Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Optimism at SMMK

This Years Peer Support Program led by our Year Six senior students focuses on Resilience and Optimism. I recently read an article which raised several interesting ideas and asked the following question. Imagine at the birth of your child you are given a choice between bestowing great intelligence or great persistence on your baby. Which would you choose? Intelligence or persistence? What would you choose? Research into factors determining children’s achievement levels found that the greatest individual characteristic that determined children’s success at school was persistence. It was number one by far. In fact, persistence was a staggering seven times more significant than intelligence as a determinant of a child’s achievement. The good news is that persistence is not merely an inborn trait. It is the one aspect of a child’s temperament that can be impacted by people. It was found that parents, rather than teachers, are the people most likely to impact on a child’s persistence. This is consistent with many other studies in the area.

What does a persistent child do?
- They don’t let failure stop them.
- They are more likely to take risks as learners.
- They can sometimes be seen as stubborn or unwilling to bend.

There are many ways you can encourage your child to persist. But the main strategies all revolve around modelling, encouragement and vocabulary.

As a parent think how you:
1. Model persistence on a daily basis so your child sees what persistence is.
2. Actively foster and promote persistence so your child sees it is possible.
3. Develop a set of words and phrases about persistence that your child hears routinely so that persistence becomes part of your child’s language.
4. Make a fuss when your child sticks at a task regardless of their success so they know that it is something you value.

Thank you to our Year Six students who have led the Peer Support program and continue to share these important life skills, values and knowledge with all children in their group from Kindergarten to Year Five.

Teach us to Pray

On Tuesday Mr Paul Menday (Director of System Performance CEDP) and Teresa Dobosz (Team Leader CEDP) visited St Mary MacKillop to discuss the 2013 Learning Plan and visit several classes. We discussed the importance of Prayer life in our school community, which coincidentally is what we will hear in this Sundays’ Gospel. At mass this week, we will listen to the Gospel of Luke where a disciple asks Jesus to teach them to pray. We know that Prayer is basic to our spiritual journey and as Jesus taught us we continue teaching our children how to pray through word and action. The Our Father, the ‘Lord’s prayer’ as we call it, is the best known and best loved prayer in Christianity. It is called the Lord’s Prayer, because the Lord himself (Jesus) composed it and prayed it himself. If you read the text of Luke, after Jesus has finished his own personal prayer, the disciples ask him to teach them to pray as John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray. The Our Father is a prayer of petition. In the Ancient Near East, and in Israel too, there was a set pattern for praying, especially for petitionary prayer. It had three parts. First of all, the prayer named some of the beautiful things about the person being prayed to. Secondly, the prayer said simply, briefly and clearly what the petitioner wanted. Thirdly, it apologized to the person for interrupting him and making the petition (and promised not to do it again). This is the structure of the Our Father. Part One: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’. Part Two: ‘give us this day our daily bread’. Part Three: ‘forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil’. The main point of the Our Father is a request for bread, bread needed now, for today, for the hungry now. Around it, there is the warm up, and the excuse – sorry for having to ask, and let’s hope this situation doesn’t occur again. It is not necessarily fresh bread that we pray for but rather its symbolic. It is a symbol of what we and others basically need to survive the daily struggles and battles of real life. We ask God to give us the strength and the inner capacity to get there. Just as Jesus did many years ago, we as teachers and parents continue to teach our children how to pray at school and home. This is an extraordinary gift that we give to others.

Thought for the Week

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”
Nelson Mandela

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
The Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne – Friday 26 July:
Saints Joachim and Anne are the parents of Mary, the Mother of God and the grandparents of Jesus. Joachim and Anne were good parents to Mary. They nurtured her, taught her, and brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be done to me according to your will." It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified and still believe. Such parents can be examples and models for all parents.

Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, pray for all parents that they may provide the loving home and faithful teaching that you provided your daughter. Amen

As Saints Joachim and Anne are also the grandparents of Jesus, today has traditionally been a day to honour one's grandparents.

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Thursday 8 August:
St Mary MacKillop, the patron of our school, was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in 1909. During her lifetime she was an inspirational Australian who praised God and dedicated her life to the service of the poor. She founded the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph and established over 30 schools for the poor and disadvantaged. Mary MacKillop was very concerned for the plight of the poor and needy, and worked with families that lived in isolated areas of Australia. Even today, many Australians can say that they too have felt the impact of the enormous work started by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, having been educated or cared for, by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Mary MacKillop was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI on the 17 October 2010. Please join us at 9:30am on Thursday 8 August for a whole school mass to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the patron of our school.

Altar Servers:
Have you celebrated your First Communion? Have you ever thought about joining the team of Altar Servers and taking an active part in our parish community? Training sessions will be held on Friday, 16 August and Friday, 23 August 2013. Time: 4:00pm – 5:00pm (The children will be supplied afternoon tea.) To register please telephone Mrs Anne Tucker on 47212509 or email sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Confirmation:
The parent information session for Confirmation will be held on Tuesday 6 August 2013 at 7:00pm in the Church. This meeting is for parents whose children are currently in Year 5 or above and have made their First Communion. If you have any questions regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Mrs Anne Tucker at the parish house on 47212509 during school hours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting REC Co-ordinator

From the Assistant Principal

ICAS Competitions:
The ICAS English Competition will take place next Wednesday 31 July for the students in Years 3 -6 who nominated earlier in the year. The Mathematics competition will take place on Tuesday 13 August.. If your child has nominated for either of these tests, please ensure that they are at school on time and are aware that these assessments are taking place. The results and certificates for the students who sat the Science and the Writing assessments last term are due in the next few weeks.

Sport News:
Congratulations to Max (6M) who participated in the NSW State Cross Country carnival last Friday. Max finished 18th overall. A great achievement and one that we are all very proud of. Recently Rory (6C) represented the Diocese of Parramatta in Rugby Union. Rory travelled to Forbes to participate in 4 games, with his team winning 2 out of the 4 games. Selection for the Parramatta Diocesan teams is very competitive so we congratulate Rory on his selection. Next week the Stage 2 boys will participate in their Soccer Gala Day which was postponed from last term. We wish all the boys the best of luck and thank Mr Perri for coaching the team and Mrs Paine for organising and supervising the team. Our Netball Gala Day teams have been selected and are training hard at lunch times for their upcoming gala day in a few weeks. Many thanks to the parents who are generous with their time to coach our teams during recess and lunch breaks. Again thank you to our staff members, Miss McNally and Mrs Rowan who coordinate these teams.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal
Southlands "Your Rewards Program" from 2 August - 17 September 2013

Southlands is again running its 'Your Rewards Program'. We are registered!!! Therefore we will be in the running to win a share of $15,000 and possibly, as first prize winner also have 'Jessica Fox' - our local girl from Blaxland, and Silver Medallist at the 2012 Olympic Games in London for Slalom Canoeing - visit our school. The program runs from 2 August - 17 September. All we need to do is simply collect receipts from our everyday purchases made at Southlands between these dates, place them in the special envelopes provided at participating retailers and then ensure to write our school name on them before placing them in the promotion barrel at the centre. Let's work together to support our school and see if we can accomplish the same goal, or even better this year. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Veronica Neal or anyone from the P & F Committee.

TRIVIA NIGHT SUCCESS!!

Just a recap about the Trivia Night that took place at our school on Friday, 21 June 2013 in our School Hall. It was a huge success and a very fun evening indeed. Due to all your wonderful support in selling raffle tickets, the amazing donations from local businesses and the hard work invested by our dedicated parents and friends, we were able to raise just over ten thousand dollars ($10,000), which is an amazing result. Thank you to all your efforts and support in making this happen.

Hot Food Day - THANK YOU

On the last day of term we had Pizza on the menu for 'Hot Food Day'. Students enjoyed eating 2 slices of pizza and a popper for lunch. This event would not have gone smoothly if it weren't for the wonderful organisational skills of Mrs Neal, Mrs Inskip and Mrs Billington. I also wish to thank all the parents and friends (angels) who stayed back after assembly to volunteer their time and helped in the set up, organising the distribution of the pizzas to students and then the clean up after lunch. We thank you for your kind support and generous hearts in helping out when we were down on the number of volunteers. Now that's what you call a 'community bond'. Amazing.

Calling all Volunteers!!!

Lovely people, its always nice to volunteer our time to help people that need it, and the best part about helping others is that we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus, who was kind and giving without expecting anything in return. If anyone can spare an hour during the week to help in the Library, by shelving book for our beautiful Mrs Eisenhuth and Mrs Napoli, it would be very much appreciated. Sometimes just walking in and asking ‘Can I help out with anything?’ is all it takes. Will that be you today? Let's keep each other above water.

Next Fete Meeting

The fete meetings are coming along nicely, with the major rides being booked, as well as a petting zoo. We have a beautiful team of energetic people coming together to help out with the building blocks for the enormous job of organising a school fete. We are always in need of new connections and helpers that can provide us with refreshing ideas and contacts for donations relating to prizes. If you are not able to attend meetings, you can still contribute with your valuable knowledge and helping in tracking sponsorship prospects for raffle prizes. We look forward to your input. For your diary, our next Fete 2014 meeting is booked for Monday, 26th August 2013 @ 6:30pm in the Multi-purpose Centre.

P & F Dance-a-thon

Don't forget to dust off your dancing shoes and get ready for stepping out with rhythm and tempo as we organise the Dance-a-thon for 2014. This year we will be having VERY SPECIAL GUEST joining in on our Dance-a-thon. So keep your eyes and ears open for more details as we get closer to Wednesday, 21 August. 2013.

Until next time, it is great to see everyone back safe and ready for another term. Take care and God Bless

Liz Whalen
P & F President
### Math Olympiad 3 - Question: Evaluate $48 \times 25 \div 100 - 5$

**Method 1:** Strategy: *Follow the order of operations but when given a choice use the operation that results in smaller numbers first.*

Since $48 \times 25$ results in a bigger number than $25 \div 100$, perform the second operation first. Since $25 \div 100 = \frac{1}{4}$ we then multiply $48 \times \frac{1}{4}$ to get $12$. The last step is $12 - 5 = 7$

**Method 2:** Strategy: *Apply a quick way to multiply by 25.*

Multiplying by 25 is the same as dividing by 4 and then multiplying by 100 (move the decimal point 2 places to the right. Therefore $48 \times 25 = 48 \div 4 \times 100 = 1200$. Divide this result by 100 to get 12 and then subtract 5 to get 7.

### Math Olympiad 4

**Question:** One list of numbers starts with 1 and adds 4 to get each new number in the list: 1, 5, 9,…….

A second list of numbers starts with 2 and adds 3 to get each new number in the list: 2,5,8,…….

How many two-digit numbers are common to both lists?