



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.

"Australia's first Catholic school was opened in October 1820 by George Morley, a Roman Catholic teacher who was paid the handsome sum of one penny per student (...provisioned from the Government Stores", according to an account by Catholic educator Br Kelvin Canavan).

The school, which Catholic historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, taught 31 students. By 1833, there were 10 Catholic schools in the colony.



There are now more than 1750 Catholic schools nationally, educating some 765,000 students.

This is one in five Australian students – a remarkable achievement considering that until the early 1970s, Catholic schools were funded almost entirely by parents and their local parish communities

Earlier this term I had to share some confronting news with the community here at St Mary MacKillop through the KIT. In that article, I asked 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.

In true St Mary MacKillop school 'style' the partnership between home and parish answered the call. One example of this was at the P and F meeting last week. The group discussed what we believed the community might need at this time and a suggestion was put forward that perhaps parents and carers may need some resources on how to talk to their kids in times such as these. I have followed the suggestion and have shared below some insights we have been using from the 'Cancer Council' resources we have here at school. They can be accessed online at: <https://www.cancer.org.au/>. I hope you may find some support in the suggested approaches below

Children aged 3–6 years.	Children aged 6–12 years
<p>Suggested approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide brief and simple explanations about cancer; repeat or paraphrase when necessary • talk about cancer using picture books, dolls or stuffed animals • read a story about issues such as nightmares or separation anxiety • assure them that they have not caused the illness by their behaviour or thoughts, nor will they catch cancer • explain what children can expect; describe how schedules may change • reassure them that they will be taken care of and will not be forgotten • encourage them to have fun • listen and be alert to their feelings, which they may express through speech or play • let children get physical activity every day to use up excess energy and provide an outlet for any anxiety or aggression • continue usual discipline and limit-setting 	<p>Suggested approaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be alert to their feelings (expressed through speech or play) and let them know you care • use books to explain cancer and treatment • use sport, art or music to help children express and manage their feelings • assure them that they did not cause the cancer by their behaviour or thoughts, and that it is not contagious • reassure them about their care and schedule and tell them that it's okay to have fun • let them know that their other family and teachers are healthy • give them age-appropriate tasks to do around the house • tell them that you won't keep secrets and will always tell them what is happening • help them understand that what their schoolmates say may not always be right – encourage them to check with you • discuss the issue of dying if your kids bring up the topic

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 where He was tested.

Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. During Lent we are encouraged to 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 reminds us to think about God and the Season of Lent. More recently, Lent has also become a time to take things up: a balance of fasting and feasting.

Fasting and Feasting

Lent should be more than a time of fasting.
It should also be a joyous season of feasting.
Lent is a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others.

It is a season to turn to God:

Fast from judging others; feast on the goodness in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal Truth.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feasts on truths that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that supports.
~William Arthur Ward



Term 1 2020 Social Justice Initiative

We are well under way with our first Social Justice Initiative of 2020 and the students have been giving generously to those less fortunate than themselves. The theme for Project Compassion 2020 is “Go Further Together”.

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 can buy two notebooks for a child to use in school in Cambodia

\$5 can buy 3 packets of vegetable seeds to provide food for a family in Cambodia

\$20 can buy a one week supply of food for a family in Papua New Guinea

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 2020 **Project Compassion Appeal**. You can also donate online via the website www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

Third Week of Lent – Sunday 15th March

Project Compassion, Week 3, brings you the story of Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western NSW. Barry is a father of four and he embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family.



Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may have been life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect.

Your support of Project compassion can help build a brighter future for people like Barry through the Red Dust Healing program. Watch a short film about Barry's story at <https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/week-3#blank>

Fourth Week of Lent – Sunday 22nd March

*In India, over 70 million people live on less than US\$1.90 per day.** Sakun lives in a village in central north India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her.



In 2018, Sakun joined a Caritas Australia-funded program which is implemented by Caritas India and its local partner, Samarthan. With your help Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent. Watch a short film about Sakun's story at <https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/week-4#blank>

Let's Go Further, Together! Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

*Source: <https://worldpoverty.io/>

2020 Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

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



Thursday 2nd April.

Sienna B, Sophia D, Joel D, Amelia E, Xavier F, Malik F, Misa F, Sonny G, Mia G, Indie G, Micah K, Janice K, Lachlan Mc, Lachlan Mc, Parker M, Hayley M, Kasey M, Angel N, Jake N, Sophija P, Olivia P, Maddison Q, Luka R, Will S, Scarlett T and Alannah Y.

Whole School Easter Celebration – 9:15am Thursday 9th April

This year to celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will focus on the last week of Jesus' life as the students dramatise the events of Holy Week. Please join us in the hall on Thursday 9th April at 9:15am for our celebration of Easter.

After we return from the school holidays we will gather together to celebrate the Resurrection and ANZAC Day.

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator



Staff Development Day

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



Welcome back to another busy year in the MacKillop library. The students have settled in well and are keen to make use of the learning space and the resources available to them. Borrowing has begun and most students have remembered to bring their library bags to school on their allocated day. I would ask that parents encourage their children to borrow and read books **EVERY** week, particularly as they become independent readers. The library is open **every day** at lunchtime, students are welcome to come and participate in quiet activities such as reading, drawing, playing board games and puzzles. Our Kindergarten students have been very keen to come to the library and enjoy choosing their books to take home to share with their families.



The **2020 Premier's Reading Challenge** started on March 2 and will run until August 31. Students are encouraged to start reading and recording their books now. More information can be found at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Kindergarten students will complete the challenge at school with their teachers. Mrs Eisenhuth will register all kindergarten students, a note will go home with more details. Students in Years 1-6 wishing to participate in the challenge who have not received their login details will need to let Mrs. Eisenhuth or their classroom teacher know.

Maree Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian

Year 1 Bug Incursion

This term in Science, Year 1 have been learning about living things. On Thursday 20th February, Year 1 participated in a Bug incursion. Year 1 had the opportunity to dig and discover the bugs hidden in the compost using paddlepop sticks and magnifying glasses. They learnt from Effie and Chris who shared with them information about the different bugs that they brought. Some of the bugs at the incursion were Stick insects, worms, cockroaches, pillbugs, millipedes, and slugs. The students enjoyed being able to have a hands-on experience learning more about these smaller living things.



P & F News

Thank you to everyone who attended our P&F meeting last week. It was great to see so many new faces and to share fresh ideas!

We are excited to be gearing up for Term 2 with our fete which will be a fantastic day! Please make sure you return your raffle tickets and start purchasing your ride bands etc. It takes the efforts of our whole school community to come together and make the fete an amazing event so please keep an eye out for ways that you can volunteer before and on the day!

Veronica Neal
P & F President



Sport News

Congratulations to Alex M who made it into the Parramatta Diocesan Team for Football (Soccer). Congratulations to Koby L and Deklan X who made the Parramatta Diocesan Team for AFL.

We wish you good luck boys!

Miss Wotherspoon
Sports Co Ordinator



OUR AMAZING SPONSORS - 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



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

We have some great prizes up for grabs:

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

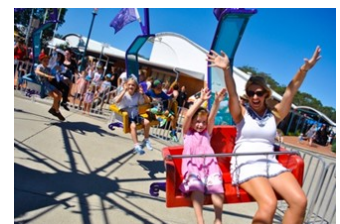
There will be a children's raffle every Friday from Week 7 for those children who have bought their raffle tickets back! First draw is Friday 13th March.

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>

We have some awesome rides on offer: The Storm Ride, The Turbo Flyers, Mini Putt Putt Golf, Giant Inflatable Slide, Jurassic Adventures and Horizontal Bungee!

Pre-purchase tickets are available for \$25.00, amazing value! Available until May 1, 2020.



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. Some of our amazing Year 1 parents are busy cultivating plants, 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).

School Communication

APPOINTMENTS

If parents have matters of concern, questions or difficulties, staff are available to assist. The first point of contact is the child's class teacher, followed by the Stage Co-ordinator.

To ensure availability please phone the office to make an appointment. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher regarding his/her progress it is necessary to make an appointment before or after school. Appointments with class teachers can only be made outside of school hours. Parents are asked not to disturb classes - if there is an emergency please go to the office.



IGNITE YOUR PASSION!

St Mary MacKillop Primary School (South Penrith After School) Auskick Centre

Each Thursday starting 12th March - 2nd of April from 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Each child will receive: Auskick Lunch Box, Footy Cards, Activity Book, FOAM ALIVE, Footy Pump, AND an AFL Auskick Football!

Your child will enjoy a safe, fun, action-packed 4 week program of games and skill development, ideal for boys and girls aged 4-12 for only \$46

Register Now!

To register, visit play.afl/auskick and enter 'suburb name', then click on "St Mary MacKillop Primary School (South Penrith) Auskick Centre"

To receive FREE Tickets to GWS GIANTS home game, make sure you select YES to become a GIANTS RECRUITS!

For more information contact: Joel Cousens on 0438391551 Email: Joel.cousens@afl.com.au



Register at play.afl

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
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
Thursday	26 March		Mufti Day for Fete
Friday	27 March		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS TODAY
Thursday	2 April		Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday	3 April	8:15am-8:45am 2:20pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly
Thursday	9 April		Last Day of Term 1 for Students
Friday	10 April		Good Friday
Sunday	12 April		Easter Sunday

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	27 April		Term 2 Commences for all students
Friday	1 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	5 May		Diocesan Cross Country
Friday	8 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly



For parents/guardians of students:

2020 Student Residential Address and Other Information collection notice

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department), to advise you that the department has requested that your child's school provide a 'statement of addresses', in accordance with the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (Cth) (Regulation).

A *statement of addresses* contains the following information about each student at the school:

- Student residential address (**not student names**)
- Student level of education (i.e. whether the student is a primary or secondary student)
- Student boarding school status (i.e. whether the student is boarding or a day student)
- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and/or guardian(s)

Schools generate a record number for each student for the purposes of this collection, which is also provided to the department.

Purpose of the collection

This collection is routinely used to inform Commonwealth school education policy, and to help ensure that Commonwealth funding arrangements for non-government schools are based on need, and are fair and transparent.

The information collected in the *statement of addresses* will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate the estimated capacity of a school community to contribute to the schools' operating costs (capacity to contribute). Australian Government funding to non-government schools takes this estimated capacity to contribute into account.

On 20 September 2018 the Government announced that it will implement a new, improved capacity to contribute methodology used in the calculation of the Commonwealth's needs-based funding arrangements for non-government schools. Known as the direct measure of income (DMI), the proposed new methodology is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school. This is in contrast to the current area based measure which is a point in time analysis based on average circumstances in 2011 of the area in which students at the school lived. This change follows a review of the existing methodology by the National School Resourcing Board. Further information about the review and the Government's response can be found on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/review-socio-economic-status-ses-score-methodology>.

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Any use and disclosure of your personal information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with the Regulation.

Your personal information may be used by the department, or disclosed to the ABS, for the purposes of reviewing capacity to contribute methodology, calculating capacity to contribute and Commonwealth school education policy development (including school funding), or where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

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!