Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Why St Mary MacKillop?
During the recent Kindergarten 2014 enrolment interviews I have had the privileged opportunity to listen to parents express their strong desire for a Catholic education for their children. While many stated reasons relating to the high quality of teaching and learning opportunities within a faith community while others communicated the positive qualities they see and hear from our children, parents and teachers. I have been very heartened by the way in which parents have expressed the many reasons why they specifically wish their child to attend St Mary MacKillop Primary.

Letters to the Prime Minister:
During the week, all Principals of Australian schools received a letter from the Prime Minister regarding the National Plan for School Improvement and the New South Wales funding agreement. With a Federal Government elections looming, the future funding of our Catholic schools is of great concern! There is great uncertainty about the funding of our schools coming from all sides of politics! As you know, the NSW Government have signed an agreement with the Australian Government, which is indicated to provide an additional $5.6 billion to all schools in New South Wales over six years. While we welcome the agreement, there are still some outstanding concerns the Catholic sector has with the Australian Government’s proposal namely that we lack sufficient clarity about the level of funding we will receive in real term.

Given the outstanding concerns the Catholic sector has with the Australian Government’s proposal, I like many principals in the diocese responded to the Prime Minister, outlining these concerns.
• When will the final financial outcomes for each of the six years (2014 to 2019) be known?
• The Australian government’s claim that the average non-government school in NSW will lose $800,000 if the new funding model is not adopted.
• What guarantees we have that the full funding for the model will actually be found, or delivered, by 2019?
• How the Commonwealth can predict funding for 2016 at this stage, given the 2015 review of indexation.

I will inform the St Mary MacKillop Community through future newsletters as I receive a response to these concerns. Please continue to raise these issues with our state and federal local members.

First Holy Communion:
On Saturday and Sunday 30 children from St Mary MacKillop joined the many children from our St Nicholas of Myra Parish in celebrating their First Holy Communion. Father Jose in his homily reminded the children of the importance of this Sacrament and the invitation to return to celebrate Eucharist regularly. In Sundays Gospel we heard the Miracle story. Let’s have a look: “Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples” to distribute among the seated crowd. And that is not all……they ate as much as they wanted……Jesus, the Word made flesh freely and generously offer us the bread of life so that we may have life to the full! May the Lord continue to show us through scripture how to live life to the Full and may God bless our First Holy Communion Children!!

Communication with Class teachers:
If Parents have matters of concern or issues they would like to communicate with the school community the process to follow is:
• The first point of contact is your child’s class teacher. As you know teachers are always available to assist if there are concerns, questions or difficulties.
• The usual procedure to manage these matters is firstly your child’s class teacher or the stage coordinator. Kindergarten, Year One and Two Stage Leader is Mrs Devlin. Year 3 and 4 Stage Leader is Mr Cauchi and Year 5 and 6 Stage Leader is Mrs Meehan.

If there are more serious concerns please contact the Assistant Principal or Principal. To ensure availability please phone the office to make an appointment. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher regarding your child's progress it is necessary to make an appointment for before or after school.

Thankyou:
Sincere thanks to the many parents and friends who assist with the St Mary MacKillop Parent Tutor Program. It is great to see so many children engaged in daily individual reading with our parent educators.

Reminder
I would like to draw your attention to a number of upcoming events: This Friday’s Staff Development Day where teachers will be engaged in professional learning in the area of literacy led by Mrs Devlin and the English KLA team members.

Thought for the Week
“Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become”
James Allen.

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Feast of Corpus Christi and First Holy Communion:
Corpus Christi is a feast that has been celebrated by many Christians, particularly the Catholic Church, in honour of the Eucharist since 1246. The name “Corpus Christi” is a Latin phrase that translates to the “Body of Christ”. The Feast of Corpus Christi is a moveable feast, which means that it depends on the date of Easter Sunday. This year the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated on 2 June. We observe Corpus Christi to honour the Holy Eucharist and it is also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The primary purpose of this feast is to focus our attention on the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Christ in it. Our worship of Jesus in His Body and Blood calls us to offer to God our Father a pledge of undivided love and an offering of ourselves to the service of others.


Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:
The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a moveable feast, which means that it depends on the date of Easter Sunday. This year the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus falls on the 7 June. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a special form of devotion to Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents not simply His physical heart but His eternal love for all mankind. The call, which comes from this important feast day, is first of all a call to Eucharistic adoration, because in the Sacred Host (Eucharist) the Lord Jesus is truly present and He offers each of us His heart, His merciful love. To spend time in the Presence of the Eucharistic Lord, to adore Him, is the best expression of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus : “Behold the Heart which so loved mankind”!

Sewing:
A big thank you to Mrs Linda Bitar-Cortese and Mrs Sharon Wasson for hemming a number of cloths that will be used by all students during prayer, liturgies and masses. Your time and generosity is very much appreciated.

Sacramental Program – Confirmation:
There will be a Parent Meeting for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 14 August at 7:00pm in St Nicholas of Myra Church. Eligible candidates are those children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion in 2012 or are currently in Year 5 or above.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting REC Co-ordinator

From the Assistant Principal

2013 ICAS Competitions:
Over the next few weeks children from Years 3-6 who nominated to sit one of the four ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools), will be completing these during school time. Yesterday, the first of these tests, Science was completed. The next one will be the Writing test which will take place on Monday 17 June, then next term, the Mathematics and English tests will take place. I congratulate the students who have nominated to sit for these tests to challenge themselves.

Primary Athletics Carnival:
We look forward to what is always a fun community event tomorrow, Thursday 6 June, the Primary Athletics Carnival. I thank in advance Mrs Paine and Mrs Rowan for your coordination of the carnival, and of course to the parents who have volunteered to assist with the various jobs.

Staff Development Day
On Friday, 7 June, the St Mary MacKillop staff will continue their learning journey, focusing on reading comprehension assessment strategies and skills K-6. I thank Mrs Devlin for heading up this professional learning. Opportunities for us as a staff to get together to share our expertise and knowledge with a specific focus ensures that we have a common approach from K-6.

Mid Year Reports
Currently the teachers are in the process of finalising the mid year reports. These will be sent home next week, Friday 14 June. During the following week Monday 17 (3:15pm-8:15pm) and Wednesday 19 June, (3:15pm-6:15pm) you will have the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with their teacher at the parent/teacher interview. If you have not received your allocated time, please contact the school office. This is a valuable opportunity to build on the important partnership between school and home.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal
Maths Olympiad 1:
*Question:* The sum of five consecutive whole numbers is 75. What is the largest of the five numbers?

*Answer:* Use the sum to find the average.

*Method 1:* Since the sum of the five numbers is 75, the average (mean) of the five numbers is 75 \( \div 5 = 15 \), so the middle number is 15. Adding 1 and subtracting 1 from 15 gives us 14 and 16 respectively. Repeating this process gives us 13 and 17, so the largest number is 17. **The largest of the five numbers is 17.**

*Method 2:* Strategy: Solve a simpler but similar problem. Select 5 consecutive integers, such as 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Notice that the sum of these numbers is 20 and that 20 \( \div 5 = 4 \) which is the middle number. The largest number is 2 more than the middle number or 6. Now apply the same idea to the sum 75. Divide 75 by 5 to get 15 and then the largest number will be 2 more than 15 so it equals 17.

*Follow-Up:* Find three consecutive odd integers that have a sum of 63. \([19, 21, 23]\).

Maths Olympiad 2:
*Question:* On a long car trip, a family drove for one hour at 60km per hour, then for two hours at 90km per hour, then for three hours at 100km per hour.

*For the whole trip, what was their average speed in km per hour?*
### Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2013

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>7 June</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day-Pupil Free</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>10 June</td>
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<td>Queens Birthday Long Weekend-Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>9:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Year 4 Liturgy-Library</td>
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<td>3:15pm-8:15pm</td>
<td>3K Assembly</td>
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<td>NSWCPS Cross Country-Eastern Creek</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>3:15pm-8:15pm</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>3K Assembly</td>
<td>ICAS Spelling Competition</td>
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<td>6:30pm &amp; 8:00pm</td>
<td>Captivate Choir Showcase at Nagle College Blacktown</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20 June</td>
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<td>‘Animals of the Dreaming’ Presentation</td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Strings Showcase @ St Andrews Primary Marayong</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>10:00am-11:30am</td>
<td>KD Assembly</td>
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<td>5M Assembly</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Trivia Night - Multi Purpose Centre</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Year 3-National Park Excursion-Wentworth Falls</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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### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

**FRIDAY 7 JUNE - WEEK 6 - TERM 2**

Pupil Free Day

### TRIVIA NIGHT -

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Only 30 tables available so HURRY before they sell out!!

Tickets need to be paid for upfront.

**Date:** Friday, 21 June 2013 **Time:** 7:00pm

**Place:** Multi Purpose Centre

**Price:** $10/ticket (tables of 8 only)

Book and pay for tickets/table School Office

### TRIVIA NIGHT RAFFLE:

Thank you so much to all those families who have been selling raffle tickets like hot cakes. Your support is very much needed during these fundraising events and I know deep down you are all winners in every aspect, however, **YOU GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT.** Keep selling those tickets to increase your chances to win a prize in the weekly drawer at every Friday assembly leading up to the Trivia Night.