

Keeping In Touch

04 April 2024



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 Carers,

I have included below an Easter Reflection that was shared with me by the Sisters of St Joseph. Given our connection with this order through St Mary MacKillop and the current focus of our student Faith In Action Team, I felt it was worth passing on to you.

In this Easter season we are invited to enter again into the central mystery of our faith. As we celebrate this core of our Christian story, we are challenged once more to live its implications in this second decade of the twenty-first century.

Perhaps one of our greatest challenges is the invitation to reflect on the meaning of life, death and resurrection in the context of the ongoing destruction of creation. How are we being called, as Christians today, to give our lives at this time, so that both we and future generations might experience Resurrection, rather than the slow destruction of our planet?

We continue to grapple with extreme weather conditions and the ongoing effects of climate change. We reflect on ways that we can work towards a better future for the next generations. We remind ourselves that those who are suffering most from ecological devastation are the poor and the vulnerable.

We know that, through our action, we are not only working towards a better future for this generation and the children and grandchildren of the next, but for people all over the world. Enormous challenges, yes, but also hope for us all.

Update of our school sports uniform

Next term I will call for parents to join me to decide on a new sports uniform for our students. The school has already met with uniform suppliers to review samples of sports uniforms that other local schools use and we have sought reviews from those schools about the fabric durability, quality and comfort. The school has also met with the P and F to seek advice around the cost of upgrading our sports uniform to check the price increase would be a reasonable one.

Our next step is to finalise a design and confirm fabrics and colours before we look to launch availability for purchase in 2025. At this stage we would also like to commence reviewing the possibility of a tracksuit upgrade for our school. If you are interested in being a part of this conversation on Thursday 9th May following the Mother's Day celebrations, please contact our school office on stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au before the end of Term 1 so that we can plan for attendance numbers.

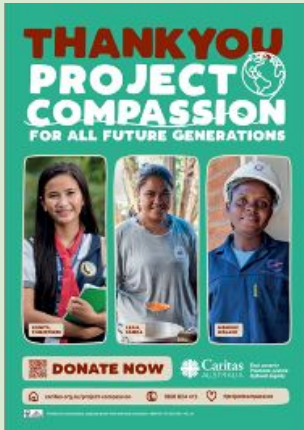
Together we Grow

Scott Buchan

Religious Education News



Thank You!



Thank you for participating in our two Project Compassion Fundraisers – Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Wear Purple and Eat a Hot Cross Bun. As a school community we have raised \$1415.20 for the 2024 Project Compassion Appeal. This money has been forwarded to Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we have helped vulnerable communities face their challenges and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations**. Watch the [Project Compassion Thank You](#) film here.

The Season of Easter

Whilst most of our Easter celebrations occur over the Easter Long Weekend, the Easter Season is actually a much longer event in the liturgical calendar. The Easter Season lasts for 50 days extending from Easter Sunday (31st March) to Pentecost (19th May) and is a time of joy and thanksgiving.

The special word for the Easter Season is Alleluia. It is used for the dismissal from Mass and is an exclamation of great joy that means "Praise God!" which is the sentiment of the Easter Season. The liturgical colour for the Easter Season is white to symbolise joy and glory, as well as the Resurrection.



*Lord Jesus,
as we celebrate your resurrection, we pray for a renewal of faith, hope, and love.
May this Easter be a time of spiritual growth and a fresh beginning in our journey with you.
Amen.*

Religious Education News

The Sacrament of Confirmation

In the reception of the sacrament of confirmation, the children receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – **Wisdom, understanding, Counsel (Right Judgment), Piety (Reverence), Knowledge, Fortitude (Courage), Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)**. These gifts are not to sit idle or be kept in storage. Rather, they are to be put to good use so they will bear much fruit.

As a faith community we continue to pray for the following Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 11th April:

Olivia A, Liam B, Massimo B, Lucas B, McKinley C, Eli C, Lincoln C, Charlotte C, Chase D, Tyla D, Harley D, Phoebe E, Isaac F, Isabelle F, Callum F, Ruben F, Katelyn G, Toren G, Callie G, Samuel H, Olly H, Jack J, Heath J, Georgia K, Koah K, Orlando L, Samantha L, Fletcher M, Liam M, Nicholas M, Xavier M, Zoe N, Sabastjan P, Gabriella P, Sienna P, Charlotte R, Jonah S, Eli S, Leo S, Maxwell S and Amelia Z.

Sacramental Program - Holy Communion



St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

**Sacramental Program
First Holy Communion**

Enrolments for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion are now open on our website, stnicholasofmyra.org.au

The website contains the dates, requirements and commitments for parents and children.

To be eligible for First Holy Communion, Children must be in Year 4 or above and must be baptised and have made their Reconciliation

**All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph:4721 2509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au**

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Sporting News

Wow! What a huge and amazing start to 2024. We have had our swimming carnival and cross country carnival this term, along with Zone, Diocesan and NSW swimming carnival.

We had 13 students from St Mary MacKillop represent the Nepean Zone at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival. All of our students swam their absolute best and represented our school with integrity and sportsmanship. We are so proud of you!

McKinley. C, Isabelle. F, Tyla. D, Amelia. B, Thomas. B, Zac. S, Enzo. D, Ezekiel. L, Peter. B, Joel. H, Chase. D, Lincoln. C & Sam. H.

Our Senior Boys Relay came in 4th place at Diocesan, allowing them to qualify for the Parramatta Team. The 4 boys, Peter, Joel, Chase and Lincoln competed at the NSW CPS Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 3rd April. The boys came 2nd in their heat and managed to come in 12th place overall. This is an incredible achievement and cements our Senior Boys relay team as the 12th fastest in NSW. Amazing effort boys!

For some of our students, they have also been trialling for the Parramatta Sporting Team and some of these students will then trial for the MacKillop team. Congratulations to the following students who trialled for the Parramatta team:

Peter B- Touch Football

Madison H- Soccer

Tino C- Soccer

Isaac F- Soccer

Sabastjan P- Soccer

Lila B- Netball

Bailey S- Netball

Katie G- Netball

Tyla D- Hockey

Archie F- Hockey

Chase D- Hockey

Leo S- AFL

Eli S- AFL

Braiden S- Cricket

Spencer P- Rugby League

We would like to wish the following students, a huge congratulations on being selected for the Parramatta Team and wish them all the best as they begin trialling for the MacKillop team over the coming weeks.

Spencer. P, Braiden. S, Chase. D, Archie. F, Tyla. D, Peter. B & Bailey. S.

These amazing achievements and results could not have been possible without the dedication of all the parents of the St Mary MacKillop community. Thank you for the countless hours you drive your children to practice, drop them at school early, sign permission slips and return them, volunteering to help out on the day, the money you spend so they can attend these events and the support you give to your children at all the sporting events throughout the year. We hope you know how appreciative we are, here at St Mary MacKillop, of all the parents in our community.

Sporting News

Next term, we have 48 students representing St Mary MacKillop at the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival to be held on Tuesday 7th May (Term 2, Week 2) at Sydney Motorsport Park. These students have been training very hard on a Tuesday and Thursday morning before School. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to your training.

Congratulations to all the students heading to Diocesan and we know you will try your very best on the day.

12 yrs Boys	12 yrs Girls	11 yrs Boys	11 yrs Girls
Peter B Braiden S Riley K Joel H Eli S Thomas M	Amelia B Bailey S Olivia D Immy B Mila H Emily S	Isaac F Sabastjan P Chase D Cruz L Olly H Leo S	Tyla D Holly B Molly M Madison H Georgia K Lila B
10 yrs Boys	10 yrs Girls	8/9 Yrs Boys	8/9 Yrs Girls
Archie F Braxton F Matteo J Jerome F Gideon H Preston R	Everleigh R Olive S Jazz P Chloe M Vivienne I Indyy M	Thomas B Rylen N Lucas B Maddon G Ethan P Thomislav R	Poppy E Sienna F Anastasia D Priya G Amarli S Jamie I

As we move into Term 2, we begin our Gala Days, in particular the Soccer Gala Days. Our Athletics Carnival will also occur in Term 2, Week 7 at Harold Corr Oval. Please see below the scheduled days for the upcoming sporting events in Term 2. As always, these days and dates can be subject to change but I will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible should a change need to occur.

Term 2			
Week	Event	Where	When
2	Diocesan Cross Country	Eastern Creek	Tuesday 7th May
5	Girls Soccer Stage 3 BLUE	Jamison Park – Soccer Fields, Penrith	Wednesday 29th May
6	Boys Soccer Stage 3 GOLD	Jamison Park – Soccer Fields, Penrith	Tuesday 4th June
6	NSWCCC Cross Country	Sydney Equestrian Centre	Wednesday 5th June
7	Athletics Carnival	Harold Corr Oval	Thursday 13th June
9	Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer	Jamison Park – Soccer Fields, Penrith	Wednesday 26th June

COMPASS APP

Did you know.... You can view all of our upcoming events on the Compass App. Simply look at the calendar icon at the bottom of the screen (next to home) and select week. You will see all of our upcoming events for the day/week or even the term.



P & F News

It has been a bit quiet on the P&F front but we have been working hard in the background to organise some events for Term 2 and 3.

Mother's Day

The P&F will be organising a Mother's Day morning tea after the Mother's Day liturgy on Thursday 9th May. A google form will be going out next week for our Mums, Grandmothers and Mother figures to RSVP for this event. We also have our Mother's Day stall on Friday 10th May, gifts will range from \$2 to \$10.

Primary Disco – Save the Date!

We will be having a Primary Disco on Thursday 23rd May from 6.15-7.30pm. A \$5 entry fee (cash only) will be charged on the night which includes a Glowstick, Lolly and drinks (cordial and water will be provided)

Fete Mufti Day – date to be determined watch this space

We will be having a Mufti Day in Term 2 Week 10 for families to provide items for our P&F stalls at the Fete in October. More information will be provided closer to the date.

School Fete – 20th October

The P&F Fete committee is currently seeking sponsorship for the Fete in the form of a financial contribution. We will have Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorships available for purchase. Donation of goods or services to offset the considerable costs of staging the Fete and/or the Fete Raffle. The P&F is dedicated to ensuring your support is acknowledged and provides maximum value for your business. Details of sponsorship levels and benefits are detailed in the St Mary Mackillop Fete Sponsorship Proposal.

In previous years, the Fete has generated considerable advertising exposure and attracted families from within the school community as well as the broader community and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in sponsoring or supporting our School Fete in any way, please email smmppandf@gmail.com, we can send you a sponsorship proposal or point you in the direction of assistance that is needed.

Like us on Facebook Page

If you haven't already you can like our Facebook page at [St Mary Mackillop P&F, South Penrith](#), we will be posting regularly about our upcoming events at the school.

Volunteering

If you're interested in volunteering for any of the above events, please email us at smmppandf@gmail.com or contact myself (Michelle) on **0423763926**.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President

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.**

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

If parents wish their children to be collected from school early, please send a note to the teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45 am - 11:30 am) or break time (1:30pm- 2:00 pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or break, not during the break, as bags are kept inside the classrooms and classrooms are locked during break times.

****From our parent handbook**** Read our Parent Handbook here:

<https://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol/Handbook>

COLLECTING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Children are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided only until 3:30pm. A classroom teacher will escort students to 'walkers' and supervise students crossing the street, riding bikes and going to cars as part of afternoon dismissal.

After school, staff will supervise children waiting for school buses or on 'waiters.' (**Waiters are to be collected after 3:10pm**) up on our playground.

If, due to extraordinary circumstances, eg: when a parent is detained, please notify the school and your child will be informed that you are delayed. Parents are reminded that all care will be given to the children but there is no formal supervision after 3:30pm when the last bus leaves the school.

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,

That equals ..

Which is ...

and over 13 years of schooling that's ...

10 minutes per day

50 minutes per week

Nearly 1.5 weeks per year

Nearly half a year

20 minutes per day

1 hour 40mins per week

Over 2.5 weeks per year

Nearly 1 year

Half an hour per day

Half a day per week

4 weeks per year

Nearly 1 and a half years

1 hour per day

1 day per week

8 weeks per year

Over 2 and a half years

every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

DID YOU KNOW

1 in 6 primary students are not attending school regularly. Schools are here to help.

If you are having attendance issues with your child please contact us so we can support you to address them.



every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

Dates for your Diary

TERM 1 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 5 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 10 April	9:00am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open	
Thursday 11 April	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy of the Word	School Hall
Friday 12 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly LAST DAY OF TERM 1	School Hall

TERM 2 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 29 April		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Tuesday 30 April	7:00pm	Students Commence Term 2 First Holy Communion Parent Info Session	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 3 May	2:20pm	Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 6 May		Year 5 Sydney Zoo Excursion	
Tuesday 7 May		Diocesan Cross Country	Sydney Motorsport Park
Thursday 9 May	9:15am	Mother's Day Liturgy, Morning Tea and Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 10 May	2:20pm	P & F Mother's Day Stall Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 16 May	9:15am 6:15pm	Year 1 Liturgy P & F 3-6 Primary School Disco	School Hall School Hall

Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 17 May	9:00am 2:20pm	Year 6 JRS Formation Day Whole School Assembly	Mt Schoenstatt School Hall
Thursday 23 May	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 24 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 28 May		Whole School Photos Full Winter Uniform to be worn	
Wednesday 29 May		Girls Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 30 May	7:00pm	Reconciliation for students making First Holy Communion	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 31 May	2:20pm 6:00pm	Whole School Assembly First Holy Communion Ceremony	School Hall St Nicholas of Myra
Tuesday 4 June		Boys Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Wednesday 5 June		NSWCCC Cross Country	
Thursday 6 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy, Morning Tea and Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 7 June		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Monday 10 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Thursday 13 June		Year 2-6 Primary Athletics Carnival	Harold Corr Oval
Friday 14 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 20 June	9:15am	Year 6 Mass	School Hall
Friday 21 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

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!