



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

## FAREWELL

After five proud years of service to the staff and students of St Mary MacKillop Primary School, it is with a heavy heart I announce that I will be leaving this beautiful school for a new leadership opportunity as the Principal at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys in 2017.

While I am sad to leave the students, staff, parents and community of Penrith South, I know that I will leave St Mary MacKillop School with great pride for what as a team we have achieved. Seeing the children learn on a daily basis has always been a huge passion and inspiration of mine.

I'm indebted to so many incredible friends and colleagues who have made my experience at MacKillop a lifelong memory. I will cherish those memories and reflect fondly upon them as I move forward in both my professional and personal life.

I deeply appreciate all of the support the teachers, parents, children and community have given me during my role a principal at SMMK. It truly has been a collaborative effort in order to deliver the best education possible to our number one mission, children!

*Wishing you much  
joy & happiness  
as you begin  
a new chapter  
in your life.*

With love and appreciation your Principal, Mr Michael Siciliano.

## FAMILY

Have you got your "rose-tinted" glasses handy? You'll need them to read these few verses:

"They say that times were tough then  
That money was very tight,  
But I remember my childhood  
And I know that can't be right.  
We wouldn't eat from a microwave  
Or a restaurant down the street,□  
We all ate mum's home cooking  
And boy, that can't be beat.  
We didn't eat in front of the T.V.  
Or with a phone in our hand,□  
We weren't plugged into Ipod  
Bopping to the latest band.  
We laughed, we joked, we talked, we ate  
We were a family don't you see,□  
Though some may have been raised poor  
You can see it wasn't me.  
So when you talk of family life  
Or how it used to be,□  
Though many had more money  
None were as rich as me."  
Author unknown.

There is no better way for an adult to view life than through the memories of their childhood days when life was “better then”. However, the standout line from the five verses would have to be, “We were a family don’t you see”, as it was stated with passion and conviction. The family seemed to be of great importance to the writer and so it should be, for the family unit is the best health, educational and welfare unit ever devised by humankind.

A World Congress of Families held in Warsaw in stated, “Within family, children learn their gender identity and roles”.

The family, in all its current forms, is important to children because, besides teaching them the truths of moral values, it forms their character and gives them the opportunity to become independent, stable and compassionate individuals. Children’s personalities are able to develop in a healthy manner, because significant people within the family care intensely about them and give them priority of attention.

A family gives children a sense of history and a secure base from which to grow and develop and, through its discipline regime, helps children to internalise codes of conduct that will serve them for the rest of their lives. Within a healthy family there is a sense of giving and taking, of love and, when children see respect between their parents, they will more likely have respect for their parents.

In the midst of many thoughtful statements in the Book of Proverbs, there is this one: “It is your own face that you see reflected in the water and it is your own self you see in your heart”. In other words people reflect and respond to you with the behaviours that you share with them. The bond that links our family is not one of blood but of respect and joy in each other’s life.



Here’s a Cinquain by a ten-year-old child to reflect on:

“Family  
Always there  
Fun-loving people  
Christians who love God Friends.”

God, our Father, help us to be a family of peace and joy, who carry your love within our hearts and are generous towards each other. Amen.

### **Thought for the Week**

*“Let us know this love in our acts,  
bearing with one another,  
forgiving and forgetting.”  
Mary MacKillop 1890*

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL

### Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy 8th December 2015—20th November 2016



Year of Mercy Logo



Diocese of Parramatta Logo

#### Way of the Mercy Cross and Relics Liturgy 9:15am Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Last Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October, St Mary MacKillop welcomed the Way of Mercy Cross and two religious relics with a beautiful liturgy. The relics were a strand of St Mary MacKillop's hair, encased in a beautiful wooden cross and a letter written by St Teresa of Calcutta to Fr Paul Roberts (one of our diocesan priests). The Mercy Cross and relics provided time for our community to reflect on how we are agents of God's mercy in our world today.

During our Liturgy Miss McNally spoke inspirationally about the mercy she gave and received during her recent WYD experience. All who were present were moved by her thoughtful and gracious words. Please see what Miss McNally shared below:

*"I would like to share with you some of my encounters of mercy during my World Youth Day experience earlier this year. And encourage you to make a pledge to Find the Mercy."*

*Mercy is showing forgiveness and compassion to someone who may not deserve it. Mercy is Compassion. Mercy is Forgiveness. Mercy is Love.*

*Before I left on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, people asked me: "Are you excited for World Youth Day?"*

*"Yes," I always answered. "I'm looking forward to visiting the Philippines. To working in schools and meeting the Bohol community and making a difference for people who need it the most."*

*And that's what happened. We worked in schools, we sang songs and we danced. We shared stories and nursery rhymes and we laughed a lot. From the moment we stepped off the ferry at Bohol Port the community welcomed us with open arms. They delayed their evening mass 30 minutes for the Parramatta pilgrims. They applauded us for being there. At the schools, they held special assemblies for us. The students all stood, in the boiling hot sun and cheered for us. Their happiness and generosity was infectious. We had stationery and hygiene packs and toys to share. But the people of Bohol never accepted these gifts without offering something in return. We got necklaces, bracelets, cards, flowers, prayers, hugs, smiles and an infinite amount of high fives.*

*It's really hard not to feel guilty. The imbalance between the rich and the poor is not fair. But these people taught me a lot. To be grateful. To be happy. To be generous. To stop complaining.*

*These people showed me mercy. They didn't resent me for having more than them. They showed the world and their God, mercy. They weren't angry that their homes had been destroyed; that their schools and churches had crumbled to rubble. Instead, they showed me forgiveness and love. They praised the Lord for what they did have: family, friends, a small amount of food for the day. They showed us how the one statue of Jesus was left standing amidst a pile of concrete debris and they said "This is God's mercy. This is God's miracle."*



## Religious Education News

*Perhaps the greatest act of mercy that I learnt about on my trip was the actions of St Maximillian Kolbe. Kolbe was a Polish Priest – Friar – of very strong faith. He was arrested by the German authorities and taken to Auschwitz Concentration Camp. It was here that Kolbe volunteered to die in the place of a complete stranger. He showed love and compassion to an unknown person and made the ultimate sacrifice. Kolbe was canonized on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a martyr of charity.*

*While in Poland, we attended daily catechesis sessions. Sister Elizabeth spoke to us about her pledge to “find the mercy” every day. I decided to do the same:*

*At Blonia Park, where we gathered with 1 million others to hear the Pope’s word it poured with rain. It was muddy, it was wet and the Mass was spoken in Latin. But there was mercy, in our Parramatta Chaplain John Paul translating for us.*

*At Campus Misericordiae, where we slept outside for the night, we were freezing and sweating at the same time. We slept on the ground, on our sunburnt bodies and tolerated the snoring from the thousands of bodies around us. But there was mercy, in Aislinn, who offered me her umbrella for shade. There was mercy, in Monique, who adopted me into her group during the 15km walk when I was separated from my group. And there was mercy in Jaz who had lam, offered me her sleeping bag and a hug for warmth, even though she herself didn’t have a jacket.*

*World Youth Day was not a holiday. It was not “a walk in the park” but rather 17 days walking in parks and unfamiliar streets. It was a go-go group oriented school camp where your personal needs and wants came second to the welfare of the greater group. There was minimal sleep and confined spaces. There was limited Wi-Fi and limited connections with loved ones back home. And so with challenge comes learning. Find the Mercy. WYD taught me to be thankful for the fantastic life that I am lucky to have. It reminded me to stop complaining. To stop wanting more. It reminded me to share.*

*It’s a good activity, which you can try at home. Make a pledge to find the mercy, and every time you are close to complaining, to whinging about something that is bothering you, remind yourself to stop. Think about what you are grateful for.*

*And find the mercy.*

Miss Maryanne McNally

WYD Pilgrim, 2016







### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

The Feast of All Saints is the day on which we celebrate all the saints, those known and unknown, who have died faithful to God and now share his life in heaven. Every day in the Church calendar honours a saint, but the Feast of All Saints is when the Church celebrates every saint. While we have information about many saints, and we honour them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honoured. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. All Saints is a common feast day in order to ensure that all saints, known and unknown, are properly honoured because they have shown us how to live a life devoted to God.

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

All Souls' Day is a solemn feast commemorating all of those who have died and are now in heaven with God. Churches have special liturgies and may invite the congregation to write the names of deceased friends or family members in a special book that would be placed on the altar at each mass during November.

#### Remembrance Day

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, is Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day). Remembrance Day is a solemn day observed since the end of World War I (1914 – 1918) to honour members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day is observed on 11<sup>th</sup> November to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended *at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.* Each year we observe one minute silence at 11 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

### **Christmas Celebration: The Season of Advent – Whole School Mass 9:15am Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

This year our Christmas celebration will be a focus on the Season of Advent – a period of getting ready and waiting. Our celebrations will begin with a whole school mass at 9:15am on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November to mark the start of Advent. Our celebrations will then continue each Friday in the hall at 2pm where we will pray and light the candles of the Advent Wreath, prior to our weekly assembly, as we count down to the birth of Christ. We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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*

## P & F News

**School Disco Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October** – Once again our School Disco was a huge success. We made \$1211.50 on the night, with 278 children attending which is a great effort and from what I heard the kids had a ball!

Thank you to Scott & Erin Carroll for organising the event, your efforts is always appreciated. We'd also like to thank the following parents for taking the time out of your night to help out our School Community:

Bec Glynn-Armstrong, Jade Padoran, Tracey McGuinness, Lisa Thomas, Liz Whalen, Leasa Effield, Carlea Calder, Jill Trad, Rachel Townsend, Amy Costella, Belinda Raymond, Riannon Grady, Cath King and Jen Hicks

**Next P&F Meeting/AGM** – Just a Reminder that our next P&F meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm, followed by our AGM.

**Don't forget** if you wish to attend our meeting or want to be a part of our committee for 2017 please express your interest by contacting myself (Michelle Darwen) on 0423763926 or via email on [michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au](mailto:michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au).

We are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas to help raise money for our school, so we hope to you there.

Michelle Darwen

President

On behalf of P&F Executive Team

**Order forms will be sent home tomorrow,  
4th November!**



## **ST MARY MACKILLOP TALENT QUEST- Get Practising!!!!**

Our school will be holding our annual Talent Quest this term. The Talent Quest is an opportunity for students to showcase their skills whether it be performing as a singer, musician, magician, comedian and so on.

Please see below the dates where each grade will be holding “heats” in the Hall (*teachers and students only*).

Kindy/ Year 1/ Year 2  
Years 3 / 4  
Years 5 / 6

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

A note will come home in the coming weeks for you to fill out and return if your child is interested in participating. Students performing with music on the day are asked to bring their music on a USB stick or CD on the day of their heat. If your child would like to dress in costume, please feel free to do so.

We will then be holding a Talent Quest Showcase in the Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 11.30. All parents and friends are welcome to come and see St Mary MacKillop’s amazing talent. Please return your permission note to your classroom teacher by Wednesday, 16th November 2016.

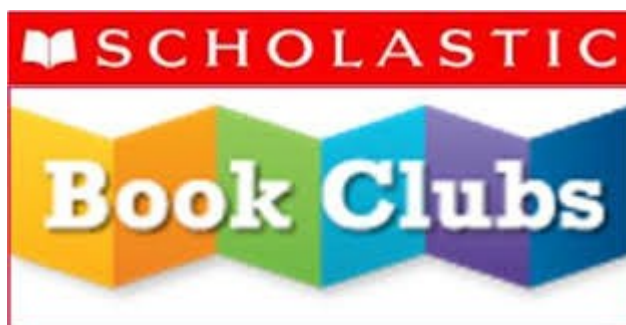
Yours musically,  
Mr. Brad Carroll  
Creative Arts



## **Book Club**

Book club will be sent out this week. Just a reminder that you can only order book club online.

For details on how to order please see the back of the order forms. Book club is due Monday, 14th November 2016.





## Dates for Your Diary Term 4~ 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	4 November	9:15am 12:30pm-1:30pm 2:20pm	Year 4 Liturgy Kindergarten 2017 Playgroup Session # 4 Whole School Assembly & IR Item
Wednesday	9 November	9:00am-11:00am	Kindergarten Orientation & Parent Information
Thursday	10 November	9:15am-1pm	K-2 Infant Tabloid Carnival
Friday	11 November	9:15am 10:45am 2:20pm	Year 2 Liturgy Remembrance Day Service Whole School Assembly & KH Item
Monday	14 November		2017 Captain Speeches
Tuesday	15 November	7pm	Caroline Chisholm Orientation Day P & F Meeting
Wednesday	16 November		K-2 Pet Education Program
Thursday Friday	17 November 18 November		Year 6 Canberra Excursion
Friday	18 November	9:15am 11:30am 2:20pm	Year 5 Liturgy K-2 Talent Quest Whole School Assembly 3M & 3W Item
Wednesday	23 November	11:30am 5:30pm-9:00pm	Stage 3 Talent Quest Jarrara Annual Awards Evening @ Blacktown
Thursday	24 November	11:30am	Stage 2 Talent Quest
Friday	25 November	9:15am 9:00am-11:00am 2:20pm	Whole School Advent Mass Xavier College Orientation Morning Whole School Assembly & 5G Item
Wednesday	30 November		PDCPSSC Awards
Thursday	1 December	11:30am	Talent Quest
Friday	2 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly 6M & 6MC Item
Monday	5 December	9:00am	Parent Helpers Morning Tea
Thursday	8 December	4:00pm-7:00pm	P & F Gingerbread House Decorating Afternoon
Friday	9 December	9:00am 6:00pm	Year 6 Fun Day Year 6 Disco
Monday	12 December		Kindergarten and Year 6 Buddy Farewell





## 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](http://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 28<sup>th</sup> October 5pm.**  
**Winter Sports Registrations close Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**