



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.*

The end of Term 3 is here and our staff will take a well-deserved two week break and return on **Monday 12th October**. The children will also take a well-deserved break from school routine, challenging learning and 'hard thinking' which characterise the school week.

I am mindful of the toll that this year has had on our community as we manage our way safely and carefully through this pandemic. I can see clearly the impact on our staff here and also on our children here. We have put processes in place to support and care for staff and students as required. I am not so clear, however, on the impact on our parents and families. I imagine that it mirrors what I have seen here at school with an increase in anxiety and worry, increased demands to be flexible and innovative and varying degrees of disconnection from our usual relationships. It will be as challenging for you at home as it is for us here at school. Please know that you are very much in the thoughts, hearts and prayers of the team at St Mary MacKillop School. **Where we can support and assist in any way, please reach out and make contact with us. We want to help – that is what it means to be in a partnership.**

I hope that in the two weeks ahead you are able to spend time as family, enjoying the time and space together and celebrate even the small and simple things. Be kind to yourself and know that we are very grateful for all that you do for us and our community.

### **Celebrating our Support Staff**

At this time it is important that we remember to find opportunities to celebrate. Our school took the opportunity this week to celebrate our fabulous School Support Staff. It has been a week of morning teas, chocolates and cards acknowledging how vital the gifts and talents that these colleagues bring to the community are. Congratulations and thank you to Mrs Kearins, Mrs Brock, Mrs Groger, Mrs Inskip, Mrs Daines, Mrs Breia, Mrs Napoli, Mr Meredith and Mr Nguyen for all that you do.

You can see how we celebrated this week at our school Facebook page.

Together We Grow  
 Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

### **CALLING ALL PARENTS**

Would you like to be a part of a Uniform Committee? We are seeking parents who are interested in helping us with feedback/experience regarding our school uniform and Lowes. To register your interest please email us at:

[stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au)

We will contact all our registered parents by Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.



**ATTENTION  
 PARENTS!**

## New Draft Religious Education Curriculum

Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has undergone much change in the last two years.

The process of developing a new approach, currently known as the Draft New Curriculum, has been a collaboration with students, parents, teachers, clergy and system leaders. Eventually, once trialled and approved, the new curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for over 20 years.

In Term 4 Kindergarten and Year 2 will trialling a new Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum.

<p>Kindergarten will be engaging with the question:</p> <p><b>How is God the Father present to all in our world?</b></p> <p>In this learning cycle the students will be inquiring about:</p> <p><i>How am I unique?</i></p> <p><i>How am I a gift from God to others?</i></p> <p><i>Why does caring for each other bring us closer to God?</i></p> <p><i>How can our lives reflect God's love?</i></p>	<p>Year 2 will be engaging with the question:</p> <p><b>What is Sacred Scripture?</b></p> <p>In this learning cycle the students have been inquiring about:</p> <p><i>What are sacred stories?</i></p> <p><i>Why are the Scriptures thought to be sacred?</i></p> <p><i>How can Sacred Scripture inspire us?</i></p> <p><i>How do the Sacred Scriptures enhance my relationship with God?</i></p>
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As the term progresses I, along with the Kinder and Year 2 teachers invite you to discuss with your child what they have been learning about and how they have been engaged in a variety of learning tasks.

## St Nicholas of Myra Parish Sacramental Program – Confirmation

**Parent Meeting Tuesday 13th October at 7pm**



Parents wishing to enrol their children in the program must attend an information session, which will be at St Nicholas of Myra Church on Tuesday 13th October at 7pm.

Please note that you must attend this meeting in order to enrol your child in the program. Further information regarding the program will be given at this meeting. ***To be eligible for Confirmation, children must be in Year 5 or above. They must be baptised and have made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.***

If you have any questions regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact the Sacramental Coordinator, Mary Gale

Ph: 4721 2509

Email: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

Mrs Gillard

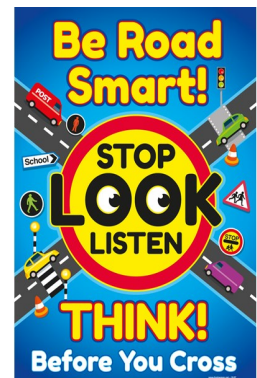
*Religious Education Coordinator*

## Road Safety

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The school has been made aware of unsafe practices in relation to double parking, illegally parking, children running across the road and parents making illegal u-turns.

Please always remember to park legally, be mindful of our neighbours and most importantly let's keep our children safe by using the pedestrian crossing at all times.



## Parent Survey Results—Draft New Religious Education Curriculum

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In Week 8 of this term, all parents of students involved in the Term 3 “Test Runs” of the Draft New Curriculum in Religious Education, were given the opportunity to share their feedback and insights. Thank you to all parents who were able to do so. You will see that it has been a positive response with the majority of parents agreeing to parents agreeing to each of the statements listed below:

- My child has enabled me to think about their faith
- My child has connected what they have learned to their life
- My child has responded positively to their lessons
- My child has spoken about their lessons at home

Important insights and points of feedback were also provided which, along with feedback from students and teachers, will be read and reflected on by Mission leaders as they continue to refine the Draft New Curriculum.

## School Fees

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Fee Relief for families financially affected by COVID-19 Fee relief is available to support families who are experiencing significant financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. There are three ways that parents/carers can apply for fee relief with the process made as simple as possible.

Information is available on the CEDP website and is also available via the link <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/Our%20Schools/School%20Fees/Fee%20Relief>

The page includes a list of ‘Frequently Asked Questions’.

If you are already on a payment arrangement or are awaiting the outcome of a concession application, then the statement is for information purposes only.

We are here to help. If you have any queries regarding your account or you were not affected financially by COVID-19 however require financial assistance or set up an arrangement, please contact Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 02 472 3200 or email [MMKP-SPRHfees@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:MMKP-SPRHfees@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## P & F News

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The P&F would like to wish everyone an enjoyable school holiday break. We look forward to seeing you all back for Term 4!!

### YEAR 6 PARENTS

As there is uncertainty around the end of year events, the P&F would like to put together a slide show for the children. Could you please send photos of your child from Kindy to Year 6 to [smmppandf@gmail.com](mailto:smmppandf@gmail.com) or alternatively drop a USB labelled with your child's name into the office by Friday of Week 2 of Term 4 we can start putting it together.

Veronica Neal  
P & F President

## St Mary Mackillop Orchestra & String Lessons

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St Mary Mackillop String Orchestra is made up of students from Years 3 - 6 as part of the school's Instrument Program.

These students (and their families!) demonstrate amazing commitment every week by attending rehearsals very early on a Wednesday morning.

We are continually impressed with their achievements in orchestra, each week improving their musical skills and learning all the important elements of playing in a large ensemble.

We look forward to being able to share with the St Mary Mackillop community all the wonderful musical achievements of the orchestra, we are very, very proud of them!

*Ms Borg and Mr Russek*



### ST MARY MACKILLOP STRING INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Thank you to Mr Andrew Russek and Mrs Anna Bray for their continued support of our string program students. We are very fortunate to have access to such talented musicians and teachers.

Well done to all of our students participating in the Strings Program as well as the families and school community for supporting such a valuable experience for our students.

*Creative Arts 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 your device).

## School Communication

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### 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.



## Dates for Your Diary Term 3 ~ 2020

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	25 September	9:00am-10:00am	<b>Last Day of Term 3</b> Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Monday	12 October		<b>Term 4 Resumes</b> —All students to return in Full Summer Uniform
Thursday	22 October		Whole School Photos

### KIDS CAN ACT OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

<b>WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT</b> <b>PENRITH</b>	<b>THURS 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>SPRINGWOOD</b>	<b>FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>SPRINGWOOD</b>	 <a href="http://WWW.KIDSCANACT.COM.AU">WWW.KIDSCANACT.COM.AU</a>
9.30-2.30pm <b>Fairylicious Fairies &amp; Mischievous Elves</b>	9.30-2.30pm <b>Pirates of the Has-Been</b>  2.30-5.00 pm <b>Drama Games &amp; Improvisation</b>	9.30 –2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>The Worst Holiday Ever</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCT</b> <b>SPRINGWOOD</b>	<b>THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCT</b> <b>SPRINGWOOD</b>	<b>FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b> <b>PENRITH</b>	<b>USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER</b> 
9.30-2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>A Magical Far, Far Away Land</b>  2.30-5.00pm <b>A Bag Full Of Stories- Storytelling</b>	9.30-2.30pm <b>Fairylicious Fairies &amp; Mischievous Elves</b> 	9.30 –2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> <b>The Worst Holiday Ever</b>  2.30- 5.00pm <b>Drama Games &amp; Improvisation</b>	

### KIDS CAN ACT OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

#### **Fairylicious Fairies** (4 –12yrs)

This workshop inspires the imagination as children play fairy games, hear fairy stories, and do fairy craft. The children will also take home a set of their very own fairy wings, a fairy headband, and a fairy wand

#### **Pirates of the Has-been** (4 –12yrs)

A bunch of old pirates decide to come out of retirement to teach the young whipper snappers how to be a REAL Pirate. Come walk the plank, talk like a pirate & enter the world of the Has-been Pirates. Learn how to be a REAL Pirate.

#### **The Worst Holiday Ever** (4-15yrs) - *1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie*

Our bags went missing and the chef in the restaurant doesn't speak English and doesn't know how to cook! There were ants in the bedroom climbing up the walls and across the ceiling over the bed. The power stopped working, no aircon and worst of all it was Christmas Eve and the shops were shut! Let's have fun in the Hotel from Hell! Let's work out what our character is and how we fit into the story. Let's film it!

#### **A Magical Far, Far Away Land** (4 –15yrs) - *1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie*

Hold on tight to that magic carpet! Travel east of the sun and west of the moon! A girl whose magical necklace of raindrops keeps her dry in a storm; a tiger that runs faster than the wind; a huge floating apple pie with a piece of sky in it; a baker's cat who swells to the size of a whale; - these are just some of the things that may happen.

#### **A Bag Full Of Stories- Storytelling** (4 –15yrs)

The ancient art of storytelling is for all ages. Storytelling can encourage children to explore their own imagination and expressiveness. In our fast-paced world of mass media, storytelling can be a nurturing way to remind children that the spoken word is powerful, listening is important, and warm communication between people is an art.

#### **Drama Games & Scenarios** (4–15yrs)

Great fun where children get to work in groups or individually and be creative. Working as a team improves friendships and teaches us how to work with , cooperate, develop leadership skills and listen to others.

*Owner reserves the right to cancel any workshops that do not have the required number to operate.*

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

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Penrith RSL Cricket Club Master Blasters  
Saturday Mornings starting 17th October  
Fast, Fun, All equipment provided  
\$99 for 8 weeks, or FREE with Active Kids Voucher  
Head to [playcricket.com.au](http://playcricket.com.au) and enter your postcode!

\*BASED ON PROGRAM RRP OF \$99. MORE INFO AT [SERVICE.NEW.GOV.AU/ACTIVEKIDS](http://SERVICE.NEW.GOV.AU/ACTIVEKIDS)

JOIN A CREW NEAR YOU TODAY PLAY CRICKET

OFFICIAL BALL PENRITH





## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN GUIDE

Only @ LOLLIPOPS PENRITH

**\$20 per child (includes pizza meal & drink) Hire of nerf equipment plus a skull bandana to keep. Bookings essential. For ages 5-10 years only.**

MONDAY 5TH SEPT	TUESDAY 26TH SEPT	WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPT	THURSDAY 1ST OCT	FRIDAY 2ND OCT
 <small>T&amp;C - Must mention this Ad for the deal, valid with a full paying child. No drink voucher issued and not to be used with any other offer.</small>	 <b>4PM - 8pm</b> <b>BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL</b> <small>SEE TOP OF FLYER FOR INFO</small>	 <b>11AM</b> <b>FREE TATTOOS</b>	<p>We are open 9:30-4pm</p>	<p><b>11AM</b></p> <p><b>Free Character meet &amp; greet</b></p>  
MONDAY 8TH OF OCT	TUESDAY 9TH OF OCT	WEDNESDAY 7TH OCT	THURSDAY 6TH OCT	FRIDAY 5TH OCT
<p><b>Public Holiday</b></p> <p>We are open 9:30-4pm</p>	<p><b>11AM</b></p> <p><b>Free Character meet &amp; greet</b></p>  	 <small>T&amp;C - Must mention this Ad for the deal, valid with a full paying child. No drink voucher issued and not to be used with any other offer.</small>	 <b>4PM - 8pm</b> <b>BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL</b> <small>SEE TOP OF FLYER FOR INFO</small>	<p><b>11AM</b></p> <p><b>FREE TATTOOS</b></p>  

**ONLY AT LOLLIPOPS PENRITH, U2 233 MILLOOA RD PENRITH [www.penrith.lollipopplayland.com.au](http://www.penrith.lollipopplayland.com.au)**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR FORTNITE NERF BATTLE BY CALLING 4721-2552**



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

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