



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

INTRODUCING THE STAFF OF 2017.

Early Stage 1:

Kindergarten Mrs Claire Harman (KH) and Mrs Margaret Rowan (KR)

Stage1:

Year 1 Mrs Deb Aliberti (KA) and Miss Nicole Jones (1J)

Year 2 Mrs Ashlea Milgate (2M) and Miss Natalie Franklin (2F)

Stage 2:

Year 3 Mr Darren McErlain (3D) and Miss Maryanne McNally (3M)

Year 4 Mrs Leonie Mitchell (4M) and Mrs Amanda Joseph (4J)

Stage 3:

Year 5 Mrs Leesa Gillard (5G) and Mrs Rachel Paine/Mr Brad Carroll (5PC)

Year 6 Mrs Kim Mathewson (6K) and Mrs Margaret Meehan (6M)

Leadership Team:Principal: Mr Scott Buchan

Assistant Principal: TBA

REC: Mrs Leesa Gillard

Stage Coordinators: Mrs Margaret Rowan - Early Stage1/Stage 1

Assistant Principal- Stage 2

Mrs Kelly Gray- Stage 3

Coordinator 1: TBA

Teacher/Librarian: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth

Library Assistant: Mrs Marina Napoli

Learning Support: Mrs Kelly Gray
Mrs Niamh MacDonald

Mrs Chris Laffan

Mrs Joanne Tadic

Teacher Assistants: Mrs Marina Napoli

Mrs Judy Inskip

Mrs Simone Breia

Mrs Kristy Daines

RFF: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth.

Mr Brad Carroll

Leadership Team

Release: Mrs Joanne Tadic 5G

Mrs Maree Eisenhuth KR

Administration: Mrs Chris Capolupo (Monday-Thursday)

Mrs Nicole Brock

Mrs Judy Inskip (Friday)

Learning Technology Coordinator Mrs Deborah Aliberti

Learning Technology Trainee: Mr Nick Ramsay (Monday & Wednesday)

School Counsellor Mrs Jeanne Appleton(Thursday)

Maintenance: Mr Meinardo Benitez

An Unlikely Conversation in Advent

Dear Parents Here's an unlikely conversation. It's between Joseph – St Joseph – and his mother-in-law, Anna – St Anne.

Anna: “You’re taking her where? I do not believe my ears!

Joseph: Bethlehem. I have to go there, so I’ll take her with me.

Anna: My daughter. Nine months pregnant! You want to walk to Bethlehem? You want to take her with you?

Joseph: Not want to take her with me. I’m going to take her with me. If she’s out of town the gossips can’t pin down the date of birth. Besides, a son of David should be born in David’s town. Where else?

Anna: A son, is it? Where else, you say? On the road there, maybe? If the robbers don’t get you first, God forbid. Joseph, nobody knows when the baby is due. This is not the moment to take her on a walking tour.

Joseph: It is a long way to walk. I could find her a donkey.

Anna: A Donkey! Why not a chariot? And this is supposed to be an improvement? You should try being pregnant and riding a donkey! Joseph, be reasonable. Leave her here, in her mother’s care.

Joseph: She’s in my care now; I take care of her. How can I take care of her if I leave her behind?

Anna: You’ll take care of her? Suddenly you’re a midwife as well as a carpenter! Joseph, this is her first baby. The only one who knows less about it is you.

Joseph: Don’t try to frighten us out of it; we were both told by the angel, “Don’t be afraid.”

Anna: Did the angel mention any other details? Like how to manage? In her condition, in a strange town, with no help, only Joseph, the midwife carpenter! Who dreamed it would be all right?

Joseph: I dreamed that I was told not to be afraid to take her. So, if I have to go to Bethlehem, then, she’s coming with me.

Anna: Oh well, if an angel comes to your dreams with a special message, then, why listen to the voice of common sense? I’m amazed that the angel didn’t tell you that you were pregnant too!

Joseph: He also told me it was going to be a boy; and to name him Joshua.

Anna: Joshua? My grandson? What about Rouven after my father? Or David, even? Why Joshua? What sort of name is that? Oh, Joseph!” “Listen to your mother-in-law” Radio sketch by Cecily cupit.

This imagined conversation between Joseph and his mother-in-law, paints a picture of God coming into people’s lives in totally unexpected ways. A teenage girl is to be the Mother of God and a carpenter is going to be a midwife!

During Advent we are encouraged to prepare for Christ to be born into our lives but, as Mary and Joseph experienced, you don’t have to be highly prepared with your spiritual life in total order. Christ, during His life, showed that He was not seeking people who are perfectly prepared and in control of things. He was interested in people who had difficulties in their lives but who wanted a way out of these difficulties; people who were honest with themselves and of good intention.

Christ, today, does not expect us to be perfect but to be people of hope, who trust that His coming will have meaningful consequences in our lives. The teenaged Mary and the midwife Joseph are wonderful examples of how amazing things can occur, if we have hope and trust in God’s word. Jesus, as Joseph and Mary experienced, being associated with You is full of the unexpected for You take people in their lives to where they would not have chosen to go.



LET US PRAY

Help us not to be afraid
but to be people of courage
as we live
Your values,
and reflect
Your image.
Amen.

Farewell to Mr Cauchi



As most people are now aware, Mr Steve Cauchi has been appointed as the new Assistant Principal at Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill.

Mr Cauchi has worked tirelessly with the parish and staff and parents to provide a quality Catholic education for students of St Mary MacKillop Primary School since January 2010.

I thank Steve for his leadership of St Mary MacKillop Primary school and wish him well as he undertakes a new stage of his professional journey. He will take up the appointment at Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill in Term 1 2017.

The process of recruitment for a new Assistant Principal has already commenced.

Thought for the Week

*Let us Rejoice in the goodness of God
who has made our world so full of beauty.*

Julian Tenison Woods 1881

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL

**KIDS CAN ACT END OF YEAR PERFORMANCES WILL BE NEXT
WEDNESDAY 7TH INFANTS AT 3.40 AND THE PRIMARY AT
4.30 PM**

2016 Christmas Celebration: The Season of Advent **Whole School Prayer each Friday at 2pm**

Last week we celebrated the start of Advent with a whole school mass on Friday 25th November. At this mass we introduced and blessed our Advent Wreath, which is on continual display in the hall.



Our waiting and preparation for Christmas will continue each Friday in the hall at 2pm. We will gather, prior to our weekly assembly, to pray and light the candles of the Advent Wreath as we count down to the birth of Christ. A warm invitation is extended to all in our community. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

The Season of Advent: Year A

Advent is the first season in the church calendar. Beginning four Sundays before Christmas, its purpose is twofold: first, it prepares us for the celebration of the birth of Christ and second, it reminds us that we are eagerly waiting for Jesus' return in glory.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," serves as a main theme of this season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for Jesus, who came as "the light of the world." His light penetrated a dark world, which allowed all to see their Messiah, and the hope of their future.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity

The true spirit of Christmas is about giving giving from the heart and giving out of love, just like God gave us his son Jesus Christ on that very first Christmas. As Jesus grew he instructed us about how we should look after each other:

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Mt 25: 35 – 36*



Our final social justice initiative for the year is well underway! It is evident from the amount of donations that I have already seen in classrooms that we have embraced the true meaning of Christmas and I am very thankful for the generosity within our community. The words spoken by St Mary MacKillop; "never see a need without doing something about it" are truly alive within our school community.

It would be much appreciated if all hamper donations could be finalised by Wednesday 7th December so that they can be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society well before Christmas. Thank you!

Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Mass – 6:30pm Tuesday 13th December

As the Year 6 students prepare to leave St Mary MacKillop, it is time to celebrate the culmination of the last 7 years of primary school education for our 2016 graduating students. The Year Six Graduation Ceremony will be held at 9:15am on Tuesday 13th December at school, followed by the Graduation Mass at 6:30pm in our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. All in our community are warmly invited to attend these special ceremonies.



Staff Farewell Liturgy – 1:45pm Thursday 15th December

As the year draws to a close, many of our staff are moving onto the next chapter of their lives. To celebrate the contributions Mr Sicilaino, Mr Cauchi, Mrs Brigden, Mrs Wheaton and Ms Mulders have made to St Mary MacKillop over the years we will be having a special farewell liturgy. Please join us, in the hall, for a special liturgy to be held in honour of these wonderful educators. An afternoon tea will follow the liturgy in the library.

Sacramental Program: First Reconciliation 2017

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St Nicholas of Myra Parish will be in Term 1 next year. To be eligible for First Reconciliation, **children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised.**

Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an information meeting, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on **Tuesday 28th February 2017 at 7.00pm.** Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting.



If your child has not been baptised, and you wish to enrol them in the program, please contact our Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas on 47 212509.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

End of Year Reminders

Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2017:

If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2017 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.

2017 Bus Travel:

The State Government will be issuing School Opal cards to students for free travel between home and school.

2017 Kindergarten, new applications and any children moving into Year 3 will need to apply online via the following link:

Step 1:

Complete the application at **transportnsw.info/school-students**

Step 2:

The application will be sent electronically to the school for approval.

Step 3:

Once approved, the School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.

Who needs to apply

Most students who already have a school student Opal card need to apply for the School Opal card. It will be sent to the student's home address by the end of the school year or 2017.

An application is needed if the student:

- Has not had a school Opal card before
- Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- Is moving from Year 4 to Year 5
- Is changing schools
- Is changing address

How to apply

Step 1

Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Step 2

Print, sign and date the completed application. Then submit it to the school's principal for endorsement.

Step 3

The school then sends the endorsed application to Transport for NSW. Once approved, the School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.

1. Complete a parent consent form for the School Opal card. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school.



Sports News

Last Sunday I competed at the Australian All Star Cheerleading Federation National Competition at the Gold Coast. I was representing Liberty All Stars, Penrith with my team of around 20 people. My team ranges from 10 years – 17 years and we are all girls. We performed one routine involving tumbling, pyramid, group stunt, jumps and dance. We placed first overall, making us the National Champions for 2016 in Cheerleading. It was a great experience and I can't wait to compete again next year.

Alysha H 6M



P & F News

SMMP Gingerbread House Family Night Thursday, 8 December 4pm-7pm

There are still a few houses available at \$15 each (incl. icing, lollies & more), so place an order and join us in the school hall for some Christmas fun, Face painting, Christmas Carols and special guest appearance.

Extra order forms are available through the office or by emailing escarroll1@gmail.com

PLUS – Anyone one who places an order will go into the draw to win a fabulous chocolate tree centrepiece kindly donated by:

LOLLYLICIOUS – 8/450 High Street, Penrith. PH: 1300 664 661

PRC NEWS

27 February 2017 - PRC: RAISING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS 6.30pm Gilroy Catholic College, Marie St, Castle Hill

THE CYBER SAFETY LADY PRESENTS:

RAISING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENS

This FREE event for all parents, caregivers (over 18 only due to content) is the best way to get educated for the start of a new year and new term! Our guest speaker for the evening will be Leonie Smith, The Cyber Safety Lady, expert in cyber safety and author of "Keeping Kids Safe Online". If you want to educate yourself or broaden your horizons with how you can be savvy online in keeping your children safe - don't miss this opportunity!

We look forward to seeing you. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start and the PRC AGM will be held prior to our speaker presentation.

Erin Carroll
On behalf of the P&F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 4~ 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Thursday	1 December	11:30am	Talent Quest
Friday	2 December	2:15pm	Whole School Assembly 6M & 6MC Item
Monday	5 December	10:45 am	Parent Helpers Morning Tea
Thursday	8 December	4:00pm-7:00pm	P & F Gingerbread House Decorating Afternoon
Friday	9 December	9:00am 2:00pm 2:15pm 2:15pm-3:15pm 6:00pm	Year 6 Fun Day @ St Marys Indoor Sports Whole School Advent Prayer Whole School Assembly Uniform Shop Open Year 6 Disco Reports Sent Home
Monday	12 December		Kindergarten and Year 6 Buddy Farewell
Tuesday	13 December	9:15am 2:00pm 6.30pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Class Promotions Year 6 Graduation Mass
Friday	16 December	2:00pm 2:15pm	Whole School Advent Prayer Whole School Assembly Last Day of School for Students
Monday	19 December		Staff Development Day

Dates for Your Diary Term 1- 2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	27 January		Staff Return STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday	30 January		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tuesday	31 January		Years 1-6 Commence
Wednesday	1 February		Kindergarten Commence School (full day)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Summer Reading Challenge

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **four iPad minis**

Enter online at www.parra.catholic.edu.au
Entries close 7 February 2017

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
 Teachers Mutual Bank
We put you first!

Kids Can Act

Drama Studio

For kids of all ages

January Holiday Workshops

"SOUTH PENRITH Neighbourhood Centre"
Cnr Trent St & Birmingham Rd, SOUTH PENRITH. (Behind Southlands)

Get in now!!! Don't miss out the EARLY BIRD RATE!

For Puppet Sake Thursday 12th Jan (9:30am - 2:30pm)
Children are naturally curious! Cathie has just bought over \$1000 worth of new and exciting large puppets! This is an opportunity to allow the children to spark their imagination and feed their curiosity. Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. They will learn how to use and operate a variety of fabulous and magical puppets and have great fun as they try out them all out.

Lights Camera Action: - Design a Garbage Bag Costume! (2 days) Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th Jan (10:00am - 3:00pm)
In this creative workshop the children use a variety of different coloured garbage bags, tape and other materials to design their own costumes. Once this is done we create the characters who wear these creations and make a play. This will then be filmed and shown to family and friends at the end of the second day.

Tooth Fairy School Friday 2nd Jan (10:00am - 3:00pm)
In this workshop the children go to will go to Tooth Fairy School and learn how to become a real tooth fairy. We will learn how to fly, how to sneak without waking sleeping children and how to care for lost teeth as well as how to care for the teeth we still have. All children will take home their very own Tooth Fairy Rainbow Skirt to keep as well as making their very own tooth fairy box and wand.

Super Hero Academy Wednesday 25th Jan (9:00am - 2:00pm)
Does a superhero live inside your imagination? Unleash the power within! Run, jump, fly! A super energetic workshop aimed at building confidence, self-esteem and a healthy body! Dress up in capes and masks and design your own superhero! Create your character, complete with a catch cry and super powers. Get physical and find your inner hero through creative improvisation and interactive games! Children take home their own super hero cape, mask and make their own arm cuffs and power pack to take home too.

It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It! (9-16 yrs) Wednesday 25th Jan (2:30pm - 7:00pm)
This is one for the older students! Have you ever been framed for something you didn't do or tried to get out of something you did? The students will develop the storyline from life experience and imagination, exploring times they may or may not have committed the "crime" or been framed for something they had no part in.

www.kidscanact.com.au
Mob. 0414 475 158

*The owner reserves the right to cancel classes if they do not have a viable number of children enrolled.

Kids Can Act

Drama Studio

For kids of all ages

January Holiday Workshops

SPRINGWOOD COURT 133 Macquarie Road, SPRINGWOOD. (Next to Domino's)

Get in NOW!!! Don't miss out the EARLY BIRD RATE!

For Puppet Sake Wednesday 11th Jan (9:30am - 2:30pm)
Children are naturally curious! Cathie has just bought over \$1000 worth of new and exciting large puppets! This is an opportunity to allow the children to spark their imagination and feed their curiosity. Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. They will learn how to use and operate a variety of fabulous and magical puppets and have great fun as they try out them all out.

Super Hero Academy Wednesday 18th Jan (9:00am - 2:00pm)
Does a superhero live inside your imagination? Unleash the power within! Run, jump, fly! A super energetic workshop aimed at building confidence, self-esteem and a healthy body! Dress up in capes and masks and design your own superhero! Create your character, complete with a catch cry and super powers. Get physical and find your inner hero through creative improvisation and interactive games! Children take home their own super hero cape, mask and make their own arm cuffs and power pack to take home too.

It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It! (9-16 yrs) Thursday 19th Jan (2:30pm - 7:00pm)
This is one for the older students! Have you ever been framed for something you didn't do or tried to get out of something you did? The students will develop the storyline from life experience and imagination, exploring times they may or may not have committed the "crime" or been framed for something they had no part in.

Lights Camera Action: - Design a Garbage Bag Costume! (2 days) Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th Jan (9:30am - 2:30pm)
In this creative workshop the children use a variety of different coloured garbage bags, tape and other materials to design their own costumes. Once this is done we create the characters who wear these creations and make a play. This will then be filmed and shown to family and friends at the end of the second day.

Tooth Fairy School Friday 27th Jan (9:30am - 2:30pm)
In this workshop the children go to will go to Tooth Fairy School and learn how to become a real tooth fairy. We will learn how to fly, how to sneak without waking sleeping children and how to care for lost teeth as well as how to care for the teeth we still have. All children will take home their very own Tooth Fairy Rainbow Skirt to keep as well as making their very own tooth fairy box and wand.

www.kidscanact.com.au
Mob. 0414 475 158

*The owner reserves the right to cancel classes if they do not have a viable number of children enrolled.



2017 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Any Primary students enrolled in Parramatta Diocesan Schools in Year 5 and 6 in 2017 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four of 2016 (Summer Sports - Basketball, Cricket, Softball & Tennis) and Term One/Two in 2017 (Winter Sports - AFL, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League League, Rugby Union & Touch).

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2017 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials in 2017 will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), & Touch(B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website

www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2017 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. **Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience"**.

Please ensure that the **SUBMIT** button has been pressed upon completing the form and notification email will be sent to the parent/guardian listed on the form confirming this expression of interest has been received.

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

Summer Sports Registrations close Friday 28th October 5pm.
Winter Sports Registrations close Friday 3rd February 5pm.

Please contact your school sports coordinator for any further information.

Yours In Sport,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator – Primary Sport

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

2017 SCHOOL NEWSLETTER INFORMATION