Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated this week across the 11 dioceses of NSW and the ACT from 29 April to 5 May. The theme for 2012 is “Faith in Every Student”, which is very appropriate considering the many individual learning opportunities that Catholic Schools provide for their students on a daily basis, with the teachings of Christ always at the centre. Catholic Schools Week provides a wonderful opportunity to recognise and strengthen the relationship between students, teachers, parents, pastors, parishioners and many more. At Mary MacKillop we began Catholic Schools Week with a successful and enjoyable school fete, we heard and enjoyed Brett Murray speak on “The Power of Parenting” at OLOW and cheered for our athletes at the Diocesan Cross Country. I invite you to Vic O’Callaghan’s “Restorative Practice” presentation at 7:00pm tonight and the Catholic Schools Week Liturgy at 9:00am in the MPC tomorrow followed by Open Classrooms and picnic Lunch.

Catholic Schools Week Prayer

Dear Lord

Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our Catholic schools.

It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place each day in every classroom.

We acknowledge and thank all who work in the service of Catholic education to create the opportunities for students that allow them to grow and thrive.

We thank you for the wisdom and understanding of teachers, the enthusiasm and energy of students, the leadership of school principals and executive staff, the skill, care and commitment of administrative and support staff, the guidance of our pastors and religious leaders, the support and partner-ship of parents, carers and local communities.

We pray that each student’s learning journey be inspired by a search for your wisdom and truth. We pray that we never take for granted the learning opportunities that we have all been given, and that we use the gifts of learning wisely and responsibly.

We ask that we use what we have learnt to create a better world for all the people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

NAPLAN 2012:

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2012 tests will be undertaken by all students in Australian schools in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 during May 15, 16, and 17 (That's a fortnight away). NAPLAN tests identify whether all students have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for their learning, and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

Students are assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN results are sent to parents and school in the later part of term three.

Thank You:

Sincere thanks to Rachel Townsend, Margaret Rowan and the many parents who organised and planned the Mary MacKillop School Fete. Through the effort of the fete committee we have continued to build school community, raised much needed funds for our school and promoted Mary MacKillop School in the local area. A Huge Success!

Staffing Updates:

I’d like to draw your attention to the following updates to Staffing at Mary MacKillop Primary School following the appointment of Mr Cauchi to Acting Assistant Principal for 2012 and Stage 2 Co-ordinator. We congratulate Mrs Margaret Meehan recently appointed as Acting Coordinator and Stage 3 leader for the remainder of 2012. We also welcome Ms Amanda Jeffrey to the staff and teacher of class 6C.

Thought for the Week

“When I quote others I do so in order to express my on ideas more clearly”

Michel de Montaigne

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
Principal
Religious Education News

Catholic Schools Week Liturgy TOMORROW!!!
A whole school liturgy tomorrow for Catholic Schools Week celebrates our school’s Catholic identity. The liturgy will take place at 9:00am (not the usual time of 10.00am). We look forward to having Father Chris share this event with us.

Upcoming Celebrations
Next week we invite you to celebrate Mother’s Day with us on Friday 11 May at 10:00am. The following Friday, 18 May, Year Four will celebrate a liturgy of the word at 9:15am. As always, family and friends of our school community are warmly welcome to attend. I thank the teachers for their preparation of the children for all these liturgies.

Sacramental Program
We have a number of children who are currently working towards their first celebration of the Eucharist in a few weeks’ time. Please pray for these children and their families as they continue to grow in their journey of faith.

In the News
Mary MacKillop features in a story in our local newspaper, the Penrith Press. School Captain Monique provides a video diary account of a day in the life of a Mary MacKillop student. Congratulations to Monique whose pride in her school shines through in the video. Keep an eye out for that video on our website. Also, keep an ear out for Mr Carroll on Mix FM and WSFM. His thoughts on teaching in Catholic schools were recorded for an ad campaign which will also feature parents and students from across Parramatta and Sydney Diocesan Schools.

Mr Scott Carroll
Religious Education Co-ordinator

General Information

Sport Days - Term 2:
KP, Years 5 & 6 - Tuesday, KD, Years 3 & 4 - Wednesday, Years 1 & 2 Thursday

School Website:
You can view photos from major school events in the media galleries section of our website. If you have photos from major events such as assemblies, our fete or sporting events, feel free to share them using the drag and drop tool on our site. Go to News & Events > Show & Tell > Upload to Galleries.

Twitter:
Our school has a Twitter account: @MMPPenrith. You can follow the updates regardless of whether you are on Twitter or not. The main page of our school website has a live Twitter feed which also links to our Twitter page.

String Ensembles
The ensemble will continue to meet this term on Tuesdays at 3:00pm in Weeks 4, 6, 8 and 10. The CAPTIVATE Ensemble meets directly afterwards from 4:00pm until 5:00pm.

Tabloid Sports Carnival
Just a reminder that the Tabloids Sports Carnival is coming up. A note was sent out last week asking for parent helpers. If you are able to help out on the day can you please return the form to school or alternatively send a short note stating that you are available. The more parent helpers we have on the day the less time you have to spend at your particular station. The day cannot go ahead without you. So please if you available to support us on the day it will be greatly appreciated by everyone, especially the children.

Cross Country News

On Tuesday, 1 May 2012, 44 Mary MacKillop students represented our school at the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek. Everyone who attended the day should be extremely proud of their efforts. All students ran to the best of their ability and that is all we can ask for. More importantly it was fantastic to see everyone supporting one another and cheering everyone across the finish line. I would like to congratulate the following students on their efforts, Cody (13th), Logan (15th), Francesco (44th), Cooper (67th), Jack (49th), Caleb (101st), Kailah (54th), Laura (38th), Emily (50th), Phoenix (24th), Samantha (34th), Anthony (35th), Samuel (78th), Ryan (39th), Danny (66th), Marcus (77th), Matthew (69th), Emma (11th), Laura (15th), Jaz (36th), Caylie (45th), Marcus (11th), Adrian (31st), Rory (47th), David (95th), Grace, & Cassandra (56th), Kaitlyn (65th), Isabelle & Jacob (69th), Jake (71st), Benjamin (86th), Dominic (105th), Ashley (54th), Georgia (47th), Jessica (36th) and Jacinta (55th). The following students, Alison & Tayla (6th), Max (1st), Joshua (8th), Ellen (8th), Hannah & Monique (4th) will be representing the Parramatta Diocese at the Catholic Primary Schools Cross Country Championships on Friday 15 June 2012. I wish those students all the best and I know you will do very well. Congratulations to everyone!

Miss Rachel Eisenhuth
Helping Children at Home with Counting

One of the first experiences children have with numbers is ‘counting’. Counting starts as learning a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme. As children’s counting develops, they begin to relate words to a quantity or number of things.

How do Children learn to count and use numbers?

Children learn the pattern of counting words by repetition. However, remembering the words for each number in the correct order is only part of the process of counting. To ‘count’ children need to match saying the number words with the correct number of ‘things’.

Here are some suggestions for helping your child at home with counting:

- Count with your child the number of buttons on a shirt.
- Count the number of pegs used to hang out the washing.
- Count the number of steps from the front door to the letter box.
- Count the number of eggs in a carton and again after some have been removed.
- Count the number of times a ball can be thrown without dropping it.
- Read and talk about stories and rhymes that use numbers.
- Collect and sort shells at the beach. How many are in each group?
- Look at and say numbers on license plates and road signs.
- Have your child count as far as he/she can go then ask your child to join you whilst you continue counting.
- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one.
- Ask your child to tell you the number before or after a number. How old will you be next year? How old were you last year?
- Ask your child to count the cutlery as the table is being set. Is there enough?

P & F News

The P & F will be holding the Mothers’ Day Stall on Friday 11 May. Gifts will be priced from $1.00-$6.00. This year families will not be required to send in donations for the stall as we have pre-purchased the gifts to be sold. Wrapping of the gifts will take place on Thursday 10 May. If you could spare some time to come and wrap it would greatly be appreciated.

The Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea will be held on Friday 11 May after the Mother’s Day Liturgy so we would love Mum’s Grandmother’s and other visitors to stick around and have a cuppa and a cake to support this worthy cause. To support the Biggest Morning Tea we would greatly appreciate donations of cakes, slices or biscuits from the families of Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2). If you could bring these donations to the canteen on the morning of Friday 11 May, that would be great.

If anyone has an agenda item they would like included in the next P & F general meeting on Tuesday 29 May could you send them to the office by Tuesday 15 May. It would be wonderful to have many more parents attending our next meeting.

Mary MacKillop will be hosting an evening seminar on May 23 at 7:00pm ‘Is Your Child Struggling at School’. This is being run by the UCANN group. A flyer will be sent home with specific details shortly.

Any parent, carer, grandparent who would be happy to help out with general maintenance on a voluntary basis, we ask you to register your expression of interest with the office. We will discuss this further at our general meeting.

Fete Thank You

Mary MacKillop’s school fete on Sunday 29 April was a huge success!! I would like to thank the fete committee members, Margaret Rowan, Cecily Ellston, Jenny and Mike Hicks, Tracey Marsh, Sharlane Murphy, Kylie Marquez, Chris Creighton, Wendy Attard, Narelle Cashmere, Lee Hooker, Erin Carroll, Belinda Raymond and Colleen Corcoran who have worked for 12 months to pull such an exciting and fun day together. Of course the day would not have been successful without our Teacher and parent helpers who generously donated their time to run P&F stalls and help set up and pack up on the day, and also to Mr Carroll who did a great job orchestrating the performances throughout the day. I would also like to thank all the businesses and families who donated the amazing prizes and congratulate all our winners. Thank you to the students from Caroline Chisholm who donated their time to do face painting and help out in the ‘Kids Zone’. We have wonderful school community here at Mary MacKillop and this is because of the amazing support we have from our school families, and the main reason our fete was so successful. Once again, thank you for all your support, lets hope the next school fete is bigger and better!

Rachel Townsend
### Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Restorative Justice Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, Open Classrooms and Picnic Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>9:00-9:30am</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day Liturgy and Stall</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Exec. Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17 May</td>
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<td>Tabloid Sports Carnival Kindergarten-Year 2</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 4 Mass</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>1M Assembly</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22 May</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gale Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>‘Is Your Child Struggling at School’ Seminar</td>
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<td>P &amp; F General Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 5 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion Kindergarten Liturgy</td>
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<td>Year 3 Glenbrook National Park Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion</td>
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<td>Primary Athletics Carnival – Blair Oval St Marys</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 June</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>11 June</td>
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<td>Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend</td>
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<td>Year 4 Old Government House &amp; Experiment Farm Excursion</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>6C Assembly</td>
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<td>Reports Sent Home</td>
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<td>NSWCPS Cross Country</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>Stage 2 Boys Soccer</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>3M Assembly Term 2 Concludes</td>
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**SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE**  
**TUESDAY 8 MAY - 9:00AM - 9:30AM**  
All children are to be in Full Winter Uniform by the beginning of Week 3  
**Monday 7 May 2012**

**Lost Property**  
There are a couple of items of lost property left over from the school fete.  
Please contact the school if you or someone you know lost any items last Sunday.