Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

STUDENT RESPONSES IN THE QCS SURVEY
In our last newsletter I shared a number of our parents responses in the 2013 Quality Catholic Schools Survey. This week I would like to communicate what our Year 5 and 6 students said in the QCS survey.

Emotional Wellbeing
The majority of students at St Mary MacKillop are likely to be experiencing positive emotions at school, they enjoy attending school and feel like they belong at the school.

Teacher Relationships
The majority of the children indicated that the teaching at St Mary MacKillop is effective and the learning is stimulating.

Engagement in Learning
At St Mary MacKillop Student Motivation is quite high which indicates that students want to learn.

Student Relationships
Students at St Mary MacKillop are saying that Student Safety is higher than Classroom Behaviour. This indicates that the students generally feel safe in the school but that the behaviour in the classroom is an issue as it is getting in the way of their learning.

As part of our ongoing planning and development we will continue building on our strengths and continue addressing those areas which require attention.

WE NEED SAINTS…the poem Pope Francis never wrote.
I recently received and read the following poem with the instructions that it was delivered by Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2013:

WE NEED SAINTS
We need saints without veil or cassock.
We need saints who wear jeans and sneakers.
We need saints who go to the movies, listen to music and hang out with friends.
We need saints who put God in first place, but who let go of their power.
We need saints who have time everyday to pray and who know how to date in purity and chastity, or who consecrate their chastity.
We need modern saints, Saints of the 21st century with a spirituality that is part of our time.
We need saints committed to the poor and the necessary social changes.
We need saints who drink Coke and eat hot dogs, who wear jeans, who are Internet-savvy, who listen to CDs.
We need saints who passionately love the Eucharist and who are not ashamed to drink a soda or eat pizza on weekends with friends.

After doing further research, with a curiosity to learn more about our Pope, on reputable web sites I found that unfortunately, this poem has been mis-attributed as a direct quote from Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, an event that many pilgrims from our Parramatta Diocese attended.

It has been circulated on facebook and has appeared online as early as 2010 of an unknown author. Although, I love the sentiment of the poem, I am also moved by the great things Pope Francis really did say in his address. A favorite quote of mine directed to the youth is:

"Christ has confidence in young people and entrusts them with the very future of his mission, ‘Go and make disciples.’ Go beyond the confines of what is humanly possible and create a world of brothers and sisters! And young people have confidence in Christ: they are not afraid to risk for him the only life they have, because they know they will not be disappointed.” (Pope Francis WYD 2013).

I learnt an important lesson from this experience.

NEW DIRECTOR SYSTEM PERFORMANCE APPOINTED:
It gives me great pleasure to announce that Mr Anthony Morgan will undertake the position of Acting Director System Performance in our Penrith-Blue Mountains Network of Catholic Schools for the remainder of 2013. In 2014 Mr Morgan will assume the role of Director of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Wilcannia Forbes. Mr Morgan replaces Mr Paul Menday who has taken up the role of DSP in the Greater Blacktown Network. We welcome Mr Morgan to our network and are very appreciative of all that Mr Menday has done for our school community.

THANKYOU:
Sincere thanks to all the helpful parents who contributed to the Grandparents Day, our St Mary MacKillop Book Fair, the Netball Gala Day and the 2013 Dance-a-Thon. You’re a great team!

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Father's Day Liturgy:
On Friday 30 August we will celebrate all our wonderful Dads here at St Mary MacKillop. Our celebrations will be:

- 10:00am - Father’s Day Liturgy in the Multi Purpose Centre.
- 10:45am – Father’s Morning Tea
- 11:00am – All fathers are invited to have lunch and play some games with their child(ren) during lunch time.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Religious Literacy Assessment:
Currently the Year 4 and Year 6 students are completing the 2013 Religious Literacy Assessment. This assessment came about through consultation with Bishop Anthony and the Parramatta Diocesan Schools Board. The Religious Literacy Assessment is an online assessment where the Year 4 and Year 6 students will be required to answer a series of multiple choice questions related to their learning in Religious Education. In addition to the online test, the Year 4 students will complete a variety of learning tasks related to the Religious Education unit, Reconciliation: God’s Forgiveness and Healing. Religious Education in Catholic schools has always aimed to develop children’s capacity to express their growing understanding, appreciation, thoughts, questions and insights into God, Jesus, the Scriptures, the Church, the Sacraments, Prayer and life as a Christian. This is essential to their participation in the religious life of the school and the parish. As Year 4 and Year 6 are completing their Religious Literacy Assessment I thought it was an opportune time to share with you the religious learning of other grades across the school. Here is what some of our students had to say:

In Kinder we have been learning about God’s beautiful creation. God created the plants, the people and the animals. God wants us to look after all of his creation. We have also been reading the Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Isaac M.)

Year One we have been learning about the Sacrament of Baptism. The symbols of Baptism are: water, a white gown, a candle, a bible and oil. When we are baptised we join the church and become part of God’s family. (Tayla B.)

In Year Two we have been learning about the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the bread and wine (the body and blood of Jesus). We have also been learning about the sacred items used during Mass. Some of these items are the: Chalice, the Presider’s Chair, the Paten, and the Tabernacle. (Abigail F.)

Year Three have been learning about how they can care for God’s wondrous creation. God created the world and on the 7th day he rested. Everyone is responsible for looking after our beautiful world and God trusts us to work together to do this. (Abbey K.)

In Year 5 we are learning about Saints in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation later this term. We know how the Saints achieved their sainthood and we are currently choosing a saint who will be good role model for us. The name of this saint will become our Confirmation name. (Alex D.)

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting REC Co-ordinator

Sport News

ZONE ATHLETICS:

A special thank you goes to Helen Stapleton and Tracy Gallen who dedicated their own time in training our Relay team! Also a very big congratulations to Renee T. in Year 6 who became the 11 Years Girls age champion after a magnificent day competing in many events!

We wish many of the above mentioned children the very best of luck as they continue on to the next level at the Diocesan Athletics to be held this Friday 23August.

Well done all!

Mrs Kimberley Mathewson

NETBALL GALA DAY
On Tuesday 20 August, seven teams from St Mary MacKillop braved the cold winds and participated in the St Nicholas Netball Gala Day. All the teams played extremely well. Special congratulations to our 8 year old team who were runner ups and our 9 and 10 year old teams who won their division. A great effort.

Thank you to our Mums who gave up their time to coach our teams. Thank you Mrs Heidtman, Miss Sibbald, Mrs Selby, Mrs Anderton, Mrs Cutts, Ms Hopperton, Mrs Haydon and Mr and Mrs Taylor. Thank you also to our umpires from Caroline Chisholm.

The boys and girls will be given their certificates tomorrow.

Miss Maryanne McNally and Mrs Margaret Rowan
Southland Your Rewards Program from 2nd August - 17 September:
Please don't forget the bonus days are August: Sunday 24, Thursday 29 and Saturday 14 September. Keep collecting those receipts. For extra points towards our school we can also vote 'Like' for St Mary MacKillop Primary School via Facebook by going to 'Southlands Your Rewards', more information will be provided about this soon.

Dance-a-Thon - Thank you:
What a wonderful and healthy way to get into some cardio exercise whilst raising money for our wonderful school. Good job to all the students who danced along with the team from A-Live Performing Arts Centre and the Caroline Chisholm students (who were sensational). A big thank you goes out to Mrs Keane for organising this event as well as the P & F team, volunteer parents Mrs Billington, Mrs Inskip, Mrs Ellston, Mrs Neal, Mrs Warby, Mrs Grech and Mr Cauchi for the background work to make this event possible. Students, please don't forget to bring back your sponsorship form with monies by Wednesday, September 4 so you can go in the draw to win a prize (one for each grade). Thank you again for all your support, you guys are awesome.

Grandparents Day - Thank you to the beautiful big hearts of our volunteers:
Grandparents day had a phenomenal turn out, and it was such a wonderful way to spend time with family and friends (along with the book fair - read, read, read children). The P & F Team wish to warmly and humbly thank all the Stage 2 parents as well as parents from other grades for your kindness in baking and donating biscuits for the morning tea. Not one crumb was left - now that's what you call happy customers. We wish to also thank all the parents who volunteered their time to prepare and serve tea/ coffee for our precious guests - Grandparents - and then clean up afterwards. You are all angels, and we feel very blessed to have you by our side at times like this. *Find happiness in making others happy* (Mary MacKillop, 1899), and that is exactly what you did my friends, and for that we are truly thankful.

Father's Day Gift Wrappers needed (please) - Tuesday, 27 August 2013
Parents and friends as you would be aware the Father's day stall will be taking place on Friday, 30 August and to ensure that all the gifts are presentable and ready for purchase by our students we require angels to help with the wrapping (that would be you). Wrapping the gifts will take place on Tuesday, 27 August from 8:30am in the Library. If you are available for a couple of hours to help out, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact either Veronica Neal (0425 213 850) or Liz Whalen (0416 102 233) if you can spare some of your wrapping skills on the day.

Father's Day Stall - Friday 30 August 2013:
The Father's Day stall will take place in the Library on Friday 30 August throughout the day. This will give students an opportunity to purchase a Father's day gift ranging between $2 - $6. Please be assured, if your child happens to forget their money, we will organise an I.O.U letter to be sent home (with the student), as this ensures that no student is denied the opportunity to purchase their loved one a truly deserving gift for Father's Day. We always require the kind assistance of parents and friends during these events, therefore if you are able to help out for the Father's day stall, please respond to the note going out to families this week.

Father's Day Morning Tea - After the Liturgy:
The P & F will be organising a morning tea for all our amazing father's and grandfather's who provide us with their strength, protection, wisdom and unconditional love throughout our lives. This morning tea will be held after the Father's Day Liturgy. We humbly request the Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6) parents and friends to provide the baked goodies for us on this occasion. A note will be sent out requesting your baking skills and assistance during this event. Thank you kindly in advance for your kind hearts in helping out.

Autumn Fete 2014 Meeting - Monday 26 August 2013:
Our next fete meeting will be held on Monday, 26 August 2013. It will be held in the Multi Purpose Centre at 6:30pm. All are welcome and we look forward to hearing your fresh ideas and seeing you there.

School shoes and socks - SCHOOL SURVEY:
Parents and friends, as you would have read from the last KIT, there was a survey sent out asking for your opinions about changing the school shoes and socks for our girls summer and winter uniform. 51 families responded to the survey so far. If you have not as yet completed the survey, please do, as your voice counts towards the decision on this agenda item. We are particularly interested to hear from parents who wish for the girls school shoes to remain brown. We kindly ask that you return the survey provided from this week's KIT to the office by 30 August 2013. For those families who have already sent in their survey forms, we thank you and appreciate your input.

Thank you and God Bless
Liz Whalen
President on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Girls School Uniform - Preferences

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Socks with Black Shoes or Brown Socks with Black Shoes</td>
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Winter Uniform:
- Black Stockings with Black Shoes or Green Stockings with Black Shoes
- Brown Stockings with Black Shoes
- No Change, I prefer brown shoes, socks and stockings

**Name:** ___________________________  **Child’s Grade:** _____________
### Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 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>23 August</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>2G Assembly and Diocesan Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Infants Tabloid Sports Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Father’s Day Liturgy and Father’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Book Week Performance Incursion - Kindergarten-Year 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:45am</td>
<td>Book Week Performance Incursion - Years 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4 September</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 September</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday-Thursday</td>
<td>9-12 September</td>
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<td>Talent Quest Auditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 6 Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>KP Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18 September</td>
<td>5:00pm &amp; 7:30pm</td>
<td>Confirmation @ St Nicholas of Myra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Talent Quest Showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 September</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Touch Gala Day @ St Mary’s Last day of Term 3</td>
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### Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2013

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 October</td>
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<td>Term 4 commences - Children return in Summer Uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Playgroup Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15 October</td>
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<td>Year 1 Excursion - Australiana Pioneer Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 October</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Disco - Infants 6:00-7:00pm &amp; Primary 7:15-8:30pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>3M Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>21 October</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Playgroup Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday-Friday</td>
<td>24 &amp; 25 October</td>
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<td>Year 5 Teen Ranch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>28 October</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Playgroup Session</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Year 3 Blue Mountains National Park Excursion P &amp; F Executive Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
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<td>4L Assembly</td>
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### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE
**WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER**
**8:30AM**

**“R E M I N D E R”**
**STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
**FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER**
**PUPIL FREE DAY**