



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

### Safe Respectful Learners

Did you know that kindness was once a Knightly Virtue? Knightly virtues were part of every mediaeval Knight's code of honour and were standards that Knights tried to adhere to in their daily living and interactions with other people. Thanks to the Kindness Movement, kindness has not been left behind in the Middle Ages. The Kindness Movement tells us that, "Participating in regular small acts of kindness is beneficial to your health, longevity and well-being; making the decision to be a little kinder will bring more pleasure and direction to your life than ever before." What's more, "The practice of being kinder is a simple way to make your life more joyful and fulfilling. So, relax, enjoy, be friendly, laugh, be playful, help others. Focus on the things you enjoy rather on the things that annoy."

What good advice all that is! Does your family or your school need a "Kindness Movement" of its own making? A kind person is one who is described as being friendly, generous, warm-hearted, sympathetic, considerate, gentle, affectionate, forgiving. Could your home or school do with more people like this? Well, whether kindness blossoms or lies dormant depends on whether it is nurtured. Parents and teachers have the power to instill kindness in children by being supportive and affirming. If children learn to understand how others think and feel, they will better understand how their choices affect other people.

If we act in a kindly manner and do things in the same way we expect our children to act and do, then, our children will have a much better chance to be kind people. Here's a little story: "As the bus slowed down at the crowded bus stop, the bus conductor leaned from the platform and called out, 'Six only!' The bus stopped. The conductor counted on six passengers, rang the bell, and then, as the bus moved off, called to those left behind, 'Sorry, plenty of room in my heart but the bus is full.' The conductor left behind a row of smiling faces. It's not what you do, it's the way you do it." The Friendship Book of Francis Gay.



If we teach our children about love and kindness by teaching them with love and kindness, they experience the good feelings that come with being helped. From this, they understand for themselves the value of helping, because they know that when they share kindness, they are making others feel good. Furthermore, they will be better able to understand that, when someone does something hurtful to them, they should try to handle it in a way that supports forgiveness not revenge, to make peace not war.



In our current society, there is the need to teach our children what “attractive” really means. The new trend of “Lookism” tends to present social acceptability as based upon how a person looks. But being “attractive” encompasses many traits such as kindness, friendliness, thoughtfulness, being interesting, being a healthy eater and having an individual and natural body image. Who you are on the inside is much more important than what you look like on the outside. The poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon, left behind these famous lines: “Life is mostly froth and bubble Two things stand alone, □ Kindness in another’s trouble Courage in your own.” Ye Wearie Wayfarer.

God, our Father,  
we ask You to establish a kinder,  
gentler order in our lives and in the lives of our children.  
Gently grow this kindness within us,  
so that it may be expressed to others  
through the sympathetic influence  
of what we say and do.  
May we be safe respectful learners.  
Amen.

### **Winter Uniform**

Traditionally children return to school in term 2 wearing full winter uniform, however, if the weather is still quite warm parents are asked to use their discretion and allow their children to continue wearing full summer uniform.

### **Reminder QCS Survey**

A reminder for those parents who were randomly selected to participate in the Quality Catholic Schools survey that these surveys are due back to the office or completed online by next Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April.



### **Thought for the Week**

*“It’s amazing what you can achieve  
if you don’t care who gets the credit”  
-Harry S Truman*

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL

### Easter Sunday: The Resurrection

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is typically the most well attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches.

Christians believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. As part of the Easter season, the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion is commemorated on Good Friday. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

### The Season of Easter

The celebration of the Easter Vigil is the beginning of the season of Easter. While the Vigil marks the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared the community, it is much more a beginning. It is the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving, for Easter is not one day or one solemnity—it is a fifty day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

The colour of the Season of Easter is white reflecting new life, fulfilment, rejoicing and joy. I offer you the following Easter reflection:



*The apostles' acts continue the work of Jesus, through the ways they bring his liberating message and his healing.*

*And Jesus is very much with us during the Easter Season, offering us his peace.*

*We ask to be able to share our faith and our love with others.*

*Jesus said,*

*"Why are you so frightened?*

*Why do you doubt? ...*

*...you must tell everything that has happened.*

*-- Luke 24:38, 48*

*He's  
Risen!*

### Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2105 – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

#### Divine Mercy Sunday – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April is the first Sunday after Easter but it is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II proclaimed to the world that "from now on throughout the Church this Sunday will be called Divine Mercy Sunday."

On the Second Sunday of Easter, the responsorial psalm and Gospel for Cycles A, B and C centre on the theme of mercy. In Psalm 118 we sing three times, "His mercy endures forever." The Gospel, from John 20:19-31, begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night. Jesus calms his disciples by saying and giving them "Peace." He shows them the scars of his Passion, his wounded hands and side. His glorified body retains the evidence of his saving work through his suffering, death and resurrection.

He fills them with joy and again says to them—and produces in them—"Peace." Then he breathes on them and explains what the divine breathing means with the words, "Receive the holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." He gives the apostles the power of God's mercy for the sinner, the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. The other texts speak of healing and give the assurance there is nothing to fear.

For centuries in liturgy the Church has proclaimed the mercy of God through the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. The liturgy is full with the promises of Divine Mercy and its grand effect in the lives of millions.

By Rev. Alfred McBride, O.Praem.



## Religious Education News—Continued

### **Project Compassion 2016 (Social Justice Initiative)**

Project Compassion, our first Social Justice Initiative for the year, has come to an end and so far our school community has given generously to raise over \$475 for Project Compassion. This is a fantastic effort and the money will really help those most in need in our world. At the beginning of next term, once all monies have been finalised, I will announce the exact amount raised.

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion.

Your donation will provide much needed support for programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish a better quality of life. [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)  
1800 024 413

### **Social Justice Initiatives**

Throughout the school year the St Mary MacKillop community is involved in many Social Justice initiatives. These initiatives compliment the Religious Education Programs taught in each grade and aim to foster in the students a deep desire to help others less fortunate than themselves. The Social Justice activities that we will be involved in this year are:

Project Compassion  
DWF (Diocesan Development Fund)  
St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal  
Penrith Community Kitchen  
The Mary MacKillop Institute  
Catholic Mission  
St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

Social Justice programs allows Christians to reach out in compassion and unity to those who are most in need – it is truly living the message of Jesus and St Mary MacKillop “Never see a need without doing something about it”.

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

If your child is in Year 4 or above and has made their First Reconciliation they are eligible to enrol in the Sacramental Program for First Holy Communion.

The compulsory Parent Information session for this sacrament will held on Tuesday 3rd May at 7pm in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. At this meeting specific details about the program format and requirements will be explained.

### **St Nicholas of Myra - 2SM choir**

The 2SM Choir is in need of more members. This choir is rostered on at the 10 am mass every 2nd Sunday of the month. For those who are interested to join, please contact Alexander Conejar by email for more information [asconejar@hotmail.com](mailto:asconejar@hotmail.com).

### **ANZAC Day Service – 11:30am Tuesday 26th April**

To celebrate ANZAC Day there will be a whole school prayer service, led by Year 5, at 11:30am on Tuesday 26th April. All in our community are warmly invited to attend.

### **Mother's Day Liturgy**

Please join us for our Mother's Day Liturgy on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 9:15am in the hall. During our liturgy we will pray for all mothers and ask God to keep them in his loving care.

There will also be an opportunity to visit classrooms and partake in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, which will be organised by the P & F.

A big thank you to the teachers and students of Kindergarten for organising this special liturgy.

Mrs Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator

## From the Assistant Principal

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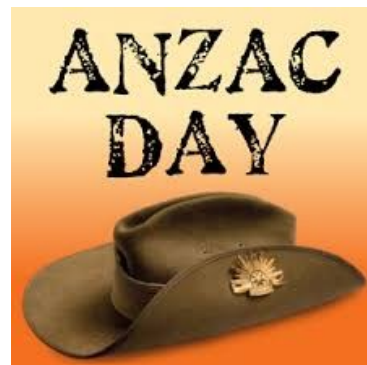
### School Photos

School photos will be taken tomorrow. The children are expected to wear their full school summer uniform. No sports clothing is to be worn. Please ensure that you send all money and envelopes, including family portraits with your child tomorrow. If you have paid online you are not required to return the envelope to school.

### Year 6 ANZAC Service

Our Year 6 children will attend an ANZAC Service at Penrith Paceway on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Our captains will be lay a tribute to honour our fallen soldiers. I'm sure that our Year 6 children will participate with reverence to mark this important occasion.

Steve Cauchi  
Assistant Principal



### Sport News

- ◆ This term, some stage 3 students have been trialling for the Parramatta Representative Teams in their chosen sport. So far, students have had try out experiences in Soccer, Basketball, Cricket, Rugby League and Netball. The high level of skills evidenced on these days makes it a very challenging trial. A huge congratulations to Samantha G, Year 6, who has been selected in the Parramatta Representative Netball Team. Samantha will participate in weekly training sessions with her team and travels to Canberra on the 6th May to compete with students from all over the state. Samantha will be trialling for the NSW MacKillop team. An outstanding achievement. We wish Samantha the best of luck.
- ◆ Our School Cross Country was a huge success and we were very lucky with the beautiful sunshine on the day! Our students all tried their very best and can be very proud of their efforts. A big thank you to our wonderful parent helpers: Donna, Karen, Lee, Suzie, Althea, Nat and Liz. Students who finished in the top 6 in their age group (and completed in the qualifying time) will represent St Mary MacKillop at the Diocesan Cross Country at Sydney Motorsport Park (formerly Eastern Creek Raceway) on Tuesday 3rd May.

#### **Diocesan Cross Country Training dates:**

Thursday 31st March 8:00am

Tuesday 5th April 8:00am

Thursday 7th April 8:00am

#### **Term 2**

Tuesday 26th April 8:00am

Thursday 28th April 8:00am



Miss McNally  
Sport Coordinator



# CREATIVE ARTS NEWS

## THE LION KING JUNIOR

As you may be aware, the students are very excited by the news that this year St Mary MacKillop will be *putting on a show*. We are pleased to announce that the show will be Disney's **The Lion King Jnr** by approval of Hal Leonard Australia and directed by Mr Carroll and Mrs Meehan. The performance week, for your calendars, will take place in Term 3, Week 9 (week commencing Monday 12 September).

We will keep you informed as more details come to hand!

## CAPTIVATE VOICES

**Congratulations to Lachlan H (5PM), Sienna M (5PM), Ella C (5G), Georgia B (4BL) & Isabella S (5G).**

A big congratulations to these five students who have auditioned successfully for **Captivate Voices**- a group of Primary and Secondary students selected to be apart of a special choir which meets with Captivate Music Educators to further develop and showcase their singing talents.

## MUSIC AT THE FETE

As part of the St Mary MacKillop Fete this year, our school students will be performing on Sunday May 1st. As well as the two school choirs and our school orchestra, all students will perform with their grade items they have been learning in class. Please see below what time your child will be performing:

10am Orchestra  
Captivate Choir (Yrs 4-6)  
10.30 Nightingale Choir (Yrs K-3)  
11am Years 5 & 6 (Stage 3)  
11.30 Years 3 & 4 (Stage 2)  
12pm Kindergarten  
12.30 Years 1 & 2 (Stage 1)  
1pm Velocity Performing Arts Students



If your child is at the fete, we ask them to join in on stage at their respective time to show off their musical talents and their efforts in Creative Arts so far this year.

Yours musically

Mr. Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts

### Happy Easter Everyone!

We hope that you enjoyed your Easter break and to share with your loved ones is very special. This holy occasion is a great time to reflect on how lucky we are with current world events that have happened lately. Making family memories is precious these days.

### Thank You!

A huge thank you to Rachel Brennen-Gale who organised and suggested our Hot Cross bun fundraiser before Easter, it was a huge success with the school raising \$422 and thank you to the families for your support that purchases the Hot Cross Buns.

### SMMPs Autumn School Fete – Sunday, 1st of May

Our School Fete is fast approaching with only 5 weeks to go (WOW). If you haven't already returned your Ride Band notes and money to the office please do so ASAP so you don't miss out.

Thank you to all the families that have started selling tickets for our Major raffle on the day we have had such a wonderful response already and don't forget you can get more raffle tickets at the office anytime, there's plenty of extras to sell.

We were overwhelmed with the donations received yesterday for our hamper & basket stall. A huge thank you to students and families for all your donations and support for our Major fundraiser so far.

Well as this is the last KIT before school breaks up, BE SAFE and enjoy your time with Family and we look forward to seeing you all for Term 2.

Michelle Darwen

President

On behalf of P&F Executive Team

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**Please note the EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT has been EXTENDED till Friday 8th April!**

# Kids Can Act

Drama Studio  
For kids of all ages

## April Holiday Workshops

"South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre"  
Cnr Trent St & Birmingham Rd, SOUTH PENRITH. (Behind Southlands)

★ GET IN BEFORE MARCH 25TH FOR OUR EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!!! ★

**Puppetry No.1:-** Monday 18th April (10am-3pm)  
Children are naturally curious! This is an opportunity to allow them to spark their imagination and feed their curiosity. Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. The children have great fun as they try out different types of puppets. They will also make a number of their very own puppets to take home, (sock puppet, pop up puppet and numerous pop stick puppets) They take home a puppet theatre too!

**Fairylicious Fairies:-** Tuesday 19th April (9.30am - 2.30pm)  
*Want to attract a fairy? Here is what you have to do.  
Make a bit of fairy dust, With sparkles through and through.*  
Come and help us find the fairies at the bottom of the garden!  
The children will enjoy a fairylicious day.  
This workshop inspires the imagination as children play fairy games, hear fairy stories and make their very own special fairy garden for their fairies to dance in. The children will also receive a set of their very own fairy wings, a fairy headband and a fairy wand to take home.

**Light Camera Action- Who done it?:-** Wednesday 20th April (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. Bring in the detectives and reveal slowly and meticulously how the clues might link together. After all the planning has been done, the students will dress up and film their "Who Done It? Mystery"

**Hello Impro Scenerio!:-** Friday 22nd April (9.30am - 2.30pm)  
Scenarios involve groups of students working together using a brief storyline, creative thinking, simple acting and LOADS of hilarious fun! This workshop allows the students to work on their acting abilities, their character work and have fun working with a cast of other characters.  
This one is for anyone who'd like to do something creative, improve their communication skills, develop their storytelling skills or just have a great time!

**Don't miss out! Avoid disappointment and get in early!**

**www.kidscanact.com.au**  
**Mob. 0414 475 158**

\*The owner reserves the right to cancel classes if they do not have a viable number of children enrolled.

## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

| DAY      | DATE    | TIME          | EVENT   |
|----------|---------|---------------|---|
| Friday   | 1 April | 2:20pm        | School Photo Day<br>Whole School Assembly & 1J Item |
| Monday   | 4 April | 3:15pm-4:15pm | AFL Clinic  |
| Tuesday  | 5 April | 10:30am       | Year 6 ANZAC Service at Penrith Paceway             |
| Thursday | 7 April |               | P & F wrapping items for Fete in School Hall        |
| Friday   | 8 April | 2:20pm        | Whole School Assembly<br><b>Term 1 Concludes</b>    |

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2016

| DAY       | DATE     | TIME             | EVENT   |
|-----------|----------|------------------|---|
| Monday    | 25 April |                  | <b>Anzac Day Public Holiday—No school today</b>   |
| Tuesday   | 26 April | 11:30am          | <b>Term 2 Commences—Students wear full winter uniform</b><br>Whole School Anzac Day Service (Year 5)          |
| Wednesday | 27 April |                  | Year 6 Peer Support Training<br>2017 Kindergarten Enrolment Interviews Commence                               |
| Friday    | 29 April | 2:20pm           | Whole School Assembly   |
| Sunday    | 1 May    |                  | School Fete   |
| Monday    | 2 May    |                  | Peer Support commences  |
| Tuesday   | 3 May    | 7:00pm           | Diocesan Cross Country @ Sydney Motorsport Park<br>Holy Communion Parent Meeting @ St Nicholas                |
| Friday    | 6 May    | 9:15am<br>2:20pm | Mother's Day Liturgy<br>Open Classrooms<br>Australia's Biggest Morning Tea<br>Whole School Assembly & 6M Item |
| Tuesday   | 10 May   |                  | NAPLAN Years 3 & 5  |
| Wednesday | 11 May   |                  | NAPLAN Years 3 & 5  |
| Thursday  | 12 May   |                  | NAPLAN Years 3 & 5<br>Stage 1 History Excursion to Elizabeth Farm   |
| Friday    | 13 May   | 9:15am<br>2:20pm | Year 2 Liturgy<br>Whole School Assembly & 4BL & 4M Strings Item   |
| Thursday  | 19 May   |                  | Sydney Writer's Festival @ The Joan   |





# SCHOOL FETE

## SUNDAY, 1 MAY 2016

**150 Fragar Road, South Penrith**  
**10am to 4pm**

Rides - Magic show - Live Music  
Chocolate Wheel - Raffles  
Face Paint - Kids Craft - Games  
Cakes - Sweets - Hot Food  
Plants - Art - Variety Stalls

Join the action at [#smmpfete](#)



Like & Follow us on Facebook: **St Mary Mackillop Primary Fete, Penrith**

Follow us on Instagram: **#smmpfete**



**A HUGE "THANK YOU" FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN  
PREPARATION FOR OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER FOR 2016.**

### 😊FRIENDLY REMINDERS😊

#### **VOLUNTEERS/HELPERS**

We need a few more helpers for the afternoon shifts on our P&F grade stalls. Please check the note sent home, and send the slip back this week if you can help.

#### **BASKET/HAMPER WRAPPERS**

If you can spare an hour or two from 9.30am on **Thursday, 7 April**, please send the slip back, come along and join the production line. We'll put the kettle on!

#### **PRE PURCHASE RIDE BANDS: OFFER EXTENDED!**

Pre orders (with full payment) for \$20 ride bands, has been extended until **Friday, 8 April**. Price on Fete day will be \$25 per unlimited ride band or \$5 per ride.

#### **CRAFT STALL DONATIONS**

All handiwork can be left at the school office or St Nicholas of Myra Parish Office.

#### **RAFFLE TICKETS**

Loads of great prizes. Tickets just \$1 each. Extra books available through the school office.

#### **PROSPECTIVE STALL HOLDERS: OFFER EXTENDED!**

Applications (with full payment) now close **Friday, 8 April 2016**. Contact [michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au](mailto:michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au)

#### **GARDEN STALL DONATIONS**

Potted *Flowers, herbs, vegetables, citrus, natives and succulents* can be left at the school between 26 – 29 April. Please send an email to [escarroll1@gmail.com](mailto:escarroll1@gmail.com) if you or anyone you know are preparing plants to donate 😊

#### **TRASH & TREASURE DONATIONS**

All *CD's, DVD's, Books & records* can be left at the school office (great excuse to clean out that entertainment cabinet over the holidays!)

#### **STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION**

We have seen some wonderful work already and can't wait to display your posters! Entries close **Friday, 1 April 2016**. Winners announced 8 April 2016.