

Keeping In Touch

6 June 2024



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News from Scott

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 school is blessed to be filled with wonderful people.

I cannot speak highly enough of the staff we have at St Mary MacKillop and the service that they provide for our kids and our community. Our teachers make the difference each and every day for our children. With the expertise they possess in each of the 7 Key Learning Areas, they craft personalised learning experiences for every one of the thirty children in their class. They plan, prepare, teach the content in a variety of ways, assess with each child to check their understanding and then use that to inform the next stage of the plan etc.. As parents we only usually get to see a tiny glimpse of the 'blood, sweat and tears' that our teachers give so that our kids can access the learning gain that we all know they deserve. I can assure you that many many hours are spent by our teaching team in creating the teaching and learning for your child each day. This is so valuable to our school in making the difference.

I am also very mindful of the professional way that our teachers conduct themselves in growing and nurturing the partnership between the school, the home and the parish. The time spent in composing and responding to communication. The attention to detail that is made for 'whole school' events and the way that they engage with other services to our school such as doctor's, colleagues from CSPD etc..

I hope that you can sense the pride that I hold for our teaching team at St Mary MacKillop. They are absolute superstars.

The work of our teachers in making the difference each and every day for our children is enormous. At times it can feel like the range of needs in a class are overwhelming for one teacher. To assist the classroom teachers to meet this challenge, we have a brilliant team of support teachers.

Every grade is supported by one of these teachers for 2 to 3 days a week in class. With the rich experience and expertise they possess, they help craft personalised learning experiences for the children in their class. They plan, prepare, teach the content in a variety of ways, assess with each child to check their understanding and then use that to inform the grade team of the next stage of the plan etc.. This is so valuable to our school in making the difference for your child.

I am also very proud of the professional way that our support teachers conduct themselves in growing and nurturing the partnership between the school, the home and the parish. The time spent in composing and responding to communication and the way that they engage with other services to our school such as doctor's, colleagues from CSPD etc.. They are absolute superstars.

At the end of this term you will be invited to reserve an appointment to meet with your child's teacher and join a conversation about the learning that has taken place for your son or daughter this year and contribute to setting the pathway for the second half of 2024. It is a great opportunity for you to see, the care, knowledge and precision that your child's teacher has given them this year. I look forward to seeing you at this time.

Together We Grow
Mr Scott Buchan

St Mary MacKillop Bullying Policy (Pastoral Care 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.

Bullying is the act of oppressing people less powerful than ourselves, for example, inflicting physical violence, using verbal ridicule, exclusion and rumour mongering. Most bullying is psychological and not physical. It is intentional, often continues over lengthy periods of time and usually unprovoked.

Staff at St Mary MacKillop are committed to take the problem of bullying seriously and to try to eliminate it in the school.

Religious Education News

The Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Friday 7th June

The Feast of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most widely practiced and well-known devotions in the Roman Catholic Church. It takes the physical heart of Jesus as a representation of His Divine love for humanity. The Feast of the Sacred Heart has been in the Roman Catholic Liturgical calendar since 1856, and is always celebrated 19 days after Pentecost Sunday. The feast always falls on a Friday and emphasizes the unconditional love and compassion of the heart of Christ towards humanity.

Lord,
you deserve all honour and praise,
because your love is perfect and your heart sublime.
My heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude
for the many blessings and graces you have bestowed upon me and those
whom I love.
Forever undeserving, may I always
and never take for granted the gifts of
that flow so freely and generously from
Heart of Jesus, I
Heart of Jesus, I
Heart of Jesus, I
Heart of Jesus, I love you forever and always.
Amen.



Jesuit Refugee Service - Mufti Day Donation Drive – Friday 21st June

At the beginning of Term Two Year 6 were given the opportunity to participate in an outreach and formation day with other Year 6 students from Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys and St Joseph, Kingswood at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. During this day the students participated in formation experiences (including mass), listened to personal stories from refugees, learnt about the Jesuit Refugee Service and collaborated to brainstorm practical ideas to take back to their school communities to advocate dignity, social justice and raise awareness of the challenges refugee families face in Western Sydney through supporting the important work of JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service <https://aus.jrs.net/en/about-jrs-australia/>

Jesuit Refugee Service - Accompany. Serve. Advocate.

Inspired by the generous love and example of Jesus Christ, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to accompany, serve, and advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum, refugees, and other forcibly displaced peoples. Our work expresses the commitment of the Society of Jesus ('the Jesuits') to stand with refugees around the world.

The learning of this day supported the Year 6 Term Two Religious Education Program based on the Sacraments, with a particular focus on:

- The Eucharist nourishes our soul and draws us into union with God and each other through Christ.
- Sacraments celebrate, challenge and nourish Christians in their various vocations and ministries of service.

Religious Education News

As a result of this day and as part of their current learning in Religious Education the Year 6 students have been inspired and have a desire to put their faith into action to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and other forcibly displaced people in our local area so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future.

Year 6 are asking that on Friday 21st June every student comes to school in mufti clothes and donates food or toiletries items from the list below to support the great work of JRS. Year 6 will also be visiting each classroom to inform the students about JRS – who they help, what great work they do and how we can support them through our food and toiletries donations.

JRS AUSTRALIA FOODBANK

During these unprecedented times, refugees and people seeking asylum in the community need your help more than ever. Non-perishable food, toiletries and financial donations are desperately needed and appreciated.

FOOD ITEMS:	ESSENTIALS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basmati Rice (1kg & 5kg)• Cooking Oil• Long Life milk• Tinned Tuna in Oil (185g & 425g)• Canned Red Kidney Beans (400g)• Lentils (400g)• Canned Coconut Milk & Condensed Milk (400ml)• Biscuits & Muesli Bars• Dry Chickpeas, Red & Yellow Split Lentils (1kg & 375g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nappies (large sizes)• Toothpaste & Toothbrushes• Shampoo & Conditioner• Sanitary Pads & Napkins• Razors & Shaving Foam• Deodorant (Male & Female)• Soap• Laundry Detergent• Dishwashing Detergent

Gift Vouchers also enable families to choose the items they need most.

EMAIL FOODBANK@JRS.ORG.AU & SCHOOLS@JRS.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION

 JRS AUSTRALIA
JULY 2000 - 2020

Please support and encourage your child(ren) to participate in this great initiative organised by Year 6.

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

P & F News

Primary Disco!

We held our Primary Disco on Thursday 23rd May. The kids had a BLAST!! but I think our parent helpers needed some Panadol after LOL. All the children were very well behaved and very respectful to their fellow students.

Thank you to Chanelle Vella, Sonya Lee, Kirrily Murphy, Mel Jones, Jo Groger & Nicole Herrero for helping on the night & my apologies to anyone I have missed it was a crazy night but good night.

P&F Meeting – Wednesday 5th June

We held our Term2 P&F meeting in the school hall, thank you to all those that attended. We discussed the school sports uniform as well as a P&F gift to the school which we are extremely excited about and hopefully will be completed by our school fete in October.

Fete Mufti Day – date to be determined watch this space

We have scheduled a Mufti Day for the school for the 1st week of July, we are just finalising the date. We are asking families to provide items for our P&F Basket stall at the Fete in October. A note will be going home with students next week which will provide more information.

Like us on Facebook Page

If you haven't already you can like our Facebook page at [St Mary Mackillop P&F, South Penrith](#), we will be posting regularly about our upcoming events at the school.

Volunteering

If you're interested in volunteering for any of the above events, please email us at smmppandf@gmail.com or contact myself (Michelle) on **0423763926**.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President

FANTASTIC NEWS - We are underway in preparations for our School Fete.
It will take place on SUNDAY 20th October, 2024...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need people power to help coordinate the St Mary MacKillop Fete 2024! A volunteer spreadsheet will be available from next term. We are hoping to ask every family to donate an hour of their time to helping out on Fete Day.

We need hands on deck, so any help that can be offered would be amazing!

SPONSORSHIP

We have been extremely fortunate in welcoming our sponsors to the St Mary MacKillop community:

Platinum – **Wisdom Dental and Denture Clinic**

We would love to welcome more sponsors on board, please contact us on smmppandf@gmail.com for a Sponsorship Proposal.

Many thanks for your support!

STALLS AVAILABLE – We have a stalls available for the day. Please get in contact if you have something to sell or showcase to our school community.

RAFFLE DONATIONS – We are in desperate need of some great prizes for raffle prizes, if you have a business or work for a business that may have something to donate as a raffle prize, we'd love to hear from you!

RIDES, RIDES AND MORE RIDES – We will have some amazing rides at this year's fete. Ride passes will be available for purchase early in Term 3.



Looking forward to an amazing Fete!

Any questions, please contact smmppandf@gmail.com,
The St Mary MacKillop Fete Committee

Wisdom 
Dental & Denture Clinic



02 4760 2337

National Simultaneous Storytime

On Thursday, May 23 students at St Mary Mackillop participated in a National Simultaneous Storytime experience with staff wearing the colour blue on the day and sharing in the reading of this year's selected picture book, ***Bowerbird Blues*** by Aura Parker, an award-winning illustrator, writer and designer. Aura Parker's storytelling through words and pictures inspires imagination and a passion for nature. Her picture books are joyful with a playful sense of humour, brimming with details to explore. ***Bowerbird Blues*** is a moving story of longing and connection, that unfolds as the bowerbird's search for blue things sends him soaring across the sea, sky and city. Students were engaged in the reading of the story and enjoyed guessing why their teachers were all dressed in blue.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is an important event held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books.

Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. Now in its 24th successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes. Its aim is to:

- promote the value of reading and literacy,
- promote the value and fun of books,
- promote an Australian writer and publisher,
- promote storytime activities in libraries and communities around the country,
- and provide opportunities to involve parents, grandparents, the media and others to participate in and enjoy the occasion.

Maree Eisenhuth- Teacher Librarian



Office News

School Fees

Instalment 2 School Fees have now been sent to your home address and were due by **Wednesday, 5th June 2024**. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this notice.

The statement will come with options on how and when to pay your fees. If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees by the requested date please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 4724 3200.

School Office hours are 8:15am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm

Payments may be made by EFTPOS, Bpoint, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Sporting News

Last week, Tyla from Year 5 represented the MacKillop team for Hockey. Here is a short blurb about her experience:

My Mackillop Field Hockey experience was AMAZING! I got to make so many friends and improve my skills. We came 3rd in our pool and came 5th overall. Every player had the same time off and everyone had a ball!

We all had matching scrunchies and ribbons to wear during the game. We also got to watch the Mackillop boys team play and they got to watch us. We all cheered one another on and supported everyone in the Mackillop Hockey Association. Our coach was really supportive throughout the week and helped me improve my skills.

Even though we didn't come first I'm still so happy because I got to make so many friends and enjoy it. The experience was amazing and I got to do something I love for a whole week.

In the week I played defender and had some good games where I stopped attackers from getting into the circle and scoring. We had some good midfielders and strikers who helped us score the goals and win the games that we won.

We played against some tough teams but we all tried our hardest and had so much fun!

Congratulations Tyla! We are very proud of your success with the MacKillop Hockey team.

Athletics Carnival

Just a reminder that our 2024 Athletics Carnival is on Thursday 13th June (Week 7) at Harold Corr Oval in Werrington. We are looking forward to a great day with lots of fun. Your child/children should have come home with an 800m token, confirming their registration. Please contact the office ASAP if you registered your child and they did not receive their token.

All parent helpers should have received a confirmation letter to confirm their assistance on the day. If you have not received this confirmation letter, please contact the office to let them know so we can fix this up. If you are interested in helping out on the day, it's not too late. Please give the office a call and we can register you to help out on the day.

Sporting News

Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day

On the 29th of May, two Stage 3 girls teams went to Jamison Park to participate in the Parramatta Diocese soccer gala day. All the girls had a blast on the field and off (going to the canteen had to be a highlight). The amount of sportsmanship our Stage 3 girls showed was outstanding and definitely made the day more fun and made people realise just how much of a safe, respectful learning community we are.

The Green team won 4 games and lost 2 but despite this, we all had fun and stayed positive. We sadly had a bye to finish our day but stayed to cheer on our gold team and obviously got some pictures and lollies. Thank you to the Green team's coach and managers Mr and Mrs Darwen and Mrs Randall for making the day possible. Without you, we couldn't have had the success we experienced.

Additionally, the Gold team had a day full of ties and sadly two losses. We too had lots of fun and were happy to represent St Mary MacKillop. Thank you to our manager and coach Mr Kassouf and Mr Lenihan.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs Burge for making the day run smoothly and cheering on both teams.

By Olivia and Capri

Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day

Unfortunately, this Gala Day had to be postponed due to the fields being closed on Tuesday. I have received confirmation that the new date for this Gala Day will be Tuesday 18th June (Week 8). We will confirm with coaches and managers in the coming days, if this date still works for you to help out on the day. All permission notes will be transferred to the new date. If your child is unable to attend on the new date, please let us know ASAP.

Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7 June		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Monday 10 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Thursday 13 June		Year 2-6 Primary Athletics Carnival	Harold Corr Oval
Friday 14 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 20 June	9:15am	Year 6 Mass	School Hall
Friday 21 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 26 June	8:30am	Stage 2 Boys and Girls Soccer	Jamison Park
Thursday 27 June	9:15am	Year 4 Mass	School Hall
Friday 28 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 5 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 5 July		<i>LAST DAY OF TERM 2</i>	

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 22 July		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Tuesday 23 July		STUDENTS RETURN - TERM 3 COMMENCES	
Wednesday 24 July		4G CARES Excursion	
Thursday 25 July		4M CARES Excursion	
Friday 26 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 1 August	9:00am-12:15pm	Infants Tabloid Carnival (Kindergarten - Year 2)	School Playground
Friday 2 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 8 August		Feast of St Mary MacKillop	
Friday 9 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 15 August	9:15am	Feast of the Assumption Mass	School Hall
Friday 16 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 20 August	7:00pm	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting	St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday 21 August		Zone Athletics Carnival	

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