Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

**QCS SURVEY:**
All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta will be participating in Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) in 2013, which will provide data from students, staff and parents about our school’s cultural behaviour, relationships and learning community and will assist us to focus our efforts for improvement by building on our successes to date. As this is the second year of the survey, it will enable us to track our progress on those areas identified from last year’s findings and included in our school planning.

From 11-22 March all staff, 50 students from Years 5 and 6, and 60 randomly-selected parents will be asked to complete an online survey. Staff and students will complete the survey online at school. Parents will be sent home a paper survey but will also be able to complete the survey online if preferred. The survey will take about 20-30 minutes to complete. A survey consultant (Insight SRC) has been engaged to manage the data collection. The survey data will be kept strictly confidential and no individual will be identified to the school or the Catholic Education Office. Our school will receive an information report in June to inform their planning. If you are nominated to complete the survey, I would encourage your participation as this will help our school to identify our strengths and areas in which we can focus our improvement. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Masina or myself on 4736 3466.

**The Angelus:**
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP has mandated that, from 2013, staff and students of each Catholic systemic school stop in the middle of each school day, preferably at noon, to pray the Angelus. The Angelus is a beautiful tradition of prayer that punctuates the working day with a time to recall and reflect on the gift of God’s Son. The Angelus will only take a couple of minutes to pray, but is an important reminder that there is more to life than the toil of everyday routines. At next weeks staff meeting Mrs Gillard will facilitate a professional learning dedicated to deepening the knowledge of the staff with regards to the biblical/theological underpinnings of the Angelus and its practical implementation. At St Mary MacKillop Primary school we will commence praying the Angelus in Term Two. Let us pray.

**The Angelus**
V: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners now And at the hour of our death.
V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R: Be it done unto me according to thy word. (Hail Mary...)
V: And the Word was made Flesh.
R: And dwelt among us. (Hail Mary...)
V: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
R: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:**
Last years change in legislation regarding school attendance also saw some changes in the way the attendance roll is coded. In all NSW schools attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. If your child is absent from school, a note with the reason for your child’s absence is required upon their return to school. Children are required to arrive at school on time. Lateness to school or leaving early from school is recorded as a partial absence in the class roll. If you consider that it is in your child’s best interests to be exempted from school for any length of time, eg Holidays, you are required to apply to the school for an, Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form. Thank you for your support in this matter.

**Sincere Thanks To:**
• All the parents and friends who assisted at and attended the Opening School Mass and Name Change Ceremony last Friday. A wonderful celebration.
• Anne Maree Pletken as outgoing P&F president 2012 and welcome to the 2013 P&F committee.
• Mrs Sandra Gibson, who has worked at St Mary MacKillop as a Teachers Aide this year. We wish her all the very best as she commences her new Teacher Assistant role at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill.

**Thought for the Week**
“It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little-do what you can.”
-Sydney Smith 1808

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
The Season of Lent:
As we reach the half-way point in our Lenten journey it is the opportune time to reflect on our personal preparation for the resurrection of Christ at Easter. We are deeply aware that there is a struggle going on in us and we turn to God, so that we might not become discouraged. We acknowledge that we are human and make wrong choices, but are comforted by the knowledge that we are unconditionally loved by God. During this Lenten Season there is still so much to learn, to examine, to heal and to renew as we continue to pray, fast and carry out acts of almsgiving.

This week we continue to examine ourselves:
Is this Lenten season getting me out of my comfortable complacency, and helping me see the prophetic one in my midst?
Is it helping me listen better, reach out with deeper longing, find a greater intimacy with the only one who can save me?
The challenge of the Gospel is to forgive as we have been forgiven. How often am I so much harder on others than God is on me?

I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you.
Your heart was hard and closed.
I shall give it love for others.
I shall forgive your sins.
You shall be my family, and I will be you God (adapted from Ezekiel 36:25-29)

Let us begin the second half of the Season of Lent renewed in our desire to continue our prayer, fasting and generosity toward others.

Project Compassion:
The 4th Week of Lent (beginning 11 March) brings you the story of Vannak. Vannak went back to school and learnt how to do silk screen printing through the Youth Empowerment Project, a Caritas Australia partner, which helps disadvantaged young people to find their way to a brighter future. Vannak is now a team leader and encourages other youths who have dropped out of school to value education. Your Project Compassion donation is supporting projects like this to empower young people to change their future for the better.

The 5th Week of Lent (beginning 18 March) brings you the story of Bernard. Our partners at Red Dust Healing helped Bernard overcome his drug and alcohol addictions and grief at losing his mother. He has also reconnected with his Aboriginal roots, and is now a Court Support Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. Your donation to Project Compassion helps Bernard, and other Indigenous people in Australia, overcome physical, emotional and spiritual challenges to regain direction and purpose in their lives.

www.caritas.org.au

Upcoming Liturgy Dates:
Friday 8 March - Year 1, Friday 22 March - Year 5 and Friday 5 April - Year 3 all at 9:30am

May the peace of Christ be with you this Lenten Season,
Mrs Leesa Gillard
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Mathematics Staff Professional Learning:
Over the past two days, Mrs Devlin and myself attended the 3rd and 4th day of our 6 day EMU (Extending Mathematics Understanding) course. We were led by our educational colleague, Dr Anne Gervasoni from the Australian Catholic University who has been working with numerous schools in the Parramatta Diocese involved in the EMU research project. Anne is also the author of the Maths Assessment Interview (MAI) that all children at St Mary MacKillop have now completed. The course again highlighted the importance of educators ensuring that all children have ‘deep understandings’ of concepts to ensure learning is retained and can be applied to different situations. She refers to the notion of ‘Relational Understanding’ rather than ‘Instrumental Understanding’. On Thursday 28 March, (dedicated staff development day) St Mary MacKillop staff will be further working on understanding of number growth points and developing data walls to indicate student progress.

So what are some tips that you can help your children with at home?
1. Provide children with lots of experiences with counting quantities between 20 and 200 and asking children to provide proof of that number.
2. When children are counting quantities ask questions such as: what is one more/less?, 100 more/less?, 1000 more/less?, 1/10 more/less?
Assist children to develop a mental number line that continues to expand as their understanding of number expands. Eg. “Where would the number 63 appear on this number line? Why?”

More tips will be included in the next KIT!

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal
Welcome back to another busy year in the MacKillop library, the students have settled in well and are keen to make use of the learning space and the resources available to them. Most students have remembered to bring their library bags to school on their allocated day; I would ask that parents encourage their children to borrow and read books EVERY week, particularly as they become independent readers. The library is open every day at lunch time, students are welcome to come and participate in quiet activities such as reading, drawing, playing board games and puzzles. Our Kindergarten students have been very keen to come to the library and enjoy choosing their books to take home to share with their families.

Congratulations to the following students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge during the holidays: Blake & Harrison M. Sean & Ryan M. Leah & Alison J. and Joshua H. The 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge has started, students are encouraged to start reading and recording their books now. For more information about the challenge go to https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/pre/home.html Once again, our Kindergarten students will complete the challenge at school with their teachers; a note will go home in the next few weeks. Students in Years 1-6 wishing to participate in the challenge who have not been registered in previous years will need to let Mrs Eisenhuth know so they can receive their login details. Student’s logins remain the same; these will be available from Mrs Eisenhuth for anyone who does not remember their details. Watch the library for some new additions coming soon!

Maree Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian


DIOCESAN SWIMMERS
On Friday 1 March students and parents braved the wind and the rain to compete in the Diocesan Carnival at Mt. Druitt Swimming Pool. Congratulations to Brock S, Joel C, Joshua H, Benjamin B, Malachi L, Tayla G, Laura C, Arianne T, Jannelle I, Nathan B, Joshua H, David P, Elijah P and Luka L. All our swimmers did extremely well. Special congratulations to Elijah P and Arianne T who have been selected to compete at the next level, representing Parramatta Diocese. Best of luck Elijah and Arianne.

School Fees

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.

P & F News

A big thank you to all who attended our P&F AGM on Tuesday evening. It was wonderful to see so many new and enthusiastic parents. I feel very positive as I step down from my role as president, there is an amazing new team with fresh ideas and energies to carry on the wonderful work of the P&F at St Mary MacKillop. Our new executive team are:

President- Liz Whalen, Vice President-Lee Hooker, Treasurer- Jenny Inskip, Secretary- Nikki Warby, Major Fundraiser (Pete)- Rachel Townsend, and Jade Billington, Fundraising- Veronica Neal, Parent Representative Council- Rebecca Moxey, and Michelle Darwen, and Maintenance- Tracey Marsh, and Althea D’Costa. Congratulations and thank you to these people for their courage and desire to continue to build our wonderful school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those I have worked with over the past 10 years on the P&F committee. I have enjoyed the challenges and the numerous wonderful times and events we have shared. I will continue to remain involved till the end of the year when my youngest son, David leaves St Mary MacKillop, but my involvement will be more in the background. A special thank you to all the wonderful teachers and principals I have had the privilege to work with and learn from over this time. I feel I have received far more than I have given. Thank you, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing the new executive team all the best for this coming year, and give them the support needed when they call on us for help.

Anne-Maree Pletkan

Scholastic Book Club

St Mary MacKillop will continue to participate in the Scholastic Book Club program this year, with every order earning valuable rewards and resources for the school. Brochures relevant to your child’s age group will be sent home once per term and are due back on the date stamped on the top of the order form on each brochure. If you wish to purchase items please complete the order form in full on the brochure, place in an envelope with payment and return to the school by the due date. Late orders cannot be accepted. Please remember to:

- Put your child’s name and class on the order form and on the outside of the envelope.
- Include cheque (payable to Scholastic Australia), cash (exact amount) or complete credit card voucher at the bottom of the order form if you have used your credit card over the phone or online.

Items will arrive back to the school 2-3 weeks after the due date and are distributed to your child’s class. Book Club orders are due Wednesday 13 March.
## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 1 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Stage 3 - (Years 5 &amp; 6) Chinatown Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 March</td>
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<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 5 Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>2P Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Parent Information Session</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 March</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day-Pupil Free</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>29 March</td>
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<td>Good Friday-Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 April</td>
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<td>Easter Monday-Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Year 3 Liturgy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>4W Assembly</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 April</td>
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<td>Term 1 Concludes</td>
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## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 11-15 MARCH

- Monday 11 March Quality Catholic Schools Survey
- Brother Geoff & Year 7 St Dominic’s College students visiting St Mary MacKillop
- Thursday 14 - 3 Stage 3 China Town Excursion
- Friday 15 Whole School Cross Country
- 2:00pm Assembly in the Multi Purpose Centre
- 2.30pm Child led tour of learning spaces and school.

## PARENT HELPERS FOR CROSS COUNTRY

Just a reminder that the school Cross Country is being held at school next Friday 15 March 2013. In order for the day to go ahead we do require parents to help while the teachers supervise and get the children ready for their race. Unfortunately, we do not have enough parent helpers at the moment. If we receive enough parent helpers we are willing to create a rotational system so your not spending the entire day helping, but we can only do this if parents are willing. So if you are available on the day to assist with the event can you please send a note into your classroom teacher informing them. We are looking forward to the day.

## WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE 2013

A REMINDER THAT THE WORLD YOUTH DAY RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN ON 23 MARCH 2013. PLEASE RETURN ALL SOLD OR UNSOLD TICKETS TO THE OFFICE ASAP

## SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE

MONDAY 11 MARCH 2013
9:00AM near Year 2 Classrooms

## Reading Helpers at St Mary MacKillop

Thank you to all the volunteers who attended our recent Reading Workshop. Some parents/carers have volunteered to assist in their child’s class with reading and this is appreciated! Students’ benefit greatly from opportunities to read one on one with an adult, however, we have a concentration of helpers in Kindergarten and Year One and we would like to expand our reading tutor program across the school. If:

- You are interested in being a Reading Tutor for a class other than your child’s class
- You have completed the Child Protection Workshop (online)
- You have completed the Parent Reading Tutor Workshop conducted either this year or in previous years

Could you please complete the slip below and return it to the school office.

Many thanks

Mrs Elizabeth Devlin

**READING TUTOR PROGRAM**

Name: ____________________________________________________

(Child’s name and class – for any correspondence) ____________________________

Contact phone number: _______________________________________________

Available day/s: ______________________________________________________

☐ I have completed the child protection workshop (online). ☐ I have completed the Reading Workshop at St Mary MacKillop Primary