



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.

Welcome back to everyone as we commence our final school term of the year. What a year it has been!!

Parent Feedback for our school

In June parents were invited 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 your feedback is greatly appreciated. The information that has been provided is being used to further develop our partnership and to further improve student learning and wellbeing at *St Mary MacKillop Penrith South*.

Some of the positive feedback comments that were shared are:

"I am happy with all correspondence and support we received from the school. We find St Mary MacKillop Primary an exemplary school for our children and are grateful to be part of the school community."

"St Mary MacKillop is the most wonderful school with staff who are dedicated, friendly and approachable. We have always felt welcomed and the school is a lovely caring learning environment. We feel very lucky and are very happy that our daughter is here. I believe she is well looked after academically, socially and spiritually. Staff have gone above and beyond to cater for students online during this time and we really appreciate what a huge effort it has been. Thank you so much!"

"The school has been very supportive, thoughtful and caring towards our two children. They possess the catholic ethos I wanted my child to be exposed to. They have shown great interest in the children's wellbeing & their families, providing and offering support if required. The staff have always been approachable and very helpful with communicating in a trusting warm manner. I do also love how all of the staff know each student by their names & their family members. We have chosen the perfect school for our children. Thank you St Mary MacKillop Primary staff in embracing and keeping true with our school's patron & genuinely caring with the children."

Importantly in building a strong trusting partnership, parents also felt comfortable providing constructive criticism and advice about areas for potential improvement. Two priorities that we identified were:

- review of our home – school / community communication and
- exploration of more effective ways for sharing student learning with home.

Celebrating our Teaching Staff

At this time it is important that we remember to find opportunities to celebrate. Our school is taking the opportunity on Friday the 30th October to celebrate our fabulous Teachers through World Teachers Day. We are blessed with the fabulous teaching staff at this school and what they have been able to create and deliver this year. If you are as grateful as I am please take time to drop them a message or acknowledgement next Friday.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Compass Parent Portal – A new way for us to communicate

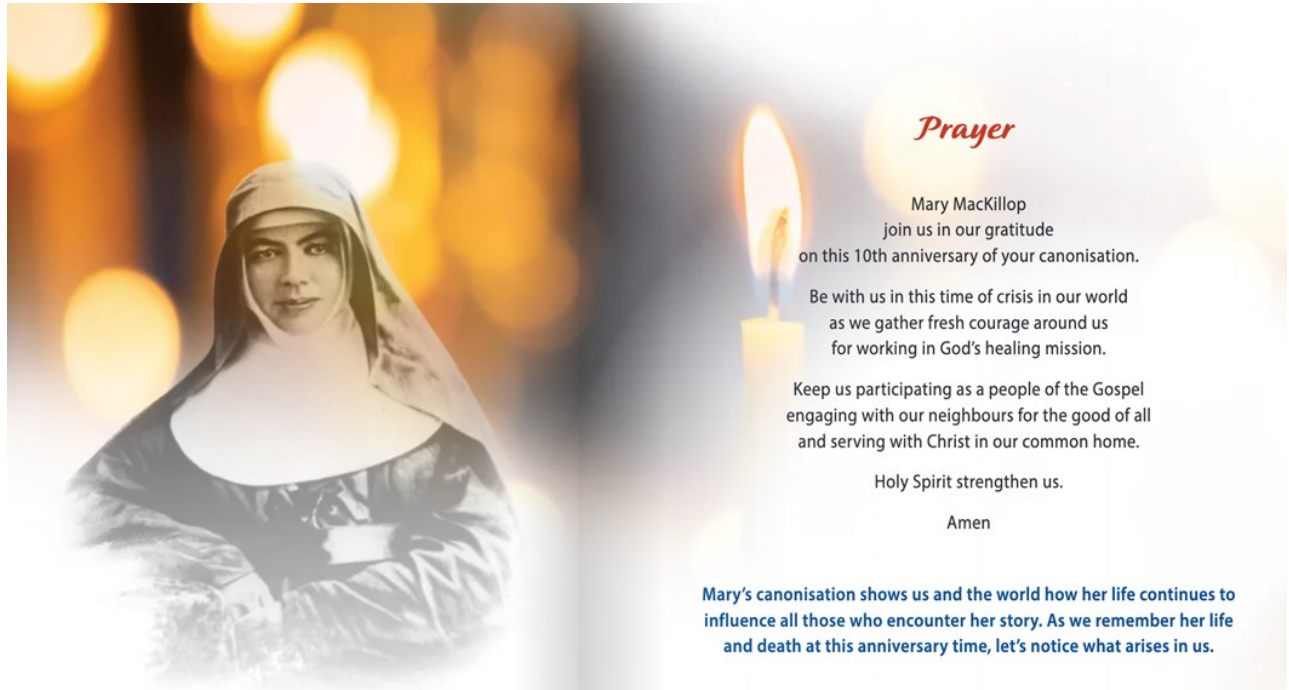
Over the coming weeks we will be opening up a new tool for communicating between home and school. It will replace our current 'Skoolbag App' as the means for sharing notes and official communication. Ultimately we want all families to engage with this **Compass Parent Portal** before the end of term, because this will be the tool for parents to access **2020 End of Year school reports**.

By next fortnight, we aim to have provided families with usernames and passwords to access their part of the portal. We are also designing an easy to follow set of instructions to get you to the log-in page. Please help us to test this new tool so that we can ensure good service of communication when we phase out the Skoolbag App.

The Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop

The 17th October marked 10 years since the canonisation of our patron saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop at St Peter's Basilica, Rome. This very significant day officially recognised the work and dedication of Mary MacKillop, and gave Australia their very own saint.

'The Church does not make a saint – it recognises a saint. Canonisation is the act by which the Holy Father declares in a definitive and solemn way that a Catholic Christian is actually in the glory of heaven, intercedes for us before the Lord and is to be publicly venerated by the whole Church. Canonisation is a double statement – about the life of the person and also about the faith of the people who are alive at this moment.'



As many of our primary students are about to begin their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is an opportune time to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament.

The Sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and completes the process of initiation into the Catholic community. It establishes young adults as full members of the faith. This sacrament is called *Confirmation* because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to believe in God and the Church on a child's behalf. At Confirmation, the candidates renew those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts. The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe.

A bishop celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation, because each bishop is a successor to the Apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The bishop wears red vestments to symbolize the red tongues of fire seen hovering over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the anointing of the confirmation candidate with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop). At the time of anointing the bishop will say "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*". This seal is a consecration, representing the safekeeping by the Holy Spirit of the graces bestowed on the Christian at Baptism.

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

Religious Education News—Continued

Praying The Rosary

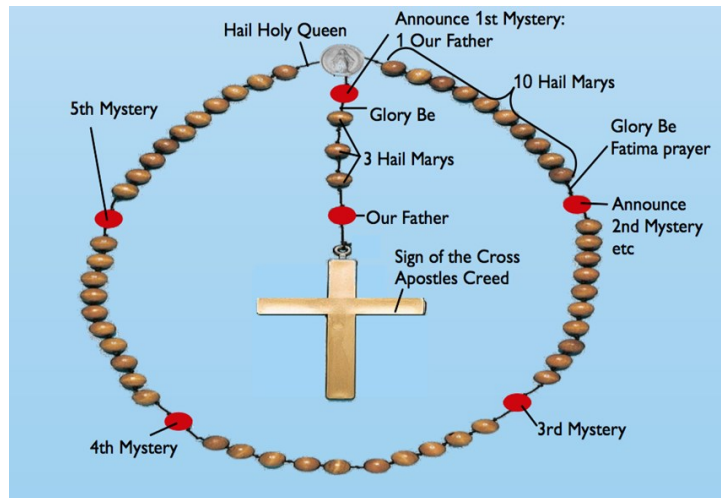
Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and this has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for a long time. Catholics pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God through His mother, Mary.

The word 'rosary' comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. It is recognized as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

During the month of October there will be a school focus on the Rosary. The students in Years 3-6 will focus on learning and praying The Rosary during whole school prayer time at 2pm on a Friday afternoon.

Whilst we have Rosary beads at school the children are encouraged to bring in their own set of beads to personally enhance their prayer experience and to foster the prayerful practice in their own homes.

Below, I have included a 'How to pray The Rosary' guide that you may like to utilise at home.



Prayers for Praying the Rosary

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us of our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls into heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.

Religious Education News—Continued

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Leader: Pray for us O Holy Mother of God,

All: That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

(Optional)

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God whose only begotten Son by his life, death, and Resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant we beseech thee, that meditating on these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Mysteries of The Rosary:

Joyful Mystery	Sorrowful Mystery	Glorious Mystery	Light Mystery
Monday-Saturday	Tuesday-Friday	Wednesday-Sunday	Thursday
1. The Annunciation	1. The Agony in the Garden	1. The Resurrection	1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Visitation	2. The Scourging at the Pillar	2. The Ascension of Our Lord	2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Birth of Our Lord	3. The Crowning with Thorns	3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit	3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Presentation in the Temple	4. The Carrying of the Cross	4. The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven	4. The Transfiguration
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple	5. The Crucifixion	5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Please be advised that statements have been sent to families with outstanding school fees accounts.

If you are already on a payment arrangement or are awaiting the outcome of a COVID-19 relief or concession application, then the statement is for information purposes only.

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 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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need people power to help coordinate the St Mary MacKillop Fete 2021!

Are you a great:

- event organiser
- social media warrior

donation seeker

We need hands on deck, so any help that can be offered would be amazing!

Please get in contact with smmppandf@gmail.com to let us know your super powers, and let's make this fete the best one yet!

SPONSORSHIP

We have been extremely fortunate in welcoming our top sponsors to the St Mary MacKillop community:

Platinum – **Wildman Cranes**

Gold – **Outback Steakhouse**

Gold – **Bella Dental Penrith**

Silver – **West Air**

Sponsorship packages still available:

Silver - \$750 each, have your name and branding on these awesome stalls. Choose from the Chocolate Wheel, Cake Stall, Kidzone, Trash & Treasure, Basket Stall or Garden Stall.

Bronze - \$250 each, your chance to sponsor the fete as well as promote your business for all to see.

Trades Board - \$150 each, be featured on our Trades board at the fete! Let St Mary MacKillop help promote your small business!

Plenty of opportunities for your business to support St. Mary MacKillop and for the families of the St Mary MacKillop community to support your business.

Email smmppandf@gmail.com to receive your Sponsorship proposal.

TRASH AND TREASURE – If your 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.

RIDES, RIDES AND MORE RIDES – Once again we will have some amazing rides and inflatables at this year's fete. Ride passes will be available for purchase at the beginning of 2021.

Looking forward to an amazing fete!

Catherine Watson



Talent Quest 2020

Congratulations and thank you to all the students who participated in our St Mary MacKillop Virtual Talent Quest 2020.

Early Stage 1

Chloe M
Giselle M
Layla S
Lucia S
Olive S
Everleigh R
Mitchell B
Jerome F
Airen R

Stage 1

Alexandra B
Emmie B
Emily S
Jonah S
Lucy L
Mila H
Lila B
Patrick T
Charlotte R
Olivia S
Jazz P

Stage 2

Anthony B
Grace B
Nathanael L
Indee B
Sienna K
Amelia E
Amelia S
Janice K
Michael O
Ruby C
Matilda C
Bella P
Louise W
Zarah P
Liviana J
Jordan B

Stage 3

Claude E
Giuseppe C
Rayna G
Gabriel M
Emily V
Charlotte C
Emil A
Stefania G



It was a wonderful event celebrated by all. Certificates and medals will be awarded this Friday the 23rd October.

Miss Carey

P & F News

The P&F would like to welcome everyone back for Term 4!!

Panther Pride Day - Friday 23rd October

To coincide with the NRL Grand Final this weekend, students can show their Panther Pride and wear the team colours on Friday 23rd October.

YEAR 6 PARENTS

Save the date!! If all goes according to plan, Year 6 will be celebrating their farewell on Friday 11th December in the school hall. Note the date in your diaries and we will send further details of times and price shortly.

Please do not forget to send in photos of your child at school events from Kindy to Year 6. You can email these to smmppandf@gmail.com or alternatively drop a USB labelled with your child's name into the office ASAP.

Veronica Neal





CH:es

15/10/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your interest in the faith and learning of children and young people in the Diocese of Parramatta. I am writing to advise that an updated version of the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website.

When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years. For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. This is a work in progress and will take time.

The Draft New Curriculum remains faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition while ensuring that the way that the learning and teaching happens is kept up-to-date. We've been surveying our schools about their experiences of trialling aspects of the Draft New Curriculum. As you would expect, we're continuing to make changes based on feedback from clergy, parents, teachers and students.

As a result, you'll notice that this document now includes references to the relevant sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and a new 'insights' section for teachers to use as a resource and guide. A guide to *Understanding the Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta* has also been provided on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website to help community members learn more.

We know that it is important to keep our Catholic community updated about this approach that is all about sharing our Catholic faith with the next generation. If you would like to share your thoughts, please contact feedback@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'C. Howe'.

Christine Howe
Relieving Executive Director

Bethany Centre 470 Church Street Parramatta NSW 2150
Locked Bag 4 North Parramatta NSW 1750
9840 5600 www.parra.catholic.edu.au

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 4 ~ 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	23 October		Panther Pride Day (Students to wear Panthers colours)
Thursday	12 November	12:50pm 1:50pm	Kindergarten 2021 Playgroup Session 1
Thursday	19 November	12:50pm 1:50pm	Kindergarten 2021 Playgroup Session 2
Thursday	26 November	12:50pm 1:50pm	Kindergarten 2021 Playgroup Session 3
Thursday	3 December	12:50pm 1:50pm	Kindergarten 2021 Playgroup Session 4
Friday	4 December		Staff Development Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Thursday	10 December	9am-11am	Kindergarten 2021 Parent Orientation Session
Wednesday	16 December		Last day of Term 4 for Students

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 ~ 2021

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Wednesday	27 January		Staff Development Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Thursday	28 January		Years 1-6 Commence School
Friday	29 January		Kindergarten Commence School

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!