

## Keeping In Touch

2 March 2023



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## 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,

I am so happy to be back at school, pain free and well rested. Thank you for your kind thoughts and words both before my hip operation and in the time that I have been back.

I am truly blessed to lead such a great staff team at St Mary MacKillop. I had no hesitation or doubts about the school being well provisioned in my absence and am very grateful to the team for giving me the opportunity to recover from my surgery. Our staff are so professional in their conduct but also so caring in their commitment to community and to each other. I would especially like to acknowledge Mrs O'Leary who acted in the position of Principal, Mrs Gillard who acted in the position of Assistant Principal and Mrs Jarrett who acted in the role of Religious Education Coordinator. The school year has begun so smoothly under their leadership and guidance.

*So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, (Genesis 1:27)*

We have begun the Season of Lent for this year and it has given me reason to reflect on what I want to focus on in my life this year. I have decided on the bible passage above. I have been drawn to it largely because of the beautiful community I work in, the young lives I encounter everyday and a heartfelt hope for love to prosper and grow in our world.

This passage contains a really important message for all of us. It explains that we are made in the image and likeness of God because we can love, create and truly choose good. We are not merely reactionary creatures but a creation that, like God, can choose good and to love one another. My prayer for each one of us at this time of Lent, is that we encounter that love from someone every day and that we are the face of that love to someone else at least one time each day. In this type of encounter we can actually see the face of our God in our world today. Is there anything more important for us to work towards in our world ?

Together We Grow

Scott

## Afternoon Dismissal Procedures

Dear parents and caregivers,

Just a few friendly reminders about our afternoon dismissal procedures that are in place to ensure a smooth, timely and safe dismissal for all our students and teachers. Your help in following these procedures is greatly appreciated.

- Parents are kindly asked to ***keep the bottom gate clear*** so that teachers can walk classes out to the park and load the buses. Congestion at the gate makes afternoon dismissal very unsafe.
- All students on ***'walkers' can be picked up in the park at 3pm***. Any child left in the park after 3:10pm will be brought back to school by the teacher on duty and placed on 'waiters'.
- ***The top gate (near the office), must also remain clear***. This allows the classes to exit the school safely and the teachers to move the bus children to the buses.
- Children on ***waiters can be picked up at 3:10pm. No parent should be at the top gate until 3:10pm.***
- If you need to pick up your child before 3:10 pm please send them to ***'walkers'*** and meet them in the park.

Thank you for your support in keeping the afternoon dismissal smooth, timely and safe.

## PARENT READING HELPER INFORMATION EVENING

Are you wanting to be a Parent Reading Helper in Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2 this year at St Mary MacKillop?

Please join us for a Parent Reading Helper Workshop on Monday 27th March 2023 at 5:30pm in the Library. This session will explore the fundamentals of Literacy development and provide strategies for helping children with reading acquisition.

Please note that it is a requirement of our school that all our reading helpers have participated in this Parent Literacy Workshop and have completed the Building Child Safe Communities Online Training Module.

Jessica Tredinnick  
Literacy Coordinator



# Religious Education News

## The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb) is a 40 day liturgical season of the church. The colour of lent is purple and it is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving (sharing what we have with the poor).

The 40 days of 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. It is a time to nurture our relationship with God and seek the meaning of Jesus' selfless love, so that we might reflect that love to others.



**First Week of Lent** (Week beginning Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February)

### ***Laxmi from Nepal***

We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about Laxmi, a 16-year-old girl living in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and, after losing him, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school. Watch a short film about Laxmi's story [here](#).



**Second Week of Lent** (Week beginning Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March)

### ***Tereesa from Western Sydney***

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Tereesa, a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Tereesa's only concern was finding stability for her children. Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Through Baabayn, Tereesa was also able to hear stories from Indigenous Elders and reconnect with her culture.

Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community. Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

Watch a short film about Tereesa's story [here](#).



Please support Project Compassion: [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion)



# Religious Education News - Continued

## **Shrove Tuesday - Project Compassion Fundraiser**

Thank you to everyone who ordered and enjoyed pancakes last week for the Project Compassion fundraiser. Through this activity we were able to raise \$1,699.40 for the 2023 Project Compassion Appeal. What a great effort St Mary MacKillop!

This money will be forwarded to Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development so that they can continue to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

## **Catholic Schools Week: 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March**

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual event and involves the communities of all 591 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration and the theme this year is "Our teachers make the difference". The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools across the State. CSW will provide an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what is done every day in our schools and invite the community in to experience teaching and learning at its best. Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

***To celebrate Catholic School Week at St Mary MacKillop we will have a Liturgy of the Word at 9:15am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March. This liturgy will be facilitated by Year 4 and all in our community are warmly invited to attend to celebrate our faith together. Following the CSW liturgy we will have open classrooms.***



As many of our Stage 3 students begin 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.

# Religious Education News - Continued

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 (or his representative) 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 be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith.

Please keep the following students in your prayers as they prepare for receiving the Sacrament of confirmation on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

*Alexander B, Amelia B, Emmie B, Samuel B, Christopher B, Lila B, Valentino C, Olivia D, Sophie F, Ruby G, Ava H, Joel H, Madison H, Jacob J, Riley K, Eliza K, Jai M, Molly Mc, Lachlan Mc, Grayson M, Thomas M, Aoife M, Lucas N, Spencer P, Sophie P, Anneliese R, Finn R, Alexis S, Emily S, Braiden S, Jack V, Capri W, Hunter W and Joshua X.*

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

# Sport News

## Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival

On Monday, the 11th March, select students from Years 2 - 6 competed in the Nepean Zone Swimming carnival held at Glenbrook Swimming Pool. Students competed in a range of swimming events on the day. Every student from Mackillop showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the day and made Mackillop proud. A number of students placed in the top 4 for their individual events and will move on to the next level.

Congratulations to the following students Peter B, Amelia B, Misa F, Isabelle F, Spencer P, Samuel H and Thomas B on making it to the next level. We wish to congratulate all the students who participated in the relay with a particular mention to the 3 relay teams who placed in the top 4 for their age group and will be heading to Diocesan to represent the school on the 14th March. We wish these students all the best.

Well done to everyone who participated on a great day.

Mrs Wotherspoon and Mrs Groger





# P & F News

Just a quick note from the P&F!

We had our 1<sup>st</sup> Zooper Dooper day for the year last Thursday and even though the weather wasn't overly hot it was a huge success. We managed to raise approx. \$300, which is great for a quick and easy fundraiser. Thank you to all the families that participated. Also, a big thanks to all our P&F and parent helpers - K Beazley, S Snow, S Lee, C Vella, C Habib, M Bachtis, K Robinson, K Wallace and to the McNally family for donating some Zooper Doopers.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us throughout the year. So if you are a baker, love to wrap or enjoy a good old-fashioned BBQ then we need you!

Please send your name and contact details to [smmppandf@gmail.com](mailto:smmppandf@gmail.com) or to 0423763926 and we'll be in touch.

We had our 1<sup>st</sup> P&F meeting for 2023 last night and we have some exciting ideas for the year, which we can't wait to share with you all. If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page **(St Mary Mackillop P&F South Penrith)** as we post all our upcoming events/fundraisers on this page.

On behalf of the P&F, have a lovely weekend.

Michelle Darwen

P&F President

On Behalf of the SMMP P&F Team

## **School Fees**

Instalment 1 School Fees are due Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. If you already have paid your fees or set up an arrangement, thank you.

If you are having any difficulties in paying your school fees please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

## **Leaving Students**

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. **One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.**

## **Planning a Holiday?**

There are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the school rolls. These guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays, during the school year, to complete a request of 'Exemption from School Attendance' form.

These forms are to be completed prior to your holiday. If you are taking your child on leave for more than 5 days a copy of your travel itinerary is required with the application. The school principal can only approve up to 50 school days leave. Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.



# Dates for your Diary

Friday 3 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 6 March	9:30am	School Tours for Kindergarten 2024 Families	
Wednesday 8 March	6pm-7pm	Kindergarten 2024 Parent Information Evening	School Hall
Thursday 9 March	9:15am	Catholic Schools Week Liturgy & Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 10 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 17 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 20 March		Naplan (Year 3 and Year 5) Commences	
Thursday 23 March	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy	School Hall
Thursday 23 March	5pm-6pm 7:30pm-8:30pm	Confirmation Mass	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 24 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 30 March	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 31 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 6 April	9:15 AM	Holy Week Easter Pageant	School Hall



## St Mary MacKillop Primary School Canteen Menu Term 1 2023

### Sandwiches & Wraps

All Sandwiches are made on wholemeal bread

Upgrade to Wrap	\$0.80
Vegemite, Jam or Cheese	\$2.50
Tuna or Egg	\$3.50
Ham, Chicken or Roast Beef	\$4.20
Salad Sandwich	\$4.20
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot and Carrot	
Salad with Tuna or Ham	\$4.50
Salad with Chicken or Roast Beef	\$5.00
Extras including; Toasting,	\$0.60
Cheese, Avocado, Sprouts	

### Build your own Sub Roll

**\$5.50**

One choice of Meat with any fillings and sauces

1. Choose your Meat;  
Chicken Breast, Ham, Tuna, Meatball, Roast Beef
2. Choose your Fillings  
Carrot, Cheese, Tomato, Lettuce, Cucumber, Beetroot
3. Choose your Sauce/Dressing  
Caesar, Garlic Aioli, Sweet Chilli, Tomato, BBQ, Mayo

### Salads

	Small	Large
Garden Salad	\$4.50	\$5.20
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Beetroot and Carrot		
Garden Salad with Ham or Tuna	\$5.20	\$6.00
Garden Salad with Chicken	\$5.20	\$6.00
Chicken Caesar Salad	\$5.50	\$6.00
Extras - each		\$0.70

### Burgers & Wraps

Chicken Tender Wrap	\$5.50
With Lettuce & Mayo	
Chicken Burger	\$5.00
With Lettuce & Mayo	
Cheese Burger	\$5.00
Beef, Cheese & BBQ Sauce	
Veggie Burger	\$5.00
With Lettuce & Mayo	

### Hot Food

Macaroni & Cheese	\$5.00
Butter Chicken & Rice	\$5.00
Beef or Vegetable Lasagne	\$5.00
Fried Rice	\$5.00
Traveller Pie	\$4.60
Sausage Roll	\$4.00
Spinach and Ricotta Roll	\$4.00
Party Pies	2 for \$3.00
Garlic Bread	\$2.50

### Drinks

Bottled Water - 600ml	\$2.00
Plain Milk - 300ml	\$2.20
Juice Popper	\$2.60
Flavoured Milk - 300ml	\$3.00
Juice Bomb Sparkling Juice	\$3.00
Up 'N' Go	\$3.20

### Snacks

Laughing Cow Cheese	\$1.20
Carrot Sticks	\$1.20
Piece of Fruit	\$1.50
Boiled Egg	\$1.20
Popcorn	\$2.00
Custard Cup	\$2.00
Red Rock Crips	\$2.00
Grainwaves	\$2.00
Riviana Fruit Cup	\$2.00
Banana Bread Slice	\$3.00

### ORDER ONLINE

For a detailed menu, and online ordering, please visit [spriggyschools.com.au](http://spriggyschools.com.au)



**Cut-Off time for all orders is 8:30am**



# High School Tours

## Save the Date

### 2024 ENROLMENTS

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

OPEN NIGHT TOURS:

Mon 13th to Wed 15th March 2023

Join us to see for yourself why girls are so happy to learn at Caroline Chisholm College.

Tours of the college: 3:30 - 6:30pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Limited places available in other years

Further information and bookings can be made via our website and Facebook page.

[www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au](http://www.cccglenmorepark.nsw.edu.au)

90-98 The Lakes Drive Glenmore Park

Enrolment packages can be obtained by contacting the college on: 4737 5500

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COLLEGE



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Respectful



Safe



Xavier College Open Night  
Tuesday March 7, 2023  
4pm-6pm. Prospective 2023  
students and families are  
welcome to attend.  
Tours and application forms  
available on the night.

## OPEN NIGHT

### Tuesday 7 March 2023 4pm - 7pm

**PENOLA**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Enrolling now for Year 7 2024

Self-guided & guided  
tours available  
no bookings required

Your local 7-12 co-educational Catholic School

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## St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care provides fun, engaging programs before and after school. Our programs include games, sport, art, craft, and free-time facilitated by Ambrose educators experienced in the nationally approved learning framework, My Time Our Place. Children love Ambrose as the programs are developed around their interests and ideas

They're also a great way to make friends, develop social skills, and most importantly – have fun!



## Our Opening Hours

**Before School Care:** 6.30am – 8.45am

**After School Care:** 2:30pm – 6.00pm

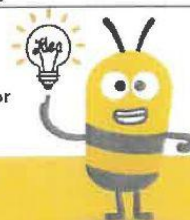
**Pupil Free Day:** 6.30am – 6.00pm

## Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
Morning	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
Afternoon	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
Pupil Free Day - Standard Fee - Early 'Bee' Special	6.30am – 6.00pm	\$14.43 \$ 12.51	\$39.37 \$34.12	\$75 \$65

\*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.



To enrol now - please complete the enrolment form [here](#)  
Or contact the service on

Email: [stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au](mailto:stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au) Phone: 0492 367 298

*Learning for life*

Is this safe?



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- **WASH HANDS**  
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
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OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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[www.beyondapeanut.com](http://www.beyondapeanut.com)  
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you  
for helping us  
provide a safe environment  
for our friends with food allergies!