Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Congratulations to the students who were elected as our School Captains for 2014, they are Lydia Volkien and Cooper Hill, and our Vice-Captains Laura Carpenter and Anthony Farrell. We are looking forward to working with these students next year as they have much to offer the school in their leadership roles. At this time, I would like to thank our present captains, Lilly-Rose Saliba, Jake Dawson, Amy Stemp and Joshua Haydon for their outstanding efforts in 2013. They have been a responsible, reliable and supportive team. As we continue our elections for the student leaders for 2014, we congratulate our newly elected colour house captains. CARRAMAR- GREEN: Emma Buckley and Matthew Farrell, GIRRALONG- BLUE: Samuel Dardaneliotis and Emma McCahon, ULURU- RED: Rick Jameson and Emma Cutts, THORUNA- YELLOW: Logan Dwyer and Rebecca Dunn. Over the next few weeks our Year 5 students will be considering areas of responsibility for 2014. Our Year 6 Leaders will be inducted into their Leadership positions at a ceremony early in 2014.

Compliance Audit Spot Check:
Next Thursday 21 November the Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) will conduct a Compliance Audit Spot Check at St Mary MacKillop Primary school. The CEDP began a formal process of random partial monitoring, known as the Compliance Audit Spot Check (CASP) of systemic schools in 2012, to mimic the Board of Studies’ processes. Diocesan schools currently undergo a compliance audit once every five years. The conducting of CASPs (partial monitoring of some of the school’s documentation for compliance) helps to reinforce the concept that schools need to be compliant every year and that schools should be ready to show their compliance documentation at any time at short notice. The process involves the spot check of two curriculum and two non-curriculum areas for each school, covering requirements from the schools registration manual 2011. Our acting DSP, Mr Anthony Morgan, personnel from CEDP and relevant KLA panel members will attend to check the documentation next Thursday. I would like to thank the entire staff under the leadership of Mrs Kelly Gray for the preparation of next weeks Compliance Audit Spot Check.

During November, the month of All Souls, let us pray for loved ones:
By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. In November, it is the Holy Souls in Purgatory, those faithful Christians who have died and gone before us but who still must atone for their sins. The church teaches that the time they spend in Purgatory cleanses them so that they may enter Heaven free from all effects of sin. Praying for the dead, especially for those we have known, is a part of our Christian charity. Our own prayers and sacrifices can be offered up to relieve their suffering. Many prayers can be incorporated into our daily prayers during the month of November. One of the most commonly recited of Catholic prayers in times past is the Eternal Rest Prayer. This prayer has fallen into disuse in the last few decades. Prayer for the dead, especially for those we have known, is a part of our Christian charity. Our own prayers and sacrifices can be offered up to relieve their suffering. Many prayers can be incorporated into our daily prayers during the month of November. One of the most commonly recited of Catholic prayers in times past is the Eternal Rest Prayer. This prayer has fallen into disuse in the last few decades. Prayer for the dead, however, is one of the greatest acts of charity we can perform, for loved ones, to help them during their time in Purgatory.

Eternal Rest
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.

Religious Literacy Assessment:
Next week the parents of children in Years 4 and 6 will receive the results of the Religious Literacy Assessment, which was conducted earlier this year. The Religious Literacy Assessment project, managed within the Parramatta diocese provides a reporting of students’ learning in the key learning area of Religious Education (RE), specifically religious literacy. Celebrating and sharing the good news about students’ learning in RE is an important component of this initiative and enables the story to be told on a continuing basis. Being religiously literate requires children within a Catholic school to be able to communicate with and be at home in Catholic society and religion in general. Thus, assessment of religious literacy focuses on students’ knowledge and understanding of the key concepts that are being addressed by the RE program and the student’s ability to communicate within their religious tradition. The RLA’s intention is to influence learning and accountability and drive a culture of reflection on learning and pedagogy in the domain of RE. With you, we are committed to develop children’s literacy in every area of learning, and this includes Religious Education. 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. The St Mary MacKillop Year 4 and 6 school average in the Domains of God, Church, Sacraments, Scripture and Christian life were above Diocesan RLA Average.

Bunnings Garden:
Sincere thanks to Mrs Sykes (Tayla KD & Lachlan 1M) for organising the landscaping of our front garden by Bunnings Penrith.

Thought for the Week
Much that passes as idealism is disguised hatred or disguised love of power.
Bertrand Russell

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
**Religious Education News**

**Christmas Hampers:**
As a Catholic community based on following the example of St Mary MacKillop, we are asked to think of those less fortunate than ourselves as we approach the season of Advent. As part of our community building and outreach we have been approached by St Vincent de Paul to help assemble hampers for the poor as a way of preparing for Christ’s birth at Christmas.

To help make the hampers, each child has been asked to generously donate specific items as our offering towards the marvellous work St Vincent de Paul does in helping those in need. If you need more information about what your child has been asked to donate, please contact your child’s class teacher. It would be much appreciated if all hamper donations could be finalised by Thursday 28 November.

The Christmas Hampers will be presented to a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society at our Friday assembly on the 6 December (the Feast of St Nicholas).

I ask that you please give this appeal your consideration, as it is one of the outreach activities we undertake as a Christian Community throughout the year.

**Peace On Earth Advent/Christmas Concert:**
This year our annual whole school Christmas celebration will be a *Peace on Earth Advent/Christmas Concert* led by Mr Michael Mangan. Michael is an accomplished singer/songwriter and we use many of his songs at our school masses and liturgies.

All the children are busily learning their assigned songs and actions, as our celebration will involve song, music, movement and lots of fun as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The *Peace on Earth Advent/Christmas Concert* will be held at 7:00pm on Monday 9 December at St Dominic’s College. More details will follow shortly.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
Over the past three weeks many of our students have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament of healing and forgiveness will be held on Tuesday 19 November at 7:00m in our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra. Please note that the final preparation session for all candidates will be this Friday afternoon (15 November) at 3:45pm in the church. I encourage all the community to keep these children in their prayers

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
*Acting Religious Education Coordinator*

**Sport News**

Congratulations to Kestra C. (6C), Laura P (6C), Hannah N. (6M), Marco P (4L) and Jake Z (4L) who went to St Nicholas on Friday 1 November and competed in the Diocesan Gymnastics Competition. Our 5 students competed in four events; long vault, short vault, mini-tramp and floor. All our competitors did very well with special congratulations to Hannah N who came 3rd in Short Vault and Marco P who came first overall for the boys. An awesome achievement.

**End of Year Reminders**

**Bus Travel 2014:**
Parents are reminded that students who travel by bus and are going into Year 3 2014 need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from the school office. Applications must be returned ASAP.

**Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2014:**
If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2014 we need this confirmed in writing as soon as possible to enable us to plan our overall staffing and learning groups for next year. It will also assist us with the enrolment enquiries we are receiving for next year.
Parent Helper Morning Tea Invitation

A “Thank You” Morning Tea will be held on Monday 2 December 2013 commencing at 11:00am in the Multi-Purpose Centre. The purpose of this Morning Tea is to express our appreciation for the generous involvement of parents in the reading support groups, classroom helpers, library assistance, sport carnivals, excursions, creative arts, religious events, clothing pool, selling of iceblocks or general school support. It will also give all our parent helpers an opportunity to meet others who are part of this important work.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the 3 December at 11:00am. Please reply to the office by Friday 29 November, for catering purposes.

P & F News

Kindergarten Orientation 2014 - Thank you:
We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the beautiful parents that helped out in baking and serving coffee and tea for this event. I love it when people get together to support each other just like a family. A very special thank you to Mrs Lufe, Mrs Contractor, Mrs D’Costa, Mrs Dardaneliotis, Mrs Billington and Mrs Warby, you are truly living by the quote 'never see a need, without doing something about it' (St Mary MacKillop) and are the guardian angels that make our school feel so blessed.

FINAL CALL - Bargain Buyers Fundraising event - Saturday 23 November 2013:
Just a reminder that we are organising a Bargain Buyers shopping bus trip. This is a wonderful way to have a day out with your friends and family, whilst bargain hunting before Christmas. For more information, please pick up a pamphlet from the front office or contact Fiona Bryant on fionaw@smartchat.net.au. SEATS ARE FILLING FAST and the last date to book is Wednesday 20 November 2013. We hope you can join us.

Zooper Dooper Sales for November 2013:
Thursday 14, Monday 18, Wednesday 20, Friday 22, Tuesday 26, Thursday 28. Children are please reminded to kindly dispose of their rubbish in the bins provided around the school. Our school environment deserves to be kept beautiful.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete 2014 - Next Meeting:
Monday, 2 December, 2013 at 6:45pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. Hope to see you there.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete 2014 - Invitation to Parent Stall Holders:
Parents from our school who wish to book a stall during our school fete to promote their business venture are invited to do so by contacting Fiona Bryant at fionaw@smartchat.net.au. Fiona will then send out the Stall Holders booking documentation and contractual information to book a designated space for your stall, as they will be occupied fast once we begin to advertise to the community. Thank you.

FINAL P & F Meeting & Class Parent Representative Meetings 2013:
It gives me great pleasure to express my humbled gratitude to all the parents that have been involved in our school P & F events and organised activities. Without the strong pillars of our school to assist in fund raising, social gatherings and volunteering, the P & F would be a lost cause. I wish to extend a very grateful THANK YOU to all parents who have been part of the P & F for many years and are moving on due to their last child graduating from St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We have been truly blessed to have crossed paths with you to be guided by your knowledge about how processes and protocols take place when collaborating with our school holistically, to ensure all the results are fruitful and positive for everyone involved. Mutual respect and open communication always makes life a whole lot easier and becomes the vital bond in building a strong, yet kind community. And for this, on behalf of the current P & F Executive Team and our students and families at the school. We thank you as we remember the quote “We must teach more by example than by word.” (St Mary MacKillop, 1867). Thank you for being such outstanding examples to all future P & F members and we pray that all your paths lead to sweet success.
Thank you and God Bless

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 4 Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 arrive back from Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18 November</td>
<td>9:00-11:30am</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 Caroline Chisholm Orientation for Year 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 St Dominic’s Orientation for Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>10:00am-11:30am</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 McCarthy Orientation for Year 6</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>20 November</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion - Mt Annan Botanical Gardens</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26 November</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion - Powerhouse Museum</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>2 December</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Parent Helpers Morning Tea - All Welcome</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 December</td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>Semester Two Reports Sent Home</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>School Christmas Concert @ St Dominic’s Michael Mangan</td>
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<td>performing with students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>6:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Disco</td>
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<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-12:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Class Promotions Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18 December</td>
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<td>Year 6 Fun Day St Mary’s Indoor Sports Centre and</td>
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<td>last day of Term 4 for all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 December</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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</td>
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<td>Primary (Year 3-6) Swimming Carnival @ Penrith Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>25 February</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook Pool</td>
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**Maths Olympiad**

**Question: (Term 4 Week 4)**
Erin is thinking of a counting number. She adds 5 to the number. Then, she multiplies the sum by 4. finally, she subtracts 32 from the product. This results is the same as Erin’s original number.

**What was her original number?**

**Answer:** Strategy - Apply Algebra
Let N = the original number. Then 4(N + 5) - 32 = N. Solve this equation for N by applying the distributive property and then combine like terms. The results are 4N ÷ 0 -32 = N and 4N - 12 = N. If follows that 3N = 12 so N = 4. The original number is 4

**Question: (Term 4 Week 6)**
A frog hops along a number line starting at the number 0. On each hop to the right he moves 3 units and on each hop to the left he moves 2 units. Each hop to the right is followed by a hop to the left. Every hop, regardless of direction, takes 1 second. If the frog’s first hop is to the right, how many seconds will it take before he lands on the number 12 for the first time? Answer next KIT!!