



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Mary Help of Christians 25 May

The traditional image of Mary Help of Christians has frequently been adapted to emphasise her patronal link with Australia. As has become customary, the map of Australia is introduced at Mary's feet and the Southern Cross shines in the night sky behind her. The colours have been chosen partly to echo the Australian Green and Gold, and partly to use the image of the Australian sun. The significance of Mary as Queen of Heaven is adequately expressed in the crown she wears. History tells that early in the 19th century, Napoleon occupied Rome, annexed the Papal States and imprisoned Pope Pius VII. In thanksgiving for the pope's release and restoration in Rome on 24 May 1814, the feast of Mary Help of Christians was introduced to the Roman calendar on that day.



Father Therry was ordained in Ireland in 1815 at a time when the Irish Church was quickly adopting devotions to Mary Help of Christians. The choice of Mary Help of Christians as Australia's Patron Saint may well derive from the first Catholic chaplain in Sydney, Fr. Therry, who dedicated his church to St Mary in November 1821. Our celebration of Mary Help of Christians as our patronal feast therefore symbolises the Roman and Irish heritage which is the foundation of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the new Church of Australia 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. In 1843 Archbishop Polding inaugurated the first Catholic apostolic meeting with aboriginal people in Moreton Bay.

In 2015 we confront some of the same social problems and the Church has the same need to witness to the values of the gospel. Today recourse to our national patron, Mary Help of Christians, is as relevant and necessary as it ever has been.

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Father God,

*The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit
 was entrusted to a people who saw your mighty hand at work
 in the majestic, rugged mountains,
 in the rolling plains, parched earth, flowing rivers
 and thundering surf.*

*May we, under the guidance of your Spirit,
 work at reconciliation, with all the different peoples of this land.*

May we reverence the "Dream Time"

...and those wedded to this land;

*May we in turn respect and heal all that we have hurt;
 the land, its people and wild life.*

*We dedicate all our efforts under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians,
 who always points the way to wholeness,
 to harmony and to Jesus.*

We make this our prayer to you Father, through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Composed by Father Kevin Bede Walsh. 1988

Language Has Power

I would like to share two experiences, which reflects how much power there is in the language that we use with others. These experiences have made me reflect on how we use language to inspire others. Our language, both body and verbal, is an important tool that we have which can affect another person's mood, the mindset of a classroom full of students, a relationship with a friend, a child, or a colleague, and the overall culture of a school. Using positive and direct language is the key to developing strong and lasting relationships, and the key to how we feel about ourselves as individuals. The language that we use shapes who we are, as well as the impact that we have on those around us. It takes skill, practice, and courage to think before we speak, and to ensure that what comes out of our mouths is actually going to be received in the way that we intended it. Words have the power to crush a person's spirit or to inspire them to be the best that they can be. Words can change a person's day instantly for the better or for the worse, and in many cases we don't even give our language a second thought. We often say things that have a profound impact on another person's mood or day or self-esteem and we don't even realize it.

The first experience was a compliment I received from a parent and I am sure that he had no idea how important those words were to me at that time. I often joke and use the words of Mark Twain, "I can live for two months on a compliment," but there's certainly some truth to that. We all need a boost once in a while, and I wonder how much conscious thought we give to recognising verbally the positive contributions that others have on our lives. Words always cost a great deal even though they are free, and often times they cost more when they are not said at all. When was the last time that you thanked another person, be it child or adult, for changing your day for the better? How often do you purposefully go out of your way to compliment, or to use positive language with every one? Do you ever think about the body language that you're using when you have your many interactions with people each day? Our language is the most powerful thing that we have, but I don't think we take advantage of the power that it has as much as we should.

The second experience occurred when a child behaved in an unsafe manner, like we all do at times, and I was very clear in my comments. My direct words had a profound impact on him and I believe that he realised that I sincerely care for the safety and wellbeing of our community. Our learning agreement, Safe Respectful Learners, clearly articulates and conveys a clear understanding of our high expectations as a school, and the importance of life long learning.

I am asking you this week to think about the language that you use, and how you use it. Does your language inspire...are you saying what you need to say in a positive way...are you giving the compliments to the people who positively impact you as a person...and are you using your language to develop strong and lasting relationships. Language has power, and it's time that we all consciously thought about that...and acted on it. Have a wonderful week everyone and remember to be great and good to each other.

Thought for the Week

"What an astonishing thing a book is.

It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles.

*But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person,
maybe somebody dead for thousands of years.*

Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you.

*Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions,
binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs.*

Books break the shackles of time.

A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic."

Carl Sagan

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL

Religious Education News

2015 Diocesan Works Fund Appeal – \$593

On Tuesday the 19 May the students of St Mary MacKillop had a gold coin mufti day to raise money for the 2015 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. Through your generosity we were able to raise \$593. This money will help to ensure that many support ministries and outreach services to people across Western Sydney will continue. Thank you for your support in this important social justice initiative.

Thursday Morning Prayer Group:

Last Thursday at 8:30am we held our first Thursday Morning Prayer group in the glass classroom in the hall. The creation of this prayer group is in response to our 2015 school formation goal of prayer and the forms that prayer can take. As a Catholic school it is appropriate that the students are provided with a quiet space where they can come together to pray. The prayer group was facilitated by the Year 6 RE Team and over 25 children attended. The month of May is dedicated to Mary so during May the prayer group will focus on praying The Rosary. Any child who would like to join the prayer group is most welcome.

Prayers from Mass:

We worship God in a variety of ways, but the main communal worship is the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass). Mass provides us with the opportunity to worship the God who made us and saves us, to praise God and thank Him for all that He has done for us. God made us social beings and as a result he wants us to come together in community to worship and pray to Him.

Jesus said, Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I"
(Matthew 18:20).

At Mass we pray the following prayers:

- *The Sign of the Cross*
- *Penitential Rite*
- *Gloria*
- *Profession of Faith - Nicene Creed or Apostles' Creed*
- *Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful/ General Intercessions)*
- *Holy, Holy (Sanctus)*
- *Memorial Acclamation*
- *Great Amen*
- *Lord's Prayer (Our Father)*
- *Sign of Peace*
- *Lamb of God*



Sometimes we assume the role of autopilot and just say the words aloud and let their meaning roll off us. It takes effort, but if we tune in to the words of these prayers, we can truly reflect on them and make them our own as we say them with the rest of the community.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2015 - PUPIL FREE DAY

From the Assistant Principal

Stage 3 Boys Soccer:

Congratulations to our Stage 3 Boys Soccer team who were outright winners of the Diocesan Gala Day yesterday at Jamison Oval. The boys were undefeated. This was an outstanding effort and a just reward for a talented team of young Soccer players. These players will be acknowledged at Friday's assembly. A very special thank you to Mr Joe Perri who coached and managed the team in the weeks leading up to the Gala Day. The gift of your time is much appreciated. Also thank you to Mrs Bizzanelli for accompanying and managing the boys. Congratulations Ben B, Bailey M, Jack B, Cole P, Joel C, Patrick R, Bailey S, Hayden W, Joshua H, Marco P, Liam R, Xavier P, Francesco L, Ben D and Joseph I.

The **Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala day** will be held next **Thursday 4 June 2015**

Athletics Carnival:

The Primary Athletics Carnival is fast approaching. Please ensure that your child has returned their permission slip. The Athletics Carnival requires a lot of parent helpers to ensure that it runs smoothly. If you are available to help out with time keeping, place judging or recording please indicate your availability on the permission slip. Thank you in advance for your support.

Staff Development Day – Friday 5 June:

Please remember that next Friday will be a Staff Development Day. The teacher's will be participating in professional learning focussing specifically on numeracy and assessment. Please ensure that you have made arrangements for supervision of your children next Friday.

School Photos:

Thank you for preparing your children for school photos. The children looked fantastic in their full winter uniform. As always, you may contact **Advanced Life Photography** directly if you wish to re-order more photos or order photos taken from previous years.

AFL Clinics:

We had an overwhelming response to the first AFL clinic that our school hosted on Monday afternoon. The children had a lot of fun. A reminder that if your children are participating in the clinic, they will be supervised by the AFL Co-ordinators from 3:00pm – 4:15pm. The clinics will continue on 1 June, 15 June and 22 June.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

A Message from Mr Greg Whitby Executive Director of Catholic Schools CEDP

As educators know, extraordinary opportunities for learning come from those often unpredictable and unscripted teachable moments. Those moments that are not 'text-book' and yet provide students with valuable occasions for critical thinking, reflection and deeper learning. On Friday, our government missed a teachable moment when the Prime Minister rejected appeals for the resettlement of Rohingya refugees stranded at sea in South East Asia. The aim of government policy is ultimately designed to improve the lives of citizens whether it be access to universal healthcare or quality education. Our politicians are elected community leaders. They are also teachers – reflecting our values, sense of identity and hopes for the future.

This generation of Australian students will be key to solving future challenges including how we aid and assist those fleeing war and persecution. I am not sure what values were imparted or what lessons our students learned from Friday's response but I am reminded of the second stanza of our National Anthem:

*For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.*

With refugee week coming up in June, perhaps the word for our politicians here is courage. There are government and Catholic schools across western Sydney who have welcomed children from around the world (many from war-torn nations) into its classrooms and communities. These students are all contributing to a more inclusive and diverse society. These students have stories of courage to share – and something to teach

Sydney Writers Festival

On Friday, 22 May, Mrs Eisenhuth and twelve of our students from Years 4 to 6 attended the annual **Sydney Writer's Festival** programme for schools at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith. The day involved four children's authors who spoke about their writing backgrounds, their books and how they became successful authors. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage with the authors and their stories. We were able to purchase signed books for our school library, while some students bought books to take home with them. Authors presenting were: **Andy Griffiths, Jacqueline Harvey, Anthony Horowitz and Leigh Hobbs.**

Each of these talented writers had their audiences enthralled, laughing and participating in what they had to share. The students took away with them some inspirational ideas and were motivated to continue to work on their creative writing skills. Special thanks to **Jenny Inskip** who helped with supervision, crowd control and obtaining author's autographs. Keep a look out for the new books coming soon to our library shelves!

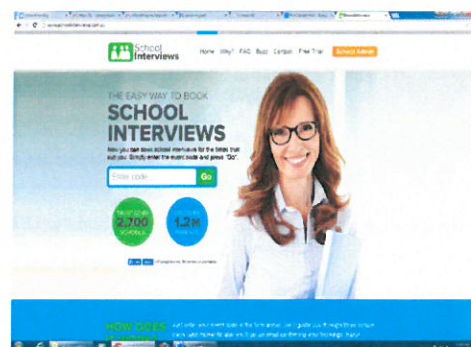
Maree Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian



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 you email address (used to confirm you 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.

2016 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS HAVE NOW CLOSED.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE

PH: 47 36 3466

IF YOU WISH TO BE PLACED ON OUR

WAITING LIST

VACANCIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR

YEARS 5 & 6

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 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. 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 and register your vote. **Nominations close by 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 and a popper drink (an a treat) for \$5. Notes will be sent out in the following weeks 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:

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.

FIRST MEETING has been organised to take place at the Coffee Club by the River at 7:00pm on Tuesday, 2 June 2015. For more information, please contact Jade Billington on 0414 862 409.

Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, 10TH 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 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 was sent out last week, and send it to the school by 29 May 2015.

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. Pay it Forward my friends and the positivity will only circulate your way again. Thank you for your support.

God Bless

Liz Whalen

President on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2015

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	29 May	2:20pm	Year 5 Excursion to Mary MacKillop Place Whole School Assembly & 6M Item
Friday	5 June		Staff Development Day—Pupil Free Day
Monday	8 June		Queen's Birthday Long Weekend
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 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	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

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
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