



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

### FEAST OF ST BERNARD

As today is the feast day of St Bernard of Clairvaux I would like to offer some information for religious reflection and personal inspiration.

In 1112, at the age of 22, Bernard chose to enter a poor, crumbling monastery called Citeaux, a few miles from his home near Dijon, in France. The monks there, most of whom were elderly, faithfully followed the Rule of Saint Benedict. The monks at Citeaux lived a stricter life of prayer, silence, and penance. Thirty-one other men entered with Bernard.

Within three years, Citeaux was flourishing, and Bernard was sent to start a new monastery in a place that came to be named Clairvaux. As abbot in that first year, Bernard was strict about meals (sometimes only barley bread and boiled leaves), work, prayers, and sleep. Then he became sick and learned to be more understanding of human needs. After that, the monastery thrived.

During his busy years as abbot, Bernard often longed for solitude and a simple monk's life. Almost daily he received visitors and letters from people asking for advice and help. He gave time and effort to each request. Because of his ability to settle disputes, Bernard was also called to various countries to give advice on affairs of Church and of government.

In 1130, the newly elected Pope Innocent II faced the popularity of an antipope named Anacletus. The latter's claim to be pope threatened to split the Church. Bernard travelled to ask government and Church leaders to support the true pope. Finally, Anacletus lost his power, and Innocent II returned as the official bishop of Rome.

When Bernard was chosen as an official preacher for the Second Crusade, he inspired many to join the cause for Christ. The Crusade failed, however, because of the cruelty and greed of some crusaders, and Bernard was unjustly blamed. Bernard died in 1153. He is known as one of the founders of the Cistercian order. He was named a Doctor of the Church for his many writings.

### HELPING OUR CHILDREN GROW AND LEARN THROUGH PLAY

What we say (and do not say) during play-based learning can make a big difference for our children. It is easy to slip into speech patterns that are comfortable for us but do not help our children grow and learn

#### 1: Use words that children do not yet know

Children learn most words incidentally. Since our children spend many of their waking hours in play, we have plenty of opportunities to strengthen their vocabularies. Yet when we talk to young children, it can be tempting to stick to words that we think are easy for them to understand. But if we are not exposing our children to words beyond those they hear every day, they are not developing the vocabulary that will later be essential for them as readers and writers.

#### 2: Ask interesting questions

When we ask questions with only one right answer ("What is that?"), we limit what our children can learn during play. Instead, our questions should encourage children to think more deeply. Most of our questions throughout the day should be open-ended questions that push children's thinking (How? Why? Explain?). Even when we do ask a one-right-answer question, we can respond with, "That's right! Tell me how you knew that!" rather than just confirming the child is correct.





### 3: Encourage problem solving

What's best for children in the long run is to encourage them to solve their own problems. If a child says, "I can't do it", our first instinct may be to say "Do it like this". However, children learn to think about their learning if we ask them to predict outcomes of other approaches: "What do you think will happen if?"

### 4: Respond thoughtfully to child behaviour

Researchers have shown that children's ability—or inability—to regulate themselves and get on with others can make or break their educational experience. While they are still young, children need to learn to focus on tasks, take turns, and persevere even when they are frustrated. Using words rather than tantrums or fists is the pathway to good learning.



## WHAT'S NEEDED TO BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY?

What are the four proficiencies that students will need to be nimble learners, responding to challenges and opportunities that none of us can foresee?

- Seeking out diverse perspectives. Too often, we gravitate toward like-minded people and by doing this, we insulate ourselves from expanding our perspective. Preparing for a global society requires that we become curious about how others think. It also helps to learn another language and to get to know people from a diversity of backgrounds and beliefs.
- Valuing emotional insights. Recent research into emotional intelligence helps us to appreciate that emotions often contain important data - information that our cognitive processes are often slower to grasp. Emotional connectivity also links us to other human beings, even when we cannot speak their language. This is an important kind of empathy if we are to keep our minds open.
- Embracing creativity. The global economy thrives on inventive thinking. We need to value creative skills and develop them in our students. This should not be the domain of a talented few – nor should it be buried in test preparation.
- Developing a growth mindset. Students need to be continuous learners, which requires perseverance and resilience in the face of unknowable challenges and setbacks. Educators need to explicitly teach that intelligence and talent develop through working hard using effective strategies. We need to provide time and support for our students to value experimentation and strengthen their capacity to learn from mistakes. Though errors, failure, and setbacks are not what we seek, we need not fear them, and we should learn to recycle them into new learning.

### Thought for the Week

*"God's presence seems to follow me everywhere"*  
Mary MacKillop 1890

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL

**FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2015**  
**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**  
**PUPIL FREE DAY**



## Religious Education News

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### **St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Fundraiser:**

As part of our celebrations for the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, our patron, the children participated in a fundraiser for the Mary MacKillop Institute in East Timor. The country of East Timor is Australia's closest neighbour, yet it is a very poor country. The work of the Sisters of St Joseph in East Timor is very important – they provide education, food, clothes, clean water and love to the needy.

Our fundraiser involved each class filling a bucket with coins and then weighing each bucket at a whole school 'weigh in.' Each class really got into the spirit and over \$1200 was raised! Such a mighty effort by the children!

A big congratulation must go to 5M who had the heaviest bucket, weighing in at a hefty 6.7kg!!!! Our coin 'weigh in' is one way that our school community continues to carry on St Mary MacKillop's motto of ***"Never see a need without doing something about it."***

### **Religious Literacy Assessment:**

Currently all Year 4 and Year 6 students in the Parramatta Diocese are completing an online Religious Literacy Assessment to assess their capacity to express their growing understanding, appreciation, thoughts, questions and insights into God, Jesus, the Scriptures, the Church, the Sacraments, Prayer and life as a Christian.

During the online assessment the students will answer a series of multiple choice questions related to their learning in Religious Education. A report based on students' completion of these assessments will be forwarded to parents during Term 4.

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Please keep our candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 8 September. This sacrament empowers the children with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and marks their final initiation into the Catholic Church.



### **Father's Day Liturgy:**

Our Father's Day Liturgy will be held at 9:15am on Friday 4 September. This liturgy will be led by Year 1. More details will follow shortly.

### **Prayer Forms: Reflective Prayer:**

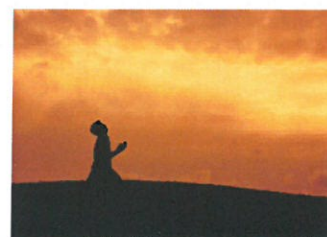
Reflective Prayer is one of the most enriching forms of prayer. Prayer is thought, therefore, it requires thinking and concentration to centre our full attention on the presence of God, on the will of God, and on the love of God.

Reflective Prayer provides the opportunity to see with the eyes of our heart as we adore and worship God in quiet, silent prayer.

Reflective Prayer can take the form of reading a short passage from the Gospels, to take time to reflect on it quietly, to "listen" to what is being said to you, and to respond with your own thoughts and words. It can also involve using powerpoints, songs, quiet spaces, items from nature, poems or a thought for the day to promote a deep experience of prayer (conversation with God).

Kind regards,

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator





## National Literacy and Numeracy Week

This year we are celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week on Thursday 3 September and Friday 4 September (Week 8). On **THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER** we are having a Book Parade. Children are allowed to wear mufti clothes for the day and dress up as their favourite book character or as something from a book. The book parade will start at 9:00am and everyone is welcome to come and watch. After the book parade the students will be doing activities in their classes based on the 2015 short listed books, with their teachers. After lunch the fun continues with students participating in numeracy activities and learning experiences.

On **FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER** we are having '**POEM IN YOUR POCKET**'. The children are encouraged to have a poem and put it in their pocket. During the day they can share their poem with students, teachers and parents. Students can hand in their poem to their class teacher and there will be awards given out at the following week's assembly.

***Happy Literacy and Numeracy Week!***

*Mrs Margaret Rowan  
Literacy Co-ordinator*

## Captivate's Got Talent

A big congratulations to three of our extremely creative students. Three Year 4 students auditioned and were accepted into masterclasses working with industry professionals to develop their skills. They then performed at the Talent Showcase on Thursday 13 August with each student receiving an award. Congratulations to Ella Carroll (Singing), Jorja Bowman and Sienna Murphy (Dancing). Well done.

*Mr Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts Teacher*

## Year 6 Voice of Youth

On Wednesday 19 August Year Six travelled to Bethany Primary School for the Voice of Youth Cluster Final. It was a fantastic competition, with representatives from St Mary MacKillop, Bethany, Holy Family and Our Lady of the Way competing for a spot at the Voice of Youth Semi Final next month. Our speakers; Pat R, Amelia P and Jack B did a wonderful job with their unique, passionate speeches. We were extremely proud of their public speaking skills, and the attentive listening of all our Year six students who made a great audience. Tiarna from Bethany was the winner on the day, with her speech *Like a Girl*. A big congratulations to Amelia P who took home the Social Justice Award for her speech on Refugees. Well done on another successful Voice of Youth Competition. We trust all our Year Six speakers have improved their skills and confidence in public speaking.

*The Year Six Teachers*

## Sports Update

### **Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival:**

On Friday, 14 August 40 students attended Blacktown International Sports Park for the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival. It was a fantastic day with glorious weather and excitement and enthusiasm from our athletic students! As a school, we did extremely well in the relays, with our Junior boys, Junior girls and Senior girls relay team making it through to the Diocesan Carnival. In total, we have 14 students attending the Diocesan Athletics Carnival this Friday, 21 August at Blacktown International Sports Park. Not only will they be representing MacKillop, but Nepean also. Congratulations to the high level of achievement our students are displaying in Athletics.

### **Netball Gala Day:**

Next Tuesday, 25 August 7 teams made up of 70 students will represent SMMP at the St Nicholas Netball Gala Day at Jamison Park. The teams have been busy training and preparing for this exciting day thanks to the generous dedication of many parents who offered to be coaches and scorers on the day. A big thank you to all of these parents who have been giving up their time. These days would not go ahead so smoothly without you. We are looking forward to a wonderful day!



**REWARDS PROGRAMS - Box located at school office for ALL stickers.** Don't forget the Rewards programs that are taking place, The **Southlands program** involves collecting 1 sticker for every \$2.50 spent at Southlands specialty stores (ends 14 September) and the **Woolworth Earn and Learn** involves 1 sticker for every \$10 spent at Woolworths (ends 8 September). PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ASK FOR THESE STICKERS AFTER YOUR SHOPPING. The P&F have set up a central box in 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 and place them in the box provided. The P&F team will do the rest. Thank you so much for all the families that are making a huge contribution every week.

**SMMPS TRIVIA NIGHT UPDATE RAFFLE TICKETS \$1 each. ON SALE NOW 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, COFFEE CLUB, NUTRIMETICS, SCHOOL HOLIDAY HAMPER PACK, LOLLYPOPS, FLIPOUT and much much more, the prizes will be drawn on the night of the Trivia event. Don't miss out. Remember You have to be in it to win it.

**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. Student draw dates are:

21.8.15 - 2 prizes, 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 FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Tickets on sale TODAY!!!! Get your group of 8 organised. 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 Front 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](mailto: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](mailto:fionaw@smartchat.net.au).

**Uniform Shop will be open** Friday 21 August 8:30am-9:00am and Monday 7 September from 2:00pm-3:00pm

**Canteen Service - Your voice counts** Please take the time to read the note attached with the KIT this week. The request for a canteen service has come up numerous times during P&F meetings. Mr Siciliano would very much like to hear your ideas, concerns and suggestions. Written communication is requested by 1 September 2015.

**LOST PROPERTY**

Parents, we all know how expensive school uniforms can be to the home budget, however recently there has been many unclaimed items belonging to your children. Please make an effort to come up to the school to claim your child's clothing from the 'Lost Property basket' across from the Kindy and Year 1 classrooms. Once you do claim them, we strongly recommend that you label their clothing.

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



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THE SEBEL  
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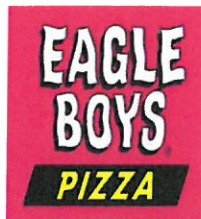
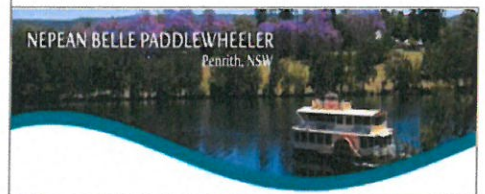
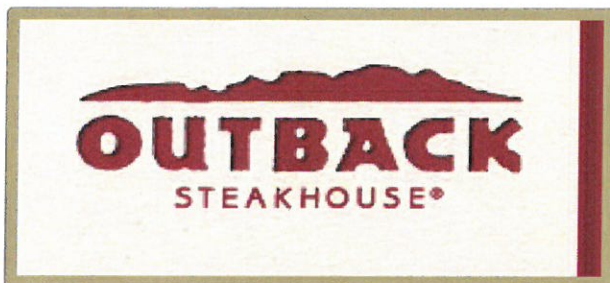


HAWKESBURY VALLEY

NSW  
TOURISM  
AWARDS  
2014  
FINALIST

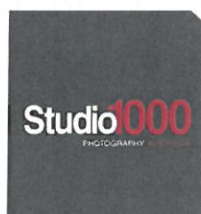


Blackman  
BICYCLES



KING HENRY'S  
Court

Alice's  
BRUSH STROKES ART



Anatomy of fitness, Bliss Beauty, Bonny  
Sants, Catch Hair Design, Total Tools, Vibrant  
Hair and Beauty, Golf Factory and much more.



### Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2015

| DAY           | DATE             | TIME                       | EVENT  |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Friday        | 21 August        | 9:15am<br>2:20pm           | Year 2 Grade Liturgy<br>Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown<br>Whole School Assembly & 5M Item |
| Tuesday       | 25 August        |                            | St Nicholas Netball Gala Day @ Jamison Park  |
| Thursday      | 27 August        |                            | Year 3 Arms of Australia Inn Museum Excur-<br>sion   |
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>28 August</b> |                            | <b>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</b>  |
| Friday        | 4 September      | 9:15am                     | Father's Day Liturgy   |
| Friday        | 11 September     | 9:15am<br>2:20pm<br>7:00pm | Year 1 Liturgy<br>Whole School Assembly & 1R Item<br>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<br>Whole School Assembly & KA Item<br>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<br>P & F General Meeting                |
| Monday            | 30 November     |                  | Parent Helper's Morning Tea  |
| Monday            | 14 December     | 9:30am<br>7:00pm | Year 6 Graduation Ceremony<br>Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra |
| Wednesday         | 16 December     |                  | Term 4 Concludes for students  |



## ST MARY MACKILLOP PARENTS and FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

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Email: [marymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:marymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au)

20 August 2015

### INVITATION TO FAMILIES OF ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL **RE: CANTEEN**

Dear Parents and Friends

At recent general P & F meetings, parents and friends expressed their interest of a canteen facility available for children to purchase snacks and lunches at our school. Whilst a canteen is convenient and helpful for families so that children are able to purchase a meal, it also highlights numerous responsibilities and regulations based on green food guidelines (NO junk food policy), formal certification, Council approval and health/site inspections. Having a canteen may cease our access to an important part of our school community utilised for social events and celebrations, liturgies, lessons, and storage during fundraising events such as Discos, Trivia Nights, Fetes and so forth.

We invite families from St Mary MacKillop Primary School to share their views, concerns, and ideas about setting up a canteen facility on the premises. This invitation has been extended respectfully to provide families a diplomatic voice as a follow up from last year.

On the back of this note, we ask that you provide us with your views and reasons for or against having a canteen service. Please ensure to forward your thoughts to Mr Michael Siciliano and Liz Whalen with your full name, contact details, your child's name and class. Your details will be kept confidential.

**All communication relating to this matter, are required by 1st September 2015.** Once communication has been received and considered, then a decision will be announced based on the reasons presented by the school community and our school leader.

We look forward to your response and thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Michael Sicilano  
Principal  
St Mary MacKillop Primary School

Liz Whalen  
President  
P & F Executive Team

*"Together We Grow"*



