Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

NAPLAN 2013:
Next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, all students in Australian schools in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the 2013 National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The results of these tests will provide information on each student’s achievements in reading, writing, grammar, spelling and numeracy. Parents will receive in Term 3 a report indicating their child’s achievement in these areas of their education. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the National and Parramatta Diocesan results. Next Friday will be the NAPLAN ‘Catch up’ day for students who missed a test due to absence. Parents of children in Years 3 and 5 are asked to ensure that children are at school next week to complete the NAPLAN Assessments. For further information please see your child’s teacher.

Doubting Thomas:
A recent reading at mass recounted the encounter of Thomas with the risen Lord. In our lives we are faced with the meaning of faith, as demonstrated by doubting Thomas and there may be times we see something of ourselves in him. Unlike Thomas, we have not seen, and yet we are asked and expected to believe. At least that is what it looks like on the surface. I recently read an article that explained faith and belief like this follows. I can get all the proof I want that Jesus is alive and well, and living in me, if I myself am alive and well, and living in him! We are living two thousand years later, Pentecost has happened, and the message of the gospel, and the person of Jesus has been debated and written about in almost every language on the globe. Every time we drive a car, every time we go to a doctor, every time we board an aeroplane, we continue to make acts of faith in someone or in something. Without faith, we would end up doing nothing! No one would get married if they didn’t have faith in themselves and in the other person, which is evident in and through the love which binds them together. Jesus compares faith to a tiny grain of mustard seed, that continues to germinate and grow, and ends up as a large tree. Just as the Mustard seed needs moisture, nutrients, and sunlight, to bring it to fullness of life; our faith too needs nourishment, light and the fine mist of life-giving love to bring it to fullness. Let us continue to nourish and share our faith as a loving St Mary MacKillop Community in all we say and do.

Happy Mothers Day!
As we prepare to celebrate Mother’s Day, we also are reminded that we dedicate the month of May to Our Lady Help of Christians. As the Mother of God and the Mother of our Church, we honour Mary as the very first disciple. Mary listened and responded to the call of God and is an example to each of us of an unconditional love for family.

A Blessing for Mothers
Loving God,
as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your Church.
Bless these women with children,
that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honour them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
Amen

Prayers requested
It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the passing of Mr Michael James Stratton. Michael was our groundsman and maintenance man at St Mary MacKillop from 2003 until 2012. Let us keep Michael’s family in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mr Michael James Stratton.

Thought for the Week
"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." - Erin Majors

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Sacramental Program (Holy Communion):
Last week the Sacramental Program began at our Parish church, St Nicholas of Myra, with a parent information session on Wednesday night followed by an enrolment Mass and the first family group session on Sunday. It was lovely to see so many parents excited about their children continuing their initiation into the Catholic Church. As a school community I invite you to pray for the following students as they prepare, over the next few weeks, to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist on the weekend of the 1 and 2 June 2013:

Mother’s Day:
Please join us for our Mother’s Day Liturgy on Friday 10 May commencing at 10:00am in our Multi Purpose Centre. During our liturgy we will pray for all mothers and ask God to keep them in his loving care. A big thank you to the teachers and students of Year 5 for organising this special liturgy.

Ascension of the Lord:
Sunday 12 May is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. The Ascension has always been a part of the joyful celebration of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. The feast develops the glory of the resurrection by acclaiming the exaltation of Christ as Lord of heaven and earth. It serves to prepare the church, toward the end of the season of Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Pentecost Sunday:
Sunday 19 May is Pentecost, the fiftieth day, which concludes the Season of Easter. Pentecost is a feast, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. It was on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ when the apostles prayed together and the Holy Spirit descended on them. They received the “gift of tongues” – the ability to speak in other languages – and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to Jewish people from all over the world. The joy of Pentecost is that the risen Christ breathes upon the church and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (Jn 20:22)
The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit and include flames, wind, and a dove. Red is the liturgical colour for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. The colour red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

Sewing – Volunteers needed!:
I am in need of some volunteers to hem pieces of fabric which are used during prayer, liturgies and masses. The sewing is very simple and the fabric can either be hemmed or overlocked. If you can help out please contact the school office and leave your name and contact details. Thank you in advance for your help.
Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Mother’s Day Stall:
Tomorrow all students will have the opportunity to purchase a gift for mum in the Mother’s Day stall. Gifts range from $1 - $5. Once again, thanks to our dedicated team of parents on the P&F committee for your organisation of this. Wishing all mothers a very happy Mother’s Day from everyone at St Mary MacKillop.

School Uniform:
The official date for our students to change to wearing the winter uniform is Monday 20 May (Week 4), however, as the weather can be quite interchangeable at this time, please use your own discretion as to which uniform you would like your child to wear.
Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Technology News

Our school is currently trialing a new School Mobile App that provides schools with another way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with a convenient way to receive school notifications. Skoolbag is an iPhone and Android based School communication App that delivers school notices and information direct to parents mobile phones. We will be trialing this App over the next few weeks. You can access it via the link below, or simply search for your school name in the Apple App store on your phone. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/st-mary-mackillop-primary/id633793699?ls=1&mt=8
On Tuesday, 45 St. Mary MacKillop students represented our school at the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek. Everyone who attended the day should be extremely proud of their efforts. All students ran to the best of their ability and that’s all we can ask for. More importantly it was fantastic to see everyone supporting one another and cheering everyone across the finish line. I would like to congratulate the following students on their efforts Abigail (40th), Anna (64th), Isabelle (38th), Samantha (22nd), Phoenix (11th), Georgia (70th), Mitchell (39th), Brock (20th), Francesco (17th), Thomas (56th), William (51st), Lila (42nd), Laura (15th), Emily (21st), Kailah (10th), Benjamin (82nd), Caleb (61st), Logan (10th), Rick (71st), Marco (40th), Jessica (31st), Jaz (32nd), Ella (26th), Emma, Samuel (55th), Anthony (53rd), Matthew (59th), Ryan (107th), Danny (68th), Luke (98th), Isabelle (31st), Ellen (9th), Emilie (27th), Hannah (10th), Isabella (60th), Lily-Rose (53rd), James, Joshua (28th), Marcus (13th), and David (58th). Congratulations to our 10 and 12 year girls who were announced winners of their age group.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea - THANK YOU
Our school hosted the "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" last Friday and thanks to all your donations (and big hearts) we were able to raise $597.00 that will go towards funding cancer research. We wish to warmly thank all the Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 parents that baked for this charity event. Without you and your baking skills, the cups of tea and coffee would of been very bland. Thank you also to the dedicated parents that volunteered their time with the distribution of cakes to the classrooms, setting up and decorating, collecting donations and serving copious amounts of tea, coffee and cake. You all are positive examples to your children and of the quote 'Never see the need, without doing something about it' (Mary MacKillop, 1842 -1909). THANK YOU.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Please don’t forget to keep collecting the Woolworths stickers after you have paid for your groceries. If you don't have the collection sheet to place the stickers on, don't worry, just place them in an envelope labelled 'Woolworths' and hand them over to the front office ladies or place them in the Woolworths box located in the student entry of the Administration office.

Cadbury Chocolates and Monies
There are still a few boxes of chocolates and monies floating around that need to be handed in to the school. If you are one of those families that have a box of unsold fundraising cadbury eggs at home, could you please return them to the school office by 3:00pm on Friday, 10 May, 2013. Thank you for your support.

Class Parent Representatives - Thank you to the nominees
We wish to thank the parents that nominated themselves to take on the role of Class Parent Representatives. We feel very fortunate to have so many wonderful parents that want to make a difference in the school community. The Class Parent Representatives will be a central channel of communication between teachers, parents and the school. I shall be sending out the list of Class Parent Representatives to the nominees and teachers of each class by the end of this week. The first meeting will be organised to take place in Week 6 of Term 2, on Tuesday, 4 June at 7:00pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. More details will be provided closer to the meeting date.

10th Biennial Catholic Schools Parent Conference 25th & 26th May 2013
It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have 3 parents nominated to represent our school at the iConnect conference taking place in Parramatta on the 25 & 26 May. This conference will be a wonderful opportunity for parents to gain knowledge about Catholic school education today and in the future. Well done Mr & Mrs Darwen and Mrs Raymonde. Have a fruitful weekend filled with information and we look forward to hearing your thoughts about the conference.

Trivia Night - Friday 21 June, 2013 - 7:00pm - Save the Date
At St Mary MacKillop Primary school we are organising a fun Trivia Night for adults that will include an evening of challenging games, raffles, lucky door prizes, silent auctions, a live band and lots more. The Trivia Night members wish to convey that even though we currently have a list of amazing prizes collected for this evening, we are in need of collecting a few more. Therefore if there are any parents or friends in the school that have businesses or know of businesses that would like to donate a prize for this evening (in exchange for advertising exposure through the evening and in the school newsletter), it would be very much appreciated. Please forward your questions or generous donations to Liz Whalen. In the meantime SAVE THE DATE, gather your TEAM and prepare for the ticket sales.

2014 Fete Meeting:
A meeting for all parents wishing to volunteer for the 2014 St Mary MacKillop Fete will take place on Tuesday 21 May at 6:30pm in the Multi-Purpose Centre, please come along to share ideas on how we can have another successful fete again!

Liz Whalen
President - on behalf of P & F Executive Team
### Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 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>10 May</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Liturgy and Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday- Thursday</td>
<td>14 May 16 May</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td><strong>NAPLAN-Year 3 and Year 5</strong> Year 4 Old Government House &amp; Experiment Farm Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>9:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Sale 1B Assembly 6C Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>6:30pm, 7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F 2014 Fete Meeting-Multi Purpose Centre  P &amp; F Executive Team Meeting-Multi Purpose Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy Captivate Choir at St Josephs Kingswood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Kindergarten Liturgy Year 5 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>7:00pm, 7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Class Representative Meeting-Multi Purpose Centre  P &amp; F General Meeting-All Welcome-Multi Purpose Centre</td>
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<tr>
<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>
<td>7 June</td>
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<td><strong>Staff Development Day-Pupil Free</strong></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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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>9:30am, 11:30am</td>
<td>Year 4 Liturgy 3K Assembly NSWCPs Cross Country-Eastern Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-8:15pm</td>
<td>ICAS Writing Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18 June</td>
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<td>ICAS Spelling Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>10:00am, 11:30am, 7:00pm</td>
<td>KD Assembly 5M Assembly P &amp; F Trivia Night - Multi Purpose Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>28 June</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Pizza Day Term 2 Concludes</td>
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**St Mary MacKillop Primary School Website - News & Events**

Parents and friends, the majority of us are technologically connected in the digital social networks and if you don't already check the school website for information or processes, then you may be missing out on important news and events taking place in our school. Unfortunately paper based information seems to get lost sometimes, however, don't fret as you can go to the school website at [www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/home](http://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/home) and click on 'News & Events' to read all about up coming liturgies, assemblies, current newsletters, meetings, important religious and fundraising events. Keeping yourself in the loop is the best possible way of keeping connected with the school and its community.

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**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**

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

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**St Mary MacKillop Primary School**

**Australian Trivia Night**

$10 per head
Tables of 6
EVO Food and Drinks