



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.

I have the wonderful privilege to work closely with some of our student leaders here at St Mary MacKillop. Each Monday I meet with the four School Captains: Isabella Smith, Brayden King, Stefania Saliba and James Rowan. During this time we review the week, discuss the things that we are proud of and plan for leading future improvement in the school. I cannot speak highly enough of the quality of the leadership that these students possess. They are articulate, reflective, thoughtful and passionate about making a difference in this school. Isabella and Brayden will be formally recognised for their leadership on Wednesday night at a Penrith City Council Civic Reception.

I also have the opportunity to work with our eight Sports Captains each Friday. They embody the same leadership skills and passion for improving our school as the School Captains do. They have already been able to exercise their leadership by improving the resourcing of equipment in our school and building school spirit by introducing 'House Colour Cheers' at our athletics carnival for 2017.

As principal, it is very pleasing to know that our school and community nourish and develop strong leadership in our students. Our future looks bright.

I would also like to acknowledge the fabulous staff we have here at St Mary MacKillop. Each year every school in the diocese is audited to ensure it meets the requirements for system registration. This year our school was represented by Mrs Gray, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Eisenhuth, Mrs Joseph and Mr McErlain. They were outstanding in showcasing the brilliant work we do across the whole school and received many commendations from colleagues as they presented how we teach History, Geography, Physical Education, Personal Development and Health. The staff from St Canice's Katoomba, Corpus Christi Cranebrook and Catholic Education Parramatta were very supportive and complimentary in giving us feedback on the quality of the work we do here at St Mary MacKillop. A massive thank you to the team who attended as representatives of our school – job well done.



Penrith Council

Recently I was made aware of Penrith City Council seeking community feedback regarding 'The Public Open Space Reinvestment Project'. As a result I attended an information session on a Sunday in the park across the road from our school. I have included below a summary of the project intent from the Penrith City Council website.

"The Public Open Space Reinvestment Project is focussing on quality open spaces for our more established neighbourhoods. Council is working with the community to decide if we should consider selling some small parcels of land that provide little recreational value and reinvest some of the money in improving other recreation spaces in their area. The project process includes an assessment of the amount of open space available in a suburb and, more importantly, the quality of local open space."

On attending the information session and listening to resident's concerns, it became apparent to me that the residents are very happy with the current facilities as they stand and are not looking for further improvements, development or sale of these spaces. As I understand it, the residents are attracted to this area because of the 'green spaces' that create a buffer between the blocks of housing and provide a sense of space.

My advice to families living in this area is to seek information from the council so that you have all the relevant information and then regardless of your position on this issue, make the effort to have your voice heard. Penrith City Council is calling for consultation from the community and if they hear silence they may assume this to be agreement with their strategy. You can log your voice at the web address below:

<https://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Have-Your-Say/Have-Your-Say-Subpage/South-Penrith/-/Jamisontown---Public-Open-Space-Reinvestment-Project/>

Together We Grow.
 Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

The Season of Easter

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.



As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event, which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfilment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

In the Gospels, the precise details of the Easter narrative vary slightly, however, despite the variances, the key aspects of the Easter story all match. Above all, they agree that the tomb of Christ was indeed empty, which is the most essential fact.

Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

Preparation for Holy Communion began on Wednesday 17th May for the children who have enrolled in the First Communion Sacramental Program.

Please remember as you are preparing your child to receive Eucharist, for the first time, it is important that you and your child attend Mass. Through participating in the Mass the children will see where the Liturgy of the Eucharist fits within the structure of the Mass and they will observe first hand the reverence of this special Sacrament.

I invite all in our community to pray for the children who are preparing to receive their second Sacrament of Initiation.

Masses and Liturgies – Reverence and Safety

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. Prior to the construction of the hall 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.

Mary Help of Christians – Wednesday 24th May

Wednesday the 24th of May is the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians – the Patron Saint of Australia.



Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the infant Church of Australia in 1844 at a significant time in our history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed, except for one brief year, until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness. The Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry, dedicated St Mary's Cathedral to Mary. He arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral. When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title.

On the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians we pray the following prayer:

*Almighty God, Deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.
Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.
May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.*

Grandparent's Liturgy and Book Fair: Friday 2nd June

Please join us for our Grandparent's Day Liturgy on Friday 2nd June at 9:15am in the hall. This Liturgy will be prepared and led by Year 4.

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

More specific details to follow shortly.



Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

MOTHER'S DAY THANK YOU!!

The kids had a fun time attending the Mother's Day Stall and choosing a gift for that special lady in their life. We hope all our Mum's had a relaxing and memorable day!

Thank you to the all the mums who came along to supervise the stall :) Special mention also to Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Clark for donating some of their lovely handicrafts.

It was also lovely to see all the Mum's and Grandmothers share in the Mother's Day liturgy and enjoy a cuppa in the sunshine last Friday.

Together with your support, our school raised \$373.00 for the Cancer Council. What a fantastic effort for such an important cause. Thank you to the Borg, Neal, Peters, Heidtmann, De Costa, families for ensuring everyone was looked after.

Special mention to Mrs Petulla for her donation of baked goods... there has been multiple requests for another batch of your White Choc and Blueberry Scones :)

WINTER WONDERLAND GIRLS NIGHT IN - FRIDAY, 26 MAY 2017

Come and get cosy at our 'Winter Wonderland' Girls night in. Wear your onesie, parade your Pyjamas.. Even bring along your sleeping bag and pillow.

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, hair braiding (BYO brush) craft, lucky door prizes, pizza & drinks, a treat bag and a surprise movie to end the night.

Tickets \$10 per person. Extra order forms are available through the school office.

Do you know any ex MacKillop girls that would like to help us out on the night?? Let us know! We need face painters, hair braiders etc. Their dinner will be supplied :)

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

SMMP 2018 FETE

We kindly ask for your feedback on our 2016 Fete in order to make next year's even better. Please see the school Facebook page and fill out our online survey.

Participation is anonymous. Fete planning will begin in July, so watch this space for how you can take part.

P&F GENERAL MEETING - Tuesday, 30 May 2017 in the school hall @7.00pm. Everyone welcome.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Boys Night In - Friday, 15 September 2017

Erin Carroll
P & F President

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

Peer Support

Week 3—19 May 2017

We are celebrating success in Peer Support this week. The children identify their strengths and achievements and the role of perseverance in achieving a personal best.

Ask your child to tell you which word they chose to best describe their own strengths and qualities so you can affirm them in this area.

Week 4—26 May 2017

This week in Peer Support, we introduce students to the recurring theme in Taking Opportunities; the jack in the box. Children discuss the different ways of responding to difficult situations and learn that they can cope by having a go, being positive and not giving up. We have called this being resilient. The construction of their own jack in the box serves as a reminder to the children that they can spring back when they feel under pressure from circumstances.

Encourage your child to discuss their understanding of resilience and the need to practice resilience whenever they get the opportunity. You might like to help them find a prominent place in your home for their jack in the box as a visible reminder.

Attendance

For all family holidays outside of normal school holidays parents / carers are required to complete an Application For Extended Leave. This form is available from the school office and only needs to be completed for leave of 5 or more school days.



Dates for Your Diary Term 2—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	19 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly 1A Assembly Item
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 Blair Oval St Marys
Friday	2 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy Book Fair No Whole School Assembly
Monday	5 June	1:00pm-3:00pm	Year 5 & 6 Excursion to The Rocks Voices Rehearsal
Friday	9 June		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Monday	12 June		Queen's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Tuesday	13 June	8:30am-2:00pm	Choir Orchestra

DR JUSTIN COULSON

RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN



WHEN: Monday, 29 May 2017 (Doors open 6.30pm for 7:00pm start)

WHERE: Catholic Learning Communities of St John XXIII – St Mark's College,
Meeting will be held in the staff room – entry via main school foyer.
160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens (parking available)

The PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our seminar.

What others have to say:

"...an engaging and dynamic presenter..."

"...are we getting him back next year? He's fantastic!.."

FREE PARENT/CARER SEMINAR!

Registrations are open – visit:


www.prc.catholic.edu.au/news-events




One of the most frequent questions Kidspot parenting expert Dr Justin Coulson is asked is 'How can I help my child become resilient?' Friendship problems, bullying, physical changes and parenting styles are just some of the issues that can affect our children's ability to bounce back from difficulty and adapt to challenging situations.

Helping our children develop resilience can have lifelong effects.

www.prc.catholic.edu.au

 @prcparra

 @prcparra



www.floralexpressions.com.au
Thank you to our sponsors!

