



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.

200 Years of Catholic Education in Australia.

This year we continue our celebration of Catholic Schooling in Australia. Did you know..... Catholic schooling in Australia began in 1820 when Father John Therry opened the first enduring school in Hunter Street, Parramatta.

The first teacher at this early colonial school was George Marley. In 1821 he had 31 pupils; seven of these were from Protestant families. The school, which was later moved to what is now the site of St. Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta, was administered by lay teachers for 55 years.

In 1839 the Sisters of Charity were the first Religious order to arrive and begin to work in Parramatta. They were followed in 1874 by the Sisters of Mercy and in 1875 with the arrival of the Marist Brothers.

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 have created 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 needs to be strictly monitored for numbers attending, therefore we require a 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.

Next week we will run the model below:

3 nights - Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3.30 -4.30pm Kindy	3.30 -4.30pm Year 3	3.30 -4.30pm Year 1
4.30-5.30pm Year 5 and 6	4.30-5.30pm Year 4	4.30-5.30pm Year 2

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

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent is a liturgical season consisting of forty days beginning at Ash Wednesday and concluding at sundown on Holy Thursday. The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness where He was tested.

Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. During Lent we are encouraged to participate in the three traditional forms of Lenten observance:

- Fasting (self denial)
- Prayer and confession
- Almsgiving (acts of kindness, charity and mercy)


Traditionally, fasting had meant self denial - giving up something or going without. The idea behind this is that when we reach for the thing that we have "given up" it prompts us to think about why we have given that item up and reminds us to think about God and the Season of Lent. More recently, Lent has also become a time to take things up: a balance of fasting and feasting.



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.'




Third Week of Lent – Sunday 7th March

 We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Oliva, a 22-year-old woman from Tanzania. She did not have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count. As an adult, her business was losing money because she couldn't add up her money and give the right change to customers. Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes. Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes are growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.' Approximately 260 million children don't have the chance to go to school. Watch a short film about Oliva's story [here](#).



Fourth Week of Lent – Sunday 14th March

 Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his house, so always had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area. His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner agency, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save money to construct their own toilet. Now, Arsad's family is healthier, their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.' Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population, or 45 million people, practice open defecation – going to the toilet outdoors in fields, forests and other open spaces. Watch a short film about Arsad'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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession, Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Healing or Penance) is one of seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Penance is a sacrament instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins (wrong choices) committed after Baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sins and promise to try to do better in the future. It is called a "sacrament" not simply a ceremony, because it is an outward sign instituted by Christ to impart grace to the soul.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The Sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (John 20:21-23)

Please pray for the following students who are currently 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, Giuseppe 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

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Year 1 Minibeasts Incursion

This term in Science, Year 1 have been learning about living things. On Tuesday 2nd March, Year 1 participated in a Minibeasts incursion. Year 1 had the opportunity to dig and discover the bugs hidden in the compost using paddlepop sticks and magnifying glasses. They learnt from Effie and Chris who shared with them information about the different bugs that they brought. Some of the bugs at the incursion were Stick insects, worms, cockroaches, pillbugs, millipedes, and slugs. The students enjoyed being able to have a hands-on experience learning more about these smaller living things.

Ms Neilsen & Mrs Woodhead



P & F News

Once again, St Mary MacKillop Primary School will have to postpone our School Fete that was scheduled for May 2, 2021.

Based on the current restrictions that exist, we believe a fete this year isn't viable. We are in the midst of organising some super fun activities for the students this year at school. Details will be available early next term.

Special thanks go to our very patient and understanding sponsors:

Wildmans Cranes
Outback Steakhouse
Bella Dental Penrith
West Air Conditioning

Our P&F Annual General Meeting will take place soon - a note will go home about this next week.

We look forward to seeing you next week during Open Classrooms, we will have the BBQ going with Sausage Sandwiches available for you as a Welcome from the P&F.

P & F Team



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.

**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

CAROLINE CHISHOLM—BOOK YOUR SCHOOL TOUR NOW

We have limited places for our school tours on 8 - 10 March. Visit our Eventbrite booking page to secure your tickets.

<https://cccopentours2021.eventbrite.com.au>

Parents and students in Year 5 & 6 are invited to tour our facilities and hear from our students why girls flourish here. See our brand new facilities and have all your questions answered.

**CAROLINE
CHISHOLM
COLLEGE**

CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2021

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	5 March		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY No school for students today
Monday	8 March	3:30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-5:30pm	Kindergarten Meet the Teacher Year 5 & Year 6 Meet the Teacher
Tuesday	9 March	3:30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-5:30pm	Year 3 Meet the Teacher Year 4 Meet the Teacher
Wednesday	10 March	3:30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-5:30pm	Year 1 Meet the Teacher Year 2 Meet the Teacher
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 Grosvenor Street,
 Kingswood NSW 2247
 All enrolment enquiries phone 02 4731 1983
 or email info@stdominics.nsw.edu.au

After School Drama Classes
WEDNESDAYS
 St Mary MacKillop Hall

KIDS CAN ACT
 DRAMA STUDIO

CREATIVE KIDS
 QUALIFIED TUTOR
 NSW

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 P E A N U T
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!