



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.

Parents and Friends Annual General Meeting Wednesday 28th April 7:30pm School Hall

After a year without our normal Parents and Friends operation, we are starting back up again in Term 2. We did not get to hold our AGM in Term 4 last year and will need to elect our 2021 executive team at this meeting.

Also the school is seeking your advice around our 'half yearly report' format. We had to make massive changes to the 2020 half yearly report to account for remote learning and we now need to determine what the 2021 half yearly report should look like. What do you need to know about your child at the half year mark? Come along to this meeting and let me know.

Friday Afternoon Assembly is coming back!!!

We will begin to run Friday afternoon assemblies again this week **but they will only be for children and staff**. We need a couple of weeks to get our Kindergarten and Year 1 students familiar with our assembly format because they haven't really experienced how assembly works. Our other classes will probably need a 'refresher course' too and our School Captains and Student Year 6 Leaders are learning their roles.

We aim to invite parents back to assembly in Term 2 but we need to design how to do this and keep the adults 1.5 metres apart at the same time (as per NSW Health Covid Guidelines).

Open Classrooms and Meet the Teacher

A very sincere thank you to the staff and particularly the teachers at our school. They adapted brilliantly to the last minute changes in our Meet the Teacher / Open Classroom sessions last week. They are so very generous giving time to our community that would normally be spent with family or other commitments. Bringing the whole community back together again on site was a great experience. Our terrific P and F, and in particular Vice President Paul B., were also fantastic in keeping everyone fed with sausage sandwiches and Paul's 'special blend' of cordial. Even torrential rain and typhoon like conditions on the Monday could not dampen their spirits or stop the production line. Thank you so much to our P and F.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Religious Education News

The Season of Lent

As we move closer towards the end of Lent it is the opportune time to reflect on our personal preparation for the resurrection of Christ at Easter. We ask ourselves: Are we growing in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of love? We acknowledge that we are human and make wrong choices, but are comforted by the knowledge that God loves us unconditionally.

Pope Francis' Words:

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE



Fifth Week of Lent – Sunday 21st March

Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, arriving at the camp with nothing. Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima with shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets. Halima aspired to "Be More" and is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.



- In the Cox's Bazar district, women and children make up 78% of the total refugee population where 52% of children are aged 0-17. ([UNHCR](#))

Watch a short film about Halima's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: lent.caritas.org.au

Religious Education News—Continued

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please continue to pray for the following students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday 25th March:

Alexander B, Amelia B, Emmie B, Samuel B, Jude B, Christopher B, Chase B, Lila B, Hugh C, Valentino C, Olivia D, Michael F, Ruby G, Ava H, Joel H, Mila H, Jack J, Jacob J, Riley K, Jordan L, Jai M, Molly Mc, Grayson M, Thomas M, Aoife M, Guiseppe M, Latoya M, Ashton N, Lucas N, Spencer P, Gabriella P, Ava P, Sophie P, Luka R, Anneliese R, Levi R, Finn R, Noah R, Alexis S, Olivia S, Eliza S, Bailey S, Emily S, Isaac S, Braiden S, Jack V, Capri W, Hunter W, Jacob X and Joshua X.

Faith In Action - Lids for Kids

Two weeks ago, students from Stage 3 in the Faith In Action Team (FIAT) and RE team participated in a Lifted Live Junior event where they heard messages from Pope Francis and Caritas. From this day they have created an initiative to help others and the environment.

As a community, we will be collecting bottle top lids to support the Lids for Kids organisation. This is an organisation that turns bottle lids into prosthetic limbs for those in need.

To help support Lids for Kids, we are asking each grade to begin collecting bottle top lids. These will be collected at school for the rest of the term and into next term. The grade who collects the most bottle top lids will be rewarded with a prize so get collecting!

The kinds of bottle tops we are after:



Please watch the below link for more information

<https://www.facebook.com/Lids4KidsAU/videos/459248928202140/>

Thank you very much for all your support in helping this great organisation.

FIAT, RE Team, Ms Neilsen and Ms Wotherspoon



2021 Easter Celebration

This year as part of our three year celebration cycle we will celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, with a Stations of the Cross Prayer.

The Stations of the Cross are 14 stations that commemorate Jesus' last day on Earth. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as we move from station to station. At each station, we recall and reflect on a specific event from Jesus' last day.

The Stations of the Cross prayer will take place at 11:30am on Thursday 1st April. The children will remain in their classrooms and will be led through the Stations of the Cross by their teacher.

As there is limited space inside the classrooms for adults to socially distance, all parents are warmly invited to attend a Stations of the Cross prayer in the hall. This will enable you to discuss the Stations of the Cross with your child at home in your preparation for Easter.

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

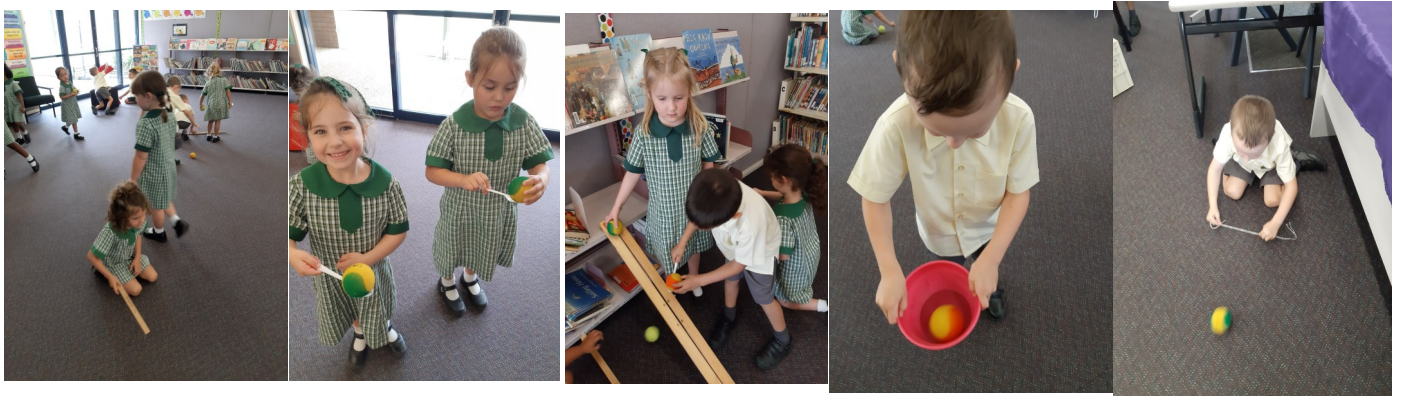
Library News

A big welcome back to our school library in 2021! It is wonderful to see that students have been able to borrow books and enjoy them at home with their families. We have many new books ready to borrow, thank you to our wonderful volunteer helpers who cover and return our books so quickly. If any parents or carers would like to help out, please leave a message with your details at the school office.

Classes have been coming to the library space for a range of inquiry based learning activities, perhaps families could take some time to have a chat about the great learning that has been taking place this term.

Congratulations to Tia B, Effy B and Peter B on your completion of the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge during the break- Well done!

The **2021 Premier's Reading Challenge** has started, we would encourage every student to register and take up the challenge. Kinder students will be registered at school by Mrs Eisenhuth, please see the details below around this.



Kindergarten students investigating how objects move using different forces.



Visit the PRC Student Site!

<http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/StudentExperience.html#/>

The 2021 Challenge dates are as follows:

Challenge opens: Monday March 1, 2021

Challenge closes for students: Friday August 20, 2021

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Familiarise yourself with the new PRC student website <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>
- There is a video on the PRC Support site that you can watch that demonstrates how login, search for books and add them to a Student Reading Record (SRR).
<https://prcsupport.freshdesk.com/a/solutions/articles/24000023273>
- Visit the Premier's Reading Challenge Support website. It allows you to search for information about the PRC and how to use the PRC website and also how to contact the PRC team.
- Set reminders for Challenge closing date in your and your child's calendar. (Friday, August 20, 2021).
- Find out your child's logon details. Non-government students will need to contact the PRC Coordinator (Mrs Eisenhuth) or their classroom teacher at school if they cannot remember their login details.
- Assist your child to borrow books from the school or local library. Listen to your child read and talk about the story/ characters/ information. Read to or with your child if she/he is participating in the K-2 Challenge.
- Help your child to add books to her/his Student Reading Record regularly.
- Follow The Arts Unit on Facebook and the NSW PRC on Instagram to keep up to date about information about the Challenge throughout the year. We regularly run contests and Author events your child may be interested in taking part in.
- Contact your school's PRC coordinator (Mrs Eisenhuth) if your child has any difficulty using her/his logon details to access the PRC website.
- Your child's online Student Reading Record must have the required number of books recorded to complete the Challenge by the student closing date. Only students with a validated SRR are eligible for a certificate.
- In the final weeks of the Challenge, log on regularly to the website to check the status of your child's SRR.
- Visit our website: www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/reading-challenge
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

ALL KINDER STUDENTS WILL BE REGISTERED AT SCHOOL AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CHALLENGE AS A GRADE. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ BOOKS AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD, BUT YOU WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO LOG THE BOOKS, THIS WILL BE DONE AT SCHOOL USING THE BOOKS THEY EXPERIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE CHALLENGE, ALL REGISTERED STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE TOWARDS THE END OF TERM 4.

Maree Eisenhuth
Teacher Librarian

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2021

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	22 March	9:30am 2:15pm	School Open Day
Tuesday	23 March	7pm	Parent Information Evening Kindergarten 2022
Thursday	25 March		First Reconciliation 4V C.A.R.E.S Excursion
Friday	26 March		Harmony Day 4J C.A.R.E.S Excursion
Thursday	1 April	11:30am	Stations of the Cross Last Day of School for Students
Friday	2 April		Good Friday

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2021

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	19 April		First Day of Term 2 Commences
Tuesday	27 April	7pm	Year 2 Pioneer Village Excursion First Holy Communion Parent Meeting
Tuesday	4 May		Diocesan Cross Country

NSW AFL Primary All-Schools Girls 12 Years & Under Selection Trial

Term 1, Week 9

**Registrations for this event
close 5:00pm Friday 12 March 2021**

Cost
\$10.00 per student

Who

The trial is only for primary school girls 12 years and under.

Girls can be 12, however must not be turning 13 in 2021.

Girls enrolled in Secondary Schools are ineligible to trial

Registration

To apply for the Primary All-Schools Selection Trial in your area, complete the relevant online registration form ([NSW Government schools](#), [NSW Catholic schools](#), [NSW Combined Independent schools](#)) and payment by the closing date, Friday 12 March 2021.

All girls who trial must be available, if selected, for the School Sport Australia Championships in Adelaide, South Australia from 9 to 14 August 2021.

How to enter:

To apply for the Primary All-Schools Selection Trial in your area, you must complete the on-line registration and payment by the closing date, Friday 12 March 2021.

Further information is available from the NSW School Sport website by clicking on the link for each trial.

When and Where

Thursday 25th March 2021

Southern Inland - Jubilee Park, Wagga Wagga

Metro West - Peter Miller Oval, Casula

Northern Coastal & Inland - Fitzroy Oval, Coffs Harbour

Friday 26th March 2021

South Coast - Hanging Rock Sports Ground, Batemans Bay

Metro East - Olds Park, Penshurst

Mid North Coast & Inland - Tulkaba Park, Newcastle

Friday 7th May 2021

All Schools Selection - Blacktown International Sports Park (Field 2), Rooty Hill



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.

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www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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