

Keeping In Touch

17 March 2023



Click on the image above to see our St Mary MacKillop Facebook Page for the latest photos and updates. Like and Follow!

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,

The work we do in inviting, welcoming and transitioning our new students and families to this wonderful school seems to never stop. Having just settled our 2023 Kindergarten children and families into St Mary MacKillop school, we are already commencing enrolments for Kindergarten 2024.

It really isn't surprising that we have commenced the process for next year's kindergarten because we do such a thorough job in preparing our children and families to join our community. Ensuring our parents and children are ready for their first day at 'big school' takes so much anxiety and stress out of home and school. It also sets the relationships for our strong partnership going forward.

If you have a child who is ready to commence school next year, or if you have family and friends who are looking to start a child in kindergarten next year, please get your enrolment forms into the school office as soon as you can. We have already received quite a number of enrolment forms and will commence meeting with families soon as we will send out our first letters of offer for places on April 1.

Safe, Respectful, Learners.

At St Mary MacKillop School we expect all of our children to be safe, respectful, learners. This week we sent out a Compass message to all families about some 'energy / health' drinks that have started to be brought to school. Trying to understand the ingredients and health issues associated with these products almost requires a degree in chemistry but the consensus is that these types of drinks are not good for learning and in some cases are not good for the health and safety of our kids. As parents, it also quite difficult to know what is in these drinks as often the advertising is deceptive and our kids at times use their pocket money and independence to buy them without us knowing.

We recommend plain water in a drink bottle for our kids to promote health and learning at school.

Together We Grow

Scott Buchan

CSPD promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. SMS: respond with reason to school notification of absence
2. Online: log the absence directly using *the Compass Parent Portal*
3. Email: the school at stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au
4. Telephone: the school office 02 4724 3200
5. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the **7 day** timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the **7 day** timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

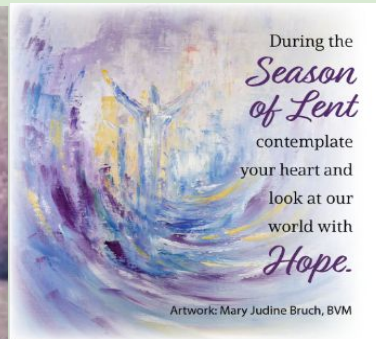
The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within **7 days**
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child.

every learner every day 

Religious Education News



Third Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 12th March)

Priscilla from Zimbabwe

We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Priscilla, who lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and two of their grandchildren. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

During times of intense drought and food shortages, Priscilla had to commute to the town centre and wait in long queues to collect food.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising in conservation farming. Priscilla also used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought. While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the techniques, tools and resources she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

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



Fourth Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 19th March)

Thu from Vietnam

This week through Project Compassion we learn about Thu, who lives in Vietnam.

When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

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



Please support Project Compassion: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Religious Education News Continued



As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for the following Confirmation candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 23rd March:

Alexander B, Amelia B, Emmie B, Anthony B, Samuel B, Sienna 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.

At Confirmation these children will receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These seven gifts were first received in the Sacrament of Baptism then they are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is one of the reasons why the Catholic Church teaches that Confirmation is properly viewed as the completion of Baptism.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit give us strength to help us through life. The seven gifts are:

Wisdom: The ability to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

Understanding: The ability to comprehend that we are followers of Christ.

Counsel (Right Judgment): The ability to know right from wrong and to choose to do what is right.

Piety (Reverence): The ability to have deep respect for God and the church.

Knowledge: The ability to understand the meaning of God.

Fortitude (Courage): The ability to overcome our fear and to stand up for what is right in the eyes of God.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe): The ability to be aware that God is all-powerful, all-loving, all-perfect. To be in admiration of all the wonderful things God does.

Whole School Easter Celebration – 9:15am Thursday 6th April

This year to celebrate Easter, the most important liturgical season of the church year, the St Mary MacKillop community will focus on the last week of Jesus' life as the students re-enact the events of Holy Week. Each grade will present a certain event from Holy Week:

Palm Sunday - Kindergarten

Jesus cleansing the temple - Year 1

Holy Thursday - The Last Supper and Washing of the Feet- Year 4

Agony in the Garden- Year 2

Jesus is arrested and Peter denies Jesus- Year 3

Jesus' trial, carrying the cross and Good Friday - Year 5

After the holidays

Easter Sunday and The road to Emmaus - Year 6



Please join us in the hall on Thursday 6th April at 9:15am for our celebration of Easter.

Religious Education News Continued

Walk Me Home

On Sunday the 26th of March Mr Martin and some of his friends are participating in the 'Walk Me Home' appeal to support the wonderful work of Ronald McDonald House in Randwick. This is a 25km walk that will begin at Lyne Park in Rose Bay and finish at Ronald McDonald House in Randwick. Mr Martin and his friends are raising money to support this charity because it does fantastic work helping sick and injured children and their families by giving them and their families a place to call home during some of the most difficult times in their lives. If you would like to make a contribution to support Ronald McDonald House and Mr Martin's team on the walk please use the link below. We wish Mr Martin and his friends the best of luck.

<https://www.walkmehome.org.au/fundraisers/grantmartin/walk-me-home-2023>



St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Sacramental Program - Holy Communion



Enrolments for the Sacrament of Holy Communion will open on our website,
stnicholasofmyra.org.au

on

Wednesday 5th April 2023

and close on

Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 4.00pm

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Practice afternoon, 2nd Rite of Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion Masses.

To be eligible for First Holy Communion,
Children must be in Year 4 or above and must be baptised

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish

Ph:4721 2509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees are now overdue. If you already have paid your fees, thank you. All overdue school fees should now be paid or under an arrangement.



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. This is required if you are taking your child on leave for more than 5 school days. A copy of your travel itinerary. The application form is available from the school office and are to be completed **prior** to your holiday.

Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.

Sport News

On Thursday the 2nd March St Mary Mackillop competed in the Annual Cross Country Carnival. Students from K - 6 competed in a range of distances and ran their absolute hearts out. It was definitely hot and not the easiest conditions but each and every competitor didn't whinge or complain but showed true Mackillop spirit and just kept running. It was wonderful to see students cheering each other on from the sideline and encouraging those in the race before or after their own. A special mention to kindergarten students who ran their first race at St Mary Mackillop with the support of their year 6 buddies who ran their last. Well done, they all did very well and showed big smiles on the day.

Thank you to the amazing parent helpers who helped on the day. This Carnival could not have functioned without you. Thank you to the year 6 sports team for being excellent role models and leaders to our younger students.

Congratulations to the following students who have made it to Diocesan on the 10 May 2023 at Eastern Creek Motorsport Park. The top 6 from each event will go through with 2 reserves on stand by. Please note reserves will only be called in the event someone in the top 6 is unable to compete and will be notified.

12 Years Boys

Bentley G - F
Cruz R
Nathan L
Kruz P
Sonny G - A
Braxton G - F
Will C (R)
Lachlan M (R)

12 Years Girls

Indie G
Mia G
Alannah Y
Hayley M
Amelia E
Ruby C
Olivia P (R)
Sophija P (R)

11 Years Boys

Peter B
Braiden S
Anthony B
Riley K
Lachlan P
Jake N
Luke F (R)
Artold C (R)

11 Years Girls

Matilda C
Amelia B
Misa F
Olivia D
Aoife M
Ava H
Bailey S (R)
Emily S ®

10 Years Boys

Isaac F
Koah K
Chase D
Finn R
Sabastjan P
Patrick T
Cruz L (R)
Tino C (R)

10 Years Girls

Tyla D
Madison H
Georgia K
Lila B
Charlotte R
Molly M
Elsie C (R)
Zoe N (R)

8/9 Years Boys

Thomas B
Matteo J
Mitchell B
Braxton F
Charlie V
Lucas B
Ethan P (R)
William B (R)
Archie F-E (R)

8/9 Years Girls

Priya G
Poppie E
Everleigh R
Olive S
Layla S
Cailin S
Natalie H (R)
Halo D (R)

We wish all these students the very best as they represent St Mary MacKillop. We know each and everyone of you will do us proud. Well done everyone.



P & F News

Another successful Zooper Dooper day thank you to all parents and grandparents that came to help last week, it was a crazy day with Zooper Doopers selling like hot cakes.

We have another zooper dooper day on Friday 24th March at recess and they will be \$1 again, a great way to finish off the Term.

We will also be having a Hot Cross Bun day last day of Term, notes will be going out next week.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michelle Darwen
On behalf of the P&F Team



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



Dates for your Diary

Friday 17 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
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		P & F Zooper Dooper Day \$1.00 per ice block	Recess Break
Friday 24 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 27 March	5:30pm	Parent Literacy Workshop	School Library
Thursday 30 March	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 31 March	9:00am-9:45am	Second Hand Uniform Shop	School Grounds
Friday 31 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 3 April	2:20pm	Year 5 Food Fair	School Library
Tuesday 4 April	9:15am	Anzac Ceremony (Year 6 Leaders)	Penrith Paceway
Thursday 6 April	9:15 AM	Holy Week Easter Pageant	School Hall
Thursday 6 April		Last day of Term 1	
Monday 24th April	TERM 2 COMMENCES	Staff Development Day No School for Students	
Wednesday 26th April		Term 2 Commences for Students	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



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

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

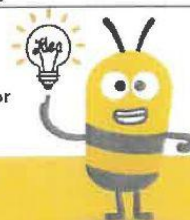
Pupil Free Day: 6.30am – 6.00pm

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 Phone: 0492 367 298

Learning for life

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.

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www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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