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,

Thank you so very much to our parents, carers and community.
I have expressed my gratitude and that of the staff, many times over, for the ongoing understanding and support during this time of pandemic.
As I plan for the year ahead, my mind keeps returning to the journey we have travelled over the past two years. I am deeply concerned that over this time our parents and community have carried all the responsibilities of being a parent at St Mary MacKillop but have very little of the 'rewards' of being a parent of our school. I know that the staff team feel the same way. We could not have succeeded in the hard times without you at our side, but we haven't been able to enjoy the 'best parts' of the partnership.

I am so glad that we can attempt, at least in a modified way, to celebrate the start of the 2022 school year together. Our Opening School Liturgy will be on the playground at 9:15 am next Friday 25th, rather than in the hall. It won't be air-conditioned, and we won't have the technology of the projector, but we will have our community together. For me, that is one of the 'best parts' of our partnership. As the term continues, we will explore additional ways that we can have our community together without compromising Health Orders or safety. For example, the children and teachers have been engaging in Friday afternoon assemblies again.

The Year Six student leaders have been learning and practising their roles at assembly with the aim of being able to invite parents, carers, and community to attend again in the not to distant future. My hope is that as soon as we are allowed, you will be able to come and see what wonderful leaders we have amongst our students and be as proud of them as I am every week.

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday, 22nd February
Parent Reconciliation Meeting
7pm @ St Nicholas of Myra

Thursday, 24th February
Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook Pools

Friday 25th February
9:15am
Opening School Liturgy & Year 6 Leadership Induction

Wednesday, 2nd March
Ash Wednesday

Monday, 7th March
Catholic School's Week

KEEPING IN TOUCH

News from Scott - Continued

Our fingers are crossed, and we pray in hope that the responsibilities and rewards become better balanced again in 2022 and our partnership of home, school and parish can be at it's very best for everyone.
Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Crossing Supervision
You would be aware that we still do not have a regular 'Crossing Guard' at our school pedestrian crossing. I have been in regular contact over the start of the year with our Transport for NSW Coordinator and she has followed up on the proposed School Crossing Supervisor's internal transfer that we expected for 2022. Unfortunately, the SCS has changed his mind.

However, a successful candidate stemming from the role advertised last year is currently going through checks. Transport for NSW are unable to provide a start date at this point, however, they are working on a permanent School Crossing Supervisor for St Mary MacKillop Catholic School.

In the meantime Laurel (who is familiar to us as a previous supervisor), has kindly agreed to cover the school crossing Tuesdays (AM only) and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (both AM & PM) from tomorrow, Friday 18 February until our new supervisor arrives.

I will provide an update when more information becomes available from Transport for NSW.

Together We Grow
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

Religious Education News

Opening School Liturgy of the Word and Year 6 Leadership Induction – 9:15am Friday 25th February

Our Opening School Liturgy will be held on Friday 25th February. At our Liturgy we will gather as a school community to pray for God's blessing on the school year and welcome Kindergarten and the new students across the grades to St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We will also induct our Year 6 students into their leadership roles for 2022.

Earlier this week a detailed note was sent home outlining our COVID safe measures for this celebration along with an RSVP for those attending. We look forward to celebrating our Catholic faith with you.

2022 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation

The Parish based Sacramental Program will begin this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance).

A friendly reminder that the Parent Information Session for those students already enrolled in the program will be held at St Nicholas of Myra Church on Tuesday, 22nd February at 7pm.

All enquires to Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House
Ph: 47212509.
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Shrove Tuesday – 1st March

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent. The Lenten Season is a time of abstinence, of giving things up, so traditionally Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that weren't allowed in Lent. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off. For this reason, pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

Wednesday 2nd of March is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting.

The Season of Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the c time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Lent it is a beau remember Jesus' sacrifice for us and prepare us for the Easter season.

Religious Education News Continued

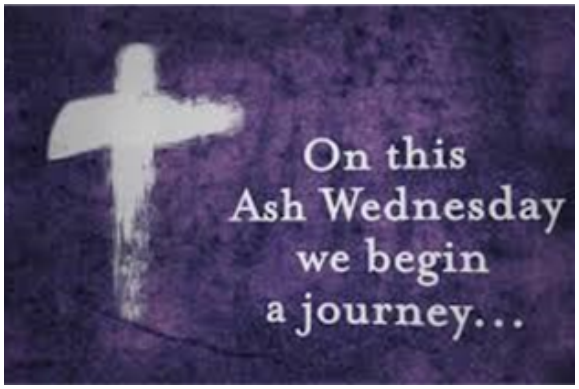
Ash Wednesday is the day for us to take stock of our spiritual lives and we are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. As Lent begins, we should set out specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them —for instance receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To celebrate the beginning of Lent all students will attend an Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word. During the liturgy the ashes, which give Ash Wednesday its name, will be distributed. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year.

The distribution of ashes, is a tangible reminder of our own need to focus on being better people. Through acts of penance comes a change of heart – a coming back to God. Our personal Lenten journey should be marked with reflection, prayer and penance. Throughout Lent we should strive to model the actions of Christ.

'Say YES to God and do good things.'

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator



School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees will be sent to your home address as from Friday, 18th February 2022 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.

ICAS ASSESSMENTS 2021

Last year, some of our students in Years 2 - 6 participated in ICAS Assessments for English, Maths and Science. These assessments test student academic achievement in those key learning areas. Due to Covid, this testing period was pushed back to the end of Term 4 and we were unable to celebrate the achievement of our SMMP students.

Congratulations to the following students for your outstanding efforts.

Science:
Distinction - Liviana J (Yr 5), Chloe F (Yr 3)
Credit - Michael O (Yr 5), Louise W (Yr 4)
Merit - Vaasu N (Yr 4)
Participation - Koby L (Yr 6)

Mathematics:
High Distinction - Chloe F (Yr 3)
Distinction - Michael O (Yr 5), Vaasu N (Yr 4)
Credit - Ava N (Yr 6), Louise W (Yr 4), Matteo J (Yr 2)
Participation - Xavier A (Yr 6), Claude E (Yr 6), Koby L (Yr 6), Liviana J (Yr 5)

English:
High Distinction - Liviana J (Yr 5)
Distinction - Chloe F (Yr 3)
Credit - Louise W (Yr 4)
Participation: Ava N (Yr 6), Koby L (Yr 6), Claude E (Yr 6), Michael O (Yr 5), Matteo J (Yr 2)

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CAROLINE CHISHOLM COLLEGE
2023 ENROLMENTS
FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12
Open Night Tours: Monday 7th to Wednesday 9th March 2021
Please book through Eventbrite
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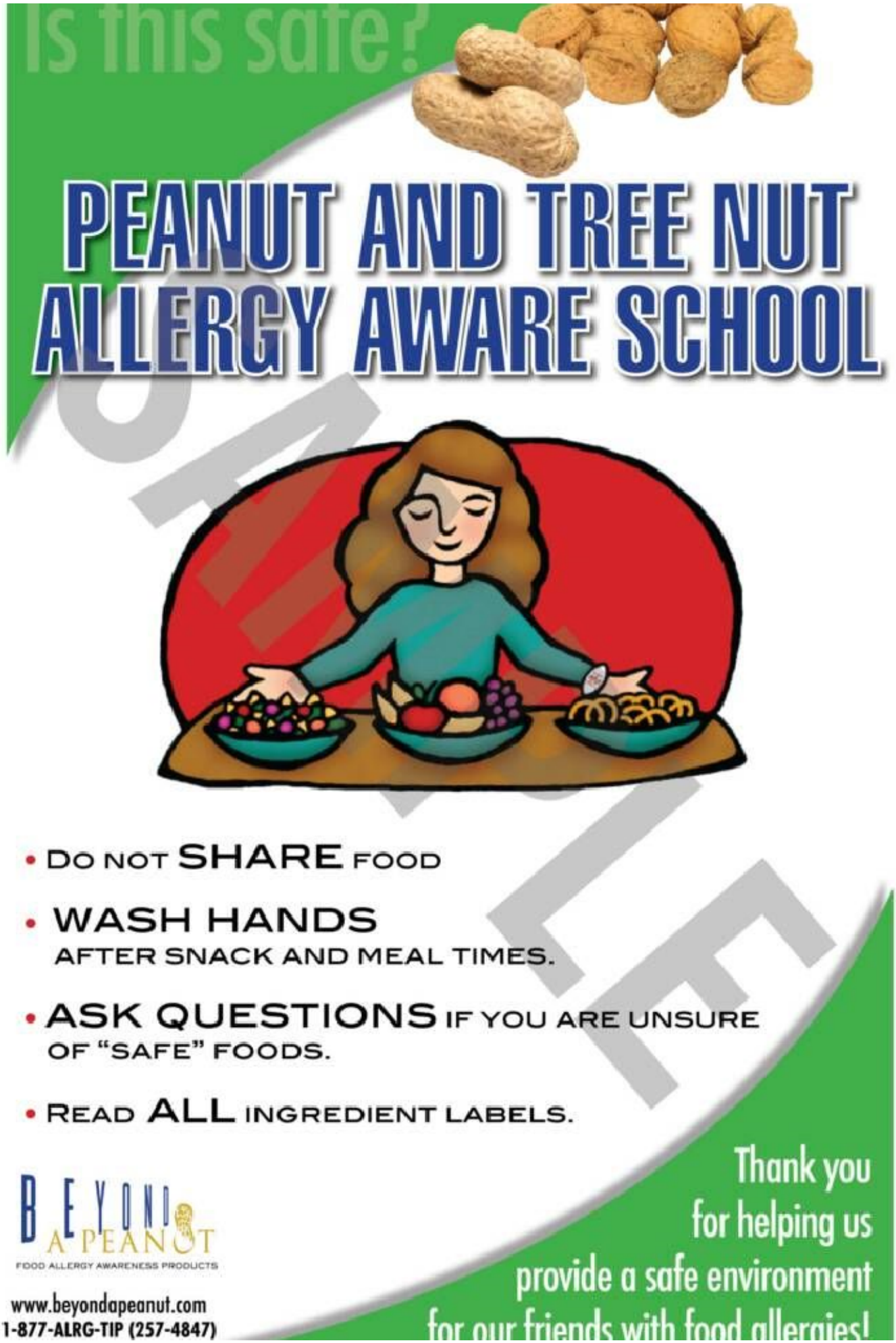
Is this safe?
PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL
• DO NOT SHARE FOOD
• WASH HANDS AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
• ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF "SAFE" FOODS.
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