

## Keeping In Touch

16 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,

At the end of Week 9 (Friday 8th December), student End Of Year Reports will be uploaded to Compass. These are an important document as they help to communicate between the school and home about the learning progress for your child this year. Of course nothing will be as informative as a conversation with your child's teacher but these reports act as a valuable summary of your child's academic achievement. I have included below, the relevant section from our Parent's Handbook for your consideration.

### ASSESSMENT POLICY

Parents/Carers with children in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be provided with a report that indicates their child's overall level of achievement in each Key Learning Area and will be provided with statistics that indicate their child's achievement relative to the rest of the year group.

### Student's Achievement in Key Learning Areas

Your child's achievement for the strands for each of the Key Learning Areas is reported using a five point scale.

- A - Working deeply
- B - Working beyond
- C - Working at
- D - Working towards
- E - Working with assistance

A	Working deeply	The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.
B	Working beyond	The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and has a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
C	Working at	The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the main areas of content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
D	Working towards	The student has basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of achievement.
E	Working with assistance	The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in a few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.

# News from Scott - Continued

Your child's effort for the strands for each of the Key Learning Areas is reported using a four point scale.

Outstanding

Very Good

Satisfactory

Improvement Needed

## **Year 5 and 6 Camps**

Last Thursday and Friday it was my absolute pleasure to attend the Year 5 Leadership Camp at YMCA Yarramundi. I am so impressed by our Year 5 students as they move towards being our student leaders for 2024.

There was great resilience, flexibility, compassion and cooperation shown by the boys and girls as they spent the two days and one night together. Their capacity to work effectively as a team grew over the duration of the camp and as always they demonstrated the school values of being Safe, Respectful, Learners. The camp instructors who worked with the children were full of praise and commendation for them.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the staff who attended the camp and gave up precious time away from their families without any additional financial remuneration. Mrs Tredinnick, Mrs Smith, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Bizzanelli are truly wonderful educators and generous members of our community.

Today I am travelling to Canberra with Year 6. As their time of being a student at St Mary MacKillop draws to a close, the boys and girls will represent our school at such prestigious venues as The Australian War Memorial and Parliament House. Again, I am confident that the children will be shining examples of Safe, Respectful, Learners as one of their final leadership duties before they transition to high school.

The opportunity to reinforce and apply their learning from this year in such a special place is only possible because of the great team of staff that will supervise them for the next two days and night. Thank you to Mrs Moore, Miss Pirotta and Mr Martin. You are greatly appreciated.

Together We Grow

Mr Scott Buchan

Principal

# Religious Education News

## 2023 Christmas Celebration: 6:30pm Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November



On Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of November we will gather as a school community to celebrate the Season of Christmas. This year, we will perform the Christmas story in Carols which will be held at 6:30pm on the St Mary MacKillop playground.

We will set up some seating, however, parents are invited to bring picnic blankets and/or picnic chairs to sit on.

Presently, all the children are busily learning their assigned songs and actions, as our celebration will involve story, song, music, movement and lots of fun as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All children will need to meet their class teacher at 6:15pm so that they can be in position and ready to start at 6:30pm. Their teacher will be waiting for them and will mark their name off the roll. There will be class signs to advise of each meeting spot.

We have kept costumes simple for your ease and convenience. The children are asked to wear the following:

Grade	Suggested Outfit / Costume
Kindergarten	Reindeer, Elves, Santas, Christmas Colours
Year 1	Mary, angels or white clothes
Year 2	Angels (or white clothes), shepherds, wise men (kings)
Year 3	Wise men (kings) or colours: white, gold, silver
Year 4	Shepherds, Mary or white clothes
Year 5	Angels or colours: white, gold, yellow, silver
Year 6	Christmas clothes / colours

If there are any questions please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on the 30<sup>th</sup> November as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.



# Religious Education News

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers Social Justice Activity



Many within our local community need our help and as we approach the Season of Advent, we are asked to think of those less fortunate than ourselves.

As a Catholic community based on following the example of Jesus and St Mary MacKillop, a simple but powerful way to care for others in our local community is to help St Vincent de Paul assemble hampers for those in need, as a way of preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas.

We appreciate that at the moment it may be a difficult financial time for some of our families, so for this reason, we are asking that families donate what they feel they can from the list below. This list will also be promoted in classrooms as we work together to help make Christmas a special time for all in our community. ***We ask that all hamper donations are well within their best before/use by date returned to school by Friday 1st December.***

- tin of leg ham
- Christmas cake
- Christmas pudding
- long life vanilla custard, cream, milk, Kraft Cheddar Cheese
- tins of: fruit salad, vegetables (carrots, peas, corn), tuna, salmon
- packets of chips
- salsa dip
- bottles of soft drink, fruit juice, cordial
- packets of mixed nuts
- jelly crystals
- salad dressing and gravy mix
- packets of biscuits: sweet or savoury
- reusable shopping bags
- coffee, tea, hot chocolate, Milo, sugar
- packets of rice and pasta
- instant mash potato
- Christmas bon-bons, plates, napkins
- packet of lollies
- shortbread



*Let's work together to help other families celebrate Christmas, make wishes come true and restore hope.*

Mrs Leesa Gillard  
Religious Education Coordinator



# Year 5 Yarramundi Camp



**Last week, on the 9th and 10th of November, Year 5 went to camp and had a great time!**

**We participated in lots of exciting team building activities including Gaga Ball, the giant swing, an artificial cave maze, song trivia, the low ropes course and some free time.**

**This camp helped us to develop many leadership skills such as:**

- **Negotiation**
- **Sportsmanship**
- **Teamwork**
- **Resilience**

**At camp there were smiles everywhere and lots of enjoyment.**

**We were also lucky to have great meals provided including tacos, sausages, toast, cereal and even yummy dessert.**

**We also stayed in cabins overnight with all of our friends and got to stay up really late!**

**Unfortunately there was a thunderstorm on the first day but the staff and teachers had inside activities planned for us. We went inside and played shoebowling and song trivia. Lucky for us, they packed in many activities for us on the second day.**

**We were very grateful to have this opportunity of two great days at camp!**

**Written by Amelia, Eshanya and Eli  
Year 5**



# Year 5 Yarramundi Camp





## Year 5 Yarramundi Camp



# School Captain Election Process

Dear Parents,

Week 5 was a very busy week for some of the students of Year 5, especially Monday and Wednesday. But before I tell you about these exciting days, I am going to tell you about what happened in the lead up to them.

During Week 1 of Term 4, Year 5 were told that we could apply to be shortlisted for School Captain in 2024.

If we didn't want to be short-listed for School Captain we could write to our teachers, persuading them to put us in our leadership team of choice. We had roughly three weeks to finish these letters as our deadline was Thursday Week 3.

In these letters we informed the teachers as to why and how we, as leaders, would be suitable for the job.

On Monday of Week 4 we were told who was shortlisted for School Captain. The short-listed candidates were Eshanya I, Amelia B, Molly M, Madison H, Lila B, Olivia D, Capri W, Christopher B, Jack V, Sam B, Thomas M, Braiden S and finally Riley K. As you can see 7 girls were elected. This was because two girls wrote an outstanding letter and not even our principal, Mr Buchan could decide between them.

These short-listed candidates then presented a speech to the Year Four and Year Five students and teachers. The grades then voted for one girl and one boy who they thought would make an excellent captain.

On Wednesday Week 5 we found out who the Captains and Vice Captains for 2024 will be with Mr Buchan announcing them to our grade and then school community.

2024's School Captains are Jack V and Capri W and the Vice Captains are Riley K and Olivia Darwen.

To welcome our new School Captains and leadership teams, Year Five will be having a Grade Leadership Liturgy in Week 7. Congratulations to our leaders for 2024!

By Olivia D, Braiden S and Capri W





## P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

It's been a bit of a quiet fortnight for the P&F I think we're all still getting over the fun and excitement from the Colour Run!

We would like to apologise and thank all our families that booked tickets for our Family Movie Night that has been postponed. We are working with the school to secure a new date hopefully for the end of Term 1 2024. A huge thank you to Sam Snow for all her hard work on this event it's very much appreciated.

### P & F AGM

Next Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November is our 2023 P&F AGM from 6.30pm in the school hall.

All current members will step down from their positions and new members will be voted in. If you would like to have your say, see what it's all about or join the P&F for 2024 please come and join us. We discuss things like events for 2024, what the P&F can donate to the school or what the school would like from the P&F to support the school. There will be light refreshments served on the night.

Well that's all from us, have a great weekend.

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





## 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.

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.

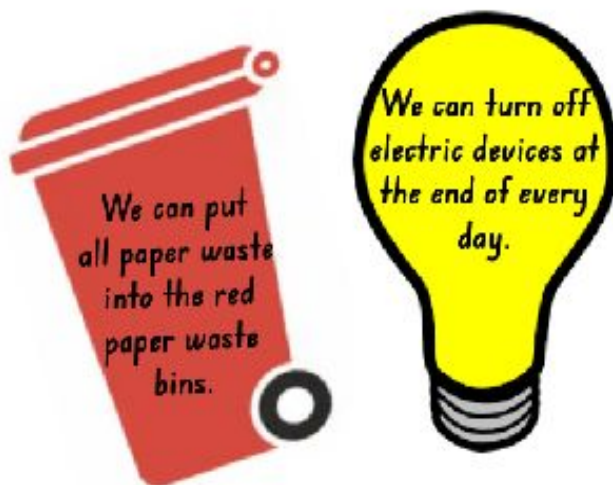
Please see the poster on the next page to view our main Laudato Si Goal. Laudato Si' is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical (papal letter) on caring for our common home — planet earth. The letter is addressed to "every person living on this planet" and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping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



## Library Bags

Library Bags are now available to purchase at the office. Our Library bags are strong and sturdy and are ideal for carrying the library books safely.

They are \$9.00 each to purchase. EFTPOS only accepted.



## 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

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
Wednesday 22 November	7:00pm	P & F AGM Meeting (all welcome to attend)	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
Wednesday 29 November	1:30pm	P & F Zooper Dooper Day	
Thursday 30 November	6:30pm	Whole School Christmas Celebration	
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  2:20pm	Year 6 Graduation and Family Farewell Ceremony Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 14 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions	Classrooms
Friday 15 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly <b>Last day of Term 4 for Students</b>	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 NSWCPSS 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](http://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 NSWPSSA 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 NSWPSSA 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 NSWPSSA 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 NSWPSSA 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.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.primarysportparra.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.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.primarysportparra.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
<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 - 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](mailto:stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au) **Phone:** 0492 367 298



*Learning for life*

Is this safe?



# PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



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- **WASH HANDS**  
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
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OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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**A PEANUT**  
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1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you  
for helping us  
provide a safe environment  
for our friends with food allergies!