Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

Pat-R Assessment:
Over the past few weeks the children in Year One to Year Xix participated in the Pat-R comprehension assessment. The Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading (PAT-R) is a thoroughly researched and normed test designed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) for Australian schools. The purpose of the PAT-R is to monitor student progress in reading comprehension and provide teachers with diagnostic information to assist with setting ongoing learning goals. The assessment data will give teachers an understanding of how the students’ results compare with students in the same year level across Australia. The Pat-R will be administered in all Parramatta Diocesan schools in Years One to Ten during this time each year.

A Special Mufti Day:
As you are all aware, over the past few weeks, bushfires have devastated many parts of New South Wales and the Government has declared a state of emergency. The number of houses destroyed or damaged now number in the hundreds and many fires continue to burn. The Blue Mountains region in the Diocese of Parramatta is one of the areas that has been hardest hit. Many people have lost property and two Catholic schools in Springwood have been repeatedly threatened. Many stories of devastation have been outnumbered by instances of goodwill, support, compassion, courage and kindness

Included in this devastation is one of our St Mary MacKillop families. Jaz Byrnes and her parents have lost their family home and all their belongings in the recent fires. On Tuesday this week our school community held a mufti day to raise funds and our school captains will present, at Fridays 8.45am assembly, the letters, messages, cards and donations to the Byrnes Family.

The Diocese has also launched an emergency appeal to assist those affected by the fires. It is being co-ordinated by CatholicCare Social Services Parramatta. Donations received will be used to provide much-needed support. Donations to the emergency appeal can be made through CatholicCare Parramatta’s website: www.ccss.org.au

Prayer for Bushfire victims

Almighty God,
We ask you to hear our prayers for all those suffering from the effects of the bushfires across NSW.
We pray for those still under threat of fire. Protect both life and property.
In your mercy, send rain to all affected areas.
We pray for the bereaved. Bring comfort to those who mourn the loss of a loved one.
Heal all those broken in body and spirit.
Give courage and hope in the midst of despair.
We pray those made homeless in this great tragedy.
Have compassion, Lord, comforting each according to their needs.
Encourage generosity of our government and of individuals across our State to offer assistance wherever needed.
And turn the hearts of all to you, the God of all comfort through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.
AMEN.

Welcome:
A warm welcome and congratulations to Mrs Mary Leask and Mr Michael Ronchetti who have been appointed as principals at Caroline Chisholm College and St Dominic’s College respectively, commencing in 2014.

Thought for the Week
“Cling to God’s love and grace”
Mary MacKillop 1890

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
Religious Education News

All Saints Day – Friday 1 November:
The Feast of All Saints is the day on which we celebrate all the saints, those known and unknown, who have died faithful to God and now share his life in heaven. Every day in the Church calendar honours a saint, but the Feast of All Saints is when the Church celebrates every saint. While we have information about many saints, and we honour them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honoured. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. All Saints is a common feast day in order to ensure that all saints, known and unknown, are properly honoured because they have shown us how to live a life devoted to God.

All Souls’ Day – Saturday 2 November:
All Souls’ Day is a solemn feast commemorating all of those who have died and are now in heaven with God. Churches have special liturgies and may invite the congregation to write the names of deceased friends or family members in a special book that would be placed on the altar at each mass during November.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
As many of our students prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 19 November it is an opportune time for each of us to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament. The sacrament of Reconciliation (also known as Penance and Confession) is a sacrament of healing and forgiveness. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament in which the priest, as the representative of God, forgives wrong choices (sins) committed after Baptism, when the penitent (sinner) is truly sorry for them, sincerely confesses them, and is willing to make amends for them. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a repeatable sacrament because we are human and regularly make mistakes.

‘Socktober’: ‘Sock it to Poverty- Crazy Sock Day’:
Last Wednesday our school community held a crazy sock day to raise money for Catholic Mission. Catholic Mission is a charity organisation which supports children who are vulnerable and in desperate need throughout the world. Thanks to your generous donations we raised just over $500. This money has been forwarded to Catholic Mission to help them continue their vital and life giving work. Well done St Mary MacKillop!

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Maths Olympiad:
Congratulations to the 30 students who participated in the Maths Olympiad challenge for 2013. The children have now completed all 5 challenges. Certificates of participation will be distributed at assembly on Friday. Each KIT newsletter for the past two terms has featured a question from one of the Olympiad challenges. How have you been going??

Teen Ranch:
Last week Year 5 attended the overnight excursion to Teen Ranch. I would like to congratulate the Year 5 students on the way that they participated in all the activities. Participating in canoeing, rock climbing, giant swing and challenge course provided the children with opportunities that they may not otherwise do. The children led a beautiful liturgy on Thursday night based around the theme of ‘Leadership’. One of the most pleasing aspects of the excursion for me was seeing the mateship and the connectedness of the students in Year 5. As they prepare to nominate for their Leadership positions for 2014 we ask for Gods blessings on this special group of students as they begin to realise their leadership potential. Thank You to the Year 5 teachers for your thorough organisation of the excursion and also a special thank you to the many teachers who attended the beautiful liturgy led by the Year 5 students and dinner afterwards.

‘Being Me’ Program – Year 4:
Today the students in Year 4 commenced their 4 week social skills program ‘Being Me’. Some of the themes that the children will explore are ‘identity’, ‘Happy to be me’, ‘Belonging’, ‘Keeping friends’, ‘Power and Responsibility’, ‘Changes’ and ‘Taking Risks’. The ‘Being Me’ program is an integral aspect of the Year 4 Personal Development and Physical Education program and I encourage all Year 4 parents to engage in dialogue with your child about the content and the learning taking place.

Steve Cauchi  
Assistant Principal
Student News

Congratulations to Chloe T. of 6M who has published her very own short story! Chloe entered the Write For Fun Competition in Term 2 with a spooky story titled Night Terror. The competition was open for students K – 12. Chloe's story was extremely well written and quite spooky. "I enjoyed writing the short story Night Terror. Writing in the horror genre comes naturally to me. I want to use writing as a career. I aspire to be an author one day." Chloe's story appears alongside many other young, budding authors in the book titled Written in the Stars. Congratulations Chloe!

EMU Program:
St Mary MacKillop Primary School has been an Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) School since 2010. The EMU Program is an intensive, 50 hour program that involves the EMU Specialist Teacher and three Year One students. The students are selected based on the Mathematical Assessment Interview (MAI) carried out in February. Last week the three EMU students, Olivia R., Isabella F., and Trinity-Rose D., graduated from the EMU Program. They have been enthusiastic and dedicated during their 30 minutes of number work each day and should be congratulated on their learning.

"I liked being on the EMU Program because I learnt some things I didn’t know like 3 and 7 makes 10. Now that I can keep my show bag I will do some Friends to 10 and some bundling at home." Trinity Rose D.

Miss McNally

P & F News

P & F School Disco:
Well done to all our students for having so much fun and being safe at the same time. We wish to thank all the beautiful parents that volunteered their valuable time in making this event possible for our children. We wish to also thank Mr Wakeling for his awesome DJ skills, Mrs Neal and Ms Inskip for their endless dedication in organising such a wonderful event for our students, you ladies are priceless. Happy 30th Anniversary to St Mary MacKillop Primary school and we hope all our students enjoyed the treat at the end of the night.

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 limited.

CHANGE OF DATE: Class Parent Representative Meeting 7:00pm FINAL for 2013 and Parent and Friends General Meeting 7:30pm FINAL for 2013 5 November 2013 in the Multi Purpose Centre. All Representatives are encouraged to attend to share any questions or queries they may have on behalf of their class parents. Come and join us for an evening of catch up and updates from the Principal, Treasurer and Fundraising committee. All are welcome to attend.

Zoooper Dooper Sales for October & November 2013:
October: Thursday 31. November: Monday 4, Wednesday 6, Friday 8, Tuesday 12, Thursday 14, Monday 18, Wednesday 20, Friday 22, Tuesday 26, Thursday 28. Children are reminded to ensure that they kindly dispose of their rubbish in the bins provided around the school. Let's keep our school environment beautiful.

St Mary MacKillop Primary School Autumn School Fete 2014:
Next Meeting - Wednesday, 13 November, 2013 at 6:45pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. - SAVE THE DATE: Scribble it in your diaries and calendars to SAVE THE DATE for our AUTUMN SCHOOL FETE - Sunday, 18 May 2014. Invitation to Parent Stall Holders - Just a reminder that we are inviting all parents from our school who wish to book a stall during our school fete to promote their business venture during this major event. Please contact Fiona Bryant at fionaw@smartchat.net.au to receive 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.

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

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 enrolment enquiries we are receiving for next year.
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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>1M Assembly</td>
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<td>4L Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>4 November</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Playgroup Session</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 November</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Parent Class Representative Meeting - Change of Date</td>
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<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F General Meeting - Change of Date</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6 November</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Sale</td>
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<td>9:00am-11:00am</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Orientation Morning</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 3 Liturgy</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>5R Assembly</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12 November</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 Xavier Orientation Afternoon for Year 6</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>6:00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 4 Liturgy</td>
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<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 arrive back from Canberra</td>
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<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>10:00am-1:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Year 7 St Dominic’s Orientation for Year 6</td>
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<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>Monday</td>
<td>2 December</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Parent Helpers Morning Tea - All Welcome</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>School Christmas Concert @ St Dominic’s</td>
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<td>Michael Mangan performing with students</td>
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<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>
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<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Class Promotions Ceremony</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>18 December</td>
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<td>Year 6 Fun Day and last day of Term 4 for all students</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 December</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 December</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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**Parent Volunteers – Book Covering**

The school has recently purchased many new reading books for the students at St. Mary MacKillop. If you were able to assist in covering some of the books, it would be greatly appreciated. All resources required for covering the books would be provided. Please see Mrs Napoli or myself if you are interested in helping.

Many thanks
Mrs Elizabeth Devlin

**Maths Olympiad**

**Question: (Term 4 Week 2):**
Team Alpha defeated Team Beta in a netball game. The sum of their scores was 73. The difference of their scores was 37. How many points did Team Alpha score?

**Answer:** Pair up points.
Let every point Beta ‘pair up’ with an Alpha point. The difference between the scores is 37; this is the number of Alpha appoints with no Beta pair. Thus 73 - 37 = 36 points paired. This implies that 36 ÷ 2 = 18 belong to Beta. The number scored by Team Alpha is 37 + 18 = 55.

**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 next KIT!