



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Instructional Walks

During my routine instructional walks through the St Mary MacKillop classrooms and learning spaces this term I frequently viewed evidence of:

1. Inspiration:

Teachers at our school are continually inspiring children to learn and develop a love of drama, poetry, reading, singing, violin and many other areas of the curriculum. So often it is teachers who provide that initial inspiration that becomes a lifelong passion.

2. Encouragement:

We have teachers who constantly encourage students with patience and perseverance. Through this encouragement that teachers display, I see students achieve in areas they never thought possible. When students say 'I can't,' teachers are always there to say 'yes you can.'

3. Motivation:

For all students at all levels of achievement and learning, there's always a teacher there to remind children where to go next in their learning. Teachers know where each child's zone of proximal development is, and they guide them through to the next area of learning. Teachers continue to motivate children to understand that by putting 100% into everything they do will help them succeed in all aspects of life.

4. Role Model:

Teachers continually role model Catholic Values and positive life long learning practices as part of their teaching. Every day teachers influence the children by modelling positive behaviour, good choices and a caring approach to life.

8. A Safe Haven:

Our teachers have the ability to notice when something's wrong, provide a sympathetic ear and help children find safe and supportive ways through Restorative Practices to solve their problems.

Compulsory School Attendance

While reading the semester one reports I noticed that several children had a high level of absenteeism and partial absences, which has a negative impact on a child's learning. I would like to share some important information regarding this matter.

In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. If your child has to be absent from school, you must send a note or email to the school when your child returns to school.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Children need to arrive on school and class on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school must be recorded as a partial absence. These partial absences can add up over the year and the disruption can have a negative effect on a student's learning. Children who arrive late or depart early are required to check in through the school office.

If parents consider that it is in their child's best interests to be exempted from the requirement to attend school for any length of time, eg Overseas trip, they must apply to the principal for an exemption. The school will provide parents with an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form. The principal will consider your application and decide whether to grant a Certificate of Exemption from Attendance at School.

It is the responsibility of the school principal to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the children in the school. Part of this role is to keep accurate records of student attendance. If a child continues to display unsatisfactory attendance then parents are required to attend meetings with the principal. The aim of the meeting is to help identify the issue impacting on a child's attendance strategies and to support the child and family and remove barriers to non-attendance. Through the compulsory attendance conference we hope that all parties will agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance.



Healthy Choices this Winter

After highlighting requirements for regular attendance at school I will now throw a spanner in the works by providing some information regarding why children should be absent from school to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like colds and influenza.

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

Children, parents, and staff are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your 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 at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, it is recommended that your child stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

School Zones

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the break at the end of Term 2 that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families as per the following information.

School zones operate on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days.

For most NSW Catholic schools, school zones operate as normal until (and include) Friday, 26 June 2015 and resume on Monday 13, July 2015, whether students are present or not.

Thankyou

Sincere thanks to Mrs Vicki Mutton and Miss Tara Ryan for teaching at St Mary MacKillop while Mrs Laffan, Mrs Brigden and Mrs Mulders were on Long Service Leave this Term.

Thought for the Week

*"Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing
but the shape of the spoon."*

E M Forster

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education News

Beanie and Scarf Social Justice Day: Thank you:

Last Wednesday, 17 June the children wore their beanies and scarves to school to support our Term 2 social justice initiative for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and Penrith Community Kitchen. Through the generosity of the St Mary MacKillop families we have supplied St Vincent de Paul with 10 bags of beanies, gloves and scarves; and Penrith Community Kitchen with 100 bags of non-perishable food. These donations will help many people this winter.

I thank you for your commitment in reaching out to care for the poor and carrying on the mission of St Mary MacKillop. Your generosity will change the harshness of this winter for many people. Thank you

The Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist: Wednesday 24 June:

Yesterday, Wednesday 24 June was the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. This feast is special because ordinarily the Church observes the day of a saint's death as their feast, because that day marks their entrance into heaven. There are two notable exceptions to this rule, the birthdays of Blessed Mary and of St. John the Baptist. The day of John's birth, the day on which he began his mortal life, is sacred. The reason for this is that the Lord wished to announce to the world His own coming through John the Baptist, so that the entire world would not fail to recognize Him.

Prayer Forms:

As mentioned in Term One, St Mary MacKillop's 2015 Religious Education goal is to explore and use a variety of prayer forms to continue to develop the students, staff and parents relationship with God. In addition to formal Religious Education lessons the children regularly attend mass, liturgies and participate in prayer experiences. All the students are explicitly taught what prayer is, the purpose of prayer and the variety of forms prayer can take.

Prayer is essentially a conversation with God. The grace of prayer is given or inspired by God in an attempt by God to allow His own creation the opportunity to get to know Him. Prayer does and should take on many forms which are all related, in that, the end result should be a closer relationship with God and thereby a continually improving relationship with our fellowman.

During this term I have highlighted and explained the following prayer forms in KIT:

- Traditional Prayer
- Scripture Prayer
- Prayers from Mass
- Meditative Prayer



The students have been exploring these prayer forms during whole school prayer at 2:00pm on Friday afternoons. It is hoped that you can discuss these with your child and encourage them to utilize them during personal prayer at home. Next term I will highlight and explain other prayer forms.

Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair: Friday 24 July:

Please mark in your diary, Friday 24 July for Grandparents Day and book fair. More details will follow in Term 3 Week 1.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator



Captivate

Well the Captivate Showcase Season is over for another year. St Mary MacKillop were very lucky to be involved with two different ensembles – the Penrith/Mountains Orchestra and the Combined Choir. We were also privileged to have been one of two primary schools to be invited to showcase our School Orchestra.

Congratulations to the following students who took part: Josh G, James R, Abbey R, Chloe P, Brayden K, Joshua C, Sienna M, Abigail F, Jennifer C, Laura C, Samara C, Olivia E, Isabella S, Annabelle S, Nicholas C, Sebastian L, Ace M, Michael T, Talei S, Lily P, Summer H, Ella G, Emma D, Cheyanne A, Ella C, Jessica B, Lachlan H, Stefania S, Lachlan H, Kyla D, Romy E, Lauren M, Stephanie R, Olivia A, Olivia W, Jedd K, Jayde E, Harrison B, Hayden W, Lily L, Hayden R, Sophie H, Azahlia J, Patrick R, Nicola W, Tyson G, Corey A, Jake Z and Harley C.

A very big thank you to all parents for their support in transporting children to and from different venues during an extremely busy week. Also thanks must go to Mr. Siciliano, Mr. Cauchi and Mrs. Rowan for their attendance, Mrs Masina and Mrs Capolupo (office needs) Mrs. Aliberti (technology updates) and Mrs. Meehan, Mrs. Harman and Mrs. Eisenhuth who assisted with supervision as well as Mrs. Bray and Mr. Russek for preparing the students. Thank you for your continued support of our Creative Arts program at St. Mary MacKillop.

Mr Brad Carroll
Creative 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?

Answer: There has to be 8 or more students since there are 7 leftover. Since 33 is divisible by 3 with not remainder, we can say eleven students each received 3 stickers. The problem say that 2 student did not get stickers so there are $11 + 2 = 13$ students in the group.

Question 2:

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

Answer: $100 + 200 + 300 + 400 = 1000$
 $40 + 30 + 20 + 10 = 100$
 $1000 - 100 = 900$

Question 3:

The letters A, B, C and D represent 2, 3, 5 and 8 (but not necessarily in that order).

If $A + B = C$ and $A + D = B$, what is $B \times C$?

Question 4:

What is the value of the following expression in simplest form?

$(10 \times 8 \times 6 \times 4) \div (5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2)$

Answers in next KIT Term 3 Week 2

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
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	17 July		NSWPSSA Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Friday	24 July	9:15am 2:20pm	Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair Whole School Assembly & KH Item
Tuesday	28 July	7:00pm	ICAS English Competition Confirmation Parent Meeting @ St Nicholas
Wednesday	29 July		Maths Olympiad #3
Friday	31 July	9:15am 2:20pm	Kindergarten Grade Liturgy Whole School Assembly & 3M Item
Saturday & Sunday	1 & 2 August		Confirmation Enrolment Masses
Tuesday	4 August	7:00pm	P&F Executive Meeting
Wednesday	5 August		Voice of Youth School Final
Friday	7 August	TBA	The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Mass Nepean Zone Athletics
Tuesday	11 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Thursday	12 August		Voice of Youth Cluster Final
Friday	14 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 6PM Item
Tuesday	18 August		P & F General Meeting
Wednesday	19 August		Voice of Youth Cluster Final @ Bethany Maths Olympiad #4
Friday	21 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 2 Grade Liturgy Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown Whole School Assembly & 5M Item
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
Friday	11 September	9:15am 2:20pm 7:00pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly & 1R Item P & F Trivia Night
Thursday	17 September	2:00pm	Talent Quest Showcase
Friday	18 September	2:20pm	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day @ St Mary's Whole School Assembly & KA Item Last Day of Term 3