Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

**Opening School Mass & Name Change Ceremony:**
This Friday is a special day of prayer and celebration for the St Mary MacKillop School Community. Since the beatification and canonisation of Mary MacKillop there has been much discussion and a strong natural support to change the school name to honour Australia’s first saint. As with any special celebration we have invited special guests to join us, organised a Eucharistic liturgy and prepared an unveiling ceremony to acknowledge our name change. The day commences at 9:30am with our opening school mass celebrated by the Very Reverend Father Chris de Sousa Vicar General and Vicar General for Education CEDP. Joining us on the day will be all past principals, local primary and secondary principals, local state and federal members, parish representatives, families, friends and many more. During the middle session of the day the children will be entertained by diocesan secondary school captivate team students. The day will conclude with grade sports activities. We request that children wear their **full school summer uniform** on Friday.

**Our Vision:**
This week I would like to revisit Our Vision and Learning Platform at St Mary MacKillop and invite parents to reflect on how these aspirations are a reality for your child.

**Our Vision**
That St Mary MacKillop be a Christ centred community that challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.

**Learning Platform**
We believe that teaching and learning should be an engaging experience for both students and teachers. This engagement is characterised by the setting of high expectations, explicit teaching, quality relationships and a belief in life long learning.

This is best achieved within the positive and supportive environment of the school community within the Catholic tradition.

**Religious Reflection:**
On January 23, leaders from our diocese heard an inspirational address by Bishop Anthony at our leadership day held at Rosehill. Bishop reminded us that to describe Lent we use ‘re’ words: ‘re-pent, re-turn, re-cover, re-pair, re-new’. Lent reminds us that life does have meaning; that reality reflects the loving presence of God and that there is every reason to go into the world, filled with hope. I invite you to share the following prayer with your family during Lent.

***“Family Prayer for the Lenten period”***
Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship.

Amen

As Jesus resisted temptation in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond.

Amen

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you.

Amen

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world.

Amen

Lord, you’ve guide us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you’ll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour’s ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus.

Amen

**Thankyou:**
Sincere thanks to the many parents who attended the Parent Information sessions last week. I invite you to take every opportunity to continue the growth and development of the partnership between school and home.

**Reminder:**
A reminder that the WYD13 car raffle will be drawn on Palm Sunday 24 March after mass in the Cathedral Hall. Winners will be announced on the Diocesan Youth website. If you have any books of tickets please return to the school office ASAP. Thank you for your support with this raffle.

**Thought for the Week**
“**Inspiration exists but it has to find you working**”

*Pablo Picasso*

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
The Season of Lent:
The Season of Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday. Lent offers us all a chance to grow in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of love. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to come back to God with a change of heart.

During Lent we look for a renewal of our lives and we seek the meaning of Jesus' self-less love, so that we might reflect that love to others. We have to work hard to resist temptation and to change some of our bad habits. We know that this will not be easy but we are encouraged by the mission that Christ gave us:

Feed the hungry
Welcome the stranger
Clothe the naked
Comfort the sick
Visit the imprisoned

During this Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit?

Project Compassion:
Ash Wednesday also marked the beginning the 2013 Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Last week all classes received a Project Compassion box to place in their sacred space. Over the next few weeks the students will be encouraged to give generously to those less fortunate than themselves.

The 2nd Week of Lent (beginning 24 February) brings you the story of Raymundo. Raymundo Ramos was one of the thousands of children in Bolivia who work to help support their families. These children are often exploited and join gangs. Thanks to Centro Creativo Artistico “educar es fiesta” (education is celebration), a Caritas Australia partner program, he and other children like him are now living more positive lives, with increased self-esteem, awareness of their rights, knowledge of their dignity and ability to express themselves.

Your donation to Project Compassion can help individuals like Raymundo to study and become leaders, inspiring others to move from being exploited to being valued and able to make a positive contribution to their society.

The 3rd Week of Lent (beginning the 3rd March) brings you the story of Salma. Expectant mothers in remote communities in Bangladesh used to live with constant worries during pregnancy, due to a lack of knowledge about the causes of illnesses and good nutrition. Newly-trained community midwives are enabling women like Salma to live a healthy pregnancy and look after their babies better. Your donation to Project Compassion enables marginalised communities to access services that would otherwise be too remote or expensive for them to access. www.caritas.org.au

Opening School Mass and Official Name Change Ceremony:
Please join us tomorrow for our Opening School Mass and Official Name Change Ceremony in our Multi Purpose Centre at 9:30am. At our mass we will pray for God’s Blessing on this school year and acknowledge St Mary MacKillop’s canonisation and life of service to God. The 22 February is also the Feast of the Chair of St Peter. This feast brings to mind the mission of Peter in teaching about Christ and we celebrate the unity of our church founded by this apostle. Looking forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our Catholic Faith together. Please note that for this very special occasion ALL CHILDREN NEED TO WEAR FULL SUMMER SCHOOL UNIFORM.

Year Six Leadership Induction Ceremony:
Please join us at 2:00pm on Wednesday 27 February in our Multi Purpose Centre as the Year 6 students are inducted into their 2013 Leadership Roles.

Upcoming Liturgy Dates:
♦ Friday 8 March Year 1 - 9:30am
♦ Friday 22 March Year 5 - 9:30am
♦ Friday 5 April Year 3 - 9:30am

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

2013 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS
• THURSDAY 28 MARCH - TERM 1 - WEEK 9
• MONDAY 29 APRIL - TERM 2 - WEEK 1
• FRIDAY 7 JUNE - TERM 2 - WEEK 6
• FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER - TERM 3 - WEEK 8
• THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER - TERM 4 - WEEK 11
• FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER - TERM 4 - WEEK 11
From the Assistant Principal

Tennis Sports Trials:
Congratulations to David in Year 6 who was recently selected for the Diocesan Tennis team. A great achievement and we look forward to hearing about David’s achievements in the weeks to come.

Reminder:
Due to our name change whole school Mass tomorrow, a reminder that full school uniform is expected to be worn. This means that children in Year 2, 3 and 4 who would normally wear their sports uniform need to wear the full school uniform instead. Thanks for your cooperation on this matter.

Parent Information Nights:
Thank you to the many parents who attended the Parent Information evenings last week. I trust that you found them informative. We acknowledge that the partnership and communication between parents and teacher is crucial to the children being successful at school and to this end I encourage you to keep your child’s teacher informed on any matters that may affect his or her learning.

God Bless,

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

2013 Cross Country

Just a quick reminder that the annual school Cross Country is just around the corner. All children have started training at school with their classroom teachers. Although it is encouraged that all parents train with their children outside of school so that they are used to running the distance required. All students must participate in the Cross Country. The distances are as follows:

- 12+ years – 3km
- 11 years – 3km
- 10 years – 2km
- 8/9 years – 2km
- 7 year old Year 2 – 1km
- Year 1 and Kindergarten – 400m

More information regarding times and a request for parent helpers will be coming your way soon. We look forward to seeing you all there.

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 8 March 2013.** 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, AusBillPost 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.

If a student leaves the school during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term. The exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year’s enrolment.

Child Protection Training for School Volunteers

As in previous years we are required to provide information about Child Protection information and procedures at our school for all Parent and Volunteer helpers. Your involvement in our school is greatly appreciated as the service you offer assists us to provide quality education for our students. It is essential that appropriate care and protection structures exist in our school to enable us to provide the safest possible environment for our students. Principals are responsible to ensure that **all persons** performing child related tasks in, or for the school, complete the training module (every two years) before they undertake a task on behalf of the school. This includes volunteers for excursion, school functions, reading groups etc., The training module can now be completed online from the Catholic Education Office website which is accessed via the following address. [http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp](http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>St Mary MacKillop Opening School Mass and Name Change Ceremony - All Welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26 February</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27 February</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Leadership Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Captivate Choir at St Bernadette’s Castle Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Annual General Meeting - All Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 1 Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Stage 3 - (Years 5 &amp; 6) Chinatown Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 5 Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Parent Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>29 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Good Friday - Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Monday - Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 3 Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>4W Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td></td>
<td>Term 1 Concludes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICEBLOCKS
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, iceblocks will be sold on the days that our volunteers are available which will be as follows:
Tuesday 26 February, Thursday 28 February, Monday 4 March, Wednesday 6 March, Friday 8 March,
Tuesday 12 March, Thursday 14 March, Monday 18 March, Wednesday 20 March, Friday 22 March,
Monday 25 March and Wednesday 27 March.

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