



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Pentecost Sunday

As we come to the end of the Easter Season and move towards Pentecost Sunday this weekend, I would like to invite you to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prayer for the Help of the Holy Spirit ☐

*O God, send forth your Holy Spirit
 into my heart that I may perceive,
 into my mind that I may remember,
 and into my soul that I may meditate.
 Inspire me to speak with piety,
 holiness, tenderness and mercy.*

*Teach, guide and direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end. May your grace ever help and correct me,
 and may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high,
 for the sake of your infinite mercy.
 Amen.*

How to Handle a Rumor: The Test of Three; Truth, Goodness and Usefulness

I would like to share a story I read recently which has a clear message:

In ancient Greece, Socrates was widely praised for his wisdom and intelligence. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?" "Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I would like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three." "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say. The first test is **Truth**. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?" "No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it." "All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's True or not." "Now let's try the second test, the test of **Goodness**. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?" "No, on the contrary..." The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continued. "You may still pass though, because there is a third test - the filter of **Usefulness**. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be Useful to me?" "No, not really..." "Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?" The man learnt a great lesson. Keep this story in mind the when next you engage in a conversation that you feel could be perceived as a rumour..

Helping prevent the spread of Cold and Flu:

Making healthy choices at school and at home can help prevent the flu and spreading flu to others during the winter months. Please speak to your child about the following points.

- **Keep your child at home if they are sick.** You will help prevent other children and teachers from catching the illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water**, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces especially when someone is ill.

Thought for the Week

*"When in doubt, Invoke the Holy Spirit
 and then do what you think is best."
 -Fr Julian Tenison Woods*

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL



Religious Education News

Pentecost: 8 June 2014:

This Sunday, 8 June is the Feast of Pentecost, one of the most important days in the Christian Calendar. Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter and falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday.

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

Social Justice Initiatives: Donation Mufti Day 19 June:

This term our Social Justice Initiatives 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 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 Thursday 19 June we will have a mufti day where the children will be asked to donate one or more of the following items:

St Vincent de Paul needs donations of: *Beanies, Gloves, and Scarves.*

Penrith Community Kitchen needs donations of: *Tinned food such as; soups, vegetables, meat, tuna, salmon, Packets of rice or pasta, 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.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion: 21 and 22 June:

Please pray for our school children who are currently preparing to receive First Communion at St Nicholas of Myra on the weekend 21st / 22nd June (The Feast of Corpus Christi – The Body and Blood of Christ.) A warm invitation is extended to everyone in our community to join in the sacramental celebration of the Eucharist as these children continue their initiation into the Catholic Church.

Simple Sewing – Volunteers needed!

If there is anyone in our school community who is handy on a sewing machine I am in need of some volunteers to hem pieces of fabric, which are used at school during prayer, liturgies and masses. The sewing is very simple and the fabric can either be hemmed or over-locked. If you can help out please contact Mrs Gillard via the school office and leave your name and contact details. Thank you in advance for your help.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

The library continues to be a very busy place at St. Mary Mackillop. We had huge success at the fete with the **Scholastic Book Fair** enabling us to receive over \$500 in commission from sales. This will go towards the purchase of new books and resources for our school community. Thanks to the teachers and families who volunteered their time to help out before, during and after the fair. There was much excitement and anticipation at this year's **Sydney Writer's Festival** held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre. Twelve of our Year 4-6 students had the opportunity to attend this wonderful annual event and they were not disappointed! The authors were entertaining and very generous with their input and interactions with the audience, one of our students, Declan was even lucky enough to pose a question to one author. Thanks to **Mrs Keane** who came along as a helper on the day, and to **Abrielle, Thomas, Bethany, William, Alicia L, Harley, Nicola, Declan, Hayden, Alicia D, Javier and Scarlett** for being a part of such a fantastic experience. Keep a look out for the new signed books coming soon to the library! **For those aspiring writers in Years 5 and 6, please see competition details for a chance to win prizes for writing your own piece titled 'I used to believe'... more details on the website at <http://www.pilotpen.com.au/latest-news/pilot-pen-scholarship-2014>**

Mrs Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian

From the Assistant Principal

ICAS Science Competition: - Yesterday 32 children from Year 3 – 6 participated in the *International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)* Science competition. Parents were asked to nominate their students early in Term 1. If you know that you nominated your child to sit one of these tests, please take note of the following dates: **Writing: 16 June, English: 29 July and Mathematics: 12 August.**

Before and After School Safety: - As you would be aware recently there have been numerous incidences throughout Sydney of children being struck by vehicles immediately before or after school. This serves as a reminder for all of us to observe the 40km/h speed limit between 8:00am-9:30pm and 2:30-4:00pm. It is also important to remember that the school gates officially open at 8:15am and supervision of the children before this time is the responsibility of parents. Additionally, when children are picked up after school please ensure that they remain close by your side. The safety of the children is everyone's first priority and therefore everyone's responsibility. A reminder that external before and after school care is available if necessary. Please see our administration staff if you require details.

Primary Athletics Carnival: - Weather permitting, the Primary Athletics Carnival will take place next Thursday 12 June at Blair Oval St Mary's. All students turning 8 in 2014 and upwards are expected to attend. The students will rotate in age groups through four activities, 100m, 200m, Long Jump and Shot Put. Teachers will conduct actual Shot Put results at school before the carnival. Shot Put on the day will be non-competitive. This is done so that the carnival can run according to schedule and not be held up by Shot Put. The children also have the option to compete in the 800m event. This will take place first before the rotations commence. Please talk to your child as to whether you want them to compete in the 800m race. Please also be aware that when we are selecting our zone representatives for the Long Jump, 800m, 200m and Shot put events, students are selected in the following categories. Junior (8's, 9's and 10's), 11yrs and Senior (12's and 13's). The only event that the children are selected to represent in their actual age group is the 100m event. We are in desperate need for parent helpers to time keep, place judge and assist with the field events. Please inform Mrs Rowan if you are able to lend a hand on Thursday to ensure our carnival runs smoothly.

Netball Posts: - The school has recently purchased two portable netball posts which will come in handy when we call for netball trials next term. The children have been enjoying playing with them during play breaks.

Do you have a Talent that you could share with our children? - Many parents have a particular passion or talent that they may like to share with our students. This may be a talent for painting/drawing, dancing, sporting coach, etc. If you feel that you would like to spend some time working with our teachers and students to promote this **extra-curricula activity** in the classroom, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Semester 1 Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews: - In the next few weeks, your child will bring home their Semester 1 Report. Please take the time to discuss with your child the strengths and challenges identified by the teacher. You will have the opportunity to discuss the report with your child's teacher on Monday 16 June and Wednesday 18 June. Please complete the parent/teacher interview appointment form and return to your teacher ASAP to ensure a suitable time slot.

Staff Development Day: - A reminder that tomorrow is a Staff Development Day and there will be no supervision for the children at school. The teachers will be working on Assessment, Reading Comprehension Strategies and Instructional Practices. This professional learning will be led by a number of our staff under the leadership of Mrs Devlin. As Monday is a Public Holiday the children will return to school on Tuesday 10 June.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

P & F News

Post Autumn Fete 2014....the numbers are coming IN: - Even though the fete has passed we are still receiving funds from various stallholders, donations, and post-fundraising activities. The major top 12 raffle draw winners from our Autumn Fete 2014 have been listed on the attached communication and the remainder list of winners are listed on the school FACEBOOK page. Families and friends, it gives the P & F and Autumn Fete Committee great pleasure and pride in announcing the funds raised due to all your support, kindness, donations and volunteering from beginning to end during our Autumn Fete 2014. We TOGETHER raised just over \$12,000 for our school and still counting. FANTASTIC EFFORT and we thank you as always for being part of this major fundraising event.

Cadbury Chocolate Sales - RAFFLE DRAW: - We currently have boxes of chocolates for distribution to families within our school. However, our families have something extra to look forward to for every full box of chocolates sold. The P & F have 3 raffle prizes up for grabs. For every full box of chocolates sold, you will get a raffle ticket in the draw for a chance to win 1st: KAOS 1 hour unlimited arcade games voucher for 6 kids, 2nd: Ripples complimentary family pass, 3rd: \$20 Eagle Boys Pizza Voucher. If you haven't picked up your box of chocolates to sell yet, please contact Veronica Neal on 0425 213 850 to organise a pick up from the front office. All boxes sold by 13 June would be very much appreciated. Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts for our school and may the odds be ever in your favour.

HOT FOOD DAY - FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2014. - We need volunteers on this day to help out with the organisation and distribution of food and drinks. Any help is appreciated.

Bargain Buyers Bus Tour - SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 11 October, 2014...more information will be provided closer to the date. Fiona Bryant will provide more details in Term 3.

Liz Whalen - President - On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	6 June		Staff Development Day-Pupil Free Day
Tuesday	10 June		Year 4 Old Government House & Experiment Farm
Thursday	12 June		Primary Athletics Carnival-Blair Oval St Marys
Friday	13 June		NSWCPS & CCC Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Monday	16 June	3:30pm-8:00pm	ICAS Writing Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday	17 June		ICAS Spelling Competition
Wednesday	18 June	3:30pm-6:00pm	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday	19 June		Year 3 Incursion-National Parks Aboriginal Presentation
Friday	20 June	9:15am 2:30pm	Year 5 Grade Mass Whole School Assembly
Monday	23 June	2:05pm	KA Assembly
Tuesday	24 June	TBA	Whole School Mass-The Birth of John the Baptist
Friday	27 June	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly Term 2 Ends

"CALLING YOUNG WRITERS"

Launched in support of the Government's National Literacy and Numeracy Week, the Pilot Pen Creative Writing Scholarship aims to encourage the use of imagination and to foster a love of handwriting in children. Since first launching in 2010, the Pilot Pen Creative Writing Scholarship has increased in popularity and last year more than **3,000** entries were received. This year's judges are celebrity author Andy Griffiths and child psychologist Jocelyn Brewer.

Having written over 20 children's books, including the much-loved 'Just!' series, Andy Griffiths is passionate about inspiring a love of books amongst children. Andy devised this year's story starter as a way to prompt children's imaginations to get writing. "Programs such as the Pilot Pen Creative Writing Scholarship are instrumental in fostering a love of creative writing, handwriting and the use of imagination amongst children – valuable skills that children take with them throughout their lives," says Andy.

Jocelyn Brewer said that creative writing is an important activity for young children to practise and it has many benefits to their educational and psychological development.

ENTRIES OPEN 2 JUNE 2014



Senior Subjects and UAC Selection Guidance for Year 10 to 12

A must for senior students and their parents: **Guest Speaker:** Remy Lowe, Academic Counsellor, Western Sydney Tuesday 17 June 2014 commencing at 7:00pm at Loyola Senior High School & Trade Training Centre. RSVP preferred to prcparraevents@hotmail.com Please take some time to browse through the PRC website and become familiar with upcoming events that may be very valuable to all families relating to **Learning difficulties** and **Children with Anxiety**. The knowledge that you gain from these meetings could be the first step to many future connections and solutions. Website <http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events>

Free Tickets to the AFL?

A reminder that if you are interested in taking you family to the GWS v Essendon match this Weekend Saturday night 7June 7.40pm at Spotless Stadium Homebush, Mr Cauchi has a limited amount of free tickets. Please see Mr Cauchi this afternoon or ring the office tomorrow