



Keeping In Touch

5 December 2024



News from Scott



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

Dear Parents and Carers

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.

Our Christmas concert last night was such a great display of what makes this community an outstanding community with an amazing school at its centre. Bringing our community together in a celebration of our kids and our faith is a beautiful way to 'kick off' the festive season of Christmas. And what an amazing backdrop for us to showcase the talents of our kids. The amazing tree and the beautiful weather certainly enhanced what is always a special night for us.

I offer a heartfelt 'thank you' to Mrs Gillard and Mr Brown who planned and coordinated our celebration and led our team. Thank you to Mr Brown for looking after the sound system and to Lila and Ava for being fabulous narrators on the night. Our wonderful staff team deserve a thank you for the organising of the students and the practice that went into each class performance. And of course we need to thank our children who were the 'stars' on the night and the community who were such a fantastic audience for the performance.

Our P & F also deserve thanks for their organisation of the free barbecue, the 'lucky door' prizes and even the christmas arch as we entered the school. It made our celebration a wonderful community celebration.

Great job everyone. Together we make an awesome team!!!

Staffing News

In our next edition of the KIT, we will publish our full staffing layout for 2025. This will be before the Class Promotion afternoon on Tuesday 17th December. We have recruited some fantastic new members for our team in 2025 and the community should get a chance to meet them at this time.

Safety in the morning

Parents, I am calling on your assistance to ensure that all of our children arrive safely to school each day. This term we have had a few incidents where children have been farewelled by parents at the 'bottom gate' but when the parent has left, the child has remained at the front of the school and not walked through the top gate and onto the playground.

Could I ask that you speak to your child / children to support the expectation that they need to go up the hill and onto the playground without stopping during the morning. With our younger students it may need parents to wait at the bottom gate until their child has entered into the top gate. Where required please bring your child up to the top gate to say goodbye.

Thank you in advance for helping us keep all of our kids safe.

Together We Grow
Scott Buchan



Religious Education News



St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers Final Social Justice Activity for 2024

Thank you for all your generous giving so far for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. All donations will help people in our local community experience a joy filled Christmas. There is still time to donate and ***we ask that all hamper donations are well within their best before/use by date returned to school by tomorrow morning.***

Donations of the following items are needed:

- 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
- 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.

The Season of Advent – The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath, usually made of evergreen branches, symbolizes eternal life and God's everlasting love. The circular shape of the wreath points to God's infinite nature, having no beginning and no end. The Advent Wreath is decorated with four candles, representing the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Each candle represents a different aspect of the Advent Season - The first candle (violet) represents hope, the second (violet) peace, the third (rose) joy, and the fourth (violet) love. The three purple candles on the Advent wreath represent penance, preparation, and sacrifice, reflecting the solemn yet hopeful nature of Advent. The pink candle, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, signifies joy and is known as the "Gaudete" candle. This candle marks a shift in the season from a time of reflection to a more joyous anticipation of Christ's birth. Lighting a candle of the Advent Wreath each week, reminds Christians of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings into the world, so that they can make their hearts truly ready to receive Jesus.



Religious Education News

2024 Christmas Celebration – Carols on the Hill

Last night we celebrated the Season and Advent and Christmas with our St Mary MacKillop 'Carols on the Hill' evening.

It was a wonderful night full of community, partnership, colour, singing and praise to God. A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We hope the evening really kick started your Christmas celebrations. A night like this does not come together without some great team work, and we have a great team here at St Mary MacKillop.

Huge thanks must go to:

- *Our wonderful P and F for our BBQ dinner*
- *Jamie and Jeremy for the great sound tonight*
- *Mr Brown and the choir*
- *All our wonderful teachers for preparing the children so well*
- *Ava and Lila for their great MCing*
- *Our students for leading the singing*
- *And finally, our wonderful audience for their presence on the tonight.*

I hope the peace and joy of Christmas has been placed in your hearts!



Religious Education News

Year 6 Graduation Mass– 6:30m Thursday 12th December

As our Year 6 students prepare to leave St Mary MacKillop, it is time to celebrate the culmination of the last 7 years of primary school education for our 2024 graduating students. The Year Six Graduation Mass will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday 12th December in our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra. All in our community are warmly invited to attend this mass.

Year 6 Graduation and Award Ceremony – 9:15am Friday 13th December

As a school community we will graduate our 2024 Year 6 students at the Year Six Graduation and Award Ceremony which will be held at 9:15am on Friday 13th December in our school hall. All in our community are warmly invited to attend this special ceremony.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



Year 5 Camp Yarramundi

Monday, the 18th of November, Year 5 and the teachers set off for an unforgettable experience at Camp Yarramundi. This trip wasn't just a memorable time but a big experience for year 5 to build bravery, leadership and teamwork skills.

When we arrived at Camp Yarramundi, we were immediately introduced to our kind camp instructors who were there to help us during our time at Camp Yarramundi. We first went to the basketball court where we played a couple of games. Straight after, we were taken to our cabins where we got out our things and set them up. We then had burgers for lunch and then headed off for the activities.

Next, we were spread into 3 groups with our instructors. I was in group 3. Group 3 first went to the Cave Maze. When we got there, our instructor went into the maze to check the temperature. Unfortunately the Cave Maze was too hot, reaching a temperature of 30°C and all of Group 3 were very disappointed. Instead we went to Low Ropes, where we had to use our teamwork skills to balance on the ropes. We had to wear a helmet for safety while walking on the Low Ropes. Our partners had to put their hand against the person on the rope for their safety. This activity was very fun for Group 3.

Afterwards, Group 3 went Rock Climbing. Once again for this activity we had to wear a helmet and a harness to ensure our safety. Then while someone was climbing the wall, three people had to pull the rope, connected to the person who was climbing the wall's harness. This activity was not only fun but helped students learn the skill of teamwork.

Then, we all took a shower, had nachos for dinner and then ate ice - cream for dessert. The best thing was the movie we watched, it was called 'Migration'.

The next day, we woke up at 7am, got dressed and had cereal for breakfast. Group 3 then headed off to the Giant Swing. We wore a helmet and a safety harness. The rope team had to pull the rope connected to the person on the swing while they went higher and higher. But when they said stop, they had to pull the tiny string and they would go flying backwards on the swing. This activity demonstrated fun, teamwork and leadership.

Group 3 then went to the Alpine Rescue. Then we imagined that we were stranded on a mountain with no signal, so we had to go through the obstacles to save Bob and Jimmy (the barrels). Both teams had to complete each of the obstacles by working as a team and showing leadership. This activity was very fun and I would love to do it again.

After this we got our suitcases, said a big thank you to our camp instructors, left Camp Yarramundi on the bus and headed home. Year 5 and I had the best time and we would love to do it again.

Mihika C

P & F News

The P&F have been very busy behind the scenes in the last 2 weeks. On the 27th of November we organised a free zooper dooper day for all the students. It was a perfect day for it with the temperature reaching over 37 degrees in Penrith. The original plans were to have a zooper dooper day on Friday last week, but with the impending heatwave the P&F sprang into action and quickly rearranged days to give the kids a nice refreshing treat on a very hot day!

Thanks to the parents that came along to hand out treats and give our shed an end of year clean out. These are the jobs that aren't seen but definitely needed to keep our events running smoothly all year. Thanks to Michelle D, Jodie N, Samantha G, Melanie M & Chanelle V for braving the heat!

Exciting news! The P&F now has its own website!!! Thanks to Sam Snow for all the work designing the website and giving us all even more ways to stay connected! It's your go to place to stay up to date with all things P&F, links to volunteer, upcoming events and more. Be sure to check it out:

<https://sites.google.com/view/smmppf/home>

Finally we must thank the P&F team for the preparation of this weeks Christmas carols BBQ. This was a mammoth task, certainly the biggest BBQ we've ever put on, close to 1000 sausages! Thanks to our AMAZING team of volunteers that cooked and served, Sam S, Kirrily M, Sonya L, Jodie N, Samantha G, Kevin G, Melissa P, Larissa O, Melanie M, Kathy R, Michelle P, Tamara H, Katrina D, Rebecca D, Jason V, Chanelle V and Nanna Mary. There is certainly no "I" in team with this lot! Everyone pulled their weight to get the job done brilliantly, just amazing!

We apologise to anyone that missed out on a sausage at the end, this truly was a huge event and even over catering above the rsvp amount was a stretch. With every event comes learning, we have a brilliant team of volunteers and with that comes the bouncing of ideas and growing for our next one. 'Together we grow' is certainly a perfect motto. As gets repeated every event, we couldn't possibly hold events at the school without the team of volunteers always, so we thank you all so very much!

Thanks
P&F team

Stage 3 Touch Gala Day

On Friday the 8th of November, 3 teams of boys in Years 5 and 6 represented our school at the Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day. All the boys had a great time at the event and showed sportsmanship to other teams, officials and referees. Everyone tried their best and were encouraging and kind towards each other. Thank you to Mrs Moore and Mr Martin who were there on the day to make sure that everything went smoothly and to all the parents who came and cheered the team on, your support is greatly appreciated and we hope that you had a great time too.

A special thanks to Bernie Swannell, David Bullock, Lachlan Moore, Hayden Moore and Gerry Rowan who helped coach our teams on the day.

Christopher B
Year 6



Stage 3 Girls Basketball Gala Day

On Tuesday the 12th of November, girls from Years 5 and 6 went to Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre to compete in the Parramatta Basketball Gala Day. Both teams showed amazing sportsmanship, dedication and commitment towards their teammates and opponents, representing our school proudly. Both teams enjoyed themselves at the Gala Day, giving their best with every challenge they faced. The day was filled with laughter, smiles and lollies galore. Our super Year 6 team won 5 of the 7 games that they played. Our fantastic Year 5's played a total of 7 games and won 1. We would like to thank Mr Phillips for coaching the Year 5 team and Mrs Bognar and Mrs Smith for coaching the Year 6 team.

Emmie and Bailey

On Tuesday the 12th of November, girls from Years 5 and 6 went to Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre to compete in the Parramatta Basketball Gala Day. Both teams enjoyed themselves, playing about 7 games each. They put their all into each challenge they faced and represented our school with pride. We are so proud of our stage 3 girls for showing amazing sportsmanship, dedication and commitment to their teammates and opponents. We would like to thank Mr Phillips, Mrs Bognar and Mrs Smith for giving up their time to coach our teams.

Lucy and Katie

Oz Tag Gala Day

A huge thank you to Mrs Smiles and all our coaches on the day. We had a great time at the very first St Mary MacKillop OzTag Gala Day. There was a lot of tough competition but we persevere and played our best. We had lots of fun with our friends.

What did the students think:

It was a fun day even though we lost every game. We played our best and it was fun playing with our friends and scoring tries. We had a very hard time trying to win but that does not matter because we went to the canteen and got chips, snowcones and lollies.

Zac.S

It was very fun a day with the boys for a whole day. We played a lot of games but had a 2 hour wait. We didn't win a game but we still had a great time. We grabbed some lollies and I brang Thomas home.

Connor. J

A very exhausting day representing St Mary Mackillop for the first oztag gala day for mackillop and even though we lost all our games, we had soooooooooooooo much fun. We always put up a challenge to beat the other teams and we were having a lot of fun by just playing with your friends

Jerome. F

The Oz Tag Gala Day was a lot of fun but it was competitive. We still tried our best and had a good day away from school. Soooo much fun! We enjoyed being with our friends.

Charlie. V

"I like to compete against other schools because they are competitive" - Sophia B

"I liked ripping the tags and defending so others could run straight and score tries"- Olivia N

"Everyone was encouraging"- Jaymie I

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 are to be completed **prior** to your holiday.

Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.

Mobile Phones

If a child needs to bring a mobile phone to school they must be clearly labelled with the child's name, switched off and checked into the office on arrival and collected after the 3:00pm bell.

Medication

If your child takes long term medication, you must fill out the relevant form from the office. Medication will not be administered to any child unless authorised by a parent/guardian. All medication prescribed by a medical practitioner must be authorised by the doctor and all paperwork needs to be updated every year or when medication is changed. All relevant forms are available from the school office.

For short term medication, forms are also available from the school office. No child will be given medication unless it is recorded, prescribed by a doctor and in its original packaging. Many doctors will agree that medication to be given three times a day can be administered: morning, after school and before bed at night. Please check with your doctor.

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

If parents wish their children to be collected from school early, please send a note to the teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45 am - 11:30 am) or break time (1:30pm- 2:00 pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or break, **not during the break**, as bags are kept inside the classrooms and classrooms are locked during break times.

****From our parent handbook**** Read our Parent Handbook here:

<https://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol/Handbook>

COLLECTING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Children are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided only until 3:30pm. **Ambrose Before & After School care is available if you require care after school. Ambrose phone number is 0492 367 298.**

If, due to extraordinary circumstances, eg: when a parent is detained, please notify the school and your child will be informed that you are delayed. Parents are reminded that all care will be given to the children but there is no formal supervision after 3:30pm when the last bus leaves the school.

Walkers A classroom teacher will escort students to 'walkers' and supervise students crossing the street, riding bikes and going to cars as part of afternoon dismissal.

Waiters After school, staff will supervise children waiting for school buses or on 'waiters.' (***Waiters are to be collected after 3:10pm***) up on our playground.

Dates for your Diary

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 5 December		Year 6 Big Day In	School Oval
Friday 6 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 12 December	6:30pm	Year 6 Graduation Mass	St Nicholas of Myra Parish
Friday 13 December	9:15am 2:20pm 6:00pm	Year 6 Graduation and Awards Ceremony Whole School Assembly Year 6 Farewell Semester 2 Reports Available on Compass	School Hall School Hall School Hall
Tuesday 17 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions	
Wednesday 18 December		Last Day of School for Students	
Thursday 19 December Friday 20 December		Staff Development Days	

TERM 1 2025 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 31st January & Monday 3 February		Staff Development Days	
Tuesday 4 February		Years 1-6 Return to School	
Wednesday 5 February	6:30pm	Kindergarten Commence School Twilight Swimming Carnival	Glenbrook Pools
Friday 7 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 14 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 21 February	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 - 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



Learning for life