



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

## QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SURVEY

This year all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be once again participating in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey.

The QCS survey provides information from students, staff and parents about our school's cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community, and assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

Between 21 March and 1 April 2016 all staff and all year 5&6 students, and 60 randomly selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

This year we will again be able to get even more information about the link between student wellbeing and learning outcomes. To do this we will need to include a student identifier in the student survey. The survey will still remain confidential and individual survey responses will not be accessible by the school or the Catholic Education Office.

An independent survey consultant (Insight SRC) who manages the data collection will ensure the survey data is kept strictly confidential. Each school will receive a de-identified information report at the end of May to help them to develop strategies for further improvement. This will definitely help us in working with all students to improve their learning. If you have concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs Nicole Brock.

As a parent if you are randomly-selected to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Nicole Brock.

### 17 March, Pray with St Patrick

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. In his memoir he wrote, "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn."

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.



He had a vision, which prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There, he converted many people -eventually thousands - and he 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.

He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

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.

### **"The Breastplate,"**

**is St Patrick's poem of faith and trust in God:**

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 inquired,

Christ in danger,

Christ in hearts of all that love me,

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

## **KINDERGARTEN 2017**

On Monday, 21st March at 7pm we are conducting a 2017 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening in the hall. All parents interested in enrolling ant child at St Mary Mackillop next year are welcome to attend.

Kindergarten 2017 enrolment interviews will be held next term.

### **Thought for the Week**

*“Only those who attempt the absurd, will achieve the impossible”*

*MC Escher*

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL



**Pope Francis speaks to us about Mercy** - Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father.

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

## **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.

## **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation (commonly called Confession, Reconciliation 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 either Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> or Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March: Sienna B, Cooper B, Layla B, Emily B, Isla D, Liam D, Thomas G, Beau G, Sophie H, Caleb K, Ciaran M, Marcus M, Tayla S, William Z, Elise B, Austin B, Lachlan C, Ava D, Amelia D, Thomas F, James F, Ryan G, Keeley M, Georgia M, Xavier Mc, Bailey Mc, Rory Mc, Ella Mc, Christian Mc, Oliver N, Jordan P, Riley P, Rafferti G, Tanae S, Genevieve W, Anastacia W, Samarah B, Louis C, Jasmine C, Katie C, Millie-Jay C, Ethan C, Jacob H, Jarred H, Elisha R, Connor M, Isaac M, Lily O, Crystal P, Maurice P, Jack P, Coby R, Ben R, Jacob R, Madeleine S and Hannah Y.

## **Project Compassion 2016 (Social Justice Initiative)**

Our first Social Justice Initiative for 2016 is coming to an end as we approach the final week of the Season of Lent. The children have been putting their compassion into action this Lent by generously supporting the 2016 **Project Compassion Appeal**.

**Project Compassion**, Week 6, brings you the story of Dhaniram from India.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Lent:

St Joseph – Feast Day 19<sup>th</sup> March



Sixth  
Sunday  
of Lent

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF  
PROJECT  
COMPASSION



Until recently, people in Dhaniram's village were unaware of the Government's social security schemes that support India's most vulnerable communities. Since becoming involved in the Hamara Haq ('Our Rights') project, Dhaniram and his community have learnt about their rights and have been empowered to speak up for themselves. Now, real change is taking place.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help vulnerable communities in India learn more about their rights so they are empowered to speak up, ask for their rights and create lasting change.** You can donate through School boxes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

## **St Joseph – Feast Day 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

We enter this week (beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March) knowing that it is a week made "holy" forever by the self-surrendering love of Jesus for us.

All week, we remember how he loved us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or "distracted" we might be, we cannot let the power of this week be in the background of our thoughts.

Holy Week is the last week of Lent and begins with Palm Sunday (20<sup>th</sup> March) and concludes with Easter Sunday. It recalls the last week in the life of Jesus Christ. The sacred events of Holy Week are:

**Palm Sunday** - Commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds who were in Jerusalem for Passover waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the king. This Sunday is also known as **Passion Sunday** to commemorate Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross.



## Religious Education News—Continued

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**Holy Thursday** - There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested. These include Jesus' and disciples last meal together, the institution of Eucharist, the washing of the feet, the betrayal by Judas and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep.

**Good Friday** - On this day, we remember Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death, and since Eucharist is a celebration, there is traditionally no Communion observed on Good Friday.

**Easter Sunday** - On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

*May everyone have a Holy and happy Easter*

### **Easter Celebration: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

This year to celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will participate in an Easter Prayer Room Experience in the Hall on Wednesday 23d March.

Infants will visit the prayer room at 10am

Primary will visit the prayer room at 11:30am

During this reflection the students will relive the events of Holy Week (beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding with Good Friday) through scripture, prayer and song.

When the students return to school after Easter they will reflect upon Easter Sunday. All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend our Easter Prayer Room Experience.

### **St Nicholas of Myra - 2SM choir**

The 2SM Choir is in need of more members. This choir is rostered on at the 10 am mass every 2nd Sunday of the month. For those who are interested to join, please contact Alexander Conejar by email for more information [asconejar@hotmail.com](mailto:asconejar@hotmail.com).

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

Well bring on 2016 I say! I would like to introduce myself as President of the P&F for 2016, being my 1st blurb I thought I'd share a little something about my time already here at St Mary Mackillop. I have been a part of the P&F since 2013, my eldest daughter Isla is in Year3 and is loving it. I also have another daughter starting Kindy in 2018 which is exciting and scary at the same time.

### **Welcome!**

I'd just like to start off by saying Welcome to all the new families of St Mary Mackillop, welcome back to the existing families and Congratulations to my fellow P&F executive committee members as Liz said previously thank you so much for accepting your roles and I look forward to working with you all. I can't wait to see what this year has in store for our school community.

### **SMMPS Autumn School Fete – Sunday, 1st of May**

We have some great & exciting events coming up this year. Firstly our Major Event for 2016 our School Autumn Fete. It's great to see so many keen parents and students excited about this event with lots of volunteers already, posters for our Poster Comp coming in, donations for our P&F Trash & Treasure and Garden & Craft stalls and a very positive response already for our Ride bands sales with money coming in thick and fast, so a big thank you to those families for their support. Please see the Fete pages at the end of the KIT or on the school's Facebook Page for regular updates and more information.

### **Second Hand Uniform Sales**

We have our 2nd hand uniform shop open on the following dates Monday 21st March 3pm - 3.30pm (same time as the AFL training) and Friday 1st April 8.30am - 9am if you need any extra pieces coming up to winter this is the perfect opportunity to purchase them at great discounted prices!

Well that's all from the P&F team, to all our St Mary Mackillop families have a great Easter next week & safe travels if you are going away.

Michelle Darwen

President

On behalf of P&F Executive Team

## ***'Girls Night In'***

**On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, friends are organising a Fund raising event in honour of Anne Tucker to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation - March being Leukaemia month**

**Entry \$20 per person (tax deductible receipts will be given)**

**Lucky door prizes, raffles, great prizes to be won nibbles, popcorn etc and a fun *Girlie Movie*.**

***This will be held in St Nicholas Church hall all welcome bring a friend or two or three anytime after 7pm with Movie starting around 8.30pm...ish***

**A great night is planned. For catering purposes response would be appreciated 0409 606 174 or 47212509**

***Anne Tucker in September last year was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) and after five months of intense chemotherapy Anne will now undergo a bone marrow transplant on 15<sup>th</sup> April and will enter Westmead Hospital 5<sup>th</sup> April to undergo radical chemotherapy and radiation prior to the transplant where Anne will then remain in complete isolation for six weeks to build up her immunity to keep infection at bay. Anne will certainly need our continued prayers Anne at this stage will be attending and looking forward to a great evening.***

**Please come along and support this event**

## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	18 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly 6 Mc Item
Sunday	20 March		Palm Sunday
Monday	21 March	3:15pm-4:15pm 7:00pm	AFL Clinic 2017 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening
Wednesday	23 March	10:00am 11:30am	Prayer Room Experience K-2 Prayer Room Experience 3-6
Friday	25 March		Good Friday
Sunday	27 March		Easter Sunday
Tuesday	29 March		<b>Staff Development Day (no school)</b>
Thursday	31 March		NSWCPA Swimming Trials @ Homebush
Friday	1 April	2:20pm	School Photo Day Whole School Assembly
Monday	4 April	3:15pm-4:15pm	AFL Clinic
Tuesday	5 April		Year 6 ANZAC Service at Penrith Paceway
Thursday	7 April		P & F wrapping items for Fete in School Hall
Friday	8 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Term 1 Concludes

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2- 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	25 April		Anzac Day Public Holiday
Tuesday	26 April		Term 2 Commences
Wednesday	27 April	09:00am	Year 6 Peer Support Training Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews commence
Sunday	1 May		School Fete
Monday	2 May		Peer Support Commences
Tuesday	3 May		Diocesan Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Friday	6 May	9:15am	Mother's Day Liturgy P & F Biggest Morning Tea
Tuesday	10 May		Naplan Year's 3 & 5
Wednesday	11 May		Naplan Year's 3 & 5
Thursday	11 May		Naplan Year's 3 & 5 Stage 1 History Excursion to Elizabeth Farm
Thursday	19 May		Sydney Writer's Festival @ The Joan

# Kids Can Act

## Drama Studio

For kids of all ages

### April Holiday Workshops

SPRINGWOOD COURT 133 Macquarie Road, SPRINGWOOD. (Next to Domino's)

★ GET IN BEFORE MARCH 25TH FOR OUR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!! ★

#### **Crazy Costume Characters:-** Tues 12th April (9.30am-2.30pm)

Are you ready to go Character Costume CRAZY!? In this fabulous workshop, our actors will get the chance to create their very own quirky character, complete with their own individual costume. Students will enjoy putting together a group performance combining their newly found characters. Bring your own costume pieces, find something amongst Cathie's or mix and match.

#### **Puppetry No.4:-** Wed 13th April (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Making Puppets provides children with a top opportunity to use their imagination creating hand puppet creatures, puppet animals and puppet characters. Children are always fascinated by puppets and they can give a child an opportunity to interact with others and role play out fantasies and different situations. Children sometimes find it easier to express themselves through this secondary medium. Paper Bag Puppets, Spoon Puppets and more.

#### **Fairylicious Fairies:-** Thurs 14th April (9.30am - 2.30pm)

*Want to attract a fairy? Here is what you have to do.*

*Make a bit of fairy dust, With sparkles through and through.*

Come and help us find the fairies at the bottom of the garden!

The children will enjoy a fairylicious day.

This workshop inspires the imagination as children play fairy games, hear fairy stories and make their very own special fairy garden for their fairies to dance in. The children will also receive a set of their very own fairy wings, a fairy headband and a fairy wand to take home.

#### **Hello Impro Scenerio!:-** Thursday 21st April (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Scenarios involve groups of students working together using a brief storyline, creative thinking, simple acting and LOADS of hilarious fun!

This workshop allows the students to work on their acting abilities, their character work and have fun working with a cast of other characters. This one is for anyone who'd like to do something creative, improve their communication skills, develop their storytelling skills or just have a great time!

**Don't miss out! Avoid disappointment and get in early!**

**[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)**

**Mob. 0414 475 158**

\*The owner reserves the right to cancel classes if they do not have a viable number of children enrolled.

# Kids Can Act

## Drama Studio

For kids of all ages

### April Holiday Workshops

"South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre"

Cnr Trent St & Birmingham Rd, SOUTH PENRITH. (Behind Southlands)

★ GET IN BEFORE MARCH 25TH FOR OUR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!! ★

#### **Puppetry No.1:-** Monday 18th April (10am-3pm)

Children are naturally curious! This is an opportunity to allow them to spark their imagination and feed their curiosity. Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. The children have great fun as they try out different types of puppets. They will also make a number of their very own puppets to take home, (sock puppet, pop up puppet and numerous pop stick puppets) They take home a puppet theatre too!

#### **Fairylicious Fairies:-** Tuesday 19th April (9.30am - 2.30pm)

*Want to attract a fairy? Here is what you have to do.*

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#### **Light Camera Action- Who done it?:-** Wednesday 20th April (9.30am-2.30pm)

In this workshop the students will decide who committed the crime, how they did it, and why. They will then work as a group to devise how the criminal tried to cover it up and what secrets others are hiding. Bring in the detectives and reveal slowly and meticulously how the clues might link together. After all the planning has been done, the students will dress up and film their "Who Done It? Mystery"

#### **Hello Impro Scenerio!:-** Friday 22nd April (9.30am - 2.30pm)

Scenarios involve groups of students working together using a brief storyline, creative thinking, simple acting and LOADS of hilarious fun! This workshop allows the students to work on their acting abilities, their character work and have fun working with a cast of other characters.

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**Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park provides Catholic Education  
for girls in Years 7 – 12  
Enrolling now for 2017  
For further information contact the  
College on 4737 5506.**



**CAROLINE  
CHISHOLM  
COLLEGE**

*Faith, Courage, Tolerance*

Fete 2016



Find us on  
Instagram



**SCHOOL FETE**  
**SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2016**

**A HUGE "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN  
PREPARATION FOR OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR 2016.**

Like & Follow us on Facebook: **St Mary Mackillop Primary Fete, Penrith**  
Follow us on Instagram: **#smmpfete**

## VOLUNTEERS

Thank you!! to all those who have already volunteered to help on Fete day. If you too can spare an hour of time on Fete day, we still have plenty of places on the roster. Please fill out the note sent home and return it to the school or visit us at the Fete Table on the hall veranda on Friday afternoons.



## RAFFLE TICKETS

Check out the Facebook page for our great list of prizes! Tickets just \$1 each!  
Extra books available through the front office.

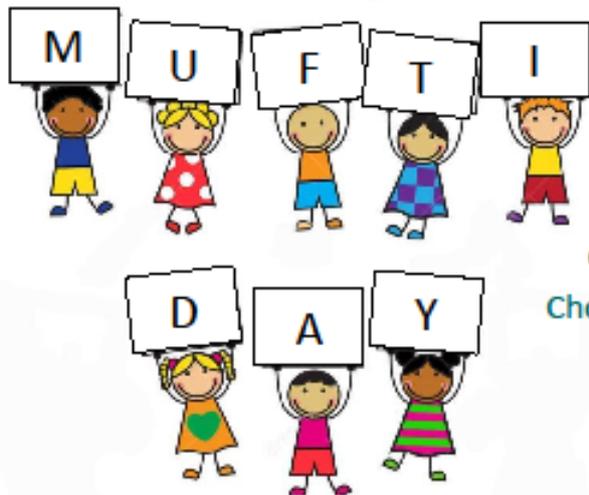
Tell your family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, sporting teams.

## Fete 2016

### PRE PURCHASE RIDE BANDS

Pre orders (including payment) for unlimited rides will be available until Friday, 1 April 2016.

Price on Fete day will be \$25 per unlimited ride band or \$5 per ride.



### MUFTIDAY

Wednesday, 30 March 2016

Children are asked to bring items to stock Chocolate Wheel hampers and the Basket Stall.

Each grade has been assigned a theme. Please refer to the note sent home.

### 😊 A FRIENDLY REMINDER 😊

#### INTERESTED STALL HOLDERS

Applications close Friday, 1 April 2016. Contact [michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au](mailto:michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au)

#### STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

We have seen some wonderful work already and can't wait to display your posters! Entries close Friday, 1 April 2016. Winners announced 8 April 2016.

#### GARDEN STALL DONATIONS

Potted *Flowers, herbs, vegetables, citrus, natives and succulents* can be left at the school between 26 – 29 April.

#### CRAFT STALL DONATIONS

All handiwork can be left at the school office or St Nicholas of Myra Parish Office.

#### TRASH & TREASURE DONATIONS

All *CD's, DVD's, Books & records* can be left at the school office.