



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

### CELEBRATING THE JOYS OF TERM THREE

We have much to celebrate at St Mary MacKillop this term, thanks to the commitment and support of our staff, parents and children. As the term draws to a close we celebrate all the wonderful learning that has occurred in the past ten weeks.

The term has been full of focussed learning especially in formation, literacy and numeracy. Some of the many learning experiences this term were:

- Additional learning experiences from incursions and excursions for most grades
- Grade liturgies, Grandparents liturgy, St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass, Father's Day Liturgy and the Feast of the Assumption,
- K-6 Peer Support program focusing on a No Bullying School Community.
- Weekly Whole School Assemblies.
- Year 6 Voice of Youth Public Speaking Program
- Infants Tabloid Carnival and Diocesan Gala Days
- National Numeracy and Literacy Week activities, which included fun maths activities, Book Character Parade and Spelling Bee.
- St Nicholas of Myra Parish Confirmation Program
- Extremely enjoyable Trivia Night organised by Mrs Jade Billington and Mrs Michelle Darwen

Many thanks to all members of staff for their continued professionalism and commitment and also to all members of the parent community for their unrelenting support in all areas of school life. I wish all staff, students and parents a safe and enjoyable holiday. May you all return to St Mary MacKillop on Tuesday 6 October recharged and ready for the final school term of 2015.

### THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

What is the key to success? According to the coach of a medal-winning Olympic cycling team, it is the accumulation of small gains. It's the little things that make the difference when winning might mean being better by only a fraction of a second.

The coach is so careful about small details that he even chooses the cyclists' mattresses because he believes they must have a very good night's sleep before a big race. Because the all-important thigh muscles of a cyclist can cool down and tighten up in the minutes waiting for a race to begin, his winning cyclists would wear special heated shorts that keep their muscles in peak condition. It is the small detail that makes the difference.

Of course, to do well in any field you must work hard on every aspect. Champion cyclists must be fit and strong, in peak physical condition, ready for competition after hours and hours of training, fully informed about tactics and strategy. But to stand out from the field what everyone needs is that attention to detail, the willingness to prepare so thoroughly you know you are doing the best you possibly can.

For students at St Mary MacKillop that may not mean a special mattress or heated shorts but it could mean making sure the children get enough exercise, sleep and good food. Then they would need to look carefully at every aspect of their work and concentrate on the details that will lift their performance. And doing that every day.

The lesson we learned from the inspiring athletes at the Olympics was not that they rely on natural talent to win the medal. Rather, we understood that behind every participant there lay hours and days and weeks and years of practice and that essential ingredient, attention to detail.



### **Feast of St Michael- 29 September**

St Michael, who ranks among the seven archangels, is also one of the three angels mentioned by name in the Scriptures.

St Michael is spoken of four times in the Scriptures:

- The first reference occurs in Daniel (chapter 10) where Michael comes to comfort Daniel after he has had a vision, and promises to be his helper in all things.
- In Daniel (chapter 12), Michael is called "the great prince who stands for the children of Thy people". In these references, Michael is represented as Israel's great support during the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity.
- In the Letter of St Jude (verse 9), we are told that Michael disputed with Satan over the body of Moses.
- In the Book of Revelation (chapter 12), St John recounts his vision of the great battle in Heaven, when the wicked angels under Lucifer revolt against God, and how Michael, leading the faithful angels, defeats the hosts of evil and drives them out.

Because of the victory, St Michael is revered in Catholic tradition and liturgy as the protector of the Church, as once he was regarded as the protector of the Israelites. He is usually represented with a sword and banner. St Michael's feast day is 29 September.

*Saint Michael, the Archangel,  
Defend us in the hour of battle,  
keep us safe from the wickedness and snares of the Devil,  
May God restrain him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,  
By the power of God, cast Satan down into Hell,  
and with him all the evil spirits  
who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.  
Amen.*

### **Labour Day Holiday - 4 October**

The history of Labour Day in Australia spans over 150 years. It is an important annual event that commemorates the granting of the eight-hour working day for Australians and remembers those who struggled and succeeded to ensure decent and fair working conditions in Australia. During the mid to late 1800s the working day was long and arduous, where some employees would work up to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Many Australians saw the need for better working conditions and in the 1850s there was a strong push for this.

On 21 April 1856, stonemasons at the University of Melbourne marched to Parliament House to push for an eight-hour working day. An agreement with employers for a 48-hour week was eventually reached and Australian workers welcomed the new eight-hour day. A victory march was held on 12 May 1856 that year and each year after that. In 1856 the new work regulations were recognised in New South Wales, followed by Queensland in 1858 and South Australia in 1873. In 1874, Tasmania joined the other states in adopting the shorter eight-hour working day. In 1879 the Victorian Government made one further step towards better conditions for employees by proclaiming a paid public holiday that year. Wishing you an enjoyable Labour Day Holiday on the 5 October!

### **World Youth Day 2016**

Schools and Parishes of the Parramatta Diocese are carrying out several fundraising activities to raise funds to support the youth of our parish attending World Youth Day in Kraków Poland in July and August 2016. The main fundraiser of the Diocese is a raffle with the first prize being a Toyota Yaris. Each family received a raffle ticket booklet on Monday of 10 tickets to sell. Tickets are two dollars each with the booklet totalling \$20. All proceeds from the sale of the raffle tickets will be used to support a teacher of our school to attend world youth day in Poland next year. The Diocese of Parramatta has made a commitment to send one teacher from every school. Please return all ticket booklets and money to the office by 16th of October 2015. Thank you for supporting World Youth Day 2016!

### **Thought for the Week**

*"Our greatest glory is not in never falling,  
But in rising every time we fall.:  
-Confucius*

Have a Blessed Week  
Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL



### The Sacrament of Confirmation:

Congratulations to the following students who received 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, Abbey K, 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*



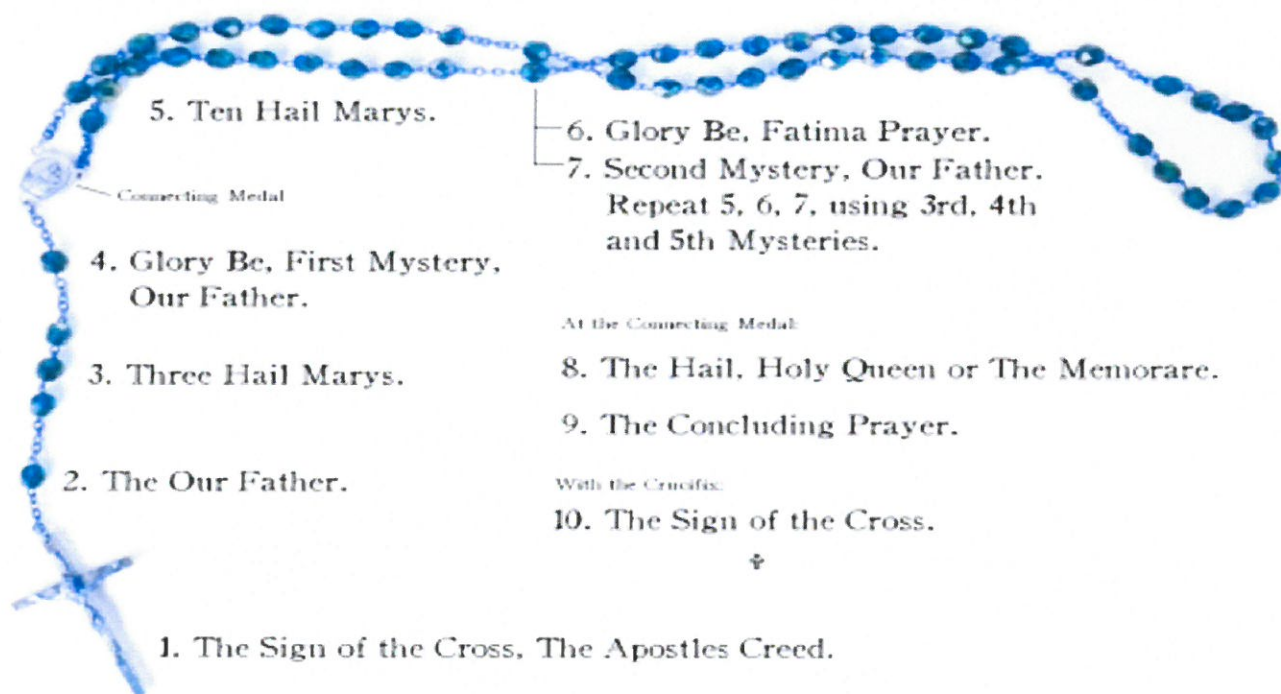
### Praying The Rosary:

Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and this has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for a long time. Catholics pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God through His mother, Mary.

The word 'rosary' comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. It is recognized as a truly biblical form of prayer - after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

During the month of October there will be a school focus on the Rosary. The Thursday morning prayer group (8:25am in the glass classroom in the hall) will gather to pray the Rosary and the students in Years 3-6 will focus on learning and praying The Rosary during whole school prayer time at 2:00pm on a Friday afternoon.

Whilst we have Rosary beads at school the children are encouraged to bring in their own set of beads to personally enhance their prayer experience and to foster the prayerful practice in their own homes.



Kind regards

Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator



### TRIVIA NIGHT 2015 - MAGIC OF THE MOVIES:

Ladies and gentlemen the anticipated Trivia Night was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, award winners, raffle winners, silent auction winners and memorable moments. Thanks to our talented host Scott Carroll the event was sensational with his comical professionalism. We had Minions (who looked liked bananas!!!), Gatsby mobs, Blue Hawaii, Austin Powers, DAY OFF, Walking red carpet, the Blues Brothers, Pirates, GREASE, Batman, Wizard of Oz, Can Can dancers, Mad Hatter & the Queen of Hearts...but the award for best themed table went to 'GRYFFINDOR WINS'. What an absolutely fantastic night, a great community event had by all. We wish to thank our school leaders and teachers (especially Brad Carroll) for providing us with the space to conduct this wonderful event and we also wish to thank ALL FAMILIES, STUDENTS, TEACHERS and FRIENDS who donated towards our hampers and supported the Trivia Team leading up to this night of fun. We were blessed with such amazing prizes donated by our sponsors. GOD BLESS THEM and please ensure to support our sponsors by PAYING IT FORWARD and spread the good news about their services. Photos will be uploaded on the school FACEBOOK site today. So check them out.

**A STANDING OVATION** to the families who deserve an award of their own for volunteering their priceless time to organise this event with the leadership of Michelle Darwen and Jade Billington. Without these passionate women, this event would not be a success and it was done beautifully with the decorative skills and inspiration of Natalie Cilia, Jenni Hicks, Jo Randall, (the hall looked just gorgeous) Cecily Ellston (Photography), Jenny Inskip & Wendy Attard (Canteen and many other duties) Fiona Bryant (Treasurer), Cheryl Freeman & Rebecca Moxey (Judges), Amy Piggott, Michelle Pearman and Althea D'Costa (Star studded crew members). Due to everybody's hard work we raised just under \$4000. Great Job people and Thank you so much.

### 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](mailto:prcparrasecretary@gmail.com) or call (02) 9840 5600.

### CANTEEN UPDATE:

Thank you to all the families who provided feedback relating to the idea of a canteen service commencing at our school. Your voices have been heard and amicably respected from both sides. All the families that placed their thoughts, concerns and ideas had both positive and negative views about a canteen service in our school. And as mentioned in the letter, we have to consider factors such as loss of educational/event space, volunteers to run it or contract it, adapting to the strict council policies, inspections and 'green' food regulations, allergies, pressure to purchase, over-eating, wastage, competitiveness between students and many other concerns that were voiced.

After considering all aspects of the above mentioned points, we are currently in the midst of researching details on external canteen services available to schools. An update will follow in Term 4, so WATCH THIS SPACE. Thank you once again for your communication and thoughts.

### Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - PAYMENTS DUE ASAP

THANK YOU to all those amazing parents and friends that are going to join us for a fun day filled with bargain shopping on SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER, 2015. PLEASE FINALISE YOUR PAYMENT of \$40 for the day by contacting Fiona Bryant ASAP on [fionaw@smartchat.net.au](mailto:fionaw@smartchat.net.au).

### GINGERBREAD BUILDING FAMILY EVENT - MONDAY, 23 November 2015:

Gingerbread building family event will be taking place on Monday, 23 November at our school hall from 5:30pm. This is a wonderful afternoon filled with lucky door prizes, quality bonding time with your beautiful children and with grandparents whilst being creative. There will be prizes for best design...so get those inspirational ideas flowing. To order your KIT, please ensure to place your \$10 deposit along with the order form (attached to this KIT) into the school office by Friday, 18 September (last day of term 3). Let's get together and have some fun.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAY IDEAS

Enjoy your priceless time with your children, remember they are blessings and are only this age 'once'. Every-moment is precious and can not be bought or traded, enjoy each others company by organising a visit to **Sydney Aquarium** and **Wildlife park**, **Museum of Fire**, **Flipout**, a nice lunch on the **Nepean Belle**, **Bridge to Bridge walk** around the Nepean river. Book into Art or jewellery making workshops at the **Penrith Regional Gallery** and The Lewer's Bequest. Go for a 5km walk or bike ride around the **Sydney Regatta Centre** - Penrith, sign them up to Acting workshops with **'Kids Can Act'**, visit <http://www.kidscanact.com.au>. Sign up for Bingo, Craft workshops, the Katy Perry Show, iFly or Aqua-Golf at **Penrith Panthers** visit <http://penrith.panthers.com.au/entertainment/sept-oct-school-holidays/> for more information. **Power House Museum** (Ultimo), Southlands Shopping Centre Holiday Activities, Katoomba, Wentworth Falls. Enjoy this time together. Be safe, be kind, be peaceful, be giving, be positive and come back safe and sound for our final term for 2015 and thank you for all your support throughout the year thus far.

God Bless

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





# Christmas Fun at St Mary MacKillop Primary School

## Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

In the spirit of family fun at Christmas, we are looking at holding a **Gingerbread House** building night. It will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 5.30pm.

The price will be \$35 per gingerbread house and this will include house, icing and lollies for decoration.

Come on down and spend a fun filled evening as a family decorating your own **Gingerbread House**. There will be Christmas Carols and door prizes and extra lollies can also be purchased on the night or you can bring your own to make it personal.

As we need to place orders a **\$10 deposit** will be required to secure your gingerbread house. If you would like to purchase a house but don't want to decorate it they can also be purchased in a gift pack for take home as well.

Please fill in the slip below and **return to the school by Friday 18th September** with your \$10 deposit for each house required. Looking forward to a family afternoon filled with fun with you all. SMMPS P & F Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the number of Gingerbread Kits required:

Build on the night: \_\_\_\_\_ Take home Kit: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit enclosed (\$10 per KIT): \_\_\_\_\_

(Final payment will be collected closer to Gingerbread House Family Night)

Contact for more information: Marissa McGregor on [mgregors25@live.com.au](mailto:mgregors25@live.com.au) or Liz Whalen on [dexa1972@gmail.com](mailto:dexa1972@gmail.com)



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P & F Executive Team**

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the TRIVA NIGHT EVENT 2015**



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**Jumping DJ's  
Castles**



**K & A  
QUALITY  
MEATS  
OUTLANDS**



**The Golf Factory  
Penrith**



**Hair Options  
By MARY**

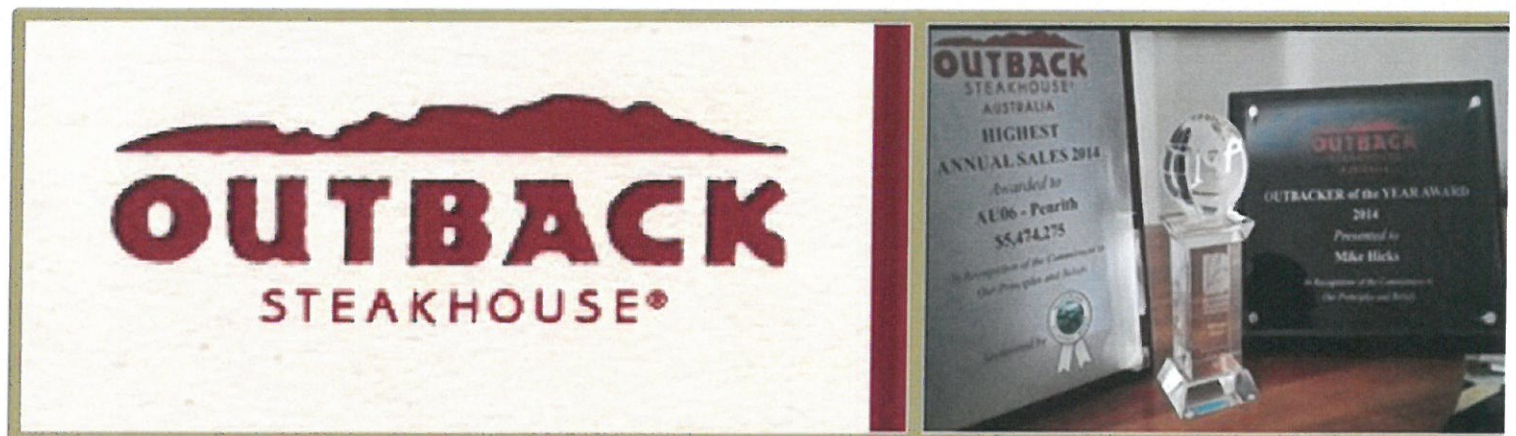
**Bonny Scents Massage Therapy  
Willow Tree Cottage  
3 Stapley Street, Kingswood South**





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## FINANCE



**THE SEBEL  
RESORT & SPA**



HAWKESBURY VALLEY

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2014  
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York Road  
Penrith

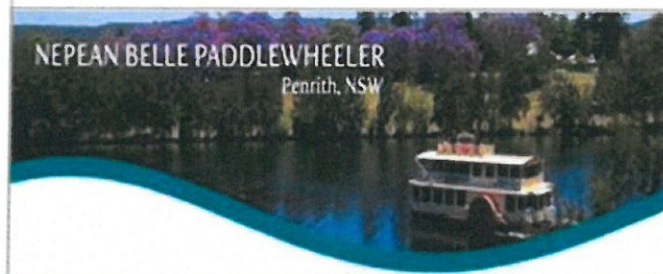


**St Mary MacKillop Primary School  
P & F Executive Team**

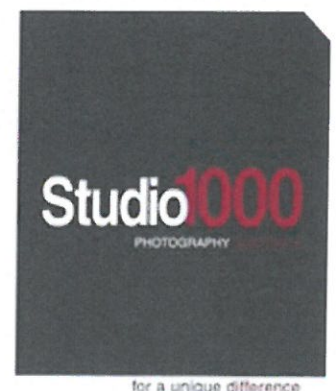
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**nutrimetics**  
*Live the life you love*



**NEPEAN BELLE**





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### Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
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 Children return in Full School Summer Uniform
Monday	12 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	13 October		Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion
Wednesday	14 October		Year 1 Australiana Pioneer Village 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
Friday	11 December		Year 6 EOY Disco
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

#### **Bus Travel 2016:**

Parents are reminded that students who **travel by bus and are going into Year 3 2016 will need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from** the school office. Applications must be returned ASAP

#### **Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2016:**

If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2016 we need this confirmed in writing as a term's notice must be given to enable us to plan our overall staffing and learning groups for next year. It will also assist us with enrolment enquiries we are receiving for next year.