

Keeping In Touch



21 September 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 carers,

As a father of two children, I know that one of the toughest times for us is when our kids are sick or hurt. With this in mind, I ask for your empathy and support for one of our families who are going through a really difficult time with this.

Jack is one of our kindergarten students. For most of this year his family have been working with doctors to investigate some health concerns Jack had been experiencing. In the last fortnight Jack was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma (a cancer of the lymphatic system). He is currently receiving his first round of chemotherapy treatment through Westmead Children's Hospital. His treatment is expected to go at least into Term 4 of this year.

There are not many more challenging things I have seen families go through in my time in education. Fortunately, Jack is receiving excellent medical care, has wonderful family support and is part of an awesome community that loves and cares for him. As a father and an educator, my heart, prayers and thoughts go out to Jack and his family. I know that our staff feel the same way and I am confident you also share this intention.

In the coming weeks, Jack will return to school in some capacity. One way that you could help is your understanding that Jack is currently receiving treatment which results in a lowered immune system, that means, Jack is more prone to getting ill from infections. As Jack is not contagious but has a chronic illness, it is important he participates actively in the day to day school program without any major limitations. A major concern is that if Jack develops chickenpox, measles, COVID-19, whooping cough, influenza or another serious virus, he could become seriously ill. If your child has or may have one of these infectious illnesses, I would ask that you please:

1. Do not send them to school.
2. Notify the School Principal as soon as possible.
3. Take them to your GP or medical centre to confirm diagnosis if possible.

Thank you for your support of Jack.

In Giving We Receive
Scott Buchan

Religious Education News



2023 Sacramental Program - The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please continue to pray for the following 38 students who are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday 19th October:

Thomas B, Holly B, Jack B, Isadora B, Alexandra B, Declan C, Chelsea D, Poppie E, Macks E, Winston E, Jerome F, Ella-Rose G, Sophie G, Haven H, Gideon H, Olivia J, Rhys K, Charlize L, Roman L, Connor M, Aubrey M, Chloe M, Giselle M, Melanie M, Khloe M, Ella O, Jensen O, Mackenzie P, Charlize P, Khloe R, Everleigh R, Alara S, Lucia S, Layla S, Olive S, Zachery S, Charlie V and Mary-Jane V.

Praying the Rosary in October

Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to praying the Rosary and this has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for a long time. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God through the intercession of His mother, Mary.

The word 'rosary' comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary. It is recognized as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

Rosary beads are used to help Catholics count their prayers. Catholics often pray the rosary to make a request to God, some to thank God for blessings received or for requesting a special favour, for example if someone is sick to help them recover.

Below, is a 'How to pray The Rosary' link that you may like to utilise at home.

<https://hallow.com/blog/how-to-pray-the-rosary/#introduction>

40th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop Primary School - 9:15am Monday 23rd October

Next term our wonderful school will celebrate its 40th Anniversary!

To commemorate this important milestone of Catholic Education in South Penrith we have a morning of prayer, memories and cake organised.

An outline of our events are below:

9:15am Whole School Liturgy in the hall.

(please note no hot beverages in the hall due to WHS and the sacredness of the space)

10:15am Cutting of 40th Anniversary Cake

10:30am Choir performance in the hall

10:45am Morning Tea (including a family picnic on the playground and hill. There will be cake to share but please feel free to bring some other food to share with your child/children and picnic blanket or chair if you would like one.)

There will also be a "Memory Walk" set up in the library that classes and parents can visit throughout the week. A timetable will be available next term.

An invitation was sent out via Compass this week. If you intend on coming to our celebrations could you please RSVP on the link provided by Monday 9th October.

As a school community, we look forward to sharing this special celebration with you.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



Sport News

Wow! Term 3 has been huge for sporting events, with some outstanding achievements that I am pleased to share with you all.

Netball Gala Day:

On Wednesday 30th August, Miss Pirrotta and I took 50 students to the Parramatta Netball Gala Day at Jamison Park. We certainly had a beautiful day for it, the sun was shining and the smiles were out too. Our students, as always, displayed incredible sportsmanship, respect and kindness. It was an absolute pleasure to take this group of girls and showcase their talents for the game of netball.

A huge congratulations to the following 3 teams who won their pool on the day:

9 Year Girls team- Poppie E, Layla S, Charlotte K, Alexandra B, Olive S, Haven H, McKenzie P, Isadora B, Chloe M & Indi R.

Coach: Kacey Smith

Managers: Allison Randall and Jess Smith

11 Year Girls Green team- Emmie B, Emily S, Lila B, Olivia D, Bailey S, Misa F, Matilda C, Angel N, Natasha W & Scarlett T.

Coach: Melissa Bognar

Manager: Melissa Gorham

12 Year Girls team- Mia G, Kyla D, Kasey M, Ruby C, Indie G, Amelia E, Ella R, Alannah Y, Amber M & Sophia D.

Coach: Leanne Goncalves

Managers: Amy Marks and Julie Ashe

Congratulations to all the girls who attended:

Phoebe E, Katelyn G, Vivienne L, Charlotte C, Katie G, Tyla D, Zoe N, Isabelle F, Charlotte R, Holly B, McKinley C, Adele G, Capri W, Anneliese R, Alexis S, Lexi B, Martina D.S, Mila H, Molly Mc & Madison H

Coaches: Tracey Ellis & Chloe Jenkins

Managers: Leisa Nash & Carly Calder

Stage 2 Touch Gala Day

On Friday 8th September, 30 boys from Year 3 and 4 attended the Stage 2 Touch Gala Day held at the Kingsway in St Marys. Whilst the weather was not the greatest, the boys certainly made up for this by playing some amazing football against other schools from the Diocese. The boys played against some tough teams and the conditions made passing the ball a huge challenge. All the teams played with incredible enthusiasm and most importantly, sportsmanship.

Results from the Day:

Year 3 Boys- 8th place - Coached by Elizabeth Johnson and Catherine Bargmann

Year 4 Boys- 2nd place- Coached by Greg Toomey

Mixed Year 3 and Year 4 Boys- Equal 3rd place- Coached by Mr Martin

Congratulations to all the boys who attended the Stage 2 Touch Gala Day:

Roman L, Mitchell B, Jerome F, Jack B, Connor J, Winston E, Zachary S, Jake S, Louis C, Braxton F, Chase D, Patrick T, Liam B, Koah K, Isaac F, Beau P, Leo S, Eli C, Lincoln C, Zeb G, Braxton M, Sabastjan P, Jonah S, Chayse C, Lucas B, Charlie V, Preston R, Giddy H, Thomas B & Cruz W

Sport News - Continued

MacKillop Athletics

On Monday 18th September we had 4 students represent the Parramatta Diocese at the State MacKillop Athletics Championships. To compete at this elite level is an outstanding achievement and we couldn't be prouder of these students. These 4 students competed in their respective events in incredible heat and their results are nothing short of amazing.

Isaac F- 800m-5th place

Leo S- Jnr Boys Shot Put- 8th place

Jordan L- 200m- 11th place

Hayley M- 100m-9th place

200m- 7th place

Shot Put- Unable to compete due to conflicting events.



Thank you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, carers, grandparents and relatives of all the students who have attended any sporting events to represent St Mary MacKillop. Without your dedication, support and willingness to provide your children with these amazing sporting opportunities, the outstanding results your children have achieved this year would not have been possible.

To all the coaches and managers for our Gala Days, without your support and enthusiasm to assist on these days, we would not be able to send teams to experience days like these. We are so appreciative that our St Mary MacKillop community is so generous with their time and eagerness to allow the students these opportunities.

Sporting achievements

If you would like to share your child's achievements at sporting competitions, please email 2-3 photos and a small blurb about the competition to mjarrett@parra.catholic.edu.au as we would love to acknowledge the amazing achievement of your child with the community.

Thank you and I look forward to more sporting opportunities and Gala Days in Term 4.

Mrs Michelle Jarrett
Sports Coordinator

P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

We had another successful Sausage Sizzle Day last Friday and the P&F would like to thank the following people for helping out that morning Sonya Lee and her family, Melissa Jones, Dominee Hyslop, Kim Robinson, Kathy Wallace, Kirrily Murphy. Also thank you to all the families that ordered we always really appreciate your support for these events even in this current financial situation.



To tie in with the school's 40th celebration the P&F will be holding a Colour Run on Friday 27th October to finish off a wonderful week. Notes will be going home with the students at the end of the week.

****SAVE THE DATE and get your Popcorn****

On Saturday 18th November the P&F are very excited to be hosting our 1st Family Outdoor Movie Night on the hill. We have Dino's Pizza on board to cater for our families, we'll have popcorn, fairy floss and slushies too!!



We are looking for volunteers to help out at both MAJOR events and also some Zooper Dooper days throughout Term 4. If you are able to help in anyway, please find the link below which is the google form for volunteers to fill out and also an expression of interest to join our 2024 FETE Committee.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFvFinXq9NAyZ-ZZu3ddpRebpb2HHAhDfUM5OfnNVR94UUSg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

The link will also be posted on the St Mary Mackillop and SMMPS P&F Facebook and Compass.

Have a great break!

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

Library News

A message from Mrs Eisenhuth & Mrs Napoli... Please return all library books this week. Library borrowing will resume in Term 4.



Supervision

Supervision of children commences at 8:15am. There is no supervision provided for children before that time unless they attend Ambrose Before and After School Care. No responsibility is taken for children arriving at school before 8:15am

Children are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided only until 3:20 pm

If, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g. when a parent is detained please notify the school and your child will be informed that you are delayed. After school staff will supervise children waiting for school buses, crossing the street, riding bikes and going to cars.

Parents are reminded that all care will be given to the children, but there is no formal supervision after 3:30 pm when the last bus leaves the school.

We have before school care from 6:30am and after school care commencing 3:00pm. Please contact by email stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au or otherwise contact mobile 0492 367 298.

Uniform

When children return to school in Term 4 they are required to wear their FULL Summer Uniform. The boys and girls summer uniform is listed below:

BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM

Grey school shorts
Pale lemon short sleeve shirt - open neck
Grey ankle length socks
Black shoes - no boots or jogger

GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM

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

Belongings

While every effort is made to see that each child's property is respected, we cannot accept any responsibility of children's belongings. Please ensure ALL of your children's belongings are labelled with their first and last name. This includes shoes as well as jackets, lunch boxes, drink bottles, school bags and anything else that can be mislaid. Children are asked not to bring expensive toys to school as they may be damaged or broken during play time.

Jewellery

No jewellery is to be worn with the exception of one set of gold or silver studs/sleepers may be worn in pierced ears.

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. Hair cuts are to be suitable for school for both boys and girls. No hair extensions (NO MULLET, NO. 1, ZIG ZAGS or RAZORING).

Sports Uniform Review

Next term Mr Buchan would like to consult with a focus group of parents to review our **school sports uniform**. A few years ago we reviewed our design and processes for our winter uniform and we are now 'overdue' to evaluate our sports uniform. If you feel that you could contribute your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to help us review the design and process for our sports uniform, could I ask you to email our school office by the end of this term.

Please make the 'Subject Heading', **Sports Uniform Review** so that I am able to collect and organise the expressions of interest. I will make contact early next term to set a time, date and venue for this consultation to take place.

QKR App

It is important that when you are using the QKR App that you have selected the correct class for your child.

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 22 September		Last day of Term 3 Whole School Assembly	2:20pm
<u>TERM 4 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</u>			
Wednesday 11 October		Term 4 Commences for Students	
Thursday 12 October		Year 3 Excursion to Auburn Botanical Gardens	
Friday 13 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 16 October		Diocesan Basketball Gala Day	Cambridge Park
Friday 20 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 23 October	9:15am	40th Birthday Anniversary Liturgy	School Hall
Thursday 26 October	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup Sessions	School Hall
Friday 27 October	2:20pm	P & F Colour Run Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 1 November		Infants Tabloid Carnival P & F Canteen Day	Playground Canteen
Thursday 2 November	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup Sessions	School Hall
Friday 3 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 4 Mass (TBC) Whole School Assembly	School Hall School Hall
Thursday 9 November Friday 10 November		Year 5 Overnight Camp	Yarramundi
Thursday 9 November	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup Sessions	School Hall
Friday 10 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

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	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.

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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for helping us
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for our friends with food allergies!