



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.

I had the wonderful opportunity last Monday night to attend the Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting. As part of this meeting we elected a new executive for our P and F for 2020.

On behalf of the staff and students of St Mary MacKillop I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of our 2019 P and F executive. Their generosity, talent, wisdom and sense of fun have enhanced the community spirit and teaching and learning for our school in so many ways. They have embodied the teaching of St Mary MacKillop, - "Never see a need without doing something about it".

I welcome our 2020 team and look forward to working with them as a new and exciting year approaches.

President: Veronica Neal

Treasurer: Kylie Beasley

Major Fundraising: Catherine Watson

Parent Representative Council: To Be Appointed

Vice President: Paul Bortolazzo

Secretary: Michelle Darwen

General Fundraising: Jo Randall

We still require someone to be our school representative on the diocesan PRC. Working collaboratively with schools and parents, the PRC provides opportunities for parents to become involved in their child's school community and learning journey. With access to information and educational opportunities via parent forums and guest speakers, parents can become active participants in their child's schooling. There are four events each year that our representative would need to attend. If you are interested in filling this role for 2020 please contact the school office. Congratulations to those elected and thank you to all those who attended the meeting.

Staffing News

As the year draws to a close and we finalise staffing for 2020 there will be some changes for us next year. One of these changes that has occurred is that Mrs Meehan will be moving from our team to Queensland and she will join the team at St Peter's Caboolture next year. I wish to thank Mrs Meehan for all she has given to our community in her many years and on your behalf wish her well with this next stage of her life.

Congratulations Claire Harman (3H) and her husband Michael on the expected arrival of their first child in May next year. We wish them all the joy and blessings that come with a new baby.

Thank you for your patience as we organise our staffing for next year's class groups. In planning for the new school year, please find below a list of staff and grades for 2020 as they currently stand. There are still some positions that will be appointed in the coming weeks

2019 Staffing

Kindergarten Miss Brittany Gillespie (KG)

To be appointed

Year 1 Miss Stephanie Nielsen (1N)

Mrs Maree Eisenhuth (1E)

Year 2 Miss Cassie Wotherspoon (2W)

Miss Lauren Izzard (2I)

Year 3 Mrs Amanda Joseph (3J)

Mr Darren McErlain (3M)

Year 4 Miss Victoria Vella (4V)

Mrs Kay Moore (4M)

Year 5 Mr Caimin Harris (5H)

Miss Nicole Jones (5J)

Year 6 Mr Grant Martin (6G)

Mrs Michelle Jarrett (6M)

Diversity Teachers (Learning Support):

Mrs Margaret Rowan

Mrs Niamh MacDonald

Mrs Claire Harman

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Mrs Maryanne Churchill

School Counsellor: Mrs Jeanne Appleton

RFF Teachers:

To be appointed (Physical Education)

To be appointed (Creative Arts)

Coordinator Release: Mrs Deb Aliberti

News from Scott—Continued

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth

Library Assistant: Mrs Marina Napoli

Teacher Assistants: Mrs Judy Inskip Mrs Simone Breia

Mrs Kristy Daines

Administration Office: Mrs Monique Kearins (M-F)

Mrs Nicole Brock (T-Th) Mrs Jo Groger (M, Tue, Fri)

IT Trainee: Pablo Cortes

Maintenance: Mr Colin Meredith

School Leadership Team:

Principal: Mr Scott Buchan

Assistant Principal: Mrs Margaret Rowan

Religious Education Co –Ordinator:

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Co-ordinators: Mrs Amanda Joseph

Mrs Niamh McDonald

Mrs Kay Moore

Together We Grow

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

A Very Special Farewell

On Thursday, 5th December, the St Mary MacKillop community came together to honour and celebrate the wonderful dedication and service given to us by Mrs Chris Laffan and Mrs Margaret Meehan. It was a beautiful celebration and gathering of MacKillop staff past and present, and a testament to the strength of community we have at this beautiful place.

Chris has been teaching at St Mary MacKillop for 35 years, since the school opened. We thank Chris immensely for the legacy she leaves behind; for the thousands of students and families that she nurtured and taught throughout her highly successful career. We will miss her warmth, wisdom and humour. We wish Chris all the very best for her retirement, as she embraces the opportunity for more family time.

Margaret Meehan has been an integral part of the MacKillop community for 14 years. In this time Margaret has brought Creative Arts to life at MacKillop, organising musicals, choirs and strings programs. Marg has been a caring educator, colleague and friend to hundreds of students and families and she will be truly missed. We wish Marg all the best on her new adventure in Queensland.

Maryanne Churchill (on behalf of the MacKillop staff)



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity

The true spirit of Christmas is about giving giving from the heart and giving out of love, just like God gave us his son Jesus Christ on that very first Christmas. As Jesus grew he instructed us about how we should look after each other:



*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Mt 25: 35 – 36*

Our final social justice initiative for the year has nearly concluded and it is evident from the amount of donations in classrooms that we have embraced the true meaning of Christmas and I am very thankful for the generosity within our community. The words spoken by St Mary MacKillop; “never see a need without doing something about it “ are truly alive within our school community.

The hampers will be picked up by the St Vincent de Paul Society on Wednesday 11th December so if there are any last-minute donations please send them in before Wednesday. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the outpouring of support to this important appeal. We have certainly made this Christmas Season special for many local people in need.

Thank you!

Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony – Tuesday 10th December

As the Year 6 students prepare to leave St Mary MacKillop, it is time to celebrate the culmination of the last 7 years of primary school education for our 2019 graduating students. The Year Six Graduation Mass and Ceremony will be held at 11:30am on Tuesday 10th December in our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. All students will attend and will travel by bus to and from the church. *Please make sure that you fill in the permission slip that was sent home and return it to school by Friday 6th December.*

If you have misplaced the permission note, new ones are available from the school office.

All in our community are warmly invited to attend this special ceremony.

The Season of Advent: Year A

Advent is the first season in the church calendar. Beginning four Sundays before Christmas, its purpose is twofold: first, it prepares us for the celebration of the birth of Christ and second, it reminds us that we are eagerly waiting for Jesus' return in glory.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," serves as a main theme of this season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for Jesus, who came as "the light of the world."

Dear Jesus,

you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.

Amen.



From the 7th to the 11th December, Miss Neilsen will be attending the Australian Catholic Youth Festival which is being held in Perth this year.

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC). It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. The Festival will use the scriptural focus of the 2020 Plenary Council by adopting the theme: ‘Listen to what the Spirit is saying’ (Rev 2:7).

We wish her and the other pilgrims well on their journey to Perth and over the course of the festival, and look forward to hearing about this faith nourishing experience.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

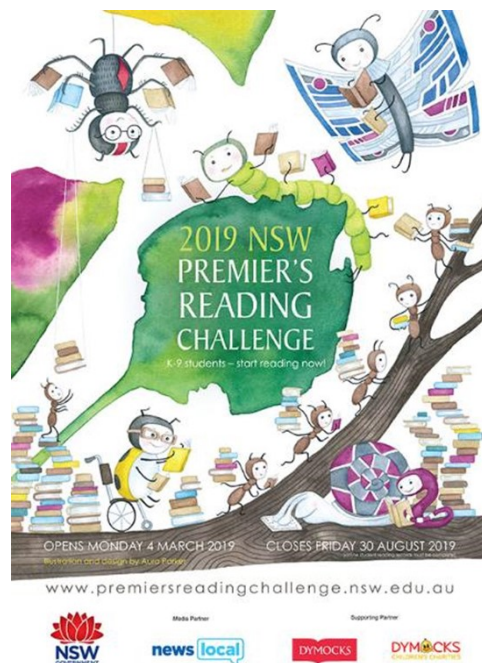
Library News

We have had another busy year in the library, as we come to the end of the school year; please start to return all library books for our end of year processing.

The **Premier's Reading Challenge** saw another successful year of 189 students completing the challenge.

Congratulations to all Kindergarten students who completed their first challenge this year. Certificates will be sent home this week to all students who successfully completed the 2019 Challenge.

Special congratulations goes to those students who have completed the challenge four or more years in a row: They will be presented with gold, silver or platinum certificates at this week's assembly- **Please note assembly will be on Friday morning this week.**



The **Summer Reading Challenge** is open to students to read and record books in the break. There will be prizes for selected students who complete the challenge.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a **GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of **two Google Chromebooks** or one of **thirty gift vouchers** valued at \$30.

Competition opens on 2 December 2019 and closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020

Terms and conditions apply.

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Diocese of Parramatta

2020

A huge thank you to **Mrs Ellis**, and **Mrs Gillard** for covering many of our library books, enabling them to be on the shelves ready to borrow for our students throughout the year.

Our Book Fair has allowed us to purchase new resources to support teaching and learning at St Mary MacKillop, thank you to everyone for supporting this initiative.

Wishing all our families a safe and restful break, and a very Happy Christmas.

Mrs Maree Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian

Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$20.00 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

On the 28th of November year six left on a 3 hour journey to Canberra as part of our history unit, learning about different levels of government and how they work.

The first place we visited was the Australian War Memorial where we learnt all about the tragedies of war and why we have days to pay our respects to our servicemen and women. Before we checked into our accommodation at the Leumeah Lodge, we went to Parliament House and learnt about the House of Representatives, the Senate and the history behind Parliament. We got to re-enact what we had seen in the House of Representatives in a role play. That evening we left for the Australian Institute of Sport where we had a tour of their facilities and played in the games room.

At dawn we visited Old Parliament where we learnt all about our voting systems in Australia. Our final destination was Questacon where we were given free time to explore and conduct scientific research.

This concluding our time in Canberra, everyone had an amazing eventful and tiring time, learning plenty along the way.

Emily B
Year 6



Sport News

A huge congratulations to Rafferti G. Year 6, who was recognised this week by the Parramatta CEDP Primary Sport Organisation for her tremendous success in Sport this year. Rafferti was invited to attend the Primary Sports Diocesan Awards night, where she was recognised for her skills, determination, resolve and enthusiasm for her chosen sport, Netball. Well done, Rafferti! Everyone here at MacKillop is so proud of you and excited to watch you flourish in your sporting endeavours!

Rafferti Geyer
St Mary MacKillop, Parramatta



2019 Student Sport Representative

- ★ Parramatta Netball Team
- ★ MacKillop Netball Team
- ★ NSWPSA State Netball Team



Important Office Dates

2019

Friday, 13th December: Last Day of the year for Student Banking.

Friday, 13th December: Last Day of the year for all payments, school fees to the office.

2020

Wednesday, 29th January: Parents are able to purchase of School Library Bags from the office cost is \$7.00



On behalf of the P&F I would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended our AGM on Monday 25h November. It was great to see so many new faces and to share so many fresh ideas and thoughts. I would also like to thank Scott and Marg who on behalf of the entire staff and school put on a fantastic thank you grazing platter!

I would personally like to thank our outgoing committee member Fiona Bryant who has been the secretary for the past 2 years, as well as holding various other P&F roles prior to that. Despite her busy schedule she committed to the role of secretary and helped us out in any way we asked. It has been a pleasure and thank you.

To the 2020 P&F executive committee, I welcome the new members aboard and thank the previous members for returning. You guys have always been the best to work with and your dedication to improving our children's school is amazing! Looking forward to working with you all in 2020!

Veronica Neal
P & F President

2020 Fete Update

RAFFLE DONATIONS

We are in need of donations for our fete raffle and chocolate wheel, if you have anything in mind that would help raise some funds for our school, let us know today!

Ask around - do you have a friend or family member (or yourself) who owns a business who could donate products to the school? We have some great raffle prizes on offer, so stay tuned for details.

Raffle tickets will be sent home to families early next year.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are doing a huge shout out to any families within our school who have businesses that would like to promote and in turn sponsor our school. Sponsorship packages start at \$150.

We have been extremely fortunate in welcoming three of our top sponsors to the St Mary MacKillop community:

Platinum - Wildman Cranes

Gold - Outback Steakhouse

Gold - Bella Dental Penrith

Sponsorship packages still available:

Silver - \$750 each, have your name and branding on these awesome stalls. Choose from the Chocolate Wheel, Cake Stall, Kidzone, Trash & Treasure, Basket Stall or Garden Stall.

Bronze - \$250 each, your chance to sponsor the fete as well as promote your business for all to see.

Trades Board - \$150 each, be featured on our Trades board at the fete! Let St Mary MacKillop help promote your small business!

Plenty of opportunities for your business to support St. Mary MacKillop and for the families of the St Mary MacKillop community to support your business.

Email smmpandf@gmail.com to receive your Sponsorship proposal.

TRASH AND TREASURE

If you're doing a clean out, consider setting aside anything that is no longer useful for you but in good condition to donate it to our Trash and Treasure Stall. Donations will be welcome from the start of the 2020 school year. Electrical items cannot be accepted.

GARDEN STALL

Our Garden Stall will be a green thumb's delight, but we need your help to get started. If you have any plants you could start taking cuttings from and/or empty pot plants/containers, get in contact with us. We would love all the support we can get.

STALL HOLDERS

Spots are filling FAST! We are starting to finalise our stall holders for the fete, if you would like to be one or know someone who is interested, contact us for an application form today!

RIDES, RIDES AND MORE RIDES

Once again we will have some amazing rides and inflatables at this year's fete. Ride passes will be available for purchase online at EARLY BIRD PRICES NOW!!! <https://www.trybooking.com/BGFQI>

If you want to pay for your ride band using cash or bank transfer, please get in contact with Catherine at smmpandf@gmail.com or text 0408971675.

Can't wait for all that is planned for 2020 - remember, if you'd like to help out in any way, please get in contact. We'd love to make this the best fete yet, to do that we need as much help as possible.

Catherine Watson



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fete

Sunday
May 3rd

10am - 4pm
150 Fragar Rd,
South Penrith

Enjoy fun rides, delicious food &
awesome performances!

Rides • Sideshow Alley • Stalls • Activities & much more!

Pre-purchase ride passes: www.trybooking.com/BGFQI

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 ~ 2019

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	6 December	6:30pm-8:30pm	Year 6 Farewell
Tuesday	10 December	11:30am	Year 6 Mass & Ceremony at St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday	12 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions
Friday	13 December	2:00pm	Whole School Assembly—Year 6 Leaving Families Farewell Assembly Reports go Home
Monday	16 December		Year 6 Fun Day @ Don Bosco
Tuesday-Wednesday	17-18 December		Year 5 YMCA Yarramundi Camp
Wednesday	18 December		Last day of Term for Students
Thursday	19 December		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 ~ 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Tuesday	28 January		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Wednesday	29 January		Years 1-6 Commence School
Thursday	30 January		Kindergarten Commence School



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

All correspondence to:
CEDP Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese
Aengus Kavanagh Education & Equity Centre
PO Box 215, Rooty Hill 2766
Tel (02) 9407 7114
Mobile 0408 278 918
mthamton@pama.catholic.edu.au
www.primarysportpama.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

2020 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2020 Information For Parents of current Year 4 and Year 5 students

Registration window open

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2020 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2019 and in 2020. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is **strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in years 5 & 6 in 2020 be invited to attend.** To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Basketball	Open boys & girls	19th November 2019	Open 28 Oct 2019	Monday 11th November 2019
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Diving	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2020	Nominations Open in 2020	Registration via CSES in 2020
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2020	Nominations Open in 2020	Registration via CSES in 2020
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Netball	Open girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby League	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby League	11 yrs boys & girls NB. No State team selected for 11 yrs	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby Union	Open boys	May 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Softball	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Tennis	Open boys & girls	22nd November 2019	Open 28 Oct 2019	Monday 11th November 2019
Touch	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportpama.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the **SPORT** you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form". **Each sport has a different registration criteria.**

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2020 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport and when completed, click SUBMIT.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. **Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience".**

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

\$10.00 trialing fee is payable to your school if your child has been approved and confirmed to attend the Parramatta Diocesan Trials.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

2020 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2020 Information For Parents of **current Year 4 and Year 5 students**

Please note that the full day trials will be for boys cricket, boys soccer, boys rugby league & boys rugby union. Due to the popularity of boys cricket, boys soccer and girls netball a maximum of 2 children only are eligible to trial from each school. Selection of the 2 boys and girls will be made jointly by the school sport coordinator and principal. Discretion can be sought.

Half day trial for tennis and netball... all other trials will be held after school beginning at 4pm.

MACKILLOP TRIAL

It should be noted that the main purpose of the Mackillop trial is to select a team to compete at the NSWPSA Championships. The Inter-Diocesan Mackillop Trial is not a competition although a round robin format is often used to facilitate the selection procedure.

NSW PSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Children who are successful at being selected in the Mackillop team will compete at the NSWPSA Championships. These championships involve three or four days of competition at various locations in NSW. Children selected in these teams may also be required to attend training sessions. At the NSW PSSA Championships a State team will be selected to participate at the School Sport Australia Inter State Exchange for some sports.

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

To be considered for selection in the NSWPSA state team for participation at all School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under championships: Students must be turning between the ages of 10 and 12 in the year of competition i.e. Students turning the ages of 8, 9 and 13 in the year of competition are not eligible for NSWPSA State selection.

Please note the following information:

- Parents are responsible for all transport and supervision arrangements and **must remain to supervise their child at the trial at all times.**
- Children need to generally be of representative standard.
- Attendance at training days, where applicable is compulsory.
- The selector's decisions are final.
- **Parents will need to make their own travel arrangements for children representing Parramatta at Inter-Diocesan Mackillop trials. This may mean travel to Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga or Forbes.**
- Please be aware that the teacher conducting the trial and accompanying the team to the venue is a "Team Manager" ~ not a coach.

If you would like your child to participate in one of the Parramatta Diocesan trials please complete the Team Online Registration Form that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDSPSC Expression of Interest Registration Form".

SUMMER SPORTS NOMINATIONS for the sports of Basketball & Tennis close Monday 11th November 2019.

ALL OTHER SPORTS NOMINATIONS close Thursday 6th February 2020.

Information regarding the team sport trials can be found on the Primary Sport website www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au and the **Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese Facebook.**

Good luck to all athletes as they progress through the School Sports Pathway.

Kind Regards,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator Primary Sport ~ CEO Parramatta
WEBSITE: www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au
FACEBOOK: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese



ANIMAL CHRISTMAS PARTIES

19, 20 & 23rd December

Morning, afternoon & full day options
in Mulgoa



Leave your children with me for an engaging program while you
finish up work and/or your holiday preparations.

Send them to TRUE LEARNING for crafts, games, cooking and
science / nature / maths activities (disguised as fun).

Here is how we do it:

What do the photos show:

- A. Ponies eating popsicles?
- B. The result of a STEM activity
involving volume, mass, ratios,
states of matter (liquids and solids)?
- C. Both? (answer below)



Half day \$40, Full day \$60. More details and bookings:

www.truelearning.online/Christmas

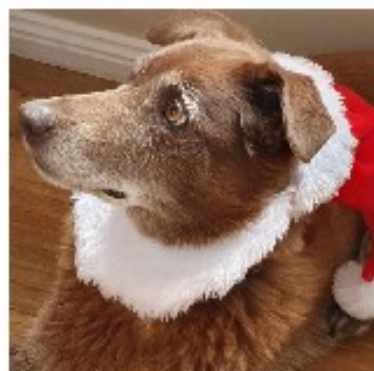
Wendy, 0414 816 464

Follow TRUE LEARNING on Facebook for:

- ❖ School holiday program in January
- ❖ 2020 after school activities

[FB.com/TrueLearningPrograms](https://www.facebook.com/TrueLearningPrograms)

Answer: It's C, but the horses just think it's their Christmas treat!



Is this safe?



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