



**Wishing everyone a safe and blessed Easter and school holidays
from all the staff at St Mary MacKillop.**

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.

Teachers learn at schools as well!!!

This term has been a massive time of learning for all the staff here at St Mary MacKillop. The learning has been challenging for the teachers and has stretched us in maintaining our normal routines and standards but this learning is essential for our dedicated team of staff to keep growing and to deliver even better quality education than we have today.

Teachers are often reluctant to leave their responsibilities with student learning and attend to their own learning because they don't want to disappoint children or parents. I use the analogy of a woodcutter to explain to them why they have to. If the woodcutter doesn't stop and sharpen his axe regularly, their ability to cut trees effectively is reduced with each blow of the axe. Teachers also need to stop regularly and sharpen their skills and knowledge about their work so that they can maximise every learning opportunity with their students.

Well done to all the team here at St Mary MacKillop for being such diligent learners and committed professionals who strive to deliver better quality education for each and every one of our kids.

Staffing News

Mrs Kelly Gray shared with me last week that she has decided to move out of Western Sydney and embark on a 'sea change' to begin the next chapter of her life. She will finish at our school on the 11th May after more than eight years working with our kids, staff and community. Mrs Gray will be greatly missed by everyone here and we thank her for the terrific contribution she has made to building our wonderful school. We have commenced looking for a replacement for this position.

As you would be aware we have been working hard to recruit a replacement music teacher. Unfortunately we are not able to secure the candidate we hoped to. Whilst we pursue other avenues, classes will continue Creative Arts lessons at RFF time with a focus this term on the drama strand 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



Holy Week is the last week of Lent. We enter this week (beginning 25th March - Palm Sunday) 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. Jesus entered into our life

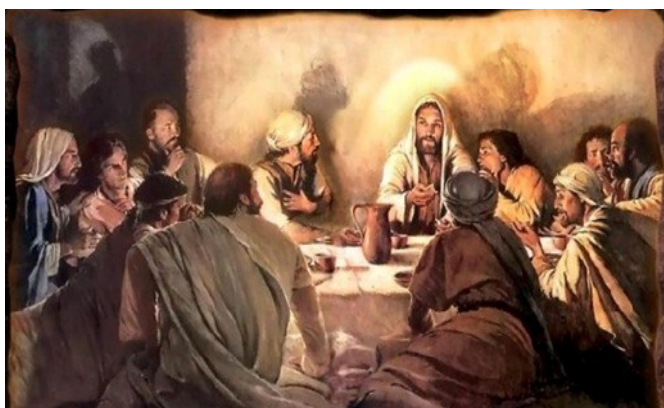
with its profound joys and heartbreaking sadness -that we might never experience those struggles alone.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday 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.



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

Divine Mercy Sunday - 8th April

The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy is about God's love for his creatures. It takes on human flesh in Jesus Christ. The message of The Divine Mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for God's Mercy.

B - Be merciful to others

C - Completely trust in Jesus.

The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received during the 1930s about God's mercy. The message is not new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone.

Extracted from: <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/> <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/backgr.htm>

Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

Parent Information Session 7pm, Tuesday 1st May

If your child is in Year 4 or above and has made their First Reconciliation they are eligible to enrol in the Sacramental Program for First Holy Communion.

The compulsory Parent Information session for this sacrament will be held on Tuesday 1st May at 7pm in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. At this meeting specific details about the program format and requirements will be explained.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Sports News

We are very proud of Oliver N, 5M. While representing Parramatta at the MacKillop Swimming Championships in Homebush, Oliver broke a record in the Junior Boys 50 Butterfly. What an outstanding achievement! Oliver goes on to compete at the NSWPSA Championships in April. Best of luck Oliver and congratulations!



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.

School Fees

School Fee Statements are now generated from Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP). This change has been implemented in Term 1 and there have been some system issues which meant that the statements were delayed for most families. We thank you for your patience while CEDP have worked to resolve the issues.

All families should now have received their school fee statements in the mail. If you have not received your statement, please contact Chris Capolupo in the office Mon - Thur between 8.30am and 3.30pm.

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.

YEAR 3 - YEAR 6 DISCO

All Year 3 to Year 6 students are invited to break out their dance moves and share the fun with their friends on Thursday 12th April from 5.30pm - 7.00pm in the school hall. \$5 payable upon entry. Cordial and glow bands provided.



MOTHER'S DAY/FETE HAMPER WRAPPING

On Thursday 12th April we will be wrapping the mother's day gifts, as well as the hampers for the fete, in the school hall from 9am. We thank those people who have already volunteered to wrap and welcome anyone else who is available even for an hour or two to come along, the more the merrier!



EASTER

The P&F would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very safe and Happy Easter.

A reminder that SMMP are participating in the Coles Sports for Schools program. **There is less than 1 week to go! Promotion ends Tuesday 3rd April.**

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 your support has been amazing!!

How does it work?



Step 1

For every \$10 spent at Coles, customers will receive one Sports for Schools voucher.



Step 2

Your school's families can then bring vouchers to your school, placing them in the collection bins provided.



Step 3

Every voucher received by your school will go towards your tally to help you order sports equipment.



PRE-PURCHASE RIDE BANDS, SHOW BAGS & KIDZONE –

Pre-purchasing your tickets can be done ONLINE (www.trybooking.com/345120) or at the OFFICE (cash payments). Purchase your tickets by **Friday, May 4** and save:

Pre-purchase Unlimited Ride Bands - \$25.00 each SAVE \$5.00!

Pre-purchase Kidzone - \$10.00 for 5 activities SAVE \$1.00-\$2.00 per activity!

Pre-purchase Show Bags - \$5.00 to guarantee your show bag (Thanks to our Show Bag sponsors!)



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.

CRAFT STALL – We would appreciate donations 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

BASKET STALL/MUFTI DAY – We are having a mufti day on **Thursday, April 5**. You should have received a letter home about donations the fete requires in exchange for your children to wear their favourite clothes. If you are able to help wrap and pack the baskets, please contact us, we will be packing on **Thursday April 12 at 9am**.

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	30 March		Good Friday
Monday	2 April		Easter Monday
Thursday	5 April		P&F Mufti Day - Basket Donation
Friday	6 April	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly– Year 1 Assembly Item
Thursday	12 April	5:30pm - 7pm	Primary Disco (Years 3 - 6)
Friday	13 April		Last day - Term 1
Monday	30 April		First day back - Term 2
Tuesday	1 May		Diocesan Cross Country - Sydney Motorsport Park (Eastern Creek)
Thursday	10 May		School Photos
Tuesday	29 May		Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day - Jamison Park
Tuesday	5 June		Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day - Jamison Park
Tuesday	26 June		Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day - Jamison Park
Thursday	5 July		Athletics Carnival

Mind Quest 2018

Glenwood HS cnr Forman Ave/Glenwood Park Ave Glenwood NSW 2768

Saturday & Sunday 2 & 3 June 2018 9.30am - 3.30pm

The 87th MindQuest program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Glenwood High School. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics and much more.

Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$195 (including GST). Send your applications in early to avoid disappointment.

Glenwood HS is in the Baulkham Hills area close to the M7 and is easy to get to from most parts of Sydney. It is 20 mins Beecroft, 35mins North Sydney, 25mins Strathfield, 30mins from Richmond, Penrith and Hornsby.

If you would like a brochure, please call Shelagh on 02 4959 7148.

Closing Date: Monday 4 May Week1 Term 2

KIDS CAN ACT—APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

MONDAY 16 th APRIL SPRINGWOOD COURT	TUESDAY 17 th APRIL SPRINGWOOD COURT	WEDNESDAY 18 th APRIL SPRINGWOOD COURT	THURSDAY 19 th APRIL SPRINGWOOD COURT	FRIDAY 20 th APRIL SOUTH PENRITH
9.30-2.30pm The Magical Book of Spells & Potions	9.00-3.00 The Birthday Party That Went Wrong <i>—The Musical</i>	9.00-3.00 The Birthday Party That Went Wrong <i>— The Musical</i>	9.00-2.00pm 1,2,3 Let's Make a Movie 2.00-6pm Survive! (9-16yrs)	9.30 – 2.30pm The Magical Book of Spells & Potions
	TWO DAY WORKSHOP		FULL or HALF DAY	
MONDAY 23 RD APRIL SPRINGWOOD COURT	TUESDAY 24 TH APRIL SOUTH PENRITH	Bookings & information www.kidscanact.com.au Cathie 0414 475 158		
8.30am-1.30pm Unicorn Magic	8.30am-1.30 pm Unicorn Magic			
1.30-5.30pm Monster Mania	1.30-5.30pm Monster Mania			
FULL or HALF DAY	FULL or HALF DAY			
				FRIDAY 27 TH APRIL SOUTH PENRITH
				9.30-2.30pm 1,2,3 Let's Make a Movie
				2.30-6.30pm Survive! (9-16yrs)
				FULL or HALF DAY

BOOK & PAY BY FRIDAY APRIL 6TH TO RECEIVE THE EARLY BIRD RATE

Owner reserves the right to cancel any workshops without a viable number. A refund or credit will be given.

KIDS CAN ACT APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The Magical Book of Spells and Potions (4-12yrs)

What happens when you find an old book of magic covered in dust in an old box under the school. It says it has spells to stop enemies and turn people into animals. Oh no! You didn't mean to do that to your parents!

"The Birthday Party That Went Wrong" The Musical (4-12yrs)

The whole class has been invited, it's the biggest social event of the year, you can't wait. People start arriving with amazing presents, the party is in full swing when all of a sudden.....

Come SING, DANCE & ACT, find out what happens. **(2 Day Workshop)**

1,2 3 Let's Make a Movie (4-12yrs)

1. Brainstorm a storyline together.
2. Devise what you are going to wear.
3. Make the movie.

Survive! (9-16 year olds)

What happens when technology stops working? How do young people survive?

Is it chaos or calm? Life or death? How do they cope? Or do they?

Unicorn World (4-12yrs)

Magic, rainbows and unicorns! Let's excite our imaginations and our creative side. Do some art and craft and discover the magical world of Unicorns through story and play. Unicorn World is a world beyond your wildest dreams, your little ones will simply adore the day. **(Act /Imagine and Make)**

Monster Mania (4-12yrs)

Dream of monsters? Curious how and where they live? Well come join us as we step into their world.

How will they greet us, OR will they EAT US? No way! Fingers crossed. **(Act /Imagine and Make)**

www.kidscanact.com.au Cathie 0414 475 158

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



Health

Nepean Blue Mountains
Local Health District

Tuning in to Kids

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six session parenting program for
parents of children aged 3-12 years

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?



Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop *emotional intelligence*. Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses.

Where: St Clair Community Health Centre
Botany Lane, St Clair 2759

When: 6 weeks on Tuesdays starting 15th May 2018
10:30am-12:30pm

Contact: Kathy 9834 0500 or Brenda on 9833 6800

Cost: Free

Register by contacting The Central Referral Service on 1800 222 608

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

ABN 31 910 677 424

Entrance via Derby Street, Kingswood

PO Box 63, Penrith NSW 2751

Tel 4734 2120 Fax 4734 3737

What's On at Penrith Observatory in April

Date: 14 April

Event name: Astronomy Night: Stars, Supernova, & the size of the Universe

Event details:

Speaker – Dr Luke Bozzetto

Come and explore the life-cycle of stars, from their birth all the way to their deaths - in some cases the cataclysmic explosion known as a supernova. Followed by a journey through the Universe - starting from our position on Earth we will explore our surroundings by travelling outward to gain some perspective of the vast space that we live in.

Includes presentation, short 3D movie, tour of the dome and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting).

\$18.00 Adult

\$12.00 Child/Concession

\$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children)

Children under 3 years of age free.

BOOKINGS VIA OUR WEBSITE ESSENTIAL

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue Address: Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington 2747

Contact phone or website for public enquiries and bookings:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1657296901021184/>

Date: 20 April

Event name: Hands On Workshop: Rockets

Event details:

Speaker – Ms Raelene Sommer

Lots of fun for children ages 4 - 12. Build and launch paper rockets using compressed air and watch a demonstration of a model rocket launch.

Includes presentation, short 3D movie and safe viewing of the Sun through a telescope (weather permitting).

PLEASE NOTE:

Parents/carers to remain with children at all times.

All attendees (parents/carers and children) require a workshop ticket \$12 each.

ALL CHILDREN and any parents/carers that wish to participate in rocket building need to also pay for the rocket kits \$12 + \$5 = \$17 each.

BOOKINGS VIA OUR WEBSITE ESSENTIAL

Time: 10am – 12pm

Venue Address: Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington

Contact phone or website for public enquiries and bookings:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/232689780633424/>

Date: 28 April

Event name: Astronomy Night: Space Rocks & Cosmic Collisions

Event details:

Speaker – Ms Raelene Sommer

Asteroids, Comets and Meteors, oh my! What are they and what happens when they hit Earth? Want to know more about the first interstellar asteroid we detected? Includes presentation, short 3D movie, tour of the dome and viewing of the night sky through a range of telescopes (weather permitting).

\$18.00 Adult

\$12.00 Child/Concession

\$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children)

Children under 3 years of age free.

BOOKINGS VIA OUR WEBSITE ESSENTIAL

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue Address: Penrith Observatory (Building AO), Western Sydney University, Werrington North campus, Great Western Highway, Werrington

Contact phone or website for public enquiries and bookings:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whats_on

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/214801002596693/>

Guess what??

We are *SUPER* excited to announce we will be offering ...

SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS YOGA WORKSHOPS

This will be an event your child won't want to miss - full of fun, engaging activities and creative exploration of yoga!

This 3 hour yoga workshop will fill up fast, so be sure to book in, so your child doesn't miss out!

Places are strictly limited.

Dates: Monday, April 16th and Friday, April 20th

Time: 1-4pm

Location: Om Yoga Studio, Emu Plains

Cost: \$50 per child, per workshop, (\$45 for siblings) Healthy snacks included

Contact: Justine Schafer | Enliven Yoga

0413 236 542



ENLIVEN YOGA

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.

B E Y O N D
A PEANUT
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!