



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Our school constantly strives to be:

*A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.*

I wish to extend to each and every one of our families a heartfelt;

### **HAPPY ST MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY**

Last week we celebrated the Feast Day of our Patron Saint in style.

On Wednesday, we gathered in our hall to celebrate mass with Fr Matthew and our community. This was a beautiful school mass led by our Year 5 team and celebrated with our kids ..... I am so proud. The children gave generously through their reading, acting, singing, serving and reverent participation. All the kids were thanked with a bag of chips, kindly donated by the P and F during the afternoon at school.

When we had finished our lunch break, the children attended a performance of 'The Young Mary Show'. The actors shared with our children the significant events and issues that defined the life of Mary MacKillop and the amazing faith she displayed in the face of adversity and challenge.

We also called upon the generosity of our community and collected coins donated from each class. During the afternoon we all gathered on the playground for a 'St Mary MacKillop Coin Weigh-In'. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this fun fundraiser activity. The proceeds will be supporting the works of the Sisters of St Joseph.

I am sure that you would be aware that the talents and hard work of the students are matched by the wonderfully gifted and dedicated staff that work here at St Mary MacKillop. However, I feel it is always worth reminding you of the fabulous people we have here supporting your child to develop their gifts and talents. To our team of staff I say 'thank you' for all you do for our school and community.

My experience over the past year tells me that St Mary MacKillop South Penrith is a fantastic school that does so many things right. However, like any organisation, we are not perfect and therefore from time to time we will make mistakes. We accept the challenge to develop our gifts and talents as a school and part of that is accepting feedback and complaints from our community.

If you find that you have concerns about your child's learning, welfare or relationships at school I encourage you to contact your child's teacher to organise a time to share your concerns. Your child's teacher can then address your concern or direct it to the appropriate person in the school.

I am also available to discuss your concerns. If you would like to meet with me to share your concerns, I ask that you make an appointment through the school office. The office staff will seek some brief description of your concern so that they can support me in being prepared to meet with you or to direct your concern to the best person for investigation and resolution.

Thank you for helping to make our school great and for working with us to continue to grow. I have included below, a reminder from our diocesan guidelines.

*Reminder for our school community If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to identify your concern. It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience of our staff. If you would like to raise a concern, the Catholic Education Office has guidelines for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information about how to handle complaints either informally or formally is available from the school office and/or within the Complaint Handling Guidelines. These documents can be accessed on the system website [www.parra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au)*

### **Staffing News**

Mrs Rachel Paine will be taking leave from our school in Term Four to welcome a new arrival to her family. We wish her, her husband Mick and Payton and Henry all the very best and look forward to meeting the new addition to their family. We are advertising for a replacement for Mrs Paine whilst she is on leave.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal



### Mary MacKillop International Fundraiser

On Wednesday 8th August we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the patron saint of our school. As part of our celebration we held a fundraising activity where the whole school participated in a class coin weigh-in. On the day KM were the winners with 4 kilograms of coins collected. Well done KM - what a huge effort!

The coins are still being counted, but at present, as a school community we were able to raise over \$1500, which is a fantastic accomplishment. Congratulations to all the generous people in our wonderful community! The money raised has now been forwarded to Mary MacKillop International to continue the good work started by St Mary MacKillop and now carried on by the Sisters of St Joseph. Thank you for your continued generosity!



### Mary MacKillop International

Mary MacKillop International (MMI) is the aid and development organisation of the Sisters of St Joseph. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, they work in partnership with local communities in Australia, throughout Timor-Leste, Peru and Papua New Guinea in the areas of education, health and livelihoods. Their program aspirations are that all members of the community can read and write, enjoy good health and have sustainable livelihoods.

By partnering with local communities MMI brings dignity to thousands of children, women and families. With this in mind, we can be assured that our donation will help those less fortunate in our world.

### Feast of the Assumption: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 9:15am Whole School Mass

Yesterday, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, we celebrated a whole school Mass for the Feast of the Assumption, which is a holy day of obligation. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. God gave her this privilege because of her sinlessness and role as the Mother of Jesus.

Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God.



As many of our students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September it is an opportune time to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament.

The sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and completes the process of initiation into the Catholic community. It establishes young adults as full members of the faith. This sacrament is called *Confirmation* because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to believe in God and the Church on a child's behalf. At Confirmation, the candidates renew those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts. The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe.

A bishop celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation, because each bishop is a successor to the Apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The bishop wears red vestments to symbolize the red tongues of fire seen hovering over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the anointing of the confirmation candidate with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop). At the time of anointing the bishop will say "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*" This seal is a consecration, representing the safekeeping by the Holy Spirit of the graces bestowed on the Christian at Baptism.

All baptized persons can and should be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith and for the practice of faith.

As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for our Confirmation candidates as they begin to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

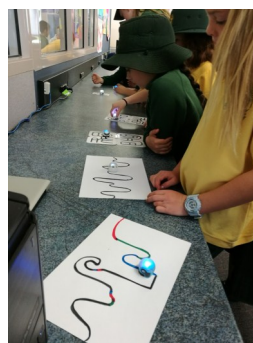
Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator

## Science Week

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This week is National Science Week. To celebrate, St Mary MacKillop students were invited to engage in a range of scientific activities during the week. On Monday and Tuesday in the library, students explored how air takes up space and can create pressure, what substances mix and don't mix, optical illusions, air dynamics and creating simple machines. The fun continued on Wednesday lunchtime with the introduction to Coding and Robotics. Primary students got the chance to dabble in coding and test their skills. Infants grades will get the opportunity to join the coding fun on Thursday. Friday, all students will be invited at lunch to explore how art and science mix together.

Science exploration is continuing in Year 4, students were asked to find their own science experiments to share with their class. Thick and fast, students have been either recording their experiments at home, taking pictures or bringing them into school to share. We have already learnt so much! There has been excellent engagement from all the students across the school. I'm sure we have some scientists in the making.



## P&F News

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The P & F will be holding our Father's Day stall on Thursday, 30th August 2018. Please remember to send money with your children. Gifts range from \$1.00 to \$10.00.

On Friday, 31st August 2018 the P & F will be holding a breakfast BBQ for the Dads, Grandads and special men in our children's lives. We will start serving from 8:15am and will finish before the liturgy.



### Year 6 Parents

Year 6 Farewell plans are coming along nicely. For a great night please remember to send photos of your child at school functions on a USB clearly labelled with your name so we can start working on the slideshow.

Our Year 6 Farewell meeting will be held on the 5th September at 6:30pm at Jamison Hote

Our next P & F meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28th August—6:30pm Executive and 7pm General Meeting.

Veronica Neale  
P & F President



## Sports News

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### Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival

The Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival was held at Blacktown International Sports park last Friday, 10th August. A round of applause for our wonderful team of athletes, who wore our school colours with pride! A big thank you to Mrs Paine, who spent the day with the 40 students representing our school. The team performed exceptionally well and we are thrilled to share the following results:

Congratulations Jarred H, who broke the Nepean Zone Record in the 200m 11 Years Boys event! Wow, go Jarred! Amazing!

St Mary MacKillop had THREE Age Champions on the day! Congratulations:

Amber S - Junior Girls Champion

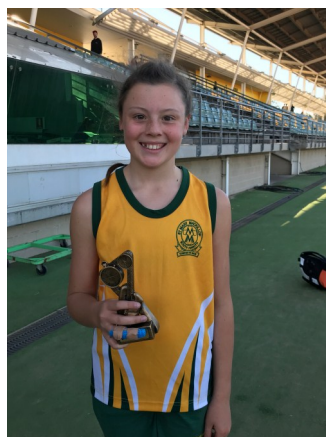
Jarred H - 11 Years Boys Champion

Judith G - Senior Girls Champion

What superstars! Massive achievement!

Congratulations to the 17 students who have qualified for the Diocesan Athletics Carnival which will be held next Thursday. We are so proud of you all for having the opportunity to represent your school and your Zone at such a high level! We wish you the very best of luck!

Maryanne McNally  
Sport Coordinator



## Building Child Safe Communities - Forms For All Volunteers

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'Building Child Safe Communities' is an initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering at schools. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

**Volunteers** – please access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).

Then click on '**Volunteer Form**' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

If you would like to be a parent helper at sports carnivals, reading groups, gala days, excursions etc you will need to complete the form.

## School Fees

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Thank you again for your patience with any issues you may have experienced with school fees while CEDP have transitioned the management of school fees.

If you have not yet received your school fee statement or have requested a direct debit arrangement which has not yet commenced could you please contact the school office on 02 4724 3200.

## School Banking

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School banking day is Friday. School banking encourages your child to develop regular savings habits by giving them the opportunity to deposit money into their Youthsaver account at school each week. If you are interested in school banking and your child does not already have a Youthsaver account you can apply online at [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking) or visit any CommBank branch.



## School Contact Information

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St Mary MacKillop has migrated to a new digital phone system which in turn means our phone number has changed. The new school phone number is **02 4724 3200**.



### Phone Number Change

The old phone number is still in effect and will be for the next 12 months, however, when we call you the new contact phone number will be shown on your caller id.

## Afternoon Pick Up

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Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line. If a child is not collected by their parent across the road, please **DO NOT** keep the child waiting with you, they must return with the teacher on duty.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm

Thank you for caring for our staff and kids.

## Changing After School Travel Arrangements

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If you need to change the after school travel arrangements for your child on a permanent basis, could you please forward a note to the classroom teacher.



If a change to after school travel arrangements is required after you have dropped your child at school, please contact the school office. Please be mindful that the office staff need to communicate this message to teachers and students and the process for this is to send a form to the child via the office bag which is collected from the office at **2pm**. We ask that you please, where possible, make these requests before **2pm** so that we can ensure the message reaches your child in a timely manner.

## School Bag App Instructions

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### For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

### For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).



## Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2018

Friday	17 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Monday	20 August	7:30am - 2:30pm	Captivate Showcase Dress Rehearsal - Homebush
Tuesday	21 August	7pm - 10pm	Captivate's 10 Year Anniversary Showcase Performance Quaycentre, Sydney Olympic Park
Wednesday	22 August	7pm - 10pm	
Thursday	23 August		Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Friday	24 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Whole School Assembly
Monday	27 August	12pm-1:30pm	Voice of Youth Finals
Tuesday	28 August	6.30pm - 7pm 7pm - 8.30pm	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day P&F Executive Meeting P&F General Meeting
Thursday	30 August		Father's Day Stall
Friday	31 August	8am—9am 9am - 10:30am	Father's Day Breakfast Father's Day Liturgy & Open Classrooms
Friday	7 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly—6M Item





## Transitional Kindergarten Class

Here at Little Triumphs we will be offering a Transitional Kindergarten Class Program. It will be running from 9am-3pm. We believe that preparing your child for Kindergarten is extremely important and it will help with their transition from little school to big school.

Within our Program, we will be ensuring your child has the knowledge needed to help them be safe and respectful learners along with the fundamental elements required in order to commence Kindergarten. Get in quick, as there are limited spaces.

Our program aims to ensure that every child who graduates from the Transitional Kindergarten Class is fully prepared for their next educational step. We are passionate about children and our responsibility to educate them appropriately.

The Early Years Learning Framework's view is that early childhood is all about the notions of "being", "belonging", and "becoming" being essential to the development of identity, cognitive reasoning, and wellbeing.

Our curriculum will create the framework around all of the interactions, activities and experiences, both planned and unplanned. This will then ensure that your child is prepared for their transition to the new learning objectives in the school environments.

*Convenient Location, we are located next door to Southlands Shopping Centre.*

\*Trained Educators to get your child ready for School

\*Building strong Foundations for future learning

\*A program designed specifically for this Transitional Class

*Fees starting from as little as \$20 a day.*

Contact Little Triumphs for further information or to arrange a visit

3 Birmingham Rd, South Penrith

Phone: 47225560

Email: [littletriumphs@gmail.com](mailto:littletriumphs@gmail.com)



•CCS APPROVED•







## Before and After School Care

Do you need before and after school and Vacation Care for your child?

At Little Triumphs, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing and well-supervised, inviting atmosphere where the children and their families feel comfortable and feel a sense of belonging for children aged 5-12 years. O

7:00am- 9:00am

3:00pm-6:30pm

Quality staff, nutritious food, arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor play.

Breakfast and Afternoon tea supplied.

Transition to school

**We also provide Vacation Care**

*Convenient location, we are located next to Southlands Shopping Centre.*

Contact us today for more information.

47225560

3 Birmingham Rd, South Penrith

[littletriumphs@gmail.com](mailto:littletriumphs@gmail.com)

**\*CCS approved\***





## TWO - PART SEMINAR

# Understanding Family Law

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

PRESENTED BY:

**Accredited Family Law Specialist**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August - SESSION 1**

**10am – 12pm**

**Overview of the Family Law Act with Focus on Separation, divorce and children.**

- Principles of Family Law Act
- Role of Family Law Courts
- Filing a divorce application
- Family violence
- How court determines the “Best interest of Children”
- Parental Legal Responsibilities
- Mediation
- Role of Independent Children’s Lawyer
- Filing Consent Orders for Children and Property

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August - SESSION 2**

**1pm – 3pm**

**Overview of the Family Law Act with Focus on Property**

- What constitutes or determines Property
- Application of the Act in de facto or same sex relationships
- Requirement for Pre-action Procedures
- Spouse Maintenance
- Timetables under the Family Law Act
- Timetables within the Family Court

### DATE

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

### TIME:

**Session 1 10am – 12pm**

**Session 2 1pm – 3pm**

### VENUE:

**St. Patrick’s Cathedral Hall  
1 Marist Place, Parramatta  
(off street parking via Victoria Rd)**

### COST:

**\$ 10.00 per session**

**\$20.00 for both Sessions**

**Please note: Morning - Afternoon Tea / Coffee provided**

**Please bring your own lunch if attending both sessions**

### FURTHER INFORMATION/BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

**Contact: Rita PH: 8843 2575**

**Email: [soloparents@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparents@ccss.org.au)**



Parents Representative Council  
SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



## 10 Things Every Parent Needs to Know



Back by popular demand! Raise your children in positive ways!

Simple and effective strategies for the main issues parents confront in everyday family life.

Justin shares his secrets of effective attention, communication and understanding; how to discipline effectively and set limits; and how to manage hot-button issues such as sibling conflict, chores, school and screens - yet still have fun as a family.

Our guest speaker for the evening is:

**Dr Justin Coulson**

Author, Parenting Expert, International Speaker and Father of six (Yes, 6!) beautiful girls

Register FREE now: [www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)

**Monday, 27 August 2018**

**Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm start (approx. 2 hours)**

**Term 3 – PRC General Meeting will be held prior to our speaker session**

**at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary, 90 Andromeda Dr, Cranebrook NSW**

Tea, Coffee and light snacks will be provided and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

[www.prc.catholic.edu.au](http://www.prc.catholic.edu.au)



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**THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSOR**



**Floral Expressions**

For details on the School fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116





Is this safe?



# PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**  
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE  
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

**B E Y O N D**  
**A PEANUT**  
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

[www.beyondapeanut.com](http://www.beyondapeanut.com)  
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you  
for helping us  
provide a safe environment  
for our friends with food allergies!