Dear Parents and Caregivers,

St Mary MacKillop Primary School

It is with great pleasure that I announce that after following the appropriate procedure, over the past two years, with the local school community, Parish Priests, Executive Director of CEDP, Bishop Anthony, Board of Studies and Minister of Education our school is officially called: St Mary MacKillop. During my involvement in this process of name change there was a strong natural support for the addition of the title of Saint in our school name and overwhelming patronage in honouring Australia’s first Saint. Early in 2013 we will celebrate our school name change as we commence a new school year through liturgy and community festivities.

Special Meeting Held in Holidays

On the first day of the school holidays Mr Cauchi and myself attended a special meeting with principals and leaders of the diocese’s 78 primary and secondary schools organised by the Executive Director of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta to discuss the NSW state government’s planned cuts to school funding. Mr Greg Whitby told over 100 school leaders gathered at St Michael’s Primary, Blacktown South that they needed to remain positive and focus on maintaining school quality in light of the NSW state government announcement. ‘This is not a time to panic but it is a game changer,’ said Greg. ‘At the local level we need to be as strong as possible in letting our politicians know this is a poor educational decision. However, we need to be realistic. The current financial climate means that what happens in the global economy effects us locally. Everywhere we look there is pressure and families are struggling. That means we need to look at doing things differently and in a much more sophisticated way. This calls for new ideas.’ The school leaders spent time at the meeting looking at strategies to rethink and reprioritise resources in order to minimise the impact on student learning, teaching jobs and schools fees. ‘At the end of the day we are in the business of delivering quality learning and teaching to students in our schools. That does not change. To the best of our ability we will ensure that the last place there will be an impact is in the classroom.’ At St Mary MacKillop we will continue to promote our vision and mission. Our core business is to ensure that each child is challenged to reach their full educational potential by exploring and developing their unique gifts and talents.

Voice of Youth Grand Final

When Sister Patty Andrews (TE CEDP) presented Georgia Dardaneliotis (6R) with the CEO medal for best Social Justice Speech in the Diocese of Parramatta the audience erupted in applause. On the 20 September a representation of students and teachers from St Mary MacKillop attended the 2012 Voice of Youth Grand Final where six children from the Diocese presented their speech. The distinguished judges on the day had the challenging task of using the vast public speaking criteria to select who they believe to be the 2012 Winner in our Diocese. Georgia delivered a well researched and passionate speech titled “Forgotten” which captivated the judges and audience. Congratulations Georgia on your public speaking journey this year.

The prayer I share today is relevant to children and adults, whether we speak to one or many.

The Gift of Speech

God you gave me the wonderful gift of speech
to share my thoughts and insights with others.
Help me to use this gift fairly and honestly

Teach me how to speak the truth in love,
ever with the wish to harm or to embarrass someone else.

Guide me as I speak to the world
As I tell them about you in everything I say and do.
Let me be your voice.
Amen

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Year Five Leaders Welcome Playgroup Pre-Schoolers With a Smile

“Always smile back at little children. To ignore them is to destroy their belief that the world is good.”

Pam Brown

This quote became a reality for the many preschoolers and their parents who attended the 2013 Kinder playgroup on Monday as they were greeted by our current Year Five student leaders. Our Year Five leaders will be a part of the memories these children will have as they reflect on their commencement at St Mary MacKillop Primary School. This Playgroup became a reality through the creativity and organisational skills of Mrs Bizzanelli with the assistance of Mrs Floody and Mrs Eisenhuth. The playgroup allows children and families to meet in an informal setting as well as become familiar with the school environment. The Kindergarten 2013 playgroup is a new optional opportunity for families who are new to the St Mary MacKillop community and also for children who are anxious about starting school. The program will continue over four consecutive Mondays and culminates with the Kinder 2013 Orientation day on Wednesday 7 November 2012.

Reminders

I would like to draw your attention to a number of important reminders:

- P&F Disco on tonight for K-2 at 6:00-7:00pm and for Years 3-6 at 7:15-8:30pm.
- Please return sold or unsold World Youth Day 2013 raffle tickets to the office ASAP.
- Parents are reminded that morning duty commences at 8:15am. As a matter of safety children are not to be left unattended at the school gate before this time.

Thought for the Week

“Have courage and pray earnestly”

Mary MacKillop 15.11.1883

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL

St Mary MacKillop Primary School, Penrith South Official Facebook Page

We are always seeking new ways of connecting to and communicating with our parents. To that end we will be launching our official Facebook page next Wednesday. This page will link with our Twitter feed and our website. The launch coincides with Year Five’s visit to Teen Ranch so you will be able to follow the stories from camp via the Facebook page and our website.

The page is:

- used by staff (not students) to share news and updates with parents (not students).
- set up as an organisation rather than an individual. This means that users do not become “friends” with the page, but can follow it by clicking “like.”
- interactive and monitored by our team at school. We receive updates on all activity that takes place on the site.
- supported by the media team at Catholic Education, Parramatta.

We will be conducting an open information session on the page at our P&F Meeting for all parents. The meeting will be attended by a representative from the CEO media and communications team. Please join us at 7:30pm on Tuesday, 13 November in the meeting room in the Multi Purpose Centre. If you have any questions before that meeting please feel free to contact Mr Carroll, Mr Cauchi or Mr Siciliano for further clarification.

Sports Days Term 4 -2012:

The children need to wear their sports uniform on the following days in Term 4 2012.

KP, Years 5 and 6 - Tuesday, KD, Years 3 & 4 - Wednesday and Years 1 and 2 Thursday.
From the Assistant Principal

Year 5 Teen Ranch Excursion:
We wish Year 5 well as they leave for their overnight excursion to Teen Ranch Cobbity next Thursday. This excursion offers a fantastic opportunity for the children to participate in new and challenging outdoor activities as well as offering the opportunity for the children to get to know each other better as they embark on their new challenge of school leaders in 2013. In the coming weeks, our Year 5 students will be putting themselves forward for nomination for school captains, vice captains, sports captains and team leaders. We wish all our Year 5 students well as they prepare for this important responsibility.

A Star In The Making:
At last week’s assembly we acknowledged the wonderful achievements of one of our Year 3 students, Amelia (3D). Amelia informed the community that she has been invited to train with the Australian Ballet School in Victoria. She will travel to Melbourne in January 2013 for an intensive one-week program, tutored by world-class teachers and former members of the Australian Ballet. This is a wonderful achievement and one that we are very proud of. We look forward to hearing about Amelia’s progress.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools – Mathematics:
Congratulations to the following children who received certificates at last week’s assembly for their performance in the recent University of NSW Mathematics competition.

The following list of student’s received a Credit. Year 3: Hemish, Declan, Alison, Patrick, and Nicola. Year 4: Emma. Year 5: Ethan, Max and Elijah. Year 6: Thomas, Jake and Liam.

The following students received a Distinction. Year 3: Amelia, and Marco. Year 5: Luka

All other children who participated in the mathematics will receive their participation certificates at tomorrow’s assembly.

School Incursions:
On Tuesday, Year 1 students participated in an incursion presented by the CSIRO. The children became ‘junior scientists’ and they explored and hypothesised about many natural scientific phenomena. Today, Year 3 had a visit from the Penrith Regional Gallery where the children participated in a clay and sculpture workshop. Next week, Year 6 will participate in an ‘Antarctica’ workshop presented by Chris Olsen to supplement their learning in HSIE on Antarctica. I thank our teachers who take the time to organise and plan for these exciting workshops to take place to assist the children’s learning and support the units of work that they are currently undertaking.

NAPLAN 2012:
Currently the staff at St Mary MacKillop are carefully analysing the 2012 NAPLAN data. The data enables us to track as a school how our children are performing in comparison to other CEO schools and the State. Also, we are able to track our own school growth from year to year and cohort to cohort. The tool also enables us to drill further into the data and analyse each student’s performance across numeracy, literacy and writing. From this, we are able to develop an action plan for school improvement and formulate teaching programs and structures that reflect the data. This is a valuable tool and resource which informs our teaching.

This is a summary of some of the 2012 data:
Year 5 MEAN Data:
Reading: State 500.1 – MMK 509.7
Writing: State 486.2 – MMK 489.7
Spelling: State 507.6 – MMK 513.8
Grammar & Punctuation: State 503.7 – MMK 521.5
Numeracy: State – 498.8 – MMK 508.9
Data, Measurement, Space & Geometry: State 402.3 – MMK 410.1
Number, Patterns a& Algebra: State: 500.0 – MMK 514.3

Year 3 MEAN Data:
Reading: State 426.9 – MMK 445.4
Writing: State 425.0 – MMK 444.1
Spelling: State 428.1 – MMK 428.0
Grammar & Punctuation: State 434.5 – MMK 458.1
Numeracy: State: 405.7 – MMK 412.6
Data, Measurement, Space & Geometry: State 402.3 – MMK 410.1

Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal
Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant will take place on Tuesday 4 December 2012, 7:00pm at St Dominic's hall. Yesterday you should have received a note containing details about the School Christmas Pageant. More information will follow but remember to let family and friends know the date! Students are invited to start bringing in items for Penrith Kitchen and St Vincent de Paul's hamper collections. Perhaps you might like to create your own hamper with friends and family!

Strings Information Session - 10:15am Friday 19 November 2012

All students in Years Three and Four take part in the Strings Program during regular Music lessons with Mr Carroll. Some opt for extra paid tuition during Music lessons with our specialist strings teachers. There will be an information session tomorrow Friday 19 October (following the Year Two Liturgy) for parents interested in enrolling their students in the Co curricular Strings Program in 2012. The session will cover the basics, including:

• Structure of the program
• Payment information
• How to acquire an instrument
AND a performance from the St Mary MacKillop String Ensemble

Kind regards,
Scott Carroll
REC, LTST, Music and Drama Teacher

End of Year Reminders

Bus Travel 2013:
Parents are reminded that students who travel by bus and are going into Year 3 2013 need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from the school office. Applications must be returned ASAP.

Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2013:
If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2013 we need this confirmed in writing as soon as possible to enable us to plan our overall staffing and learning groups for next year. It will also assist us with enrolment enquiries we are receiving for next year.

Photo Permission
From time to time photos are taken of students which may be used in a range of publications such as the school newsletter or mission statement, the school and/or the Catholic Education Office publications or websites, newspaper advertisements and stories. If you do not wish for your child’s photo to be used please contact the school office.

Touch Football
On the last day of Term 3 some students from Stage 3 headed to St Mary’s to participate in a touch football gala day. Three separate teams attended the gala day and all performed extremely well. The boy’s team had some tough competition and as the day progressed they played more like a team than individuals. The mixed team had some successes on the day and came third in their pool. The girl’s team played extremely well throughout the day and came second in their pool. Everyone that participated should be extremely proud of themselves, they all showed great sportsmanship and cooperation on the day. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank some parents who assisted on the day with the boy’s touch football team, Mrs Neily, Mr McGinness and Mr Marsh. The day would not have been such a success if you were not there. Thanks again and congratulations to all.

ICE BLOCKS
The P & F will be selling iceblocks, 60c for full and 30c for half, on the following days in Term 4. Wednesday 17/10, Friday 19/10, Monday 22/10, Thursday 25/10, Tuesday 30/10, Friday2/11, Wednesday 7/11, Friday 9/11, Monday 12/11, Thursday 15/11, Tuesday 20/11, Thursday 22/11, Wednesday 28/11, Friday 30/11, Monday 3/12, Thursday 6/12, Tuesday 11/12, Friday 14/12 and Monday 17/12.

BOOK CLUB
All Orders due 22 October 2012
Please ensure correct money, child’s name and class - No late orders can be accepted
## Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 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>18 October</td>
<td>6:00-7:00pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Disco - Infants</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7:15-8:30pm</td>
<td>Primary 7:00-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>19 October</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 2 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>24 October</td>
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<td>Year 6 Antarctica Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Year 5 leave for Teen Ranch, Cobbitty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>26 October</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Year 5 return from Teen Ranch, Cobbitty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>30 October</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F Executive Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1 November</td>
<td>11:00am-1:30pm</td>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
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<td>Year 6 ‘Munch &amp; Crunch’ EOY Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2 November</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>All Souls Day</td>
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<td>1L Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>9:00am-11:00am</td>
<td>2013 Kindergarten Orientation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9 November</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>3D Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>P &amp; F General Meeting</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>16 November</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Year 4 Grade Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>5M Assembly</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Parent Helpers Morning Tea</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4 December</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Christmas Concert at St Dominic’s</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 December</td>
<td>6:30-9:30pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Disco</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Mass</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>19 December</td>
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<td>Year 6 Fun Day</td>
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<td>Term 4 ends for all students - Kindergarten to Year 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>20 December</td>
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<td>Staff Development Days - Pupil Free Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>21 December</td>
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## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2013

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29 January</td>
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<td>Staff Development Day - Staff Return</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Students Year 1 - 6 commence Term 1 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>8:45am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence 2013 - ½ day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 February</td>
<td>8:45am-12:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten ½ day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4 February</td>
<td>8:45-3:00pm</td>
<td>Kindergarten commence full days</td>
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<td>Primary Swimming Carnival Years 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>26 February</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 March</td>
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<td>Diocesan Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 March</td>
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<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 March</td>
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<td>Holy Thursday</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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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Easter Monday-Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 April</td>
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<td>Term 1 Concludes</td>
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