



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

The first semester of 2016 is coming to an end and I would like to thank the parent community for the trust you place in us in providing the highest quality education for your child. After signing 411 semester one reports it is gratifying to see the wonderful academic achievements and consistent effort of our children in the first half of the year. Add to this the sporting achievements, the Captivate musical presentations, Peer support learning, liturgical and sacramental celebrations; it is clear that we have experienced an outstanding term.

### Building The Kingdom

This week I would like to share an inspiring homily that the Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta, presented at the Catholic Religious Australia Conference, Leura, Blue Mountains last week.

Dear fellow religious,

We are living in a time of diminishment as far as the Church's size and influence are concerned, at least here in Australia. But if the Kingdom is like leaven and yeast, then size, numbers and status are not as important as the quality of our witness. Religious are like leaven and yeast. We are not so much the ground troops for the Church as the catalysts for its renewal, exploring new frontiers and possibilities. Our job is to inspire and to keep the fire of the Gospel burning for the sake of the Church and the world. Like the Jewish midwives Puah and Shiphrah, our job is to reframe the harsh reality before us into a vision of hope for the remnant people to flourish again. The Church is not meant primarily to be a service or business provider but a sacrament of the Kingdom, which is invisible and unquantifiable. Perhaps we should learn to shrink the mega church mentality and grow the Kingdom mentality instead. Perhaps we should learn the art of vitality in smallness, we should learn to increase the quality of our faith and relationship in this fallow time.

But then again, the shrinking is being done for us whether we like it or not anyway. We are being shrunk to become a smaller Church and hopefully a more humble and authentic sacrament of the Kingdom. It is in this time, this Kairos moment, that we have an opportunity to focus on building the Kingdom in our witness of faith, hope, love, goodness, humility and vulnerability.

May we grow in our authentic discipleship, in our service and in our capacity to be the Kingdom builders. May Mary of Nazareth, the finest example of suffering in hope intercede for you and accompany you on the journey of faithfulness. Using the words of St Paul, we thank our God every time we think of you. As we pray for you today, we pray with joy. For we are sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Common Good

A few years ago, Melbourne played host to a Conference with the title; the Annual Conference of "Globalisation for the Common Good". The Conference had an interfaith perspective and was directed towards a "shared commitment to non-violent conflict resolution and the building of cultures of peace around the world". This interfaith group believes that, "Education is the key that unlocks the door of globalisation for the Common Good". The "Common Good" is generally understood to be the greatest possible good for the greatest number of individuals and education is the prime focus.

So, how does our school community resolve its conflicts, maintain a peaceful environment and work towards the common good? Only through mutual respect and honest communication. The ethos of a school is a major factor in establishing and maintaining high standards of performance and discipline. All participants in our school community need to be sensitive to the possibility that the values of the home and of the wider community may differ from the values that the school tries to promote.

The cooperation of parents is critical in maintaining the ethos of the school. Parents need to be acquainted with and embrace the school's stated goals and objectives, share its core values and support its curriculum, its staff and its leadership. When joined by a common set of beliefs and purposes, parents and staff form a powerful team with far-reaching positive effects on students and the entire school community.



When working together, parents and school professionals exact a strong influence on students to become better educated; they also help students to mature by modelling positive adult working relationships based upon respect and honesty. It is true to say that the quality of teaching has a direct influence on student performance and behaviour. Likewise, parents who provide a supportive home environment, play a crucial role in shaping the attitudes which promote performance and good behaviour in school. Parents play an essential and positive role in the life of a school and all parents have positive strengths that contribute to their children's learning and behaviour. It is said that trust lubricates cooperation and if parents and teachers trust each other with mutual respect, on the occasion when differing views and opinions arise, they can be considered and discussed with a view to finding solutions – for the common good.

When parents choose to enrol their child at the school, they agree to subscribe to its mission, follow its rules and abide by its decisions. Trust and mutual respect are the most essential underpinnings of effecting working relationships between parents and teachers. While parents may not agree with every decision made by the school, usually, enough common ground can be found to continue a mutually respectful relationship, if people are of good will.

A positive school ethos is based on the quality of relationships between teachers and students, parents and teachers, parents and their children and the manner in which they trust each other. A positive ethos will flow through all the activities of the school and help to form a strong sense of social cohesion within the school. "Globalisation for the Common Good"; what a good idea.

God, our Father,  
may the presence of Your Spirit  
be evident in our Catholic School Community.  
Help us to be large of heart,  
broad in vision and generous in working  
for the common good of this School Community  
entrusted to our temporary care.  
Amen.

### **World Youth Day**

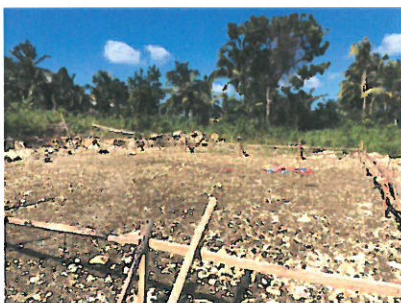
In our last newsletter I informed the community of the Journey that Miss McNally will be taking as part of World Youth Day 2016. I would like to invite parents to Friday's 2.20pm assembly in the hall, where Mrs McNally will share with the school community her planned journey through a photographic presentation. We wish Miss McNally all the very best on this Pilgrimage and we are assured that she will keep the St Mary MacKillop Community in her prayers as she encounters this spiritual experience of a lifetime.

### **Thought for the Week**

*Whether we search in earth, or sky or sea,  
we are everywhere met by the visions of the illimitable God.*

*Rev Julian Tenison Woods 1882*

*May your family and friends be a wonderful part of your holidays.*



Here are some photos the Learning Centre that has been built in the Philippines.. I will be working in this learning centre and teaching as well! We are working in Bohol Island which was severely devastated by an earthquake in 2013. I will be taking school supplies, games, toys and hygiene packs to the students and community. - MARYANNE MCNALLY

Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL





**Year of Mercy Logo**



**Parramatta Diocesan Crest**



**Diocese of Parramatta Logo**

**The Diocese of Parramatta has its own Mercy logo to link in with the resources that will be used across the Jubilee Year.**

In order to have a symbol that could be applied to a lot of uses and printed in different ways, it was decided to design a simple logo, but one that contained plenty of meaning. And so, it picks up on key lines, shapes and concepts from both the Diocesan crest and the Jubilee logo from the Vatican.

**There are a number of design features to highlight from the Diocesan Mercy logo:**

It is presented within an almond shape called a *mandorla* (Italian for almond). If you Google *mandorla religious pictures* you'll immediately see things such as Christ depicted within an almond shape. It's an ancient concept representing the union of two circles, or more specifically, the place of intersection of seeming opposites. In Christian art, Christ has often been shown in the mandorla as this place of reconciliation and the union of heaven and earth. In the Year of Mercy, in our place of the Diocese of Parramatta, we are called to live this union as receivers and sharers of Christ's mercy.

We are called to be agents of reconciling, enriching mercy for the world around us. The opening words of Pope Francis' background document about the Jubilee are: *Christ is the face of the Father's mercy*. And we are the face of Christ, hence the caption on the logo; *mercy has a face*!

**Did you know...**

The triangles on the Diocesan crest represent the ancient mountains bounding the diocese and the squiggles represent our local rivers? And so on the Mercy logo you'll see the mountains with the three rivers (Parramatta, Nepean and Hawkesbury) cutting through the foreground of the Cumberland Plain.

## Religious Education News—Continued

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Also notice the heart shape, formed by the outline of faces. These mirror the faces in the universal logo. In this place, the Diocese of Parramatta, the heart of grace of the cross forms us as a people, receivers of mercy, to be mercy's face! And so the faces forming the heart are ours and they are the faces of those with whom we share God's mercy. With our faces placed over the landforms, we are reminded that God has asked us to be stewards also of the wider creation of which we are part. In this wider creation, Pope Francis spoke of the earth in his recent encyclical as itself being amongst *the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor*.

Various initiatives of our Diocese for the Year of Mercy will include mercy towards the earth as an important priority. In fact, a series of prayers displayed in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta take up St Francis of Assisi's words in referring to our planet as *our sister, Mother Earth*.

Rev Paul Roberts, Director of the Institute of Mission  
<http://catholicoutlook.org/our-logo-for-the-year-of-mercy/>

### **Social Justice Activity: St Vincent de Paul and Penrith Community Kitchen** **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June we had our Term 2 Social Justice activity that supported the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and Penrith Community Kitchen.

The community support of this social justice activity was fantastic and I would like to thank every student and their family for their amazing generosity.

Overall your donations amounted to:

26 bags full of beanies, scarves and gloves that have been donated to the St Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal; AND

110 bags of tinned food, packets of rice, pasta, cous-cous and bottles of pasta sauces. This non-perishable food will go towards making many meals to feed the needy and homeless this winter.

Congratulations St Mary MacKillop, every one of you helped to make this winter better for a lot of needy people..... thank you for your support.

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation: Parent Meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

The parent information session for Confirmation will be held on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016** at 7pm in the Church. This meeting is for parents whose children are currently in Year 5 or above and have made their First Communion.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas, at the parish house on 47212509.

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator





### Some Multiplication Games to play at home over the holidays

**Dice Multiplication:** Players roll two dice. The 'red' die tells the number of groups, the 'white' die shows the number in each group. Using materials, the pupils make a model of the multiplication and say how many objects they used.

**Can you Share?:** In groups, each player takes a handful of materials. They put them on the table. If they can share them evenly into groups they score a point.

**Array Games:** Players roll two dice, one die shows the number of rows, the other the number in each row. On a 10 x 10 grid, they colour in the array shown by the dice. They can play on separate grids to count the number of squares coloured after, say 10 rolls. Alternately they can play on the same grid, colouring in the arrays, with the last person to 'go' being the winner.

**Beat the Calculator:** In groups of 3, one child says a multiplication fact, one types this on the calculator, and the other child mentally calculates the fact and says the product. (Answer). Children should rotate rolls after each multiplication fact.

**1020304:** Type 1020304 + = into the calculator. Press = again. Read the display as 2, 4, 6, 8. Keep typing =. What happens?

Enjoy playing these fun multiplication games with your students over the holidays.

Mr Cauchi  
Assistant Principal

## P & F News

The first half of the school year is nearly at a close, a big thank you to all the teachers for guiding our precious children through their learning experience.

### P&F Dance-A-Thon

The P&F Dance-a-Thon will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August this year, the event will be held during the school day and the children will be allowed to wear mufti for the day. Sponsor Sheets will be sent home with the children, it would be fantastic to get as many sponsors as possible so we can raise money for the school.

### Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - SEATS LIMITED

Correction, the correct date is SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER, 2016. To reserve and finalise your spot, cost is \$40 for the day (includes morning and afternoon snacks), drinks available for purchase on the bus. Come and join us for a day filled with raffle prizes, bargains and adventure, please contact Fiona Bryant on [fionaw@smartchat.net.au](mailto:fionaw@smartchat.net.au)

### P&F Disco

The P&F disco will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October this year, more information closer to the event.

### Parents Representative Council

Parents Representative Council presents " Helping your child manage anxiety", on 22nd August at 7pm at Nagle Girls Catholic College.

Be safe over the holidays and see you next term.

Fiona Bryant  
Vice President P & F



### **Captivate Showcase Season:**

Congratulations to the students listed below who showcased their amazing creative talents at Nagle College and The Joan, Penrith as part of the Captivate Showcases. Students performed as part of the Combined Primary Choir, Combined String Orchestra and selected Voices to great acclaim. Many thanks to all teachers and families who came to support, transport and supervise the students.

Hayden W, Bella R, Romy E, Lauren M, Alex M, Harrison B, Jedd K, Bruno P, Lachlan H, Brayden K, Stefania S, Ella C, Isabella S, Sienna M, Chloe P, Olivia E, Annabelle S, Lily P, James R, Zack M, Jennifer C, Chloe K, Cheyenne A, Jorja B, Michael T, Emma D, Jessica G, Mikayla C, Emily M, Lachlan L, Julian P, Amy J, Kate F, Grace R, Angelica P, Emelia G, Matilda V, Trinity D, Jessica A, Taylor T, Ava O, Lachlan S, Georgia B, Emily W



### **The Lion King Jnr**

If there are any parents who are willing to assist with the choreography of our musical could you please get in contact with me. We would be interested in parents with dance teaching experience to take a group of students on a weekly basis during school time.

Mrs Meehan and I have been overwhelmed with the response to audition for lead roles in The Lion King Jnr. The students have showed great professionalism. Due to demand, the principal roles have been cast from Years 5 and 6. Years 3 and 4 students who auditioned for the show have been included in The Lion King Jnr choir and will be meeting weekly next term to learn the show's material.

Please see poster for details on your child's performance details. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours musically,  
Mr. Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts





# St Mary MacKillop's Lion King Junior Save the date!



St Mary MacKillop's production of The Lion King Junior will take place in Term 3 of Week 9.  
There will be two matinees and two evening performances.  
The show will be double cast by class groups –  
please see below information for your child's performances

## YELLOW CAST

Wednesday 14th Sept- 12pm matinee  
Thursday 15th Sept- 6pm evening  
YEAR 1, 2A, 3W, 4BL, 5G, 6Mc

## GREEN CAST

Thursday 15th Sept - 12pm  
matinee  
Friday 16th Sept - 6pm evening  
KINDY, 2M, 3M, 4M, 5PM, 6M

## Sports News

### Athletics Carnival

Our primary Athletics Carnival was held last week at Blair Oval and was a wonderful day of athleticism! The primary students participated in the 800m, 200m, 100m and Long Jump events. The students were well behaved and encouraged one another throughout the day. We would like to acknowledge the following parents who gave up their day to help us with time keeping, place judging and measuring on the long jump pit:

Lee Anderton, Suzie Jameson, Tracey Gallen, Nat Sibbald, Nathan King, Veronika Bonora, Erin Carroll, Lee Woodburn, Kate Clark, Anthony Flynn, Kelly Morson, Danielle Xerri, Eli Elisara and Sharlene Lonsdale. We also appreciate the ex-students who came back to help out on the day: Max Jameson, Joshua Haydon, Rick Jameson, Cooper Hill and Sophie Heather. We would not have been able to run the day without all these parent helpers and of course without the supervision and preparation of our teachers. Thank you everyone!



We will be presenting age champion trophies next term at our Friday assembly. The Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival will take place on Thursday 11th August at Blacktown International Sports Park. We look forward to taking our representative team to the Zone level next term.

### Netball Gala Day

The Netball Gala Day will be held at Jamison Park on Tuesday 23rd August. Thank you to Mrs Rowan and Mrs Harman who have assisted me with the Netball try outs. Thank you to all students who tried out this year. There are so many fantastic netball players in our school. You made the selection process very difficult! Permission notes will be going home to the Netball teams asap.

Maryanne McNally  
Sport Co Ordinator



# TRIPLE P Positive Parenting Program

A practical program to promote your children's development and manage their behaviour in a constructive way.

**For:** Fathers, Mothers & Carers of children 4 - 12 years  
**Where:** Penrith Community Health Centre,  
Soper Place Penrith  
**When:** Tuesday nights for 6 weeks  
Starting 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2016  
7:00- 9:00pm  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** Debbie Leishman- social worker  
Ph. 4732 9400  
Courtney Lee - social worker

Register on 1800 222 608  
9am - 4pm business days.



## Kids Can Act

**Drama Studio**  
**Holiday Drama Workshops**  
SPRINGWOOD COURT 133 Macquarie Road,  
SPRINGWOOD. (Next to Domino's)

Don't miss out on THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!  
CHECK WEBSITE FOR PRICES!

**Lights Camera Action-Who Done It?** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
In this workshop the students will decide who committed the crime, how they did it, and why. They will then work as a group to devise how the criminal tried to cover it up and what secrets others are hiding. After all the planning has been done, the students will dress up and film their "Who Done It? Mystery"

**The Day The Toys Disappeared:-** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
Imagine how you would feel if you woke in the middle of the night to find all your toys gone and in the morning they are all back in their places. The next night they disappear again so you go searching to discover the secret. Will anyone believe you? We will discover the secret and make a play to show at the end of the day.

**Act, Dance, Sing and Make:-As requested!** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July (10am - 3pm)  
A mixed creative arts workshops with acting, dancing, singing and craft. We will take a piece of fun children's literature, write the script, make up dances, sing songs and make the masks and costumes. At the end of the day we will perform it for the parents.

**Puppetry No. 5 Folded Paper & Foam** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. Let's have fun as we try out different types of puppets. Students create fun folded paper and craft foam puppets and use a variety of materials to bring their character to life.

**When Kids Rule the World:-** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
Last night there was an enormous sleep over at the school but something strange has happened. In the morning no parents came to pick you up and no teachers came to school. No adults anywhere! What's happened to them? The children will develop characters and devise their own play ready to perform.

0414 475 158  
www.kidscanact.com.au  
kidscanactstudio@gmail.com

## Kids Can Act

**Drama Studio**  
**Holiday Drama Workshops**

"SOUTH PENRITH Neighbourhood Centre"  
Cnr Trent St & Birmingham Rd, SOUTH PENRITH. (Behind Southlands)  
Don't miss out on THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!  
CHECK WEBSITE FOR PRICES!

**Puppetry No.2:-** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July (10am - 3:30pm)

The children will have incredible fun learning how to use different types of puppets and make their very own to take home to continue the experience. They will also have fun devising their own puppet plays. The children will design and make a calliope hand puppet, felt finger puppet and pop stick puppets.

**When Kids Rule the World:-** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
Last night there was an enormous sleep over for all the kids at the school but something strange has happened. In the morning no parents came to pick you up and no teachers came to school. No adults anywhere! What's happened to them? The children will develop characters and devise their own play ready to perform.

**Act, Dance, Sing and Make:-As requested!** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July (10am - 3pm)  
A mixed creative arts workshops with acting, dancing, singing and craft. We will take a piece of fun children's literature, write the script, make up dances, sing songs and make the masks and costumes. At the end of the day we will perform it for the parents.

**Lights Camera Action-Advertising** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
Are you the camera man, the producer, the director or one of the actors? No matter who you are, you will have hilarious fun, creating and filming our very own TV advertisements for some very extraordinary products!

**Act, Play, Paint, Make:-Mime and Mask** Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July (9:30am - 2:30pm)  
For thousands of years people have been making and wearing masks. Masks have a long history of use in dramatic performance. Students will have a fun and creative time designing, painting and creating their own masks to take home and use these in mime performances.

0414 475 158  
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## Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	30 June	9:30am	Animals of the Dreaming Performance Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day @ Jamison Park
Friday	1 July	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 4 Mass Whole School Assembly Term 2 Concludes

## Dates for Your Diary Term 3- 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	18 July		Term 3 Commences
Friday	22 July	2:20pm	NSW PSSA Cross Country Whole School Assembly
Wednesday	27 July		Maths Olympiad #3
Friday	29 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	2 August		ICAS English Competition
Wednesday	3 August		P & F Dance a Thon
Friday	5 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Monday	8 August		Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Thursday	11 August		Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown
Friday	12 August		<b>Staff Development Day—No School for Students</b>
Monday	15 August		The Assumption
Tuesday	16 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Wednesday	17 August		Maths Olympiad #4
Friday	19 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	23 August	7:00pm	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day @ Jamison Park P & F Meeting
Friday	26 August	2:20pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown Whole School Assembly
Friday	2 September	2:20pm	Father's Day Liturgy Whole School Assembly