



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,

It has been such a wonderful experience to welcome back our Kindergarten and Year One children this week. They have really brightened up our week and breathed new life into our school as they ease back into the routines of St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We have also welcomed back half of our Year 2 children and a quarter of the Year 3 students and a quarter of the Year 4 students this week ahead of the full return of all students on **Monday 25th October**.

Our staff continue to work tirelessly to plan and provision for a smooth and safe return for everyone. This includes moving to a model of 'Cohorting' for all grades. For example, the children in Year One will only be playing with Year One students on a designated Year One playground and only learning with Year One students in a Year One space with teachers assigned to only teach Year One. At this stage there will be no mixing across cohorts. Each grade will operate this way and we have adopted a staggered timetable across the school day to allow this to work.

We have also prioritised ventilation in all spaces. Windows remain open during learning time and fans and air conditioners are used when required to ensure circulation of air.

At this stage there are no provisions for parents, carers or non-essential visitors to be onsite for Term 4. We will advise the community if there are changes to this expectation.



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 25th October
Years 2 - 6 return to school

Thursday 11th November
Confirmation Mass 5pm and 7pm

Friday 12th November
Confirmation Mass 7pm

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th
November
Year 5 Camp - YMCA
TO BE CONFIRMED PENDING
HEALTH ADVICE

Tuesday 7th December
Year 6 Graduation Mass and
Ceremony
TO BE CONFIRMED PENDING
HEALTH ADVICE

Thursday 9th & Friday 10th
December
Year 6 Camp - Canberra
TO BE CONFIRMED PENDING
HEALTH ADVICE

Monday 13th December
Year 6 Farewell
TO BE CONFIRMED PENDING
HEALTH ADVICE

Wednesday 15th December
Last day of school for students

Thursday 16th December
Staff Development Day
No school for students

Friday 17th December
Staff Development Day
No school for students



News from Scott - Continued

It may seem strange that whilst the community return to life with fewer and fewer restrictions, schools are putting in place stronger restrictions. We are always guided by advice from our relevant school systems but also the reality that we need to build the confidence of our parent community around our ability to keep the kids safe whilst managing a large number of unvaccinated children through this next phase of the pandemic. I ask for your trust and support as we navigate the way ahead.

We are all very excited to reconnect here at school and return to a more 'normal' way of doing our work together. The staff are so very grateful to our parent, grandparents, aunties, uncles and all those who have supported our children to continue learning while keeping them safe.

If you have matters that you wish to discuss regarding your child's return to school, please make contact with us via your child's teacher or through the school office so that we can address them appropriately.

We look forward to seeing you at school again soon.

Staffing News:

We recently received the great news that Brittany Gillespie welcomed the arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Brittany and baby Lily are all home and doing well. What a wonderful blessing for Brittany and Steve and we send them all our love.

I also announced earlier in the year that Mrs Deb Aliberti will be welcoming a new addition to her family. Mrs Aliberti will commence maternity leave on 1st November and we will wait with excitement to meet their 'bundle of joy'. We wish Deb, Zach and Lily all the very best at this time.

Brittany Carey shared some more wonderful news with us recently with the announcement that she and Vili are expecting their first child. On your behalf, I wish them every blessing as they begin this next chapter of their lives together. Miss Carey will be taking maternity for 2022.

On a sadder note, Mairead Stynes, former member of staff, Assistant Principal of St Mary MacKillop and active parishioner in St Nicholas of Myra Parish passed away last week. She has been in our thoughts and prayers. Her funeral will be held on Monday 25th October at St Nicholas of Myra.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal



News from Scott - Continued

I call on our partnership between 'home and school' to check our shared expectation around uniform and appearance of students when they return to school.

I have included below, the sections from our policies regarding uniform. It is located on our school website - <https://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/> under the heading 'Enrol'.

BOY'S SUMMER UNIFORM

Grey school shorts
Pale lemon short sleeve shirt with school emblem on pocket - open neck
Grey ankle length socks
Black shoes - no boots or joggers

BOY'S SPORT UNIFORM

Green shorts
Lemon T-shirt with school emblem
White socks worn above the ankle
Predominately white joggers laces

GIRL'S SUMMER UNIFORM

Green check dress with clementine green on collar, tab and sleeve cuffs
White ankle length socks
Black shoes - no boots or joggers

GIRL'S SPORT UNIFORM

Green shorts
Lemon T-shirt with school emblem
White socks worn above the ankle
Predominately white joggers laces

Hair

If hair is below shoulder length, it must be tied back with a bottle green ribbon or scrunchie. Hair is not to be coloured for either boys or girls. Haircuts are to be suitable for school for both boys and girls. No mullets, spiking, No. 1 zig zags or razoring etc.

Friday 30 April
2:20pm Whole School
Assembly
3M Assembly Item

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

Friday 14 May
2:20pm
Whole School Assembly

Monday 20 May
School Photos

Religious Education News

The Sacrament Of Confirmation

As many of our upper primary students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is an opportune time to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament.



The Sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and completes the process of initiation into the Catholic community. It establishes young adults as full members of the faith. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to believe in God and the Church on a child's behalf. At Confirmation, the candidates renew those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe.

A bishop celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation, because each bishop is a successor to the Apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The bishop wears red vestments to symbolize the red tongues of fire seen hovering over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the anointing of the confirmation candidate with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop). At the time of anointing the bishop will say "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" This seal is a consecration, representing the safekeeping by the Holy Spirit of the graces bestowed on the Christian at Baptism.

All baptized persons can and should be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith and for the practice of faith.

As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for the following Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation:

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, Tristan R, Gerard R, Amalia S, Maddison S, Susan V, Jonathan V, Piper W, Angela W and Jacob X

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Friday 14 May
2:20pm
Whole School Assembly

Thursday 27 May
School Photos

P & F NEWS

Year 6 Farewell

Save the date - Monday 13th December
Details to be advised pending health advice closer to the time.

The St Mary MacKillop P&F Committee

School Fees

Outstanding school fees statements have now been sent with a due date of 18 November. 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, please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins on 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.

Unwell Children

A friendly reminder to families to please keep children who are displaying any cold/flu like symptoms, i.e. coughing, sneezing, runny nose, fever, sore throat at home to rest. Children are required to be symptom free before they return to school.

If a child presents to school with any of the above symptoms, parents/cares will be called and asked to pick the child up. Families will be asked to provide a copy of a negative Covid Test result before the child is able to return to school.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Canteen

The canteen will be open from Monday 25th October. A new Term 4 menu is on the following page.

2021 - Term 4 CANTEEN MENU

Hot Food

Chicken Nuggets	4 for	\$3.20
	6 for	\$4.80
Corn on the Cob		\$1.20
Hot Cheese Roll		\$3.00
Hot Dog w/ Sauce		\$3.50
Sausage Roll		\$3.60
Hot Chicken Roll		\$4.00
Traveller Pie		\$4.20

Burgers

Chicken Burger	\$4.60
Lettuce & Mayo	
Veggie Burger	\$4.80
Lettuce & Mayo	
Cheese Burger	\$5.00
Meat, Cheese & BBQ Sauce	

Pasta & Rice

Macaroni & Cheese	\$4.60
Beef Lasagne	\$4.60
Vegetable Lasagne	\$4.60

Hot Wraps

Chicken Tender w/ Lettuce & Mayo	\$5.00
Toasted Ham/Cheese	\$5.00
Chicken Caesar	\$5.00

Bento Box \$5.00

Chicken Breast Slice,
1/2 Sandwich, Mini Muffins,
Sliced Fruit, Popcorn

Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps

All sandwiches made on wholemeal bread

Upgrade to Roll or Wrap	\$0.50
Vegemite or Jam	\$2.00
Tomato or Cheese	\$2.50
Tuna or Egg	\$3.20
Ham, Chicken or Salmon	\$3.60
Salad Sandwich	\$3.50
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot & Carrot	
Salad w/ Cheese	\$4.00
Salad w/ Tuna or Ham	\$4.20
Salad w/ Chicken or Salmon	\$4.50
Extras (including Toasting)	\$0.60
Cheese, Avocado, Sprouts	

Salads

Garden Salad	\$4.20
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot & Carrot	
w/ Ham or Tuna	\$4.80
w/ Salmon or Chicken	\$5.00
Extras	\$0.60
Cheese, Avocado, Sprouts, Egg or Capsicum	

Drinks

Bottled Water 600ml	\$2.00
Plain Milk 300ml	\$2.00
Juice Popper	\$2.20
Flavoured Milk 300ml (3 Flavours)	\$2.50
Juice Bomb Sparkling Juice	\$2.60
Up 'n' Go	\$2.70

Gluten Free and Halal menus are available
online (see details below)

Cold Treats

Frozen Lite Cordial Cup	\$0.50
Quelch Fruit Stick	\$1.00
Frozen Juice Cup	\$1.30
Snap Stix Ice Block	\$1.30
Icy Mony	\$1.30
Moosie Pouch	\$1.30
Juicee Tube	\$1.50

All cold treats are to be collected from
the canteen by returning brown lunch bag

Snacks

Laughing Cow Cheese	\$1.00
Carrot Sticks	\$1.00
Piece of Fruit	\$1.20
Boiled Egg	\$1.00
Popcorn	\$1.50
Fruit Salad	Small \$2.50 Large \$4.00
Banana Bread Slice	\$2.50
Red Rock Crisps	\$1.60
Grainwaves	\$1.60

Classroom Catering is fully compliant
with the NSW Healthy School
Canteen food & drink benchmarks



Classroom Catering supports a
focus on everyday healthy
food & drink options

Lunch order cut off is 9am
For a more detailed menu and to order
online, please visit spriggyschools.com.au

Spriggy
Schools

Information provided by
The Got It! Team
Child and Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS)
NSW Health

Got It!



Returning to school – tips for caregivers

Worried about your child returning to school?

Back to school facts:

- Face-to-face learning with a trained educator is important for child health and wellbeing.
- Children learn better when physically at school with their peers.
- Daily connection to peers and your school community fosters your child's social and emotional development.
- School staff are there to keep your children healthy and will model safe behaviour.



Masks:

- School staff are required to wear face masks and it's strongly recommended that primary school students wear face masks when indoors.
- Teachers will be utilising frequent opportunities to ensure that children wearing masks feel comfortable and are supported by their peers.
- If your child is feeling worried about the reactions of others for wearing or not wearing a mask, validate their emotions and let them know that they can talk to you or their teachers.
- Some people will be able to wear masks easily and others may have a more difficult time. Let your child know that the reasons for this are not always visible or obvious. Encourage empathy and kindness.

Adult worries vs child worries:

- Feelings of stress, anxiety or uncertainty about school return are normal. Acknowledge your own worries and focus on what is within your control.
- Avoid introducing your own worries to your child where possible. Instead discuss your concerns with your adult support network (e.g. partners or spouses, teachers etc.) out of your child's presence.
- Remain calm and let your child know that the big problems will be managed between adults, they can focus on learning and fun.



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!