

Keeping In Touch

27 September 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.***

It has been a busy Term Three for everyone here at St Mary MacKillop and I just want to acknowledge the great team of teachers and staff that work at our school. I know that they are just about exhausted and desperately in need of some time to recharge and re-energise for Term Four. It is no wonder when we look back at all the opportunities that they have created for our kids and community over the past ten weeks.

Obviously there is the fabulous teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms every day but there is also so much more..... They have organised and led the liturgies and masses, Book Week, the Book Fair and Open Classrooms, the excursions and incursions,, the gala days and sporting carnivals, Kindergarten 100 days of school' celebrations, Mission activities with St Vincent De Paul Society and Jesuit Refugee Service NAIDOC activities and even Talent Quests. (I'm sure that I have probably left a few things out but you get the idea).

Have a safe and fun holiday break and we will see you next term.

Facilities Update

During these school holidays we will have the final repairs completed in our school hall. The floor damage will be fixed and the floor will be sanded and polished. There will some painting undertaken also on our playground. The posts on the asphalt area will be cleaned and painted as they are very much overdue and we will have some of our handrails repainted.

An exciting project that our P and F have organised for the holidays is the painting of a beautiful St Mary MacKillop Mural on the brick wall at the entry to our playground. I am very excited to see the finished product and get your thoughts on it.

Staffing Update

At the end of this term both Ms Wotherspoon and Ms Carey will be going on maternity leave for the remainder of the year. We have finalised the appointment of replacement staff for Year 1.

We have appointed Miss Lacey Hatzis as the 1G classroom teacher for the remainder of 2024. Miss Hatzis is well known to our community and has been teaching 1G alongside Ms Wotherspoon this term. Ms Gillespie will be taking on the Learning Support role in replacing Ms Carey. Ms Gillespie is also well known to our community. I congratulate Miss Hatzis and Ms Gillespie on their appointments and welcome them onto our team at St Mary MacKillop. I know that you will also welcome them.

We wish Ms Wotherspoon and Ms Carey all the very best as they grow their respective families and send our love and good wishes with them during this time. We look forward to meeting their new arrivals.

Together We Grow
Scott Buchan

News from Scott - Continued

School Uniform

A reminder from our Parent Handbook regarding the school's expectations with regards to uniform. Thank you for working in partnership with us to meet these expectations.

Jewellery

- No jewellery is to be worn with the exception of one set of gold or silver studs/sleepers may be worn in pierced ears.

Hair

- If hair is below shoulder length, it must be tied back with a bottle green ribbon or scrunchie
- Hair is not to be coloured for either boys or girls. Hair cuts are to be suitable for school for both boys and girls.
- No hair extensions (***NO MULLETS, NO. 1, ZIG ZAGS or RAZORING***)

When students return to school next term. They must be in their Full Summer Uniform. Outlined below is our Summer Uniform available at Lowes Penrith.

Girls' Summer Uniform

- Green check dress with St. Clementine green on collar, tab and sleeve cuffs
- White ankle length socks
- Black shoes

Boys Summer Uniform

- Grey school shorts
- Pale lemon short sleeve shirt - open neck
- Grey ankle length socks
- Black shoes - NOT BOOTS OR JOGGERS



Religious Education News



2024 Sacramental Program - The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following 36 students who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Tuesday 24th September:

Emily A, Sophia B, Lucas B, William B, Angelina C, Jimmy C, Lucas C, Anastasia D, Halo D, Caitlin F, Chris F, Priya G, Zeb G, Maddon G, Odin G, Natalie H, Evelyn H, Zeek L, Roman L, Dominic L, Adrian M, Joshua M, Olivia N, Sophie N, Ethan P, Max Quinn, Anabela R, Indiannah R, Thomas R, Adeline R, Kayla R, Chris S, Alira T, Teegan T, Archie V and Lily V

A big thank you to Sacramental Team of St Nicholas of Myra, lead by Mr Rodney Howard and all the parents for preparing the students so well.



World Mission Month and Socktober

October is World Mission Month and the focus is on creating change and building a more just world for people everywhere. One way this can be done is by supporting missionaries in their work, to create life-changing opportunities for countless children, families, and communities worldwide.

To support Catholic Mission and to raise awareness of the needs of others we will be having a “**colourful sock day**” early next term.

A QKR will be sent out early next term with all the details.

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday break and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Year 4 Excursion to Penrith Lakes

The Penrith Lakes excursion was fantastic! We had the opportunity to observe the habitat and cleanliness of the water. We also enjoyed searching for sea creatures and insects, such as the water scorpion and the mosquito fish. Before embarking on this educational adventure, we boarded a bus to reach our destination. As the bus departed, we sang "The Wheels on the Bus" and chatted with our bus buddies.



After we had finished testing the water we moved on to our next activity which was dip netting. This is where we tried to catch fish or another living animal. Only a few people caught something, while everyone else caught nothing.



The first activity we did included getting back on the bus. On the way there we were bird watching on our sheets. When we got there we saw HORSES. When we got back on the bus we went to whitewater lake. Where we did water testing and bug/fish catching! I didn't catch anything but Poppie caught a FISH.



Sports News

On Wednesday 25th September, St Mary MacKillop had 8 students represent the Parramatta Diocese at the MacKillop Athletics Carnival in Homebush. I would like to congratulate these students on this outstanding achievement and their amazing results on the day.

Peter.B- 6th in the 100m

Leo. S- 11th in Shot Put and 9th in Discus

Everleigh. R- 4th in Long Jump and 13th in the 100m

Eli. S- 2nd in Discus and 2nd in Shot Put

Nixon. R- Shot Put, Discus and Long Jump

Isaac. F- 4th in the 800m

Senior Boys Relay (Peter. B, Eli. S, Joel. H and Tino. C)- 11th

As a result of coming 2nd in both Discus and Shot Put, Eli. S will move onto the next level. He will compete at the NSWPSSA Athletics on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October in Homebush. I know you will all help me in congratulating this outstanding accomplishment by Eli and we wish him all the best when he competes at NSW level next term.



Sports News

On Friday 13th September, the Stage 2 Boys attended the Touch Football Gala Day. The Year 4 and Year 3 team of boys attended The Kingsway at St Marys to play Touch Football against other schools from our Diocese. The boys played the game with great sportsmanship and effort. They certainly represented St Mary MacKillop with pride and integrity. A great day was had by all. Thank you to all the coaches and managers who assisted on the day. Our students are so blessed to have parents who are willing to support and assist at Gala Days. A big thank you to Mr Martin who coached both teams during lunch and recess time at school for the few weeks leading up to the day.


Results:

Year 4 boys-3rd

Year 3 boys-5th

Term 4, 2024

Please find attached the sporting dates for Term 4. As always these can be subject to change. We are waiting on the new dates for the Stage 3 Touch Gala Day and will update the community once we have received this information.

Term 4			
Week	Event	Where	When 
5	Basketball St 3 Girls	Penrith Regional Valley Sports Centre Herbert St, Cambridge Park	Tuesday 12th November
5	Stage 2 & 3 OzTag Gala Day	Kingsway Touch Fields, St Marys	Wednesday 13th November

2025

We have been busy planning our 2025 carnival dates. I will endeavour to get this information out to our parent community as soon as possible. Our Twilight Swimming Carnival is always held within the first week or two as we come back to school. This information will be released early next term, along with student entries into each of the four swimming strokes. If you are able to assist on the night, it would be greatly appreciated.

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.



St Nicholas of Myra Penrith

WIN **RAFFLE** A HOLIDAY IN BALI



**7 nights for 6 guests
at Seminyak, Bali**

Relax near Seminyak Beach
at a Bali Pool Villa, airport
transfers included, and more!

Not inclusive of airfare and visa requirements.
Holiday Package donated by a Generous Parishioner

**1 FOR \$10
6 FOR \$50
14 FOR \$100**

Raffle drawn on:

**Sunday 24 November 11am after Mass
St Nicholas of Myra Parish**

All proceeds will go towards the construction of a Pavilion at
the back of St Nicholas of Myra Parish. T&Cs apply.
Raffletix privacy policy <https://www.raffletix.com.au/privacy>
Stripe privacy policy <https://stripe.com/au/privacy>



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**MINDS
at PLAY**

**MINECRAFT
ONLINE
SOCIAL GROUP**



**MINDS
at PLAY**

GROUPS

- YOUNG CHILDREN 6-7
- CHILDREN 8-12
- TEENAGERS 13-15
- YOUNG ADULTS 16-18
- ADULTS 19+

**MINDS
at PLAY**

- ♥ Communication via Discord
- Minecraft Java
- ♿ NDIS Friendly
- 📅 10 Weeks
- 📅 14 OCTOBER - 21 DECEMBER

**MINDS
at PLAY**



**FIND OUT MORE
AND
REGISTER NOW!**



www.mindsatplay.com.au/minecraft-registration



Groups:
Children 8-12 | Teenagers 13-15
Young Adults 16-18 | Adults 19+



Communication via Discord



NDIS Friendly



10 weeks



15 October -21 December

Register Now :

www.mindsatplay.com.au/dnd-registration



RECONNECT, REMINISCE, AND REJOICE!

Alumni Reunion

19 October 2024

6:30PM - 10:00PM Pullman Hotel, Penrith

Tickets Available on our Facebook page

**Tickets
selling fast**

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 27 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Last Day of Term 3	School Hall
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TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 October		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Tuesday 15 October		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Wednesday 16 October		Students Return to School TERM 4	
Friday 18 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Sunday 20 October		P & F School Fete	School Grounds
Friday 25 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 28 October	9:00am-9:45am 10:00-10:45am	Kindergarten Playgroup Session 1 Kindergarten Playgroup Session 1	School Hall School Hall
30th -31st October		Year 6 Canberra Excursion	
Thursday 31 October	9:15am	Year 4 Mass	School Hall
Friday 1 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 4 November	9:00am-9:45am 10:00-10:45am	Kindergarten Playgroup Session 2 Kindergarten Playgroup Session 2	School Hall School Hall
Thursday 7 November	9:15am	Year 1 Liturgy	School Hall

Dates for your Diary

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 8 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 11 November	9:00am-9:45am 10:00-10:45am	Kindergarten Playgroup Session 3 Kindergarten Playgroup Session 3	School Hall School Hall
Tuesday 12 November		Basketball Stage 3 Girls Gala Day	Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre
Wednesday 13 November		Stage 2 & 3 Oztag Gala Day	TBC
Thursday 14 November	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 15 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 18 November	9:00am-9:45am 10:00-10:45am	Kindergarten Playgroup Session 4 Kindergarten Playgroup Session 4	School Hall School Hall
Monday 18 November- Tuesday 19 November		Year 5 Overnight Camp YMCA	Yarramundi
Wednesday 20 November	6:30pm	P & F AGM	School Hall
Friday 22 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 25 November	9:00am-10:30am	Kindergarten 2025 Orientation & Parent Information Session	School Hall
Thursday 28 November	9:15am	Year 5 Leadership Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 29 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 5 December		Year 6 Big Day In	
Friday 6 December	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