



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.*

Over the course of this fantastic first term of the school year, I have been sharing with you in each edition of the newsletter, a snapshot about many of the great people who make up our school community.

Last night I participated in a very powerful example of our school vision being lived. At 6:30pm we hosted a number of families who are seeking enrolment for their child in 2018 and provided them with some information to support this decision making process. I was so very proud to watch as the staff, represented by Margaret Rowan and Kelly Gray, talked passionately about this school, its rich past and positive future. They were supported by the P and F through Erin Carroll who added the dimension of community building and partnership from parents. And the voice of the children was also heard through the magnificent presentations given by our school captains, Isabella Smith and Brayden King. They shared with the gathered group the things that they have appreciated about the school and the experiences that have meant the most to them. The hard work from the team in our front office to organise this gathering and the resources that we shared with our guests made it all possible.

It was inspiring to see the supportive partnership of school, parents, parish and students sharing the vision with prospective new families through their words and actions.



### Staffing News

Our school staff and community have been very blessed this term with news of the imminent arrival of not one, not two but three beautiful babies.

I am sure that you all will join with me in celebrating this wonderful news.

We wish Joanne Tadic (expecting in Term Two), Nicole Brock (expecting in Term Three) and Deborah Aliberti (expecting in Term Three), well as they journey through this special time. It is a wonderful time for their respective families as well as their family here at St Mary MacKillop.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

## News from the Assistant Principal

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### School Photos

On Friday we are having our school photos. All students should have already received a pre-paid envelope. This envelope must be **returned** on **FRIDAY**. Even if you are not purchasing photos OR if you are ordering photos online **please return the envelope on Friday**. Envelopes cannot be returned earlier than Friday. Each child must return their own envelope.

**Family photo** orders are available from the school office. Students will need to return this envelope on Friday if you would like to purchase a family photo.

All students are to wear **full summer uniform, not sport uniform** on Friday.

### Early Years Assessment

Our Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers have just completed testing our students in reading and writing. The benefit of this assessment is our school is able to inform and plan the learning/teaching opportunities for our students. It also allows us to identify vulnerable students for targeted early intervention.

We will do this testing again at the end of the year.

Margaret Rowan  
Assistant Principal

## Religious Education News

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### 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 2017 (Social Justice Initiative)**

This fortnight the students have continued to give generously to our first Social Justice Initiative of 2017. The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is "Love your Neighbour" and the St Mary MacKillop community is definitely putting this idea into practice.

## Religious Education News—Continued

So far the St Mary MacKillop Community has raised over \$400 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
- Support to indigenous people in Australia dealing with trauma

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](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).



Week five of Lent:  
Semiti, Fiji



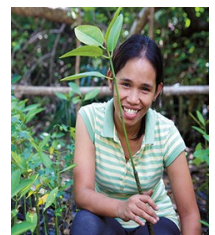
Semiti is the Director of the People's Community Network, supported by Caritas Australia, which helps empower landless people in Fiji. This network brings together people living in informal settlements to advocate to improve their access to education, housing and employment. People are living and working as neighbours, in solidarity, and the community is growing stronger and more resilient.



Week six of Lent:  
Aloma, Philippines



When Typhoon Santi destroyed her home in 2009, Aloma feared for her family's safety and their future. Then, from 2011, as she participated in SPACFI's Integrated Community Development Program, confidence began to replace fear. She was empowered to strengthen her environment to reduce climate change effects, and to lead her community in caring for our common home.



**Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help communities in coastal areas of the Philippines to care for their environment and develop resilience to disasters.** You can donate through School boxes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### The 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)

Please keep the following children in your prayers as they prepare to receive their First Reconciliation on either Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March or Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Lily B, Marie B, Riley B, Emma B, Jake C, Brok C, Emma C, Lachlan C, Maddison E, Kymberley F, Taylah G, Hamish G, Abbi G, Stefania G, Grace H, Cameron J, Jayden J, Georgia K, Summer K, Darcy L, Jenna Mc, Siobhan Mc, Charlotte Mc, Harrison M, Jasmyn M, Jonathan M, Channelle N, Hamish O, Isaac O, Melinda P, Julian P, Alex P, Zachary P, Rylee R, Elizabeth R, Sara R, Amber S, Tanya T, Amelia T, Chantelle W and Cooper W.

### Whole School Easter Celebration – 9:15am Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 re-enact the events of Holy Week. **Each grade will present a certain event from Holy Week.**

Palm Sunday	Kindergarten
Jesus cleansing the temple	Year 1
Holy Thursday - The Last Supper and Washing of the Feet	Year 4
Agony in the Garden	Year 2
Jesus is arrested	Year 3
Peter Denies Jesus	Year 3
The Trial & Jesus carries his Cross	Year 5
Good Friday – Jesus dies	Year 5
After the holidays	
Easter Sunday– Jesus rises from the dead and The road to Emmaus ANZAC Day	Year 6



Please join us in the hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 9:15am for our celebration of Easter.

### Whole School Celebration – Easter Sunday and ANZAC Day – Wed

After we return from the school holidays Year 6 will lead us in prayer as we celebrate the Resurrection and ANZAC Day. Please join us in the hall at 9:15am on Wednesday 26th April. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

### **CAPTIVATE CHOIR**

The Senior Choir headed to John Paul II College in Schofields last Monday with Mrs Rowan and myself for their first rehearsal with the Captivate Choir. It was a very successful day and now they will continue to rehearse new arrangements on Wednesdays with Mrs Meehan and myself. We look forward to showing our community our hard work soon!

A reminder that the next rehearsal date will be Monday 29th May again at John Paul II.

### **SHOWCASE DATES CONFIRMED**

Captivate has now confirmed the Music Showcase dates for St Mary MacKillop at Nagle College Blacktown. Our Senior Choir will have one final rehearsal on Tuesday 13 June at Nagle before performing there on Thursday 15 June. Further details regarding transport will be handed to students early next term however please place these important dates on your calendar.

### **CAPTIVATE Commercial Dance Ensemble**

The CAPTIVATE Commercial Dance Ensemble will be performing at the Royal Easter Show next Friday 7th April. Good luck to Tanae S (4J) who will be representing the CEDP and St Mary MacKillop. We are very proud of her.

Yours in Song and Dance,

Mr. Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts

## News from the Office

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Please remember if you are visiting the school as a parent helper that you will need to come into the school office and sign in at our Ipad Kiosk. This is to ensure that in case of an emergency evacuation or lockdown we have a list of all parent helpers onsite. Please also ensure you sign out once you have finished in the classroom.

From Term 2 we will have a new finance system implemented in our school office. As part of the new system all receipts will now be sent to your email address. **Please ensure we have the correct email address on file. If you are unsure of the details please contact the school office.**

Violin Level 1 books are available for sale from the office for \$5.00 for children who have commenced the Strings Program.

Books are also available for Level 1 and Level 2 Viola, Cello, Double Bass and Violin (level 2) for \$10.00.

Thanks,  
Chris and Nicole

### **HOT CROSS BUNS ARE ON THEIR WAY!**

A huge thank you to all the families (and relatives) who put in an order and helped us start our fundraising initiative for the year.

These lovely delights will be distributed to your children on Tuesday, 4 April 2017. If you would like to collect these orders any other way please contact the office. Large orders will be kept at the office if your child does not receive their order Tuesday afternoon please contact the school office.

We look forward to drawing the winner of the Easter giveaway at assembly on Friday, 7 April 2017.

### **KINDY - YEAR 2 DISCO - THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017**

Get excited. It's almost here!! \$5 entry includes drink, glow band and a treat.

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help coordinate the night. We will be in contact with you during the week.

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.

Gifts range in price from \$1 - \$10.

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**

Come and get cosy at our 'Winter Wonderland' Girls night in.

A chance for all our female students to spend time with the important women in their life by bringing along their Mum, Nan, Auntie or another special lady.

Enjoy games, dancing, nail & face painting, lucky door prizes, pizza & drinks, a lolly bag and a surprise movie to end the night.

Tickets \$10 per person and will be available for prepurchase at the start of Term 2.

Ladies first Gentlemen. Please prepare for your boys night out on.... FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

### **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 \*

Wishing all our families a very safe and Happy Easter. See you in Term 2!

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	31 March	2:20pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	School Photos Whole School Assembly (KH Assembly Item) Recycled Uniform Shop Open
Tuesday	4 April	9:30am-12:30pm	Year 3 Penrith Lakes Excursion Year 6 @ Anzac Service Penrith Paceway 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 <b>Last Day of Term 1</b>

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	24 April		<b>Term 2 Commences</b>
Tuesday	25 April		Anzac Day Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY
Friday	28 April	2:20pm	Year 4 Excursion Hyde Park Barracks 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

# KIDS CAN ACT

## APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS SOUTH PENRITH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

### **Tuesday 11th April**

#### **DRAGONS, WIZARDS & FAIRIES 8.30-1.30 pm**

Do dragons exist? ... well Jack and Jill know, because they saw a real one stuck in a hedge on their way to magic school! From then on the day became an unbelievably strange adventure.

#### **IMPROV AND STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES 1.30-5.30pm**

Free your creative spirit in a positive and safe environment. This workshop is highly interactive, using improvisational activities, character building and storytelling to build confidence in performance.

### **Tuesday 18th April**

#### **CURSE OF THE QUARTZ SKULL 8.30-1.30pm**

"I need a hole to bury something, and there is no time to waste!" Here she was an old lady wearing a hat, pearls and a fancy dress digging a hole in the middle of the night. Crazy or what?

#### **THE SKATE PARK: TO BE OR NOT TO BE? (9-16YEARS) 1.30-5.30pm**

Jessie and Mel love to spend their free time skateboarding but they get hassled by their neighbour for making too much noise. They decide they need their own space for hanging out with friends and skateboarding. Some adults don't want a skate park near their place. Who wins?

### **Wednesday 19th April**

#### **PRINCESS, PRINCES, PEAS & PAPERBAGS 8.30-1.30pm**

Are you a prissy princess or a cool independent princess? Or are you a chivalrous Prince or one who doesn't care much for Princesses at all?

#### **DRAMA QUEEN MAKE OVERS 1.30-5.30pm**

Drama Queens get ready to be pampered with a day at the spa. Nails, glitter hair, and lipply! Now let's dress up and strut our stuff on the catwalk!

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

**GET IN  
NOW FOR OUR  
EARLY BIRD RATES!  
ENDS MARCH 27TH**

**[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)  
0414 475 158  
[kidscanactstudio@gmail.com](mailto:kidscanactstudio@gmail.com)**



# KIDS CAN ACT

APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS  
SPRINGWOOD COURT 133 Macquarie Rd.

## Monday 10th April

### **DRAGONS, WIZARDS & FAIRIES 8.30-1.30 pm**

Do dragons exist? ... well Jack and Jill know, because they saw a real one stuck in a hedge on their way to magic school! From then on the day became an unbelievably strange adventure.

### **SCENARIOS & DRAMA GAMES 1.30- 5.30pm**

Great fun! Working as a team improves friendships and teaches us how to work with, co-operate, develop leadership skills and listen to others

## Wednesday 12th April

### **PRINCESS, PRINCES, PEAS & PAPERBAGS 8.30-1.30pm**

Are you a prissy princess or a cool independent princess? Or are you a chivalrous Prince or one who doesn't care much for Princesses at all?

### **DRAMA QUEEN MAKE OVERS 1.30-5.00pm**

Drama Queens get ready to be pampered with a day at the spa. Nails, glitter hair, and lippy! Now let's dress up and strut our stuff on the catwalk!

## Thursday 13th April

### **THE TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS 9.00-2.00pm**

What is the real story? It depends on who is telling it! Come and help us work out what the "true story about the 3 little pigs" is!

### **IMPROV AND STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES 2.00-5.30pm**

Free your creative spirit in a positive and safe environment. This workshop is highly interactive, using improvisational activities, character building and storytelling to build confidence.

## Thursday 20th April

### **CURSE OF THE QUARTZ SKULL 9.00-2.00pm**

"I need a hole to bury something, and there is no time to waste!" Here she was an old lady wearing a hat, pearls and a fancy dress digging a hole in the middle of the night. Crazy or what?

### **THE SKATE PARK: TO BE OR NOT TO BE? (9-16YEARS) 2.00-6.00pm**

Jessie and Mel love to spend their time skateboarding but they get hassled by their neighbour for making too much noise. They decide they need their own space for hanging out with friends and skateboarding. Some adults don't want a skate park near their place. Who wins?

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0414 475 158  
[kidscanactstudio@gmail.com](mailto:kidscanactstudio@gmail.com)



Mel's Tasty Bites is taking orders for "Sticky Beaks" Lunch Wallets.

These will be ready for pickup in Week 1, Term2.

To have yours ready for Term 2, return this form to your School Canteen by the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Order Form

Student Name		
Class		
School		
Lunch Wallets \$10.00	Insulated Lunch Wallets \$12.00	Allergy Lunch Wallets \$10.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

