



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.

In our Vision Statement printed above, the importance of working together through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish cannot be emphasised enough.

Our kids benefit from the learning that is happening here at school being continued through the home for extra hours each day. Everything that happens in our classrooms for six hours each day can be reinforced and modelled for up to eighteen additional hours each day at home (of course we need to factor in things like sleep etc... therefore it isn't really eighteen hours).

This reinforcement and modelling could be in the values of 'safe, respectful, learner' being the expectation at home, or the importance of nightly reading as part of home routine, purposeful time to talk with an adult each night about school and learning..... the list could be quite long and diverse.

Importantly, the research and our school results reflect that this consistency of expectation and interest across the home and the school translates into improved learning outcomes for our kids.

This supportive partnership is a very precious character of what makes our school great.

Open Classrooms and Meet the Teacher

In highlighting the value of the supportive partnership of school and parents, it is important to state that we have really missed being together with you during this time of Covid-19. Twelve months ago we were at least able to gather together to enjoy our annual Welcome BBQ and tour the school and classrooms.

The team here at St Mary MacKillop and the P and F executive have been discussing what could be possible to address this important aspect of our partnership whilst also meeting current health guidelines.

We are proposing that we could create an opportunity for a parent representative of each child to come to school during an afternoon for an Open Classroom session and to meet the teacher. This would need to be strictly monitored for numbers attending, require booking and also a sign in protocol upon entry. There are lots of extra complications in this process but it is the best way we can meet all of our responsibilities. The P and F is also looking at providing a BBQ / sausage sandwich so that we can connect with other families (socially distanced of course), and strengthen our community bond.

Decisions have not been finalised but we are considering a model like:

3 nights -

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	THIS IS A MODEL/
3.30 -4.30pm Kindy	3.30 -4.30pm Year 2	3.30 -4.30pm Year 4	
4.30-5.30pm Year 1	4.30-5.30pm Year 3	4.30-5.30pm Year 5 & 6	EXAMPLE ONLY

We are also deciding when in the first two weeks of March this model could happen.

More information will be shared with you via the Compass Parent Portal over the coming week. Whilst this is not a perfect solution, we hope that you appreciate our attempt to connect the school and parents in our great partnership.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Religious Education News

2021 Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

The 2021 Sacramental Program began on Tuesday night (7pm, 16th Feb) with a Parent Information session. A reminder that the Commitment Masses for First Reconciliation are this weekend; Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st February. You can attend any of the masses at St Nicholas:

Saturday 20th Feb at 6pm

Sunday 21st Feb at 8:30am, 10am or 6pm.

At the Commitment Mass you will need to present your completed Enrolment Form (green) that was handed out at the Parent meeting on Tuesday 16th February. All children who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation **must** be enrolled in the program.

All enquires to Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish.

House 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (17th Feb). This season offers us all a chance to grow in our relationship with God through regular prayer and works of mercy. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we have done and failed to do, and to come back to God with a change of heart.



During Lent we look for a renewal of our lives and we seek the meaning of Jesus' self-less love, so that we might reflect that love to others. We have to work hard to resist temptation and to change some of our bad habits. We know that this will not be easy but we are encouraged by the works of mercy that Christ gave us:

*Feed the hungry
Welcome the stranger
Clothe the naked
Comfort the sick
Visit the imprisoned*

During Lent Christ is asking us: who might we feed, welcome, clothe, comfort or visit? Let us show Mercy to those who are most in need.



Social Justice Initiative

Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. The theme for the 2021 Project Compassion Appeal is 'Be More' – inspired by Saint Oscar Romero's words: "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia - the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development - has been working with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Throughout the six weeks of Lent, Caritas will share with us inspiring stories from Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Tanzania and Indonesia will be shared, highlighting the importance of working hand in hand with communities around the world.

The challenge to 'Be More' takes us beyond ourselves. This Lent, we are encouraged to make simple lifestyle changes and act for social and environmental justice, so that we may 'Be More' in our own lives and in the lives of others. By donating to Project Compassion this year, we will be supporting Caritas' efforts in assisting our global brothers and sisters.....so..... Let's Be More, together.

All classes will receive a 2021 Project Compassion box to place on their prayer space in their classroom. Over the next six weeks the students will be encouraged to give generously to those less fortunate than themselves to empower people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. It would be appreciated if you could support your child(ren) in putting their compassion into action this Lent by supporting the 2021 Project Compassion Appeal..... 'Let's Be More, together.'

Religious Education News—Continued

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Caritas First Week of Lent – Sunday 21st February AUSTRALIA

We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about the story of Jamila and her family. Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman, living in the world’s largest refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. A single mother, she fled armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and eight-month-old baby. With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support and learnt sewing skills, to help her earn an income. Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to ‘Be More’ to her little family.



860,494 people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, especially due to COVID-19.

Watch a short film about Jamila’s story [here](#).

Caritas Second Week of Lent – Sunday 28th February AUSTRALIA

This week through Project Compassion we learn about 39-year-old Margret, a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. Apart from the difficulties the students all have, the school also faced water shortages, with not enough to supply staff and students with safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then Tropical Cyclone Harold damaged the school and its vegetable garden, amidst the threat of COVID-19. Staff and students rely on the vegetable garden to provide food for their meals.

With Caritas Australia’s support, the school installed water tanks, provided cyclone-proof building materials and helped to implement COVID-19 prevention measures. Margret’s school now has enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more, with plans to boost food security, through increased agricultural production. Around 60% of people in rural areas in the Solomon Islands don’t have access to piped water, while about 80% don’t have access to latrines or toilets.



Watch a short film about Margret’s story [here](#).

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

Year Six Leadership Ceremony – Thursday 4th March

On Thursday 4th March we will celebrate the Year Six Leadership Ceremony. At this ceremony the Year 6 leaders will be presented with their badges and inducted into their 2021 leadership roles.

Parent attendance at this ceremony will be advised if restrictions change. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees 2021

Term 1 School Fees will be sent to your home address as from Monday, 15th February 2021 from our Catholic Education Office of Parramatta.

The statement will come with options on how and when to pay your fees. If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees by the requested date, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 4724 3200.

School Office hours are 8:15am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm

Payments may be made by EFTPOS, Bpoint, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement.

Collecting Children from School (insert from our parent handbook)

If parents wish to collect their children from school early, the permission of the Principal is necessary. Please **send a note** to the Principal/teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist's appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45 – 11:30 am) or break time (1:30 – 2:00 pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or the break, **not during the break**.

Medication (insert from our parent handbook)

If your child takes long term medication, you must fill out the relevant form from the office. Medication will not be administered to any child unless authorised by a parent/guardian. All medication prescribed by a medical practitioner must be authorised by the doctor and all paperwork needs to be updated every year or when medication is changed. All relevant forms are available from the school office.

For short term medication, forms are also available from the school office. No child will be given medication unless it is recorded, prescribed by a doctor and in its original packaging. Many doctors will agree that medication to be given three times a day can be administered: morning, after school and before bed at night. Please check with your doctor.

We will not administer Panadol or aspirin, any eye medication or ear drops/nose drops. If a child needs to be on a Nebuliser, we ask a parent or a nominated person by the parent, to come to school to administer this medication. It is essential that we have up-to-date emergency contact phone numbers should we need you urgently. Please ensure your contact numbers are always up to date.

Change of After School Travel Arrangements

If there is any change to your child/children's after school travel arrangements please notify the office as soon as possible. Our office bags are collected at 2:45pm and we would appreciate all changes to after school travel prior to this time. We understand that we may receive phone calls after this time please do not hesitate to call the office should these arrangements need to change. Our contact number is 02 4724 3200.



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.

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.



**ENROLMENTS
2022 & 2023
NOW OPEN**

**9 March 2021
Open Night
5-8pm**

**PENOLA
CATHOLIC COLLEGE**
Believe | Achieve | Succeed

www.penolaemuplains.catholic.edu.au @PenolaEmuPlains P: 02 4728 8100



**XAVIER COLLEGE
2021 OPEN DAY**

TUESDAY 2ND MARCH

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND STAY UP TO DATE AT
XAVIERLLANDILO.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/ENROL-NOW/OPEN-DAYS

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2021

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	26 February	9:00am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Friday	5 March		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY No school for students today
Thursday	11 March		Cross Country Carnival



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE
2021 OPEN DAY
SUNDAY, 7 MARCH
BOOK ONLINE FOR YOUR GUIDED TOUR
 College tours will commence at 9.30am
 ONLINE BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au
 PLACES LIMITED
THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR SON
 54-54 Gessoligne Street, Kingswood NSW 2747.
 All enrolment enquiries: phone 02 4791 1983 or email info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au
 COVID SAFE



After School Drama Classes
WEDNESDAYS
 St Mary MacKillop Hall
KIDS CAN ACT
 DRAMA STUDIO
 Classes start Wed 10th Feb 8 week term.
 Ask about a 2 WEEK TRIAL
 Enrolment required
 Super Kids (K-Yr2) 3.15pm
 Cool Kids (Yr3-Yr7) 4.15pm
 Supervision available from 3.00pm -5.15pm if required
www.kidscanact.com.au
Mrs Cathie Parkes- 0414 475 158
 All enquiries & enrolments are to be through the website above. NOT school office.

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.

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!