



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School

ONE DAY'S ABSENCE PUTS STUDENTS BEHIND

Regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of children. Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly after their child returns to school. Lateness to school or leaving early from school should be avoided whenever possible as it impacts on learning. Students who arrive late or leave early from school are required to be signed out from the school office. Amy McNeilage has researched patterns in school attendance and found that missing just one day of school has negative consequences for a student's academic achievement, the first major study linking poor attendance to lower NAPLAN results. Her research found that school attendance patterns established as early as year 1 can predict how often a student will show up to class right through high school. The study found that Australia is alarmingly inattentive when it comes to school attendance, with high school students missing more days of school than almost any other developed country.

An analysis of the attendance records and NAPLAN results of more than 400,000 students from Western Australia found any absence from school leads to a decline in academic performance. The study dispels the belief there is a safe level of absence students can get away with before their grades will suffer. Families are requested not to interrupt schooling for interstate or overseas holidays but to where possible to schedule these during school break. Every day at school is an opportunity to grow and learn in many ways. Academically, our teaching programs and our teachers aim to provide rich learning opportunities right up to the last day of scheduled classes and activities. Every day new information and skills are taught, and missing these learning opportunities can have a significant impact on your child's education. It is difficult to catch up on missed work and this can leave significant gaps in one's learning, and can contribute to a lack of understanding of key concepts. I would ask all parents to strongly support us in ensuring your child attends school every day he/she is physically able to do so.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11

St Mary MacKillop commemorated Remembrance Day on Tuesday, by pausing to remember the sacrifices of so many people who have given their lives fighting for their country. At 11:00am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead. In 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11:00am on 11 November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.

We wear
 a poppy
 to remember...



Copyright © www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Thought for the Week

*"The greatest glory of a free-born people
 is to transmit that freedom to their children."*

William Havard

Have a Blessed Week,

Mr Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL

Religious Education News

Diocesan Works Fund (DWS) November Appeal:

During the month of November, we will be joining all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith@work this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions. The faith@work appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. A letter from Bishop Anthony and a donation envelope have already been sent home and can be returned to the school office by the end of November. Bishop Anthony has asked for your generosity so these good works can continue.

Whole School Advent Mass:

There will be a whole school mass to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Advent on Friday 28 November at 9:15am. All in our community are warmly invited to attend.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity:

As a Catholic community based on following the example of St Mary MacKillop, we are asked to think of those less fortunate than ourselves as we approach the season of Advent. As part of our community building and outreach we have been approached by St Vincent de Paul to help assemble hampers for the poor as a way of preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas.

Very shortly each child will be asked to generously donate specific items as our offering towards the marvellous work St Vincent de Paul does in helping those in need. Once the hampers are finalised they will be presented to a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society.

I ask that you please give this appeal your consideration, as it is one of the outreach activities we undertake as a Christian Community throughout the year.

Christmas Carols Evening:

This year our annual whole school Christmas celebration will be a *Christmas Carols Evening* led by the students and Mr Carroll. All the children are busily learning their assigned songs and actions, as our celebration will involve song, music, movement and lots of fun as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The *Christmas Carols Evening* will be held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 2 December on the St Mary MacKillop Playground.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

End of Year Reminders

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 ASAP.

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.

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 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.

The screenshot displays the St Mary MacKillop Primary website's 'Newsletters' page. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for SCHOOL, PARENTS, LEARNING & TEACHING, NEWS & EVENTS, and CONTACT US. The main content area is titled 'Newsletters' and includes a sub-header 'Newsletters'. Below this, a paragraph explains that the school's newsletter, 'KIT (Keeping in Touch)', is sent home every second week on Thursdays and archived on the school website. It also mentions that KIT provides relevant dates, curriculum news, and details of class activities, school celebrations, and Parents and Friends' functions. A section titled 'Subscribe to our online newsletter' contains a form for email subscription. To the right, there are 'Related Links' including Latest News, Upcoming Events, Newsletters, Galleries, and Notes From School. Below the main text, there is a 'Current Issue' section for Term 3 Week 8 (4 September 2014), listing National School Improvement Tool, Father's Day Liturgy, REC News, and Dates for your Diary. An 'Archive' section lists years from 2014 to 2011. On the left side, there is a 'Social Media' section with icons for YouTube, RSS, Twitter, and Facebook. At the bottom right, there is an 'RSS Plugin' section titled 'Receive Our Feeds' with a brief explanation of RSS updates.

From the Assistant Principal

Road Safety:

Please ensure that when dropping the children off in the mornings and picking them up in the afternoon that the children always enter and exit the vehicle on the footpath side of the road. As you are aware, there is a lot of traffic in our morning and afternoon peak times and children opening doors and exiting vehicles on the road side is extremely dangerous and unsafe. Please help us to keep your children safe!

School Photos

If you would like to order a sibling/family photo from Advanced Photos, it is not too late to do so. All siblings had their photos taken on our school photo day regardless of whether an order form had been submitted or not. They are kept on file for a period of time. If you would like to order sibling photos you can do so by contacting Advanced Life Photography by telephone on 1300 728 972.

Stage 3 Overnight Excursions:

Over the past fortnight our Year 5 students have attended an overnight camp to Teen Ranch and our Year 6 students last week travelled to Canberra. I would like to congratulate all our Year 5 and Year 6 students for the manner in which you conducted yourselves on these excursions. I am sure that both excursions will provide many memories of your time at St Mary MacKillop. Many thanks to all the staff who took time away from their families to attend these camps to enable our students to have such a wonderful opportunity. Without the willingness of the teachers to commit to attending such excursions they simply do not happen.

Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school and this amount was originally discounted off the total price of the Canberra excursion.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

P & F News

UNIFORM SALE - Friday 28 November from 2:00pm:

Come grab a bargain and update your kids wardrobe with the next size up for their school uniforms. Fill up a grocery bag for \$5 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

PIZZA DAY!!! - Friday 28 November, 2014

The P & F is organising a PIZZA DAY which will take place at lunchtime. Students can pre-order a slice of pizza and a popper for \$3. More details will be sent out next week.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FAMILY FUN - 8 DECEMBER 2014

This fun event will be held on Monday 8 December from 5.30pm on the school premises. Please ensure to *finalise your payments by 17 November 2014*. This event has been organised by Mrs Billington, Mrs McGregor and Mrs Sykes. For more information or if you still want to place your order please contact Jade at billio.mjte@gmail.com or Marissa at mcgregors25@live.com.au.

SUMMER IS NEAR- ZOOPER DOOPER IS HERE

The roster has been distributed. Ice block sales days can be downloaded from the school website in the 'Notes Sent Home' section. Zooper Doopers will be sold at 60c for a whole and 30c for a half at recess (1:30pm) on the following dates: Nov - 14, 20, 26, Dec - 2, 8, 17. Thank you kindly to the parents that are helping us out.

Liz Whalen
on behalf of the P&F Executive

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	13 November	6:00pm	Year 5 Personal Development Information Night
Friday	14 November	9:15am	Year 4 Mass St Dominic's, Caroline Chisholm, Xavier and McCarthy Year 6 Orientation Day
Monday	17 November	2:05pm	4H Assembly
Tuesday	18 November		Year 2 Botanical Gardens Excursion
Friday	28 November	9:15am	Whole School Advent Mass
Monday	1 December	11:00am	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Tuesday	2 December	6:00pm	Christmas Celebration Carols
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
Wednesday	28 January	8:45am	Term 1 commences for Year 1-6 2015
Thursday	29 January	8:45am-12:00	Kindergarten commence 2015 ½ day
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