



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Conversations with our Children

The past week has been devastating for so many families and communities both in Australia and around the world in trying to comprehend the latest aircraft tragedy. Our collective prayers and thoughts go out to all the families and friends suffering at this time. These tragic events are difficult for anyone to deal with and I sometimes wonder what sense our young children make of such tragedies in our world. It is important for parents to speak to their children about these events and to listen to their thoughts. Having a supportive and caring community will give us hope and strength to cope through such difficult times.

Let us pray

*That the God of peace will be with all those who are suffering
 loss at this sad time.*

*Compassionate Lord, we pray for those
 Who have been devastated by recent tragedy in our world.
 We remember those who have lost their lives.*

Have mercy on their souls.

We hold in our hearts

Families who have been broken.

Your love will give strength to those who suffer

And comfort to those who grieve.

In Your Son's name.

Amen



Our primary students will be performing in St Mary MacKillop's production of The Wizard of Oz during Week 4. This production is a great way of our students enhancing their talents in singing, acting and dancing. We have students playing principal roles, character roles, dancing, assisting backstage and as part of the choir. The students have been rehearsing very hard with Mr Carroll & Mrs Meehan and are looking forward to performing for audiences. Tickets can be purchased through the booking form which was sent home last week with all primary (Years 3-6) students. There will be a limited amount of tickets available for non-cast family and friends. Additional forms can be picked up from the school office. (Please note – no prams or strollers at performances). To allow as many students the opportunity to perform, we have two casts (red and blue) performing the show over the four performances. Please see below:

BLUE CAST - 3M, 3B, 4BL, 5M, 6M

RED CAST- 3W, 4H, 5G, 6PM

BLUE CAST performs Wednesday 6 August 12:00pm Matinee

Thursday 7 August 7:00pm Evening

RED CAST performs Thursday 7 August 12:00pm Matinee

Friday 8 August 7:00pm Evening

NB: Students who are performing as principal characters are aware what colour cast they belong to (and this is not necessarily the same as their class). Lead Munchkins, Jitterbug and Emerald dancers are required for ALL performances. I am very proud of the talented children and Staff at St Mary MacKillop and look forward to seeing you at these performances.

Thought for the Week

"God's love is too deep for words to express"

Mary MacKillop 1870

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL

The Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne: Saturday 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:

Grandparents Day will be held on Friday 1 August. On this day we will celebrate the wonderful gift that grandparents are to our lives. The festivities for celebrating our grandparents will be:

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|---------|---|
| 10:00am | Grandparents Liturgy lead by Kindergarten in the Multi Purpose Hall |
| 10:30am | Open classrooms for grandparents and Book Fair |
| 11:00am | Picnic lunch (please pack yourself a lovely picnic and chairs / picnic rug) and Book Fair |
| 11:45am | Return to normal classes |

Feast of St Mary of the Cross 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. St 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. St 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 travel to our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra on Friday 8th August to celebrate mass at 10am. Please join us for this very special celebration. Later on in the day we will have a class coin trail to raise money for the Mary MacKillop Institute in East Timor. More details to follow shortly.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Parent Meeting Tuesday 5 August

The parent information session for Confirmation will be held on **Tuesday 5 August, 2014** 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.

Sewing:

A big thank you to Bethany Neal for hemming some new Religious Education cloths. I still have some more pieces of material that need hemming so if there is anyone in our school community who is handy on a sewing machine please contact Mrs Gillard via the school office and leave your name and contact details. Thank you in advance for your help.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Library News

Welcome back to Term Three, we have many things happening in the library in the weeks ahead. We are coming to the final few weeks for completion of the **Premiers Reading Challenge**, for those students who need to finish their reading quota, this must be finalised by **August 31** please see Mrs Eisenhuth if you are having problems logging your books.

We will be hosting our **Book Fair** to coincide with our **Grandparents Liturgy on Friday, August 1st**.

This event is always well supported by our community and we look forward to another fantastic fair. **Book week** runs from **16 August - 22 August**, the theme for **2014** is **Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect**. There will be a performance on **Monday, August 25th** to celebrate this significant week, special mention of thanks to our **Parents and Friends committee** for once again funding this annual event for our school community.

The **Reading Hour** kicks off on **August 19, 2014**. Why not spend an hour reading with someone special?

More information can be found at <http://www.readinghour.org.au/>

Mrs Maree Eisenhuth

Teacher Librarian

P & F News

Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser Winners:

Congratulations to the following winners who won their raffle prizes: Thomas K. (6PM), Samarah B. (1M), Alic L. (2A). Thank you to everyone that helped sell the chocolates and at the same time raise money for our school. You all did a wonderful job and the P & F thank you for your enthusiastic support.

Southlands Rewards Program - commenced 22 July 2014:

Check your children's school bags this week for further information, and please support our school by **collecting and saving all your receipts** when shopping at any of the Southlands stores, especially during this program. Our school could be in the running to win one of three major prizes...we won 3rd prize last year thanks to all your wonderful support. We are looking forward to doing it again with your help in 2014.

Year 6 Farewell meeting - Thursday, 24 July @ 7:00pm

Next Year 6 farewell meeting for Year 6 parents is taking place at McDonald's restaurant located on High Street on Thursday 24 July at 7:00pm.

Second Hand Uniform Sale - Wednesday 30 July from 8:30am:

There will be a Second Hand Uniform Sale taking place on Wednesday 30 July from 8:30am. This is a half yearly bargain SALE DAY where you can fill up a grocery plastic bag full of uniform items for just \$5. Get in early as stocks will fly out the door.

Grandparents Day Morning Tea/Scholastic Book Fair:

Friday 1 August will be dedicated to the people in our lives that pave the path for future generations with love, patience and knowledge, GRANDPARENTS. The P & F, school leaders and teachers would love to offer a morning tea for all our guests who attend this special liturgy. We humbly request the baking skills and assistance of families and friends from Stage 2 - Year 3 and Year 4 - and anyone who can contribute. More information is enclosed with this week's KIT. Looking forward to seeing you all there and thank you as always for your kindness and support.

BARGAIN BUS BUYERS - SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday 11 October 2014. And prepare to shop, laugh and meet new friends. Please read the attached flyer for more information or contact Fiona Bryant on fionaw@smartchat.com.au.

Parent Representative Council - Dates for your Diary:

General Meeting - Learning difficulties with Sue Walsh (Director of Learning Support): How do I know? What do I do? How can I get support? taking place on **Monday, 18 August 2014 at 7:00pm** location is the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Corner Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown.

PRC Presentation: Anxiety and Children with Dr Andrew Martin.

Monday 1 September 2014 at 7:00pm. Located at St Patrick's Primary School, 51 Allawah Street, Blacktown. RSVP is essential for these events, don't miss out: prcparaevents@hotmail.com

God Bless

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

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	29 July		ICAS English Competition Year 2 CSIRO Incursion
Thursday	31 July	11:00am	VOY Cluster Final @ Luddenham
Friday	1 August	10:00am	Grandparent's Day Liturgy & Book Fair
Monday	4 August	2:05pm	3M Assembly
Tuesday	5 August	7:00pm 7:30pm	Parent Meeting for Confirmation @ St Nicholas P & F Executive Meeting
Wednesday	6 August	12:00pm	Wizard of Oz School Performance
Thursday	7 August	12:00pm & 7:00pm	Wizard of Oz School Performance
Friday	8 August	10:00am 7:00pm	Feast of St Mary MacKillop Whole School Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church Wizard of Oz School Performance
Monday	11 August	2:05pm	6M Assembly
Tuesday	12 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Friday	15 August	10:00am	Feast of the Assumption Whole School Mass
Monday	18 August		Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day
Tuesday	19 August	7:00pm 7:30pm	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day Jamison Park Parent Representative Meeting P & F General Meeting
Wednesday	20 August		P & F Dance-a-thon
Thursday	21 August		K-2 Infants Tabloid Sports Carnival
Friday	22 August		Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Monday	25 August	2:05pm	2A Assembly
Tuesday	27 August		Year 1 Australian Pioneer Village Excursion
Friday	29 August	9:15am	Kindergarten Calmsley Hill City Farm Excursion Year 2 Liturgy
Monday	1 September	9:00am 2:05pm	Year 3 Group 1 (3W & 3M) CARES Excursion 4BL Assembly
Tuesday	2 September	9:00am	Year 3 Group 2 (3B & 3M) CARES Excursion
Friday	5 September	TBA	Father's Day Liturgy and Stall Stage 2 Touch Gala Day @ St Marys
Monday	8 September	2:05pm	KD Assembly Talent Quest Auditions Monday-Friday
Friday	12 September	9:15am	Year 6 Mass Stage 3 Boys & Girls Touch Football
Monday	15 September	2:05pm	1M Assembly
Thursday	18 September	2:00pm	Talent Quest Showcase
Friday	19 September	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy Term 3 Ends