

## Keeping In Touch



7 September 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.*

I want to thank you for being supportive of the time our staff were able to take to travel to North Sydney to visit Mary MacKillop Place and engage in some learning with the Sisters of St Joseph.

It was an amazing Formation Day for our team and it reminded me of how blessed we are to have these amazing people, who possess so many of the characteristics of St Mary MacKillop, working with our kids and our community. The virtues of our staff may seem obvious to you but it can sometimes get 'put out of mind' during the busyness of school and life. Therefore having days like Friday to refocus and reconnect keeps us 'sharp', focussed and appreciative of the people around us and the mission we are undertaking.

It was a beautiful day of prayer, reflection and learning, led by Mrs Gillard, that has enhanced the capacity of our staff to bring the message and mission of St Mary MacKillop to our community.

### Celebrate Our Support Staff

Last week we acknowledged and celebrated our support staff at St Mary MacKillop. We can't be as effective and successful as a school without our Office Administration team, Teacher's Aides, Library Assistant and Groundsperson. They are such an important part of our staff team and so deserving of our love and appreciation. Thank you.

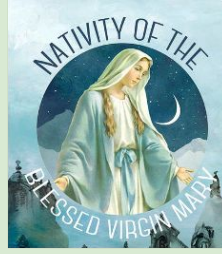
### Sports Uniform Review

Next term I 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 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.

*Together we Grow*

Scott Buchan  
Principal

# Religious Education News



## **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Friday September 8th**

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church since about the 6th Century. This is one of only three birthdays celebrated in the Church Calendar:

- *the Birth of Jesus (December 25)*
- *the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24); and*
- *the Birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus (September 8<sup>th</sup>)*

The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary, though the apocryphal "Gospel of James" (a book dating from the 2nd Century AD and not part of the authentic canon of Scripture – the Bible as we know it today) fills in the gaps. According to this account, Mary's parents were Joachim and Anne. They were old and beyond the years of having children, but prayed to God that He would grant their longing for a child – which He did.

In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour.

The feast of the Virgin Mary's birth marks a great day in the history of the world, as it was a vital step in the coming of the Jesus. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world.

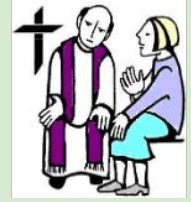
*Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord,  
the gift of heavenly grace,  
that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace  
to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.  
Amen*

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop Primary School**

Early next term our wonderful school will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday – plans are well underway for this celebration and will be shared soon.

# Religious Education News

## **2023 Sacramental Program - The Sacrament of Reconciliation**



The Sacrament of Reconciliation (commonly called Confession, Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Healing or Penance) is one of seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Penance is a sacrament instituted by Christ in which forgiveness of sins (wrong choices) committed after Baptism is granted through the priest's absolution to those who with true sorrow confess their sins and promise to try to do better in the future. It is called a "sacrament" not simply a ceremony, because it is an outward sign instituted by Christ to impart grace to the soul.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The Sacrament "washes us clean," and renews us in Christ.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained' " (John 20:21-23)

Please pray for the following 38 students who are currently preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.*

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House

Ph: 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

# FIAT News



## EARTHCARE:

The Faith in Action Team have been learning about how St Mary MacKillop Primary School can begin the journey to becoming a Catholic Earthcare School. Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia that responds to the 'cry of the earth' and 'the cry of the poor' working to safeguard the integrity of creation. This program will help us at St Mary MacKillop to make simple, positive changes to care for our world.

To begin our journey, the students will participate in a Mini Earth Hour event during the Whole School Prayer time on Friday before assembly. We ask that you participate in the event at home too sometime before Monday 11th September. Here are the steps for the event:

1. Turn off all electric devices.
2. Participate in the Earthcare prayer from the poster.
3. Write #MackillopEarthHour on a piece of paper and draw/write different ways we can look after the Earth.
4. Spend some time with your family away from technology. Spend some time at the park, play outside, have a picnic etc.
5. After the Earth Hour, take a photo of your family holding the sign you made and email it to the school office. [stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarymackillop@parra.catholic.edu.au)

All of the images will be collected and made into a presentation to show that our school community wants to make a change to look after our common home: The Earth. It will also be a great first step towards our journey to become an Earthcare School.

Please see the next page for the MacKillop Earthcare Poster and Prayer.

If you would like to learn more about Catholic Earthcare, here is the link to their website:  
<https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare>





# FIAT News



## #MacKillopEarthHour

1

Turn off all electric devices.



2

Prayer time.



3

Write the hashtag, draw and write ways we can help the Earth.



4

Take a photo with your sign and email it.



God, source of all life,  
You bless us with the gift of creation.

Inspire us to gaze in wonder and awe at the beauty  
that surrounds us.  
Lead us to live in harmony with your creation.

May we respect all life  
from the smallest of plants to the tallest of trees,  
and the tiniest insects to the wildest beasts.

We ask this in your name.  
**Amen**

# P & F News

Hello to our St Mary Mackillop community

Firstly, we hope all our Father's and Father figures of our community had a wonderful Father's day.

It was an early morning start (from 6.30am) for the Father's Day breakfast last Thursday and very busy with 300 people enjoying a sausage sizzle.

The P&F would like to thank the following people for helping that morning Matthew Darwen, Rick Jenkins, Jarrod Fowler, Cameron Parkin, Alison Randall, Sonya Lee, Aly Petulla, Chanelle Vella, Kacey Smith, Kirrily Murphy and Claire Vella.



We have a sausage sizzle day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, \$5 for a sausage sizzle and drink so don't forget to put your orders in and pay through the QKR app.

We also have our annual Colour Run on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October and the P&F are working hard behind the scenes to organise our 1<sup>st</sup> family Movie Night under the Stars in November. Watch this space for more information which will be coming out shortly. We also will be organising a few Zooper Dooper days in Term 4 when the weather warms up.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> P&F meeting was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, thank you to the new faces that attended to see what's happening in the St Mary Mackillop community. We discussed the upcoming events the P&F have organised and some general business about maybe a sports uniform revamp and what the school would like the P&F to fund this year with monies raised.

If you are wanting to help out at any of our events, please email [smmppandf@gmail.com](mailto:smmppandf@gmail.com) or you can fill out the google form which we will be putting out again on the school's Facebook page, the SMMPS P&F Facebook and Compass.

Have a great weekend all!

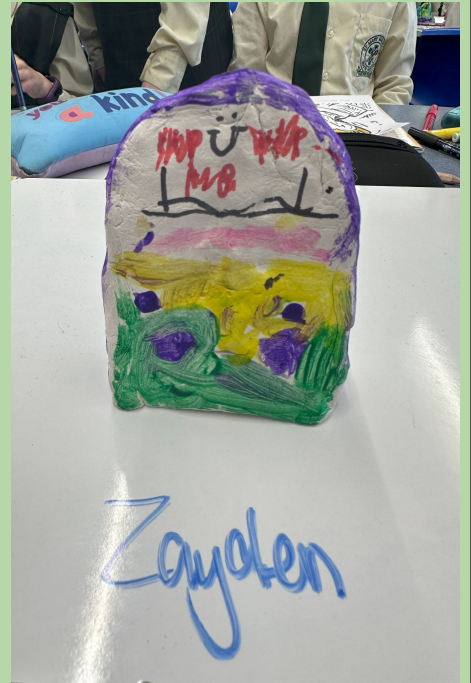
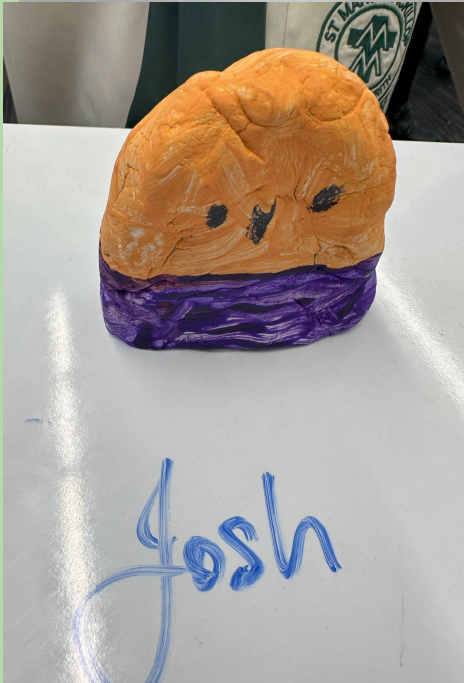
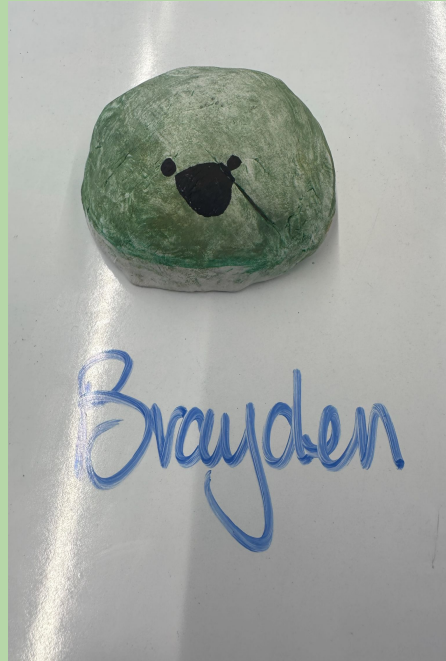
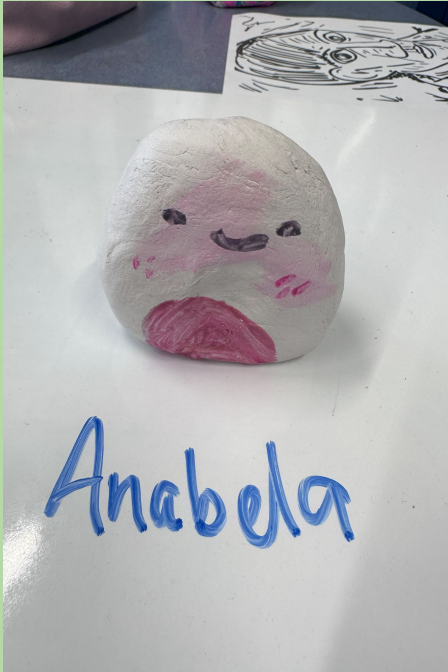
Michelle Darwen  
P&F President  
On Behalf of the SMMP P&F Team



# From the Classroom.....

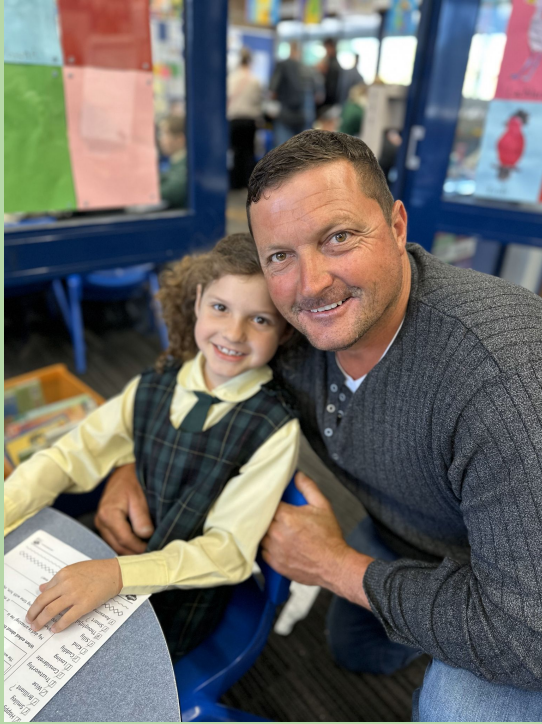
Year 2 have been very busy in class. They have been making druids!

Our druids have been inspired by Artist Pete Cromer who uses clay and resin to create completely unique druids.





## Father's Day Breakfast, Liturgy and Open Classrooms

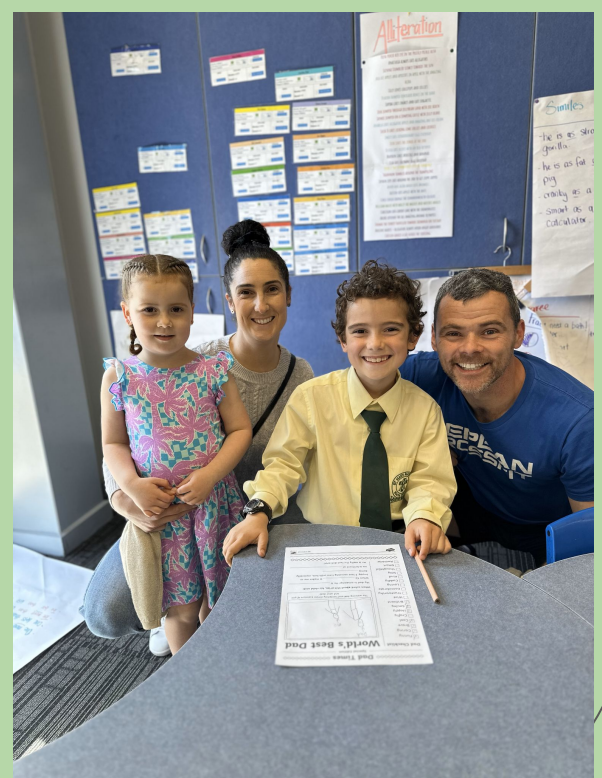


***Thank you to our Dad's for coming along!***

***Thank you to our P & F for breakfast and our wonderful teachers for the Liturgy!***



## Father's Day Breakfast, Liturgy and Open Classrooms





### 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 8 September	2:20pm	Stage 2 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly	Kingsway St Marys School Hall
Thursday 14 September	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 15 September	2:20pm	P & F Sausage Sizzle Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 18 September		MacKillop Athletics	Sydney Olympic Park
Friday 22 September		<b>Last day of Term 3</b> Whole School Assembly	2:20pm

## TERM 4 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 1	School Hall
Friday 27 October	2:20pm	P & F Colour Run Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 1 November		Infants Tabloid Carnival	Playground
Thursday 2 November	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup 1	School Hall



Term 4  
2023

# Tuning in to Teens Parenting Program

6 week parenting program - FREE to register

**Tuning In To Teens is a 6 week program that supports you to help your adolescent develop emotional intelligence.**

The goal of the program is to help parents teach and support their teenager to understand and express emotions in appropriate ways.

## The program will cover:

- Foundations of emotion coaching
- Connecting and emotional acceptance
- Building connection and showing empathy
- Dealing with teen worry, sadness & anger
- Emotion coaching now and in the future



Help your teenagers understand and regulate their emotions



Develop a closer relationship with your adolescent children



### DATES:

Monday evenings  
23rd October - 27th November

### VENUE:

Online via ZOOM

**TIME:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**COST:** FREE

**REGISTER NOW**



**Register at 4720 6500 or [groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au)**



We acknowledge and respect the Traditional knowledge holders and custodians of the land on which we work, the Darug and Gundungurra people.







**Term 4  
2023**

# Cool Little Kids Program

**6 week parenting program - FREE to register**

**Cool Little Kids is a 6 week program that gives parents skills to help their child manage and overcome anxiety.**



If you have a 3-6 year old child with excessive shyness, anxiety or fears, this program will equip you with skills to help support them.

## The program will cover:

- Understanding anxiety and shyness
- Causes and risk factors for anxiety
- How to respond to your child's anxiety
- Skills and strategies to deal with fear
- Dealing with setbacks and difficulties
- Maintaining resilience long term



Help your child manage anxiety, excessive shyness and fears



Learn simple Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) strategies

## DATES:

Fridays 27th Oct - 1st Dec

## VENUE:

Tanderra OOSH  
14 Raymond Road  
Springwood, 2777

**TIME:** 10:00am - 11:30am

**COST:** FREE



**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE**  
Bookings required



**Register at 4720 6500 or [groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au](mailto:groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au)**



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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
<b>Morning</b>	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
<b>Afternoon</b>	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
<b>Pupil Free Day</b>				
- 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](mailto: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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FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

[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!