



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.

Do not be afraid (1908) Let love guide you in all your life (1873)
St Mary MacKillop

How easily we can become tense and afraid. The kids are late; a loved one is sick; we experience failure. A certain amount of fear is healthy. It can help us anticipate danger and take action to face or avoid it. It is, however, not healthy to allow excessive anxiety to dominate us.

Mary's answer to our unhealthy fears is to let love guide you in all your lives. Love is the name John gives to God. If we could live in the present moment and allow Love into our lives in that present moment, wherever we are, would it make a difference? *If we have love in our hearts we have God with us – St Mary MacKillop (1890).*

Living in the Presence, and casting her fears on to that Loving Presence, was Mary's approach. It did not remove her fears and worries, but helped her foster a peaceful spirit.
 From "The Little Brown Book – Mary MacKillop's spirituality in our everyday lives".

Saturday 8th August is the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop our patron saint. Our school community will celebrate the life and legacy of St Mary MacKillop on Friday here at school. It will, however be a slightly different type of celebration from what we are used to and would prefer.

As the ongoing health crisis rises again in NSW and our daily lives continue to be restricted and strained the words of this inspiring woman resonate loudly for all who would listen. Over a century after she shared the words above with her community to promote peace and calm, they retain their relevance for our community today.

On Friday 7th August, the staff and students will reflect on the inspiration of our Patron Saint by participating in; a class liturgy / prayer, a learning activity about Mary MacKillop, an opportunity to make a gold coin donation to support her ongoing works of charity in the world and a celebration treat which will be provided by our Parents and Friends team. It will be very strange not to have families walking through classrooms and participating in Mass or liturgy but know that you will all be in our hearts, thoughts and prayers as we celebrate this day in hopeful anticipation of the time when we will all be able to gather again, face-to-face, as a community.

Together We Grow
 Mr Scott Buchan
 Principal

**Current Health advice for schools provided by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta:
 Activities on hold until further notice**

A small number of activities remain on hold and will be reconsidered during Term 3:

- Kindergarten orientation
- school camps
- excursions (school incursions can occur)
- interstate excursions
- international excursions (cancelled until further notice)
- gathering of large groups of staff (from either one school or from multiple schools) for face to face conferences, all day professional learning activities, meetings or planning sessions.
- parent and carer attendance at assemblies and other school events (schools may consider planning Year 12 graduation ceremonies adopting current restrictions and considering best and worst case scenarios or delaying until later in the year. Further advice will be issued if restrictions are relaxed later in the term)
- parent and carer volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted) school-based activities that involve large gatherings of adults. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events.

First Reconciliation

Please keep in your prayers the 37 St Mary MacKillop students who are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday 6th August at 5pm or 7pm.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession, Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Healing or Penance) is one of seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Penance is a sacrament instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins (wrong choices) committed after Baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sins and promise to try to do better in the future. It is called a "sacrament" not simply a ceremony, because it is an outward sign instituted by Christ to impart grace to the soul.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The Sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (John 20:21-23)

First Holy Communion – Dates from the Parish

First Communion Commitment Masses

Saturday 1st August at 6pm

Sunday 2nd August at 8:30am OR 10am OR 6pm

First Communion Family Session 1

Saturday 15th August at 4pm OR Sunday 16th August at 8:30am

First Communion Family Session 2

Saturday 22nd August at 4pm OR Sunday 23rd August at 8:30am

First Communion Family Session 3

Saturday 29th August at 4pm and Sunday 30th August at 8:30am

First Communion practice

7pm Tuesday 1st September

First Holy Communion Masses

Saturday 5th September at 6pm OR Sunday 6th September 8:30am or 10am

Saturday 12th September at 6pm OR Sunday 13th September at 8:30am or 10am



If there are any questions please contact Mary Gale (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509 Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Saturday 8th August

Mary MacKillop's Story 1842 - 1909

On January 15, 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents,

Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria.

Mary, the eldest of eight children, was well educated by her father who spent some years studying for the priesthood in Rome but through ill health had returned to Scotland until 1835 when he migrated to Australia with his parents. Unfortunately, he lacked financial awareness, so the family was often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another.

From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family, as a governess, as a clerk for Sands and Kenny (now Sands and MacDougall), and as a teacher at the Portland school. While acting as a governess to her uncle's children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time Mary's family depended on her income so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.



Religious Education News

Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867, Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to come to Adelaide to start a school. From there, the Sisters spread, in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia, New Zealand, and now in Peru, Brazil and refugee camps of Uganda and Thailand. Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people outside the Church and even from some of those within it. In the most difficult of times she consistently refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined. Since then the Congregation has grown and now numbers about 900, working mainly in Australia and New Zealand but also scattered singly or in small groups around the world. The "Brown Joeys" may be seen in big city schools, on dusty bush tracks, in modern hospitals, in caravans, working with the "little ones" of God - the homeless, the new migrant, the Aboriginal, the lonely and the unwanted, in direct care and in advocacy, in standing with and in speaking with. In their endeavours to reverence the human dignity of others and to change unjust structures, the Sisters and those many others who also share the Mary MacKillop spirit continue the work which she began.

This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. In today's world, she stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need. *(Extract from the Sisters of St Joseph)*

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations: Week 3 - Friday 7th August

Due to CO-VID restrictions, our celebrations to honour our school patron, St Mary MacKillop, have to be a little different. This year, on Friday 7th August we will have:



- *An in-class liturgy*
- *Grade based activities to learn more about St Mary MacKillop*
- *A mufti day where all children are encouraged to bring a gold coin or two, so our school community can carry on St Mary MacKillop's motto of "Never see a need without doing something about it." So start collecting your GOLD COINS now!!!!!!!!!!*
- *A special treat from the P & F*

Feast of the Assumption: Saturday 15th August

Saturday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. God gave her this privilege because of her sinlessness and role as the Mother of Jesus.

Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption there will be a prayer experience for the students in each classroom on Friday 14th August.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Sports News

The St Mary Mackillop Athletics Carnival will be held week 5, Thursday 20th August, 2020. A formal note will be coming home shortly with further information. As a reminder, due to the current health advice and the current climate, no spectators will be present on the day. We appreciate your understanding with this. Students will be dropped off at school on the day of the carnival and taken to the carnival via bus.

In regards to the 2020 ZONE & DIOCESAN Athletics Carnivals to be held in Term 3, the decision has been made that these events have been CANCELLED due to the nature of the event and the current Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 4) 2020 (June 30) Division 3 Community Sporting Events - Clause 17 Direction of Minister concerning maximum number of participants: The Minister directs that the organiser of a community sporting activity must ensure that a gathering for the activity involves no more than 500 participants.

Thank you for your understanding with this,

Cassandra Wotherspoon
Sports Coordinator

School Banking

School Banking is back

School Banking is back. School Banking Day will be **Friday**, commencing on **Friday, 31st July 2020**.



School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way to help young Australians learn about money and practice good savings habits. For each weekly deposit made at school, students will receive a Dollarmites token. Once they collect 10 tokens, they can redeem them for a School Banking reward.

If your child has previously participated in School Banking, or has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account, they can start banking straight away by bringing their Dollarmites deposit wallet to school on School Banking day.

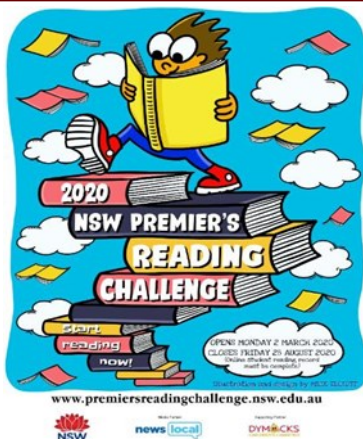
If your child has lost their deposit wallet, please contact your School Banking Co-ordinator or visit any Commonwealth Bank branch for a replacement.

Our School Banking program is made possible because of volunteers, Mrs Nellie Ellis. Thank you for donating your time to run School Banking for our students.



If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2020 School Banking program parent guide from the school office or visit

www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking



The 2020 Premier's Reading challenge closes on **August 25**. We are excited to see how many students have registered for the challenge. Don't forget to log your books before the closing date; we will celebrate completed challenges in Term 4 when certificates will be distributed. If you are having issues logging in, please let your classroom teacher know. Congratulations to our Kindergarten students who have been completing the challenge at school as a grade.

We will celebrate Book Week in Term 4, it has been postponed to October as a result of Covid-19. We will share with you more about this later.

Thank you to those families who have returned library books, we will look at returning to borrowing for students in a safe appropriate way soon.

In the meantime, keep reading every day.

Mrs Eisenhuth (Teacher Librarian)

Mrs Napoli (Library Assistant)



P & F News

On Friday 7th August the P&F will be providing a treat for all of the children as they celebrate the Feast of St Mary MacKillop.

Specific details of the treat are yet to be decided but we will endeavour to keep you updated via the school's Facebook page as well as the P&F's Facebook page. We understand that with allergies and food intolerances the treat that we choose may not be able to be enjoyed by all of the children so we do encourage you to add a little something from home to your child's lunchbox on that day if you are in doubt, rather than have them miss out.

The P&F are currently working on a way to have a Father's Day stall...we will keep you posted, but rest assured we have some amazing gifts for the dads this year!

Veronica Neal
P & F President

ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information.

Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they do not want their child's data included in this report by 28 August 2020

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school office.

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.

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2020

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	31 July	9:30am-11:00am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Thursday	20 August		Primary Athletics Carnival **Subject to Health Advice** Confirmation will follow
Friday	28 August	TBA	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open

EXTENDED TRADING HOURS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

LOWES

2 DAYS ONLY - 6TH - 7TH AUGUST
ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS

20% OFF
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE!



SHOP IN-STORE & ONLINE

On the day of the event, Lowes will have measures in place to restrict customer numbers and movement throughout the store. Thank you for your support. Lowes will be enforcing social distancing, Marshalls wearing hi-vis vests will be on site. We ask for your support in limiting the number of people you take with you into the store.

DON'T HAVE A CARD? APPLY IN-STORE OR ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS.

*Offer ends midnight (AEST) 7/8/2020. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount. Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear layby's. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. 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. Savings off original prices.

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!