



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.

Earlier this term I had to share some confronting news with the staff team here at St Mary MacKillop and yesterday I shared it with our kindergarten families through a letter which was sent home. I have included the contents of the letter in this edition of the KIT so that our whole community is informed and able to give support at this challenging time.

"I am writing to you to ask for your support and understanding as our community enters a challenging time. One of our wonderful staff members, Miss Brittany Gillespie has been recently diagnosed with Stage 2 Ovarian Cancer and has begun the medical treatments recommended by her doctors.

It is an enormously challenging time for Miss Gillespie and she is going to need all of our love and support in the times ahead. Her treatment will require her to be absent from school on occasions and will likely require some adjustment to her role and workload as well. I know we can rely on your support in understanding why she won't always be the teacher standing at the front of your child's class. This understanding is a beautiful gift you give to Miss Gillespie so that she is not burdened by the stress of choosing between the children and her health.

We also understand that this will raise some questions for you as parents about how your child's needs at school will be met effectively. An outline of the school's plan on how we will continue to meet the learning needs of your child as well as their welfare needs will follow as another note from the school shortly.

In the spirit of promoting 'Safe, Respectful, Learners' our school supports staff to take leave when they are not well. Thank you for your support and understanding."

In planning with Miss Gillespie about how to let the staff, families and community know of the challenge she is facing, she has consistently asked me to be open in sharing information and grateful for the support she is receiving. However, we are aware that news such as this may affect others in broad and unexpected ways. We ask for your care and support for Miss Gillespie but also for those others in our community who are or have been impacted by illness and poor health.

Together We Grow
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

2020 Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

The 2020 Sacramental Program began on Tuesday night (7pm, 25th Feb) with a Parent Information session. A reminder that the Commitment Masses for First Reconciliation are this weekend; Saturday 29th Feb and Sunday 1st March. You can attend any of the masses at St Nicholas:

Saturday 29th Feb at 6pm

Sunday 1st March at 8:30am, 10am or 6pm.

At the Commitment Mass you will need to present your completed Enrolment Form (green) that was handed out at the Parent meeting on Tuesday 25th February. All children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation **must** be enrolled in the program.

All enquires to Mary Gale (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 02 47212509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



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 the 2020 Project Compassion Appeal is 'Let's Go Further, Together' - which is about how we can only succeed when everyone is looked after. We should work together as one human family so our sisters and brothers - our neighbours - around the world don't have to live in poverty.

For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia (the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development) has been privileged to work together with our neighbours – our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in Australia 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. Project Compassion demonstrates how we can go further together to transform the lives of others.

Religious Education News—Continued

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, Caritas will share with us the stories of six people who have, and continue to be helped by Caritas Australia through the donations we make to Project Compassion. The stories 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.

These inspiring stories, as seen below, will highlight the importance of working hand in hand with communities around the world.

Week 1 Shirley from the Philippines
Week 2 Phany (Par-nee) from Cambodia
Week 3 Barry from Australia
Week 4 Sakun from India
Week 5 Tawonga from Malawi
Week 6 Dominic from Papua New Guinea

This week all classes received a 2020 Project Compassion box to place on their prayer space in their classroom. Over the next six 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 2020 Project Compassion Appeal..... 'Let's go further, together'

First Week of Lent – Sunday 1st March

Around 2.8 million children in the Philippines do not go to school.

We begin Project Compassion learning about the story of Shirley from the Philippines. Shirley was struggling to support her family and keep her children in School. She faced regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting her family's access to food, education, employment and healthcare. With Caritas Australia's support, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker. She has learnt to supplement her income and is able to feed her family. The program has also empowered Shirley to send her children to school. Watch a short film about Shirley's story: <https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/week-1#blank>



Second Week of Lent – Sunday 8th March

In Cambodia, 1 in 8 people live below the poverty line.

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Phany (pronounced Parn-ee). Struggling to earn a living as a farmer in Cambodia, Phany was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village to take up construction work in the city. Thankfully, through a Caritas funded program, Phany learnt new farming techniques which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water in her drought-stricken region. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes. Watch a short film about Phany's story: Watch a short film about Shirley's story <https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/week-2>



Catholic Schools Week Liturgy - 9:15am Thursday 5th March

This year from 1-7 March 2020 St Mary MacKillop will join with Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Catholic Schools Week is about forging and strengthening connections between everyone who has a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community. Our school has a supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, P&F, clergy, parishioners and support staff who work together to give students the best education possible.

To celebrate CSW, please join us for a Liturgy of the Word, organised by Year 5 at 9:15am on Thursday 5th March.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees have now been issued and mailed to your home/billing address. If you have not received your statement please make contact with the school office.

School Fees payment for Instalment 1 is **due by 18th March 2020**.

If you are having any difficulties in paying your school fees please make contact with our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 47243200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. Payments through the office can be paid by Cash & EFTPOS. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Leaving Students

The Diocesan Tuition Fee and School Building Levy are annual fees billed in terms 1, 2 and 3. A pro rata fee based on weeks enrolled for the year is made for students entering the School part way during a term. If a student leaves the School during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term. Other School Based Fees for items such as camps, excursions, materials or technology may be charged to a student's account and are payable under the same conditions as Diocesan Fees.

A term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

Mrs Monique Kearins
Senior Finance Officer

Staff Development Day

Our next scheduled Staff Development Day is Friday, 27 March. There will be no school on this day for all students.





2021 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

St Mary MacKillop Primary School
Wednesday 11th March at 7pm

Please join us for our
Kindergarten information
session followed by a tour
of the school and the
opportunity to chat with
our leadership team.

Enrolment packages will be available on the night or from our
school office.

Any questions please contact the school office on ph:4724 3200
or email us on stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au

Fiat Lifted Live Junior Event

On Wednesday, 12th February our Faith in Action Team (FIAT) attended an event called 'Lifted Live Junior' with Miss Neilsen and Miss Wotherspoon. This is a free event run by the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Youth Parramatta. About 250 Stage Three primary school students gathered together to enjoy a day of prayer, discussion and music with Genevive Bryant. She is a highly acclaimed Catholic singer, songwriter and performer from Victoria. The students had a great time meeting students from other schools, Genevive Bryant and our Bishop; Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen. The team gathered at the end of the day to begin planning what they wanted to do in our community to promote the key themes from Pope Francis' post-synodal apostolic exhortation on young people; Christus Vivit. We look forward to seeing what they have planned.

Miss Neilsen & Miss Wotherspoon



P & F News

Thank you to everyone who came to our welcome BBQ last Wednesday, it was wonderful to see so many of you there!

Next Tuesday 3rd March we are holding our first P&F meeting of the year and we would love to have as many of you there as possible. Many of you will by now have seen the new play space that was constructed near the library over the Christmas period. This is partly thanks to the result of our fundraising efforts for grounds beautification for our school and now our children get to enjoy this amazing space.

We welcome each and every one of you to come along to our meeting, to provide input and fresh ideas and to make 2020 a great year for our school community where we can continue to raise funds for the benefit of our children whilst also building our sense of community and partnership with the school.

WHAT: P&F MEETING
WHEN: TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 7:00PM
WHERE: SCHOOL HALL

Veronica Neal
P & F President

RAFFLE TICKETS – Raffle tickets were sent home out families last week, if you'd like more to sell, please contact the office.

We have some great prizes up for grabs:

1 st	Apple iPad (32GB, Wi-Fi)	6 th	Captain Cook Harbour Story Cruise for 2
2 nd	Overnight stay at The Fairmont Resort, Leura with breakfast	7 th	Scenic World Blue Mountains Family Pass
3 rd	Barefoot Bowls Session for 10 adults at Penrith Bowling & Recreation Club + \$10 drink voucher pp	8 th	Jenolan Caves Tour Family Pass
4 th	\$100 Jorja James Day Spa Voucher with product basket	9 th	TreeTop Adventure Park Family Entry Pass
5 th	4 x General Admission passes to The Australian Turf Club	10 th	Penrith Whitewater Rafting Guided Session
		11 th	Atmosphere Health & Fitness Club Gift Pack

There will be a children's raffle every Friday from Week 7 for those children who have bought their raffle tickets back!

RIDE BAND PRE-PURCHASE – Once again we will have some amazing rides and inflatables at this year's fete. Ride passes are available for purchase online:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BGFQI>

Notes are going home this week to pre-purchase ride bands.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Platinum – **Wildman Cranes**

Gold – **Outback Steakhouse**

Gold – **Bella Dental Penrith**

Silver – **West Air**

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 smmppandf@gmail.com to receive your Sponsorship proposal.

TRASH AND TREASURE – DONATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

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 can be taken to the school office. 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 of the support we can get.

Looking forward to an amazing fete!

The Fete Committee



St Mary MacKillop Primary School

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

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 your device).



Wednesdays during school terms.

Supervision provided from **3.00pm**.

YOUNGER KIDS (K-Yr. 2) -Class 3.15pm (1 hour)

OLDER KIDS (Yr3– Yr7) - Class 4.15pm (1 hour)

(Children from all schools welcome)

Supervision also available from **3.00pm till 4.15pm** for OLDER KIDS and after class for the YOUNGER KIDS until **5.15pm** upon request .

KIDS CAN ACT is a

CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROVIDER

Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158
www.kidscanact.com.au

Mrs Parkes has taught for 12 years at St Mary MacKillop in a part time capacity.

She is always happy to chat to discuss your child's needs and answer any questions

LIKE OUR FACE BOOK PAGE :- <https://www.facebook.com/KidsCanActDramaStudio/>

After School Drama

St Mary MacKillop School Hall

Wednesdays

**CLASSES START
WEDNESDAY
12th FEB**



**ASK ABOUT
2 week TRIAL!
Enrolment required**

INFANTS KIDS (K-YR2) @ 3.15pm

PRIMARY KIDS (YR3-6) @ 4.15pm

Limited Vacancies! Get in quickly!

www.kidscanact.com.au

Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158

ENQUIRIES and ENROLMENTS to be completed through the website above or call Cathie. NOT the school office.

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	28 February	8:15am-8:45am 2:20pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	3 March	7pm	P & F Meeting
Thursday	5 March	9:15am	Catholic Schools Week—Liturgy of the Word
Friday	6 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Wednesday	11 March	7pm	Kindergarten Parent Information Session
Thursday	12 March	9:00am	School Cross Country
Friday	13 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	17 March	9:00am	4V at CARES Excursion
Wednesday	18 March	9:00am	4M at CARES Excursion
Friday	20 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	27 March		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS TODAY



Co-educational Year 7 -12
75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Enrolling now for all year groups 2021

Open Evening Tuesday 10 March 2020
5.00pm to 8.00pm

- ♦ Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders
- ♦ Tours of the College facilities
- ♦ Enrolment packages available
- ♦ Principal Presentations

Enquiries: 4728 8100
Website: www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au
Like us on Facebook: @PenolaEmuPlains
Follow us on Twitter: @PenolaEmuPlains





Tuesday, 3 March

4pm-6pm

**Prospective 2021 students and families
welcome to attend Xavier College Open
Night**

**Tours and applications forms available
on the night.**

2021 ENROLMENTS

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

Open Night: Monday 9th March 2020

4:30pm - 7:30pm

.....
Come along and see for yourself why girls are
so happy to learn at Caroline Chisholm College.
.....

Tours of the college: 4:30 - 7:30pm

Principal's information sessions:

5:30pm & 6:30pm



Further information can be obtained on our
website and Facebook pages.

www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au

90-98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park

Enrolment packages can be obtained by
contacting the college on:

4737 5500

Follow us on  

**CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
COLLEGE**



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

OPEN DAY 2020
SUNDAY, 8 MARCH

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL OPEN DAY AT THE COLLEGE**

**CENTRED ON THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT
BY OFFERING AN EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM
AND CONTEMPORARY FACILITIES**

MORNING SESSION

Commences at 10.00am, followed by a tour of the
College at 10.30am

AFTERNOON SESSION

Commences at 12.30pm, followed by a tour of the
College at 1.00pm



A 54 - 94 Gascoigne Street Kingswood NSW 2747 T 02 4731 1933
W www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au E info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au

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
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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