



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 have a really dynamic team of staff in our school office who work together in delivering our school vision for you and your child.

Mrs Monique Kearins is our Senior Finance Officer and works Monday – Friday. Mrs Nicole Brock in one of our Administration Officers and she is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Joanne Groger is also one of our Administration Officers and she is in the office Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

As a team they serve our community as the first ‘port of call’ for families and the community who wish to ask questions, get information, share information or book appointments. They are also our school First Aid Officers and manage the school sick bay. The team is more than happy to support you in any way they can.

Opening School Mass

Our community came together and was at its brilliant best on Thursday. The staff at the school felt that they and the work that they do was highly valued by those who were able to join us for mass and the commissioning of school leaders. It was great to see the pride in the Year 6 students as they received their leadership badges in the presence of the community and their families. It was clearly evident that the supportive partnership of home, parish and school is alive and well at St Mary MacKillop.

We also welcomed new families to our school during this mass. It has very affirming of our school culture when I have heard new students sharing stories of the new friendships that have been made over the past two weeks.

A special thank you to our staff for preparing the ceremony, space and students and also to Fr Joe for leading us in the celebration.

Attendance is the key to your child’s success!!!

Throughout this year I will be raising the importance of children being **at school** and **on time** every day. It makes sense that for your child to succeed at school and continue to build on their learning, they need to be in the classroom.

If you are intending for your child to take leave for a period of 5 days or more, please collect and complete an application for a ‘Certificate of Leave’. These are available from the school office. Once the leave has been approved by the principal, a certificate will be issued and sent home with your child. This will usually be on a Friday.

**You miss
100%
of the shots
you don't take.**
- Wayne Gretzky

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

2020 Masses and Liturgies: Change of Day

This year to better align with the Parish timetable and commitments, the majority of masses and liturgies will be held on Thursdays.

Masses and Liturgies – Reverence and Safety

St Mary MacKillop is a unique Catholic school, in the fact that we do not have a parish church on site for celebrating masses and liturgies. Prior to the construction of the hall many of our liturgical celebrations had to be held outside and were dependent on weather conditions.

Our beautiful hall is a wonderful space that is used for so many educational activities, however, whenever we use our hall for a religious celebration (prayers, liturgies or masses) this space becomes sacred, as it is our school church.

We are currently reminding and teaching our students about reverence in the hall - before, during and after all prayer times. When our hall becomes God's house it is important that we quieten ourselves to prepare to talk to God.

In addition, **hot drinks cannot be consumed in the hall/church due to our duty of care for all students and Work, Health & Safety regulations about hot drinks around students.**

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

2020 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting, 7pm Tues 25th Feb

The Parish based Sacramental Program will begin this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with a parent only session on Tuesday, 25th February at 7pm.

If you wish to enrol in this program it is **compulsory that at least one parent/carer attend**. The meeting will be held in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. This program is for all children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised and would like to enrol in the Sacramental Program.

All enquires to Mary Gale (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Shrove Tuesday – 25th February

Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. It's a day of penitence and a day of celebration as traditionally it was the last chance to feast before Lent began. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Giving up foods: but not wasting them. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off. For this reason, pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.



Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word: Wed 26th February

Wednesday 26th of February is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

The Season of Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count) and is a time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.



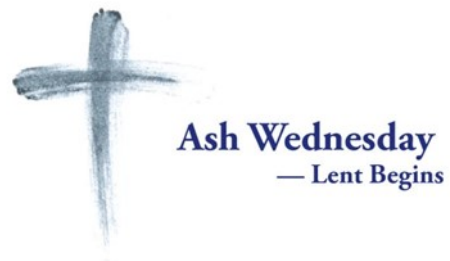
Ash Wednesday is the day for us to take stock of our spiritual lives and we are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. As Lent begins, we should set out specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them—for instance receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To celebrate the beginning of Lent all students will attend an Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word organised by Year 4 at 9:15am in the hall. All parents and family members are warmly invited to attend this special prayer time.

During the liturgy the ashes, which give Ash Wednesday its name, will be distributed. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

The distribution of ashes, is a tangible reminder of our own need to focus on being better people. Through acts of penance comes a change of heart – a coming back to God. Our personal Lenten journey should be marked with reflection, prayer and penance. Throughout Lent we should strive to model the actions of Christ. As the prophet Joel wrote:

**‘Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart.’**



Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Sports News

On Tuesday 4th February we held our St Mary MacKillop Twilight Swimming Carnival at Penrith Ripples. We had 52 students turn up to the pool and have a go at a 50m or 100m event; well done! A big thank you to all those swimmers who participated and tried their best, also to their wonderful Mums, Dads and Grandparents who came down to support, cheer and help time keep. Thank you to the 13 St Mary MacKillop teachers who gave up their evening to ensure we had a smooth carnival.

The following students have qualified for the Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival, which will be held at Glenbrook Pool on Tuesday 18th February. Congratulations and good luck to Bonnie A, Wyatt A, Tia B, Brock D, Lucas G, Jet G, Abbi G, Lachlan G, Amelia H, Joel H, Jay H, Georgia K, Sienna K, Summer K, Fynn M, Kasey M, Ava N, Grace P, Madeleine P, Lachlan P, Sara R, Maddison S, Jai W, Deklan X.

Mrs Maryanne Churchill



RAFFLE DONATIONS – We are in need of donations for our fete raffle and chocolate wheel, if you have anything in mind that would help raise some funds for our school, let us know today! We are hoping to have our raffle prizes finalised next week.
Ask around - do you have a friend or family member (or yourself) who owns a business who could donate products to the school?
We have some great raffle prizes on offer, so stay tuned for details.
Raffle tickets will be sent home to families in week 4.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have been extremely fortunate in welcoming three of 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 you're 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.

GARDEN STALL – Our Garden Stall will be a green thumb's delight, but we need your help to get started. If you have any plants you could start taking cuttings from and/or empty pot plants/containers, get in contact with us. We would love all of the support we can get.

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 online. **EARLY BIRD PRICES NOW!!!**

<https://www.trybooking.com/BGFQI>

Looking forward to an amazing fete!

The Fete Committee



St Mary MacKillop Primary School

fete

**Sunday
May 3rd**

**10am - 4pm
150 Fragar Rd,
South Penrith**

**Enjoy fun rides, delicious food &
awesome performances!**

Rides • Sideshow Alley • Stalls • Activities & much more!

Pre-purchase ride passes: www.trybooking.com/BGFQI

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).



Wednesdays during school terms.

Supervision provided from **3.00pm**.

YOUNGER KIDS(K-Yr. 2) -Class 3.15pm (1 hour)

OLDER KIDS (Yr3– Yr7) - Class 4.15pm (1 hour)

(Children from all schools welcome)

Supervision also available from **3.00pm till 4.15pm** for OLDER KIDS and after class for the YOUNGER KIDS until **5.15pm** upon request .

KIDS CAN ACT is a

CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROVIDER

Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158
www.kidscanact.com.au

Mrs Parkes has taught for 12 years at St Mary MacKillop in a part time capacity.

She is always happy to chat to discuss your child's needs and answer any questions

LIKE OUR FACE BOOK PAGE :- <https://www.facebook.com/KidsCanActDramaStudio/>

After School Drama

St Mary MacKillop School Hall

Wednesdays

**CLASSES START
WEDNESDAY
12th FEB**



**ASK ABOUT
2 week TRIAL!
Enrolment required**

INFANTS KIDS (K-YR2) @ 3.15pm

PRIMARY KIDS (YR3-6) @ 4.15pm

Limited Vacancies! Get in quickly!

www.kidscanact.com.au

Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158

ENQUIRIES and ENROLMENTS to be completed through the website above or call Cathie. NOT the school office.

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2020

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	14 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly 3M Assembly Item
Wednesday	19 February	3:30pm-4:30pm 5:00pm-7:00pm	Open Classrooms P & F Welcome BBQ
Friday	21 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	25 February	7:00pm	Parent Meeting Reconciliation @ St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	26 February	8:00am	Orchestra Commences
Wednesday	26 February	9:15am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word
Friday	28 February	8:15am-8:45am 2:20pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly



Co-educational Year 7 -12

75 Mackellar Street, Emu Plains

Enrolling now for all year groups 2021

Open Evening Tuesday 10 March 2020

5.00pm to 8.00pm

- ◇ Meet the Principal, staff and student leaders
- ◇ Tours of the College facilities
- ◇ Enrolment packages available
- ◇ Principal Presentations

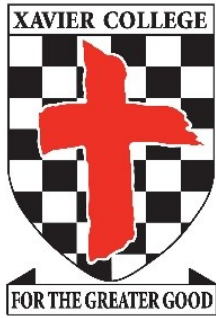
Enquiries: 4728 8100

Website: www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au

Like us on Facebook: @PenolaEmuPlains

Follow us on Twitter: @PenolaEmuPlains





Xavier College Open Night

Tuesday March 3, 2020 4pm-6pm

Prospective 2021 students and families are welcome to attend

Tours and application forms available on the night



Faith, Courage, Tolerance

Caroline Chisholm Open Day

Monday March 9, 2020 College tours from 4:30pm with presentations by the Principal at 5:30pm and 6:30pm.

Come along and see what a Chisholm education can do for your daughter.



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE OPEN DAY 2020 SUNDAY, 8 MARCH

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL OPEN DAY AT THE COLLEGE**

CENTRED ON THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT
BY OFFERING AN EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM
AND CONTEMPORARY FACILITIES

MORNING SESSION

Commences at 10.00am, followed by a tour of the College at 10.30am

AFTERNOON SESSION

Commences at 12.30pm, followed by a tour of the College at 1.00pm



A 54 - 94 Gascoigne Street Kingswood NSW 2747 T 02 4731 1933
W www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au E info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au

Gateway Family Services

Term 1, 2020

Parenting Programs Summary



Program	Date & Time	Location	Registration
No Scaredy Cats <i>Strategies to help your child reduce anxiety & build resilience. This group will assist you to understand how anxiety develops & how to offset its progress whilst providing some strategies for its management.</i>	Every Wednesday 4th Mar - 18th Mar 10:00am - 12noon <i>* Childcare available</i>	Gateway Family Services (Penrith premises) Cnr Henry & Station Street, PENRITH	Gateway— 1300 316 746 (free call)
Tuning In To Kids <i>Emotionally Intelligent Parenting Learning to better talk & understand your child to help manage your child's emotions & behaviour.</i>	Every Monday 24th Feb - 9th Mar and 23rd Mar - 30th Mar 10:00am - 12noon <i>NO Childcare</i>	Blackheath RSL Cnr Station Street & Bundarra Road, BLACKHEATH	Gateway— 1300 316 746 (free call)
1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching <i>Learn how to understand & manage your child's difficult behaviour. Suitable for parents with 2-12 year olds.</i>	Every Tuesday 18th Feb - 3rd Mar 7:00pm - 9:00pm <i>NO Childcare</i>	Gateway Family Services (Cottage) 70 Old Bathurst Rd, EAST BLAXLAND	Gateway— 1300 316 746 (free call)
Circle of Security <i>Learn how to be a strong, wiser & kinder parent with your kids. Suitable for parents of 0-12 year old.</i>	Every Thursday 13th Feb - 26th Mar 7:00pm - 9:00pm <i>NO Childcare</i>	Heatherbrae, Lawson 1 Benang Street, LAWSON (located beside carpark behind Lawson Pub)	Gateway— 1300 316 746 (free call)
Let's Make Art Together <i>A creative & connecting time for you and your little one. Open to Parents, Grandparents and Carers. Babies in arms welcome.</i>	Every Monday 2nd Mar - 23rd Mar 10:00am - 11:30am <i>* Younger Siblings Welcome</i>	Gateway Family Services 14 Oak Street, KATOOMBA	Gateway— 1300 316 746 (free call)

For more information and Individual Flyers go to:

www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or www.facebook.com/GatewayFS

Gateway family services parent group program is funded by DSS and NSW FACS.

Gateway works collaboratively with community partners to bring parent groups to communities from St Marys to Blackheath.

Thanks to MMM for providing childcare for the Daytime groups.

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.



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!