



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.

Congratulations Father Mathew

Our community is very blessed to have such a welcoming and caring person as Fr Mathew leading us in our partnership of home, school and parish. I have always found Fr Mathew to be very generous with his time, keen to listen and genuinely interested in the staff, students and families of St Mary MacKillop. Therefore I feel it is appropriate to share with you that Fr Mathew will be celebrating his 60th birthday on 7th August. We will acknowledge this exciting milestone in some way on behalf of the community. However, if you see Fr Mathew at mass you may like to wish him a happy birthday.

In sadder news, the following was included in last week's parish bulletin.

Dear Parishioners, The La Salette Missionaries in India have in the Provincial Guidelines the condition that if a member, is a missionary in Australia for ten years or more, they may be called back to India to undertake another mission. As I am completing my 11 years here in Australia and my six year term as Parish Priest is also ending August 2018 my Provincial has decided I should return to India and undertake another mission and ministry. In view of this development I will be leaving for India in mid January 2019. Please keep me in your prayers as I prepare to embark on this journey. Fr Mathew.

Our time working together in this partnership will soon come to a close as Fr Mathew follows God's calling to minister to another community who will surely benefit from his wisdom, kindness and generosity. On behalf of our school community, I wish him all the very best on this next part of his journey.

Attendance Really Matters

At this time each year schools conduct a 'Census' which is collected by our school system and government agencies. As I prepare our census data for this year I had a close look at how we are going with getting kids to school regularly so that we can really challenge their unique gifts and talents.

One figure has troubled me enormously. At the end of Term Two we had **53 students** across our school with attendance lower than 90%. This means that they have missed at least 10 days of schooling (2 weeks) and learning that other children have received in our school and neighbouring schools.

If this trend continues to the end of the year they will miss 20 days of learning (4 weeks).

If it continues from Kindergarten to Year 6 they will miss 140 days of learning (28 weeks – almost a year).

If it continues from Kindergarten to Year 12 they will miss 260 days of learning (1 school year and almost half of another year).

The numbers certainly add up over time. To try to catch up this much learning is not a really achievable task. Can I ask for your support in also monitoring your child's attendance at school (whether here or another child at another school) and maximise their learning opportunities. Of course if children are sick we do not expect them to come to school but I wonder if they are too sick for school are they sick enough to see a doctor rather than just stay home?

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Wednesday 8th August

Mary MacKillop's Story 1842 - 1909

On January 15, 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria.

Mary, the eldest of eight children, was well educated by her father who spent some years studying for the priesthood in Rome but through ill health had returned to Scotland until 1835 when he migrated to Australia with his parents. Unfortunately, he lacked financial awareness, so the family was often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another.

From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family, as a governess, as a clerk for Sands and Kenny (now Sands and MacDougall), and as a teacher at the Portland school. While acting as a governess to her uncle's children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time Mary's family depended on her income so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.



Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867, Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to come to Adelaide to start a school. From there, the Sisters spread, in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia, New Zealand, and now in Peru, Brazil and refugee camps of Uganda and Thailand. Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people outside the Church and even from some of those within it. In the most difficult of times she consistently refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined. Since then the Congregation has grown and now numbers about 900, working mainly in Australia and New Zealand but also scattered singly or in small groups around the world. The "Brown Joeys" may be seen in big city schools, on dusty bush tracks, in modern hospitals, in caravans, working with the "little ones" of God - the homeless, the new migrant, the Aboriginal, the lonely and the unwanted, in direct care and in advocacy, in standing with and in speaking with. In their endeavours to reverence the human dignity of others and to change unjust structures, the Sisters and those many others who also share the Mary MacKillop spirit continue the work which she began.

This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. In today's world, she stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need. ***(Extract from the Sisters of St Joseph)***

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations: Wednesday 8th August

This year, to honour our school patron, St Mary MacKillop, we have a fun-filled day planned which will include:

- ***Mass in our School hall (this will be led by Year 5 and all parents, friends and parishioners are warmly invited to join us.)***
- ***A variety of engaging, fun activities to learn about St Mary MacKillop***
- ***A special treat from the P & F***
- ***A fundraiser for the Mary MacKillop Institute: Class coin weigh-in.***

The work of the Mary MacKillop Institute is very important because it carries on the work of Mary MacKillop through the Sisters of St Joseph. This important group is always in need of financial support to continue to care for the needy, therefore this year, to raise much needed funds ***each class will participate in coin weigh-in. This fundraiser will involve each class filling a bucket with coins. These buckets will then be weighed at a whole school 'weigh in.' The class with the heaviest bucket wins! – coins can begin coming in from Friday 3rd August, so start saving your gold and silver coins now! The coin 'weigh in' will, in a simple way, help our school community to carry on St Mary MacKillop's motto of "Never see a need without doing something about it."***

- ***The Young Mary Show presented by Starrs Productions***

All students will watch The Young Mary Show. This play will introduce the children to young Mary who was determined and compassionate. They will learn about her many fun-filled and spirited childhood adventures. They will have lots of fun playing games with Mary, and hearing about her pet cow Blorac and her dad Alexander. Then, as she grows, the children will bear witness to the determination of a hard working young woman who sets out to eliminate poverty and provide a fair education for all. The play is funny and entertaining and involves the audience in lots of acting and moral decision making. *Young Mary's humour and compassion helps the audience more fully understand and appreciate St Mary MacKillop.*

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Enrolment Masses

The Sacramental Program for Confirmation began at 7pm on Tuesday 31st July with a Parent Information Session at St Nicholas of Myra Church.

A reminder that the Enrolment Masses for the Sacrament of Confirmation are this weekend; Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th August. You can attend any of the mass at St Nicholas:

Saturday 4th August at 6pm

Sunday 5th August at 7am, 8:30am, 10am or 6pm.

At the Enrolment Mass you will need to present your completed Enrolment Form that was handed out at the Parent meeting on Tuesday 31st July. All children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation **must** be enrolled in the program.

If you have any questions regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, Colleen Nicholas, at the parish house on 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



Feast of the Assumption: Wednesday 15th August, 9:15am Whole School Mass

Wednesday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption, 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. To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption we will have a whole school mass in the hall at 9:15am on Wednesday 15th August. All parents and friends are invited to attend.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Congratulations Giuseppe!

Giuseppe C, of Year 3, was named the "June All Star" and future socceroo at Southlands Shopping Centre last month. Giuseppe was recognised for his passion for soccer and received prize money to help with his soccer expenses AND his school! Giuseppe has chosen to donate some of his prize money to St Mary MacKillop! Thanks Giuseppe, and well done!

Athletics Carnival

Our primary school Athletics Carnival was held late last term and was a huge success! A big thank you to the many parents who gave up their time to assist on the day. We truly appreciate you! The Age Champions and Runner Ups will be announced and awarded trophies at this weeks whole school assembly - Friday 3rd August at 2:20pm. All are welcome to attend as we congratulate these students. The Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival will be held at Blacktown International Sports-park on Friday 10th August. Our MacKillop Team is made up of approximately 40 students. We wish them all the very best of luck!



Netball Gala Day

The St Nicholas Netball Gala Day will be held at Jamison Park on Tuesday 28th August - Week 6. We are busy trialing the many students who would love the chance to represent our school at this event. A big thank you to Mrs Mathewson and Mrs Harman, for giving up their lunch time to trial these students.

Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day

The Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day will be held at The Kingsway, St Marys on Friday 21st September - Week 9. Students in Year 5 and 6 who wish to trial will be notified about trial dates in the next few weeks.

Maryanne McNally

Sport Coordinator

Environment Leaders Helping Us Grow

Sunday the 29th July was National Tree Day and our Year Six Environment Leaders have taken advantage of the occasion to make our school more beautiful.

Each year, Toyota Penrith sponsor the donation of lots of plants to our community so that we can all participate in this special occasion and do something good for our environment. Our Year Six leaders will be working with a group of our parents to plant these shrubs and tidy up the garden near our school hall over the coming weeks. Thank you very much to Toni McHenry and the team from Toyota for their support.



Welcome back to Term 3!!

Year 6 Farewell

Preparations are underway to ensure a fun night for Year 6 2018! If any Year 6 parents would like to attend a meeting to see where things are up to then there is a meeting this Thursday 2nd August at 6.30pm at Jamison Hotel for those of you who can attend at night, alternatively there will be a meeting on Wednesday 8th August at 8.45am at school for those who can attend days...if you can't make either time but would still love to be involved I will happily add you to the email group for updates! Just text me on 0425213850 with your details.

Susie Jameson is working on a slideshow for the evening and would appreciate it if Year 6 parents could start getting photos together on a USB. She is looking for photos of the year 6 children taken over the years at school events, assemblies, sports carnivals, Mothers and Fathers Days, open classrooms, excursions, camps etc.....please no photos from private parties. Susie will need these to be sent into the office no later than 5th October 2018 to allow her time to prepare the slideshow. Please ensure you have your name clearly marked on the USB so that they can be returned to you.



Save these dates!!

This month we have our Father's Day stall on Thursday 30th August and our Father's Day Breakfast on Friday 31st followed by the Father's Day Liturgy!

P&F General Meeting and Executive Meeting Tuesday 28th August

PRC Parramatta are proud to provide (FREE OF CHARGE) this opportunity to engage with our Parramatta Diocese Catholic Schools communities.

Our topic of discussion is 10 Things Every Parent Needs to Know and our speaker for the evening is Dr Justin Coulson.

Dr Justin Coulson is an excellent presenter and this will be a presentation not to be missed. Get in touch with us if you'd be interested in going and we can maybe carpool!! It will be great and we can't wait to see you there!

Veronica Neal

P&F President

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.

Afternoon Pick Up

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

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

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

Wednesday	8 August	9am - 11.30am	Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass
Friday	10 August		Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival Year 4 Mass
Wednesday	15 August		Whole School Mass - Feast of the Assumption
Monday	20 August	8:15am - 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		Kindergarten Liturgy
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

After School Drama

CLASSES START
WEDNESDAY
7TH FEB

Wednesdays

FREE TRIAL
CLASS!

Enrolment required

St Mary MacKillop School Hall

SUPERVISION AVAILABLE FROM 3PM UNTIL 5.15PM IF REQUIRED

@ 3.15pm SUPER KIDS (K-Yr2)

@ 4.15pm COOL KIDS (Yr3-Yr7)

To enrol

www.kidscanact.com.au

ENQUIRIES:- Mrs Cathie Parkes - 0414 475 158



Exclusive offer to
**ZERO & REWARDS
CARD HOLDERS**

**20%^{*}
OFF
EVERYTHING**

INCLUDING
SCHOOLWEAR

SHOP NOW

INSTORE & ONLINE - THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST

* Excludes gift cards & all suit packages. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only.

Styles and colours may vary from store to store.

No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.

Offer ends midnight (AEDT) 09/08/18. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.



TWO - PART SEMINAR

Understanding Family Law

Saturday 25th August 2018

PRESENTED BY:

Accredited Family Law Specialist

Saturday 25th 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 25th 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 25th 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: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

Tuning in to Kids

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six session parenting program for
parents of children aged 3-12 years

Would you like to learn how to:



- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop *emotional intelligence*. Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses.

Where: Autumnleaf Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr of Autumnleaf Parade
and Timesweep Drive, St Clair

When: 6 weeks on Tuesdays starting 14 August 2018
11.00 am-1.00 pm

Contact: Kathy 9834 0500 or Virginia on 9833 6800

Cost: Free

Register by contacting The Central Referral Service on 1800 222 608

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

ABN 31 910 677 424

Entrance via Derby Street, Kingswood

PO Box 63, Penrith NSW 2751

Tel 4734 2120 Fax 4734 3737

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
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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