



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.*

### ***WE ARE MISSING YOU ALL.....***

The team here at St Mary MacKillop are working hard to bring the feeling of celebration back to the life of our school. We have celebrated 100 days of school with Kinder, Yr 1 and Yr2, we have celebrated our St Mary MacKillop feast day and principals even got celebrated recently. The fun and enjoyment have been a great boost for our staff and students. Thank you for your support in these events by helping with dress up costumes, building excitement at home and engaging with us through social media. It is greatly appreciated.

However, there is a feeling of loss that we are experiencing by not having our full community present in our school. Our celebrations just don't feel the same without our parents, grandparents, families and friends with us in person. I know that you are feeling the same way. Our hope is for the future to bring us improved health advice that allows us to be both safe and able to be together. We all know that St Mary MacKillop School is better when we are all together.

One positive outcome from this isolation that we have identified and are working on is a review of our communication strategy and processes. We believe that we can improve the way we share the information, events and life of our community. A team from our school has been working with experts from our system office to explore ways to improve aspects such as our Facebook page.

One change that we will be making soon is closing our Skoolbag App account. We will be using another service named "Compass – Parent Portal" to share notes and messages. It will also allow us to communicate by SMS with parents and give parents access to their child's half yearly and yearly reports anywhere and anytime. This system will take some time to learn and we are planning now how to support the community in making the change during Term 4 this year. I welcome you to join us in improving the way we connect.

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.

#### **Tell Them From Me**

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In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at *St Mary MacKillop Penrith South*.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

[www.tellthemfromme.com/smmk](http://www.tellthemfromme.com/smmk)



### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following students who made their First Reconciliation on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August:

*Nicholas B, Anthony B, Sienna B, Ben B, Ruby C, Will C, Sophia D, Joel D, Amelia E, Misa F, Dominic F, Sonny G, Mia G, Lachlan 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, Lachlan P, Maddison Q, Will S, Scarlett T and Natasha W*



### St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations: Week 3 - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Last Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> August the front St Mary MacKillop Primary School was decorated with balloons and banners to begin the celebration for the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, Australia's First Saint!



The students, dressed in mufti clothes, were greeted with hymns about Mary MacKillop that rung out over the loudspeakers and into the local community. At the front gate Mary MacKillop welcomed the children and collected their gold coin donations – this re-enacted what Mary and her fellow nuns did in the streets of Melbourne to raise money for their important work in helping the poor. Each year the school has a fundraiser as a response to Mary MacKillop's famous phrase of:

*Never see a need without doing something about it.*

As a Josephite school we live by this powerful motto of St Mary MacKillop to, in small way, help the mission of Mary continue to flourish in our community today.

The children were very generous and just over \$650 was raised. This money will be sent to 'Mary MacKillop Today', an organisation where the vision of Australia's first Saint and of the Sisters of Saint Joseph is being realised. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, they work to help people in Australia and beyond.

At 9am the staff and students participated in class liturgies and then engaged in grade based activities to learn more about St Mary MacKillop. Year 3 learnt about Mary MacKillop's family, Year 4 investigated that Josephite emblem and Year 5 researched and completed a 'Mary - This Is Your Life' Quiz.

All students were asked to embrace their inner artist and an inaugural art competition was begun. The brief was simple - create an artwork that represents our Patron, Saint Mary MacKillop. Once all the artworks are completed, a winner from infants and primary will be announced.

Fr Joe, our Parish Priest, visited classrooms and spoke to the children about why St Mary MacKillop is so special to our school.

Our celebration concluded with every student receiving a treat from our wonderful P and F and the staff enjoying a special morning tea.

In honouring and celebrating our Patron Saint we aim to keep the memory of St Mary MacKillop alive in our community. We all need saints to give us hope, to challenge us and to show us the way to live a good life. We strive to encourage our students to follow in her footsteps by trusting in God, loving and serving others and spreading the Good News. We want our students show our love and care for the poor and needy in our world thoughts their thoughts and actions.

Here are a few photos from the day:





## Religious Education News



## Library News

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)



## Sports News

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The Athletics carnival is fast approaching, it is next week, the 20th August 2020. This is a reminder that due to the current NSW health advice, **no spectators or parent helpers are allowed on the day**. We appreciate your support with this.



On the day, all students will be transported to Parker Street Oval by bus, and brought back to school by bus for normal pick up routine in the afternoon. **No students are able to leave the carnival early or be collected before the 3 o'clock bell in the afternoon.** Thank you kindly for your understanding. We are looking forward to a great day.

Sports Team

## School Fees

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Your School Fees statement for Instalment 3 have now been posted. We are aware of the financial strain that COVID-19 is having on some families and its impact on their capacity to pay school fees, we have asked families to pay 'what they can when they can'.

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)

## Office News

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Please note the school office hours have changed. The office will be open as follows:

Monday to Thursday: 8:15am—3:30pm  
Friday: 8:45am—3:30pm



## 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

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Thursday	20 August		<b>Primary Athletics Carnival</b>
Friday	28 August	TBA	<b>Second Hand Uniform Shop Open</b>
Friday	25 September		<b>Last Day of Term 3</b>



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](http://www.beyondapeanut.com)  
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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