



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Welcome everyone to fantastic new school year. It has been a great start for our staff and students.



This year we have created new, really dynamic teams of staff to work together in delivering our school vision for your child. In each edition of KIT this term I will introduce the teaching teams as there are new faces and new grades for many of our team.

In Year 5 and 6 (Stage 3), we have Mrs Meehan and Mr Martin as classroom teachers for Year 6 and Miss Jones and Mr Harris as classroom teachers for Year 5. The Year 5 and 6 co-ordinator for this year is Mrs Rowan. Mrs Meehan will bring extensive knowledge and experience around the Stage Three structures and processes to this team having taught both Year 5 and 6 here in recent years. Mr Martin worked on our Year 3 team in 2018 and he has continued with us this year. Miss Jones has moved from Year 1 to join the team. She will also be supporting our school as a maths intervention teacher for grades 3-6. When she does this work Mrs Milgate will teach the class. Mr Harris has joined us from St Andrew's Marayong and brings a wealth of experience with him that complements the work we do here. Mr Harris will also be our Learning Technology Support Teacher this year. Whilst he carries out this role, Mrs Milgate will teach the class.

Whilst visiting Year 5 and 6 rooms so far this year I have felt a genuine sense of excitement and enthusiasm from the students and teachers and I am confident that a great year is ahead for the team.

Staffing News

I informed the school on Friday at assembly that in Term 2 Mrs Tredinnick will be commencing maternity leave. Whilst Mrs Tredinnick is very new to our community I am sure that you will join with me in wishing her, her husband and daughter all the very best as they welcome a beautiful new addition into their family. This period of maternity leave will be for the remainder of the year. We have commenced advertising for a replacement and will keep you informed as we know more.

Mrs Milgate will also be commencing maternity leave in Term 2. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing her and her husband Michael many blessings as they welcome their first child into their family.

Mr McErlain is currently on Long Service Leave for Term One. We hope that he is enjoying this precious time with family and is recharging his energy for his return in Term 2. When Mr McErlain joins us next term, he will be taking on the classes and tasks that Mrs Milgate is currently responsible for.

Attendance is the key to your child's success!!!

Throughout this year I will be raising the importance of children being **at school** and **on time** every day. It makes sense that for your child to succeed at school and continue to build on their learning, they need to be in the classroom.

Please be aware that current legislation requires that any absence from school other than due to illness, needs to be approved by the school principal. If you are seeking leave for your child, please apply in writing through the school office.

Mr Scott Buchan
 Principal

**You miss
 100%
 of the shots
 you don't take.**
 - Wayne Gretzky

News from the Assistant Principal

Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. I am looking forward to working with you again this year.

Today you are receiving a paper copy of the school newsletter- KIT (Keeping In Touch).

The KIT is produced every second Thursday and is sent out electronically once you have subscribed to it. Instruction on how to subscribe are in this newsletter. Instructions on how to use the Skoolbag are in this newsletter. We post regular updates on the official school Facebook page St Mary Mackillop Primary, South Penrith.

MATHS ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS (MAI)

Thank you to the parents who have brought their children to school out of school hours to sit the MAI. This data serves as a valuable teaching tool to enable targeted, personalised learning for every student.

EARLY YEARS ASSESSMENT (EYA)

In a few weeks our students in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two will participate in an Observation Survey of Early Literacy. These assessment inform the teachers and enables them to plan the teaching and learning experiences for our Infants classes. The assessments also help the school to identify vulnerable students for targeted intervention programs.

SPORT DAYS IN 2019

This year Mrs Margo Woodhead will be joining the staff of St Mary MacKillop as our sport teacher. Sport will be held on the following days

Monday : Year 5, Year 6 and 3T

Tuesday: Year 2, Year 4 and 3H

Wednesday: Year 1 and Kindergarten.

Students are required to wear their sports uniform including their school hat. They and are encouraged to bring their drink bottle with them. In the event of wet/sweat weather, lessons will take place in the school hall.

CREATIVE ARTS IN 2019

This year will have three specialist Creative Arts teachers, Mrs Jenni Viski (Drama), Ms Natalie Borg (Music) and Miss Brittany Carey (Dance). Over the year all students will participate in all the disciplines of Music, Drama and Dance.

OPEN CLASSROOM AND P&F WELCOME BBQ

On Wednesday 13th February our classrooms will be open for you and your child to come along and meet the teachers and see their new classrooms.

Open classrooms will be on from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. During this time you will be able to collect a parent information sheet. Please remember this is not a parent/teacher interview time. If you would like to discuss your child's progress please arrange another interview time with your child's teacher.

The P&F Welcome BBQ will start at 5.30pm.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

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 or contracting 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.

So 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.

If you need to contact me please phone the office or by my email,

mrowan2@parra.catholic.edu.au

Looking forward to a successful year

Margaret Rowan

P & F News

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all of the new and existing families of our school...it is great to see you all here in 2019!

P&F executive for 2019:

President: Veronica Neal
Vice President: Paul Bortolazzo
Secretary: Fiona Bryant
Treasurer: Michelle Darwen
Major Fundraising: Catherine Watson
General Fundraising: Jo Randall
PRC Representative: To be appointed



We look forward to seeing you at our welcome BBQ next Wednesday 13th February following on after open classrooms.

Veronica Neale
P & F President

Welcome to the 2019 school year. This time of year is always filled with mystery and excitement. Mystery because what the year ahead holds for us is unknown, and excitement because we can be assured that throughout each moment of this year God will be with us.



A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**



Opening School Mass and Year Six Leadership Ceremony: 9:15am Friday 22nd February

Please join us for our Opening School Mass on Friday 22nd February at 9:15am. At our mass we will gather as a school community to pray for God's blessing on the school year and welcome Kindergarten and the new students across the grades to St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We will also induct the Year 6 students into their 2019 leadership roles.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate our Catholic Faith together.

2019 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting, 7pm Tues 26th Feb

The Parish based Sacramental Program will begin this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with a parent only session on Tuesday, 26th February at 7pm.

If you wish to enrol in this program it is **compulsory that at least one parent/carer attend**. The meeting will be held in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. This program is for all children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised and would like to enrol in the Sacramental Program.



All enquires to Colleen Nichols (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509.
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

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 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.

Subscribing to the KIT (Keeping In Touch)

Our school newsletter is only sent home in hard copy for kindergarten the first newsletter of the year.

The newsletter is available by subscribing on the schools website www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au select News & Events>Newsletter and click on subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

Skool 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

School Sunscreen

The school uses the Ombra Ultra Sport SPF 50+ sunscreen. If your child cannot use this brand of sunscreen and would like to supply your own sunscreen for your child please bring this into the school office.

School Fees

The Catholic Education Department will send school fee notifications to parents throughout February. Payment options /plan information will be included with the statement.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our second hand school uniform shop is open the last Friday of every month from 2pm - 3.15pm.

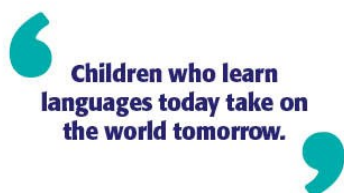
Girls summer and winter dresses \$5 each

All other items \$2.



School Banking

School banking will commence Friday, 8th February . 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. Please remember to send in your child's bank book every Friday.



**Children who learn
languages today take on
the world tomorrow.**

Co.As.It. is proud to offer this program at:

**St Mary McKillop
Primary School**

The Co.As.It. Out-of-School Hours Italian
Language & Cultural Program is available
at 15 centres across NSW

Enrol your child today



2019 Out-of-School Hours

**Italian Language
& Cultural Program**

(02) 9564 0744 | coasit.org.au



Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2019

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	7 February	5pm	Twilight Swimming Carnival - Ripples St Marys
Friday	8 February	2.20pm 2:10pm-3:00pm	Whole School Assembly Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Wednesday	13 February	3:30pm-5:00pm 5:30pm	Open Classrooms P & F Welcome BBQ
Friday	15 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	19 February		Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival
Friday	22 February	9:15am	Opening School Mass & Year 6 Leadership Ceremony Diocesan Swimming Carnival
Tuesday	26 February	7pm	Reconciliation Meeting for Parents @ St Nicholas Church
Friday	1 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly

INNOVATION
IS IN OUR **DNA**

OPEN DAY

Tuesday 5th March 2019

First tour 4pm

Second tour 5pm



XAVIER COLLEGE

KIDS CAN ACT



KIDS CAN ACT
is a
**CREATIVE KIDS
PROVIDER**

**Enrol NOW for
Classes Wednesday arvos
@ St Mary McKillop Hall!**

0414 475 158

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ITALIAN CONCERT

**Arturo
Toscani**

**Grace
Rizzo**

**Paolo
Rajo**

Wednesday 20 February
Canada Bay Club

Friday 22 February
Burwood RSL

**\$15
TICKETS**

(02) 9564 0744 | coasit.org.au

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.

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