



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.

St Mary MacKillop School is not only a place for children to learn!!!

Over the past few weeks I have been meeting with our staff to talk about their learning this term. Wow!!! There has been a lot of learning I can assure you.

We have a team of truly dedicated, intelligent, compassionate and professional people working with your child every day. It probably doesn't surprise you that they also take their learning as seriously as the children's. Some areas of important learning that the team here have been engaging in are;
Developing leadership strategies to support colleagues,

Enhancing learning with technology such as flipgrid and Seesaw,

Creating more effective communication with parents and the community via technology,

Developing challenging learning based on the Year 7 and 8 curriculum in Mathematics and English,

Developing challenging and engaging learning based on a new Religious Education Curriculum,

Supporting student learning through developing and measuring specific research based interventions.

Even with the disruption to this year, the distraction of the current pandemic and the sense of loss because we are missing our community being close together, the learning is still going strong. The team do a great job supporting one another and remaining focussed on the kids but they really do deserve a well earned holiday break soon. The **30th of October is World Teacher's Day** this year and if you are grateful for this brilliant team, like I am, maybe you could let them know?

Our New Religion Curriculum.

Our team are busy at work trying out some of the proposed lessons that make up the Diocese of Parramatta's new Religion Curriculum. This term Years 6, 5, 4 and 3 have been testing the new model. Next term Year 2 and kindergarten will trial some lessons too. Last year Year 1 helped to build some of the lessons which they tested again this year.

There is a lot to learn for us about what teachers need to be successful in this work, what children want to know and learn in this work and how to best support the learning for everyone. That is why it is currently only a time to trial the lessons.

Our next step is to invite our parents and our parish to help us with our learning – we can't be in a partnership without you. If you get the chance this term or next term, it would be great if you could talk to your child about what they are learning in religion. What they like and don't like and what they find hard. I look forward to creating a way for us to discuss what this curriculum is and how it works and also to learn any insights that you have collected from your kids.

Together We Grow.
Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Current Health advice for schools provided by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta:

COVID-19 Testing

- Currently, no student should attend school if they are unwell. That still applies but now, each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms must have a COVID 19 test
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free

- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate
- These same protocols apply to school staff.

School Activities

- Wherever it's possible, schools will keep activities to Year groups or Stages (e.g. Year 5 and 6 together)
- Schools will stay within their local community area or zone for interschool activities, including sport.
- Group activities such as choirs, chanting and the use of wind instruments in a group setting won't take place
- Formal graduation ceremonies and other school-related social activities are now not allowed; however, a graduation assembly (e.g. Year 6 or Year 12) can take place but with restrictions. The assembly can only include the students from that Year group and staff. Regrettably, parents / carers and other family members are not able to attend the assembly. I know that schools are exploring creative ways to ensure parents and carers are part of this in other ways such as live streaming and the use of social media.
- Parent & Friends social events or functions can't take place
- School or community-run playgroups are on hold
- Kindergarten orientation and transition to school activities remain on hold

News from the Assistant Principal

Dear Families,

From now until the end of Term 3, students are welcome to choose to wear either full summer or full winter uniform.

The forecasted weather for the coming weeks is quite variable so you are welcome to change to full summer or full winter uniform depending on the weather each day.

From the start of Term 4, Monday 12th October, all students must be wearing full summer uniform.

Please see below our uniform and hair policies as per our Parent Handbook:

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Green check dress with St. Clementine green on collar, tab and sleeve cuffs
- White ankle length socks
- Black shoes

Girls' Winter Uniform

- School tunic or bottle green slacks
- Lemon long sleeve blouse with Peter Pan collar
- Green elastic-held tie
- Bottle green zip up jacket or sweater with school emblem
- Bottle green jumpers or cardigans may be worn under the jacket
- Black knee high socks or black tights
- Black shoes

Boys Summer Uniform

- Grey school shorts
- Pale lemon short sleeve shirt - open neck
- Grey ankle length socks
- Black shoes - NOT BOOTS OR JOGGERS

Boys' Winter Uniform

- Grey school trousers
- Long sleeve pale lemon shirt
- Bottle green tie
- Bottle green zip up jacket or sweater with school emblem
- Bottle green jumpers may be worn under the jacket
- Grey socks
- Black shoes - NOT BOOTS OR JOGGERS

HAIR:

If hair is below shoulder length, it must be tied back with a bottle green ribbon or scrunchie. Hair is not to be coloured for either boys or girls. Hair cuts are to be suitable for school for both boys and girls.

No hair extensions (NO MULLETS, NO. 1, ZIG ZAGS or RAZORING)

News from the Assistant Principal—Continued

National Child Protection Week: Putting Children First

We all play a part in keeping children and young people safe and ensuring they can live and learn in a safe environment. This National Child Protection Week (6 to 12 September 2020), we pledge commitment to listening to the voices of children and young people and remaining vigilant to their safety and wellbeing.

In support of the National Child Protection Week theme, “Putting Children First”, and in line with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) is committed to the establishment and implementation of child safe systems, policies and procedures.

The aim is to have in place practices that are proactive and preventative in nature, providing children and young people with school environments where they are safe, informed, participate, and where the adult community, working together with children and young people, work towards making this happen.

Recently, CEDP have moved from what was primarily Child Protection to Safeguarding, which requires us to do things differently, enabling a greater level of proactivity, children's voice and building all-round knowledge for what is safe behaviour when working with students and children. The CEDP Safeguarding team's role is to support the implementation of the Standards, to manage concerns raised about employees, Working With Children Checks (WWCC), and to provide training, education and support to the CEDP community.

By providing the community with the knowledge, support and procedures to keep children and young people safe we are equipping everyone with the tools and skills needed to be ambassadors of child safety! Throughout 2020, CEDP's Safeguarding Team have been working on many projects to align with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

Check out www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Building-Child-Safe-Communities - after all, what's more important than the knowledge to help keep children and young people safe!

Year 6 Voice of Youth

On Friday 4th September, the Year 6 Voice of Youth finalists presented their speeches to Mr Buchan, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Rowan Year 6 and the Year 6 teachers. The 6 finalists presented content rich speeches that were well rehearsed and delivered with confidence and poise. The finalists wrote and delivered their speeches on a range of topics that entertained, informed or persuaded us.

Our finalists were:

Summer
Elizabeth
Georgia
Emil
Rylee
Brok

First place was awarded to Summer and the Social Justice award went to Emil. Congratulations to both of these students on this outstanding achievement.

On behalf of the school community, we would like to congratulate all of Year 6 and especially the finalists of Voice of Youth for their dedication, persistence and resilience in delivering amazing speeches.

Year 6 Teachers



Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

We pray for and congratulate the following children who have received their First Holy Communion (on the 4th, 5th and 6th September) and will receive their First Holy Communion (on the 12th and 13th September). The reception of this Sacrament is another step in their initiation into the Catholic Church.



Evan B, Jordan B, Grace B, Matthew B, Ashlinn B, Amelia C, Giacomo C, Jackson C, Brock D, Lucca E, Jaymee G, Vivekah G, Zack H, Joshua H, Amelia H, Ava H, Isabella H, Sienna H, Samuel I, Sienna K, Ruby M, Lachlan Mc, Fynn M, Maya M, Siobhan M, Owen O, Gemma P, Isabella P, Grace P, Zarah P, Miley R, Gerard R, Amalia s, Madison S, Susan V, Jonathan V, Piper W and Angela W.

A big thank you to Mary Gale, the Sacramental Coordinator at St Nicholas of Myra Penrith, for preparing the children.

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.

As previously advertised at the end of Term 2, during Term 3 Stage 2 and 3 have been completing a Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum as a test run.

Stage 2 have been engaging with the question: What is a Sacrament?	Stage 3 have been engaging with the question: How do we find hope and joy?
In this learning cycle the students have been inquiring about: <i>How are signs and symbols used?</i> <i>What is a Sacrament and Sacramentality?</i> <i>What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments?</i> <i>How can we be signs and symbols of God's grace in our world?</i>	In this learning cycle the students have been inquiring about: <i>What is joy?</i> <i>What is hope?</i> <i>What brings us hope and joy?</i> <i>What does Sacred Scripture teach about hope and joy?</i> <i>In what ways does a Sacramental vision of reality bring us hope and joy?</i> <i>Why are hope and joy central to human flourishing?</i>

I, along with the Stage 2 and 3 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.

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

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

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

Sports News

Congratulations to our Age Champions from our school Athletics Carnival:

SENIOR GIRLS: Champion - Amber S
Runner Up - Stella M

SENIOR BOYS: Champion - Cooper W
Runner Up - Jayden J

11 YEAR GIRLS: Champion - Summer K
Runner Up - Cadence G

11 YEAR BOYS: Champion - Cooper P
Runner Up - Bailey W

JUNIOR GIRLS: Champion - Sienna K
Runner Up - Maddison S & Susan V

JUNIOR BOYS: Champion - Jai W
Runner Up - Fynn M & Alex M

Miss Wotherspoon
Sport Coordinator

Congratulations

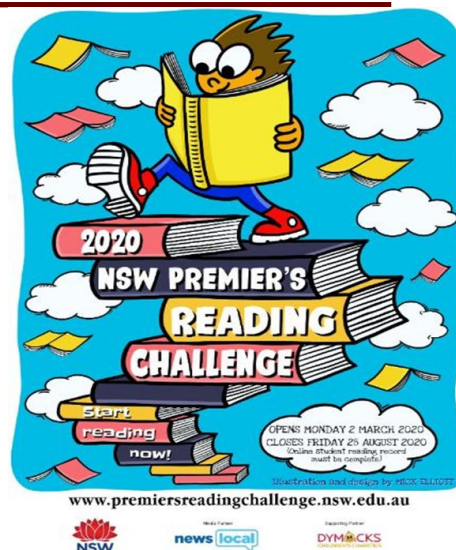
Well done to the following students from St Mary Mackillop graduating class of 2015 who have been selected as Leaders at Caroline Chisholm College for 2021:

Tayla Gallen
Kaleesha Short

We wish them every success as they prepare for the futures!



The **2020 Premier's Reading Challenge** has now closed. Congratulations to all **90** students who have completed the challenge, you will receive your certificates in **Term 4**.



Book Week 2020 has been postponed to **October 17-23** as a result of Covid-19. We will celebrate this event at school differently; stay tuned for more information about this later.

Thank you to those families who have returned library books, we are now borrowing at school, however library books are to remain in classrooms for students to read. Each week, class teachers will take students to the library to return and borrow their books. We have lots of new books on our shelves waiting to be read! Our records show there are still a number of books at home, if these could be returned to school as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." Dr Seuss.

Mrs Eisenhuth & Mrs Napoli

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

KIDS CAN ACT OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

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

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 Cathie- 0414 475 158

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!