Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Learning and Unlearning:
I recently read an article titled, “What is the purpose of education?” In which the concepts of learning and unlearning were discussed. What does it mean to “unlearn” and what should we “unlearn”? The world is full of examples of once regarded “truths” that needed to be “unlearned” – Pluto as a planet, doctors “unlearning” to use a scalpel to perform certain surgeries, the world is not flat, etc. What are some of the unlearnings that you have experienced throughout your life? The same is true in education. Many teachers are starting to use classroom assessments as more than just a measuring stick of learning. The mathematics assessment interview at St Mary MacKillop is an example of this learning as is the restorative practice method of addressing student welfare issues. Our teachers are continuing to see the need for our children to become more than just vessels of facts and information but rather critical thinkers, collaborators and creators. What unlearnings have you seen in education since you were at school and what new learning have you encountered at St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

He is Risen - Alleluia
On Tuesday morning the school community gathered to pray and listen to the Easter Story as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark. Once again the children displayed reverence and prayerfulness as they participated in the liturgy. I invite our parents to offer up the following prayer as a family as we continue through this holy season of the church liturgical year.

An Easter Prayer

God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of Easter joy.
This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to men who had begun to lose their hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold:
that first he must die, and then he would rise and ascend into his Father’s glorious presence.

May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

As we enter enrolment time many parents are visiting the My School website to gain valuable information about primary and secondary schools which they will use as one of many sources of information about their child’s future school. By clicking on the ‘My School’ website profiles of around 9,500 Australian schools that can be searched by school location, sector or name. The website provides statistical and contextual information about each school, as well as results from the National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) that can be compared with results from schools serving students from statistically similar backgrounds across Australia.

My School is administered by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA is the Australian Government statutory authority responsible for collecting and reporting data on Australian schools, administering national assessments in literacy and numeracy and developing a national curriculum. The My School website provides an opportunity for Australian schools to learn more from each other. Specifically, visitors to My School can expect to find information about each school’s student population, the average achievement of students in NAPLAN, an indication of student progress over time, as well as school financial data, comparable across all Australian schools. I invite our parents to visit the My School website and explore the information and data it provides about our school, St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith.

Thankyou:
Sincere thanks to:
• Mrs Leesa Gillard and the Religious Education Team for preparing and organising the Holy Week Liturgy.
• The St Mary MacKillop Parent & Friends team, under the leadership of Liz Whalan, for the successful Easter Chocolate Fundraiser and the Bunnings BBQ. What a fantastic team.
• The many parents who regularly support our K-6 reading program at St Mary MacKillop on a weekly basis.

Reminder:
Monday 29 April is a pupil free day, a Staff Development Day, where our teachers will learn more about the new National Curriculum focusing on the K-6 English Syllabus. Children commence school for Term 2 on Tuesday 30 April.

Thought for the Week
“It’s amazing what you can achieve if you don’t care who gets the credit”
-Harry S Truman

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Project Compassion:
Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion appeal during the Season of Lent. As a school community St Mary MacKillop has been able to raise $1030. This is a great effort and every child is to be congratulated. The money will now be forwarded on to Caritas Australia. Your generosity will work for the freedom of people living in poverty, challenge unjust structures, and empower people to work for a sustainable way of life.

If you are wondering how you could continue to make a difference beyond Lent in the struggle against poverty, visit www.bemore.org.au and take up the challenge to BE More!

The Season of Easter:
The celebration of the Easter Vigil is the beginning of the season of Easter. The Vigil is the feast of new birth, new beginnings, salvation renewed, and humanity restored to the Lord. While the Vigil marks the end of the celebration of Holy Week, and the end of repentance and conversion for which Lent prepared the community, it is much more a beginning. It is the beginning of a new season of grace and a time of joy and thanksgiving, for Easter is not one day or one solemnity - it is a fifty day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The colour of the Season of Easter is white reflecting new life, fulfilment, rejoicing and joy. I offer you the following Easter reflection:

He is Risen!

_The apostles’ acts continue the work of Jesus, through the ways they bring his liberating message and his healing._

_And Jesus is very much with us during the Easter Season, offering us his peace._

_We ask to be able to share our faith and our love with others._

_Jesus said,_

_“Why are you so frightened? Why do you doubt?..._

_...you must tell everything that has happened._

-- Luke 24:38, 48

Prayer Bags:
Prayer is an important part of the life of a Catholic school and this term class teachers began sending home their class prayer bag. This Prayer Bag offers a link between home and school through prayer. We hope that when your child brings home this bag for the period of four nights (Monday - Thursday, please return to school on Friday), that you will gather together as a family, and use the contents of the prayer bag to pray together. The children are encouraged to write a prayer in the prayer journal. The prayer written by your child will become the focus for whole school prayer on Friday afternoon.

The Prayer Bag is a very special and sacred bag. We ask that you ensure that your child takes care of it and that it is completely and safely returned to school to ensure every child is given the same prayerful opportunity.

Thank you for joining with the St Mary MacKillop Community in prayer.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea:
St Mary MacKillop Primary School is organising an 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' event that will take place on **Friday 3 May 2013**. The lovely morning tea will be served after the morning school assembly (approx. 9:15am). We warmly INVITE EVERYONE to join us for this charitable event. Come and enjoy a lovely morning tea. The children will also receive a piece of cake to celebrate this occasion. On offer will be tea/coffee, delectable cakes and biscuits for a gold coin donation that will go towards raising funds for Cancer Research. We look forward to seeing you all there.

_Mrs Leesa Gillard_
Acting Religious Education Coordinator
I pray that you all had a safe and wonderful Easter break. This past weekend we had the Bunnings BBQ fundraiser which was a fantastic success. However, this would not have been accomplished without the diligence and dedication of the parents that put in all their effort to ensure this BBQ was a true success. I especially wish to thank the following families for their arduous work from setting up, picking up and preparing bread, serving, prepping and cooking, runners for ice, condiment & drink top uppers, back up people during shifts, cleaning and packing up. A very special thank you to the: Bellman, Billington, Carroll, Allen, Inskip, Darwen, Dawson, Duck, Keane, McGuiness, Moxey, Pappas, Pletkan, Smith and Whalen families. Also to everyone that came down to support us and purchased their lunch from us, thank you. The P & F Executive Team is truly humbled and grateful for your dedication, and to top it off with an even better note, we made a profit of $1,162 for our school. Awesome job people.

**Cadbury Easter Egg Fundraiser**

Thank you to all those families that contributed in selling Cadbury Easter Eggs this year. We also wish to say a warm thank you to Mrs D'Costa, Mrs Warby, Mrs Hooper, Mrs Effield, Mrs Neal and the ladies from the front office for assisting in the distribution of the boxes. Your kind assistance is very much appreciated. We are still in the midst of collating the funds from the sales. If you have any boxes of chocolates and monies still at home, please return them back to the school office by Friday 5 April 2013 at the latest. Also a big congratulations to those students that won extra chocolates this year from the raffle that took place from this fundraiser. On Holy Thursday our school donated 150 packets of the Cadbury Chocolate Eggs to the Community Soup Kitchen (located behind the PCYC on Station Street). Mrs Craig and her amazing staff who volunteer their time at the community kitchen were very appreciative and grateful to St Mary MacKillop Primary School for their generosity and sweet gifts just before EASTER!!! They said that their patrons will very much enjoy every egg shared by our beautiful hearts.

**TRIVIA NIGHT 2013** at St Mary MacKillop Primary School - COMING SOON!! Watch this space as we get closer to JUNE.

**Class Parent Representatives:**

Just a reminder, details were handed to families about parents that would be interested in nominating themselves as 'Class Parent Representatives'. This is a great opportunity to keep the communication lines open within our school, especially for new parents, guardians and grandparents. Its a great way to meet people and learn more about the events, volunteering and any queries that take place in our school, rather than just depending on the K.I.T every fortnight or AGM meetings. We are looking forward to parents being nominated so that we may commence the next step in getting better connected with you all.

Thank you again to all the St Mary MacKillop families and friends for supporting our school. We will keep you posted about the above mentioned items. Until then keep safe, God Bless and see you in Term 2.

Mrs Elizabeth Whalen
P & F President on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

**2014 Kindergarten Enrolments**

Enrolments are now open for all siblings and new families. Applications forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website. Once completed please return to the office with Original Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Immunisation records and a small photo of the child. When you return your completed application you will be offered a 30 minute interview time on either of the following days:

- Tuesday 30 April, Wednesday 1 May, Thursday 2 May, Wednesday 8 May, Tuesday 21 May and Wednesday 22 May.

At this time staff will get to know your child as he/she joins 3 other children to complete some activities, while you will be invited to have a ‘cupper’ and a 5 minute general discussion with Mr Siciliano about your child. At the conclusion of the interview families will visit the Kindergarten classrooms. Please return forms as soon as possible.
### Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 3 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>4W Assembly</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 April</td>
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### Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2013

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>29 April</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day-Pupil Free</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>30 April</td>
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<td>Term 2 Comiences</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea-Al Welcome</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Diocesan Cross Country-Eastern Creek</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Liturgy and Stall</td>
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<td>Tuesday-Thursday</td>
<td>14 May-16 May</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>NAPLAN-Year 3 and Year 5</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Year 4 Old Government House &amp; Experiment Farm Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Kindergarten Liturgy</td>
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<td>Year 5 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5 June</td>
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<td>ICAS Science Competition</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6 June</td>
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<td>Primary Athletics Carnival at Blair Oval St Marys</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day-Pupil Free</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Queens Birthday Long Weekend-Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>ICAS Spelling Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>ICAS Spelling Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>5M Assembly</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>28 June</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Pizza Day</td>
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### 2013 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
MONDAY 29 APRIL - DAY 1 - WEEK 1 - TERM 2
FRIDAY 7 JUNE - WEEK 6 - TERM 2

**SMART LOVING WORKSHOP**

**BREAKTHOROUGH-OVERCOMING RELATIONSHIP GRIDLOCKS**
All couples go through periods where their relationship is strained. Stress, sleep depravation, demands from family and work can starve your marriage of positive energy it needs and deserves. Drawing on contemporary research and Catholic theology, this workshop will arm you with skills and insight to transform your relationship into the thriving, joy-filled encounter that it is meant to be.

Holy Family School Hall
32 Willowdene Avenue  LUDDENHAM
10.00person/$15 per couple
Phone 9319 6280 or email infor@marriageRC.org