

Keeping In Touch



19 October 2023



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

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.

News from Scott

It is time to celebrate!!!!

Next week we acknowledge and celebrate our truly great school which has been 40 years in the making. On the 23rd October 1983, Mary MacKillop Primary School was opened. The rest.....as they say.....is history.

Our school's history is full of stories of wonderful people who have done great things and built year upon year to get us to where we are today. You and your family are writing the newest line in to that history today. Next week we honour those who have written the chapters that have led us to this point. We will be a Christ centred community in the celebration of Liturgy together on Monday morning. We show our supportive partnership of home, school and parish through our morning tea and picnic lunch on Monday and by our whole school P and F Colour Run on Friday. Of course we will have excellent teaching and learning that challenges our students to develop their unique gifts and talents in the remaining parts of our week.

From myself and all the team here - wishing you a Happy 40th Birthday as part of the St Mary MacKillop School community.

Thank you to our P and F



We recently received a wonderful donation of two fabulous new shade gazebos for us to use at carnivals, gala days and school events. We also were given a terrific new school sign that can identify our school at carnivals and functions. Thank you to our great P and F team who organise our fundraising and to our families who support the fundraising to top up the school resources for our kids. We can't do what we do without you.

Happy World Teachers Day

On Friday 27th October, World Teachers Day will be celebrated.

For our school it coincides with our P and F Colour Run and our 40th birthday celebrations. I am certain you would agree with me that the teachers of your child do an outstanding job each and every day. They are so dedicated, professional, caring and knowledgeable in all that they do each and every day. It is truly our teachers that make the difference for our children. One thing that they can't do however is read minds.....so if you agree with me about our wonderful teachers then perhaps it is a good time for you to let them know.

Together We Grow
Scott

Religious Education News

2023 Sacramental Program - The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following 38 students who will receive the Sacrament Of Reconciliation tonight, Thursday 19th October:



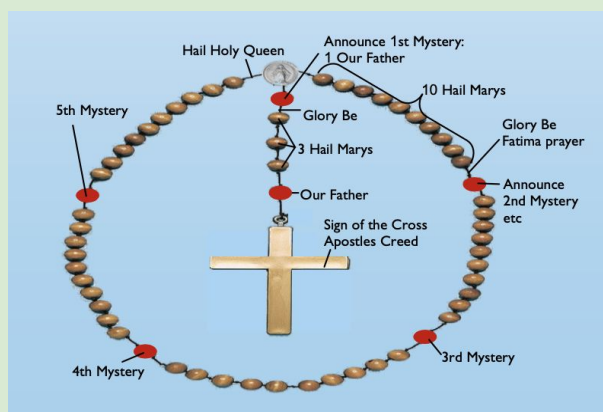
Thomas B, Holly B, Jack B, Isadora B, Alexandra B, Declan C, Chelsea D, Poppie E, Macks E, Winston E, Jerome F, Ella-Rose G, Sophie G, Haven H, Gideon H, Olivia J, Rhys K, Charlize L, Roman L, Connor M, Aubrey M, Chloe M, Giselle M, Melanie M, Khloe M, Ella O, Jensen O, Mackenzie P, Charlize P, Khloe 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 Rosary is a special type of prayer called a 'meditation'. In this prayer, we use our hands, our lips, our minds and our hearts to help us think about Jesus and Mary as we move our fingers along the Rosary beads.

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>

Religious Education News



40th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop Primary School

9:15am Monday 23rd October

To celebrate our wonderful school's 40th Anniversary we will commemorate this important milestone of Catholic Education in South Penrith with the following events on Monday 23rd October:

- **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
- **10:25am** Short performance for adults in the hall
(Students will leave the hall and return to class to get ready for morning tea and to receive their piece of cake.)
- **10:45am** Morning Tea
 - All parents and family members of our students are invited to have a family picnic on the playground and hill with their child/children. There will be cake available 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.
 - Guests who don't have a child at the school are also invited to stay for morning tea adjacent to the library to catch up with friends and colleagues.

There will also be a "Memory Walk" set up in the library for parents/adults to visit on the day. To keep numbers manageable in the library students will be visiting the Memory Walk with their class throughout the week.

Please note that times may vary slightly on the day, however, we will try to run as close to schedule as we can. Thank you for your understanding.

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

Together We Grow

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Student News

Lachlan McNamee

Lachlan was one of the few chosen students from all across NSW to receive a full scholarship for a 4 day program with the Australian Theatre for Young People. During this event he met many new people and did many new things. The activities they did were drama warm ups and other activities such as pretending that they were zombies. Another activity was to get a script and make it their own. The best script got to perform it in the play. Lachlan got the script of Romeo and Juliet and interpreted it as a rap then people gave him the nickname 'Lil Romeo'. His group was chosen as the best, so got to perform to all the parents in the Rebel Theatre in Sydney and near the Harbour Bridge.

The scholarship students went to watch a play and got to meet one of the actors, who was kind enough to stop and watch his group perform their rap Lil Romeo. Lachlan states "I could not do it without Lil Julio and my back up dancers".

Lachlan's favourite part was playing the Mum from the Northern Beaches, in one of the many skits he had to do. He loved getting into character and his favourite line was "Patricia get the pepper spray". He is a natural born actor and considers himself as the Australian version of Leonardo DiCaprio.

Lachlan really enjoyed this experience and gives it a 10/10. He says it was such a great program and he had so much fun. He also says "everyone was so supportive of each other". Lachlan, still to this day, talks to his new friends and keeps in touch.

Written by
Ruby and Will Cavanagh
The school News Team of 2023

Excursions

Year 3 Auburn Botanic Gardens

This Semester, Year 3 have been learning about places, how they are similar and different. To build on their understanding, in Week 1 this term, we were lucky enough to enjoy an excursion at Auburn Botanic Gardens. On this excursion, the children explored native Australian and Japanese gardens, learning about how these environments are different. At the end of the day, the children also had fun trying some bug catching and building their own animal habitats using the natural resources in the Gardens.



Sport News - Continued

Basketball Gala Day

On the 16th October 2023, 40 students represented St Mary Mackillop at the Basketball Gala day. It was a great day with many students showcasing their skills on the basketball court. Each team had a tough competition facing competitive opponents. Every player put 110% on the court and showed excellent sportsmanship on and off the court. It was great to see students cheering other teams on and providing encouragement throughout each game. All students should be incredibly proud of their efforts. No matter the score, all students from St Mary Mackillop did not give up and showed how well they could play as a team.

Out of the 5 teams that represented St Mary Mackillop on the day our Year 6 boys team were undefeated in their competition. This team will receive medals at an upcoming assembly. The year 5 and 6 girls team came away with second place and the other 3 teams played incredibly well on the day and never gave up in their pools. It was a day full of great defending and many excellent shots. Well done!



The day would not have been possible or run as smoothly as it did without the support of the families. A big thank you to the parents who came and coached on the day and for all the supporters. A special mention goes Mr Kearins for his mentoring of all the teams and coaching the Year 6 Boys. We are very grateful for the time you gave and the help you provided. Thank you very much. Well done everyone for a great day!

Mrs Wotherspoon and Mrs Kearins

P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

We hope all our families had a wonderful break and welcome back to our students for Term 4 of 2023. We as a P&F are really excited about the celebrations the school have organised for the 40years of St Mary Mackillop Primary School and to top off a wonderful week the P&F's Colour Explosion will end the week's celebrations on Friday 27th October. We can't wait to watch all the students have fun and make memories.

The return date for the Colour Explosion permission note is Friday 20th October and don't forget your White T-Shirt and to return your sponsorship form on the actual day. Get ready to be covered in Colour!!



We have our 1st Zooper Dooper day on Wednesday 1st November. These will be sold at the recess break (1.30pm) for \$1 each.

Saturday 18th November is our 1st Family Outdoor Movie Night on the hill. We have Dino's Pizza on board to cater for our families, there will be popcorn, fairy floss and slushies too for sale on the night!! The information for this fundraiser will go out with students next week.



We are looking for volunteers to help out for all remaining events 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 or please feel free to contact me directly on 0423763926 or via email at mdarwen1411@gmail.com

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

You can also find this link on the St Mary Mackillop and SMMPs P&F Facebook and Compass.

Have a great weekend all
Michelle Darwen
P&F President
On Behalf of the SMMPs P&F Team

Library News



Welcome back to Term 4. We are looking forward to celebrating 40 years of teaching and learning at St Mary Mackillop next week. It was wonderful to see so many students borrowing books from the library in our first week back after the break. We have many new books ready to be shared and enjoyed so please remind students to bring their library books back each week.

Library borrowing days :

Years 3,4,5 & 6 - Thursdays

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 - Fridays

Next Monday our library will be hosting some special visitors to walk down memory lane with photos, media items and conversations over morning tea. During the week, students will be invited to visit the space with their teachers to experience the memory walk, parents will also have the opportunity for this, we will advise the time for this next week.

Mrs Eisenhuth, Mrs Napoli and the Year 6 Library Team



Crossing Safely



School-age children might seem independent, but they still need a hand. Young children learn how to safely use the road from you. The habits they learn stay with them when they're old enough to travel alone.

Staying safe as a pedestrian

It's easy to become complacent about safety, especially on a familiar route. Taking risks and not being mindful on the roads can have serious consequences.

Always use pedestrian crossings. They're the safest way to cross the road. If there isn't one, it's risky to cross.

It's important to Stop. Look. Listen. Think.

Use a safe place to cross the road.

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 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

Friday 20 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly (Held in courtyard - weather depending)	School Hall
Monday 23 October	9:15am 10:15am 10:45am	40th Birthday Anniversary Liturgy Cutting of 40th Anniversary Cake BYO Family Picnic	School Hall
Thursday 26 October	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup Sessions	School Hall
Friday 27 October	2:20pm	World Teachers Day P & F Colour Run Whole School Assembly (Held in courtyard - weather depending)	School Hall
Wednesday 1 November		Infants Tabloid Carnival P & F Canteen Day - Recess Zooper Doopers	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 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 our friends with food allergies!