

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,

On behalf of all of the team here at St Mary MacKillop. I wish you a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time together with family and friends and we will see you next year when term commences. Thank you for your partnership in our work for 2023.



Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Bek Smith and her family. They recently received the blessing of a new addition to their household in Aleeira who was born on the 9th December. Both mum and baby are doing well and we send our love and blessing to them all. What a great gift leading into Christmas.

In planning for the new school year, please find below a list of staff and grades for 2024 as they currently stand.

Kindergarten	Mrs Nicole Darby (KG)	Mrs Carly Eekman (KM)
Year 1	Miss Cassie Wotherspoon (1G)	Mrs Erin Ward (1M)
Year 2	Mrs Amanda Joseph (2G)	Miss Lauren Izzard (2M)
Year 3	Miss Stephanie Neilsen (3G)	Mr Darren McErlain (3M)
Year 4	Mrs Michelle Jarrett (4G)	Mr Grant Martin (4M)
Year 5	Miss Victoria Vella (5G)	Mrs Jessica Tredinnick (5M)
Year 6	Mrs Kay Moore (6G)	Miss Clair Pirotta (6M)



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 - Continued

Diversity Teachers (Learning Support):

Mrs Michelle O'Leary, Mrs Dianne Touzell, Ms Brittany Carey, Mrs Dianne Doohan, Mrs Maryanne Churchill, Mrs Michelina Bizzanelli, Mrs Niamh MacDonald and Mrs Leesa Gillard

School Counsellor: Mrs Jeanne Appleton

RFF Teachers: Mrs Erin Smiles (Physical Education) Mr Michael Brown (Creative Arts)

Coordinator Release: Mrs Margo Woodhead, Mrs Ashlea Milgate

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Maree Eisenhuth

Teacher Assistants:

Mrs Judy Inskip, Mrs Marina Napoli, Mrs Simone Breia, Mrs Kristy Daines

Administration Office

Mrs Monique Kearins and Mrs Nicole Brock

IT Trainee Mr Jacob Kapustic

Maintenance: Mr Colin Meredith

School Leadership Team:

Principal: Mr Scott Buchan

Assistant Principal: Mrs Michelle O'Leary

Religious Education Coordinator: Mrs Leesa Gillard

Co-ordinators: Mrs Amanda Joseph, Mrs Jessica Tredinnick

Student Leaders 2024

As we move to the school holidays, I look forward to working with our School Captains and Vice Captains for 2024. Congratulations to our School Captains Jack and Capri. Well done to our Vice Captains Riley and Olivia.

Together We Grow
Scott



Religious Education News

Christmas Concert

A huge thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us for our annual Christmas concert this year. The students, as always, performed and sang with great enthusiasm. It was so lovely to see all the students, parents and siblings having a great time and singing along with the students. It is always a wonderful and joyous time to share these momentous occasions with our school community. Thank you for helping to make the evening so successful.

A special thank you to our amazing and dedicated staff who worked with the students, leading up to the night, to ensure they were well rehearsed and ready to shine. Your hard work is greatly appreciated by all.



St Vincent De Paul Hampers

On Friday 8th December, the St Mary MacKillop students had the absolute pleasure of handing over 110 bags of grocery items to Mr Joe Tabone from the St Vincent De Paul Society.

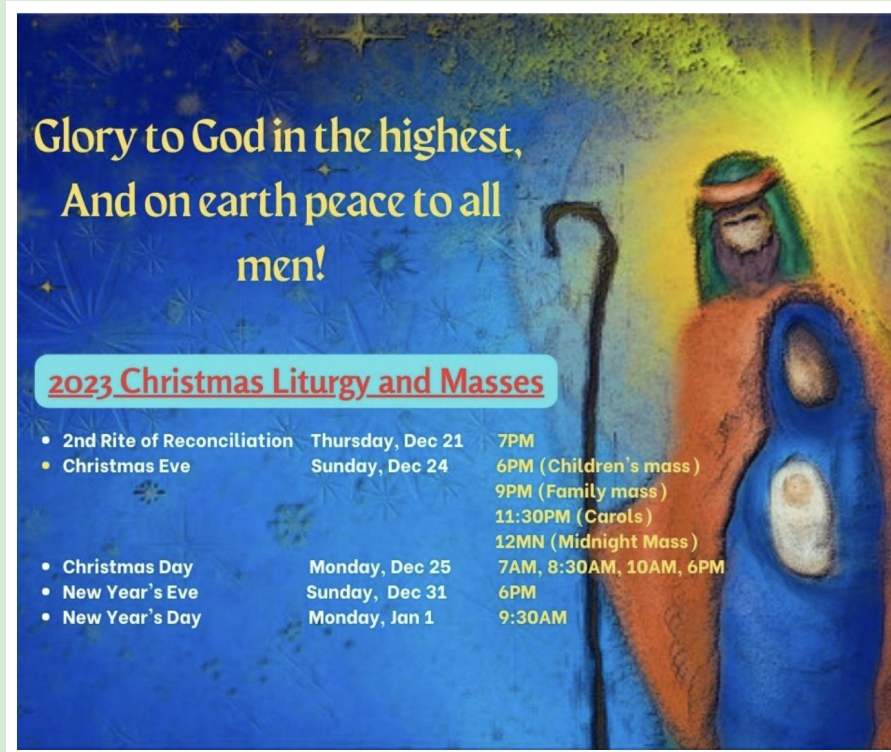
Mr Tabone was incredibly appreciative and humbled with the generosity of our St Mary MacKillop community. He expressed how much he loves coming to St Mary MacKillop at this time of year, because despite the hard times we are experiencing, our community always gives so abundantly to help others in our local community. The items you have given will go to making Christmas Hampers for those families and individuals who are in need. I am always in awe of the St Mary MacKillop community and families in how much you are willing to give and provide for those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for always supporting this initiative and helping to give those in our community a wonderful and blessed Christmas.



Religious Education News

St Nicholas of Myra Mass Times

Please see the information below about Mass times at St Nicholas of Myra Church during the Christmas season.



Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to all
men!

2023 Christmas Liturgy and Masses

• 2nd Rite of Reconciliation	Thursday, Dec 21	7PM
• Christmas Eve	Sunday, Dec 24	6PM (Children's mass) 9PM (Family mass) 11:30PM (Carols) 12MN (Midnight Mass)
• Christmas Day	Monday, Dec 25	7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM, 6PM
• New Year's Eve	Sunday, Dec 31	6PM
• New Year's Day	Monday, Jan 1	9:30AM

Advent

The word Advent is from the Latin adventus for "arrival" and is associated with the four weeks of time of preparation for Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for our faith community and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties, shopping, and holiday noise to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in our Catholic faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.



Religious Education News

Merry Christmas

As we approach our final days at school for 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday. May this time with your family be a joyous and holy time as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. I offer this prayer to you and your families during this time of Advent:

*God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.*

Amen.



Mrs Michelle Jarrett

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Religious Education News

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Sacramental Program 2024 Confirmation

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Confirmation will open on our website on **Wednesday 31st January** and close on **14th February**.

Parent meeting: Tuesday 20th February at 7.00pm in the Church. At least one parent/carer **MUST** attend.

Confirmation Masses: Thursday 11th April (TBC) 5.00pm or 7.30pm (TBC)

To be eligible for Confirmation,

Children must be in Year 5 or above, must be baptised, have made their First Reconciliation, and received First Holy Communion



All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish

Ph:4721 2509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Sport News

2024 Twilight Swimming Carnival

Our 2024 Twilight Swimming Carnival will be held on the first day back for students (Thursday 1st February), at Glenbrook pools. We will begin promptly at 7pm but families are welcome to enter the facility from 6:30pm. Remember to wear your sports shirt so you gain free entry to the pool and parent helpers will also receive free entry. A list will be provided to the pool for parent helpers, so you just need to give the pool staff your name on entry and they will allow you free access. We have received a great response from our students and parent helpers, thank you for encouraging your child/children to participate in the swimming carnival and for generously giving your time to help make the evening successful. It is going to be an amazing evening and a great way to begin 2024.

Term 1 Sporting Dates

These dates can be subject to change depending on weather, other school events and the CSPD calendar. I will endeavour to give you plenty of notice if there are any changes. I hope this helps you to plan out Term 1 and what's on in terms of sport.

Term 1			
Week	Event	Where	When
1	SMMP Twilight Swimming Carnival	Glenbrook Swimming Pool	Thursday 1st Feb
3	2024 Parra Team Sports Trial Entries close	-	Tuesday 13th Feb Friday 16th Feb- approval
4	Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival	Glenbrook Swimming Pool	Wednesday 21st Feb
6	SMMP Cross Country	School	Thursday 7th March
7	Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Blacktown Aquatic Centre, Blacktown	Tuesday 12th March
9	SMMP Cross Country- Back up day	School	Thursday 28th March
10	NSWCPS Swimming	SOPAC	Wednesday 3rd April
8 - 11	SMMP Cross Country Team Training	School	Tuesday Mornings 8am Thursday mornings 8am

P&F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

2023 has been a great year for our school. We are incredibly grateful to our community for their support and to those who volunteered throughout the year. This has helped us raise around \$17,000 this year. This support has allowed the P&F to gift the school some banners and marquees to use at representative events and provide events for the students and school community. These events included Welcome BBQ, Mothers Day morning tea, Grandparents morning tea, Fathers Day BBQ breakfast, Feast Day and 100 days of learning for Kindergarten. We can't thank our school community enough and all this would not have been possible without you.

On behalf of the P&F we'd like to wish the 2023 Year 6 students all the best for their new venture to high school next year. We know you'll continue to do our school community proud.

I'd like to thank our 2023 P&F members Catherine Watson, Kylie Beazley, Claire Vella, Sonya Lee, Sam Snow, Kirrily Murphy, Michelle Bachtis, Vanessa Butchard, Ann Greener, Cathy Habib, Sonya Peters and Melissa Jones for their efforts and support throughout the year. I couldn't have fulfilled the role of President without your support, it's very much appreciated.

Lastly, we would like to wish all our families a safe and enjoyable holiday and we hope that 2024 brings you much happiness. Can't wait to see our families back next year with some exciting events we have planned.

Merry Christmas to all.

Michelle Darwen

P&F President

FIAT News

EARTHCARE:

The Faith in Action Team have been leading St Mary MacKillop Primary School on our Catholic Earthcare School journey. 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.

The Faith in Action Team have been leading the school in creating positive change for our environment by setting some Quick Win Goals. These goals encourage everyone to think about our current routines and practices and make some slight changes that will support our care of the Earth.

Laudato Si' is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical (papal letter) on caring for our common home — planet earth. The letter is addressed to "every person living on this planet" and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions.

Please see the poster on the next page to view our main Laudato Si Goal. The poster also has our three current Quick Win goals for the term. We would like to encourage you to talk about these goals with your family and even take on these goals at home too!

Together we grow to make a difference in our world and care for all creation.

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



OUR GOAL AT ST MARY MACKILLOP IS TO RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME.



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 and also attached a copy of the travel itinerary. This is required if you are taking your child on leave for **5 or more school days**. 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

TERM 4 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 14 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions	Classrooms
Friday 15 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Last day of Term 4 for Students	School Hall

TERM 1 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 30 January Wednesday 31 January		Pupil Free Days (All staff return to school)	
Thursday 1 February	6:30pm	Years 1-6 Commence School Twilight Swimming Carnival	Glenbrook Pools
Friday 2 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 5 February		Kindergarten Commence School	
Friday 9 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 16 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 20 February	7pm	Confirmation Session for Parents	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 22 February	3:30pm	Open Classrooms Welcome BBQ	
Friday 23 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall



Session 2 - 2024 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials Expression of Interest registration window open - AFL, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball & Touch Football ONLY

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2024 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term 1 & 2 in 2024.

Students in Year 4 in 2024 MAY nominate for the sports of Hockey, Softball & Touch Football only.

*Students should have prior experience competing regularly outside of school in most sports. Students **MUST** demonstrate an **ABOVE AVERAGE** ability, **HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport.*

To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in some sports and others are through CSNSW Sport at MacKillop level and nominations will be available through the CSNSW Sport portal in 2024:

2024 Diocesan Team Sport Trials held in November 2023				
Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
Basketball	Open boys & girls teams	28 November 2023	10 Oct 2023	Wednesday 8th November 2023
Tennis	Open boys & girls teams	24 November 2023	10 Oct 2023	Wednesday 8th November 2023
2024 Diocesan Team Sport Trials held in Term 1 & 2 2024				
Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys team	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Cricket	Open boys & girls teams	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls teams	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Hockey	Open boys & girls teams	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Netball	Open girls team	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Rugby League	12's boys/girls combined team	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
	11's boys/girls combined team	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Rugby Union	Open boys/girls combined team	Term Two 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Softball	Open boys & girls teams	Term Two 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
Touch	Open boys & girls teams	Term One 2024	15th November 2023	Tuesday 13th February 2024
2024 NSWCPS Team Sport Trials held at MacKillop level, SSU or NSWPSA regional level				
AFL Girls	Open girls	Term One 2024	Nominations Open in 2024	Registration via CSNSW Sport portal
Diving	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs girls & boys	3 April 2024	Nominations Open in 2024	Registration via CSNSW Sport portal
Golf	Open boys & girls teams	5th August 2024	Nominations Open in 2024	Registration via CSNSW Sport portal
Netball	Open Boys	Term Two 2024	Nominations Open in 2024	Registration via CSNSW Sport portal
Rugby 7's	Open girls	9 August 2024	Nominations Open in 2024	Registration via CSNSW Sport portal



OPEN 15 November 2023 - AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball & Touch Football - close 13th February 2024

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2024 CSPD Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form** must be completed. This registration form for AFL, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball & Touch Football can be accessed via one of the following:

1. **PARRAMATTA DIOCESE PRIMARY SPORT WEBSITE** www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au
2. Scan the QR code below

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE PRIMARY SPORT WEBSITE

Information regarding the team sports trials can be found on the Primary Sport website.

Go to the **"REP SELECTIONS"** tab and scroll down to the **SPORT** you wish to register for and click on the **"REGISTER"** button below the heading **"Primary Sport Expression of Interest Registration Form"**.

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** for the 2024 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per student, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE PRIMARY SPORT QR CODE

Click on the QR code to nominate your expression of interest.



APPROVALS PROCESS

This online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST be approved by the student's school**. For the student to attend the nominated trial or event, the school approves students based on playing history and selection criteria. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" if applicable to the sport **MUST** be completed. Under no circumstances will a student be eligible to trial if the 2024 CSPD Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

PARRAMATTA TRIALS INFORMATION

Students that are **approved to attend** will receive a **Primary Sport Team Sports Trial Information sheet** through their school sports coordinator and will be required to complete a consent form for the trials.

For **APPROVED** students, there is a team trial cost involved with the trials and **payment is to be made prior to attendance at 2024 trials and NOT at the trials.**

FULL DAY TRIALS - Tennis, Cricket & Boys Soccer

HALF-DAY TRIALS - AFL, Basketball, Girls Football, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Touch

AFTERNOON SCHOOL TRIALS - Hockey & Softball are held after school beginning at 4pm

Due to the popularity of boys' cricket, boys' soccer, and netball a maximum of two students are eligible to trial from each school. Selection of these students will be made jointly by the school sports coordinator and principal. Discretion can be sought from the CSPD Teaching Educator Primary Sport.

- The teacher conducting the trial and accompanying the team to the venue is a "Team Manager" ~ not a coach.
- Parents are responsible for all transport and supervision arrangements and **must remain to supervise their child at the trial at all times.**
- Students need to generally be of representative standard.
- Attendance at training days, where applicable is compulsory.
- The selector's decisions are final.



MACKILLOP TRIAL

MacKillop Trials include students from Canberra/Goulburn, Parramatta, Sydney, Wagga Wagga & Wollongong dioceses. The main purpose of the MacKillop trial is to select a team to compete at the NSWPSA Championships. The Inter-Diocesan MacKillop Trial is not a competition although a round-robin format is often used to facilitate the selection procedure. Parents will need to make their own travel arrangements for students representing Parramatta at the Inter-Diocesan MacKillop trials. This may require travelling within the Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga or Forbes areas.

NSWPSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Students who are successful at being selected for the MacKillop team will compete at the NSWPSA Championships. These championships involve three or four days of competition at various locations in NSW. Students selected in these teams may also be required to attend training sessions. At the NSWPSA Championships, a State team will be selected to participate in the School Sport Australia Inter-State Exchange for some sports.

Note that in Rugby League U11 Years, there is no state team selected.

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

To be considered for selection in the NSWPSA state team for participation at all School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under championships:

Students must be turning between the ages of 10 and 12 in the year of competition

i.e. Students turning the ages of 8, 9 and 13 in the year of competition are not eligible for NSWPSA State selection.

PARRAMATTA TRIALS NOMINATION FORM

If you would like your child to participate in one of the Parramatta Diocesan trials and meets the criteria of *demonstrating an ABOVE AVERAGE ability, HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT or in particular sports demonstrate REPRESENTATIVE playing experience in their nominated sport and have experience playing regular competitions outside of school*, **please complete the nomination form** that can be accessed via any of the following:

- Registration (Expression of Interest) link below:
[2024 CSPD Primary Sport TEAM Registration Form \(Expression of Interest\) - Sport Trials](#)
- Website - **PARRAMATTA DIOCESE PRIMARY SPORT** www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au
- Facebook - **Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese**
- Scan the **QR code** below



Good luck to all athletes as they progress through the School Sport Pathway program.

Kind Regards,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator Primary Sport ~ Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese

WEBSITE: www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au

FACEBOOK: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

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

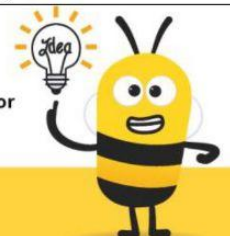
Pupil Free Day: 6.30am – 6.00pm

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

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