



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School

IT'S A QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Earlier this year all Staff, all students in year five and six, and sixty randomly chosen families completed the annual Quality Catholic School Survey. Below is a brief interpretation of the positive components of the St Mary MacKillop QCS survey for 2016.

Student Survey

Emotional Wellbeing

The student survey indicated that the children feel emotionally attached to the school and experience positive emotions at school such as enthusiasm and pride.

Teacher Relationships

The survey indicates that students feel that their teachers understand them and there is a balance of learning which is stimulating and well planned.

Engagement in Learning

At SMMK the survey indicates that students are motivated to learn,

Student Relationships

Students at SMMK are saying that Student Safety in the playground is higher in this domain.

Parent Survey

Community Engagement

Parents at SMMK feel that that school is focused on improvement and they are satisfied with the reporting.

Learning Opportunity

Parents feel the educational programs and standards of the school address the needs of their children and that their children are well prepared and supported during their transition to the next stage of their schooling,

Staff Engagement

Parents feel that teachers deliver classes, which are interesting and enjoyable for their child, and that teachers are passionate about what they do.

Student Engagement

Parents at SMMK see their children enjoying the learning they do at school and that their children want to go to school. Student motivation and connectedness to school was quite strong.

Peer Relations

Parents at SMMK have rated Social Skills higher in this domain which can be an indication that parents feel that their children are developing a range of social skills

Student Behaviour

Parents of this school have rated Student Safety and Classroom Behaviour relatively equally. This is an indication that parents feel that their child is not being subjected to harassment or bullying at school and that behaviour in the classroom is not disrupting their child's ability to learn.

Staff Survey

Catholic Culture

Students, staff and parents at SMMK appear to place high importance on Catholic Identity and believe they have many opportunities to express their faith. Social Justice scored quite high in the St Mary MacKillop survey.

Wellbeing and Engagement

Staff communicated through the survey that they are energized and passionate when working together as a team.

Team Culture

The pattern in the engagement cluster at SMMK indicates an intrinsically motivated staff. This survey showed that the staff is intrinsically on board with the goals and objectives of the school and the “ownership” is self-motivated.

Staff Learning Culture

Professional Learning appears higher in this domain, which means that staff are learning through self-directed learning activities, personal reading and attendance at external courses.

Teaching Climate

The staff survey indicated that there is effective coordination and opportunities for them to come together and work through how the curriculum is planned.

The staff expressed through the survey that the quality of teaching is a relative strength at this school and that they are building effective partnerships with the school’s parent community.

The staff also feel that they engage students in effective learning and there is clear evidence of teachers’ confidence in making a difference to students.

School improvement focus, ie the way that staff improves the way they carry out their work, is at a high level at SMMK.

Where to from here?

QCS provides us with data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and this assists us in focusing our efforts on improvement by building on our successes to date. We not only celebrate our successes, but also with the direction of the school improvement team (SIT) continue to investigate areas and strategies of improvement.

BE A GOOD SPORT

At St Mary MacKillop our school agreement highlights the importance of being a SAFE RESPECTFUL LEARNER. During your child’s learning at St Mary MacKillop they will have the opportunity to represent the school in many areas, some of which include Sports Gala days. The Parramatta Diocesan Primary Schools Sports Council acknowledges the place sport plays in our students’ daily lives. As parents and teachers we teach students the importance of respecting ourselves and respecting others. In sport it is important how the game is played and the manner in which our players, officials, parents and spectators conduct themselves.



We require all involved in our diocesan sporting activities to abide by the following Codes of Conduct, which are based on principles of ‘The Australian Sports Commission Codes of Behaviour.’

I ask that you speak to your child about the following codes of conduct, which are relevant whenever children play any sporting activities.

Children

- Play by the rules at all times.
- Never argue with an official.
- Control my temper.
- Will not abuse officials or sledge other players.
- Work hard for themselves and their team.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays.
- Treat all participants in the sport, as I would like to be treated.
- Cooperate with the coach, my team-mates and opponents.
- Show quality sportsmanship by thanking officials and opposing team members at the end of games.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, abilities, cultural background or religion.

Parents

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than the final score.
- Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle agreements without resorting to hostility and violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition
- Show appreciation for volunteer and employed coaches, officials and administrators.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skilful play by ALL participants.
- Support all competitions by ensuring your child's attendance until the completion of their events.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, abilities, cultural background or religion.

Parents and children are required to adopt and practise the above Codes of Behaviour. The failure to adopt and practise the above mentioned Codes of Behaviour would result in the forfeiture of future representative opportunities.

Congratulations and thanks to all those children who continue to represent St Mary MacKillop with the highest of skill, expertise and code of conduct.



*Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Paine on the recent birth of their beautiful child Henry.
We look forward to meeting the new addition to the Paine family.*

Thought for the Week

*“If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it
– then I can achieve it.”*

Muhammad Ali

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy: 8th December 2015 – 20th November 2016



In Loving Memory of Anne Tucker

Sadly last Tuesday night Anne Tucker, our Sacramental Co-ordinator, lost her 10 month battle with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. Anne was diagnosed last September, during the school holidays and had recently had a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, after the transplant, she contracted a virus and her immune system was too weak to fight it.

Anne was a big part of our community and many of our families and students knew Anne due to their participation in the Sacramental Program. Anne's faith in God and spreading of the Good News was evident to all who experienced their Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Anne was always present at the information nights, preparation classes and Sacraments. She lived her faith and displayed patience and knowledge. She was always there to help out in any way she could - like a true Christian.

Continued prayerful support for Leo, Maddie, Ben and Anne's extended family will be greatly appreciated.

O Loving Father and Saviour,

send your angels to carry the soul of your servant, Anne,

from this earth to the heavenly place of eternal and everlasting life.

Let family and friends who have passed before in faith be reunited in joy with Anne.

Welcome this beloved spirit into the warm embrace of your unending peace.

Eternal rest grant unto Anne, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace.

Amen



World Youth Day and Miss McNally

Please continue to keep Miss McNally in your prayers as she travels through the Philippines and Poland on her World Youth Day Pilgrimage. We look forward to Miss McNally's safe return and hearing about all her wonderful outreach work in the Philippines and her WYD experience in Poland.

Parish News - Altar Server Training

The Parish is currently looking for new Servers to join this ministry and will provide all the training necessary. *"Altar Serving is responding to God's call to serve at His Eucharistic table."* Altar Serving is open to all children who have made their first communion. Training will be provided by Fr Joe on Fridays of August 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 4pm to 5pm.

Please register your name by calling Parish office 47212509.

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Monday 8th August

Mary MacKillop's Story 1842 - 1909

On January 15, 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria. Mary, the eldest of eight children, was well educated by her father who spent some years studying for the priesthood in Rome but through ill health had returned to Scotland until 1835 when he migrated to Australia with his parents. Unfortunately, he lacked financial awareness, so the family was often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another.

From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family, as a governess, as a clerk for Sands and Kenny (now Sands and MacDougall), and as a teacher at the Portland school. While acting as a governess to her uncle's children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time Mary's family depended on her income so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.

Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867, Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to come to Adelaide to start a school. From there, the Sisters spread, in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia, New Zealand, and now in Peru, Brazil and refugee camps of Uganda and Thailand. Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people outside the Church and even from some of those within it. In the most difficult of times she consistently refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined. Since then the Congregation has grown and now numbers about 900, working mainly in Australia and New Zealand but also scattered singly or in small groups around the world. The "Brown Joeys" may be seen in big city schools, on dusty bush tracks, in modern hospitals, in caravans, working with the "little ones" of God - the homeless, the new migrant, the Aboriginal, the lonely and the unwanted, in direct care and in advocacy, in standing with and in speaking with. In their endeavours to reverence the human dignity of others and to change unjust structures, the Sisters and those many others who also share the Mary MacKillop spirit continue the work which she began.

This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. In today's world, she stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need. *(Extract from the Sisters of St Joseph)*



St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations: Monday 8th August

This year, to honour our school patron, St Mary MacKillop, we have a fun-filled day planned. There will be a whole school mass at *St Nicholas of Myra*. This mass will be led by Year 6 and all parents, friends and parishioners are warmly invited to join us. A detailed note will be sent home shortly outlining the day's events.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Parent Meeting Monday 8th August

The parent information session for Confirmation will be held on **Monday, 8th August, 2016** at 7pm 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 the Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas, at the parish house on 47212509.



Feast of the Assumption: Monday 15th August, 9:15am Whole School

Mass

Monday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. God gave her this privilege because of her sinlessness and role as the Mother of Jesus.

Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption we will have a whole school mass in the hall at 12pm. All parents and friends are invited to attend.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

News from the Assistant Principal

Towards the end of last term, our teachers were introduced to an online Mathematics program called Matific. Our school was offered a 'free trial' period (which has been extended until the end of 2016) which provides teachers with the opportunity to explore the capabilities of Matific and how it can be utilised to support student learning at our school.

Students have been provided with log in details, and are able to access Matific both at school and at home. We can already see that most of our students accessed and engaged in Matific over the holidays and are continuing to do so. The feedback from both students and teachers so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Matific offers engaging mathematical tasks that are linked with Australian Curriculum outcomes. More importantly, Matific aims to develop within students a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts (rather than rote learning) with sequenced lessons that build upon prior knowledge. Teachers are able to set designated homework tasks, personalised for each student or groups of students and teachers are able to monitor and track the success of those students completing the tasks. We believe that it will be a valuable online resource to support the teaching and learning happening at school. (At a much cheaper rate than Mathletics).

Currently, our students are able to access both online resources. (Years 3-6 Mathletics, K-6 Matific). We encourage the students (and parents) to continue to explore both resources and we will welcome further feedback from students and parents about both resources. An opportunity for parents to attend an 'information night' about Matific will be offered later in the year.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Sports News

Rugby Union

Congratulations to Uaale Elisara in 6Mc for his outstanding Rugby Union skills. Uaale was selected along with James Rowan to represent the Parramatta team in Forbes last month. During the weekend of Union, Uaale was recognised by selectors and has been chosen for the NSW State team. Well Done Uaale! This is an amazing achievement and the St Mary MacKillop community is extremely proud of you. Good Luck for the next stage in August.

Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day

Congratulations to the 36 Stage 2 students who represented SMMK at the Soccer Gala Day in Week 10 of Term 2. The students were wonderful ambassadors for our school and all three teams finished 2nd in their pool! Thank you to our wonderful parent coaches: Brad Connelly, Naomi Murphy, Simon Mount and Daniel D Costa and to Mr Steve Cauchi who supervised the students on the day.



Zone Athletics Carnival

The Zone Athletics Carnival will be held at Blacktown International Sports Park on Thursday 11 August. Notes went home last week to our representative team.

Netball Gala Day

The Netball Gala Day notes have gone home to our netball representatives. We are looking for any parents who are available to coach and train a team. We are looking forward to another wonderful gala day on Tuesday 23rd August at Jamison Park.

Apologies : Thank you to Deb Parrington for your help at the school athletics carnival. Your name was left off our last edition of KIT but we appreciate you!

Maryanne McNally
Sport Co-Ordinator

P & F News

Welcome Back Everyone for Term 3, hope you enjoyed your two week break.

Dance-a-thon - I'm sure you're all aware that sponsorship forms went out last week for our school Dance-a-thon which is on Wednesday 3rd of August which we believe will be another very successful event for our school. Don't forget Parents all students go into the draw to win a \$30 Westfield per grade just for participating and this will be drawn at the School Assembly on Friday 5th August.

Parent Helpers are needed on the day, if you're available to help out that would be appreciated, a note will go home on Friday 29th July.

Fete donation still Growing - Mrs Carroll & Mrs Cilia volunteered their time attending St Nicholas of Myra to sell the leftover craft items from our School Fete. Thanks to their effort a further \$500 was raised which is a fantastic help. A very big thank you to them for spending their weekends at our local parish, helping our school raise more funds.

Our next P&F Meeting – Our P&F meeting for Term 3 is Week6 Tuesday 23rd August, anyone is welcome as we discuss events & issues that involve our school community.

Father's Day Stall - Our P&F team are organising a Father Day Stall this year where students can purchase a Father's Day gift for their Father's during Lunch and Recess on Friday 2nd of September. A note will be going out shortly with further details.

Bargain Buyers Shopping Trip - Don't forget also we have our Bargain Buyers shopping Trip on the 8th of October 2016. So if you are interested please contact Fiona (fionaw@smartchat.net.au) or myself (michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au). All monies raised will be donated to our school so come out for a fun day of shopping!!

That's all from the P&F Team, enjoy Term 3 everyone!

Michelle Darwen
President



St Mary MacKillop's Lion King Junior Save the date!



St Mary MacKillop's production of The Lion King Junior will take place in Term 3 of Week 9.

There will be two matinees and two evening performances.

The show will be double cast by class groups –
please see below information for your child's performances

YELLOW CAST

Wednesday 14th Sept- 12pm matinee

Thursday 15th Sept- 6pm evening

YEAR 1, 2A, 3W, 4BL, 5G, 6Mc

GREEN CAST

Thursday 15th Sept - 12pm
matinee

Friday 16th Sept - 6pm evening
KINDY, 2M, 3M, 4M, 5PM, 6M

Our Principal cast of The Lion King Jnr rehearsing hard in the holidays!



Dates for Your Diary Term 3- 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	29 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	2 August		ICAS English Competition
Wednesday	3 August		P & F Dance a Thon Infants 11:45am Primary 12:45pm
Thursday	4 August	9:15am 11:40am	School Performance Tours—Australian Folklore
Friday	5 August	10am-1:45pm 2:20pm	Year 5 @ Myth Buster Day at McCarthy College Whole School Assembly
Monday	8 August	7:00pm	Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Confirmation Parent Meeting
Thursday	11 August		Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown
Friday	12 August		Staff Development Day—No School for Students
Monday	15 August		The Assumption
Tuesday	16 August	8:30-11:30	ICAS Mathematics Competition Mrs Gillard @ REC Professional Learning Day Mrs Gray @ Reading Recovery
Wednesday	17 August		Maths Olympiad #4 Mr Cauchi @ EMU Training
Friday	19 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	23 August	7:00pm	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day @ Jamison Park P & F Meeting
Wednesday	24 August		Stage 3 Monash Professional Learning @ Holy Family Emerton
Friday	26 August	2:20pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival @ Blacktown Whole School Assembly
Monday	29 August		Miss McNally @ EMU Opal Day Mrs Harman & Miss Jones @ Beginning Teacher Day @ Benedict XVI Retreat Centre
Tuesday	30 August		Mrs Harman & Miss Jones @ Beginning Teacher Day @ Benedict XVI Retreat Centre
Friday	2 September	9:15am 2:20pm	Father's Day Liturgy Whole School Assembly



Parenting Courses and Workshops - Term 3, 2016

Having one of those days? Tired of yelling at the kids? Or just want to know more?
FREE Practical tips for everyday parenting



Activity	Day, Date & Time	Location
Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) parenting for parents of children aged 2 to 12 years Need some more tools for your parenting toolbox? How to build a strong foundation of positive parenting based on relationship, encouraging desirable behaviour and skills, and setting boundaries and limits. 6 sessions over 7 weeks. <i>You must come to the first session.</i> Limited child minding available. If you are not currently caring for your child/ren and you have a FACS caseworker, a referral will need to be made through the caseworker.	Wednesdays: 6 sessions 27th July to 7th Sept Break - 31st August 10am to 12:30pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
Triple P parenting course (Positive Parenting Program) for parents of children aged 2 to 12 year-olds Need some more tools for your parenting toolbox? How to build a strong foundation of positive parenting based on relationship, encouraging desirable behaviour and skills, and setting boundaries and limits. <i>You must come to the first session.</i> A fast-paced course for parents who can accommodate a lot of information in a short amount of time. Homework and extra reading will be required. If you are not currently caring for your child/ren and you have a FACS caseworker, a referral will need to be made through the caseworker.	Mondays: 4 sessions 29th Aug to 19th Sept 10am to 1pm	Floribunda Community Centre Glenmore Park
Teen Triple P parenting course (Positive Parenting Program) for parents of teens (11 to 16 years) Tips and tricks for living with teens and making the experience more positive for everyone. <i>You must come to the first session.</i>	Mondays: 4 sessions 1st Aug to 22nd Aug 10am to 12:15pm	Floribunda Community Centre Glenmore Park

Activity	Day, Date & Time	Location
Family Transitions Triple P for parents experiencing parenting challenges after separation or divorce. How to cope with the emotions, conflict, and struggles associated with separation/divorce. <i>You must come to the first session.</i>	Tuesdays: 4 sessions 2nd Aug to 23 Aug 10am to 12:15pm	Impingar Centre 71 Henry Lawson Ave Werrington
Anxiety Seminar for parents who want to know more about anxiety for children and teens A seminar on Anxiety - what it is, treatment, and intervention.	Thursday 28th July 10am to 12pm	Floribunda Community Centre Glenmore Park
Cool Little Kids for parents of shy or anxious children, 3-8 year-olds A treatment programme for parents of children aged 3-8 years who are excessively shy or demonstrating anxiety at home & in the community. <i>You must come to the first session.</i>	Thursdays: 4 sessions 11th Aug to 8th Sept (Break 1st Sept) 10am to 12pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
AD/HD seminar - What is AD/HD ? for parents who want to know more about AD/HD A seminar on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder - what it is, treatment, and intervention.	Wednesday 14th September 10am to 12pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
AD/HD seminar - Behaviour support for parents who want to know more about AD/HD A seminar on behaviour support for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. PREREQUISITE—What is AD/HD Seminar	Wednesday 21st September 10am to 12pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
AD/HD Parent Support Group for parents who have children with a primary diagnosis of AD/HD 3rd Monday of the month	Monday 18th July Monday 15th August Monday 19th September 7:30pm to 9:30pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
Resilience workshop for anyone who wants to learn more about resilience for children and adolescents What is resilience? Why is it important? And how do kids get it?	Tuesday 6th September 11:30am to 1:30pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith
Special Playtime for parents of children aged 1 to 6 years Helps parents to build a relationship with their child through play. Reduces child behavioural difficulties in children aged 1 to 6 years.	Thursday 15th Sept 10am to 12pm	South Penrith Neighbourhood Centre South Penrith

Bookings

Bookings are essential for all courses, seminars, or workshops. All courses, seminars, and workshops are free.

Course, seminar, & workshop flyers are available at:

<http://handsheartsminds.wordpress.com/parenting-groups-and-workshops/>

Child minding

Limited child minding is available for some groups (it will be stated in the course information). Bookings are essential to ensure we have the correct carer-to-child ratio. Child minding services are provided by Care Pair and/or Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services.



Contact Details

Narelle Smith
 Family Worker
 Centre Phone: 4721 8520
 Email: Parenting@nepeancommunity.org.au



Parenting In Penrith (Facebook)



Hands, Hearts and Minds (Wordpress)



Hands, Hearts & Minds (Pinterest)