



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

### Celebrating 2014 Achievements and Thankyou

As we come to the end of 2014 school year I would like to give thanks to and congratulate all members of our school community. It's great to reflect on the year and celebrate what we have achieved together. I would like to congratulate and say "well done" to all St Mary MacKillop Children on another fantastic year of learning. One thing that really impresses me about the children, when I'm conducting instructional walks, is the way they embrace learning. Sincere thanks to the teachers who continue to provide rich learning experiences as they allow our students to develop many of the skills needed to function competently and confidently as 21st century learners. Thank you to the staff for everything you do for our children. They make learning fun and interesting. The quality Catholic Schools survey at SMMK informed us earlier this year, that children here enjoy attending school. This can be attributed to the level of engagement and the positive atmosphere that the teachers provide for our children. Our Parent and Friends of St Mary MacKillop have worked tirelessly this year to support our school in a number of ways by contributing to the learning programs, building school community and supporting our school financially. I'd like to acknowledge the parents who end their association with St Mary MacKillop School this year. Thank you for all your contributions to our school over the many years. It is also an important opportunity to farewell our Year 6's as they leave St Mary MacKillop and prepare for the next phase of their education and life journey at secondary school next year. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

As Dr Suess quotes in his book *Oh the Places You'll Go*:

*"You're off to Great Places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting,  
 So... get on your way!"*

Or as Oscar Romero expresses in the following Poetic Prayer:

#### *A Future Not Our Own Oscar Romero*

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.*

*The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

*No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness.*

*No programme accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about:*

*We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.*

*We lay foundations that will need further development.*

*We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.*

*This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.*

### The Staff of 2015

**Principal:** Mr Michael Siciliano

**Assistant Principal:** Mr Steve Cauchi

**REC:** Mrs Leesa Gillard

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

Mr Steve Cauchi - Stage 2

Mrs Kelly Gray- Stage 3

**Coordinator 1:** Mrs Meehan

**Kindergarten:** Mrs Deborah Aliberti (KA) and Miss Ellen Hall (KH)

**Year 1:** Miss Nicole Jones (1J) and Mrs Margaret Rowan (1R)

**Year 2:** Mrs Ashlea Milgate (2A) and Ms Connie Mulders (2M)

**Year 3:** Mr Darren McErlain (3M) and Ms Ros Wheaton (3W)

**Year 4:** Mrs Julie Brigden/Chris Laffan (4BL) and Mrs Leonie Mitchell (4M)

**Year 5:** Mrs Leesa Gillard (5G) and Mrs Margaret Meehan (5M)

**Year 6:** Miss Maryanne McNally (6M) and Mrs Kim Mathewson/Mrs Rachel Paine (6PM)

**Teacher/Librarian:** Mrs Maree Eisenhuth

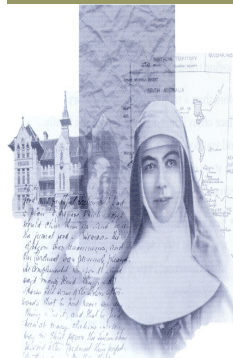
**Library Assistant:** Mrs Marina Napoli

**Learning Support:** Mrs Kelly Gray, Mrs Niamh MacDonald, Mr Steve Cauchi, Miss Claire Meehan, Mrs Marina Napoli, Mrs Judy Inskip and Mrs Simone Breia.

**Administration:** Mrs Chris Capolupo and Mrs Allison Masina

**CAPA and Language Studies:** Mr Brad Carroll

**School Counsellor:** Mrs Jeanne Appleton



### **Installation of Flashing Lights**

The NSW Government has provided funding for the placement of school zone signs with flashing lights at all schools by the end of next year to alert motorists of the 40km speed limit required during school drop off and pick up times. Roads and Maritime Services plan to install signs outside St Mary MacKillop Primary School the week beginning Monday 22 December outside of 40km school zone hours. Work will take up to two hours to complete. If all goes to Plan these flashing lights will be in operation when we commence the 2015 school year.

### **Safety Assessment**

Last term Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta engaged a level five Arborist to assess the potential hazards of trees to the safety of students, staff and visitors in our school grounds. During the Holidays trees identified in the detailed report will be removed, replaced and pruned as recommended and required as part of Work Health and Safety.

### **Farewell**

As this year comes to closure we farewell and thank Mrs Liz Devlin, Miss Ashleigh Brown and Mr Hayden McKechnie who have been an important part of our school community this year. Mrs Devlin will take up the Acting Assistant Principal at Bethany Primary, Glenmore Park, Miss Brown is moving to Chisholm Primary, Bligh Park as Year 2 teacher and Mr McKechnie will be working in IT at McCarthy College, Emu Plains. May the Lord bless these fine educators as they move into their new roles and school communities.

### **Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge.**

Children are once again encouraged to participate in the Executive Director's reading challenge. By reading a minimum of 10 books children have the chance of winning one of four iPad minis. Simply upload your child's details on [parra.catholic.edu.au](http://parra.catholic.edu.au) and enjoy reading over the holidays. Entries close Friday 6 February.

Have a great Christmas, a relaxing holiday and I look forward to seeing you all back next year.

Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL

## **Religious Education News**

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### **Christmas Carols Evening:**

Last Tuesday night we gathered as a school community to celebrate the joy of Advent and Christmas. Our carols evening was a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and I think you would agree that the children looked amazing and sang like angels! Special thanks must go to Mr Brad Carroll and Mrs Margaret Meehan who prepared the orchestra and choir so well. I would also like to thank Mr Paul

Stenning, Mr Nick Hall, Mr Glenn Green, Mr Nick Fryer and St Dominic's College for their musical and technical support.

### **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Thankyou!**

Our last Social Justice Initiative for 2014 has been a huge success! Last Friday, the St Mary MacKillop community presented Mr Joseph Tabone, a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society, with 64 bags of grocery items. Mr Tabone expressed his thanks to all the children and their families and was overwhelmed with our generosity. These items have now been used to make Christmas Hampers for the needy within our community. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the outpouring of support to this important appeal. We have certainly made this Christmas Season special for many people in need.

### **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Graduation Mass:**

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 2014 graduating students. The Year Six Graduation Ceremony will be held at 9:30am on Monday 15 December at school, followed by the Graduation Mass at 7:00pm in our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. All in our community are warmly invited to attend these special ceremonies.

### **The Second Week of Advent:**

As the second week of Advent draws to a close we continue to prepare our hearts and wait for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We remember when John the Baptizer made his appearance as a preacher in the desert of Judea, this was his theme: Reform your lives. The reign of God is at hand!" *Mt. 3:1*

*Lord,  
like a loving parent, you offer me your comforting hand.  
Help me to wait for your coming with patience and to listen to what you ask of me.  
I want so much to be one of "your people" and to live my life in you.  
Thank you for the way you bless my life.  
Thank you for listening to my prayers and for planting deep in my heart  
the knowledge that with you, nothing is impossible.  
Amen*

May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you all and I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator

## From the Assistant Principal

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### **2015 Maths Assessment Interviews:**

Thank you to the many parents who have returned the note scheduling a Maths Assessment Interview for 2015. You will receive a letter confirming your appointment time in the coming days. There are still many timeslots available for all grades on Tuesday 27 January particularly from 12.00pm onwards. If you have not yet scheduled an appointment time and you are able to bring your child to the school on Tuesday 27 January, I encourage you to do so. The data gained from this interview (which should take about 30min) is invaluable for the class teacher in assessing a 'growth point' in number which then informs the personalised teaching for each child.

*Mrs Steve Cauchi*

Assistant Principal

## End of Year Reminders

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### ***Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2015:***

**If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2015 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.**

### ***Bus Travel 2015:***

Parents are reminded that students who travel by bus and are going into **Year 3 2015** need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from the school office. Applications must be returned by **Friday 12 December** or your child will not be issued with a new bus pass next year.

## P&F News

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### **PIZZA DAY!!! - THANK YOU:**

The P&F would like to extend their appreciation to all those amazing parents and friends that helped out during the Pizza Day packing and distribution of food and drinks for our children. Without you this event would not have been such a big success. THANK YOU.

### **GINGERBREAD HOUSE FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

Thank you to Mrs Billington, Mrs McGregor, Mrs Sykes and Mrs Grady for organising this family event. Thank to the Randall family for the raffle donations prizes and many other people that assisted throughout the evening to make this Family Event such a huge success. We hope everyone had a great time constructing their gingerbread houses and winning some great prizes in the process. Your feedback about the evening would be very much appreciated. Just email Liz Whalen on: [dexa1972@gmail.com](mailto:dexa1972@gmail.com).

### **ZOOOPER DOOPER LAST DAY:**

Zooper Doopers will be sold at 60c for a whole and 30c for a half at recess (1:30pm) The last day for Zooper Doopers is 17 December 17. Thank you to all the parents that have helped out throughout the year.

### **THANK YOU, GOOD BYE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS:**

On behalf of the P&F 2014, we would like to extend our appreciation to all families that are part of our St Mary MacKillop family. You are people who just like St Mary MacKillop 'Never see a need without doing something about it'. Thank you for being such amazing role models for our children as we are humbled by your kindness and assistance throughout the year.

We wish our Year 6 students golden paths of lifelong learning experiences, friendships and success. Congratulations on closing your Primary chapter and commencing the next in your educational journey through life. You do us proud with all your dedication to your studies. May you be blessed with all things positive.

I wish to thank the P&F of 2014 for all their selfless dedication, this includes Lee Hooker (Vice President) - sadly leaving us after 18 years of commitment to the school. Lee and his beautiful wife Linda have dedicated so much to our school that the list is endless - Thank you Hooker family for everything. Jenny Inskip (Treasurer), Jade Billington (Secretary) Veronica Neal (Fundraising) Rachel Townsend and Michelle Darwen (Major Fundraising), Fiona Bryant (Fundraising, Bargain Bus) and Cecily Ellston (Maintenance), Rebecca Moxey and Tracey McGuiness (PRC Representatives). Most events this year would not have been accomplished without these busy hardworking team of angels (leaders) with the biggest hearts that I know. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, you are all priceless to our school.

Thank you to our school leaders Mr Siciliano and Mr Cauchi who have made 2014 such a fantastic year. The dedication of our school leaders and teachers makes our school all the more pleasurable for our children and to this we are grateful for all your passion in ensuring that our children are receiving the best education possible at their knowledgeable level.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Be safe, be kind, be peaceful, be patient throughout the holidays and enjoy and appreciate every precious moment you have with your loved ones. Have an amazing and safe holiday and see you all in 2015.

God Bless

Liz Whalen

On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

## Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	12 December	6:00-9:00pm	Reports Sent Home Year 6 Fun Day Year 6 EOY Disco
Monday	15 December	9:30am 7:00pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra
Tuesday	16 December		Class Promotions
Wednesday	17 December		Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday & Friday	18 & 19 December		Staff Development Days

## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2015

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	27 January		Staff Return for 2015
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28 January</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>Term 1 commences for Year 1-6 2015</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29 January</b>	<b>8:45am-12:00</b>	<b>Kindergarten commence 2015 ½ day</b>
Monday	2 February	8:45am-3:00pm	Kindergarten full days Years 3-6 Primary Swimming Carnival
Thursday	5 February	5:30pm	P&F Welcome BBQ
Friday	13 February	TBC	Opening School Mass
Tuesday	17 February	7:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Reconciliation Parent Meeting
Wednesday	18 February		Ash Wednesday
Tuesday	24 February		Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook
Wednesday	25 February	2:00pm	Parent Literacy Workshop
Friday	27 February		Diocesan Swimming Carnival @ Blacktown
Monday	2 March		2016 Kindergarten Enrolments Open
Tuesday	10 March	2:00pm & 7:00pm	Numeracy Parent Workshop
Friday	13 March		School Cross Country
Thursday	2 April		Holy Thursday - End of Term 1
Friday	3 April		Good Friday

### Online Newsletter:

Next year we will be asking parents to subscribe to receiving the newsletter online via the website as we will no longer be printing a paper version of the newsletter. You will need to go to [www.mackillopenrith.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mackillopenrith.catholic.edu.au) select News & Events>Newsletter and click on Subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

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**Newsletters**

**Newsletters**

Our school newsletter, KIT (Keeping in Touch), is sent home every second week, on Thursdays and archived on the school website.

The daily happenings of our school are given here, so parents can share as fully as possible in all that concerns their children.

KIT provides relevant dates, curriculum news, and details of class activities, school celebrations and Parents and Friends' functions. If you would like this sent electronically, please notify the school office.

**Subscribe to our online newsletter**

Did you know you can also be sent all the latest news and upcoming events straight to your email in-box? What a time saver! Subscribe to E-News, our online newsletter today.

**Current Issue**

**Term 3 Week 8 4 September 2014**  
National School Improvement Tool, Father's Day Liturgy, REC News, Dates for your Diary Term 3 & 4

**Archive**

Year: 2014  
Year: 2013  
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Year: 2011

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