



News from Scott

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.

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the supportive and respectful way that you have worked with the school through this difficult half of the year. Your understanding and cooperation with the many COVID protocols we have had to put in place is greatly appreciated. I tell people regularly how blessed I am to be the principal of a school where the community and family views and values are so closely aligned with those of the school. The benefits that our children gain from our partnership are plain to see both in their academic growth and their development as wonderful citizens of our society.

In such difficult times, when many of us are under new burdens of stress and worry, we could allow ourselves to diminish the partnership. We could make excuses that it 'is too hard' or 'we are under significant pressure'. Instead, I am greeted by smiling and grateful faces at the gate each morning and afternoon. The conversations I have with parents, even when we don't always agree, are respectful, caring and intelligent. We are working through many challenging items at the moment but I am so grateful to have each and every one of you supporting our school to rise to this challenge.

Staffing News:

As we move towards the end of the 2021 school year, we also begin our planning for classes and teachers for 2022. I will endeavour to publish an overview of the staffing for 2022 as part of our KIT for the 2nd of December. This will support the children in preparing for the 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon on the 9th December. As we do each year, the children will spend that afternoon with their teacher and classmates for the next year.



Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 30th November
Year 5 YMCA Excursion

Thursday 2nd December
Year 6 YMCA Excursion

Monday, 6th December
Year 6 Fun Day

Tuesday 7 December
6:00pm-8:00pm
Year 6 Graduation Mass
& Ceremony

Wednesday 8th December
9:00am-9:45am
Year 6 Awards Ceremony

Thursday 9th December
2pm-3pm
Class Promotions

Tuesday 14th December
Last Day of Term 4 for
Students

Tuesday 14th December
5:00pm-7:00pm
Year 6 Farewell Disco

Wednesday 15th December
9:00am-10:30am
Kindergarten 2022 Orientation

Wednesday 15th, 16th and 17th
December
Staff Development Days
NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Tuesday 1st February
Years 1-6 Commence Term 1
2022

Wednesday 2nd February
Kindergarten Commence Term 1
2022

News from Scott - Continued

Last week Mrs Harman shared with me some news that was both happy and sad. She let me know that next year she will be moving interstate and taking up a teaching position at a new school there. It is an exciting time for Mrs Harman and her family as they commence this next chapter in their life but also a sad time for us as we say farewell to her. Mrs Harman has been a teacher at our school for almost seven years and most recently has taught our RFF Creative Arts program. We wish her all the very best for what lies ahead.

Semester Two Reports - Repeated from last KIT

The disruption to 'normality' for this community over the 5 months of remote learning and lockdown is well known to each one of us. It has been so refreshing to welcome our students back to face to face learning and the teachers are doing a fantastic job of checking student wellbeing, relationships and learning needs. It almost feels like a fresh start to the year and teachers are maximising every opportunity to return things to as close to normal as possible.

One challenge that we simply we cannot avoid however, is the composition of the Semester two reports on our children and their learning. In normal times, every teacher would be highly informed of what each child is able to demonstrate in independent learning achievement and effort across all 7 key learning areas. They would be able to exercise precision in identifying critical next steps for every student.

Whilst we acknowledge and honour the magnificent contribution that parents and families have made in keeping our kids learning going during lockdown, writing professional summative reports for all 7 KLA's on our children is proving enormously problematic for our teachers. Without the valuable information that is collected each and every day in our classrooms across all subjects, our teachers are extremely limited in what they will be able to professionally report on for this semester. It is presenting as a thirteen week 'hole' in their normal precise and professional judgement. Rather than return our students to a model of intense assessment and testing, we have taken the position as a staff that we will take advantage of every day left available to us to maximise the teaching and learning.

I therefore need you to make aware that the 2021 Semester Two Reports for our school will be very different to other years. This year our report will consist of:

- A cover page which is the same as previously used
- A letter from CEDP regarding Semester Two Reports
- For Religious Education, there will be a Statement of Teaching outlining what the grade has been taught in Semester Two. A table indicating your child's level of engagement in this subject.

Two comments that describe some aspect of the learning your child has demonstrated in this subject during the semester.

News from Scott - Continued

- For English there will be a Statement of Teaching outlining what the grade has been taught in Semester Two. A table indicating your child's level of engagement in this subject. Three comments that describe some aspects of the learning your child has demonstrated in this subject during the semester.
- For Mathematics there will be a Statement of Teaching outlining what the grade has been taught in Semester Two. A table indicating your child's level of engagement in this subject. Three comments that describe some aspects of the learning your child has demonstrated in this subject during the semester.
- On the back page, there will be a table indicating the 'Personal and Learning Traits' that your child has demonstrated since returning to face-to-face learning.
- On the back page will also be a table indicating your child's attendance in Semester Two.

On behalf of the teachers, I thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we navigate this challenge together.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Religious Education News

The Sacrament Of Confirmation

On the 11th and 12th of November many of our Stage 3 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation - the final Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church. These children have been graced with the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit and are now full members of the Catholic Church.



Congratulations to the following students:

Evan B, Jordan B, Grace B, Matthew B, Ashlinn B, Amelia C, Giacomo C, Jackson C, Brock D, Lucca E, Christian F, Gabriel G, Zack H, Amelia H, Ava H, Isabella H, Sienna H, Zachary H, Sienna K, Lachlan Mc, Maya M, Alannah M, Luke M, Siobhan M, Owen O, Michael O, Gemma P, Isabella P, Ava P, Grace P, Zarah P, Gerard R, Amalia S, Maddison S, Susan V, Jonathan V, Piper W, Ivy W, Angela W and Jacob X

A warm thank you to Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator), the Parish Sacramental Team and the parents for preparing the children so well.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers - Social Justice Activity



As a Catholic community based on following the example of Jesus and St Mary MacKillop, we will once again reach out and care for others in the local community through supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.

This year has been particularly challenging and now more than ever we need to look after each other. With this in mind and as we approach the Season of Advent, we are asked to think of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Traditionally, each child/family has been asked to generously donate specific items to the hampers, however, this year we appreciate that many of our families might find this challenging. For this reason, we are asking that families donate what they feel they can from the list below. This list will also be promoted in classrooms as we work together to help make Christmas a special time for all in our community. Could all donations please be well within their expiry date and returned to school by Monday 6th December.

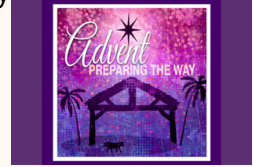
- tin of leg ham
- Christmas cake
- Christmas pudding
- long life items - vanilla custard, cream, milk, Kraft Cheddar Cheese
- tins of: fruit salad, vegetables (carrots, peas, corn), tuna, salmon
- packets of chips
- salsa dip
- bottles of soft drink, fruit juice, cordial
- packets of mixed nuts
- jelly crystals
- salad dressing and gravy mix
- packets of biscuits: sweet or savoury
- reusable shopping bags
- coffee, tea, Hot chocolate, Milo, sugar
- packets of rice and pasta
- instant mash potato



Religious Education News

- Christmas bon-bons, plates, napkins
- packet of lollies
- shortbread

The hampers will be presented to a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to those most in need in our community.



The Season of Advent (Sunday 28th November)

The Season of Advent, which begins on Sunday 28th November, is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year and the liturgical readings change at the start of Advent from Year B to Year C as part of the church's three-year cycle.

The Season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. The colour of this season is purple. This is the colour of penitence as well as the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King.

The word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming." Its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it is a season that focuses on waiting and preparing.

Here are some ways to wait and prepare during Advent:

Get or make an Advent wreath - Lighting the candles, one each week, is a way of counting down the time until Christmas. It is also a good way to signal that we are entering a very special time.

Set up a nativity scene - Displaying a nativity scene (or manger set) in your home during Advent is a great way to remind everyone about the true meaning of Christmas.

Keep an Advent calendar - Marking off the days of Advent is a good way to count down to the birth of Jesus.

Pray

Through prayer, we can enter into God's world and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. During Advent we can try to cut away the distractions to make sure there's "room at the inn" of your heart this year.

Some things to pray for during Advent:

1. Pray for attention to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
3. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
4. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the community.
5. Pray for peace.
6. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you.
7. Pray for joy and a sense of humour.
8. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
9. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
10. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Office News

School Fees

School fees are now overdue. If you already have paid your fees, thank you. All outstanding school fees should now be paid or under an arrangement.

If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees or have not received your statement, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins on 02 4724 3200.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. As we are now a Cashless school payments can be accepted by EFTPOS only at the school office. During this COVID time payments can be made over the phone. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Cash can still be paid at Australia Post by Post BillPay.

Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement.

Leaving Families

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child (Kindergarten-Year 5) will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.

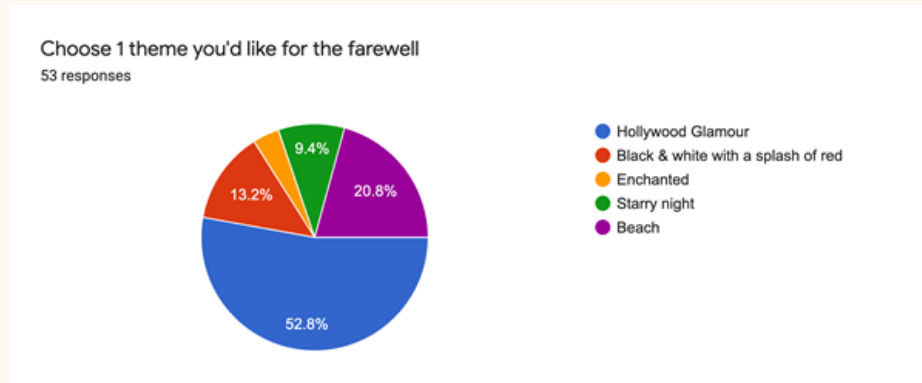
P & F NEWS

Year 6 Farwell Disco

The P&F with the assistance of a group of parents have been busy organising an event, it has been confirmed for;

Tuesday 14th December 5:00pm to 7:00pm

The students were asked to vote for the theme of the night, Hollywood Glamour was the clear favourite.



Hollywood Glamour will be the theme in which the hall will be decorated, students can dress in theme, however not essential.

Individual Pizzas will be provided on the night, the students have already provided their preference, please reach out to myself or the teachers if there are any dietary requirements that need to be considered.

Poppers will also be provided for the students on the night. In lieu of a cake Individual cup cakes will be served.

The cost for the event will be \$30.00 per student. This will cover pizza, drinks, cupcakes and a cookie, decorations and small gift.

Students will not be permitted to bring their phones, a member of staff will take photos, and upload to Google Drive for distribution.

The function will be subject to NSW Health guidelines and maybe subject to change.

Further information about the night will follow shortly.

Regards,

Paul Bortolazzo
P & F President

Thursday 13 May
9:15am
Year 1 Liturgy of the Word

Friday 14 May
2:20pm
Whole School Assembly

Thursday 27 May
School Photos

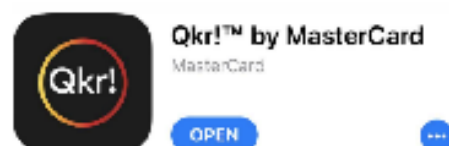
Qkr! mobile phone app

St Mary MacKillop is now offering an online payment service through *Qkr!* by Mastercard. *Qkr!* (pronounced 'quicker') is designed for busy parents and carers, this easy-to-use mobile phone application is suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones. This service is currently available for all non-school fee payments.

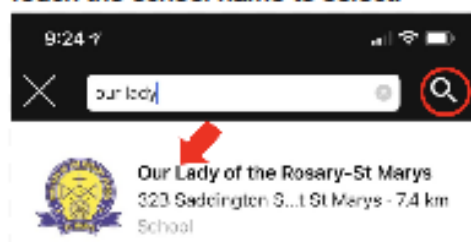
Communications will be distributed as new events and products become available for purchase.

How to get started with Qkr!:

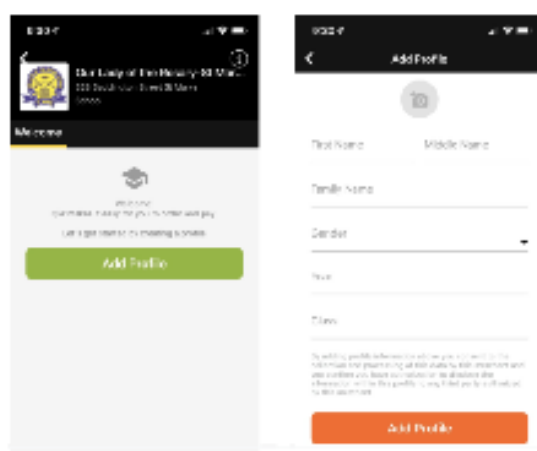
1. Install the *Qkr!* app on your smartphone.



2. Use the magnifying glass to search for *St Mary MacKillop South Penrith*
Touch the school name to select.



3. Select **Add Profile** and create a profile for each student at the school.



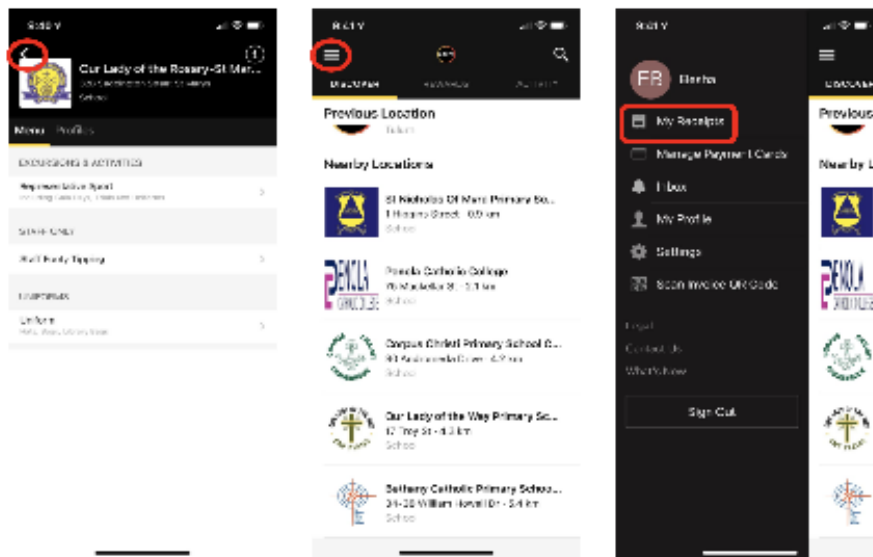
4. Once you have created a profile, you may view available items and purchase them.

5. Please note as purchases are made, a digital receipt will be stored within the app under My Receipts.

To access My Receipts, select < (top left)

Select ≡ (top left)

Select **My Receipts**



QKR - Watch a short video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjH9HjbpIE4>

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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for helping us
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for our friends with food allergies!