.gl/a8qJ8z>. If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.



CREATIVE ARTS NEWS

Creative Arts continues to flourish at St Mary MacKillop in 2017 with the St Mary MacKillop Orchestra, Kids Can Act lessons and the Strings program proving to be quite popular with the students. In addition, we are excited to announce three additional ventures which began this term:

Chior Choir meets every Tuesday at Recess time (weather permitting) with Mr Carroll & Mrs Mathewson. This choir consists of students from Kinder through to Year 3 and we are working on Disney songs to present to you at an assembly during Term 2. Students do not need to audition for this choir.



Senior Choir meets on Wednesdays at Eating Time / Lunchtime with Mr Carroll & Mrs Meehan. This choir consists of students from Years 4, 5 and 6 and we are currently working towards the Captivate Choir Season. Students in this choir have already signed permission notes to travel to John Paul II College to join with students from other schools as a part of the MASSIVE Captivate Choir. The rehearsal dates are Monday 20th March (next week) and Monday 29th May (Term 2) and students will then show their musical learning in a Music Showcase to be held at Nagle College, Blacktown toward the end of Term 2. Dates for this showcase will be confirmed shortly.



We are very excited to have started a Dance Troupe at St Mary MacKillop led by Mrs Harman, Mrs Aliberti and Mrs Paine. Currently, the troupe consists of Stage 3 students who meet at recess on Wednesdays. They are currently working on some Justin Timberlake material so stay tuned for some performance opportunities!

Yours Creatively,

*Mr. Brad Carroll
Creative Arts*

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

Flavours available are 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. Spread the word and get your family and friends involved :)

Don't forget.... 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.

KINDY - YEAR 2 DISCO - THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017

This year we will be holding 2 disco's in separate terms. First up will be Kindy - Year 2.

Notes were sent home on Wednesday, 15 March 2017. \$5 entry includes drink, glow band and a treat. If you are able to help out as a volunteer, please send your slip back to the office.

We look forward to a fun night of dance and games for the kids :)

Veronica Neal & Natalie Borg
P&F Fundraising

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT STALL - THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2017

Our Mother's Day Gift stall will be held on Thursday, 11 May 2017. All students are invited to purchase a gift for their Mum, Grandmother, or that special lady in their life. More details soon.

Natalie Cilia
P&F Major Fundraising

MOTHER'S DAY BIGGEST MORNING TEA - FRIDAY, 12 MAY 2017

As in previous years we will be participating in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, which will be held after the Mother's Day school liturgy.

All gold coin donations will go directly to the Cancer Council to further their research and help find a cure for Cancer. Your support as always, is greatly appreciated.

WINTER WONDERLAND GIRLS NIGHT IN - FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2017

Put it in your diary!! More details available soon :)

BACK TO THE 80's TRIVIA NIGHT: 2017 MAJOR FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY, 23 JUNE 2017

Break out the fluro and crimp your hair. This promises to be a fun night for all, with plenty of games, prizes and a silent auction too.

If you own a business and would like to donate a prize or discuss advertising/sponsorship opportunities, please contact Natalie Cilia on 0478 398 130.

* Keep an eye on the school Facebook page for more details on our upcoming events *

Erin Carroll
P & F President

Dates for Your Diary Term 1—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	17 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 5 Mass Whole School Assembly (4M Item) 2018 Kindergarten Enrolments Open
Monday	20 March	9:00am 3:15pm-4:15pm	Captivate Rehearsal @ John Paul II AFL Clinic
Friday	24 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly (5PC Item)
Wednesday	29 March	6:30pm	Hot Cross Bun Final Orders Due 2018 Kindergarten Parent Information Session & School Tour
Friday	31 March	2:20pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	School Photos Whole School Assembly (KH Assembly Item) Recycled Uniform Shop Open
Tuesday	4 April		Hot Cross Buns Distributed
Thursday	6 April	5:00pm-6:30pm	Kindergarten to Year 2 Disco
Friday	7 April	9:15am 2:20pm	Easter Celebration Whole School Assembly Last Day of Term 1

Dates for Your Diary Term 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	24 April		Term 2 Commences
Tuesday	25 April		Anzac Day Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY
Friday	28 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	2 May		Diocesan Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Friday	5 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	9 May		Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN
Wednesday	10 May		Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN
Thursday	11 May		Year 3 & Year 5 NAPLAN Mother's Day Stall
Friday	12 May		NAPLAN catch up day Mother's Day Liturgy Mother's Day Biggest Morning Tea



Term 1 2017

I would like to introduce myself as "Mel" from Mel's Tasty Bites your school canteen operator. We are a healthy canteen and everything available at our canteens is made fresh daily and is all homemade. We are rated one of the healthiest canteen operators in Sydney. We currently have 17 school canteens around Sydney and we are growing rapidly.

There is a new system we have introduced to our school canteen for online lunch orders called Flexi Schools. You will need to register first. This service is purely for Lunch orders only and we prefer if all lunch orders are now placed on Flexi schools.

For those parents that currently have opened accounts at the canteen, you can continue to use this account but it will be used by students to buy food or snacks off the counter at recess & lunch. You can still have your MTB account at the canteen for this option only - Lunch orders have to be now placed on Flexi Schools website.

There has been a price increase on the menu due to inflation costs from our suppliers.

All Ice creams, jelly's and drinks ordered with your lunch orders are given out when the lunch bag is returned to the canteen. Any recess orders are to be picked up from the canteen.

The new Winter Menu will start at the canteen from week 9 Term 1. There will a lot of warmer foods added to the menu and some old favourites.

You can also download the winter menu from our website or ask the school office for a copy in week 9.

Just to fill you in a little about what we have on offer for you;

- We also have an account system, where it runs on credit, you can leave \$20 or more on your own personal account at the canteen, that way your child will never have to miss out on recess or a treat at lunch time. You can also let us know if there are certain items you do not wish your child to purchase...
- Allergy – We have a huge variety of food available for students that have allergies. Please go to our website and at the bottom the home page is a link to download the list of food available for all kinds of allergies.

- **Facebook Page:** Did you know that we have a facebook page for all parents to follow. Like our page to see the latest updates, photos, job positions, and any specials we have. Find us under "Mel's Tasty Bites Healthy Canteen Operators & Catering Services"
- **In Term 2, we will be selling 'Sticky Beaks' Insulated All-rounder Lunch Wallets for your child to receive their lunch in. To purchase, please go down to your canteen and they are available to buy.**

There are three types of lunch wallets we are selling in various colours:

**PRODUCT 1: The Lunch Wallet - A reusable lunch order bag
\$10.00**

The Lunch Wallet is specifically designed to replace paper lunch bags when ordering from the canteen. It holds more food than paper bags and its sturdy flat base makes them easy to pack and stack. Made from non woven polypropylene (like green shopping bags) it is durable and easy to clean, simply remove base and wipe clean with a damp cloth.

The hygienic zippered pocket is to separate money from contact with food and clearly display the child's order and a transparent pocket displays name & class. When not in use, the lunch wallet folds down into a convenient wallet and fastened closed with a Velcro strap.

**PRODUCT 2: The Insulated All Rounder - An insulated reusable lunch order bag or everyday cooler bag
\$12.00 each**

Like the Lunch Wallet, the Insulated All Rounder has been designed to replace paper lunch bags when ordering from the canteen but this cleverly doubles as an everyday lunch cooler bag as well. The insulated PEVA lining keeps food and drinks hot and/or cold and the large zipper pocket separates money from contact with food. It also has a transparent pocket to display name and class details.

**PRODUCT 3: Allergy Orange Lunch Wallet
\$10.50**

Our latest addition to the range is the orange allergy alert lunch wallet. This lunch wallet is specifically for kids with allergies as it has a unique allergy alert symbol printed on the bag.

Not sure what to do for your child's upcoming birthday?

- **We make fresh and homemade cupcakes for your special birthday girl or boy to share their special day with their friends at school. Place your order within 72 hours and a gorgeous tray of cupcakes will be ready for pick up by the teacher on your little ones special day.**
- **In summer, we also have a birthday bucket filled with Zooper Doopers for a Student to share with their class on their special day...**

We offer many more services, and have specials throughout the week so be sure to stay tuned by Liking our Facebook Page and visiting our website often. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.