Dear Parents and Caregivers,

CLEAR EXPECTATIONS:
For all ages, a regular morning routine with set times and activities – bathroom, get dressed, eat breakfast, gather gear, be ready at door – provides a sense of security and structure.

Routines such as set times for homework, bedtime and lights out. Get your children into the habit of rising when their alarm rings and be ready to lock the door at a set time, whether they have everything they need or not. One morning of having to go to school with uncombed hair or missing a sock will usually fix bad habits.

Don’t nag and don’t apologise for insisting on routines. Some children may need extra help or assistance but most of them can quickly adjust to your expectations and those of the school.

LENT:
One of the strategies we will be using as part of our 2102 Religious Education Implementation plan is the Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina (Latin for divine reading) is a traditional Catholic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God’s Word.

Traditionally Lectio Divina has 4 separate steps: read, meditate, pray and contemplate. First a passage of Scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God. The focus of Lectio Divina is not a theological analysis of biblical passages but viewing them with Christ as the key to their meaning. In Christian teachings, this form of meditative prayer leads to an increased knowledge of Christ.

Try using these four steps of Lectio Divina with yesterday’s Ash Wednesday’s Gospel: Jesus said to his disciples: “When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let all know they are fasting, I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face so no one will know you are fasting except the Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 16:16-18)

SAFETY:
Last week I spoke briefly to Senior Constable Hogan from the Penrith local Highway Patrol Unit. The conversation was very positive and he congratulated the majority of our community road users for their safe use of the streets around Mary MacKillop. He asked me to inform parents that stopping in the bus bay or in no stopping zones incur a $265 fine and loss of 3 points. Also I would like to remind all parents and caregivers that the school gates are opened at 8:15am and children should not be left unsupervised by parents or guardians before this time.

THANK YOU:
Sincere thanks to the many parents who organised, helped or attended the P&F Barbeque, Opening School Mass, Year 6 Leadership Ceremony and the Zone Swimming Carnival during the last fortnight.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
“Take fresh courage, Lean more on God and less on ourselves”
Mary MacKillop 1877

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
Principal
Religious Education News

Thank you to all the staff and students for their involvement in the Opening School Mass. What a beautiful way to start our school year as a combined community in prayer. It was wonderful to have the support of so many parents and fantastic to join with our sister school, St Nicholas of Myra. I thank Father Chris for leading the Mass and also Mrs Hines, Mrs Clark and all the community for hosting us for morning tea. The iceblocks were a hit with the students and spread for morning tea was thoroughly enjoyed by parents and teachers alike!

This week we begin Lent, a time of reflection and recommitment. As a community we marked the beginning of Lent with a liturgy on Ash Wednesday. The children were articulate in their understanding of Lent as a time to renew our relationship with Jesus by going without (fasting) and by reaching out to others. If you haven’t already, please take the time to talk with your children about their experience of the day and of their promise for this Lent. I encourage you to connect with our parish church during this season as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

God bless,
Scott Carroll
Religious Education Coordinator

Year 6 Leadership Ceremony

Congratulations to all out Year 6 leaders and thanks to the many parents who attended the Leadership induction ceremony last Friday afternoon. The Year 6 leaders proudly received their badges and recited their leadership pledge. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 children demonstrate their leadership qualities throughout the year!

2012 Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our 29 students who participated in the Zone Swimming Carnival on Tuesday, 21 February 2012. Our students did us proud with their effort and there were many personal milestones achieved. All zone representative children will be acknowledged at our assembly on Friday. The following children have progressed through to the Diocesan carnival.


Junior Girls Relay: (2nd) Arianne (4L), Laura (4W), Kestra (5M), Claudia (4W)
Junior Boys Relay: (4th) Elijah (5R), Nathan (5M), Samuel (4L), Puluno (4L)
Senior Boys Relay: (3rd) David (5M), Ellis (6R), Joshua (5M), Jake (5R)

2012 Sport

Due to the availability of an accredited Rugby League coach, we are currently pursuing the possibility of entering a Stage 3, seven-a-side team in a Rugby League gala day for 2012. If we decide to enter a team in the ‘Greg Alexander Shield’ I would like to stress that it is only an option for 2012 at this stage. The other sports advertised in the last issue of the KIT will still go ahead as planned. More information will be given as details become finalised.

Performing Arts

Parents of children who have been invited to join the CAPTIVATE Ensemble are reminded that there is an information evening in the school hall tonight at 7:00pm. Those children who are not at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival next Friday will participate in a full day workshop here at Mary MacKillop with students from other local schools. Our CAPTIVATE Choir will be rehearsing at Our Lady of the Way next Wednesday and, like our CAPTIVATE Ensemble, will join with students from other schools to form a larger group. We look forward to hearing these two groups in performance throughout the year, as well as our own String Ensemble and Choir.

There is a fantastic opportunity to see live music in our local area as ABC Classic FM broadcasts a series of free Sunday concerts live from the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre. Admission is free and no booking required. What a great opportunity to take the family out for a quality music experience. The program is as follows – Sunday 4 March 3pm – ARCO Chamber Orchestra and Sunday 11 March 3pm – Maria Okunev (soprano) & Tahu Matheson (piano)
Panthers Literacy Blitz

There were lots of excited children on Monday morning as our children were visited by Panthers players Michael Gordon, Danny Galea and Matthew Moylan. The players reflected upon their experiences as school students and as professional rugby league players and shared an important message about how reading is a critical and valuable life skill! Selected children were invited to play 'side step Michael Gordon' and many children received prizes for their questioning and responses. Our thanks is extended to the Panthers players involved in this fantastic initiative.

A Message from the School Captain

Last week was a very busy week for the community of Mary MacKillop. Our whole school mass was held on Friday 17 February and was celebrated with the students, teachers and parents of St Nicholas of Myra Primary school. It was a very special mass and focused on the importance of leaders of our schools (Year 6) and welcomed the newest additions to both Mary MacKillop and St Nicholas of Myra, our Kindergartens and their families. It was a great time to re-unite with our friends from St Nicholas and everyone had so much fun sharing time with them (not to mention the Zooper Doopers which went down well!). Also later that day, Year 6 had their leadership ceremony in the school hall. It was fantastic to receive our badges with our respective roles and responsibilities. Everyone was so proud and excited.

Monique Schoebel
School Captain

Principal’s Awards

The following children have received a Principal’s Award at Friday assemblies over the last 3 weeks. Congratulations.
Amy J. (KD), Sean M. (KD), Summer H. (1B), Livie P. (1L), Alex C. (1M), Jedd K. (2E), Cody D. (2M), Lila A. (3D), Cole P. (3M), Kaleesha S. (3M), Peter N. (4L), Jordan F. (4L), Matthew F. (4W), Hannah G. (4W), Laura P. (5M), Marcus T. (5R), Rachel M (6C), Peter Z. (6R), Cheyane T. (6R)

Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday, 2 March, our school will join with over 2,000 other schools around Australia to remove rubbish from our precious environment. At 2:00pm on Friday, all classes will participate in cleaning up our playground as part of Clean Up Australia Day. Students may bring in gloves to wear if they wish. We look forward to taking part in the nation’s largest community based environment event.

2013 Kindergarten Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2013 are now open. Information and enrolment forms are available from the school office. When you return your completed application you will be offered a 30 minute interview time on either of the following days
• Tuesday 27 March, Wednesday 28 March and Monday 2 April
• Monday 23 April, Thursday 26 April (Term 2) and Friday 27 April (Term 2)
At this time staff will get to know your child as he/she joins 3 other children to complete some activities, while you will be invited to have a ‘cuppa’ and a 5 minute general discussion with Mr Siciliano about your child. At the conclusion of the interview families will visit the Kindergarten classrooms.

We will be conducting an Information Night for new families sharing information about the school’s history, procedures and the opportunities we offer our students. This will take place on Monday 26 March 2011 at 7:00pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. All 2013 Kindergarten new families are welcome to attend.
## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 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>23 February</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Captivate Orchestra Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>24 February</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>‘Clean Up Australia Day’ for schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 3 Grade Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 1 Grade Liturgy</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>School Cross Country K-Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>School Photos - Full School Summer Uniform</td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>2013 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening (Multi-Purpose Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 2 Grade Liturgy</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
<td>4W Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
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<td>Holy Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6 April</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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### School Fees

School Fees for Term 1 have been sent out via the post. If you have not received your fees please contact the office.

**Fees are due by Friday 9 March 2012.**

If you are experiencing any difficulties with payment please contact the office to arrange a meeting with Mr Siciliano.

Payment can be cash, cheque, eftpos, BPay, AusBill-Post and credit card facilities via the phone or through the office. Payments can be made to the office from 8:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

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### Ice Blocks

Zooper Doopers are sold during the afternoon break at 1:30pm and cost 60c for a whole one or 30c for a half. For the remainder of Term 1, ice-blocks will be sold on the days that our volunteers are available which will be as follows:

- Friday 24 February
- Monday 27 February
- Wednesday 29 February
- Tuesday 6 March
- Friday 9 March
- Monday 12 March
- Thursday 15 March
- Monday 19 March
- Thursday 22 March
- Tuesday 27 March
- Thursday 29 March
- Wednesday 4 April

Thankyou to all our volunteers for your assistance. If you require any further information, please call me, Jenny Inskip 0419 017715.

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### Second Hand Uniform Sale

**Friday 24 February 2012**

9:15am - 10:00am

(after Assembly)

near the Kindergarten Classrooms

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### ‘PAVERS’

We have a large number of pavers in our school that are no longer required.

If you are interested please contact the school office.