



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.*

Recently I have read some articles in our local press regarding class sizes at schools. These articles have provided a range of statistics but in my opinion not a lot of educational insight. The Executive Director of our diocese has published his view on the discussion around class sizes and I believe that it provides a more informed view from a teaching and learning perspective. I have included it below for your consideration.

Media reports about “overcrowded” classrooms get it all wrong. As a stand-alone solution for stronger schools, simply having smaller classes doesn’t stack up. Wouldn’t it be better to look at what really gets results and make that the priority?

An extraordinary amount of public funding has been directed towards decreasing student numbers since the Carr Government funded smaller Kindergarten classes. Yet NAPLAN results show schools with smaller classes haven’t shot ahead of those with higher student-teacher ratios at all.

My own school days featured very large classes expertly (or otherwise) controlled by often rather authoritarian teachers. I’m not advocating a return to these arrangements or the fairly dictatorial teaching style that was all too commonplace! Technology provides so many opportunities to transform learning and teaching: changes to classroom structures are common sense.

Today, class sizes vary from system to system, and from school to school. Within any school, class sizes also vary from grade to grade and year to year based on enrolment demand and other relevant factors such as student needs. The pace of growth in some parts of Sydney sees new schools sprouting and established schools growing to make sure that enrolment needs are met.

Of course, providing extra support when class sizes are larger or individual student needs are higher is a must. This means that students in larger classes often have access to staff and extra resources. We also need to think differently around the way that staff work together, and work with students small class sizes sound alright, but they just don’t deliver results on their own. It’s great teaching, not small class sizes that make the most difference to student learning. There’s no shame in higher student-teacher ratios, but there’s plenty in failing to focus on what will really support learning: good teaching.

#### Staffing News

Over the past few weeks we have been advertising, interviewing and recruiting staff for the 2020 school year. We are blessed with so many talented teachers and a number of our teachers are at the early stages of their career journey. It is a pleasure to let you know that Miss Vella, Mr Martin, Miss Gillespie, Miss Nielsen and Miss Izzard will all be part of our team next year. With a number of our team taking leave to support their growing families, it is reassuring to know that the school community is well provided for by the quality of teachers that we have in our team.

We have invited Mrs Michelle Jarrett to join our staff in 2020. She is currently a member of St Patrick’s Blacktown Community. We will also welcome Mrs Kaye Moore onto our teaching team in 2020. Mrs Moore joins us from the Corpus Christi, Cranebrook community. They bring a range of experiences, gifts and talents to our school and I look forward to introducing them to our community later in Term 4.

Together We Grow.  
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal



### The Sacrament of Confirmation

As a faith community, please keep the following children in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 17th October:

*Emily B, Marie B, Riley B, Emma B, Jake C, Emma C, Maddison E, Kymberley F, Taylah G, Abbi G, Stefania G, Myer J, Cameron J, Jayden J, Georgia K, Summer K, Gabrielle L, Darcy L, Jenna Mc, Siobhan Mc, Harrison M, Jasmyn M, Jonathan M, Chanelle N, Isaac O, Melinda P, Alex P, Rylee R, Elizabeth R, Sara R, Amber S, Amelia T, Chantelle W and Cooper W*



At Confirmation these children will receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These seven gifts were first received in the Sacrament of Baptism and then they are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is one of the reasons why the Catholic Church teaches that Confirmation is properly viewed as the completion of Baptism.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit give us strength to help us through life. The seven gifts are:

**Wisdom:** The ability to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

**Understanding:** The ability to comprehend that we are followers of Christ.

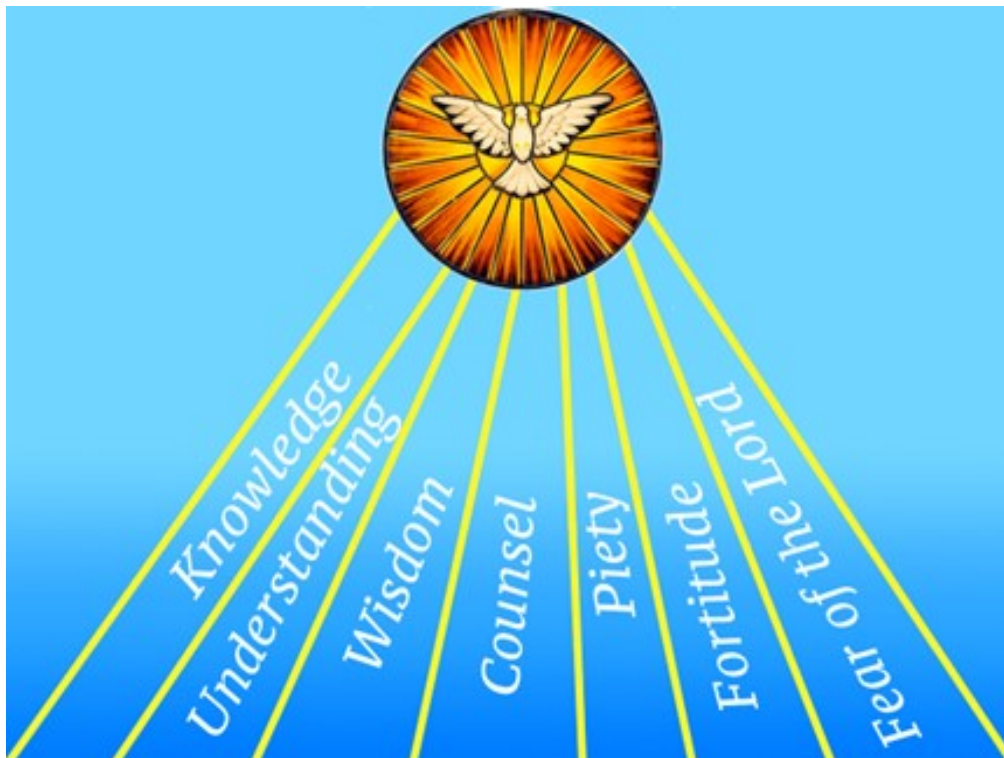
**Counsel (Right Judgment):** The ability to know right from wrong and to choose to do what is right.

**Piety (Reverence):** The ability to have deep respect for God and the church.

**Knowledge:** The ability to understand the meaning of God.

**Fortitude (Courage):** The ability to overcome our fear and to stand up for what is right in the eyes of God.

**Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe):** The ability to be aware that God is all-powerful, all-loving, all-perfect. To be in admiration of all the wonderful things God does.



## Religious Education News—Continued

### Praying The Rosary

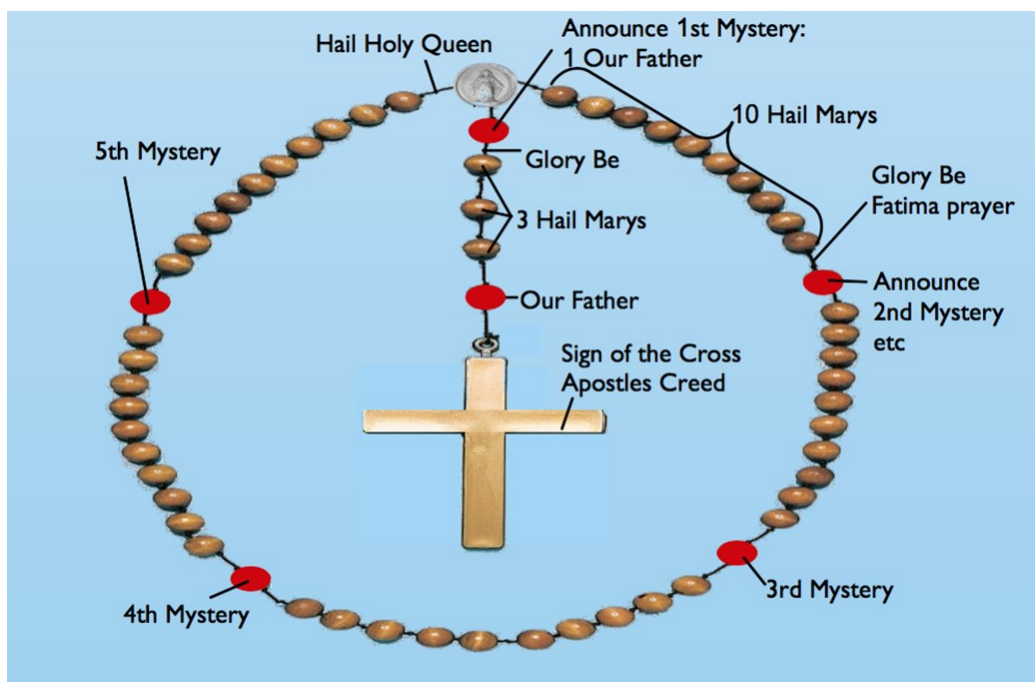
Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and this has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for a long time. Catholics pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God through His mother, Mary.

The word 'rosary' comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. It is recognized as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

During the month of October there will be a school focus on the Rosary. The students in Years 3-6 will focus on learning and praying The Rosary during whole school prayer time at 2pm on a Friday afternoon.

Whilst we have Rosary beads at school the children are encouraged to bring in their own set of beads to personally enhance their prayer experience and to foster the prayerful practice in their own homes.

Below, I have included a 'How to pray The Rosary' guide that you may like to utilise at home.



### The Mysteries of The Rosary:

Joyful Mystery	Sorrowful Mystery	Glorious Mystery	Light Mystery
Monday-Saturday	Tuesday-Friday	Wednesday-Sunday	Thursday
1. The Annunciation	1. The Agony in the Garden	1. The Resurrection	1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Visitation	2. The Scourging at the Pillar	2. The Ascension of Our Lord	2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Birth of Our Lord	3. The Crowning with Thorns	3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit	3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Presentation in the Temple	4. The Carrying of the Cross	4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven	4. The Transfiguration
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple	5. The Crucifixion	5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator



## Kindergarten Excursion to the Farm!

On Tuesday, Kindergarten travelled by bus to Calmsley Hill City Farm for a fun day of learning! The students enjoyed a hands on day where they got to milk a cow, interact with baby goats in the petting nursery, hold baby chicks and ducklings, watch a farmer and his clever dogs round up some sheep, enjoy a whip cracking show and more. The students were so well behaved and everyone had a wonderful day. A special thank you to Mrs Rowan and our parent helpers, Michelle L, Mel M, Samantha S, Ryan H, Ann G, Yvonne K who joined us on the day. This excursion came at the end of our Science Unit on Living Things and our RE Unit on God's Creation.

The Kindergarten Team





### **MACKILLOP TRIALS**

On Monday 16 September, we had ten students represent St Mary MacKillop at the next stage in Athletics. They have been very dedicated by training in their own time, as well as our Junior relay team meeting at Jamison Park some afternoons to practise baton changing. They also attended a couple of morning sessions held at school by Mrs Woodhead and Miss Jones. We are extremely proud of how our students went and that they have made it this far. This year we had the following students compete:

**Junior Girls Relay Team:** Summer Knowles Tia Bachtis, Charlotte Selby and Myer Calder

**Senior Girls Relay Team:** Ava D'Costa, Amber Stapleton, Millie-Jay Crowley and Tanae Shepherd (substituting in for Rafferti Geyer)

**Tia Bachtis:** 1500m (6th place) and 800m

**Summer Knowles:** High jump and 200m (finalist)

**Amber Stapleton:** 100m and 200m (finalist), and long jump

**Thomas Renny:** 1500m

**Jarred Haydon:** 100m (3rd place), 200m (2nd place) and long jump



Jarred is now off to compete in at PSSA NSW Athletics in November and we look forward to hearing how he goes. Congratulations to all of our athletes. Wow, what an accomplishment!

### **TOUCH FOOTBALL GALA DAY**

On Friday 13 September we had the Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day. We had three teams attend on the day; two boys teams and one girls team. For a few students, this was their first time playing touch football. Each team had some wins and some losses throughout the day. Thank you to Mrs Rowan for attending on the day and to the parents that helped organise and coach the teams.



*Miss Nicole Jones  
Sports Co Ordinator*

## P & F News

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Once again we would like to thank everyone for all of their support of our fundraising efforts during Term 3. Your help is always greatly appreciated and has meant that we are getting closer to making the beautification of the school grounds that we are working towards a reality for our children.

In Term 4 we will have our infants disco on Thursday 7th November from 5.30-6.30pm, mufti day on Thursday 14th November and as well we will hold our AGM - stay tuned for more details on date and time!

Have a great break, enjoy the holidays making some fun memories!!

Veronica Neal  
P & F President



## Dance Troup

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In term 2 our Senior dance troupe were selected to take part in the Term 4 Captivate Dance festival at the Parramatta Riverside. Tickets to the performance for parents and community members can now be purchased via the following link for the 6:30pm show. We would love for everyone to come and support our Troupe representing St Mary MacKillop at this wonderful showcase.

<https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/captivate-cedp/>

Further details regarding the day will be sent home during the week.

Miss Carey and Miss Gillespie



## Cash Payments

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Just a reminder that our office will not accept cash payments after Thursday on the last week of each term. We do however take Eftpos payments.

Monique Kearins  
School Finance Secretary



## Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2019

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	27 September	2:20pm 2:00pm-3:00pm	Whole School Assembly Second Hand Uniform Shop Open LAST DAY OF TERM 3

## Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2019

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	14 October		TERM 4 Commences
Friday	18 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Thursday	24 October	2:00pm-2:45pm	Kindergarten 2020 Playgroup Session No. 1
Friday	25 October	2:20pm 2:00pm-3:00pm	Whole School Assembly Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Thursday	31 October	2:00pm-2:45pm	Kindergarten 2020 Playgroup Session No. 2
Friday	1st November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly

VIP EVENT - THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER  
**ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS**

**LOWES**

**20%\***

**OFF**

**SCHOOLWEAR**

AND  
EVERYTHING ELSE

LOWES zero  
LOWES REWARDS CLUB

**INSTORE & ONLINE THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER.**

\* Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear layby's. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only.  
Styles and colours may vary from store to store.  
No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.  
Offer ends midnight (AEST) 10/10/19. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.

# KIDS CAN ACT

DRAMA STUDIO

**Holiday Workshops**  
Your opportunity to **SHINE!**

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




## KIDS CAN ACT

## OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Mon 30th September Springwood Lewin St	Tue 1st October Springwood Lewin St	Wed 2nd October Penrith	Thu 3rd October Springwood Court
<b>Comedy Skit Day</b> 9:00am - 3:00pm	<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie Rewind Let's Start Again</b> 8:30am - 1:30pm	<b>Time for Another Adventure</b> 9:00am - 2:00pm	<b>Magic, Spells and Illusions</b> 8:30am - 1:30pm
	<b>Puppetry No. 2</b> 1:30pm - 3:00pm	<b>Storytelling Magic</b> 2:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>Storytelling Magic</b> 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Tue 8th October Penrith	Wed 9th October Springwood Court	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Call Cathie 0414 475 158 <a href="http://www.kidscanact.com.au">www.kidscanact.com.au</a></p> </div> </div>	
<b>DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND Magic, Spells and Illusions</b> 9:00am - 2:00pm	<b>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie Time for Another Adventure</b> 8:30am - 1:30pm		
<b>Puppetry No. 2</b> 2:00pm - 3:30pm	<b>Bring Your A Game</b> 1:30pm - 3:30pm		



# kids yoga

Kids yoga is FUN! It is a creative, imaginative way to develop a healthy mind and body. It provides opportunities to develop social, emotional and physical well-being in kids. Classes are often co-created to allow children to feel empowered and heard. They play and learn in a safe, non-judgemental, engaging environment that promotes risk-taking, challenges, positive interaction, connection, awareness, laughter, happiness and mindfulness.

## TERM 4

TUESDAYS, 4:10-5PM

OCT 22 - DEC 17

Kingswood location

CHILDREN AGED 5-12 YEARS  
50 MINUTE CLASS

TERM INVESTMENT:  
\$90 PER TERM BLOCK  
PAID IN FULL AT BEGINNING OF TERM.

CONTACT JUSTINE  
TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE  
0413 236 542



# school holiday workshop

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES & A FUN EXPLORATION OF YOGA  
SPACE TO CREATE/MAKE ART & EXPRESS IMAGINATION  
POSITIVE PRACTICES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

TUESDAY, OCT 1  
9:30am - 12noon  
HEALTHY SNACKS PROVIDED  
Kingswood location

\$50 PER CHILD  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

CONTACT JUSTINE  
TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE  
0413 236 542



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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FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

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