

Keeping In Touch

23 February 2024



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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,

The strength of our partnership between home and school is one of the most important features that make our school great. Thursday was a shining example of this partnership brought to life. The home and the school came together in the morning for an Opening School Liturgy that included commissioning of our Year 6 student leaders and a welcoming and blessing for our new students, new staff and our beautiful new kindergarten classes. Again, the partnership was on display in the afternoon when our families came into our Open Classroom session and then joined us in a BBQ dinner provided by our fabulous P and F. If you think about it, everything that we teach and the children learn at school for six hours every day can either be supported and enhanced outside of school for up to 18 hrs a day or it can be 'untaught' and 'unlearned' three times over each day.

Our team at St Mary MacKillop find great support in knowing that for our community, the work we do at school is being supported and enhanced for our kids. That is the power of the partnership that we live in each of the 200 days of the school year.

Thank you for being in the partnership.

Thank you

A particular thank you to our P and F (Parents and Friends) team. Your time and energy in provisioning 'zooper dooper' days for our kids and in feeding us all last night is greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have you in our community.

Learning Improvement Focus for 2024

Whilst we are constantly updating our practice and improving our knowledge as a staff and a school, in 2024 we have a particular focus in Mathematics. Our NSW Education Standards Authority, syllabus documents and curriculum have been changed and updated this year. These documents direct what we teach, when we teach it and suggestions on what the teaching could look like. Therefore our teaching will adapt to these new guidelines. The majority of our staff professional learning will also be constructed around this.

We are mindful of the role parents play in shaping our children's learning and therefore we are also developing ideas on how best to support you with encouraging and guiding your child in mathematics. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding your child's learning.

News from Scott - Continued

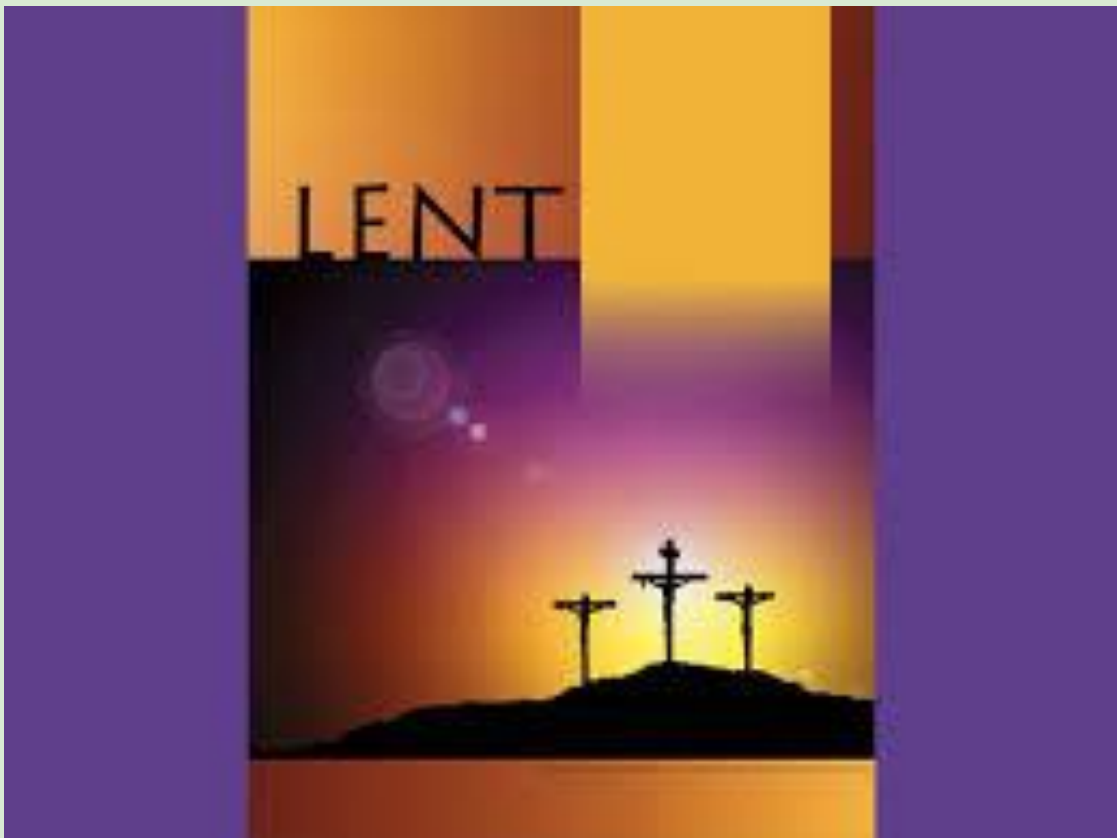
A Lenten Prayer to Know God More

Oh Lord,

Please help me this day. Give me eyes to see how you are at work in every one of my circumstances. Lord, give me perseverance to increase my understanding of you. Give me a hunger to read your Word and to seek to know you more each day. Just as the dawn comes with its exact precision, help me to trust that You will also move in my life, in your perfect timing and in your beautiful way. In your name I pray, amen.

by Tiffany Thibault

Together We Grow
Scott



Religious Education News

The Season of Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness to fast, pray, and endure temptations, all in preparation for his public ministry which would culminate in his death on the cross.

The Season of Lent offers us an opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it encourages us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful towards others.

The three pivotal practices of Lent are:

- Fasting (self denial)
- Prayer
- Almsgiving (sharing what we have with others, acts of kindness, charity and mercy)



Traditionally, fasting had meant self denial - giving up something or going without. The idea behind this is that when we reach for the thing that we have "given up" it prompts us to think about why we have given that item up and reminds us to think about God and the Season of Lent. More recently, Lent has also become a time to take things up.....giving compliments, forgiving others, being grateful..... a balance of fasting and feasting.

How can we include these three practices in our daily lives?

Prayer – We are blessed with countless prayer opportunities: when someone cuts you off in traffic, when you experience great service at the shops, when you are amazed by nature. Take these as opportunities to say a little prayer.

Fasting – More important than the chocolate you may give up, abstain from unnecessary anxiety, judging others, gossip or criticism. These too are ways of fasting.

Almsgiving – Giving does not always come from our wallets. This Lent ensure that you give due praise to others, give encouragement to those who need it and words of thanks for the many services that would normally go unnoticed.

No matter how busy you are this Lenten Season make time for HIM through your daily encounters with others.

Religious Education News



Second Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 25th February)



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partner in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you." Watch [Ronita's Story](#)

Third Week of Lent (Week beginning Sunday 3rd March)



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said. Watch [Leaia's Story](#)

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes, online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Religious Education News

Share the Love Bags

Following the teachings of Jesus to love others and to love your neighbour, is an important part of the life of our Catholic school. This year to reinforce and bring to life the message of Jesus the St Mary MacKillop School community will be using 'Share the Love Bags'. These 'Share the Love Bags' have been assigned to each class and will offer a link between home and school to our faith. We hope that when your child brings home this bag that you will gather together as a family and use the contents of the bag to think about how you can model the teachings and actions of Jesus in everyday life to spread love and kindness in our community. We are also encouraging the children to record a prayer or reflection in the journal provided.

The 'Share the Love Bags' consists of:

- The picture book *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson
This is a wonderful story that demonstrates how Mary's kind actions had a positive effect on those around her. Through her one act of kindness, Mary created a ripple effect of love that reached across the world.
Mary was a normal, ordinary girl who did not know the effect of her one kind act, she just chose to look around her and reach out with love and kindness to others.
- A Share the Love journal



The 'Share the Love Bag' is a very special and sacred bag. We know that you, with your child will take care of it and see that it is *completely and safely* returned to school. If there is an accident or mishap with the 'Share the Love Bag' please let the class teacher know so that the issue can be rectified quickly to ensure every child/family is given the same prayerful opportunity.

Catholic Schools Week: 3rd- 9th March

Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual event and involves the communities of all 591 Catholic primary and secondary schools across NSW and the ACT. First and foremost, Catholic Schools Week is about celebration. The main aim of CSW is to raise awareness and celebrate the strength and distinctiveness of Catholic schools across the State. CSW provides an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what is done every day in our schools and invite the community in to experience teaching and learning at its best.

Catholic Schools Week is about strengthening relationships between all those that have a stake in our schools – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Sport News

On Wednesday, I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Zone Swimming Carnival at Glenbrook Pools with 23 of our students. It was a cold and wet start to the day but it soon steamed up, creating a great day for a competitive swim meet. For some of the students, this was their very first time attending a Zone Carnival but they took this in their stride. All of our students displayed sportsmanship, resilience and respect, making me incredibly proud to be the Team Manager of the St Mary MacKillop community. To the 23 students who attended yesterday's carnival, you went out there and gave it your all, despite how nervous you may have been. You all swam amazingly and you certainly made your parents, school and community proud with your efforts and achievements.

A huge congratulations to the following students who attended the Zone Carnival yesterday:

Sophie. N, Halo. D, Evelyn. H, William. V, Noah. M, Thomas. B, Zachery. S, Mitchell. B, Spencer. M, Phoebe. E, McKinley. C, Isabelle. F, Tyla. D, Chase. D, Lincoln. C, Peter. B, Joel. H, Amelia. B, Immogen. B, Enzo. D, Leo. S, Samuel. H, Spencer. P.

I would also like to congratulate the following students who made it to Diocesan which is on the 12th of March at Blacktown Aquatic Centre:

Peter. B, Amelia. B, Thomas. B, Zachery. S, Mitchell. B, McKinley. C, Isabelle. F, Tyla. D, Chase. D, Lincoln. C, Enzo. D, Samuel. H, Joel. H.

As always, thank you to the amazing and ever supportive parents who gave up their time to bring their children to the Zone Carnival yesterday. Your willingness to attend and the support you give to your children, and to St Mary MacKillop, is always valued and appreciated.

Please see the following page for some of the results from yesterday's Zone Carnival.

Mrs Michelle Jarrett
Sports Coordinator

Sport News

Senior Boys Relay: 1st place- Peter, Joel, Lincoln & Chase

Senior Girls Relay: 3rd place- Amelia, Isabelle, McKinley & Tyla

Junior Boys Relay: 2nd place- Thomas, Zachery, Enzo & Mitchell

Junior Girls Relay: 6th place- Spencer, Phoebe, Sophie & Halo

Individual Results for students who qualified for the Diocesan Swimming Carnival:

12 yrs Boys

Peter B: 50m Freestyle-4th place

50m Backstroke- 4th place

50m Butterfly- 3rd place

12 yrs Girls

Amelia B: 50m Freestyle-3rd place

50m Breaststroke-3rd place

50m Butterfly-2nd place

11 yrs Boys

Samuel H: 50m Breaststroke-4th place

11 yrs Girls

McKinley C 50m Freestyle- 4th place

50m Butterfly-3rd place

Tyla D: 50m Breaststroke-1st place

Isabelle F: 50m Breaststroke- 3rd place

50m Backstroke - 3rd place

9yrs Boys

Thomas B: 50m Freestyle-3rd place

50m Breaststroke-4th place

50m Butterfly-4th place



Mrs Michelle Jarrett
Sport Coordinator



2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools. For more information, you can visit the PRC site at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

All students in Kindergarten at St Mary MacKillop will be registered for the challenge by Mrs Eisenhuth, our Teacher Librarian. Parents do not need to register their child, if your child is in years 1 to 6 and would like to complete the challenge and they have not been registered before, please contact Mrs Eisenhuth via the school office.



Artwork by Sami Bayly

NSW Department of Education

2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday 26 February
Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday 23 August



P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community,

What a great way to start the year with our 1st Zooper Dooper day last Friday, thank you to all our families who gave their children money on the day. We raised \$353 that day which is a great effort. Thank you to the parents who helped out that day Sonya Lee, Chanelle Vella, Dee Hyslop, Kirrily Murphy and Rachel Cody.

We have our Welcome BBQ in the afternoon from 4.30pm on Thursday 22nd February which is a great way to meet other families and connect with our school community, we hope to see you all there!

Our next Zooper Dooper day is Friday 1st March at recess and we are selling them for \$1 each.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SCHOOL FETE!!

We are super excited to announce that our School Fete has been locked in for **Sunday 20th October**. For this event we require your help and are forming a committee as it's a big but great event for the school to put on.

If you're interested, could you please email us at smmppandf@gmail.com or contact myself (Michelle) on 0423763926.

We appreciate your support.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President

High School News



1974 – 2024

*Celebrating our past
Empowering our future*

2025 ENROLMENTS

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

NOW OPEN

Join the Caroline Chisholm community to experience the difference.

OPEN NIGHT TOURS 2024

FOR GIRLS YEARS 7-12

Wednesday 6th March

Thursday 7th March

Tours of the college: 3:30 – 6:30pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

For further information and bookings please visit our website or social pages <https://www.cccglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au/>

At Caroline Chisholm College, girls take centre stage in their learning and our teachers have developed expertise in meeting the diverse needs of female students.

 **90 – 98 The Lakes Drive, Glenmore Park**

For enrolments contact Chantal Morris:
cmorris12@parra.catholic.edu.au 4737 5561

Follow Us:   



XAVIER COLLEGE
Llandilo

Tuesday March 5, 2024 4pm-6pm

Prospective 2025 students and families are welcome to attend.

Tours and application forms available on the night.



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

2024 OPEN DAY

WELCOMING FAMILIES LOOKING TO SECURE PLACEMENTS IN 2024 AND BEYOND

SUNDAY 3 MARCH | SESSION 1 - 10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM | SESSION 2 - 12:30 PM TO 2:00 PM



A day here or there doesn't seem like much but absences add up 2 days a month adds up to 4 weeks a year / 20 days a year which is over one year of lost learning.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

MISSING SCHOOL = MISSING OUT

Early primary children learn new sounds and words every day. These are important building blocks upon which all future learning is built.

Help your children achieve their best by getting them to school on time every day.



every learner
every day 



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

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 1 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 23 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 29 February	9:15am	Year 5 Grade Mass	School Hall
Friday 1 March	9:00am 2:20pm	2nd Hand Uniform Shop Open P & F Zooper Dooper Day Whole School Assembly	Recess School Hall
Monday 4 March	9:30am-10:30am	Kindergarten 2025 School Tours	
Wednesday 6 March	6pm-7pm	Year 2 Excursion to Pioneer Village Kindergarten 2025 Parent Information Session	School Hall
Thursday 7 March	9:00am	Whole School Cross Country	School Oval
Friday 8 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 12 March		Diocesan Swimming Carnival	Blacktown Aquatic Centre
Wednesday 13 March		Naplan Commences (Years 3 & 5)	
Friday 15 March	10:00am 2:20pm	Year 6 Encounter Formation P & F Zooper Dooper Day Whole School Assembly	Evan Theatre Panthers Recess School Hall
Friday 22 March	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 27 March	9:15am	Easter Prayer - Stations of the Cross	School Hall
Friday 29 March		Good Friday	

2 Day Autism Workshop for Parents and Carers Katoomba, NSW



Scan the
QR code or
[click here](#)
to register



This workshop is for parents, full time carers and grandparents.



Tuesday & Wednesday
12 & 13 March, 2024
9:30am - 2:30pm



Katoomba RSL
86 Lurline Street
Katoomba NSW 2780

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided



Interpreters available upon request


During the workshop you will learn about:

- The diversity of autism
- Sensory processing
- Working together with your child's school.

Learn more about autism
and ways to strengthen
the partnership between
home and school.

For more information or to register visit:

 <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/PC>

 amacrae@positivepartnerships.com.au



For help, call:
1300 881 971

COMING UP: Term 2 Parenting Programs



Circle of Security Parenting

FREE



WED 15TH MAY - 3RD JULY
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



NEPEAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
836 MULGOA ROAD MULGOA

Phone 4720 6500 or email for bookings
groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au



Tuning in to Teens

FREE



MON 13TH MAY - 24TH JUNE
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Phone 4720 6500 or email for bookings
groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au



Better Sleep for Kids & Babies

FREE



MON 13TH MAY - 3RD JUNE
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Phone 4720 6500 or email for bookings
groups@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au

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.

B E Y O N D
A PEANUT
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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