



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

During National Literacy And Numeracy Week while we celebrate our learning through dress up book character parades, enjoy competitive spelling bees and participate in fun numeracy activities, I would like to revisit goal setting and re-examine our 2015 School Goals.

Do you remember speaking to your child at the beginning of the school year about the things they will be working on at School this year and the goals they set themselves. What are these goals? How are they going with them right now?

Here are few tips to help your child stay focused on these goals:

- Concentrate on a few important goals and keep working on them.
- Creating a vision board of pictures or words which will help your child visualize the goals more clearly and remind them of the goals every day when they see the board.
- Help your child create a plan and persevere with it.
- Encourage your child to track and discuss how they are going.
- Speak to your child about what's going well and what they need to continue doing.

The St Mary MacKillop School Implementation goals for 2015 that we have used as our teaching and learning blueprint are:

- Religious Education- For all students to build a relationship with God by participation in, knowing and understanding at least 5-10 prayer forms.
- English- All students improve their inferential comprehension skills evidenced in running record reading levels, Pat-R assessments, Naplan and at least the expected growth in writing using the NSW DEC Literacy Continuum.
- Mathematics- All students to improve in numeracy by at least one growth point and reach their stage appropriate growth point in all domains.

"BE SEALED WITH THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT"

Next Tuesday at 5:00pm and 7.30pm children from our school will join other children from the St Nicolas of Myra Parish and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This sacrament of initiation, which began at Baptism, enables these young Catholics to move towards full participation in the life of the Catholic Church. I invite you to join me in praying for our Parish Confirmation Candidates.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER

Spirit of God, grant us:
The gift of wisdom
To see the world through your eyes,
The gift of counsel
To make difficult decisions,
The gifts of knowledge and understanding
To use our mind to know you and to love you,
The gift of fortitude
To have the courage to live in the faith
Despite the difficulties and disappointments,
The gift of piety
To be able to express our special love
And commitment to you,
And the right kind of awesome fear
That makes us pause to wonder and revere
God's Love.
Amen.

HELPING WORRIED CHILDREN

I would like to share an article written by Stephen Whiteside, a paediatric psychologist with the Mayo Clinic Children's Centre.

Children who avoid or flee from worrisome situations are more likely to develop anxiety, which can prevent them from enjoying a full life. The underlying theory isn't a new one, that an absence of risk and challenge in childhood leads to nervousness and anxiety later on. But researchers found they were able to predict which children would develop more anxiety a year later. The researchers asked parents to respond to questions like "When your child is scared or worried about something, does he or she ask to do it later?" and children to respond to statements like "When I feel scared or worried about something, I try not to go near it".

Children who said they avoided scary situations tended to get higher anxiety scores when they were surveyed again 8 to 12 months later.

There was little change in anxiety scores for children who said they didn't avoid situations that made them nervous. This is consistent with how anxiety disorders develop. Children who avoid all fearful situations don't have the opportunity to face their fears and don't learn that many of their fears are manageable.

This concern, in the era of helicopter parenting, comes up frequently and we often hear about the need to give children some risk-taking opportunities in their play and other activities. Giving children the chance to face the things they fear can in fact reduce their anxiety.

The researchers found the avoidance behaviours of anxious children declined substantially after receiving exposure therapy which gradually exposes children to the things they avoid and helps them manage their fears. The fact that these children were no longer avoiding as much the things they feared was a strong indication that they were getting control of their anxiety as well.

Nobody wants children to be placed in danger or to be thrown in at the deep end. But the lesson of this important research is that fearful children can be helped to manage their fears and grow up into more confident young people.

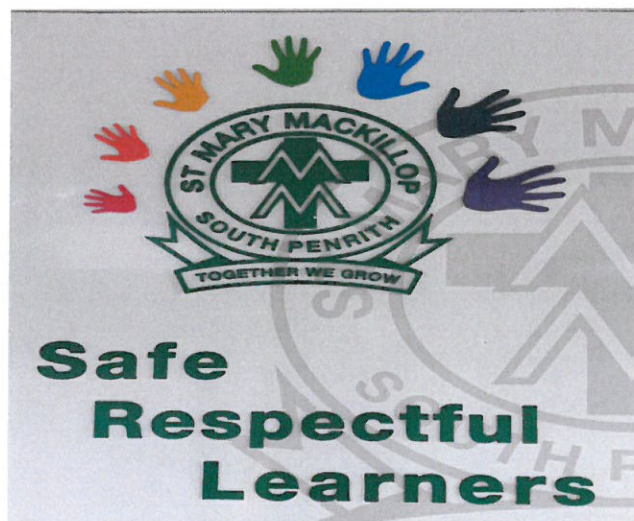
Thought for the Week

*"If we did all the things we are capable of doing,
we would literally astound ourselves"*

Thomas Edison

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL



The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – September 8th

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church since about the 8th Century. This is one of only three birthdays celebrated in the Church Calendar — the Birth of Jesus (December 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24) and the Birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus (September 8)

The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary or her parentage, though Joseph's lineage is given in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The names of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, appear in the apocryphal "Gospel of James", a book dating from the 2nd Century AD, not part of the authentic canon of Scripture. According to this account, Joachim and Anne were also beyond the years of child-bearing, but prayed and fasted that God would grant their desire for a child. In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the final sacrament of the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Confirmation is a Sacrament of mature Christian commitment, perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday. Confirmation is the sacrament of maturity, coming of age and empowerment. It is administered by the Bishop through the laying-on of hands and anointing with the Oil of Chrism accompanied by prayer. During the Sacrament of Confirmation the Bishop calls down the Holy Spirit and the candidates receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Wonder and awe in God's presence, Courage, Knowledge and Reverence. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give the candidates the strength to follow Jesus and to become involved in the mission which Jesus left to the Church.



Congratulations to the following student who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 8 September in our parish church St Nicholas of Myra.

Grace A, Harrison B, Lachlan C, Timothy C, Samantha G, Anna G, Lachlan H, Grace H, Harry H, Francesco L, Sebastian L, Alexander Mc, Aidan Mc, Violet N, Oscar P, Xavier P, Nathan R, Lachlan R, Stephanie R, Oscar T, Hayden W, Billy W, Olivia A, Benjamin D, Gabriel D, Jedd K, Lily L, Thomas O, Liam R, Peter S, Jack S, Isaac T, Javier T, Xavier W, Jake Z and Oliver Z

Father's Day Liturgy

Our Father's Day celebrations will be held tomorrow, Friday 4 September. We will begin the day at 8:15am with a sausage sizzle breakfast. After breakfast, Year One will lead our Liturgy at 9:15am in the hall. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our wonderful male role models.

SOME
Super **Heroes**
Don't have
CAPES...
They are
called **DAD**

Prayer Forms: Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Beginning in Term 2, our Thursday morning prayer group has met regularly at 8:25am each Thursday morning to pray. The children are enjoying actively participating in a variety of prayer forms including: traditional, creative, meditative, scriptural and reflective prayer.

As a Catholic school it is appropriate that the students are provided with a quiet space where they can come together to pray. This pray group is purely invitational and currently, we have between 20-40 students who regularly gather in the glass classroom to pray.

Kind regards,
Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Every Day Counts....SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Every day counts....because children achieve better when they attend school all day, every day.

Every day counts....because going to school regularly gives children the opportunity to take advantage of ALL the educational opportunities available.

Every day counts....because school enables children to build on their knowledge and skills each day, each week and each year.

Every day counts....because school helps children build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.

Every day counts....because going to school is a legal requirement, the law says that children must go to school.

What you can expect from the school:

- Daily monitoring of student attendance
- Follow-up of any unexplained absences as soon as is practicably possible.
- Effective teaching strategies to engage your child in learning.
- Strategies to help you to encourage your child to go to school.
- The school Principal will contact parents when a child's pattern of absence is cause for concern and an Attendance Planning Meeting will be arranged with parents.

What we need parents to do:

- Send your child to school on time each day. If your child is unavoidably late, a parent must take them to the office for a late note.
- If a child is absent for one day please send a note to the child's teacher on the child's return. I
- If your child is going to be away from school for more than two days, please contact the school office. A note explaining the child's absence will also need to be sent to the school on the child's return.
- It is necessary to notify the Principal by letter if a child has to miss school for any length of time e.g. holidays, transfers, sickness.

If your child does not want to go to school, contact the school immediately for assistance and support.

Every day counts!



FATHER'S DAY WRAPPING THANK YOU

A very big thank you to all the beautiful parents that contributed their precious time in wrapping the Father's Day gifts. We appreciate any help from our families at St Mary MacKillop and you all made the job so much simpler due to your assistance. Thank you to Mrs Attard, Mrs Ellston and Mrs Inskip for their fantastic organisational skills with the Father's day orders, packing and distribution. You are sensational and your dedication is very much appreciated. Congratulations to all the students who won the Father's Day raffle from 6PM, 4M, 1B, 1J, KA, KH, 6M Declan C, 5G Lachlan.H, 5M Jack.S, 4BL Lachlan.H, 3W Angelina.P, 3M Peony P, 2A Crystal.P, 2M Millie C. During this weekend may you all a weekend filled with love and appreciation as you remember, celebrate and cherish the memories of fathers, grandfathers, guardians and the importance of family.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST BBQ - 4 September 2015 from 8:15am HAPPY FATHER'S DAY BLESSINGS.

We look forward to celebrating with you before the 9:15am liturgy. Thank you to the wonderful Hicks family/ OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE. Your contribution is always appreciated and we feel very blessed with your presence during this event. God Bless.

REWARDS PROGRAMS slowly coming to a close

Don't forget the Rewards programs that are taking place for both The **Southlands program** and the **Woolworth Earn and Learn**. PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ASK FOR THOSE STICKERS AFTER YOUR SHOPPING.

A central box is sent up at the Front Office so that all you would need to do is place **ALL STICKERS** from both programs in an envelope and send it to school to be placed in the box. The P&F team will do the rest. Thank you so much for all the families that are making a huge contribution every week, the results are looking positive, We are currently in 2nd place at Southlands. YEAH!!!! KEEP COLLECTING THOSE STICKERS MY FRIENDS.

SMMPs TRIVIA NIGHT KEEP SELLING THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS MY FRIENDS.

DON'T MISS OUT on having the chance to win some great prizes from: SEBEL RESORT & SPA HAWKESBURY VALLEY, OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE, VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA, STUDIO 1000 Experience, 737 JET SIMULATOR EXPERIENCE, THE IRISH BUTCHER, ULTIMATE PAINTBALL, NEPEAN BELLE, COLONIAL CASTINGS, NUTRIMETICS, SCHOOL HOLIDAY HAMPER PACK, LOLLYPOPS, FLIPOUT and much much more. ALL raffle prizes will be drawn on the night of the Trivia event. Don't miss out.

SPONSORS THANK YOU - Our Trivia Night would not be possible without the kind contributions made by our sponsors. Please observe the listings of our sponsors who are making our Trivia Night raffle draw so exciting. Please support our sponsors and local businesses by spreading the word about their services and PAY IT FORWARD.

STUDENT RAFFLE DRAW - Friday Assembly leading up to event

Remember the more raffle tickets you sell the higher your chances are at the assembly draws to win some great prizes. Please ensure that you clearly write the Student's FULL NAME and CLASS at the front of the envelope when returning the sold raffle tickets with monies. **GOLD BOX AT FRONT OFFICE** is located to drop all envelopes in there and don't forget to pick up more tickets to sell at the same time.

Congratulations to our first student winners from Year 2 Crystal.P and Samarah.B - Well done girls on winning a family entry to FLIP OUT AND LOLLYPOPS. WHO WILL BE OUR NEXT STUDENT WINNERS?

Student draw dates coming up: 4.9.15 - 3 prizes, 11.9.15 - SUPER SURPRISE DRAW...You have to be in it to win it students.

MAGIC AT THE MOVIES - TRIVIA NIGHT 2015 TABLES ARE SELLING FAST FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015
HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR TABLE YET? Prepare yourselves for a night of MOVIE and TELEVISION MAYHEM. GET SET for a night of star studded ACTION full of games, questions, nominations and raffle prizes. Purchase your tickets ASAP from our school Office. Our last Trivia Night was a SELLOUT!!! So hurry. \$10 per person/tables of 8.

PRC (Parent Representative Council) Presentations - 17 October 2015

Strictly Parenting - Everything you need to know about raising school-aged kids Presenter: Dr Michael Carr-Gregg
Date: Saturday, 17 October from 2:00pm - 5:00pm Venue: St Andrew's Parish Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong.
Book your place by contacting: prcparrasecretary@gmail.com or call (02) 9840 5600.

Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - SEATS LIMITED - PAYMENTS REQUIRED

SATURDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2015. To reserve and finalise your spot, cost is \$40 for the day (includes morning and afternoon snacks), drinks available for purchase on the bus. Payment is required as soon as possible. Come and join us for a day filled with raffle prizes, bargains and adventure, please contact Fiona Bryant on fionaw@smartchat.net.au.

Uniform Shop will be open on the following days: Monday 7 September from 2:00pm - 3:00pm

God Bless
Liz Whalen
President on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

St Mary MacKillop Primary School
P & F Executive Team

extend their appreciation to our major Sponsors for donating prizes towards
the TRIVA NIGHT EVENT 2015

BELL PARTNERS

FINANCE



nutrimetics

Live the life you love

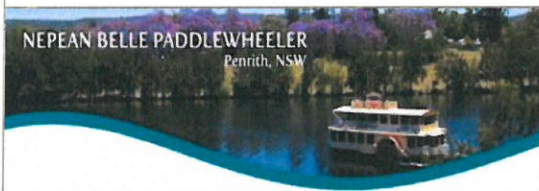


THE SEBEL
RESORT & SPA



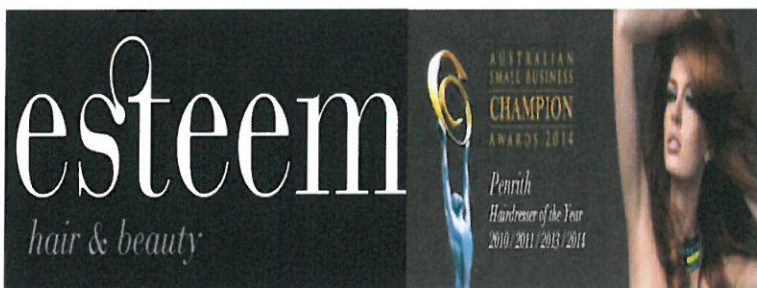
HAWKESBURY VALLEY

NSW
TOURISM
AWARDS
2014
FINALIST



St Mary MacKillop Primary School
P & F Executive Team

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the TRIVA NIGHT EVENT 2015



York Road
Penrith

Thank you also to: Anatomy of fitness,
Bliss Beauty, Bonny Sants, Catch Hair
Design, Total Tools, Vibrant Hair and
Beauty, Golf Factory, Prouds, Hair
Options, Catch Hair Designs, and
much more.

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	4 September	9:15am	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
Monday	14 September		Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm
Monday-Friday	7-11 September		Talent Quest Auditions
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 Term 3 Concludes

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	6 October		Term 4 Commences
Monday	12 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	13 October		Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion
Monday	19 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Monday	26 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	27 October	7:30pm	P & F Exec. Meeting
Thursday & Friday	29 & 30 October		Year 5 @ Teen Ranch
Monday	2 November	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Wednesday	4 November	9:00-11:00am	2016 Kindergarten Orientation Morning
Thursday & Friday	5 & 6 November		Year 6 Canberra Excursion
Tuesday	10 November	7:00pm	Year 2 Botanical Gardens Excursion P & F General Meeting
Monday	30 November		Parent Helper's Morning Tea
Monday	14 December	9:30am 7:00pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	16 December		Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday & Friday	17 & 18 December		Staff Development Days

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday	27 January		Staff Return for Term 1
Thursday	28 January	8:45am	Years 1 - 6 Return for Term 1 2016