



## Dates For Your Diary

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

Wednesday 2nd February  
Kindergarten Commence Term 1  
2022

Thursday 3rd February  
7pm - 9pm  
Twilight Swimming Carnival @  
Glenbrook Pools

## 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,

There are not the words to express my gratitude for how you have stood beside the staff and I during the challenges of this year. Know that our children have looked on and seen us work together in partnership and together we have revealed to them what strong, healthy community looks like. The greatest lesson of 2021 is how much we need each other and how precious each and every member of our family is for us all to be successful.

God Bless and enjoy the time together as family. We look forward to coming together again in 2022 to build an even better community.



Together we Grow  
Scott Buchanan

# News from Margaret Rowan

Hello St Mary MacKillop community,  
It's time to say goodbye!

As you know, early in Term 3 I was appointed the Assistant Principal at Corpus Christi Primary School Cranebrook. The timing was a little tricky and I didn't get a chance to say goodbye and thank the St Mary MacKillop School community.

It is amazing to think I have been a staff member here at MacKillop for 10 years! Wow, that time has certainly gone fast. I have been given so many opportunities to develop as a teacher and as a leader whilst at MacKillop.

Throughout my time here at MacKillop, I have had the privilege of working with some exceptional educators. The teachers and teacher aids here at MacKillop are knowledgeable, compassionate, selfless and hard working who constantly strive to engage all students to be safe, respectful learners.

Our MacKillop office staff are the most sympathetic, compassionate, calm, reassuring and patient people I have ever worked with! Nothing is too much trouble for them and they were always there asking 'how can we help?

The MacKillop staff constantly live out St Mary MacKillop's words of 'never seeing a need without doing something about it' They do this every day, no matter what!

In my time at St Mary MacKillop I have learnt a lot about how to be a leader in a Catholic school. Thanks to the support, guidance and patience of Scott, I have gained knowledge and developed my leadership skills whilst trying to remain faithful to my own personality!

Mr Buchan, you are an inspiring leader who not only talks about our school being a Christ centred community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents but your actions every day support this. You commit an extraordinary amount of your time to support the whole community-students, staff, parents and our parish. Thank you!

For me the link with our St Nicholas Parish has always been very important. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Fr Joe, our Parish Priest. He has always been so supportive of me. Thank you Fr Joe for your leadership and guidance in Catholic education. Luckily I can continue to work with Fr Joe, not as an Assistant Principal but in the Sacramental Team at St. Nics.

To my MacKillop students, thank you for sharing your love of learning with me. Thank you for persevering when learning got tough and challenging. Thank you also for including me in celebrating your learning. It has been so wonderful to see so many of you grow as learners. I have so many good memories I take with me. We know this year hasn't been easy but congratulations on being resilient and trying new ways of learning. And as A A Milne, author of Winnie the Pooh said "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our wonderful parents. Thank you for working collaboratively with the school to support all our children. For me, it has been a wonderful and rewarding experience working with all our MacKillop families.

# News from Margaret Rowan - Continued

I know it takes a lot of time and effort to organise the farewell events when a staff member leaves. I want to say a big thank you to Mrs Gillard and the team who made these events happen. I understand it hasn't been easy, but I am truly grateful I had opportunities to say goodbye in person to the community I love.

Thank you St Mary MacKillop for being a massive part of my journey. I know I will see a lot of you around the place. Please continue to come and say hi to me!  
You will always be in my heart and prayers.

Margaret Rowan

## Religious Education News

### **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers - Thank you!**

On Thursday 9th December, the RE Team, on behalf of the St Mary MacKillop community presented Mr Joe Tabone, a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society, with 114 bags of grocery items.



Mr Tabone expressed his sincere thanks to all the children and their families and was overwhelmed with our generosity. These items have now been used to make Christmas Hampers for the needy within our community. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the outpouring of support to this important appeal. We have certainly made this Christmas Season special for many local people in need.

### **Farewell Liturgy for Mrs Rowan and Mrs Harman**

On Monday 13th December we gathered as a school community to formally farewell Mrs Rowan and Mrs Harman who are moving on to new adventures in 2022. We gave thanks for Mrs Rowan's 10 years of teaching and leadership at St Mary MacKillop and Mrs Harman's 7 years of teaching at St Mary MacKillop.

We celebrated the special gift Mrs Rowan and Mrs Harman have been to our school community. We honoured them for their commitment to Catholic Education, for the contributions they have made to St Mary MacKillop Primary School and; for the love that they have shown us all. Most importantly.....we thanked them for enriching our lives.

I know you will join with me in wishing Mrs Rowan and Mrs Harman all the very best in their new positions at Corpus Christi and St Peters. We will miss them dearly but know that their new school communities are blessed to have them.





### **2021 Christmas Celebration**

Due to the current COVID restrictions in schools, we could not celebrate the Christmas Season in the way that we usually would at St Mary MacKillop, however, acknowledging the birth of Jesus is at the heart of our community. For this reason, the teachers and students, in grade groups, prepared a video presentation of the Christmas Story. This video has now been posted onto the compass portal.

We hope you enjoy this special whole school Christmas production.



I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas and offer the following Christmas Prayer for all the families of St Mary MacKillop.

***Loving God,***

***During the holy season of Christmas, we ask your blessing on all families.***

***Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.***

***Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.***

***Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.***

***May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families.***

***For this we pray.***

***Amen***



### **Sacramental Program 2022**

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith  
Sacramental Program  
Reconciliation



Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on our website, [stnicholasofmyra.org.au](http://stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

on

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

and close on

Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 4.00pm

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Trivia / Movie afternoon and Reconciliation. To be eligible for First Reconciliation, Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised.

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish Ph:4721 2509

Email: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



# P & F News

## Year 6 Graduation Disco

Tuesday night the year 6 capped off the year, and their time at Mary MacKillop with a Hollywood Glamour themed graduation Disco.

We thank the students and parents for what was a fantastic night. The P&F would like to thank the organising committee, Rachel Nekic, Michelle Bachtis, Amanda Lasalo and Amy Piggott, and others who helped on the day.

We would also like to thank Mr Buchan, Mrs Van Der Burg and Mrs Darby for supervising, and a very special thanks to Mrs Moore and Mr Martin for not only being a big part of children's education this year, but also organising the function.

Mrs Nekic was our photographer for the night, has uploaded all photos to the following drive:  
<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ah0BeBR1rTa7kAAyNRllw-BWo2nE?e=ZTg5yk>

The P&F would like to wish all families and friends a safe and merry Christmas and Happy new year. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Paul Bortolazzo  
P & F President



2022 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials  
Expression of Interest registration window open

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2022 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One & Two in 2022. *Students in Year 4 in 2022 MAY nominate for the sports of Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Tennis & Touch Football only.*

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that **MUST demonstrate an ABOVE AVERAGE ability, HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competition outside of school.

To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in some sports and others are through CSNSW Sport at MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2022..

**TEAM SPORTS**

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports to select Parramatta Diocesan teams:

- ☐ **AFL** - Boys/Girls combined team
- ☐ **Basketball** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Cricket** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Hockey** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Football** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Hockey** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Netball** - Boys/Girls combined team
- ☐ **Rugby League (U11's)** - Boys/Girls combined team
- ☐ **Rugby League (U12's)** - Boys/Girls combined team
- ☐ **Rugby Union** - Boys/Girls combined team
- ☐ **Softball** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Tennis** - Boys and Girls team
- ☐ **Touch Football** - Boys and Girls team

The following sports will be held at the MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2022..

- ☐ **AFL Girls**
- ☐ **Diving** - Boys and Girls team
  - \*Springboard: 8 Years, 9 Years, 10 Years, 11 Years, 12/13 Years - Girls & Boys
  - \*Platform: Open Girls & Open Boys
- ☐ **Golf** - Boys and Girls team - 18 Hole Competition Students must have a golf link number and handicap.
- ☐ **Rugby Girls 7's**

All Team Sports trials will be held in Term One & Two in 2022..

Tuesday 4 May  
Diocesan Cross Country

**ELIGIBILITY - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOMINATION FORM OPEN 23rd November**

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form** must be completed. Please visit the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport website or Facebook for the link and information.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Access the information using any below:

1. Registration (Expression of Interest) link  
[2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form \(Expression of Interest\) - Sport Trials](#)
2. Primary Sport Parramatta WEBSITE link  
[www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au)
3. FACEBOOK link  
[Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese](#)

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2022 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by the child's school. For the child to attend the nominated trial or event, the school approves students based on playing history and selection criteria. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" if applicable to the sport **MUST** be completed. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the **2022 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form** has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

More detailed information can be located in the **2022 CEDP Parra Primary Sport Rep Team Trials Info for Parents COVID19 information sheet**.

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HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS**

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WEDNESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160	THURSDAY 23 <sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160	FRIDAY 24 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160
9.00- 2.00PM <b>The Magic Glasses</b> 1,2 3 LET'S MAKE A MOVIE <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>	9.00- 2.00PM 1,2 3 LET'S MAKE A MOVIE <b>The Day The Toys Came To Life</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>	9.00- 2.00PM 1,2 3 LET'S MAKE A MOVIE <b>The Mystery Of The Secret Door</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>
2.00- 5.00PM <b>Puppetry</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>	2.00- 5.00PM <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">5 SPOTS LEFT</span> <b>Drama Fun 101</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>	2.00- 5.00PM <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">5 SPOTS LEFT</span> <b>Storytelling Magic</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>
WEDNESDAY 19 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160	THURSDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160	FRIDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT—\$160
9.00- 2.00PM <b>It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It!</b> 1,2 3 LET'S MAKE A MOVIE <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>	9.00- 2.00PM <b>The Princess &amp; The Fairy Wish</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>	9.00- 2.00PM <b>The Day The Toys Came To Life</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$99</span>
2.00- 5.00PM <b>Drama Fun 101</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>	2.00- 5.00PM <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">5 SPOTS LEFT</span> <b>Mime It</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>	2.00- 5.00PM <b>Puppetry</b> <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px 5px;">\$70</span>

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