Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**St Mary MacKillop Feast Day: 8 August**

Mary MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne on 15 January 1842 and died in Sydney on 8 August 1901. The years between these two dates tell a remarkable story of an amazing woman. The daughter of migrant Scottish parents, Mary was born in Melbourne on 15 January, 1842. As the oldest of eight children, she quickly took on a role of responsibility for her family’s emotional and, eventually, financial welfare. Although she described her home as ‘a most unhappy one’, Mary loved both her parents dearly and absorbed from them values of their Catholic Faith that were to sustain her throughout her life.

It was this faith that helped Mary look beyond the prejudices of particular Church clergy and gave her the heart to devote her whole life to its welfare. Mary was a woman of courage, relatively small in stature but had a heart that enabled her to move through challenges and attempts to put Mary ‘in her place’. She was convinced that the needs of the Gospel required her Sisters to go to the areas of greatest need. Her life’s story is that of a saint. Mary MacKillop’s secret was that she saw things differently. Nothing unpleasant in others blinded her to seeing God in them and respecting their basic dignity as human beings.

When Mary MacKillop founded the institute of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1867 – the first order of nuns established by an Australian – her vision was radically different from the traditions of the established orders of nuns from England, Ireland and Europe. Mary MacKillop was an Australian woman who devoted her life to caring for the poor and defending the rights of all people. Her tireless dedication and trust in God are an inspiration, not just to all Australians, but also to many people throughout the world. Mary’s example was followed by other women and her good work is carried on today by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Mary MacKillop is an Australian whose spirit can lead us into the future because:
- She reminds us that there are other dimensions in life beside the material
- She was a realist who faced her inadequacies but believed in her dream;
- She calls us all to tenacity and shows us that hope can triumph over despair
- She responded to all in need
- She was a human being in love with God and God’s people.

During this week when we celebrate St Mary MacKillop’s feast day let us continue to learn more about the saint that our school is named after and continue to be inspired by her example. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to make a journey to her tomb in Mount St North Sydney and visit the museum to learn more about her splendid work.

‘*The Church does not make a saint – It recognises a saint*’

**CyberBullying Workshops**

On Monday Desna McKail from Australian Communication and Media Association (ACMA) spoke at three different sessions, Year 3 to Year 6 students, teachers and parents, on the important topic of Cyber Bullying. Desna reminded us of the exciting, fun and educational use of the internet as well as provided a number of strategies for appropriate and safe use. Please take the time to continue speaking to your child about cyber safety. For further information the ACMA website on [www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)
An Irish blessing for Father Chris and Father John Watkins

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall softly on your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

A reminder that Mass will be celebrated this Sunday the 12 August at St Nicholas of Myra Church at 10:00am to say farewell to Father Chris de Souza.

Welcome

Bishop Anthony is pleased to confirm the following appointments to St Nicholas of Myra Penrith to take affect from 27 August. Father Mathew Antony MS has been appointed as Parish Priest, currently Administrator at Riverstone, and Father Jose (Josh) Manjaly MS as Assistant Priest, currently Assistant Priest at Marayong. We welcome and wish our new pastors every blessing in their new ministry in our Parish.

“Best of CAPTIVATE Showcases”-Silver Jubilee Celebration

On Tuesday night Mr Cauchi and I attended the Best of Captivate Showcase at the Riverside Theatre as part of the Silver Jubilee of the Parramatta Diocese. Congratulations to the following children on their outstanding choir and string ensemble performance: David, Nicholas, Jessica, Gabrielle, Bianca, Bethany, Joshua, Samuel, Monique, Sophie-Anne, Jacinta and Brooklyn. Photos and video of these children can be seen by following our twitter account, ‘Mary MacKillop PS’ or via the twitter feed on the school website.

Thankyou

Sincere thanks to Mrs Neal, for entering Mary MacKillop Primary in the Southlands Shopping promotion for schools. Due to the combined effort of our school community we came third in the competition giving us a prize of $3000. The Student Representative Council are collating a wish list, under the leadership of Mr Cauchi, of things they would like to purchase for our school with this prize money.

Reminder

I would like to draw your attention to a number of upcoming events:

- Congratulations to our athletes who are attending the Nepean Zone Carnival tomorrow.
- P&F General Meeting on Tuesday 21 August at 7:30pm. At this meeting I will unpack the results of the Quality Catholic Schools Survey.

Thought for the Week

“Reject no one. You never know what grace can do”

Mary MacKillop 2.6.1867

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL
From the Assistant Principal

Voice Of Youth Cluster Final
Congratulations to Jacinta (6C), Monique (6R), Jessica (6C) and Georgia D (6R) who proudly presented their Voice of Youth Speech at Holy Family Luddenham today. Best wishes girls and good luck!

Nepean Zone Carnival
Tomorrow 42 children will be representing Mary MacKillop at the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown Olympic Park. We wish them luck as they strive to achieve their personal best. Stay tuned for information on their results next newsletter!

Cybersafety Workshop
Thanks to the parents who attended the Cybersafety Workshop on Monday night. I am sure that you will agree that it was a very informative and relevant workshop that addresses the many issues that our children are faced with in today’s world of technology. If your child is in Years 3-6, if you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to take a few minutes to speak to your child about the information that they received during the workshop, and more importantly ask them to talk to you about steps that they can take to keep themselves safe whilst online!

Questioning In Numeracy
The Professional development focus for teachers over the past few months at Mary MacKillop has been around exploring questioning techniques that evoke more challenging thinking and require a more detailed response that demonstrates deeper understandings of concepts taught in mathematics. In order to assist your child a home with their mathematics, here are three simple things to remember with your questioning.

There are three main features of ‘good questions’.
1. They require more than remembering a fact or reproducing a skill.
2. Students can learn by answering the questions, and the teacher/parent learns about the student from the attempt.
3. There may be several acceptable answers.

Steve Cauchi
Acting Assistant Principal

A reminder that all electronic devices brought to school should be handed to the office or class teachers for safe keeping. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

Maths Olympiad

Term 3 Week 2:

Question: A work crew of 30 people can build a concrete wall in 8 days. How long would it take a work crew of 16 people to build the same wall if each person in both crews works at the same rate?

Answer: Strategy: Find the people-days to complete the job.
The number of days required to build the wall is 30x8 or 240 people-days. If \( d \) is the number of days that a crew of 16 people needs to build the wall, then 16 \( \times \) \( d \) = 240 and \( d \) = 15. It would take 16 people 15 days to complete the wall.

Term 3 Week 4

Question: In the multiplication problem below, the letters \( A, B, C \) and \( D \) represent different digits. What is the sum of \( A \) and \( C \)?

\[
\begin{array}{c}
A \hspace{0.5cm} B \\
\times \hspace{0.5cm} C \hspace{0.5cm} D \\
5 \hspace{0.5cm} 7 \\
7 \hspace{0.5cm} 6 \\
8 \hspace{0.5cm} 1 \hspace{0.5cm} 7 \\
\end{array}
\]
**Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 August</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Kindergarten Liturgy</td>
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<td>Nepean Zone Athletics</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>ICAS Mathematics Competition</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Executive Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Feast of the Assumption</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>1B Assembly</td>
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<td>Year 5 CSIRO Incursion</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>St Nicholas Netball Gala Day-Jamison Park</td>
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<td>P &amp; F General Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>P &amp; F Dance-a-thon</td>
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<td>23 August</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Calmsley Hill Farm Excursion</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Grandparents Day Liturgy</td>
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<td>Diocesan Athletics</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>31 August</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Fathers Day Liturgy &amp; Stall</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 September</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 3 Grade Liturgy</td>
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<td>4L Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday-Friday</td>
<td>10-14 September</td>
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<td>Talent Quest Auditions</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 6 Grade Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>KP Assembly</td>
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<td>5R Assembly</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>2:00pm</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>21 September</td>
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<td>Stage 3 Touch Gala Day</td>
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**PRC NEWS**

‘Raising Kids That Cope’ Building an Optimistic Mindset in Children  
Monday 20 August 7:00pm  
Aengus Kavanagh Centre (AKC)  
Railway Street Mt Druitt (behind the hospital)

Research has found that an optimistic thinking style is associated with higher levels of well-being. Optimism also helps protect people from developing depression or anxiety during times of adversity. This seminar will:

- Examine the key aspects of optimistic thinking
- Look at some practical ways that we can foster optimism in children
- Consider how the language we use can have a powerful effect in helping children to see a way forward through their difficulties

Local Schools and CEO share insights: Guiding Families through school stages

There will be a panel of advisors on the night giving valuable and insightful viewpoints on the variety of school stages that our children encounter from Kindergarten through to Year 12 and beyond. Advisors will be represented from the Catholic Education Office (CEO), Senior Primary School educator, High School Careers advisor, High School Senior educator referencing Year 7 stage and a Senior high school student drawn from local cluster areas. Cluster presentations are scheduled for our area at Penrith/Blue Mountains Cluster Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore Park on Thursday 23 August 2012 at 7:00pm

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE CUMBERLAND ZONE - OPEN DAY 2012**

Jeanette Street REGENTVILLE  
22 SEPTEMBER 10:00am - 4:00pm

Colouring In Competition for local schools - judging at 2:00pm, displays throughout the day by the Regentville and Communications Rural Fire Brigades. Look over a working fire station and Fire Control Centre.