



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 had the wonderful opportunity on Tuesday night to attend the Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting. As part of this meeting we elected a new executive for our P and F for 2019.

On behalf of the staff and students of St Mary MacKillop I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of our 2018 P and F executive. Their generosity, talent, wisdom and sense of fun have enhanced the community spirit and teaching and learning for our school in so many ways. They have embodied the teaching of St Mary MacKillop, - "Never see a need without doing something about it".

I welcome our 2019 team and look forward to working with them as a new and exciting year approaches.

President: Veronica Neal

Treasurer: Michelle Darwen

Major Fundraising : Catherine Watson

Parent Representative Council: To Be Appointed

Vice President: Paul Bortolazzo

Secretary: Fiona Bryant

General Fundraising: Jo Randall

We still require someone to be our school representative on the diocesan PRC. Working collaboratively with schools and parents, the PRC provides opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's school community and learning journey. With access to information and educational opportunities via parent forums and guest speakers, parents can become active participants in their child's schooling. There are four events each year that our representative would need to attend.

If you are interested in filling this role for 2019 please contact the school office.

Congratulations to those elected and thank you to all those who attended the meeting.

School Facilities News

Last week we replaced the air conditioning units in the classroom of Year 1J. The classroom air conditioners have become quite old and present a couple of significant challenges for us around ongoing cost and safety. Our intention is to replace another five air conditioners in classrooms before the end of the year and to schedule replacement of more in 2019.

During the last week of school we will also replace the carpet in the kindergarten classroom. Following the upgrade of Year 3 - Year 6 classroom carpets we are now commencing work in Kindergarten – Year 2 classrooms. This work will continue for Year One and Year Two in 2019.

These improvements to our facilities are being paid for from the school's operating costs which are generated largely from your school fee payments. Thank you for supporting and investing in us.

Staffing News

As the end draws to a close and we finalise staffing for 2019 there will be some changes for us in 2018. One of these changes that has occurred is that Miss Franklin will be moving from our team to the team at St Michael's Blacktown next year. I wish to thank Miss Franklin for all she has given to our community in her two years here and on your behalf wish her well with this next stage of her career.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Religious Education

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity

As a Catholic community based on following the example of Jesus and 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.



Each child/family has been asked to generously donate specific items as our offering towards the marvelous work St Vincent de Paul does in helping those in need. Could all donations please be well within their expiry date and returned to school **by Tuesday 4th December**.

The hampers will be presented to a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society at the end of Week 8.

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.

The Season of Advent (Sunday 2nd December)

The Season of Advent, which begins this Sunday 2nd December, 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.*



2018 Christmas Celebration: 6:30pm Wednesday 5th December

On Wednesday, the 5th of December we will gather as a school community to celebrate the Season of Christmas. This year, we will have a **Christmas Carols Evening** which will be held at 6:30pm on the St Mary MacKillop playground. Parents are invited to bring picnic blankets and/or picnic chairs to sit on. There will be an opportunity for an 'old-fashioned sing-a-long' so don't forget your singing voices!!!!

Presently, 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.

All children will need to meet their class teacher by 6:10pm SHARP so that they can be in position and ready to start at 6:30pm. Their teacher will be waiting for them and will mark their name off the roll. There will be class signs to advise of each meeting spot.

We have kept costumes simple for your ease and convenience. The children are asked to wear the following:

Grade	Suggested
Kindergarten	Reindeer, Elves, Christmas Colours
Year 1	Mary, Angels, Shepherds
Year 2	Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men
Year 3	Mary, Shepherds, Wise Men
Year 4	Shepherds, Mary
Year 5	Angels or colours: white, gold, silver
Year 6	Kings / Wise Men / Queens

We would appreciate that all noise during the celebration be kept to a minimum, out of respect for each class performing.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on the 5th December as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Thanks to all who attended our AGM.

Please save the date for Year 6 Farewell Friday, 14th December 2018

Veronica Neale
P & F President

*save
the date!*

Enrolment News

We will be finalising enrolments for 2019 in the coming weeks. If you are changing schools next year, could you please notify the school office on 02 4724 3200 so that we can finalise any paperwork required for the new school and offer any vacancies to families currently on our waiting list.



Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be 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 upon completion of the excursion.



Dates for Your Diary Term 4 ~ 2018

Friday	23 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 2 Liturgy Whole School Assembly (Kindergarten Item)
Thursday	29 November		Year 6 Excursion to Canberra
Friday	30 November	9:15am	Year 6 Excursion to Canberra Year 5 Mass
Wednesday	5 December	6:30pm	Christmas Concert
Friday	7 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly (6K Item)
Tuesday	11 December	11:30pm	Year 6 Graduation and Ceremony (Whole School to attend St Nicholas Parish)
Wednesday	12 December		Year 6 Excursion to St Marys Sports Centre
Friday	14 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Year 6 Farewell Disco
Wednesday	19 December		Last day of school for students

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 ~ 2019

Tuesday	29 January	12:30-3:00pm	Staff Development Day Maths Assessment Interviews
Wednesday	30 January	9:00am-4:00pm	Staff Development Day Maths Assessment Interviews
Thursday	31 January	9:00am-4:00pm	Years 1-6 Commence School Maths Assessment Interviews (Kindergarten)
Friday	1 February		Kindergarten Commence School

Building Child Safe Communities - Forms For All Volunteers

'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

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

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 or visit any CommBank branch.



School Contact Information

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.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

2019 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2019 Information For Parents of **current Year 4** and Year 5 students – Registration window open only for Basketball & Tennis ONLY

All correspondence to:

PDCPSSC

Aengus Kavanagh Education & Equity Centre

PO Box 215, Rooty Hill 2786

Tel (02) 9677 4314

Mobile 0408 278 918

mthornton@parra.catholic.edu.au

www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

Facebook: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2019 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2018 and Term One in 2019. 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 2018 be invited to attend. To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Basketball	Open boys & girls	20 th November 2018	Wednesday 31 st October 2018
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Diving	10/11yrs girls & boys & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2018	Registration via CSSS in 2019
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2018	Registration via CSSS in 2019
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Netball	Open girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Rugby League	Open boys & 11yrs boys - NB. No State team selected for 11 yrs	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Rugby Union	Open boys	Term Two 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Softball	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019
Tennis	Open boys & girls	21 st November 2018	Wednesday 31 st October 2018
Touch	Open boys & girls	Term One 2019	Friday 1 st February 2019

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 ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PROCESS". **Each sport has a different registration criteria.**

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2019 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 and when completed, click SUBMIT.

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".

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.

\$8.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for after school trials & \$10.00 trialling fee is payable on the day for half day and full day trials.

– This is to be paid upon registration at the trials once your child has been approved to attend the Parramatta Diocesan Trials.

Please note that the full day trials will be for boys cricket, boys soccer, boys rugby league & boys rugby union.

Due to the popularity of boys cricket, boys soccer and girls netball a maximum of 2 children only are eligible to trial from each school. Selection of the 2 boys and girls will be made jointly by the school sport coordinator and principal.

Half day trial for tennis and netball... all other trials will be held after school beginning at 4pm.

MACKILLOP TRIAL

It should be noted that the main purpose of the MacKillop trial is to select a team to compete at the NSW PSSA Championships. The Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Trial is not a competition although a round robin format is often used to facilitate the selection procedure.

NSW PSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Children who are successful at being selected in the MacKillop team will compete at the NSW PSSA Championships. These championships involve three or four days of competition at various locations in NSW. Children selected in these teams may also be required to attend training sessions. At the NSW PSSA Championships a State team will be selected to participate at the School Sport Australia Inter State Exchange for some sports.

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

To be considered for selection in the NSW PSSA state team for participation at all School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under championships: Students must be turning between the ages of 10 and 12 in the year of competition i.e. Students turning the ages of 8, 9 and 13 in the year of competition are not eligible for NSW PSSA State selection. **The School Sport Australia Championships are held over numerous days that may include weekend.**

Please note the following information:

- The Diocesan trials, MacKillop trials and NSW PSSA Championships are held on school days.
- Parents are responsible for all transport and supervision arrangements and must remain to supervise their child at the trial at all times.
- Children need to generally be of representative standard.
- Attendance at training days, where applicable is compulsory.
- The selector's decisions are final.
- Parents will need to make their own travel arrangements for children representing Parramatta at Inter-Diocesan MacKillop trials. This may mean travel to Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga or Forbes.
- Please be aware that the teacher conducting the trial and accompanying the team to the venue is a "Team Manager" ~ not a coach.

If you would like your child to participate in one of the Parramatta Diocesan trials please complete the Team Online Registration Form that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. ~ Click on "REPRESENTATIVE SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PROCESS".

2019 Basketball & Tennis NOMINATIONS close Wednesday 31st October 2018

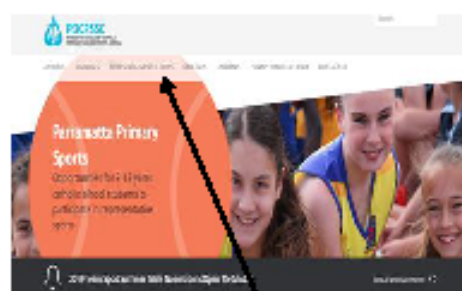
All other sports will open on Monday 19th November and close Friday 1st February 2019.

Kind Regards,

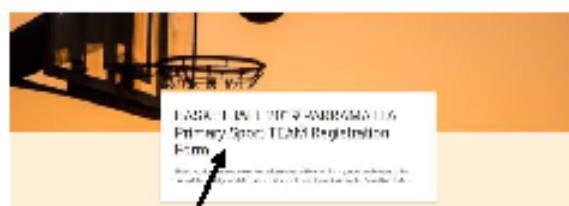
Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator Primary Sport ~ CEO Parramatta

WEBSITE: www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au



Click on "REPRESENTATIVE SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "INFORMATION & REGISTRATION PROCESS".



This is the message that appears once the registration has been submitted correctly and a NO-REPLY email should be received within 24 hours.