



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.

This year we have created new, really dynamic teams of staff to work together in delivering our school vision for your child. In each edition of KIT this term I will introduce the teaching teams as there are new faces and new grades for many of our team.

In Year 1 and 2 (Stage 1), we have Mrs Gillard and Miss Wotherspoon as classroom teachers for Year 2 and Mrs Eisenhuth and Miss Neilsen as classroom teachers for Year 1. The Year 1 and 2 Co-Ordinator for this year is Mrs Gillard. Mrs Gillard brings a wealth of experience to the team including the senior leadership role of Religious Education Coordinator. She has taught the grade for the past two years. Miss Wotherspoon worked at our school during her university years and she has then continued her career with the team at St Thomas' Springwood. It is great to have Miss Wotherspoon as part of our team again now. Mrs Eisenhuth has continued as part of the Year 1 team this year. She will also be supporting our school as Teacher - Librarian. When she does this work Mrs Milgate will teach the class. Miss Neilsen has joined us from Trinity, Kemps Creek and brings with her a great opportunity for our school to become part of the development of the new Religious Education curriculum for the diocese. As part of this work, she will also have Mrs Bonserio from Catholic Education working in the classroom every second Tuesday.

Whilst visiting Year 1 and 2 rooms so far this year I have observed great continuation of the reading, writing and numeracy learning from 2018. It is a pleasure to have these students visit my office to share their published pieces of writing. 2019 promises to be a year of great growth for these children.

High School visits

Last week our senior students were able to connect with our fantastic Catholic High Schools from around the district. It was an absolute pleasure to work with each of these school communities.

On Monday 25 February, we had the team from Xavier College come and visit to talk about the great opportunities at high school. On Wednesday, Mrs Rowan and I had the chance to visit McCarthy College and tour the great new learning spaces there. We then hosted Mrs Cairns, Mrs Sparks and two students to talk with our children about the transformation that is happening at their school.

On Thursday we had our boys meet with Mr Ronchetti and Mr Walsh from St Dominic's College to find out about the traditions of the school as well as the way quality learning creates opportunities for their graduates.

Also at this time, Mr Elliot and a team of students from Caroline Chisholm met with our girls. There are exciting developments happening to the facilities at present and this will translate to a better learning environment for their students in 2020.

If you have a child in Year 6 but especially if you have a child in Year 5, I implore you to take up the opportunity to visit our high schools during their Open Days and make an informed parent decision for your child's schooling.

Together We Grow

Mr Scott Buchan
 Principal

The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent began yesterday with Ash Wednesday. This season offers us all a chance to grow in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of mercy. 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 works of mercy that Christ gave us:

Feed the hungry

Welcome the stranger

Clothe the naked

Comfort the sick

Visit the imprisoned

During Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit? Let us show Mercy to those who are most in need.



Social Justice Initiative

Yesterday the Season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion appeal. The theme for Project Compassion 2019 is “Give Lent 100%” and focuses on a variety of countries (Australia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh and Vietnam) and the issues faced in each country. The campaign also highlights how Caritas Australia is working together with vulnerable people, helping them to develop their strengths and create change in their own communities.

The six stories Caritas share with us for the six weeks of Lent reveal some of the ways lives can be transformed when we follow Jesus’ instruction to “Love one another.” The call of Jesus shakes us out of preoccupation with ourselves. Christ asks us to acknowledge in our lives that we are all members of the one human family. Each one of us is equally worthy of respect and compassion.

For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in Australian communities and in many other countries. Through working with partner agencies in those communities, Caritas, has developed the strength to combat poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of every person.

Religious Education News—Continued

This week all classes received a 2019 Project Compassion box to place on their prayer space in their classroom. Over the next few weeks the students will be encouraged to give generously to those less fortunate than themselves to empower people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. It would be appreciated if you could support your child (ren) in putting their compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 209 Project Compassion Appeal.

As Pope Francis said, "The future does have a name... and its name is hope."

Lives change when we all give 100%.

Project Compassion: First Week of Lent - Thandolwayo from Zimbabwe



Thandolwayo, a 12-year-old girl in Zimbabwe, would walk seven kilometres each day to collect contaminated water for her family. She then went to school exhausted from hours fetching and carrying water. It looked like she would never realise her hope of finishing her education and becoming a nurse, until a Caritas Australia supported project created access to clean water helping Thandolwayo to stay at school and achieve a future full of hope.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 to provide clean water and a future full of hope for vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.



Second Week of Lent - Tati from Indonesia

Tati lives in the remote forest of Indonesia with her husband and children. Earning an income working in a local rubber plantation, her Dayak culture has relied on the rainforest for generations. However, due to land clearing, many indigenous people are losing their land and livelihoods. Through eco-tourism training supported by Caritas Australia, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help lift communities in Indonesia out of poverty, and give them hope to protect our common home.

Lives change when we all give 100%. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

News from the Assistant Principal

On Tuesday 12th March we are holding Parent Information Workshops on reading comprehension and numeracy. The focus of these workshops is to give parents an overview of our literacy and numeracy practices across our school.

During the reading comprehension session we will look at the process of reading and using prompts to assist children in becoming independent and successful readers. The reading comprehension workshop is essential for any parent or caregiver who wishes to assist with the St Mary MacKillop Reading Tutor program, however, we encourage all parents to attend to learn more about how we teach reading and how you can assist your child at home.

During the numeracy session, we will discuss the school's numeracy goal, the structure of the maths lessons at St Mary MacKillop, intervention programs to support learners, and the skills and strategies of working mathematically. Finally, we will provide ideas of how you can support your children to think mathematically at home.

We have structured the night so you can attend one or both sessions. Please ask the office for a form if you do not have one.

Mrs Margaret Rowan
Assistant Principal

P & F News

Tuesday night we had our first P&F meeting for the year, thank you to those who attended! Over cheese and crackers, and of course chocolate, we discussed our fundraising objectives for the year as well as hearing from Scott Buchan about upcoming upgrades to the school buildings and the schools goals in the areas of literacy, maths and religion for this year.

P&F meetings are a great place to meet other parents, offer suggestions and share ideas in a relaxed environment. Our next general meeting will be held in Week 6 term 2 so feel free to come along.

Veronica Neale
P & F President



Mark Taylor Shield Cricket

On Tuesday 10 boys from Years 5 and 6 attended the Mark Taylor Shield Cricket at Sales Park, versing Holy Family (Luddenham). The entire team put in a huge effort scoring 181 runs off 30 overs.

When bowling the only gave away 87 runs off 30 overs. Congratulations to the entire team on a great effort.

Mr Grant Martin



Sports News

The Diocesan Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 22nd February and our school had 12 students representing us and the Nepean Zone. Well done to those competitors who made it to such a high level in their sport and thank you for representing our school well. It is with great excitement that we congratulate Oliver N, who was crowned Age Champion at this event! This is a huge achievement and deserves a big round of applause! Oliver will be joined by our own Wyatt A and Sara R, and compete at the NSW CPS MacKillop Swimming Championships on Wednesday 27th March. Here, the students will be swimming for the chance to qualify for State level races. This is absolutely outstanding results and we are very proud of our swimmers. Good Luck for the 27th!



Cross Country

Our whole school Cross Country will be held here at school on Thursday 14th March, from 9:00am. Thank you to those families who have returned their note indicating they would be able to assist on the day with time keeping. A reminder, students need to race with the age they are turning this year. Year 2 students who are turning 8 this year may choose to participate in the 2km combined 8/9 year old race OR the 1km race with the Year 2 students turning 7 this year.

11Yrs and 12Yrs Boys and Girls - 3km
8Yrs, 9Yrs and 10Yrs Boys and Girls - 2km
7 Year Old Year 2 Students - 1km
Year 1 Boys and Girls - 400m
Kindergarten Boys and Girls - 400m

The top SIX finishers from each age group will qualify for the Diocesan Cross Country at Eastern Creek on Tuesday 7th May.

2019 Gala Days

Our Stage 2 and Stage 3 students are busy voting for the Gala Days they would like to have the chance to participate in this year. Dates will be shared with students and the parent community as they are approaching and, as always, we will call for parent helpers to assist us in coaching our teams.

NRL Clinics

This week, Year 4 and 5 students had a visit and a 30 minute skills session with Penrith Panther player Reagan Campbell Gillard. The focus was on developing fundamental movement skills.

Maryanne Churchill
Sport Co Ordinator



Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools offer the unique opportunity to celebrate through prayer and worship. Catholic Schools Week is a special time in the year when we celebrate and give thanks for Catholic Schools, especially our own school St Mary MacKillop. It is a time to give thanks for the wonderful learning and teaching that takes place each day in every classroom.

Below is a few snapshots of some of the wonderful learning that we have captured so far this year in each grade.



Kindergarten have been working hard to build their concepts of numbers. With a partner they make their number using counters and draw their numbers on the whiteboard to share. Great teamwork!



Year 2 have been learning about how to live a Christian life by loving Jesus. They have focused on the Parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. Here is a picture of a group re-enacting the parable and expressing their thoughts about how they can be like the Good Samaritan.



Year 1 have their "Fun Friday Writing" Students are given different writing prompts and are encouraged to think imaginatively. We have some pretty creative writers in Year 1!



Year 3 have been busy studying the book 'Mirror' by Jeannie Baker and have been inspired by her creative artistic techniques. They have begun the process of creating their own nature based art-works using her technique of collaging. Here is a sample that marks the beginning of this process.



In PDHPE, Year 4 have been studying “What friendship is” and ‘What makes a good friend’ and what we can work on together to become better friends. Here is Year 4 with their heads down reflecting on their thoughts.



Year 5 love Science! Last week we had a visit from Skyworks Planetarium. This is a photo of Year 5 entering the planetarium to explore the universe in a whole new way. There was a light displaying showing us how vast our universe really is.



Year 6 have been learning about Asia this term. They have delved into different forms of mapping skill through the use of maps, Google Maps and Atlases. Asia is a continent that contains 48 different countries. We can't wait to find out more about Asia!



Catholic High School Visits

In light of Catholic Schools Week and celebrating Catholic Education, Stage 3, Years 5 & 6, received visits from our local Catholic High Schools informing us about what they have to offer our students once they graduate from St Mary MacKillop. Our visits were from Xavier College, McCarthy College, Caroline Chisholm College and St Dominic's College. Some of the schools have already held their Open days/nights for 2019. Please find below the dates for each High School's Open Night for 2019. For more information please visit the school's direct website. We look forward to seeing the success each and every student endures throughout their schooling.



Xavier College, Llandilo



**McCarthy Catholic College, Emu Plains
Tuesday 19 March 5-8pm**



**Caroline Chisholm College, Glenmore
Park
Monday 11 March 5:30-7:30pm**



St Dominic's College, Kingswood

Afternoon Pick Up

Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm
Thank you for caring for our staff and kids.

Subscribing to the KIT (Keeping In Touch)

Our school newsletter is only sent home in hard copy for kindergarten the first newsletter of the year.

The newsletter is available by subscribing on the schools website www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au select News & Events>Newsletter and click on subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

Skool Bag App Instructions

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on

School Sunscreen

The school uses the Ombra Ultra Sport SPF 50+ sunscreen. If your child cannot use this brand of sunscreen and would like to supply your own sunscreen for your child please bring this into the school office.

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2019

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	8 March	2.20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	12 March	5:00pm	Parent Literacy and Numeracy Information Session
Thursday	14 March		School Cross Country Carnival (K-6)
Friday	15 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	22 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly
Thursday	28 March		Whole School Photos
Friday	29 March	9:15am 2:20pm 2:00pm-3:00pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly 2nd Hand Uniform Shop Open

McCarthy

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

EMU PLAINS

Contemporary
learning for life



OPEN DAY

Tuesday 19 March 2019
5:00-8:00pm

Principal presentation sessions at: 5.15pm 6.00pm 6.45pm

NOW ENROLLING FOR YEAR 7 TO 12

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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