



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

A very warm Welcome back to St Mary MacKillop for Term 3, as we continue to be
Safe, Respectful Learners.

Quality Catholic Schooling Survey:

During March this year all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta participated in the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) survey. The QCS survey provides information from all year 5 & 6 students, all staff and 60 randomly selected families about our cultural behaviour, relationships and the learning community. The Survey assists us in our focus on continuous improvement.

The staff survey indicated that the areas at SMMK which the staff scored high are: the extent to which staff endeavour to improve the way they do their job and achieve high standards, the extent to which teachers encourage learning using activities and discussions and the extent to which there is effective communication in the planning of the curriculum.

From the survey the students believe that there are positive student/teacher working relationships within the school. The areas, which the students scored high in the survey, are: connectedness to the school, teacher empathy, purposeful teaching, stimulating learning and connectedness to peers. Areas that students would like improved are the extent to which students feel that other students are disruptive in class and affect their learning.

The parent surveys (24 of the 60 surveys sent out were returned) indicated that they believe teacher morale and learning focus is a positive at St Mary MacKillop. Parents expressed that there is ongoing school improvement occurring and they have opportunities for parent input. The areas that scored lower than other areas in the parent survey was the extent to which parents believe their children are developing effective social skills and the degree to which parents believe that their children's learning is disrupted by the behaviour of other students in the classroom.

We thank the community for their contribution to the survey and will continue using this data in our ongoing school improvement.

WHAT BEAUTY REALLY LOOKS LIKE

I would like to share an article I read titled, Cats, Dogs and Dancers by U K Le Guin, which I believe you will find interesting.

Dogs don't know what they look like. Dogs don't even know what size they are. A dachshund, standing tall at 20 centimetres, will attack a Great Dane thinking it can tear the bigger dog apart. The big dog often stands there looking confused – "Should I eat it? Will it eat me? I *am* bigger than it, aren't I?" But then the Great Dane will come and try to sit in your lap and mash you flat, under the impression that it is a Dachshund.



Cats, on the other hand, know exactly where they begin and end. When they walk slowly out the door that you are holding open for them, and pause, leaving their tail just an inch or two inside the door, they know it. They know you have to keep holding the door open. That is why their tail is there. When a cat meets a threatening dog and can't make either an escape, it will suddenly triple its size, inflating itself into a sort of weird fur blowfish, and it may work, because the dog gets confused again – "I thought that was a cat. Aren't I bigger than cats? Will it eat me?"

Human beings are more like dogs than they are like cats. They don't always know what they look like. Or they want to look like something else. Great Danes want to be Dachshunds and vice versa. People with straight hair try to make it curly. People with curly hair have it straightened. Ideas about beauty can make people so dissatisfied that they starve and deform and poison themselves.

One rule of the game, in most times and places, is that it's the young who are beautiful. Yet we can all think of the beautiful old face of a beloved grand-parent. Beauty is all about who the person is. Beauty is what shines through those wrinkled faces and bodies.

There is the ideal beauty of youth and health, which never really changes, and is always true. There is the ideal beauty of movie stars and models which changes its rules all the time and is never entirely true. And there is an ideal beauty that is harder to define or understand, because it occurs not just in the body but in the soul and spirit.

As we get older we learn to worry less about what we look like or what the rules are and concentrate on the kind of people we are. We learn that beauty is not skin-deep but life-deep and the life we live will shape the way we look.

Teacher Supervision Commences at 8.15am:

A reminder to all parents and guardians that teacher supervision commences every school day at 8.15am. Parents are reminded to ensure that children are not to be at school before this time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Thought for the Week
*"Today is the tomorrow
you worried about yesterday,
and all is well"*
John T Tindsley

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL

Maths Olympiad

Question 3:

The letters A, B, C and D represent 2, 3, 5 and 8 (but not necessarily in that order).

If $A + B = C$ and $A + D = B$, what is $B \times C$?

Answer:

Apply the number facts using 2, 3, 5 and 8 where two of the numbers add up to the third. We have $2 + 3 = 5$ and $3 + 5 = 8$. A is in both equations $A + D = B$ and $3 + B = C$. Since $3 + D = B$, B could be 8 and D could be 5 ($3 + 5 = 8$) or B could be 5 and D could be 2 ($3 + 2 = 5$). But $3 + B = C$ which means B is less than C, so B cannot be 8. Therefore $A = 3$, $B = 5$, $C = 8$ and $D = 2$. Finally $B \times C = 40$.

Question 4:

What is the value of the following expression in simplest form?

$(10 \times 8 \times 6 \times 4) \div (5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2)$

Answer:

Write the problem without parentheses:

$$\frac{10 \times 8 \times 6 \times 4}{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2} = \frac{10}{5} \times \frac{8}{4} \times \frac{6}{3} \times \frac{4}{2} = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$$

Question 5:

Three students each have a different whole number of lollies. If any two of them pair up to share their lollies evenly with each other, the pair of students could be sharing 12, 14 or 18 lollies.

What is the total number of lollies that the 3 of them have altogether?

Answer in next KIT Term 3 Week 2

Religious Education News

The Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne: Sunday 26 July:

Saints Joachim and Anne are the parents of Mary, the Mother of God and the grandparents of Jesus. Joachim and Anne were good parents to Mary. They nurtured her, taught her, and brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be done to me according to your will." It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and still believe. Such parents can be examples and models for all parents.

*Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary,
Pray for all parents that they may provide the loving home
and faithful teaching that you provided your daughter.
Amen*

As saints Joachim and Anne are also the grandparents of Jesus, the day has traditionally been a day to honour one's grandparents.

Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair: Friday 24 July:

Please join us tomorrow, Friday 24 July as we honour St Joachim and St Anne the grandparents of Jesus and give thanks for the gift of our grandparents.

- 9:15am – Liturgy lead by Year 5 in the Multi Purpose Centre
- 10:10am – Grandparents Morning Tea on the verandah
- 10:30am – Story time

Grandparents please bring your favourite picture/story book to read to your grandchild(ren). There will be a small selection of books available in the classrooms if needed. Siblings/family groups are encouraged to join together. We hope to do this outside, however, this is dependent on the weather.

- 10:45am – Book Fair (opens straight after the Liturgy)



The Sacrament of Confirmation: Parent Meeting Tuesday 28 July:

The parent information session for Confirmation will be held on **Tuesday, 28 July, 2015** at 7:00pm 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 Mrs Anne Tucker at the parish house on 47212509.

Feast of St Mary MacKillop:

St Mary MacKillop, the patron of our school, was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in 1909. During her lifetime she was an inspirational Australian who praised God and dedicated her life to the service of the poor. She founded the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph and established over 30 schools for the poor and disadvantaged. Mary MacKillop was very concerned for the plight of the poor and needy, and worked with families that lived in isolated areas of Australia. Even today, many Australians can say that they too have felt the impact of the enormous work started by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, having been educated or cared for, by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Mary MacKillop was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI on the 17 October 2010.

This year, to honour St Mary MacKillop, our school community will celebrate mass in the Multi Purpose Centre at 9:15am on Friday 7 August and all parents are invited to join us for this very special celebration.

As part of our feast day celebrations each child will receive a donut from our wonderful P & F and enjoy the Young Mary Show presented by Starrs Productions. St Mary MacKillop was determined, compassionate and steadfast even as a child. This play will introduce the children to young Mary as they participate in her many fun filled and spirited childhood adventures. They will have lots of fun playing games with Mary, and hearing about her pet cow Blorac and her dad Alexander.

Then, as she grows, the children will bear witness to the determination of a hard working young woman who sets out to eliminate poverty and provide a fair education for all. The play is funny and entertaining and involves the audience in lots of acting and moral decision making. *Young Mary's* humour and compassion helps the audience enjoy and understand St Mary MacKillop, whilst appreciating her famous quote;:

“Never See a need without doing something about it.”

We will also have a fundraiser to raise money for the Mary MacKillop Institute in East Timor. More details to follow shortly.

Altar Server Training:

On Monday 20 July Father Joe came to St Mary MacKillop and spoke to the Year 4, 5 and 6 students about how they can serve their parish community through becoming an altar server. A green flier was sent with the following details:

Training: Friday 24 July from 4:00-5:00pm at St Nicholas of Myra. This ministry is open to all children who have celebrated their First Communion.

For further information or to register please contact Anne Tucker at the parish on 47212509 or email sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

St Nic's Youth Choir – (8 years plus)

Do you enjoy singing in a group? Can you play an instrument well?

Are you 8 years or older?

Do you want to share your talent with the parish community?

We are taking enrolments for our new **Youth Choir** under the direction of Sheridan Gaudry from the International School of Music.

To register you will need:

- A commitment to attend most 1st Sunday of the month 10am masses
- Be available for initial rehearsals which will be fortnightly 5pm – 6pm (choir) & 6:30pm – 7:30pm (instruments) commencing Friday, 7 August 2015
- Be available to sing or play on the First Sunday - September 6th at the 10am Mass

For further information or to register your interest please contact Anne Tucker in the parish house on 47212509 or via email sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au during school hours before Friday, 31 July 2015.

Religious Literacy Assessment:

Under the direction of Bishop Anthony and the Parramatta Diocesan Schools Board, all Year 4 and Year 6 students in Primary and Year 8 and Year 10 students in Secondary will participate in a Diocesan Assessment of their religious literacy. Students in these grades will complete an online assessment during Term 3. The students will answer a series of multiple choice questions related to their learning in Religious Education.

In addition, Year 4 students only will complete a variety of learning tasks related to the Religious Education unit, **Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing**. Their achievement in completing these tasks will be formally assessed.

A report based on students' completion of these assessments will be forwarded to parents during Term 4. A detailed note was sent home to all Year 4 and Year 6 parents, if you have not received a copy please collect one from the school office.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards - HAVE YOU VOTED?

The closing date is slowly approaching to nominate our amazing teachers for an award for 2015. Every teacher deserves an award due to their commitment and their passion to ensure that each child is developing to their optimum knowledgeable level, which is exactly what every parent wants for their child. To nominate our teachers type in www.asg.com.au/nominate and register your valuable vote. HURRY, Nominations close on 31 July, 2015.

Pizza day helpers - THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much to all the beautiful parents and friends who lovingly volunteered their time for this Hot Food Day event so that our children were able to enjoy their hot food day of a pizza, popper and a treat. Your involvement is very much appreciated and we thank you dearly for your valuable time during these events. God Bless.

Grandparents Day Morning Tea - Friday, 24 July:

A note was sent out on Monday asking for the baking skills of the Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) families and anybody else that would like to contribute. It would be very much appreciated that these baked goods are forwarded to the canteen before the liturgy. Please come join us for a nice cuppa and cake after the liturgy. We look forward to seeing you all there to reminisce and cherish this day with all the legends of our families. Don't forget the amazing BOOK FAIR taking place after the morning tea, looking forward to seeing you there.

REWARDS PROGRAMS HAVE COMMENCED - Box located at school office for ALL stickers

This year we have the opportunity to be involved in two separate programs. 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).

Due to the enormity of chasing stickers and sheets for both programs, 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. We thank you so much for your support whilst these programs are taking place, as it will provide our school with the chance to win great prizes such as educational and sport resources. Details will be sent home explaining about these programs - so please check your kids school bags.

TRIVIA NIGHT Onesies and PJ Mufti Day FUNDRAISER - Wednesday, 29 July:

Our trivia night team is working very hard as they bring together a wonderful night full of games and prizes. On Wednesday, 29 July all students will have the opportunity to contribute towards the trivia night by donating edible items for the hamper prizes as they enjoy a day at school in their warm PJ's or onesies PLEASE ENSURE IT IS WORN OVER YOUR CHILD'S SPORT UNIFORM. We kindly ask the following stages to donate:

- Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 (Kindy, Yr 1 & Yr 2): packs of lollies or chocolates.
- Stage 2 (Yr 3 & Yr 4): Chips, popcorn or pretzels.
- Stage 3 (Yr 5 & Yr 6): sweet or savoury biscuits.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and assistance in helping raise funds for our school, every bit of contribution made by our SMMPS families provides our school with various opportunities to further invest in our children.

SMMPS DAZZLING NIGHT OF TRIVIA!!! - SAVE THE DATE - FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2015

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THE THEME WILL BE THIS YEAR?

Get your glittery friends of 8 ready. Prepare yourselves for a night of star studded fun full of games, questions, nominations and raffle prizes. Ensure you SAVE THE DATE and keep your best suit and frock on standby. For more information please contact Jade Billington on 0414 862 409. Tickets will be on sale in the coming weeks. \$10 per person/ tables of 8. Raffle tickets and a list of prizes will be sent home in the coming weeks leading up the event.

Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - SEATS LIMITED - PAYMENTS REQUIRED

SATURDAY, 10 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.

God Bless

Liz Whalen

President

On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2015

| DAY | DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Friday | 24 July | 9:15am 2:20pm | Grandparents Day Liturgy and Book Fair Whole School Assembly & KH Item |
| Tuesday | 28 July | 7:00pm | ICAS English Competition Confirmation Parent Meeting @ St Nicholas |
| Wednesday | 29 July | | P & F Mufti Pyjama Day Trivia Night Fundraiser Maths Olympiad #3 |
| Friday | 31 July | 9:15am 2:20pm | Kindergarten Grade Liturgy Whole School Assembly & 3M Item |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1 & 2 August | | Confirmation Enrolment Masses |
| Tuesday | 4 August | 7:00pm | P&F Executive Meeting |
| Wednesday | 5 August | | Voice of Youth School Final |
| Friday | 7 August | 9:15am | The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Mass Nepean Zone Athletics |
| Tuesday | 11 August | | ICAS Mathematics Competition |
| Thursday | 12 August | | Voice of Youth Cluster Final |
| Friday | 14 August | TBA 2:20pm | Whole School Mass The Feast of the Assumption Whole School Assembly & 6PM Item |
| Tuesday | 18 August | | P & F General Meeting |
| Wednesday | 19 August | | Voice of Youth Cluster Final @ Bethany Maths Olympiad #4 |
| Thursday | 20 August | | Infants Tabloid Sports Carnival |
| Friday | 21 August | 9:15am 2:20pm | Year 2 Grade Liturgy Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown 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 Excursion |
| Friday | 28 August | | Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day |
| Friday | 4 September | TBA | Father's Day Liturgy |
| Friday | 14 September | | Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm |
| Friday | 11 September | 9:15am 2:20pm 7:00pm | Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly & 1R Item P & F Trivia Night |
| 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 Last Day of Term 3 |

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2015

| DAY | DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|---------|-----------|------|------------------|
| Tuesday | 6 October | | Term 4 Commences |

The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta wants to hear from you

If you or someone close to you has suffered **ANY** abuse by a representative of the Catholic Church (school, parish, other Catholic group) in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains we invite you to contact us.

Our professional staff will listen to your experience, respect your confidentiality and discuss all available options.

You can contact us on:

Phone: (02) 9933 0233

Web: www.parra.catholic.org.au/safeguarding

Email: safeguarding@parra.catholic.org.au

Mail: PO BOX 3066 North Parramatta, NSW, 1750

For any complaints that may relate to criminal conduct we encourage you to contact **NSW Police on 1800 333 000**