



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 Kindergarten (Early Stage 1), we have Mrs Churchill (recently married and formerly known to us as Miss McNally) and Miss Gillespie as classroom teachers. The Kindergarten co-ordinator for this year is Mrs Churchill. She brings her many years of experience at our school to this role and has taught the grade for the past two years. Miss Gillespie worked at our school last year as part of our Year 5 team. It is great to have Miss Gillespie on our team again in 2019.

Our Diversity Team works to support classroom teachers to ensure that we are developing the unique gifts and talents of every student. This year the team is comprised of Mrs Tredinnick (as team leader), Mrs McDonald, Mrs Milgate, Mrs Laffan, Mrs Rowan and Mr McErlain, who will join the team in Term Two. This team has an enormous amount of experience as educators and also as key members of our school community. They have been, and continue to be, instrumental in supporting all of our teachers to be successful in their work so that the children are best placed to be successful in their learning.

Whilst visiting Kindergarten so far this year I have been amazed at how well the children have settled in at our school and how quickly they have shown learning gains already. 2019 promises to be a year of ongoing great growth for these children.

### **Learning Mandarin at St Mary MacKillop**

Unfortunately this year we were unable to continue our Italian After-School language classes. However, we have another terrific opportunity. I have approached another organisation named, "Mandarin Stars" to consider running classes of an afternoon here. They are very excited to become part of our community and bring the opportunity for our kids at St Mary MacKillop to learn another language. They are prepared to offer after school classes K-6 to learn Mandarin and bit about Chinese culture.

More information about this after school opportunity is contained in this edition of the newsletter or can be obtained from the school office.

Together We Grow  
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

### The Season of Lent

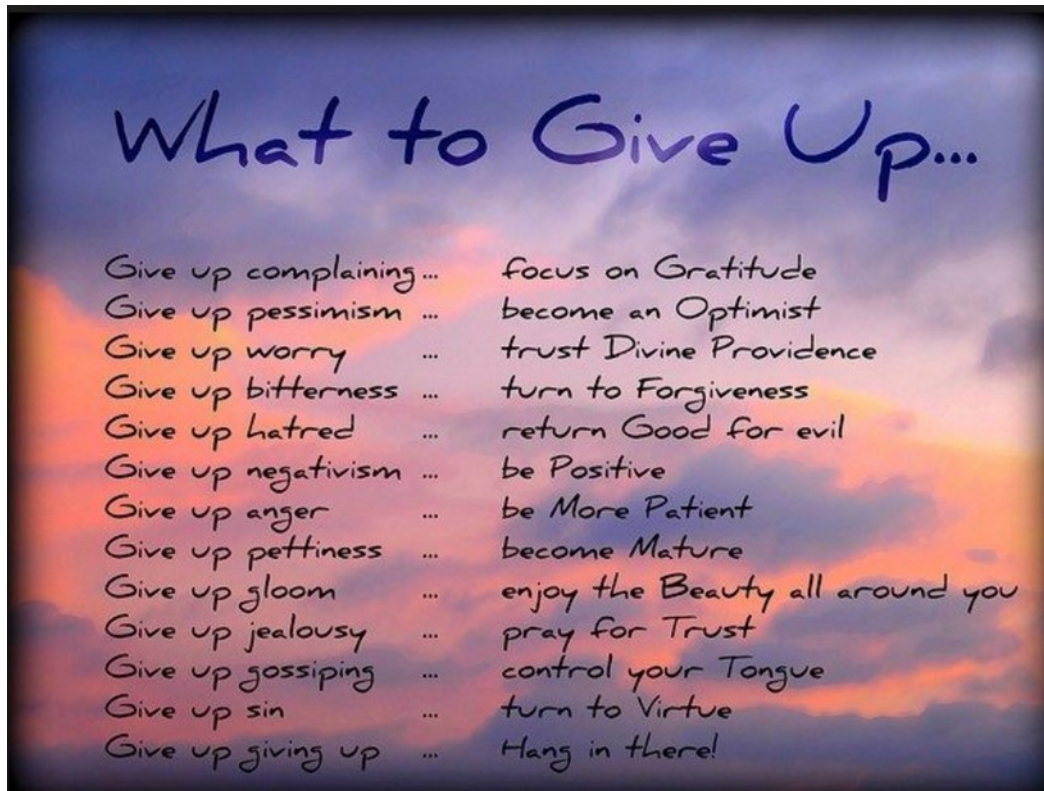
The Season of Lent is a liturgical season consisting of forty days beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the 'Triduum', the great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur leading to Easter. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to the, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.



Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in the three traditional forms of Lenten observance:

- ◇ Fasting (self denial)
- ◇ Prayer and confession
- ◇ Almsgiving (acts of kindness, charity and mercy)

Traditionally, fasting had meant self denial - giving up something or going without. The idea behind this is that when we reach for the thing that we have "given up" it prompts us to think about why we have given that item up and encourages us to think about God and the Season of Lent. More recently, Lent has also become a time to take things up:



The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered. Our Lenten journey is the opportune time to reflect on our personal preparation for the resurrection of Christ at Easter. We ask ourselves: Are we growing in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of love? We acknowledge that we are human and make wrong choices, but are comforted by the knowledge that God unconditionally loves us. No matter how busy you are this Lenten Season make time for HIM through your daily encounters with others.

# PROJECT COMPASSION



## 2019 Social Justice Initiative

We are well under way with our first Social Justice Initiative of 2019 and the students have been giving generously to those less fortunate than themselves. The theme for Project Compassion 2019 is “Give Lent 100%”.

In each classroom the students are learning about the season of Lent. They are being encouraged to model the loving actions of Jesus and one of the simplest ways to do this is to help others. Did you know that just:

\$1 will help a pregnant woman in Bangladesh stay healthy

OR

\$5 will buy a working water tap so children, in the Solomon Islands, can have clean water to drink at school.

All classes have a Project Compassion Box on their prayer space. It would be appreciated if you could encourage and support your children to give generously to those less fortunate than themselves to empower people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Put compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2019 **Project Compassion Appeal**. You can also donate online via the website [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

**A Just Future starts with your support!**

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

## Lives change when we all give 100%.

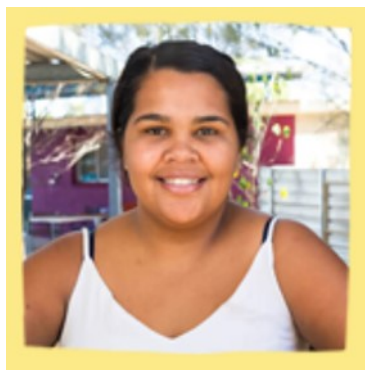
### Project Compassion: Third Week of Lent - Peter from the Solomon Islands



Peter goes to a boarding school in the Solomon Islands which has experienced water shortages for 60 years. Previously, students would have to walk kilometres each day in search of clean water, which was particularly challenging for Peter who is living with a disability. With Caritas Australia’s support, the school has created a new reliable water system. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help young people with disabilities gain access to clean water in the Solomon Islands, providing hope for a brighter future.**

### **Fourth Week of Lent - Michaela from Australia**



Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. The Aboriginal-controlled service gives patients the opportunity to stay connected with their culture. They do this through traditional healing practices and income-generating activities, such as making bush balms and soaps. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2019 and help provide essential health care, employment and training for First Australians like Michaela.**

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

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Please keep in your prayers the 45 St Mary MacKillop students who are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.



### **Parent Retreat Days**

The Diocese of Parramatta is offering two Parent Retreat Days. Below is some information and attached at the end of this KIT are the advertising fliers and registering details.

#### ***Parent Retreat Day: Wednesday 1 May***

##### ***RSVP 19 April 2019***

This is a relaxing day for parents that will be held at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills from 9.30am - 2.30pm. The day will be facilitated by Monica Dutton who has had extensive experience as an educator and presenter.

Monica has facilitated Retreat programs in a variety of contexts with both students and adults.

Monica has completed her PHD in Adult Formation and incorporates creative and practical activities to explore and nourish faith. This is a day for Parents to recharge their spirit by participating in enjoyable and reflective individual and communal activities.

#### ***Animators Day: Thursday 2 May***

##### ***RSVP 19 April 2019***

The concept of Parent Animators is new to the Parramatta Diocese in 2019 and this day is an invitation to this role. Held at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills and facilitated by Monica Dutton, this day will explore a variety of Prayer techniques and skills that will give parents a good foundation to lead prayer within their parent communities.

It is hoped that parents will gain skills that will enable them to lead prayer at the beginning of Parent Meetings within their school and the possibility of them running a Parent Morning or Afternoon get together that might begin with prayer and be followed by either discussion or a guest speaker.

This day will give parents knowledge and skills in: prayer themes from the Liturgical Calendar e.g. Lent, Easter etc., strategies for gathering parents to prayer, prayer formats, setting a sacred space, prayer templates and a variety of prayer experiences such as Lectio Divina and Visio Divina and a list of useful prayer sites and resources. Depending on interest, future support will be ongoing. On site support within schools can also be provided to assist and mentor Parents.

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

## P & F News

The P&F have some really great activities planned for 2019 so keep watching this space or come along to P&F meetings to keep up to date

There will be a mufti day for the whole school on Thursday 11th April 2019. Children are to wear comfortable clothing and appropriate footwear.

Our Primary Disco will be on the same night from 5.30-7.00pm for the children in years 3 to 6. Sounds like a huge day of fun!!

Veronica Neale  
P & F President



## Kids!! Have fun learning to speak Mandarin



mandarin stars



fun mandarin for kids

### **FUN** Mandarin Language Club at St. Mary MacKillop Primary School!

The Mandarin Stars program offers:

- Specialist Mandarin programs for both native and second language learners of Mandarin.
- An engaging program that will inspire a love for learning Chinese.
- An immersion based program that teaches strong listening and speaking skills in Mandarin.
- Language building activities such as role play, Chinese songs, rhymes and games!
- The teaching of Chinese characters, reading, writing and Pin Yin.
- The discovery of Chinese history, culture, festivals, Calligraphy, Tai Chi and even Kung Fu!

Classes will start in **Week 1 of Term 2** as follows:

**Thursday Afternoons**

**3.15- 4.15 for Kindergarten - Year 6**

**\$15/ weekly session, plus a \$20 material fee/ term.**

To book a FREE trial class please email or contact:  
[enrol@mandarinstars.com.au](mailto:enrol@mandarinstars.com.au) or call  
call 1800 18 11 18 for more details.

[www.mandarinstars.com.au](http://www.mandarinstars.com.au) ★ [enrol@mandarinstars.com.au](mailto:enrol@mandarinstars.com.au) ★ Ph:1800 18 11 18

## SMMP Thinking Mathematically!

### What's the importance of skip counting?

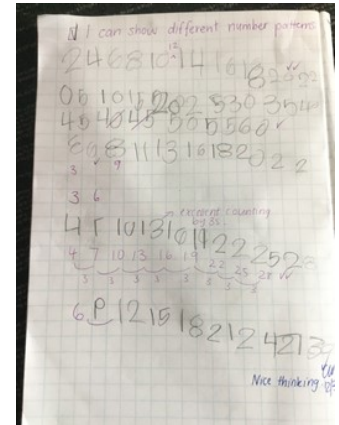
Skip counting is an important part of early numeracy as it is a basic skill used in many different practices. Children use skip counting for basic tasks such as **telling the time** or dealing with **money**. Skip counting is also essential as it lays a mathematical foundation for developing a student's ability on other mathematical skills. "Counting forwards and backwards in ones, or even in twos, fives and other multiples, are strategies that may be used to solve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems.

Skip counting is important not only because these mathematical activities and skills are developed and used in the classroom, but they are also a basic skill students can apply in life outside school. Activities such as **sport**, **shopping** or even **counting large quantities** are made easier by acquiring the ability to skip count. Some students, particularly those who play sport, may not even realize they are skip counting when scoring for games such as **basketball**, **football** or **netball**.

For further information around activities that can be done at home visit

<https://www.numeracyathome.com/>

Here is some great work from a Year 2 student around skip counting.



## CHALLENGE



You have **43 pieces** of popcorn in a bowl. If you dumped them out, how could you organise them to make it easier for a friend to count?

If your child has done some impressive thinking around this question, take a picture and email to the school. We would love to celebrate their work.

The Numeracy Team

## Afternoon Pick Up

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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)

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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](http://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

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### 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

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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	22 March	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly—4J Item
Thursday	28 March		Whole School Photos
Friday	29 March	9:15am 2:20pm 2:00pm-3:00pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Friday	5 April	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly—2G Item
Thursday	11 April	5:30pm-7:00pm	Mufti Day Years 3-6 School Disco
Friday	12 April	2:20pm	Last day of Term 1 Whole School Assembly

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2019

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	29 April		Term 2 Commences
Friday	3 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	7 May		Diocesan Cross Country—Sydney Motorsport Park (Eastern Creek)
Friday	10 May	9:15am	Mother's Day Liturgy Mother's Day Morning Tea

INTO THE DEEP

LEADING FOR MISSION

# Animators Day

“Do not  
be afraid”

LUKE 5:10

DATE

MAY 2 2019

TIME

9.30 – 2.30

VENUE

ST JOSEPHS  
RETREAT  
CENTRE

33 BARINA  
DOWNS RD,  
BAULKHAM  
HILLS

[CLICK TO  
REGISTER](#)

The Animators Program is a new parent initiative in the Diocese of Parramatta. Spend a day interacting with Prayer so that you can confidently lead Parent Communities.

WITNESS to your faith by exploring themes of Luke's Gospel through the framework of Scripture, God, Self and Others.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Donna Dempsey • 0407597426 • ddempsey1@parra.catholic.edu.au



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

INTO THE DEEP

LEADING FOR MISSION

# Parent Retreat Day

“Do not  
be afraid”

LUKE 5:10

DATE

MAY 1 2019

TIME

9.30 – 2.30

VENUE

ST JOSEPHS  
RETREAT  
CENTRE

33 BARINA  
DOWNS RD,  
BAULKHAM  
HILLS

**CLICK TO  
REGISTER**

Join parents from the Paramatta Diocese in a day of personal TRANSFORMATION as you nurture faith through reflection, small group discussion and creative activities.

Explore the concept of WITNESS as you interact with Scripture, God, Self and Others.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Donna Dempsey • 0407597426 • ddempsey1@parra.catholic.edu.au



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta

**KiDS  
CAN ACT**

# APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Mon 15th April Springwood Court		Tue 16th April Springwood Lawin St		Wed 17th April Penrith		Thu 18th April Springwood Court	
<b>The Wizard of Oz Trial</b> (Mini Musical) 9:00am - 5:00pm		<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie The Girl in the Locked Room</b> 9:30am - 3:30pm		<b>Time for An Adventure</b> 9:30am - 1:30pm		<b>Fairylicious Fairies &amp; Mischievous Elves</b> 9:30am - 1:30pm	
		<b>Puppetry</b> 2:30pm - 5:00pm		<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie Mystery of the Whispering Trees</b> 1:30pm - 5:30pm (OLDER KIDS 9-15yr)		<b>Drama Queen Makeovers</b> 1:30pm - 5:00pm	
Tue 23rd April Penrith		Wed 24th April Springwood		 <p><b>USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER</b></p> <p>Call Cathie 0414 475 158 <a href="http://www.kidscanact.com.au">www.kidscanact.com.au</a></p>			
<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie The Girl in the Locked Room</b> 9:30am - 3:30pm		<b>Time for An Adventure</b> 9:30am - 1:30pm					
<b>Puppetry</b> 2:30pm - 5:00pm		<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie Mystery of the Whispering Trees</b> 1:30pm - 5:30pm (OLDER KIDS 9-15yr)					

## THE WIZARD OF OZ ON TRIAL (Mini Musical)

Who was to blame for all the chaos in Kansas? Let's delve deeper into the musical world of Oz & put the Wizard on trial! Be the Judge, a lawyer or maybe one of the characters being questioned on the stand. Let's sing and dance and find out who was really behind the mayhem.

## THE GIRL LOCKED IN THE ROOM

### 1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie

She's locked in a room and everyday writes the date on the wall, but soon she forgets her birthday and then her name! At night, their boots storm up the stairs. They hammer on the door and yell for her to come out. Devise a performance to leave your audience spell bound.

## PUPPETRY

This is an opportunity for the children to spark their imagination and feed their curiosity. Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. They will have fun as they learn how to use different types of puppets.

## TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE

Was it a huge wave that left you shipwrecked or did some strange aliens land outside your house? Did you wake up in a kingdom of princes, princesses and dragons? Or did strange and mystical creatures call you to come help in their quest? Spend a day exploring your creativity.

## MYSTERY OF THE WHISPERING TREES

### 1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie (OLDER KIDS 9-15yr)

In our village there are 2 rules 1. You must never use magic! 2. You must never, under any circumstances enter the Dark Forest. If you break either of these rules the punishment is immediate and dire. We're about to do both. Can you hear that? Oh nooo!

## DRAMA QUEEN MAKE OVERS

Drama Queens get ready to be pampered with an afternoon at the spa. Nails, glitter hair, and lipply! Now let's dress up and strut our stuff on the catwalk!

## FAIRYLICIOUS FAIRIES & MISCHIEVOUS ELVES

Fairies and pixies love to play tricks! What happens when you wake up, and peek out the window to see what they are up to? Maybe the Fairylicious fairies and mischievous elves hiding in your garden will let you join them for a night of magical adventures. Use your imagination to create this magical world.

**KiDS CAN ACT**

Call Cathie 0414 475 158  
[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)

Use your CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER before the 29th March and pay ONLY \$20 for a FULL DAY (ie TWO WORKSHOPS 8 - 8.5 hours)! Get in now, spots already filling fast! DON'T MISS OUT!

[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)

Cathie 0414475158

# Gateway Family Services

## Parenting Group Programs

### Term 2, 2019



Program	Date & Time	Location	Registration
<b>Circle of Security</b> <i>Learn how to be a strong, wiser &amp; kinder parent with your kids. Suitable for parents of 0-12 year old.</i>	Every Tuesday 14th May - 25th June 9:30am - 11:30am <i>* Childcare Available</i>	Heatherbrae, Lawson 1 Benang Street, LAWSON, (located beside carpark behind Lawson Pub)	Gateway - 1300 316 746 (free call)
<b>Tuning In To Kids</b> <i>Emotionally Intelligent Parenting Learning to better talk &amp; understand your child to help manage your child's emotions &amp; behaviour.</i>	Every Monday 13th May - 3rd June 9:30am - 11:30am <i>* NO Childcare</i>	Blackheath RSL Cnr Station Street & Bundarra Road, BLACKHEATH	Gateway - 1300 316 746 (free call)
<b>1-2-3 Magic &amp; Emotion Coaching</b> <i>Learn how to understand &amp; manage your child's difficult behaviour. Suitable for parents with 2-12 year olds.</i>	Every Tuesday 21st May - 4th June 10:30am - 12:30pm <i>* Childcare Available</i>	Blaxland Uniting Church (Back Hall) 70-76 Old Bathurst Road, BLAXLAND EAST (Onsite parking available)	Gateway - 1300 316 746 (free call)
<b>Bringing Up Great Kids</b> <i>Learn about mindfulness &amp; reflection, promoting positive interactions, the meaning behind children's behaviour and ways in which parents can take care of themselves &amp; find support when they need it.</i>	To be Advised	To be Advised	Gateway - 1300 316 746 (free call)
<b>Let's Talk about ..... Siblings without Rivalry</b> <i>Discussion and practical tools for parents who want to help their children live well together so you can all live.</i>	Every Tuesday 14th May - 4th June 7:00pm - 9:00pm <i>* NO Childcare</i>	Gateway Family Services 70-76 Old Bathurst Road, BLAXLAND EAST (located in the Cottage beside Blaxland Uniting Church)	Gateway - 1300 316 746 (free call)
<b>Cool Little Kids - Anxiety Program</b> <i>For parents and caregivers with children aged 3-6 years who have developed, or are at risk of developing, an emotional disorder. Teaching skills to address factors that can lead to anxiety</i>	Every Wednesday 22nd May - 26th June 10:00am - 12noon <i>* Childcare Available</i>	Thrive Services 2 Station Street, KATOOMBA	Thrive Services - 02 4782 1555

For more information and Individual Flyers go to:

[www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](http://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/GatewayFS](https://www.facebook.com/GatewayFS)

Gateway family services parent group program is funded by DSS and NSW FACS.

Gateway works collaboratively with community partners to bring parent groups to communities from St Marys to Blackheath.

Thanks to MMM for providing childcare for the Daytime groups.

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.



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.

**B E Y O N D**  
**A PEANUT**  
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

[www.beyondapeanut.com](http://www.beyondapeanut.com)  
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you  
for helping us  
provide a safe environment  
for our friends with food allergies!