Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,
As this is the final newsletter for 2013, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support, enthusiasm and interest in your child’s education this year. Research has found that if your child knows that you view education as being important, they will adopt the same opinion as you. At St Mary MacKillop we are fortunate that the majority of our parents take the role as “partners” in education of their children very seriously. Particular thanks goes to those families of year six children who are leaving the school community. May God bless you and best wishes for the years ahead.

A Short Christmas Poem

More Than A Story
Love came, held safely within a gentle womb
All the truth, majesty, and creativity of a living God
Poured into a tiny heart
Making a quiet entrance in a dark and uninviting shack
Just one star shone anew as a handful of people were brought
Led by angelic voices, and open hearts
A young mother
A faith-filled father
Men of wisdom who searched for truth and a group of humble herdsmen
They came to bow before a new life
And acknowledge that the rescuer had arrived
That the Word of God had come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth had begun

(Poem by Julie Palmer, c. 2011)

Thankyou:
Sincere thanks to Miss Sarah Archer and Mr Tim Martin who are leaving SMMK at the end of this year and we wish them all the very best for 2014. Best Wishes to Mrs Kelly Gray and Mrs Renee Cutajar who will be taking maternity leave from the end of this year. Congratulations to Mr Scott Carroll on his appointment at Religious Education Coordinator at Mary Immaculate Primary School, Quakers Hill. Sincere thanks to Mr Anthony Morgan, who has been the Penrith/Mountains Network, Acting Director of System Performance during second semester this year. Mr Morgan takes up the position as Executive Director of Catholic Schools of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese in 2014. We welcome Mrs Christine Howe who has been appointed as our Director of System Performance in 2014.

Congratulations:
Congratulations to Mrs Leesa Gillard who has been appointed as Religious Education Coordinator at St Mary MacKillop for 2014. As you are aware Mrs Gillard was our Acting REC this year.

Papal Honours:
I just wanted to mention (if you weren’t already aware) that one of our grandparents from the school; Mr Vincent Graham (Thomas and Abbey Keane's grandfather) was recently awarded the PAPAL HONOURS. In the Catholic community this award is presented to recipients in recognition and appreciation for all the voluntary and invested time they have given to the Catholic community throughout their lives. Congratulations Vince.

Staffing News:
We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Ashlea Milgate, Miss Ellen Hall and Mrs Niamh MacDonald, who will be joining the St Mary MacKillop staff in 2014. We wish them all the very best in their exciting new roles.

Introducing Baby Payton
Congratulations to Mrs & Mr Paine on the recent birth of their baby daughter Payton Margaret Paine. Payton has already visited SMMK and enjoyed the Christmas concert on Monday night.

Thought for the Week
“Open your presents at Christmas time but be thankful year round for the gifts you receive.”

Lorinda Ruth Lowen

As we approach the end of another wonderful year here at St Mary MacKillop I would like to thank you for your support in 2013, acknowledge and give thanks for all the great things that have occurred this year and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
Presenting the 2014 SMMK Staff:

Kindergarten: Mrs Deborah Aliberti (KA) and Mrs Elizabeth Devlin (KD)
Year 1: Mrs Margaret Rowan (1R) and Mrs Leonie Mitchell (1M)
Year 2: Ms Connie Mulders (2M) and Mrs Ashlea Milgate (2A)
Year 3: Mr Darren McErlain, (3M) Ms Ros Wheaton (3W) and Miss Ashleigh Brown (3B)
Year 4: Mrs Julie Brigden/Mrs Chris Laffan (4BL) and Miss Ellen Hall (4H)
Year 5: Mrs Margaret Meehan (5M) and Mrs Leesa Gillard (5G)
Year 6: Miss Maryanne McNally (6M) and Mrs Kimberley Mathewson/Mrs Rachel Paine (6PM)

Leadership Team:
Principal: Mr Michael Siciliano
Assistant Principal: Mr Steve Cauchi
REC: Mrs Leesa Gillard
Stage Coordinators: Mrs Elizabeth Devlin - Early Stage 1/Stage 1
Mr Steve Cauchi - Stage 2
Mrs Margaret Meehan-Stage 3
Coordinator 1: Mrs Margaret Rowan
Teacher/Librarian: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth and Library Assistant: Mrs Marina Napoli
Learning Support: Mrs Michelina Bizzanelli, Mrs Niamh MacDonald, Mr Steve Cauchi, Mrs Marina Napoli
Mrs Judy Inskip and Mrs Simone Breia
RFF: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth Library & IT Skills and Mr Bradley Carroll CAPA
Leadership Team Release: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth and Mrs Cathie Parkes
Administration: Mrs Allisson Masina, Mrs Chris Capolupo and Mrs Judy Inskip
Maintenance: Mr Meinardo Benitez

From the Assistant Principal

Mathematical Assessment Interviews 2014:
Thank you to the many parents who have indicated an appointment time for their child to complete their Mathematical Assessment Interview early next year. Confirmation times were sent home yesterday, there are still time slots available, please contact the office for availability

2014 changes to Assembly Times:
In 2014, our whole school assemblies will change from Friday mornings to Friday afternoons at 2.30pm. The assemblies will follow the same format as they do currently with Acknowledgment of Country, National Anthem, Principals awards, birthdays and other necessary announcements concluding with a prayer. The grade assemblies which are currently held on Fridays at either 10.00am or 11.30am will now take place on a Monday afternoon at 2.00pm.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers:
Last Friday, at our school assembly, the St Mary MacKillop community presented Mr Joseph Tabone, a representative from St Vincent de Paul Society, with 83 bags of grocery items. Mr Tabone expressed his thanks to all the children and their families and was overwhelmed with our generosity. These items have now been used to make Christmas hampers for the needy within our community. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the outpouring of support to this important appeal. We have certainly made this Christmas Season special for many people in need. A big thank you must go to Mr and Mrs Whalan and Mrs Graham for helping to transport the hamper items to our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra.

Michael Mangan Peace on Earth Advent/Christmas Concert:
On Monday night 9 December, we gathered as a school community to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Our concert, lead by Michael Mangan, was a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and I think you would agree that the children looked amazing and sang like angels! The concert would not have been a success without the support of St Dominic’s College who kindly allowed us to use their facilities and Mr Barry Walsh and Mr Jamie Doohan who oversaw the set-up, lighting, sound and pack up. Throughout the concert there was a great community feel and I thank all the children, teachers and parents who made the night a wonderful success.

Year 6 Graduation Mass and Graduation Ceremony:
As the Year 6 students prepare to leave St Mary MacKillop it is time to celebrate the culmination of the last 7 years of primary school education for our 2013 graduating students. Our formal celebrations will include a Graduation Mass at 7:00pm on Monday 16 December in our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. Followed by the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony which will be held at 10:00am on Tuesday 17 December at school. All in our community are warmly invited to attend these special ceremonies.

May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you all and I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator
Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge

Reading over the summer holidays is VERY important. The children at St Mary MacKillop are invited to enter The Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge. More information about the competition, including Terms and conditions are available on the Catholic Education Office Parramatta website. There is a suggested Reading list on the website, but these books are not compulsory. Penrith Library is free to join if you are a Local resident and it has a substantial children’s library, including books used for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Don’t forget to keep reading over the holidays!

Mrs Elizabeth Devlin

READ TO LEARN    READ FOR FUN    READ TO WIN

The Executive Director’s Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. Students need to independently read 10 or more age-appropriate books during the summer holidays to go in to the draw to win one of four iPad Minis. There are two age categories, based on the age the student is on Friday 7 February 2014. The categories are ages 5-8, and 9+. 

HOW TO ENTER

If you would like to keep an informal record of the books you have read over summer, then download and complete the personal reading log, available on the Catholic Education Office Parramatta website. Once your challenge is complete, enter your list of read books online to go into the draw for a prize. A parent or guardian must confirm books read prior to entry. Entries must be received by 5:00pm Friday 7 February 2014. The draw will take place on Friday 14 February and the winners will be published on the Catholic Education website.

School Zones Reminder

A reminder to all our parents ahead of the break at the end of Term 4, that school zones remain in place for the safety of our children and families on all gazetted schools days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil free days. School zones for our school will end on Friday 20 December 2013 and resume on Tuesday 28 January 2014.

NOTE: Double Demerits Points over the Christmas period will apply from Friday 20 December 2013 to Wednesday 1 January 2014 inclusive. Since Friday 20 December is a gazetted school day, Double Demerit Points will apply on this day in all school zones in NSW, whether students are present or not.

P & F News

Zooper Dooper Sales for December 2013: Thursday 12 and Monday 16. Children please kindly dispose of any rubbish in the bins provided around the school. Let’s all do our job by keeping our school grounds beautiful.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete 2014 - Next Meeting - Monday 3 February 2014 at 6:45pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. This is where it all begins to roll together with the help of our precious volunteers. WE NEED YOU and are looking forward to seeing you at the future meetings in 2014.

Volunteers Required for Kindy 2014 First Day of School - This week we have sent out a note kindly asking for your assistance to help out at the First day of school for the 2014 Kindy families. If you are able to volunteer your time on Thursday, 30 January 2014 from 8:15am, please let me know as your assistance would be very much appreciated on 0416 102 233.

School Holiday Dec 2013 - Jan 2014 ideas - Six weeks is a great way to reconnect with your children and cherish them in a fun atmosphere. I have listed a few fun ideas that I organise with my kids during the holidays. The following destinations may be of interest to you and your family as well - enjoy, take care of each other and be safe: AMF Bowling, Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Mamre House, Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney, Penrith City Library, Panthers World of Entertainment, Penrith Regional Gallery & Lewer's Bequest, Questacon - Canberra, Ripples Penrith - Holiday 'Learn to Swim' intensive programs, Sydney Olympic Park, Powerhouse Museum, Wet and Wild Sydney.

Farewell Class of 2013 and Thank You to ALL

On behalf of the P & F Executive Team we bid farewell to all our amazing Year 6 students and their phenomenal and extraordinary families. Congratulations on completing the most important chapter of your education through faith and social experiences. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. We pray that you are forever protected with the knowledge to make positive choices throughout your life as you enter into your secondary education and beyond. May you excel and persevere in your journey as lifelong learners. God Bless you and your families, we wish you all the happiness in the world. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas filled with love, laughter and precious memories. May 2014 bring onto you and your families all things positive with good health and golden opportunities filled with faith, hope and serenity. Thank you to all the parents and friends in our school and from past P & F positions to the present day for giving unconditionally, caring and volunteering their time to help out wherever and whenever necessary throughout the year. You are angels that are priceless and true blessings to our community, and without you the events and fundraising that take place in our school would not be accomplished without your presence in our lives. We are humbled constantly by your big hearts and benevolence. Merry Christmas, God bless you all, be safe, cherish every moment you have with your families and we will see you again in 2014.

Liz Whalen
President
On behalf of the P & F Executive Team
### Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>6:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>10:00am 2:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Class Promotions Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18 December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 6 Fun Day St Mary's Indoor Sports Centre and last day of Term 4 for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 December</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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### Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2014

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>28 January</td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Students Years 1 -6 commence Term 1 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>8:45am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence 2014 ½ day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>8:45am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten ½ day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 February</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence full days Primary (Year 3-6) Swimming Carnival @ Penrith Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 February</td>
<td>3:30pm-4:30pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten Parent Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6 February</td>
<td>5:30pm-7:30pm</td>
<td>P&amp;F Welcome BBQ</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>3:00pm 3:30pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>P&amp;F Afternoon Tea Year 1-6 Meet the Teacher</td>
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<td>25 February</td>
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<td>Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Literacy Parent Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>28 February</td>
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<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival @ Blacktown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>2015 Kindergarten Enrolments Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>7:00pm 7:30pm</td>
<td>Parent Rep. Meeting P &amp; F AGM Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>2015 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening</td>
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### Maths Olympiad

**Question:** (Term 4 Week 8)

**What is the value of the following?** $48 + 8 - 40 + 16 - 32 + 24 - 24 + 32 - 16 + 40 - 8 + 48$

**Answer:**

Strategy: Rearrange and regroup terms.

Rewrite as:


The final result is 96.

**METHOD 2:** Strategy: Perform the additions and subtractions separately.

Add $48+8+16+24+32+40+48=216$ Then add $40+32+24+16+8=120$ Then subtract $216 - 120 = 96$