



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Semester One Reports

Tomorrow all children from St Mary MacKillop Primary School will take home their Semester One report. I would like to share some information, which will enable you to understand the reporting system used in Australian Schools and clarify for you your child's achievements for the first half of the year.

All Australian schools are required as part of school compliance to report to parents at least twice a year for Years 1 to 10 using A–E grades.

Following are the descriptors for the grades, which appear on the front cover of student reports:

- A** = Evidence of learning demonstrates excellent achievement at this year level
- B** = Evidence of learning demonstrates high achievement at this year level
- C** = Evidence of learning demonstrates sound achievement at this year level
- D** = Evidence of learning demonstrates basic achievement at this year level
- E** = Evidence of learning demonstrates elementary achievement at this year level.

Student reports will provide clear information on learner progress to parents/carers each semester on achievement and progress in Religious Education, English, Mathematics and for all other areas of learning taught and assessed that semester.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why are A to E grades required?

It is a condition of Australian Government funding that parents will be provided with a report using a five point scale (A to E grading scale). Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta agreed to implement student achievement reports that:

- are provided in writing at least twice a year
- use plain English that is easily understood by all parents and guardians
- include A to E grades for Years 1 to Year 10 students in all learning areas taught, assessed and monitored each semester.

What does the A to E grading mean?

The A to E grading will tell you how your child is progressing in a subject against Australian Curriculum in each year of his/her studies.

Does a C grade mean a student's work is only adequate or satisfactory for their grade

A grade of C indicates that your child is working at an expected level against the achievement standards for children of their grade and their learning is on track.

What does a D or E mean?

Not all students meet the standards expected for their year level. It is common that students may make better progress in some areas than in others. It may also be that while your child is not achieving at the expected level for their age they may have made significant progress in their learning during that semester.

Will this be the only report a student receives?

As well as the end of semester reports, schools may choose to use a variety of other methods to report to parents about student progress. These could include portfolios of student work, feedback from in-class assessments or projects, commercial assessment results such as ICAS, parent interviews, student-led conferences and open-days.

All Year 3 & 5 students will also receive a report on their literacy and numeracy achievement through participation in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. All Year 4 students will also receive a report on their Religious Literacy achievement.

Can I find out how my child is progressing compared to others in their year level?

Parents can read on their child's report card the number of children per grade who received an A-E in each Key Learning Area and see where their child is graded within the cohort. Parents will not be able to access any grading of an individual student apart from those of their own child.



My child is in Kindergarten. Will he/she receive an A to E grading?

No. The A to E grading does not apply to students in Kindergarten. A to E grades are required for Years 1-6. Kindergarten students receive a report, which indicates how they are working at meeting the required outcomes for the grade.

How can I find out more?

Please discuss any questions regarding the St Mary MacKillop Reporting with your child's teacher at next week's parent teacher meetings.

WITH COURAGE LET US ALL COMBINE

Next week Refugee Week is an annual event, which promotes positive images of refugees and celebrates the valuable contribution refugees make to Australian society. The ultimate aim of Refugee Week is to facilitate better understanding between different communities and encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia. This year, Refugee Week is being celebrated from Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June. The Refugee Council of Australia is encouraging organisations to celebrate a unified Refugee Week based around the theme 'With courage let us all combine'

Refugee Week has been celebrated in Australia since 1986. It provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim is to facilitate better understanding between different communities and encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making a valuable contribution to Australia. I encourage Parents to have a conversation with their children about the following intentions of Refugee Week:

- To educate the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia
- To help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia
- To celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community
- To focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees
- For community groups and individuals to do something positive for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world, and
- Take the opportunity to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film & other educational or cultural events, which take place all over Australia.

Thankyou Mrs Leask

I would like to inform the St Mary MacKillop community that Mrs Mary Leask will conclude as Principal at Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park, at the end of this year. Mrs Leask will be taking up the position of principal of St Ursula's College Kingsgrove in 2016.

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Mrs Leask for her educational leadership in the Penrith area and wish her well for the future.

Thought for the Week

"In working for God we must have little trials"
Mary MacKillop 1874

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL



Religious Education News

Whole School Mass 9:15am Friday 12 June - The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

At 9:15am on Friday 12 June we will celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a whole school mass. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a tradition that has developed over the centuries. This important feast day reminds us of the love Jesus has for all of us. The love of Jesus is a real, unconditional love and in our Mass we will give thanks for that love and pray that all who are lost may find their way back to God their loving father. We look forward to sharing this special prayer time with you.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

We pray for and congratulate the following children who will receive the Sacrament of Communion for the first time. The reception of this Sacrament is another step in their initiation into the Catholic Church.

Lachlan A, Olivia A, Brayden A, Cheyenne A, Marcus B, Alexia B, Jorja B, Ky B, Alex C, Joshua C, Ella C, Nicholas C, Daniel C, Laura C, Sienna C, Lachlan C, Jennifer C, Emma D, Rosemary E, Liam E, Olivia E, Abigail F, Joshua F, Jessica G, Joshua G, Dominic G, Ella G, Lachlan H, Mitchell H, Chloe H, Monique H, Liam H, Mason J, Leah J, Chloe K, Brayden K, Zack Mc, Lily P, Peony P, Bruno P, Chloe P, Kye R, Ben R, James R, Stefania S, Hannah S, Isabella, S, Annabelle S, Caroline S, Brock S, Michael T and Ace M.



A big thank you to Mrs Anne Tucker, the Sacramental Coordinator, for overseeing the wonderful preparation of our students to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Beanie and Scarf Social Justice Day: Wednesday 17 June:

This term our second 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 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 17 June we will have a Beanie and Scarf Day. All the children will be asked to wear their favourite beanie and/or scarf to school and donate one or more of the following items:

St Vincent de Paul needs donations of:

- Beanies, gloves, scarves

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 and 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.

Meditative Prayer:

The word meditation comes from the Latin word *meditārī*, which has a range of meanings including to reflect on, to study and to practice. Meditative prayer is a form of prayer which allows individuals to get in touch with and deliberately reflect upon the revelations of God. It is a process of deliberately focusing on specific thoughts (such as a bible passage) and reflecting on the meaning in the context of the love of God. Meditative prayer is personal prayer and as such the way it is practised depends upon what each individual feels most comfortable with. Therefore meditative prayer can be structured or fluid, utilise a wide range of appropriate environments/atmosphere and music may or may not be used to enhance the reflection.

Meditative prayer can be very powerful and at the same time elusive. So don't be disillusioned if you find this form of prayer challenging. I encourage you to keep at it and let God speak to you.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Primary Athletics Carnival:

We were blessed with a beautiful warm day on Tuesday for our athletics carnival and once again it was a very successful day. As always, a huge thank you to the parents who gave the gift of their valuable time to assist. The carnival simply could not run smoothly without your help. Congratulations to Miss McNally and Mrs Rowan for all the work leading up to the carnival ensuring that it runs smoothly and to all the staff who supervised the rotations on the day. Lastly, thanks to Mrs Masina who worked tirelessly on the computer inputting all the data generating finalists, age champions, winning house colour, etc, Zone competitors will be announced shortly.

More Sport News:

On the back of our very successful Stage 3 boys soccer team who went through undefeated in their gala day, last week our Stage 3 girls also participated in their gala day. Congratulations to Elizabeth, Tayla, Lilly, Elisa, Lila, Azahlia, Sophie, Violet, Samantha, Amelia and Alicia. The girls drew 5 games and lost 2. Thanks to Mrs Harman for accompanying the children. The Stage 2 boys soccer team will compete in their gala day on the 25 June.

Best of luck to the 9 children competing in the NSWCPSS Cross Country carnival tomorrow. We look forward to hearing about your success.

Staff Development Day:

Last Friday the staff at St Mary Mackillop worked together to refine our practices and understandings of teaching numeracy. We were fortunate to have Tammy and Geraldine, teaching educators from Catholic Education Office Parramatta to help facilitate. I extend a warm thanks and appreciation to both Tammy and Geraldine for making themselves available to work with our staff.

Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews:

Semester 1 reports will be sent home tomorrow afternoon. I encourage you to discuss your child's report with them and celebrate the successes and achievements that your child has achieved. I also urge you to discuss any challenges or goals that may present for Semester 2.

Parent Teacher interviews commence next Monday. This is a great opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss the successes and challenges outlined in the report. Thank you for the effort in making an appointment time to meet with your child's teacher as we continue the important home-school partnership.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will commence the week of Monday 15 June. This year we are using an online booking system for parents to select their interview times www.schoolinterviews.com.au

Enter the Event Code 'AKANP' in the white box then select 'GO'

Enter your email address (used to confirm your appointment)

Enter your full name

Select the number of students for interviews

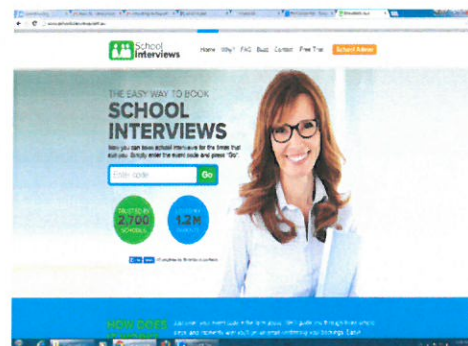
Enter Students Christian and Surname

Select GO

Select the teachers you wish to see for each child

Select GO

Select the appointment time that suits you. Unavailable times will be marked with a 'red cross'



When you click FINISH, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. Bookings will close on Friday 12 June at 4:00pm. Please contact the office if you require assistance.

Captivate Showcase Season

Next week, St Mary MacKillop Primary will be taking part in the Captivate Music Showcases. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children to perform with fellow students from within the Parramatta Diocese in front of a large crowd.

Please find below a reminder of details regarding transport and logistics for those parents who have children attending the various showcases next week. A reminder that tomorrow is the deadline for returning permission notes and money.

Tuesday 16 June – Nagle College, Blacktown:

- The Captivate **Penrith/Mountains Orchestra** will be making their own transport arrangements to Nagle College to arrive no later than 11:45am.
- The **Choir** will be departing school by Bus at 12:30pm.
- All students will be ready for dismissal from the venue at 8:30pm.

Thursday 18 June – Nagle College, Blacktown:

- The St Mary MacKillop **School Orchestra** will be departing school by Bus at 2:00pm.
- The **Choir** will be making their own transport arrangements to Nagle College to arrive no later than 6:00pm.
- All students will be ready for dismissal from the venue at 8.30pm.

Friday 19 June – BEST OF Showcase - The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith:

- The Captivate Penrith/Mountains Orchestra along with selected members of the choir will be making their own transport arrangements to The Joan, Penrith to arrive no later than 2:45pm.
- All students will be ready for dismissal from the venue at 8:30pm.

All Showcase Concerts begin at 7:00pm and finish at approximately 8:30pm where your child can then be picked up from a supervising teacher or myself.

Tickets are still available at:

<http://www.trybooking.com/HNSX> (Nagle College)

<http://thejoan.com.au/whats-on/captivate-best-of-showcase/> ("Best Of" at The Joan)

Thank you for all your support and assistance in preparing the students for Showcase Week. Updates and reminders will appear through the school Facebook page and Skoolbag app, however, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office.

Yours musically,

Mr Brad Carroll

Creative and Performing Arts Teacher

Maths Olympiad

Question 1:

A group of children are trying to share a pile of stickers. If every child gets two stickers, there will be 7 stickers left over. If two children do not get any stickers, then each of the remaining children will get exactly 3 stickers.

How many children are in the group?

Question 2:

What is the value of $100 - 40 + 200 - 30 + 300 - 20 + 400 - 10$?

Answers will be in the next KIT!!!

2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards - HAVE YOU VOTED?

We are so fortunate to have such amazing teachers and leaders setting the foundation for our children's educational journey and without them, the school would only be a shell of a building. Every teacher deserves an award due to their commitment and their passion to ensure that each child is developing to their optimum knowledgeable level, which is exactly what every parent wants for their child. To nominate our teachers type in www.asg.com.au/nominate and register your valuable vote. HURRY, Nominations close on 31 July, 2015.

Hot Food Day/ Mufti: PIZZA & POPPER \$5 - Friday, 26 June 2015 - 10:45am Lunch

The P & F is organising a Hot Food/Mufti day on the last day of Term 2. Students will be offered the choice of 2 pizzas, a popper drink and a treat for \$5. Notes will be sent out soon to gather orders, please ensure to send in your order and correct payment as requested by the fundraising team. During these events we always appreciate the assistance of our parent angels to help out with the serving and distribution of the pizza and drinks. Please ensure to advise the fundraising team Wendy Attard and Cecily Ellston if you are able to assist when you fill out the order form.

SMMPS TRIVIA NIGHT - SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

For more information about future meetings and to be part of this amazing team, please contact Jade Billington on 0414 862 409.

Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 2015. For more information to reserve your seat, please contact Fiona Bryant on fionaw@smartchat.net.au.

FETE TEAM 2016 - LOOKING FOR THE NEXT DYNAMIC TEAM

Thank you to all the parents and friends who have already put forward their interest for this massive event. Meetings will commence in Term 3 and you will be contacted via text or email advising of the important dates for our first meeting and the actual fete date.

Till next time please remember to always be patient, be kind, be gentle, pay it forward and God bless.

Liz Whalen

President

On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

BEANIE & SCARF SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

Children are asked to wear their favourite beanie and/or scarf to school and donate

one or more of the following:

Beanies, Gloves Scarves

or

Tinned Food, Pasta Sauces, Rice, Pasta

any non-perishable food

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	12 June	9:15am 3:45pm	Whole School Mass-The Sacred Heart of Jesus NSWCPA & CCC Cross Country @ Eastern Creek Reports Sent Home First Communion Practice
Monday	15 June	3:30-7:00pm	ICAS Writing Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews
Tuesday	16 June	7:00pm	ICAS Spelling Competition Combined Captivate Choir @ Nagle College
Wednesday	17 June	3:30-6:00pm	Beanie and Scarf Social Justice Day Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday	18 June	7:00pm	Combined Captivate Choir @ Nagle College
Friday	19 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & KA Item
Thursday	25 June		Stage 2 Boys Soccer Gala Day @ Jamison Park
Friday	26 June	2:20pm	P & F Hot Food Day - Pizza & Popper Whole School Assembly & 5G Item Last day of Term 2

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	13 July		Term 3 Commences
Friday	24 July	9:15am 2:20pm	Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair Whole School Assembly & 1R Item
Tuesday	28 July	7:00pm	ICAS English Competition Confirmation Parent Meeting @ St Nicholas
Friday	31 July	9:15am	Year 1 Grade Liturgy
Tuesday	4 August	7:00pm	P&F Executive Meeting
Friday	7 August		Nepean Zone Athletics
Tuesday	11 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Thursday	12 August		Voice of Youth Cluster Final
Friday	14 August	TBA	Whole School Mass The Feast of the Assumption
Tuesday	18 August		P & F General Meeting
Friday	21 August	9:15am	Year 2 Grade Liturgy Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown
Thursday	27 August		Year 3 Arms of Australia Inn Museum Excursion
Friday	28 August		Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day
Friday	4 September	TBA	Father's Day Liturgy
Thursday	17 September	2:00pm	Talen Quest Showcase
Friday	18 September		Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day @ St Mary's Last Day of Term 3