

Keeping In Touch

15 June 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,

Our school is turning 40!!!! this year.

On 23rd October 1983, Bishop Bede Heather blessed our school and Mr Ross Free MP opened the school of Mary MacKillop Penrith South. 'Time flies when you are having fun', and so it has been 40 years since that date.

Sr Anne Cooper was appointed as the first principal of the school. She went diligently to work recruiting staff for the 1984 school year to commence. With two other sisters of St Joseph to support her in her endeavours, she recruited thirteen classroom teachers, a music teacher and a librarian to cater for the 460 pupils who would be arriving on the 31st January 1984 to commence learning at the school.

And so, our wonderful school of St Mary MacKillop Penrith South was brought into existence.

Please spread the word of our milestone 'birthday'. I know from my time here that the school has been an integral connection point for a broad part of the local community. Affiliation with this school spans far and wide over time and distance. What a great reason for us to come together and celebrate.

Staffing News

At the end of this term Mrs Joseph, our Year 2 teacher and Stage 1 Coordinator will be taking Long Service Leave for the remainder of the year. With this in mind we have restructured our Leadership Team for Term 3 and 4. When we return next term, Mrs Nicole Darby will be the Coordinator responsible for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Miss Cassie Wotherspoon will take on the role of Coordinator of Mathematics for the school. A replacement teacher for 2G class will be made shortly.

Congratulations to Mrs Darby and Miss Wotherspoon on their appointments and we wish Mrs Joseph a safe and enjoyable trip as she heads off on leave.

I received some wonderful news recently. Mrs Smith who is in our Year 5 teaching team let me know that she, her husband Aaron and their children will be welcoming a new addition to their family. In Term 4 Mrs Smith will be taking maternity leave. Whilst Mrs Smith will be greatly missed, I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Bek and Aaron all the very best as they prepare to welcome a beautiful new child into the world.

Together We Grow.
Mr Scott Buchan
Principal

Religious Education News

Jesuit Refugee Service Donation Drive – Friday 23rd June

At the beginning of Term Two Year 6 were given the opportunity to participate in an outreach and formation day with other Year 6 students from Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys and St Joseph, Kingswood at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. During this day the students participated in formation experiences (including mass), listened to personal stories from refugees, learnt about the Jesuit Refugee Service and collaborated to brainstorm practical ideas to take back to their school communities to advocate dignity, social justice and raise awareness of the challenges refugee families face in Western Sydney through supporting the important work of JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service <https://aus.jrs.net/en/about-jrs-australia/>

Jesuit Refugee Service - Accompany. Serve. Advocate.

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum, refugees, and other forcibly displaced peoples. Our work expresses the commitment of the Society of Jesus ('the Jesuits') to stand with refugees around the world.

The learning of this day supported the Year 6 Term Two Religious Education Program based on the Sacraments, with a particular focus on:

- The Eucharist nourishes our soul and draws us into union with God and each other through Christ.
- Sacraments celebrate, challenge and nourish Christians in their various vocations and ministries of service.

As a result of this day and as part of their current learning in Religious Education the Year 6 students have been inspired and have a desire to put their faith into action to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and other forcibly displaced people in our local area so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future.

Year 6 are asking that on Friday 23rd June every student comes to school in mufti clothes and donates food or toiletries items from the list to support the great work of JRS.

Year 6 will also be visiting each classroom to inform the students about JRS – who they help, what great work they do and how we can support them through our food and toiletries donations.



JRS
JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

JRS Foodbank

During these unprecedented times, refugees and people seeking asylum in the community need your help more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

Food items:	Toiletries:
- Basmati Rice	- Nappies (large sizes)
- Cooking Oil	- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Long life milk	- Shampoo
- Tinned tuna, red kidney beans, lentils, chickpeas and fruit	- Razors and shaving foam
- Biscuits and muesli bars	- Deodorant (male & female)
- Oats and cereal	- Soap

Thank you for walking with us at this critical time. We provide emergency payments and food to hundreds of individuals, including children to pay for rent and life-saving medications. These people do not have access to Centrelink, Medicare, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme so your support is critical.

For more information, please contact
foodbank@jrs.org.au
and/or **zoe.grant@jrs.org.au**

Please support and encourage your child(ren) to participate in this great initiative organised by Year 6.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Library News

We had a wonderful celebration for our Grandparents at St Mary Mackillop. It was great to see so many families attending the liturgy, having some morning tea, visiting classrooms and supporting our Book Fair.

We had a very successful fair with families purchasing books online as well as grandparents selecting books from their grandchildren's' wish lists. We were able to sell books totalling \$8,860.00, which has allowed us to receive \$ 2,658.00 in commission to purchase library books and resources for our school community.

We could not have had such success without the help from our wonderful parents (and grandparent), so a HUGE thank you goes to Mrs T Ellis, Mrs N Ellis, Mrs Murphy and Mrs Groger. Thank you to all the students who entered our colouring in competition, the library team for judging the entries and to the families who donated books to the library, we appreciate it very much!

Congratulations to the winners of the competition, we hope you are enjoying your prizes. We look forward to sharing lots of new books in the library very soon.

Mrs Eisenhuth, Mrs Napoli & the Library Team
Ella, Amber, Lachlan and Luke



P & F News

It's been a busy few weeks for the P&F with the Grandparents Morning Tea on Thursday 1st of June and Term 2 meeting which was held on Wednesday 7th June and running the Primary Athletics Carnival canteen.

The Grandparents morning tea had such an amazing turn out and we had some lovely feedback from Grandparents which always makes us smile 😊. A big thank you to Sam, Sonya, Cathy, Kathy, Kim and Aly for helping.

The Athletics carnival canteen was a huge hit with the students, so good that we sold out of lollies TWICE (sorry about all the sugar parents) but at least the students had a great day. Thank you again to Sonya, Roz, Joan, May, Lauren and Tracey for once again giving up your time to help out on the day.

At our P&F meeting last week, we discussed some great ideas for fundraising to be held in Term 3. We will be holding a couple of Hot Food days for the students so please email pandf@smmp.vic.edu.au for more information. Thank you also to the new faces that attended our meeting.



It's always nice to meet more of our school community.

The P&F will be holding a Lolly Day on Friday 30th June, all bags will be \$2 so please don't forget your \$2 coins. Reminders will go out through Compass and the facebook page.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President
On Behalf of the SMMP P&F Team

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 must be completed **prior** to your holiday.

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

Dates for your Diary

Friday 16 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Year 1 Assembly Item	School Hall
Thursday 22 June	9:15am	Year 4 Grade Mass	School Hall
Friday 23 June	9:00am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open	School Grounds
Friday 23 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 27 June		Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Wednesday 28 June	9:15am	Year 1 Grade Mass	School Hall
Wednesday 28 June		Year 4 Fizzics Incursion	
Friday 30 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 30 June		Last Day of Term 2 for Students	

Term 3 Dates for your Diary

Monday 17 July		Staff Development Day No School for Students	
Tuesday 18 July		Term 3 Commences for Students	
Friday 21 July		Kindergarten 100 Days of Learning	
Friday 21 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 28 July		Stage 3 Boys Touch Gala Day	The Kingsway
Friday 28 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

NAPLAN individual student report

Information for parents and carers

2023

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment undertaken by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. Literacy and numeracy skills are the critical foundation for all learning and for the ability to participate effectively in society. NAPLAN questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics.

NAPLAN tests are only one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process. As they are held once every 2 years for each student, they cannot replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. Your child's teacher will have the best insight into your child's educational progress. Along with other school assessment reports, NAPLAN individual student reports can be used to discuss your child's progress with their teacher.

How does NAPLAN assess students?

NAPLAN tests are delivered online to schools across Australia. Online assessment presents questions tailored to an individual student's responses, delivering more precise results and an engaging test experience for students.

Questions in NAPLAN are based mostly on the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills students have learnt from previous years of schooling. A few questions assess additional content from the year of testing and the following year. These questions have been designed so that they can be answered using strategies students have learnt in previous years. This ensures students of all abilities can show their capabilities.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in NAPLAN is available at www.nap.edu.au.

New proficiency standards

From 2023, new standards were introduced to NAPLAN reporting. This reporting replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN reporting bands and national minimum standards. Education ministers agreed 2023 was the right time to introduce this change alongside moving NAPLAN to March.

Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

There are 4 proficiency levels:

- **Exceeding:** The student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** The student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.
- **Developing:** The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

What NAPLAN assesses has not changed. Page 4 of the individual student report provides a more detailed summary about what students know and can do within each of the proficiency levels. Further information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

How were the proficiency levels determined?

Panels of expert teachers identified the levels of proficiency against learning expectations for each assessment area and year level. Parent and carer input on student reports was also provided through focus groups and national parent organisations.

Reading the NAPLAN report

The NAPLAN report shows a proficiency scale for each assessment area (numeracy, reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation) with a student's result shown as a black dot on the scale.

The report continues to show each child's achievement against the national average for their year (shown as a black triangle) and the range of achievement for the middle 60% of students in their year level (shown as a light shaded rectangle).

NAPLAN is a valuable tool that can give useful insights into a student's performance, but individual reports should be interpreted with care as they reflect the student's performance on the day of testing.

What if my child's report says they took their test on paper?

While NAPLAN is an online test, there are a small number of circumstances where students may complete tests on paper. These include when:

- schools use a recognised alternative curriculum
- students require paper tests for accessibility reasons
- issues during testing require paper tests to be used as a contingency measure.

Year 3 students always complete their writing test on paper.

Can I compare my child's performance to previous NAPLAN reports?

Results from 2023 onwards cannot be directly compared with results from 2008 to 2022. This is because a new measurement scale that is more suited to the online tests has been introduced with the new standards. Also, in 2023, the tests moved to Term 1 from Term 2. However, as in previous years, you can continue to see your child's achievement against the national average for the year.

How does NAPLAN help my child?

NAPLAN allows parents and carers to see how their child has performed in literacy and numeracy against national standards. Your child's achievement can be compared to the national average of all students in the same year and against the proficiency levels.

Results can help parents, carers and students to discuss individual student progress with teachers.

What impact will the results have on my child's future?

NAPLAN results provide important information about literacy and numeracy skills that your child is learning through their school curriculum. The results complement other assessments your child does at school, providing you and your child's teachers with an understanding of your child's achievements at the time of the tests. The information can be used to support your child to reach their full potential.

Some schools may ask for NAPLAN reports, in addition to school reports, as part of their admissions process. NAPLAN is not designed to be a school admission test, however, results may be useful for informing a new school of a student's learning needs.

How does NAPLAN help my child's school?

NAPLAN is the only national assessment that all Australian children undertake. It helps:

- teachers to better identify students who need greater challenges or extra support
- schools to identify strengths and areas of need in teaching programs
- schools to set goals in literacy and numeracy
- school systems to review programs and support offered to schools.

NAPLAN also provides nationally comparable data to help governments evaluate how education programs are working and whether students are meeting important literacy and numeracy standards.

Who else will see the results?

Each year, test administration authorities provide schools with results for all students who sit NAPLAN. Schools are encouraged to use the results to inform their planning for improvement across the school.

Individual student reports are confidential. No-one but your local test administration authority and staff at your child's school will see your child's report.

Average school results are publicly reported on My School at www.myschool.edu.au. The website will be updated with each year's results towards the end of the year. Your child's individual results are not available on My School.

St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

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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	6.30am – 6.00pm	\$14.43	\$39.37	\$75
- Early 'Bee' Special		\$12.51	\$34.12	\$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.

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