

## Keeping In Touch



3 November 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.*

Dear Parents and carers,

We had a magnificent 40th birthday celebration for our school last week. It is certainly an event that I will treasure in my memories as principal of this community.

As you know, these types of high quality events don't 'just happen'. Therefore, I want to acknowledge and thank the great staff of our school who worked tirelessly to meet, plan, decorate, purchase, practice and all the other tasks that were performed behind the scenes to make our 40th such a special celebration. A special thank you to Mrs Gillard who led the committee in organising the event.

At the same time it is important to thank our wonderful P and F team. They worked just as hard so that the children could enjoy a wonderful 'Colour Explosion' celebration as part of the 40th. The joy in the faces and voices of our kids as they transformed into circling rainbows of colour moving around the playground was a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do. The parent volunteers and P and F committee made sure that the day ran smoothly and were very generous with their time and effort. On behalf of our school. Thank you!!!

The funds raised through sponsorship of the colour run will be used by the P and F to 'refresh' some of our sports representative shirts and singlets so that our children feel extra special when they go out to gala days and events.

### Staffing News

As the end of the school year draws closer, we prepare to farewell Mrs Smith who will commence maternity leave on the 4th December. Year 5G are very excited to hear news of the newest arrival to the Smith family. We wish Bek every blessing and look forward to welcoming her back onto our staff following her leave period.

I also shared news with the staff this week that Mrs Churchill will be taking maternity leave in April of next year. Maryanne and Kyle will welcome their third child into their beautiful family. We send our congratulations and love to them all at this special time.

We welcome a new staff member to our teaching team in 2024. Mrs Carlin Eekman will be joining our school next year after many years of providing quality teaching and learning for the children at OLOW Emu Plains. We are looking forward to Carly joining our community and being a part of this great school. Congratulations and welcome Carly.

Together We Grow  
Scott

## Anti Bullying Policy

Our school Mission Statement and our Pastoral Care Policy underpin our whole school commitment to providing a safe and supportive environment.

Staff and students are aware that bullying behaviour is never acceptable. Incidences of bullying behaviour are dealt with in line with Diocesan Policy.

Our school climate fosters a sense of belonging and empowerment through:

- *Promoting positive interpersonal relationships*
- *Protective behaviours programs*
- *Clear and consistent student management procedures.*

### What is Bullying?

- Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm.
- It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.
- Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).
- Bullying behaviour can be verbal, non-verbal, physical, sexualised, discriminatory, inappropriate communication using technology and exclusionary.
- Bullying behaviour is repeated over a period of time, however, Conflicts or fights between students and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

### Bullying behaviour is not:

- children not getting along well
- a breakdown of a friendship
- a situation of mutual conflict (e.g. disagreements)
- single episodes of nastiness
- random acts of aggression, cruelty or intimidation
- isolated incidents of conflict separated by many months or years does not constitute a pattern of bullying behaviour.

Whilst the behaviours above do not meet the definition of bullying, any poor or anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and will be responded to appropriately.

For more information about our schools approach to bullying, please contact the school office for a copy of our **2023 St Mary MacKillop Pastoral Care Policy**.

# Religious Education News



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

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October we had a beautiful celebration for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop Primary School. It was wonderful to see so many people – current and past staff, students and parents that reconnected over shared memories and hopes for the future.

Thank you to all who were able to attend and thank you to the many people who worked tirelessly in planning our event. From the liturgy, to cutting the cake, to the concert (choir and Year 6), to the morning tea and memory walk – our celebration was a huge success!

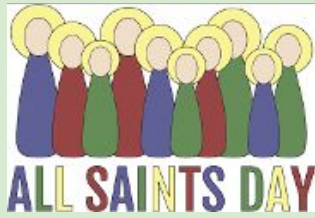




# Religious Education News



# Religious Education News



## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

The Feast of All Saints is the day on which we celebrate all the saints, those known and unknown, who have died faithful to God and now share his life in

heaven. While we have information about many saints, and we honour them on specific days of the Church calendar, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honoured. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. The Feast of All Saints ensures that all saints, known and unknown, are properly honoured because they have shown us how to live a life devoted to God.



## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

All Souls' Day is a solemn feast commemorating all of those who have died and are now in heaven with God. Churches have special liturgies and may invite the congregation to write the names of deceased friends

or family members in a special book that would be placed on the altar at each mass during November.

## Save the Date: 2023 Christmas Celebration

This year our annual whole school Christmas celebration will be held at school at 6:30pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November. More details will follow shortly!

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator







## 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.

Last term, we participated in a Mini MacKillop Earth Hour to show that our school community wants to make a change to look after our common home: The Earth.

This term, the Faith in Action Team are 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.

Please see the poster on the next page to view our main Laudato Si Goal. 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. The poster also has our first Quick Win goal 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: [Caritas Australia | Catholic Earthcare](#)





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

# P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

WOW!! What a week last week celebrating our school's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, we began with a beautiful liturgy in celebration and finished off with our P&F Colour Explosion. Thank you to all our families and friends for sponsoring the students. We are still receiving forms/money back from families, so we are still tallying our wonderful sponsorship but so far we have raised just over \$9000 for this event which is AMAZING and to top it off the students seem to be really enjoying themselves on the day.

A big thank you to Matt Darwen for setting up the obstacle course and to Catherine Watson and Kylie Beazley for all your work behind the scenes, organising this great event and on the day, it wouldn't have been possible without the 3 of you so thank you. To our generous parents on the day that helped at the event Matt, Catherine, Tracey, Kathy, Kim, Elise, Kristina, Diane, Sonya, Mel, Kacey, Karleen, Jodie and Chanelle and I'm sure I've forgotten some people but without our helpers on the day this event wouldn't have been possible so thank you.



We had Zooper Dooper and Crazy Sock Day on Wednesday where a \$2 donation were received from students. The P&F worked together with Mrs Gillard and the R.E team to have a joint day to raised money for our school and Catholic Mission. We will update our families next KIT to let you know how much was raised for this. Thank you again to our wonderful parents to came to help hand out the Zooper Doopers at recess Kim R, Julie, Rhonda B, Michelle P, Larissa O and Kathy R.

We are always looking for volunteers for our events so if you're able to help in anyway please fill out the google form below and we are also looking for volunteers to join our 2024 FETE Committee or please feel free to contact me directly on 0423763926 or via email at [mdarwen1411@gmail.com](mailto:mdarwen1411@gmail.com).

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

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



## P & F News - Continued

We are SUPER EXCITED about our 1<sup>st</sup> Family Outdoor Movie Night on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

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!!

We also have some great prizes up for grabs on the night.

Don't forget to scan the QR code from the flyer to order your tickets online.

Have a great weekend all

Michelle Darwen

P&F President

On Behalf of the SMMPS P&F 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 3 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	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	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly	School Hall School Hall
Thursday 16 November Friday 17 November		Year 6 Overnight Camp to Canberra	Canberra
Thursday 16 November	9:00am 10:00am	Kindy 2024 Playgroup Sessions	School Hall
Friday 17 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly	School Hall School Hall
Thursday 23 November	9:00am 9:00am	Kindergarten 2024 Orientation and Morning Tea 2nd Hand Uniform Shop Open	
Friday 24 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 5 Leadership Liturgy Whole School Assembly	School Hall School Hall
Thursday 30 November	6:30pm	Whole School Christmas Celebration	School Hall
Friday 1 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 5 December		Year 6 Motiv8 Fun Day	School Oval
Thursday 7 December	6:30pm	Year 6 Graduation Mass	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 8 December	9:15am	Year 6 Graduation and Family Farewell Ceremony	School Hall





**2024 Parramatta Diocese Team Sport Trials Expression of Interest**  
**registration window open - BASKETBALL & TENNIS 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 4 in 2023, Term 1 & 2 in 2024.

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

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those students that **MUST demonstrate an ABOVE AVERAGE ability, HIGH LEVEL OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT** or in particular sports demonstrate **REPRESENTATIVE** playing experience in their nominated sport. In most sports, students should have experience playing regular competitions outside of school.

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 NSWCPSS Team Sport Trials held at MacKillop level, SSU or NSWPSSA 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



## 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*



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**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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**A PEANUT**  
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!