



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.*

My experience over the past term tells me that St Mary MacKillop South Penrith is a fantastic school that does so many things right. However, like any organisation, we are not perfect and therefore from time to time we will make mistakes. We accept the challenge to develop our gifts and talents as a school and part of that is accepting feedback and complaints from our community.

If you find that you have concerns about your child's learning, welfare or relationships at school I encourage you to contact your child's teacher to organise a time to share your concerns. Your child's teacher can then address your concern or direct it to the appropriate person in the school.

I am also available to discuss your concerns. If you would like to meet with me to share your concerns, I ask that you make an appointment through the school office. The office staff will seek some brief description of your concern so that they can support me in being prepared to meet with you.

Thank you for helping to make our school great and for working with us to continue to grow. I have included below, a reminder from our diocesan guidelines.

*Reminder for our school community If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to identify your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff. If you would like to raise a concern, the Catholic Education Office has guidelines for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to handle complaints either informally or formally is available from the school office and/or within the Complaint Handling Guidelines. These documents can be accessed on the system website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)*

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

### **Reminder from Penrith Council regarding Safety around School Crossings**

Each day we travel to school is a chance to teach our child to:

- cross the road safely
- wear a seat belt and use a child car seat, and
- travel in a busy place with patience and good planning.

#### **Did you know?**

Many children are not learning how to cross the road as they often travel as passengers in cars.

To cross the road safely:

- Hold a child's hand till they are at least 8 years of age.
- Talk to your child: "let's look left, look right. Have the cars stopped? Let's walk across".
- Choose a safe place to cross - pedestrian crossings or traffic signals; a place where you can see cars coming, and drivers can see you

Teaching your child now prepares them for when they're older and walking alone.

#### **Driving with patience**

School streets are busy with families of children near the morning and afternoon bells.

Please drive safely near children.

Children are small, hard to see, and likely to act quickly and without thinking.

**40km/hr School Zones are for the safety of children.**

Please drive very slowly and do not use your mobile phone near schools. Illegal parking around schools puts lives at risk. That's why Council takes a 'zero tolerance' approach. **There must be no parking in the Bus Bay.**

Our Rangers and Parking Officers regularly patrol around 80 schools across the City. We check signs, monitor parking and issue infringement notices to people who do the wrong thing.

### **The Season of Easter**

The celebration of the Easter Vigil is the beginning of the season of Easter. While the Vigil marks the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared the community, it is much more a beginning. It is the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving, for Easter is not one day or one solemnity—it is a fifty day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

The colour of the Season of Easter is white or gold reflecting new life, fulfilment, rejoicing and joy. I offer you the following Easter reflection:

*The apostles' acts continue the work of Jesus, through the ways they bring his liberating message and his healing.  
And Jesus is very much with us during the Easter Season, offering us his peace.*

*We ask to be able to share our faith and our love with others.*

*Jesus said,  
"Why are you so frightened?  
Why do you doubt? ...  
...you must tell everything that has happened.  
-- Luke 24:38, 48*

*He's  
Risen!*

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

The Sacramental Program enrolment masses for First Holy Communion will be held on this weekend, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May. If your child is enrolling in this program please attend mass and hand in your completed forms. There are 5 masses to choose from:

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7am, 8:30am, 10am and 6pm

All enquiries to Colleen Nicholas (Sacramental Coordinator) Ph: 47212509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

### **Mother's Day Liturgy**

Please join us for our Mother's Day Liturgy on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 9:15am in the hall. This Liturgy will be prepared and led by Kindergarten.

During our liturgy we will pray for all mothers and ask God to keep them in his loving care.

There will also be an opportunity to visit classrooms and partake in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, which will be organised by the P & F.

*Timetable of events as follows:*

**9:15am – Mother's Day Liturgy in the hall**

**10am – Australia's Biggest Morning Tea**

**(For adults and toddlers – Outside the library.**

**Gold coin donation. All students will be in classrooms)**

**10:30am – Open classrooms**

**11am – Student eating time (parents might like to sit with their child(ren) and have a picnic)**

**11:15am – Play Break**

**11:45am – Normal classes resume**

Please note there will be no Whole School Assembly Friday, 12th May.

A big thank you to the Kindergarten teachers, students and the P & F for organising this special day.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



### **Diocesan Cross Country**

On Tuesday 2nd May, 47 of our students met at the Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek for the Diocesan Cross Country. It was a huge day as the event is combined with the Catholic High Schools in the diocese.

A huge congratulations must go to our wonderful athletes, who arrived on time, showed great enthusiasm, positive spirits and gave it their all. A big thank you to Miss Nicole Jones, who was a big support in the training and lead up to this event. Thank you also to Mrs Simone Breia and Mrs Emma Bellman who assisted with organising bibs and administration on the day.

The majority of our students finished in the top 40 out of 130+ students, which is a remarkable result for our school. The following students have qualified as team member or reserves for the NSWCPSS Cross Country Trials on the 16th June:

8/9 Boys Caleb K - 9th

8/9 Boys Oliver N - 10th

10 Boys Jarred H - 5th

11 Girls Olivia R - 5th

12/13 Boys Mitchell H - 8th

12/13 Girls Jessica G - 3rd

12/13 Girls Hannah S - 4th



### **Cheer and Dance Sensation**

Last month, Year 4 student Millie-Jay travelled to America with the You Can Dance Performing Arts School. Millie-Jay and her troupe (including Abigail F) competed against other American dance and cheer teams and after placing multiple times throughout the tournament were eventually crowned the national champions! The team beat two American Dance and Cheer teams to take out the title! Very Impressive! The group also received another first in hip hop and second in Jazz. What an amazing experience and incredible results for our home grown students. Congratulations!



### **Gala Days**

This Term St Mary MacKillop will participate in soccer Gala Days:

- Stage 3 Girls Soccer: Week 5
- Stage 3 Boys Soccer: Week 9
- Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer: Week 10

Netball (Year 2, Stage 2 and 3) and Touch Football (Stage 3) will take place in Term 3, with League Tag for our Stage 2 students in Term 4.

Miss Maryanne McNally  
Sport Coordinator



### **Week 1—5 May 2017**

Our whole school will be starting Peer Support sessions this week. The Year 6 Student Leaders will be using the module “Taking Opportunities” which focus on “resilience”. The experiences presented in the module help children develop skills to identify their strengths, celebrate their achievements and seek assistance when faced with challenges. In this session each group will establish their group agreements so they can work well together. Children will share some of their favourite things and learn about the other members of their group. You might like to discuss with your child what they can do this week to help them take an active role in Peer Support.

### **Week 2—12 May 2017**

Next week in Peer Support the children will learn about the importance of having a go. The activities help them identify what they have already learned to do and what things they would still like to learn. The children will also explore their feelings when faced with difficulties and identify the need for courage when they try something new. During the week encourage your child to be aware of the importance of learning from their mistakes and trying new experiences.

## News from the Office

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### **2018 Kindergarten Enrolments**

Enrolments are currently open for Kindergarten 2018. Please contact the school office by phone or in person to collect an Enrolment Form. Alternatively, you can download an Enrolment Form via our school website.

Please note that Enrolments for Kindergarten 2018 close Sunday, 28th May.

### **School Canteen**

Parents there was a notification on Mel's Tasty Bites Facebook page that St Mary MacKillop will not be using paper bags for lunch ordering. Please be assured that this is not the case for our school all parents will still be able to order via written lunch bags.

### **Lowe's**

We have been informed from Lowe's at Penrith that they are out of stock of the Size 12 School Jackets. They have ordered in more stock and once we have been advised we will let you know.

### **Lost Property**

We have personal effects such as jewellery and iPods handed into the school office. If your child has misplaced any personal effects please ask the office staff as they may have been handed into the office.

### **Second Hand Uniforms**

If you have any second hand uniforms at home that you no longer need the Recycled Uniform Shop is always happy to take these. Please bring them into the school office.

Friday, 12th May the Uniform Shop will be open from 8:30am-9:15am. There is nothing over \$5.00 so please drop in if you would like to purchase uniforms.

Reminder the Recycled Uniform Shop is open the last Friday of every month.

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you had a restful and happy holiday with your families :)

### **THANK YOU!!**

A huge thank you to all the families (and relatives) who helped us start our fundraising initiative for the year. With your wonderful support, we have raised over \$800 thanks to our Hot Cross Bun Drive and a further \$725 at the Kindy - Yr 2 Disco!

Many thanks to Mrs Borg & Mrs Neal for organising these events. We also wish to thank the staff, teachers and the: Tickner, Banovic, King, Amies, Murphy, Youseff, Ostrea, Quinn, Carroll, Brincat, Berta, Marshall, Armstrong, DeCosta, Costello & Lasalo families for volunteering their time at the disco :)

### **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.

### **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 treat bag and a surprise movie to end the night. Order forms went home last week. Tickets \$10 per person.

Ladies first Gentlemen. Please prepare for your Boys Night Out on.... FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

Veronica Neal & Natalie Borg  
P&F Fundraising

### **PRC EVENT - Dr Justin Coulson - RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN**

This FREE event for all parents, caregivers is one not to be missed!

PRC Parramatta are proud to provide parents a free evening with Dr Justin Coulson who will help provide you practical information on raising kids who'll bounce back from adversity and challenging times.

WHEN: Monday, 29 May 2017 - doors open at 6:30pm for 7:00pm start

WHERE: Catholic Learning Community of St John XXIII, 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens

Sonya Peters & Natalie Borg  
P&F PRC Representatives

### **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 so hurry before they sell out!

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)

\* 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 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	5 May	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Grade Mass 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 <b>No Whole School Assembly</b>
Wednesday	17 May	5:30-7:30pm	Maths Olympiad 2017 Primary School Leaders Civic Reception
Friday	19 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Thursday	25 May	8:30am—3:30pm	Sydney Writer's Festival
Friday	26 May	9:15am 2:15pm-3:15pm 2:20pm 5:30pm-9:00pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Recycled Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly Girls Night In
Sunday	28 May		Kindergarten 2018 Enrolments Close
Monday	29 May	11am-2:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	30 May	7pm	P & F Meeting
Wednesday	31 May	9am-12:00pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
Thursday	1 June	9:00am	School Athletics Carnival
Friday	2 June		Grandparents Liturgy <b>No Whole School Assembly</b>
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