

## Keeping In Touch

10 August 2023

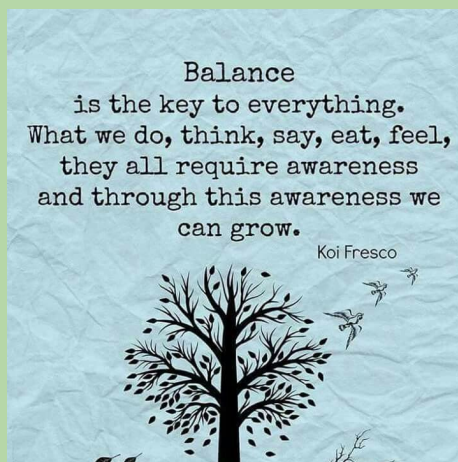


Click on the image above to see our St Mary MacKillop Facebook Page for the latest photos and updates. Like and Follow!

## News from Scott

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.*



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Balance is such an important thing for us all and yet it can be such a difficult thing to achieve and maintain.

It is the same for communities like schools. We are constantly challenged to balance the range of opportunities and experiences offered to us and the value of time spent in focussed teaching and learning. Each schools and their staff are provided 5 hours a day for 200 days to maximise the learning the gain that will occur for the students in their care. Days are then partitioned for Staff Development. Sporting events and activities take up a few more days. Wonderful celebrations of literacy, faith, science, performing arts, family etc... can also prevent normal, daily, focussed learning. Excursions, camps and incursions serve to create a different dynamic of excellent learning but can disrupt the flow of what is happening in the classrooms. Of course there is also the days lost to illness and absence for both students and teachers.

All of these items are important and valid. They are interactions between the school and the world our schools operate in. But..... getting the balance right so that the integrity and purpose of our schools is not compromised is difficult.

At St Mary MacKillop we work very hard to keep the balance. Our calendar can get quite full but it is managed in a very precise and discerned way to make sure that we don't lose the balance. An example of this would be the process of rotating some of the events so that they don't occur every year but are planned to occur every second or third year. This is done so that our school doesn't miss out completely on these wonderful opportunities but we can also maximise the number of hours and days available to ensure essential learning gain for our children.

Thank you for your understanding of the importance of balance for our school.

Together we Grow  
Scott

# Religious Education News

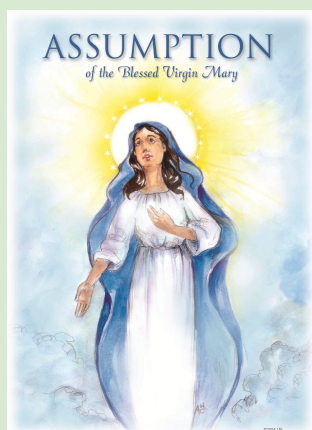
## 2023 Feast Day Celebrations – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop, our patron Saint. Our celebration included Mass, a treat from the P and F, Mary MacKillop story time, grade based activities where the students learnt more about St Mary MacKillop and a closing in-class prayer where the students received the following card to keep:



This prayer card challenges us to follow in Mary MacKillop's footsteps and just like Mary MacKillop, let's be fierce in the face of adversity. Let's be fair and act when we see injustice. Let's give love to those we encounter each day. **Together, let's Be Fierce for Fair.**

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



Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 his followers 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, lead by Year 1, in the hall at 9:15am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August. All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend.

# Religious Education News

## Sacramental Program – First Reconciliation

### St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

#### Sacramental Program **Reconciliation**

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on our website, [stnicholasofmyra.org.au](http://stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

on

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023**

and close on

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Trivia / Movie afternoon and Reconciliation.**

To be eligible for First Reconciliation,  
**Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised.**



*All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish*

*Ph: 4721 2509*

*Email: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)*



### Father's Day Celebrations – Thursday 31st August

Please join us on Thursday 31st August as we honour our fathers, grandfathers and other special male role models in our lives. Fathers are very special people and the very presence of our fathers in our lives, or the memory of our fathers, is a gift. On this day we will show our appreciation and love for all the men in our lives who give us care and protection, love and guidance.

Our celebration will include a breakfast BBQ, liturgy and open classrooms. More details will follow shortly!

Mrs Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator



# Faith In Action Team News



## WRAP WITH LOVE

The Faith in Action Team with the support of teachers and families in our community, have been giving up their time to knit squares and sew them together to create blankets for the Wrap with Love organisation. Wrap with Love is an Australian charitable organisation that gifts blankets to people all around Australia who are in need of them. Our community has generously been able to make 8 blankets and enough squares to make another 7 blankets. This is a total of 15 blankets from our community. These blankets have been blessed by Fr Chinoyne at the St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass and are now ready for us to donate them. Thank you to all who helped with this initiative.



## NEW INITIATIVE

At assembly this week, the Faith in Action Team announced their new initiative that is based on their learning about 'Laudato Si'. Laudato Si is a letter written by Pope Francis and is also known as "Care for our Common Home". Pope Francis is calling people to understand the effects that we have on our common home which also has a negative effect for those who are most vulnerable in our world. FIAT (Faith in Action Team) will be working to answer Pope Francis' call. To do this they will be starting to lead the school community in the Catholic Earthcare Schools Program. Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia that responds to the 'cry of the earth' and 'the cry of the poor' working to safeguard the integrity of creation. Catholic Earthcare has responded by developing programs for Schools, Parishes, Organisations and Families to undertake the journey towards becoming living Laudato Si' communities by working towards the seven Laudato Si' Goals and building the Laudato Si' Action Platform. This program will help us at St Mary MacKillop to make simple, positive changes to care for our world.

If you would like to learn more about Laudato Si, here is the link to the video that was shown to the students at assembly this week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQgF2Kgel6k>

If you would like to learn more about Catholic Earthcare, here is the link to their website: <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/>

More updates on this new initiative will be coming soon!



## Library Borrowing

A reminder for all students to remember to return your library books each week, we have lots of new titles ready for borrowing.

### **Library borrowing days are:**

Kindergarten to Year 2 -THURSDAYS

Years 3-6 - FRIDAYS

Library Bags are now available to purchase at the office. Our Library bags are strong and sturdy and are ideal for carrying the library books safely.

All Library Bags are \$9.00 each to purchase. EFTPOS only accepted.



## School Fees

Instalment 3 School Fees have been sent to your home address as from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 from our Catholic Education Office of Parramatta. The Instalment 3 School Fees are due by Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this due date.

If you are **not under an arrangement** all school fees will need to be paid by **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023**. If you feel you may have difficulties in paying your school fees by this date, please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

### **Leaving Students**

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. **One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.**

### **Planning a Holiday?**

There are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the school rolls. These guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays, during the school year, to complete a request of 'Exemption from School Attendance' form. This is required if you are taking your child on leave for **more than 5 school days**. A copy of your travel itinerary. The application form is available from the school office and must be completed **prior** to your holiday.

Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.

# Dates for your Diary

Friday 11 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 15 August	9:15am	Feast of the Assumption (Year 1)	School Hall
Friday 18 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 23 August	7pm	P & F Meeting (all welcome to attend)	School Hall
Thursday 24 August	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 25 August		<b>Staff Development Day No School for Students</b>	
Wednesday 30 August		2023 Netball Gala Day	Jamison Park Netball Courts
Thursday 31 August		Father's Day Breakfast, Liturgy & Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 1 September	2:20pm	Father's Day Stall Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 6 September		4G C.A.R.E.S Excursion	St Marys
Thursday 7 September		4M C.A.R.E.S Excursion	St Marys
Friday 8 September	2:20pm	Stage 2 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly	Kingsway St Marys  School Hall
Thursday 14 September	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 15 September	2:20pm	P & F Sausage Sizzle Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 22 September		<b>Last day of Term 3</b> Whole School Assembly	2:20pm



# NAVIGATING THE SPECTRUM

## PARENT SUPPORT GROUP



Are you a parent or carer who identifies as neurodiverse and/or are you parenting a neurodiverse child?



Are you seeking a safe space to connect with others on the parenting journey?



Are you wanting to share your experience, listen to others and access support from people who understand?

Be welcomed into a supportive and inclusive environment that will provide access to resources, information and an opportunity to connect with a community of parents and carers that are undertaking the unique journey of parenting through neurodiversity. Register now to join us!

### TIME & DATE

Wednesday 10am - 12noon

- 30th August
- 13th September
- 27th September\*
- 11th October

*\*Special session where children are invited to join us*

### VENUE

Katoomba Leura  
Community Centre  
81-83 Katoomba Street

For more information or to register your interest email Nicole Powell on [nicolep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:nicolep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au) or call Gateway on (02) 4720 6500



## St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care provides fun, engaging programs before and after school. Our programs include games, sport, art, craft, and free-time facilitated by Ambrose educators experienced in the nationally approved learning framework, My Time Our Place. Children love Ambrose as the programs are developed around their interests and ideas

They're also a great way to make friends, develop social skills, and most importantly – have fun!



## Our Opening Hours

**Before School Care:** 6.30am – 8.45am

**After School Care:** 2:30pm – 6.00pm

**Pupil Free Day:** 6.30am – 6.00pm

## Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
<b>Morning</b>	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
<b>Afternoon</b>	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
<b>Pupil Free Day</b>				
- Standard Fee	6.30am – 6.00pm	\$14.43	\$39.37	\$75
- Early 'Bee' Special		\$12.51	\$34.12	\$65

\*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.

To enrol now - please complete the enrolment form [here](#)

Or contact the service on

**Email:** [stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au](mailto:stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au) **Phone:** 0492 367 298



*Learning for life*

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!