Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Letting Go:
Recently I was reminded of a well-known story that describes the best way to catch a monkey. It has been said, that all you need is a coconut containing a banana with a hole just large enough for a monkey's hand to fit in, but not large enough for a monkey's fist to come out. This is so that when the monkey is tempted to grab the banana and so making a fist, the monkey is unable to understand or have the ability to "let go" of the banana and to run away and escape from being captured.

I like this image because sometimes we can each be guilty of being like the monkey in the parable. Sometimes we can be found guilty of holding on too tightly to things which can trap us and hold us back from reaching our true potential. Instead of the symbolic banana, it might be that we are unable to:

- Let go of negativity,
- Let go of jealousy,
- Let go of hurt,
- Let go of being a victim,
- Let go of shame,
- Let go of anger,
- Let go of guilt.

Every time we pray the Lords Prayer we are "letting go" and placing our trust in God, as we say, “Thy will be done.” As a faith community we embrace a new beginnings through our trust in God.

Review of Religious Education CEDP:
Two weeks ago Parramatta Diocesan priests, principals and Religious Education coordinators met for our annual forum with a focus on the Review of Religious Education in our diocese.

1. The day was an opportunity to reflect on our ongoing work in ensuring our schools are centres of the new evangelisation. Dr Gerard O’Shea from Notre Dame presented a review of Catholic education and religious education contained in authoritative Catholic Church documents from Vatican II to the present;
2. A review of contemporary methodologies will be analysed from the perspective of consistent themes identified in the review of magisterial teaching; and
3. A theological and philosophical evaluation of the content and methodology of Sharing Our Story. Professor Kevin Watson, also from Notre Dame, looked at the processes of data gathering and analysis for the Religious Education Review, which was launched by Bishop Anthony at our system leaders day earlier in the year and will report back in 2014. More information will be provided throughout the process.

World Youth Day 2013:
Bishop Anthony and Mr Greg Whitby are both most appreciative of the support given by school communities in assisting student pilgrims and staff to attend WYD13 in Rio. The Diocese of Parramatta has registered 245 pilgrims for WYD13, of which 80 are student pilgrims. The pilgrims depart for South America on July 11 and return July 30. The WYD13 Car Raffle raised over $400 000 to support the finance of this years world youth day. Bishop Anthony is looking forward to sharing this faith formation journey with these future leaders of our school and church communities.

Thank You from Daniella:
My daughter Daniella Angelique Siciliano has asked me to pass on this note to the St Mary MacKillop Community.

Dear students, staff, parents and friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your prayers over the past twelve months. Last Saturday marked a year since I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I am feeling well, getting on with life, drinking healthy green juices, and my hair has grown back thicker than ever.

Thank you to the children who made me beautiful colorful cards and the many well wishes and enquiries. They lifted my spirits when times were difficult and made me smile knowing that people who didn’t even know me were praying that God and Saint Mary MacKillop would protect me throughout my treatment. I thank God in my daily prayers for the St Mary MacKillop community.

May God bless each and every one of you.
Daniella

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Mary Help of Christians:

Friday 24 May is the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians – the Patron Saint of Australia. Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the infant Church of Australia in 1844 at a significant time in our history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed, except for one brief year, until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive. Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.

St Mary's Cathedral was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Father John Therry, who arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral. When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title. On the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians we pray the following prayer:

Almighty God,

Deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.
Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.
May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.
Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.
Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

Sacrament of Holy Communion:


On the weekend of the 1st and 2nd June (The Feast of Corpus Christi – The Body and Blood of Christ), these students will receive their First Holy Communion in our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra.

A warm invitation is extended to everyone in our community to join in the sacramental celebration of Eucharist as these children continue their initiation into the Catholic Church.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Peer Support Program:

On Monday 20 May, our Year 6 leaders participated in their Peer Support Training Day, in preparation for the whole school Peer Support Program which begins next week. The Peer Support program is an 8 week program, where our Year 6 students lead small groups of about 8 children from K-6 from a selected module. The theme for this year is ‘Living Positively’. This is a module which focuses on Optimism. The module aims to support students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to identify their individual strengths and maintain a positive outlook on life. We congratulate our Year 6 students for their enthusiasm and commitment to the program.

NAPLAN:

Congratulations to the students in Year 3 and 5 who completed their NAPLAN assessment last week. Thank you to the Year 3 and 5 teachers, learning support staff and to all the parents who helped and guided the children during the NAPLAN testing period.

Maths Olympiad

It’s Maths Olympiad time again and 30 students from Year 5 and 6 have volunteered to register for the Olympiad for 2013. The annual APSMO (Australian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad) has been operating since 1987, with over 41,400 students across Australia, New Zealand and some parts of Asia competing. The Olympiad consist of five separate contests held approximately one month apart between May and September. The overall aim is to encourage students to develop important mathematical problem solving skills in an enjoyable environment. The rich open-ended tasks are very challenging, and as in previous years, we will publish Olympiad questions each KIT as a challenge for our parents and point of discussion with your students. Please see the first question later in this newsletter for the first question. Each answer will be published in the following KIT. (We will begin with an easy one to start off with).

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal
**P & F News**

First of all HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all the beautiful women that make our community inviting and full of love. Each and every one of you deserve the best the world can offer as you are truly the glue that keeps family and the bonds of friendship solid. Thank you to all our lovely mothers who dedicated their time to the Mother's day stall both in wrapping and selling gifts. The mother's day stall was only successful due to your voluntary presence and patient - yet skillful - selling strategies. We feel very blessed and proud to have such amazing women as role models for the children in our school (you know who you are). A very big thank you to Mrs Neale for her hard work in organising the purchasing of gifts, organising wrapping and the stall in general. Also thank you to Mr Cauchi for running around and gathering the classes prior and after the Mother's Day liturgy, it would not have run smoothly without your help as well as all the teachers - we know how disruptive it is to your lesson plans. We made a profit of $897.00, so well done to a great team effort in fundraising. CONGRATULATIONS to all those students who won the LUCKY DOOR PRIZES. Doubles surprises are always nice.

**TRIVIA NIGHT - TICKETS GO ON SALE 24 May 2014** - 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)

Contact to book and pay for tickets/table: Front Office - Mrs Masina

**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.

**FETE 2014 Meeting:**  
Our first Fete meeting took place on Tuesday, 21 May 2013 and it was so wonderful to see new parents getting involved. If you were unable to make the last fete meeting, please don't worry the next one will be on Monday, 24 June 2013 at 6:30pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. We look forward to seeing you there working towards a successful 2014 Fete for St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

**Class Parent Representatives:**  
Thank you kindly to all the parents who have nominated to be the central point of contact for each class (15 in total throughout the school). Our first meeting has been organised to take place on Tuesday, 4 June 2013 at 7:00pm in the Multi-Purpose Centre. We are looking forward to seeing you all there and we pray that as a whole school community we can make stronger connections with our teachers and families through your beautiful personalities and selfless dedication. Thank You.

**P & F General Meeting - ALL WELCOME**  
The next P & F General meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, 4 June 2013 at 7:30pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. Come join us and get to know your P & F Executive Team whilst also meeting new parents. The meeting will include updates from the School Principal, the P & F President, Treasurer, Fundraising committees and the Parent Representative Council, as well as General Business items up for discussion. Please remember your involvement in the school community is very much welcomed and valued. Sometimes just planting the seed of an idea, begins the motion of many.

**Woolworths Earn & Learn**  
The countdown to the Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion will be ending on Sunday, 9th June. Keep asking for those stickers when grocery shopping as every little sticker is accounted for towards investing in educational products for the school which is used by our children for maths and other subjects. The sheets of stickers can be placed in the Woolworths box located at the front office - student entry. Thanks for your dedication.

**Cadbury Easter Fundraiser**  
A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Cadbury Easter fundraiser. We are extremely happy to announce that thanks to everyone's efforts we raised an amazing $5,341 for the school. Great Job everyone and thank you again.

**10th Biennial Catholic Schools Parent Conference**  
As mentioned previously, this weekend is the 10th Biennial Catholic Schools Parent Conference taking place in Parramatta at the Novotel Hotel. It gives me great pleasure that Mr and Mrs Darwen and Mrs Raymonde will be attending on behalf of our school at this conference. We wish them a very informative weekend and look forward to their insight and knowledge gained from the conference during the next P & F General Meeting. Good Luck and God Bless.

Thank you till next time.

_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>24 May</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy-Library</td>
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<td>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-Library</td>
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<td>Year 5 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Class Representative Meeting-Multi Purpose Centre</td>
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<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F General Meeting-All Welcome-Multi Purpose Centre</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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<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><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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<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 4 Liturgy-Library</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>3K Assembly</td>
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<td>NSWCPS Cross Country-Eastern Creek</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>17 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-8:15pm</td>
<td>ICAS Writing Competition</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>ICAS Spelling Competition</td>
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<td>Captivate 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>Friday</td>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>KD Assembly</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>5M Assembly</td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
<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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<td>Term 2 Concludes</td>
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### MATHS OLYMPIAD - 1

The sum of five consecutive whole numbers is 75.

What is the largest of the five numbers?

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 upcoming 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.