Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Restorative Practice at Mary MacKillop Primary

Recently Mr Vic O’ Callaghan facilitated a parent evening and a staff meeting on a student welfare and wellbeing program which is used at Mary MacKillop called Restorative Practice. The MacKillop Model of Restorative Practices is one which includes students, staff and parents who are all trained to use the Restorative Practices framework.

This framework focuses on building and maintaining healthy relationships by focusing on repairing the harm that is caused. The school is committed to the philosophy of separating the act from the actor or, dislike the behaviour while loving the child. The principles of the framework are based on the elements of:

1. Fair Process
2. Restorative Questions
3. The Relational Window
4. Behavioural Research
5. Explicit Practice
6. Circle Time

All participants are trained to listen to each other, promote fairness and know that wrongdoing can be repaired. Training sessions in Restorative Practices are held annually for parents, students and staff members.

Penrith Primary Catholic Schools Leadership Team

During this year the leadership teams of Our Lady of the Way, St Nicholas of Myra, St Joseph’s, Bethany, Corpus Christi, Holy Family and Mary MacKillop Primary Schools meet once a term and are engaged in Leadership Spirituality afternoons. The Penrith leadership teams meet to build knowledge, skills, awareness, collegiality and networks in the area of Catholic Spiritual Formation. This term’s Professional leadership session was presented and facilitated by Sister Leonie Pallisier. I would like to share one of the Verses that was presented last week to the assemblage.

Keeping Vigil With Mystery

My heart sees into the darkness.
and my prayer travels deep, where the Eternal One waits
With love I listen, keeping vigil with the Mystery.
With the One who waits for me.
I am with the one who waits for me.
Veima Fry – The Seven Pauses

Community Consultation of School Name Change

As you are aware there has been considerable discussion and celebration generated by the beatification of Mary MacKillop in 2010. I know that discussion over the past two years has prompted a consideration of a change of name of our school to honour Australia’s first Saint. There appears to be a strong natural support for the addition of the title of Saint to our school name – becoming St Mary MacKillop Primary School, South Penrith. Parents and Friends are invited to communicate their thoughts and feeling at our next P&F meeting on the 29 May or address them to me via the school email.

Thankyou

Sincere thanks to the many parents and friends who attended our Catholic Schools Week liturgy, picnic and open classrooms. Also appreciation goes to the many who attended our Mothers Day Liturgy and supported the Parent & Friends Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea.

Is Your Child Struggling at School?

I would like to draw your attention to an upcoming event: UCANN & PRC Parent Forum titled “Is Your Child Struggling at School?” on 23 May at 7:15pm in the Multi Purpose Centre. All Welcome!

Thought for the Week

“Many things we condemn are pleasing to God, because God sees the motives.”
Mary MacKillop, 1907.

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
Principal
Religious Education News

Mother’s Day:
It was wonderful to celebrate Mother’s Day with so many people from our community. Thank you to the Year One teachers and students for preparing the beautiful liturgy.

First Communion:
We have a number of students from Year Four and above involved in the Sacramental Program. We wish them all the best as they prepare to receive the Eucharist for the first time at one of the following masses at our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra.

- Saturday, 2 June at 6:00pm
- Sunday, 3 June at 8:30am and 10:00am
- Sunday, 10 June at 10:00am

Looking Ahead………
Year 4 will celebrate a Liturgy of the Word tomorrow 18 May at 9:15am and Year 5 will celebrate a Grade Mass next Friday, 25 June at 9:15am. Both the Liturgy and the Mass will be in the library. All are welcome to attend

Mr Scott Carroll
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Greg Alexander Shield

Congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 boys who represented our school in the 7 a side Rugby League Competition last week. The boys have been staying back each Tuesday afternoon for several weeks now for training and they played well in each of their three games. Although they were defeated in each game, the boys can hold their heads up high for the great effort and determination they showed and the wonderful sportsmanship that they demonstrated. Thanks also to Mr Marsh for coaching the boys and Mr McGuinness for encouraging the boys whilst running the water bottles. Also thanks to Mrs Marsh for organising the playing shirts which will now be used by many of our representative sporting teams.

Congratulations to Ethan (5R), Ethan (6C), Ben (6C), Dominic (6C), Hayden (5M), Rory (5R), Joshua (5M), Ellis (6R), Harrison (6R), Jake (5R), Nathan (5M). Mavrik (6C) and James (6R) were part of the squad, however, were unable to play due to injury.

School Leaders Civic Reception

Congratulations to our school captains Monique Schoebel and Mavrik Geyer who were recognised for their contribution to school leadership at a civic reception at Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday evening. Along with school leaders from neighbouring schools, Monique and Mavrik were presented with a certificate of recognition by Penrith City Mayor, Mr Greg Davies.

NAPLAN

Congratulations to our students in Years 3 and 5 who have been busy completing their NAPLAN exams this week. The children have completed a language, writing, reading and numeracy test, the results of which will be distributed in coming months. Thanks to the Year 3 and 5 teachers who have prepared their students in administering the tests.

Student Representative Council

Recently, each class from Years 1-6 selected a student representative to be a member of the schools SRC. These children will meet with Mr Cauchi twice a term to discuss matters around the school. This is an important process in giving the children across the school a ‘voice’ on all matters ranging from school environment, student welfare, playground, equipment, safety and many other issues which play on the mind of our students. The first meeting will be held in the coming weeks. The following students were selected to represent their class. Gabby (6R), Hannah (6C), Rory (5R), Lily- Rose (5M), Maddison (4L), Lydia (4W), Alison (3D), Nicola (3M), Jed (2E), Samantha (2M), James (1B), Hannah (1L), and Benjamin (1M).

School Uniform

Thank you to parents and students on the presentation of the way in which the children are wearing their full school winter uniform and sports uniform. Please keep up the good work.
So How Do Children Learn to do Mental Calculations?

Children begin by counting things that they can see, and using objects to add and subtract. Through practice, children will begin to think of ways to add and subtract without having to use objects. One of the early ways in which children learn to add two numbers mentally is to start with the larger number and count on by ones to add the second number. This is an effective way when adding on small numbers. As children begin to deal with larger numbers, they develop a range of ways other than counting by ones.

For example, to find the answer to $25 + 89$, children could:
- Make the 89 up to 90, then add 10 and then 14
- Add 20 and 80 to make 100, then add 9 and 5, then add 100 and 14
- Add 10 twice to 89 and then add 5 more.

One of the interesting things about mental calculations is that we do not all think the same way.

Primary Athletics Carnival

The Primary Athletics Carnival is fast approaching! Thanks to the parents who have offered to assist on the day in timekeeping, recording, marshalling, etc. At present, however, we still require the help of many more parents for the carnival to run smoothly. The Athletics carnival has four events, 100m, 200m Shot Put and Long Jump running at the same time, therefore increasing the need for many parent helpers. Please indicate on your child’s permission note if you are able to assist! The carnival will be held at Blair Oval. St Mary’s on Thursday 7 June 2012.

P & F Thank You

Although we are only into Week Four of Term Two, it has been an extremely busy four weeks. We have gathered as a community for our first school fete, celebrated Catholic Schools Week with a beautiful liturgy, open classrooms and picnic lunch. We also celebrated the gift of our mothers in a moving liturgy organised by Year One, followed by a Mother’s Day Stall and Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea, raising money for the Cancer Council. All these community building events could not take place without the dedicated team of parents who form the schools P & F committee who work tirelessly, often unnoticed and with little thanks for the amazing job that they do to build our school community. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone involved in the P &F on behalf of our staff, parents and most importantly our children for the generosity of your time and dedication in bringing the Mary MacKillop community closer together. Mary MacKillop is truly blessed to have so many parents who are willing to put their hand up to assist when needed.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Acting Assistant Principal

P & F News

Biggest Morning Tea & Mother’s Day Stall Thank You

Thank you to all our families from Year 1 and Year 2 for providing the cakes and slices for the Biggest Morning Tea and to all our volunteers who assisted with serving at the event. It was a great success and we raised $502 for the Cancer Council.

Our Mother’s Day stall was held on Friday 11 May and we thank all the wonderful Mums who were able to assist on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 with the sorting, wrapping and selling of gifts, your time was very much appreciated. The stall raised $680.00, which will be used for the purchase of resources for the school. We hope all the Mums enjoyed the presents that the children chose for them at the stall.

Fete Update

A final tally has been done and, after all expenses have been deducted, the Fete raised approximately $14,200. This is a terrific result for our first ever Fete and we again thank all our families and friends for their support.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROMOTION and SOUTHLANDS REWARD PROGRAM

Remember to keep collecting your stickers for every $10.00 spent at Woolworths. Spare scorecards are available from the office. Promotion ends Sunday 1 July. For every $1.00 spent at SOUTHLANDS we earn 1 ‘school dollar’. Place your receipts in envelopes from retailers and place in the barrel in the centre for our chance to win a share of the $15,000 prize pool.
### Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 4 Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>1M Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘Walk Safely to School Day’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>22 May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>23 May</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>‘Is Your Child Struggling at School’ Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 5 Grade Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F General Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>8:50am</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5 Mary MacKillop Place Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten Liturgy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Year 3 Glenbrook National Park Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ICAS Science Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>Primary Athletics Carnival - Blair Oval St Marys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 June</td>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11 June</td>
<td></td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Long Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>8:40am</td>
<td>Year 4 Old Government House &amp; Experiment Farm Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>6C Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reports Sent Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NSWCPS Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-8:15pm</td>
<td>ICAS Writing Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>3:15pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 June</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>KD Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26 June</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stage 2 Boys Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>29 June</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>3M Assembly Term 2 Concludes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Caroline Chisholm College  
Glenmore Park  
provides Catholic Education for girls  
in Years 7 - 12  
Applications for 2013  
are closing on 21 May 2012  
Students from Mary MacKillop Primary  
are guaranteed a place at  
Caroline Chisholm College.  

For further information contact the  
College on  
4737 5506.