



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,  
**Congratulations to our 2016 Sport Captains**

Thoruna: Samantha Gallen & Harry Hicks  
 Carramar: Oliver Zakostelsky & Xavier Plowman  
 Uluru: Olivia Ashton & Isaac Townsend  
 Girralong: Francesco Licastro & Ben Dardaneliotis.

**Enjoy Reading with your Child!**

You may have already heard of *Pause, Prompt Praise* or the 3Ps as it is sometimes called. These three catchy words, *Pause, Prompt Praise* describe a simple technique that, used well, will support your child to practise his/her reading and to develop more reading confidence.

The principle of *Pausing* – then *Prompting* – and then *Praising* is very useful to remember and apply anytime your child is reading aloud to you.

Teachers and trained tutors often use a more structured version of this principle but the following tips can help you to try out it when reading with your child at home.

The 3Ps technique is best used when your child is reading and ‘gets stuck’ on words that they can’t read or are new to them.

When your child encounters words that are difficult for them to read, the 3Ps technique will allow him/her the opportunity to have another go, self-correct, or if needed, find out (be told) what the problem word is.

**Introduction:**

Two important things to remember from the outset when using the 3Ps:

- The goal of reading is to understand (make sense) of what is read, so always keep this in mind when you are prompting and praising your child.
- Try to ensure that you are relaxed, interested and supportive, which in turn, will help your child feel OK when they make mistakes or just can’t work out a word and need to be told what it is. At home this technique will work best when your child is reading a text that is well- matched to their reading level, that is, where your child can easily read most of the words in the text and only falters on occasional words.

Before reading, make sure that you are both comfortable and can clearly see the text your child is reading.

**Pause:**

Once your child starts reading aloud carefully follow the text as they read. If (or when) your child comes to a word they don’t know try not to jump in immediately and supply the correct word. Wait and give your child time to work out the word.

In the first instance ‘pausing’ creates an opportunity for your child to try and self-correct or work out the word for him/herself.

**Prompt**

If your child successfully supplies the word they have stumbled over it’s a good idea to suggest that he/she goes back to the beginning of the sentence and re-reads the whole sentence again (to recap meaning) before reading on.

If your child has not independently worked out the problem word, at this point you may intervene and prompt them with some quick, low-key suggestions about what they could do.

Say things like:

- Try reading on for a sentence or two, miss out the difficult word and see if that helps you to work it out what it is.
- Look at the sound the word begins with, use that clue and think about what might make sense here. Look at the pictures and see if they give you a clue to what the word might be.
- Go back to the beginning of the sentence, re-read it and have another go at working it out.



If prompts like these are not working, this is the point at which you simply tell your child the correct word. After a short time 'prompting' say:

- Would you like me to help you? or
- How about I tell you the word?

You may even briefly explain the meaning of the word but then quickly prompt your child to continue reading. Try not to spend too much time prompting as your child will find it difficult to maintain the overall meaning of what they are reading.

### **Praise**

This is the easiest part of the process for any parent because it's something that comes naturally. Praise your child's reading efforts and successes whenever you think it is appropriate during the reading process. As well as praising their effort it is often good to tell them why. For example you might say:

"Well done, I thought it was brilliant the way that you went back, re-read the sentence from the beginning and worked out that word you were having trouble with."

"That was great reading tonight, I know I had to tell you a few words but you also worked out some pretty tricky ones for yourself. Well done."

Acknowledgement: NSW DEC.

### **ATTENDING MASS**

Going to Mass every Sunday can be at times overwhelming. However, it may be more worth your while than you think. I'd like to share with you Kevin Ripley's top 10 reasons for attending mass on Sunday, for your reflection.

**10. Live Music.** This is not the focus of the Mass but it does, however, help us focus on the Mass. The Mass contains songs with lyrics consisting of prayers, some which are recent and some that have been perfected through the ages, which make them the most perfect songs to sing. When you go to Mass, keep in mind that God loves everyone's voice no matter how bad or good you may think it is. He just wants you to sing His praise and is greatly pleased by your efforts!

**9) It's Peaceful.** With the hustle and bustle of life, an hour spent in a sanctuary of peace is a wonderful thing. Allow yourself to be immersed in the beauty and grandeur, and offer your worries to the Lord.

**8) Because you can.** As a Catholic, or even if you aren't, you are able to go to Mass anywhere in the world whenever it is held, no RSVP required, knowing that you have received a distinguished invitation from Jesus Christ Himself. This means that when you are at home you can attend your parish mass and when you are on holidays you can attend the local mass. The Mass is essentially the same throughout the entire world, so even if you can't understand the language, you should be able to follow what's going on. Most importantly, the Eucharist is the same in Penrith as it is in New York. If you are away from where you would usually attend Mass, check out the Internet to find a church nearby.

**7) Community.** We belong to many communities in our lives. The congregation is there to worship God and to grow in faith formation. We are in many ways social beings, who often come together as a community. Just as we wouldn't do as well in school without friends to help us, and teachers to guide us in our learning, we might not do as well in our spiritual life without a faith community. The church offers something additional to community: Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there" (Matthew 18:20).

**6) The great potential of your existence can be truly revealed.** At Mass, you have the opportunity to experience eye-opening beauty and liberation. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminded us: "Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen."

**5) Trust = Freedom = Less Stress.** Sometimes the idea of spending an entire hour sitting in a church can be unnerving. There seems to be so much happening in our lives that need to be addressed. What if you go to Mass, and then let God help you. Making the commitment to honour God by setting aside an entire hour of time for Him no matter how much you have going on in your life, is a huge step in learning to trust in His infinite all-knowing, forever-loving nature. Not that you won't care about these things; you just won't be preoccupied with the stress that comes from worrying, knowing that your life is best placed in God's hands.

**4) Mass will change your heart.** As long as you show up for Mass, even if you are very distracted by young children, it will bring you closer to God.

**3) It's the law.** Just as the Apostles did (Acts 2:42), and the Church has been doing for two millennia (Didache XIV), we are called to participate in the Mass each Sunday. Something as great as the Mass didn't have to be given to us, but it was given out of great love, so that the incarnation would be constantly re-presented to us. Intentionally missing Mass for no good reason is a solemn matter. Such an action would go against the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the Mass is to give us the perfect opportunity to come into closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

**2) It's absolutely important.** Absolutely important things are important for everybody at all times. If everything we do and every decision we make should be oriented toward God (Colossians 3:17). Thankfully, it is true, and in this way, the Mass has importance of the absolute kind.

**1) Jesus is there** What's in the church's tabernacle? Jesus Christ and His promise of eternal life. That's right, Jesus Christ, who promised 2,000 years ago that He would always be with us as the Bread of Life (John 6:22-59) is waiting for you to come into the doors of a Catholic church to participate in His everlasting sacrifice at the Mass. Enjoy!

### Thought for the Week

*"All things on earth tend to raise our hearts to God"*

*Rev Julian Tenison Woods 1881*

Have a Blessed Week  
Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL

## End of Year Reminders

### ***Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2016:***

If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2016 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.

### **2016 Bus Travel:**

The State Government will be issuing School Opal cards to students for free travel between home and school. Children who already have a bus pass will receive their Opal card next year.

2016 Kindergarten, or and new applications and children moving into Year 3 will need to apply online via the following link:

#### **Step 1:**

Complete the application at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)

#### **Step 2:**

Print, sign and date the completed application, then return the form to the school office for endorsement.

#### **Step 3:**

The school will then send the application to Transport department. 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 travel pass won't need to apply for the School Opal card. It will be sent to the student's school at the beginning of the school year in 2016.

#### **An application is needed if the student**

- Has not had a travel pass before
- Is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- Is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
- Is changing schools
- Is changing address

#### **How to apply**

##### **Step 1**


Complete the application at [transportnsw.info/school-students](http://transportnsw.info/school-students)

##### **Step 2**

Print, sign and date the completed application, then submit it to the student's school 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.

 A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over must apply for themselves.



### **The Season of Advent:**

Yesterday we had a whole school mass to celebrate the Season of Advent, which begins this Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Advent is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year and the liturgical readings change at the start of Advent from Year B to Year C as part of the church's three year cycle.

As the Season of Advent approaches, it is helpful to re-familiarise ourselves with some of the important aspects of this time of waiting. The word *Advent* means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. The Season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. The colour of this season is purple. This is the colour of penitence as well as the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death and resurrection.

As the calendar year draws to a close, family schedules and personal agendas fill with meetings, programs, parties and annual obligations. Yet this busiest time of year calls us to draw close to others, above all to God, who became flesh and lived with us. During Advent our challenge becomes – how do we find moments of quiet when we open ourselves to God's presence in our lives? I offer you the following prayer that might start your quiet time with God.

**God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,  
As we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.**



### **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 2 December so that they can be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society well before Christmas. Thank you.

### **Donations Needed: Reusable, environmentally friendly shopping bags**

Each class is in need of reusable, environmentally friendly shopping bags to pack their St Vincent de Paul hamper items into. If any family has a surplus supply of these bags could they please either send them to their class teacher or drop them into the school office. Thank you.

### **Christmas Celebration: The First Christmas – Tuesday 1 December at 6:30pm**

Our Christmas celebration this year is called The First Christmas and is based on the Nativity story. The First Christmas will be told through story, song and dance and will be held at St Dominic's College (54-97 Gascoigne St, Kingswood) on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 6:30pm.

Each grade will be involved in the presentation of the Christmas story and are asked to come dressed as follows:

<b>Kinder</b>	<b>Angels or Mary</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>People of Bethlehem</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Shepherds or angels</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Mary or Joseph</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Kings</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Angels or white/light coloured clothing</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Christmas Colours</b>

***Please note: No tinsel is to be worn as it is hard for the cleaners to remove.***

All children will need to assemble outside the St Dominic's Hall at 6pm. Their teacher will be waiting for them and will mark their name off the roll. ***As this is our last whole school religious celebration for 2015 it is expected that all children will attend.***

### **Religious Literacy Assessment: Year 4 and Year 6**

During Term 3 all Year 4 and Year 6 students in the Parramatta Diocese completed an on-line assessment of their religious literacy development. This assessment required the students to answer a series of multiple choice questions related to their learning in Religious Education.

In addition, the Year 4 students completed a variety of learning tasks related to the Religious Education unit, Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing.

The results of these assessments are now finalized and overall the students of St Mary MacKillop Primary School performed above the diocesan average. In particular, we achieved excellent results in the areas of Scripture and Christian Life (Year 4) and God, Scripture and Prayer (Year 6). Each Year 4 and Year 6 student will receive an individual report that will be sent home with class reports.

### **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Mass – Monday 14 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 2015 graduating students. The Year Six Graduation Ceremony will be held at 9:30am on Monday 14 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.

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator

**St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Parish**  
**2016 Sacramental Program**  
**Parent Information Evening for Sacramental Program**  
***Sacrament of Penance:***



**When: Tuesday 9 February 2016 (PLEASE MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY) Time: 7:00pm Where: In the Church**

**Who should attend: Parents or Guardians of children in Year 3 or above who have already been baptised.** This meeting is the first step in your child/children beginning the preparation for their Sacraments of Initiation. The 3 sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. It is necessary that all who are preparing to complete their initiation into the Church begin with the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation. First Holy Communion preparation is the next step, and this normally occurs when your child is in Year 4. Initiation is completed with Confirmation. This takes place when your child is in Year 5.

In order to enrol in this program one parent must be present. More information will be provided at the Information Evening. If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 47212509 or via email at [enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

Lyn Olander  
Parish Secretary - on behalf of Anne Tucker  
Sacramental Co-ordinator



## **P & F News**

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### **P & F SCHOOL DISCO - WOW!!! WOW!! WOW!!!**

Students came to dance, came to sing, and danced the night away with our disco divas for the night. What an amazing job our P & F organisers Mrs Attard, Mrs Darwen, Mrs Ellston and Mrs Inskip did, along with all parent helpers. THANK YOU SO MUCH. The children enjoyed the two sessions successfully and thank you to our school leaders and teachers for supporting this great fundraiser for the school. As a team we accomplished so much more when the workload is divided between teachers and parents. A big thank you to our DISCO Team WENDY AND TAYLOR for their sensational disco techniques and dance moves. Your talents were very much appreciated and commended. I highly recommend this team for all future events that take place 'BJ's Discos' by Wendy 0412 857 277. Let's do it again NEXT YEAR!!!

### **GINGERBREAD BUILDING FAMILY EVENT - LET IT SNOW DOWN UNDER?**

The Gingerbread building family event was an absolute success thanks to the wonderful Mrs McGregor, Mrs Sykes and Mrs Grady for organising such a festive event with such professionalism. Such a wonderful atmosphere, and such a beautiful way to spend quality, and artistic time with your loved ones. We witnessed the making of monumental houses that Hansel and Gretel would of gobbled up in a snap, however, we also witnessed demolitions as they made their way to the wrap table - hence failing inspection - check out our SCHOOL FACEBOOK page and see all things beautiful that took place on the night. Thank you for all your support and God bless.

### **NEXT FETE 2016 MEETING - TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2015 @ 7:30PM IN SCHOOL HALL.**

Any questions please refer the Fete Committee Michelle Darwen, Erin Carroll, Natalie Cilia or Jenny Inskip.

### **CALLING ALL SMMPS FAMILY STALL HOLDERS - FETE 2016**

The Fete Committee 2016 is calling out to all families and friends from St Mary MacKillop Primary School who would be interested in setting up a stall to sell goods and services at our next School Fete taking place in May 2016. Out of respect and courtesy we always offer families the first option before advertising and extending interest to external businesses for stall bookings. If you would like to set up a stall next year at our school fete, please contact Michelle Darwen on 0423 763 926 or mail [michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au](mailto:michelle.darwen@outlook.com.au) and she will be more than happy to provide you with the relevant paperwork and insurance information.

### **ZOOPER DOOPER TIME!!! - EVERY FRIDAY**

Zooper Doopers will be sold on every Friday this term (volunteers permitting). Zooper Doopers are sold at recess 1:30pm and are priced at 60c for a full size or 30c for half. Volunteer parents are always required for the lead up to these sales, so if you able to help out, please advise the front office and forward the message to Jenny Inskip.

**NOTE: THANK YOU SO MUCH to all our Parents and Volunteers who dedicate their time to selling ice-blocks, may we please limit ice block sales per child to the maximum of two (2) as this will ensure students consume the Zooper Doopers before the bell rings. Please be advised the ICE BLOCK SALES WILL BE CANCELLED when children are kept in due to excessive heat and issues with ants in the classrooms.**

Be gentle, be kind, be giving, be patient and God Bless

Liz Whalen

President

On behalf of the P and F Executive team

## Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2015

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	27 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 4M Item
Monday	30 November	11:00am	Parent Helper's Morning Tea
Tuesday	1 December	6:30pm	Christmas Concert @ St Dominic's Hall
Friday	4 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 5G Item
Thursday	10 December	9:00am	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday	11 December	6:00-9:00pm	Year 6 End of Year Disco
Monday	14 December	9:30am 7:00pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	16 December		Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday & Friday	17 & 18 December		<b>Staff Development Days-Pupil Free Day</b>

## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Wednesday	27 January	11:00-4:15pm	Staff Return for Term 1-SDD MAI Testing
Thursday	28 January	8:45am 9:00am-3:45pm	Years 1 - 6 Return for Term 1 2016 Kindergarten MAI Testing
Friday	29 January	9:00am-12:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Commence 1/2 day
Monday	1 February	8:45am-2:50pm 8:45am	Kindergarten commence full days Primary Swimming Carnival (Years 3-6)
Wednesday	3 February	3:15-4:15pm	MAI Testing
Wednesday	10 February	3:15-4:15pm	Ash Wednesday MAI Testing
Tuesday	23 February		Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook
Thursday	25 February		Diocesan Swimming Carnival @ Blacktown
Friday	25 March		Good Friday
Monday	28 March		Easter Monday
Tuesday	5 April		School Photos-Summer Uniform
Friday	8 April		Term 1 Concludes

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2- 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	25 April		ANZAC Day
Tuesday	26 April		Term 2 Commences
Friday	6 May	TBA	Mother's Day Liturgy
Monday	13 June		Queens Birthday Long Weekend