



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.*

### Together we are stronger

I have had the privilege this week to experience the community of St Mary MacKillop work magnificently as a genuine living community. Our athletics carnival on Thursday showed our school in its many parts all working together to create a great event where the children could display their gifts and talents. Parents as helpers, parents as spectators, staff and students all joined together in one of the best athletics carnivals that I have been involved in.

I also experienced Grandparents Day Liturgy today. Grandparents form such a critical parts of children's lives in our society and the opportunity to recognise and celebrate them is certainly deserved. Again I witnessed parents, grandparents, staff and students all coming together to create a community filled event that highlighted what a quality community St Mary MacKillop South Penrith is.

I hope you can sense my pride as principal of this school and community.

It was also clear to me that Christ was at the centre of these community events. I think the words of St Paul say it best...

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

*There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. <sup>13</sup> We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body.*

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

## Religious Education News

### Project Compassion 2017 (Social Justice Initiative)

All Project Compassion money has now been tallied and sent to Caritas and I am pleased to announce that the St Mary MacKillop School community has given generously to raise \$1089.40. This is a fantastic effort and the money will really help those most in need in our world.

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion.

Your donation will provide much needed support for programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish a better quality of life.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) 1800 024 413



### **Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion**

The word ‘communion’ means to be united with; Catholics believe that in Holy Communion we are united in a special way with Jesus Christ. At his Last Supper, Jesus said of the bread that he shared among his followers, “Take and eat, this is my body.”

When we receive Holy Communion, Catholics believe that in a mysterious way we are sharing in the body and blood of Christ. Holy Communion and the whole celebration is also known as Eucharist, from a Greek word meaning thanksgiving.

First Eucharist is a special occasion – a further step in becoming one with Christ and united with the people of God. For most people First Eucharist takes place at about the age of 9-10 years. Children should have an understanding of the sacrament that is appropriate to their age. Hopefully, this understanding will develop over the years. The church affirms that parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. You are handing on your faith to your children all the time. You have the wonderful responsibility of preparing your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Usually the celebration of First Eucharist takes place at Sunday Mass. This is the most appropriate time. As the first reception of Eucharist marks a key step in the initiation of your child into the community of the church, it is most appropriate that the gathered community welcomes your child. The celebration of Mass is not just a special occasion for your family, but for the whole parish community.

Your child needs to feel at home in the parish community. Therefore, ideally, your child should receive First Eucharist at whichever Parish and Mass she or he usually attends.

<http://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/>



We currently have 37 children in our school involved in the Sacramental Program. I invite all in our community to pray for the following children who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist (second Sacrament of Initiation):

*Sienna B, Elise B, Samarah B, Louis C, Katie-Maree C, Millie-Jay C, Amelia D, Isla D, Liam D, Ava D, Rafferti G, Ryan G, Thomas G, Jacob H, Jarred H, Elisha I, Caleb K, Georgia M, Xavier Mc, Ella Mc, Christian Mc, Marcus M, Isaac M, Oliver N, Lily O, Jordan P, Julian P, Maurice P, Jack P, Riley P, Ben R, Jacob R, Madeleine S, Tanae S, Anastacia W, Hannah Y and William Z.*

### **Pentecost: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Sunday, the 4<sup>th</sup> June is the Feast of Pentecost, one of the most important days in the Christian Calendar. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter and concludes the Season of Easter.

*‘When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.’ Acts 2:1–4*

Pentecost has a central place in the Christian Story. Prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were confused and afraid by the recent events they had experienced - The Crucifixion and Resurrection of their leader and teacher, Jesus.

Pentecost was a turning point for the disciples. It inspired, united and strengthened them by transforming their minds and hearts. They no longer simply remembered Jesus, they courageously proclaimed Him alive with boldness and conviction throughout the world.

The liturgical colour of Pentecost is red and this important day is considered the birthday of the Christian Church.

Spirit of life

***Fill our emptiness with your fullness***

Spirit of power

***Stir our hearts afresh***

Spirit of love

***Touch us, and through us, our neighbour***

Spirit of Creativity

***Enable and empower the gifts you have given***

Spirit of Eternity

***Draw us ever deeper into your Kingdom***



### **Social Justice Activity: St Vincent de Paul and Penrith Community Kitchen**

#### **Mufti and Donation Day - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

This term our Social Justice Initiative will be based around supporting the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and Penrith Community Kitchen. With winter upon us both these worthwhile charities are in need of our support.

The St Vincent de Paul Society expects to see an increase in demand for assistance over the winter months. With energy prices and the cost of living increasing, more Australian families are struggling to make ends meet and cover basic household expenses.

Penrith Community Kitchen, is a community project that is staffed by volunteers and has been operating for 19 years. It is open five days a week and provides approximately 900 meals each week.

Sadly, too many Australians will experience a long, cold and often lonely winter this year. As part of our social justice program, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June we will have a Donation and Mufti day. All the children will be asked to wear mufti clothes to school and donate one or more of the following items:

#### **St Vincent de Paul needs donations of:**

*beanies*

*gloves*

*scarves*

*blankets*

*money (gold coins or notes)*

#### **Penrith Community Kitchen needs donations of non-perishable food such as:**

*Tinned food such as; soups, vegetables, meat, tuna, salmon*

*Packets of rice, pasta or cous-cous*

*Bottles of pasta sauces*

All donated items will be collected and presented to the appropriate charity. Thank you in advance for your help in reaching out and supporting those in need in our local community.

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

### WINTER WONDERLAND GIRLS NIGHT IN - THANK YOU

We had a fantastic turn out last Friday night for our first ever Girls Night In. Everyone grooving away to Just Dance in their pj's. We were delighted to see some of the mum's/carers who only have sons, come along and join in the fun..

Thank you! to Yumm Gourmet Pizza Kitchen for sponsoring our event with your delicious pizza's.

This event could not have gone ahead without the tireless work of the Borg, Neal, Peters, Darwen, DeCosta, Carroll, King, Armstrong, Cambell and Rowan families and all the wonderful parents who stayed back to help clean up. You are true gifts to our school.

The Hooker and Neal families were also represented by their daughters, who are ex students of our school and a shining example of community spirit. We loved having them back to share in the fun with us.

Veronica Neal & Natalie Borg  
General Fundraising

### SMMP FETE - MAY 2018

Thank you to those who participated in our online survey regarding our past fete. The data has been most helpful in the initial planning for next year.

Our school Fete is a huge event which has proven to be a fantastic day out for our community.

Our first planning meeting will be scheduled for early July and everyone is welcome to attend. We all have our own talents to share and this is a great opportunity to use yours!

Keep an eye on this space and our school Facebook page for further details.



### ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA, PENRITH - PIETY STORE

A number of our students are about to make the sacrament of First Holy Communion. If you are looking for an item to commemorate this occasion or any other occasion (Baptism, Confirmation etc), our parish of St Nicholas of Myra, Penrith has a piety store open between 8am - 11.30am every Sunday, with many beautiful holy gifts and cards available.

### BACK TO THE 80's TRIVIA NIGHT: 2017 MAJOR FUNDRAISER - FRIDAY, 28 JULY 2017

Break out the fluro and crimp your hair. This promises to be a fun night for all, with a Live Band, Silent Auctions, Games and prizes galore.

BYO drinks and nibbles. Prizes for Best Dressed and Best Decorated tables.

Contact the school office on (02) 4736 3466 to book & pay for tickets/tables.

\$10 per person (8 people per table only)

Spread the word, tell your friends and family. Only 30 tables available and they are already booking out fast!

If you or someone you know owns a business and would like to donate a prize/voucher or discuss advertising/sponsorship opportunities, please contact Erin Carroll at [escarroll1@gmail.com](mailto:escarroll1@gmail.com)

### P&F GENERAL MEETINGS

The P&F meet once a Term generally in week 5 or 6, at 7pm in the school hall.

It is an open invitation to all Parents and Friends of the school to attend and hear what is happening in our school, faith and local community.

Updates are given on the fundraising and community building activities within the school and parents are invited to share their concerns and ideas about new initiatives.

Our next meeting will be in Term 3 and we warmly invite parents to come along :)

### SAVE THE DATE

Boys Night In - Friday, 15 September 2017

Calling all Dad's!! We would love to have your input and involvement in organising this event. Please contact us at [escarroll1@gmail.com](mailto:escarroll1@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of the planning.

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

Erin Carroll  
P & F President



### Week 5—2 June 2017

We focus on the family this week in Peer Support. In order to encourage young people to be resilient, we need to help them to find the people who can support them. The children are asked to remember the things that they have learned to do with the help of various family members. This leads to an activity that shows the children how the support of members of their family can help them to be more resilient.

Thank your child for something they have done for you and discuss all the people within and outside your family that your child can turn to for support.

### Creative Arts News

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We have a massive 5 weeks upon us in Creative Arts and St Mary MacKillop. Here is a brief description of what's going on and some important dates for the Captivate showcase.

**Fun Creative Initiatives** that are happening at SMMP at the moment:

- The Junior Choir (Years K-3) meet with Mrs Mathewson, Mrs Aliberti and myself on Tuesdays at lunchtime to have a sing-along. We are currently working on a medley of a current Disney film that the children are enjoying which the choir will perform at our Whole School Assembly in Week 10!
- The Senior Choir are working on the Captivate Showcase and are performing at Nagle in Week 8.
- The Stage 3 Dance Troupe meet in the Hall Wednesdays at Recess and are working on a contemporary dance with Mrs Harman, Mrs Paine and Mrs Mathewson. We cannot wait to see them in action soon.
- *Kids Can Act!* takes place in the Hall on Wednesday afternoons with Mrs Cathie Parkes. Details about fees and timetabling can be found in Newsletters and on the school facebook page.
- *SMMP Orchestra* meets every Tuesday afternoon with Mr Russek and myself. We are currently working on an ABBA song and a traditional piece which we are looking forward to performing for you soon. Stay tuned!



### **CAPTIVATE SEASON DATE REMINDERS**

- **Tuesday 13th June** > Final rehearsal at Nagle College leaving school by bus at **8am** and returning by **3.30pm**.
- **Thursday 15th June** > Captivate Choir performs in the Music Showcase at Nagle College. Students need to meet Mrs Rowan and myself at the College by 5.45pm.
- **Voices and Captivate Orchestra students** are performing on various performance nights. Please see notes, the newsletter calendar or contact the Creative Arts department. Students are also performing at the final performance (*Best Of*) which is at NAGLE COLLEGE - NOT the Joan as previously mentioned. Students need to meet myself at Nagle by 3.50pm.

Thanks for your continued support of Creative Arts in our school!

Yours creatively,

Mr. Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	5 June	1:00pm-3:00pm	Year 5 & 6 Excursion to The Rocks Voices Rehearsal
Friday	9 June		<b>Staff Development Day</b> <b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
Monday	12 June		<b>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</b> <b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>
Tuesday	13 June	8:30am-2:00pm	Choir Orchestra
Wednesday	14 June		Maths Olympiad
Thursday	15 June	6:00pm	Choir / Orchestra Showcase at Nagle College
Friday	16 June	2:20pm	Half Yearly Reports to go Home Whole School Assembly
Monday	19 June	6:00pm 7:00pm	Orchestra Showcase # 3 at Nagle College Year 6 Farwell Parents Planning Meeting
Tuesday	20 June	6:00pm	Voices Showcase at Nagle College
Thursday	22 June		Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day Jamison Park
Friday	23 June	9:15am	Whole School Mass—Sacred Heart of Jesus <b>No Assembly today</b>
Thursday	29 June		Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day at Jamison Park
Friday	30 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly <b>Last Day of Term 2</b>

## Dates for Your Diary Term 3—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	17 July		<b>Term 3 Commences</b>
Friday	21 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	28 July	2:20pm 7:00pm	Whole School Assembly P & F Trivia Night



### **OLMC Parramatta Open Morning Tour**

**Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta warmly invites you to attend our Open Morning Tour on June 7, 2017.**

**Tour the College and discover why a Mercy Education is treasured for life and enjoy a 'comfortable cup of tea' with the College Leadership Team.**

**The College is now enrolling for 2019.**

**Visit [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au) or phone 8838 1222 to reserve your place or obtain further information.**