



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

### NAPLAN 2015

During this week all children in Australian schools in years three, five seven and nine participated in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The results of these tests will provide information on each student's achievements in reading, writing, grammar, spelling and numeracy. Parents will receive, in Term 3, a report indicating their child's achievement in these areas of their education. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national and Parramatta Diocesan results. Tomorrow, Friday 15 May, will be the NAPLAN 'Catch Up' day for students who missed a NAPLAN test due to absence.

### Caritas Australia's Nepal Earthquake Appeal

As you are aware, On 25 April, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal between Kathmandu and Pokhara. The devastation in Kathmandu is immense, and communities across India and Bangladesh as well as on Mount Everest have also been affected. The earthquake has killed over 8000 and injured more than 19 000. With extensive damage to buildings and continuing aftershocks in the region, many people are sleeping outside and require shelter and protection from the cold and rain. We heard this week that another earthquake has affected the same area and even more people died. Emergency assistance is urgently needed throughout the affected communities and Caritas Australia is attempting to ensure the provision of water, shelter and food to prevent further loss of life due to exposure or disease. Significant assistance will then be needed to rebuild communities and livelihoods in the long term.

Substantial financial resources are required during this time and Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to assist families in Nepal. It is understood that this request comes shortly after our school contributed so generously to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten Appeal. However, funds raised for Project Compassion cannot be redirected to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal in accordance with their high transparency, accountability and financial standards. For those families who can assist, donations may be made on the web address, [www.caritas.org.au/nepalearthquake](http://www.caritas.org.au/nepalearthquake) or by calling their hotline 1800 024 413.

### Restorative Practices at SMMK

St Mary MacKillop Primary School is a Restorative School, which is committed to the implementation of the Restorative Practice framework. This framework has been designed to assist all in our school community to use a common language when dealing with things when they go wrong. One of the main aims of Restorative Practices is to help all come to a clearer understanding of wrong doing. While it is common to see issues around inappropriate behaviour as a problem, Restorative Practices asks that we view such behaviour as an opportunity for learning. It is ironic, but if we think about it, quality learning can occur after those occasions that we have made mistakes. Consider asking your children the following question. *"If we were to live in our family for ten years and during this time, we never had a conflict or a fight. What would we have learned?"*

When dealing with wrong doing, we have two basic options available to us. This simple guide of adversarial and restorative responses encapsulate the full range of human responses. One is to punish the other is to repair. Choose the one you would rather be exposed to your self and decide if this is the world view you wish to share with your child/children. When we focus on blame and punishment we ask questions such as: *"Why did you do it? Who is to blame? What punishment or sanction is needed?"* When we are blaming others we have the following values driving our behaviour: Our focus is in the past. We are preoccupied with blaming the person and somehow making him/her accountable. We think that the more we punish the less someone is going to repeat the behaviour.

When we focus on restorative, relational and repairing we ask the following questions: *"What happened? What harm has resulted? and What needs to happen to make things right?"* When we are making a decision to repair the harm and hold the person who has caused the harm steady and are guiding them to repair the harm, we are being guided by the following values: We focus in past, present & future. Our desire is to assist in repairing the harm done. We believe that our relationships with others will be the main factor in convincing wrongdoers to cease certain behaviours and become personally accountable. These questions of restorative practice are about story, challenge, reflection and reparation of harm. They have been designed to build a strong relational basis with which to work in any relationship. Through the restorative framework the community promotes the essence of Our Learning agreement: Safe respectful learners.

### Thank You Mrs Gray!

I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Kelly Gray for her leadership knowledge and skills as Acting Assistant Principal during the past 4 weeks while Mr Steve Cauchi was on leave. Welcome back Mr Cauchi.

### Thought for the Week

*"It never gives me pleasure to cross or disappoint anyone"*  
 St Mary MacKillop 25.7.1899

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano  
 PRINCIPAL





## Religious Education News

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### **Diocesan Works Fund Appeal – Mufti Gold Coin Donation, Tuesday 19 May 2015**

During the month of May, St Mary MacKillop will be joining with all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. This fund, also known as faith @ work, reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions.

The Diocesan Works Fund Appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. The Appeal raises necessary funds that support ministries and outreach services to people across Western Sydney. Some of these ministries include CatholicCare, which is the social services arm of the Catholic church, making a critical difference in the lives of tens of thousands of individuals, children and families from our community, each year; for example Catherine Villa, which houses and provides guidance to young mothers, and Blacktown Neighbour Aid. The DWF also provides funds for Catechist training, youth ministry, and the Seminary.

*In support of this appeal we will have a mufti day on Tuesday 19 May where each child will be asked to bring in a gold coin donation. Thank you in advance for your support in this social justice initiative.*

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

The first family session for First Holy Communion begins this weekend. The dates are Saturday 16 May at 4:45pm OR Sunday 17 May at 9:30am OR Wednesday 20 May at 4:00pm. All sessions will occur in the St Nicholas Parish Hall. The compulsory church tour will occur on Friday 22 May at either 4:00pm OR 5:30pm. I invite all in our community to pray for the children who are preparing to receive this second sacrament of initiation.

### **Scripture Prayer**

Relating Scripture passages to your prayer needs is a dynamic tool that facilitates you having prayers with depth and purpose. When we speak and pray the Scriptures, we are coming into agreement with God, and His power is released to answer our prayers. When you pray, you are turning the situation over to God. You're taking the situation out of your hands, and putting it in His hands. Praying by using the Scriptures will increase your spiritual growth. You actually learn what God says about certain situations, and by praying His Word you will see His results.

Ways of praying with the scriptures:

- **Use the scripture from Sunday**  
reading these, reflecting on the words, meditating, listening to the priest's homily
- **Reflection on the daily Gospel**  
pick a word or phrase that speaks to you and reflect upon it
- **Psalms** (Psalms are prayer, in which God Himself teaches us how to pray; for they were written under direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit.)

### **Fabric Hemming – 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.

### **Pentecost Sunday 24 May**

Sunday, the 24 May 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 (due to the Crucifixion and Resurrection). 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.

### **Masses and Liturgies – Reverence and Safety Reminder**

St Mary MacKillop is a unique Catholic school, in the fact that we do not have a parish church on site for celebrating masses and liturgies. Up until recently we did not even have a hall and many of our liturgical celebrations had to be held outside and were dependent on weather conditions.

Our beautiful hall is a wonderful space that is used for so many educational activities, however, whenever we use our hall for a religious celebration this space becomes sacred, much like a church and out of respect and reverence we do not eat or drink during a liturgy or mass.



In addition, hot drinks cannot be consumed during religious celebrations due to our duty of care and Work, Health & Safety regulations about hot drinks around students.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

*Mrs Leesa Gillard*

*Religious Education Coordinator*

### **School Photos**

A reminder that school photos will be taken on Tuesday 26 May commencing at 8:45am. **Full school winter uniform is to be worn.** Photo order envelopes will be sent home next week, **but are to be returned on photo day not before.** All children will need to return their envelope to their class teacher on the day even if they are not ordering photos. All children will have their photo taken. Sibling photo envelopes are available from the school office.

### **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](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

A note will be sent home next week with instructions on how to use the site. Teachers have selected various days and times of Week 9. Opportunities for an interview with your child's teacher will be provided, but need only proceed at the request of either the teacher or parent. For more information please contact the office.

**2016 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS  
HAVE NOW CLOSED.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WISH TO  
BE PLACED ON OUR WAITING LIST**

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## Sport News

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### **Diocesan Cross Country:**

On Tuesday 5 May, 44 St Mary MacKillop students represented our school at the Diocesan Cross Country at Sydney Motorsport Park. It was a wonderfully successful day and the students should be extremely proud of their efforts. The team was outstanding in their behaviour and in the way in which they supported each other. A special congratulations to the following students who will be representing the Parramatta Diocese at the Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country Championships on Friday 12 June. Tayla G. (1<sup>st</sup>, 12 year Girls), Kailah S. (2<sup>nd</sup> 12 year Girls), Jack B. (5<sup>th</sup>, 12 year Boys), Cody D. (5<sup>th</sup>, 11 year Boys), Mitchell H. (7<sup>th</sup>, 10 year Boys), Amy J. (6<sup>th</sup>, 8/9 year Girls), Olivia R. (6<sup>th</sup>, 8/9 year Girls) and Jarred H. (3<sup>rd</sup> 8/9 year Boys).

We wish them all the very best. An extra special thank you to all the parents who helped at the Cross Country Carnival.

*Ms Connie Mulders*

## P & F News

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### **MOTHER'S DAY HELPERS - Thank you**

Thank you to all the parents that assisted with the gift wrapping, distribution and morning tea serving after our Mother's Day liturgy. It is very much appreciated when angels from our school make their presence through their beautiful hearts and smiles. Thank you especially to Wendy Attard, Cecily Ellston and Veronica Neal for your leadership skills in making this event a true success.

We congratulate the following students who won the class raffle draw for the Mother's Day Breast Cancer Crusade packs. Proceeds from the purchase of these prize packs were donated to a very good cause. The winners were. KA: Rayna.G, KH: Guiseppe.C, 1J: Zara.A, 1R: Abbi.G, 2A: Ella.M, 2M: Sophie.H, 3M: Olivia.R, 3W: Lachlan.L, 4BL:Ella.G, 4M: Jennifer.C, 5G: Hayden.W, 5M:Peter.S, 6M: Declan.C, 6PM: Amelia.P.

A very big thank you to all our wonderful bakers from *Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2* (and everybody else that contributed) who helped with the morning tea arrangements, every cake, slice, biscuit and chocolate was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all - including our students - and just like the story about Jesus feeding the 5000, you all did exactly that. God Bless your beautiful hearts.

### **AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA - THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to all your kind support during this event. The cakes were consumed and enjoyed by everyone that attended our morning tea. Due to your generosity and kind hearts, our school raised over \$430.00 WELL DONE and Thank you so much for your gracious benevolence in supporting a cause that has touched us all in some way or another.

### **2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards - VOTE No. 1**

We all know how fortunate we are to have our children attending our respectable school named after the First Saint of Australia. We are also 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 building. I encourage you all to show your support to our teachers by nominating them for this award. Every teacher deserves an award - not just on World Teacher's Day, but everyday. Their dedication, their workload, their commitment and their passion to ensure that each child is developing to their optimum knowledgeable level is exactly what every parent wants for their child. To nominate our teachers, please go to [www.asg.com.au/nominate](http://www.asg.com.au/nominate) and register your vote. Nominations close by 31 July, 2015.

### **Catholic Schools Parent Assembly - 11th Catholic Schools Parent Conference - Opal Cove Resort - Coffs Harbour 17 - 18 May, 2015**

The 11th annual parent conference 'It takes a village to raise a child' is taking place at Coffs Harbour this year. The P & F is offering to sponsor 2 parents from our school to attend the conference for the two days (accommodation/meals/travel not included). Should you be interested to attend, urgently contact Liz Whalen on [dexa1972@gmail.com](mailto:dexa1972@gmail.com) to organise the relevant arrangements and provide you with more information.

**PRC News - 25 May 2015, 7:00pm - Patrician Brothers College, 100 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown**

Do you want to know more about Personalised Learning Plans and how they support students with a disability? Shane Morris, Project Leader - System Learning, Student Services, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will highlight why personalised plans need to be in place for students with a disability. He hopes to answer questions such as: Whether your child with a disability requires a personalised plan? Do you want to find out more about the collaboration process and how it informs the plan? What makes a personalised plan successful? **Contact:** Parents, Representative Council, Parramatta Diocese. **Email:** [prcparrasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:prcparrasecretary@gmail.com)

**P & F & CLASS PARENT REPS Meeting - Tuesday, 26 May 2015 @ 7:30pm, School Hall.**

Come and join us for the next P & F / Class Parent Rep Meeting taking place on Tuesday, 26 May at 7:30pm in the School Hall. Class parent representatives are your voice at the meetings when you are unable to attend, therefore if there are any general questions that you may have, please advise your CPR. These evenings provide our families with information relating to the P & F events throughout the year. Reports will be supplied from the school Principal, P & F President, Treasurer, Fundraising team and Parent Representative Council members. ALL WELCOME.

**SMMPS TRIVIA NIGHT - SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Lock in this date into your diaries for an evening full of fun, games and prizes, as well as a wonderful evening spent with a bunch of great people that make our MacKillop family so amazing. A meeting will be organised by Mrs Billington in the next few weeks.

**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](mailto:fionaw@smartchat.net.au).

**FETE TEAM 2016 - LOOKING FOR THE NEXT DYNAMIC TEAM** of dedicated parents and friends interested in contributing their ideas, time and organisational skills to commence the preparation for our next fete. For this event to be truly successful it takes an army to prepare and run the day. Meetings need to commence in the next few weeks. Date for the FETE to be advised soon. If you are interested in being part of a dynamic team at SMMPS, please fill out the form that will be sent out to families next week.

**Donations of 2nd Hand Uniforms "PAY IT FORWARD"**

If anyone has old uniforms that are no longer being worn, please consider donating these items to the school 2nd hand uniform shop. Your contribution not only helps families purchase and upgrade their children's uniforms, but also money raised from the sales provides funds to support families experiencing financial hardship. Pay it Forward my friends and the positivity will only circulate your way again. Thank you for your support.

Thank you and God Bless

Liz Whalen - on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**  
**FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2015**  
**PUPIL FREE DAY**



## Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	14 May		NAPLAN Years 3 & 5
Friday	15 May	9:15am 2:20pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Whole School Assembly & 2A Item
Friday	22 May	9:15am 2:20pm 3:45pm	Year 5 Grade Mass Whole School Assembly & 4M Item, Welcome Fiona Scott MP Communion Church Tour
Tuesday	26 May	7:30pm	<b>School Photos—Full Winter School Uniform</b> P&F General Meeting - All Welcome
Friday	29 May	2:20pm	Year 5 Excursion to Mary MacKillop Place Whole School Assembly & 6M Item
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5 June</b>		<b>Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8 June</b>		<b>Queen's Birthday Long Weekend</b>
Tuesday	9 June		Primary Athletics Carnival @ Blair Oval St Marys
Friday	12 June	9:15am 3:45pm	Whole School Mass-The Sacred Heart of Jesus NSWCPA & CCC Cross Country @ Eastern Creek First Communion Practice Reports Sent Home
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	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thursday	18 June	7:00pm	Combined Captivate Choir @ Nagle College
Friday	19 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & KA Item
Friday	26 June	2:20pm	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	Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair
Tuesday	28 July	7:00pm	ICAS English Competition Confirmation Parent Meeting @ St Nicholas
Tuesday	4 August	7:00pm	P&F Executive Meeting
Friday	Friday		Nepean Zone Athletics
Tuesday	11 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Friday	21 August		Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown
<b>Friday</b>	<b>28 August</b>		<b>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</b>