

Keeping In Touch

15 August 2024



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

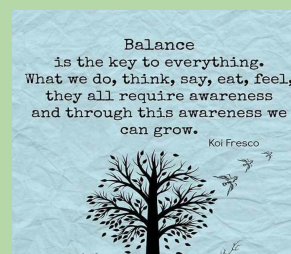
News from Scott

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.

Balance is such an important thing for us all and yet it can be such a difficult thing to achieve and maintain.



It is the same for communities like schools. We are constantly challenged to balance the range of opportunities and experiences offered to us and the value of time spent in focussed teaching and learning. Each schools and their staff are provided 5 hours a day for 200 days per year to maximise the learning gain that will occur for the students in their care. Days are then partitioned for Staff Development. Sporting events and activities take up a few more days. Wonderful celebrations of literacy, faith, science, performing arts, family etc... can also prevent normal, daily, focussed learning. Excursions, camps and incursions serve to create a different dynamic of excellent learning but can disrupt the flow of what is happening in the classrooms. Of course there are also the days lost to illness and absence for both students and teachers.

All of these items are important and valid. They are interactions between the school and the world our schools operate in. But..... getting the balance right so that the integrity and purpose of our schools is not compromised is difficult.

At St Mary MacKillop we work very hard to keep the balance. Our calendar can get quite full but it is managed in a very precise and discerned way to make sure that we don't lose the balance. An example of this would be the process of rotating some of the events so that they don't occur every year but are planned to occur every second or third year. This is done so that our school doesn't miss out completely on these wonderful opportunities but we can also maximise the number of hours and days available to ensure essential learning gain for our children.

Thank you for your understanding of the importance of balance for our school.

Forecast Increase to School Activity Fee 2025

Our current school fee structure contains a payment for Activities each year. These are largely funds to run excursions, incursions and in-school activities. In the past decade we have been able to hold these contribution to the same level in spite of increased costs and inflation. This year however, it has become a challenge to maintain our excursion experiences for the children at the existing funding level.

Therefore we will need to increase the fee contribution for some grades in 2025 to continue expected level of service. In particular, we will need to increase fees for grades 2, 3 and 4 going forward.

Below is a table of the anticipated changes.

	2024	2025
Kinder	\$60	unchanged
Year 1	\$60	unchanged
Year 2	\$60	Increase to \$70
Year 3	\$72	Increase to \$80
Year 4	\$72	Increase to \$80
Year 5	\$87	unchanged
Year 6	\$87	unchanged

Together we Grow

Mr Scott Buchan

Religious Education News

Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

A reminder from the parish that enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation close on Wednesday 21st August.

**Sacramental Program
Reconciliation**

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on
our Website, stnicholasofmyra.org.au
on
Wednesday 24th July 2024

The website contains the requirements and commitments for
parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information
Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Practice afternoon
and Reconciliation

**To be eligible for Reconciliation
Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised.**

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph: 4721 2509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



2024 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting - 7pm Tues 27th August

The Sacramental Program for Reconciliation begins with a Parent Information Session at St Nicholas of Myra Church on Tuesday, 27th August at 7pm. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House. Ph: 47212509 Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

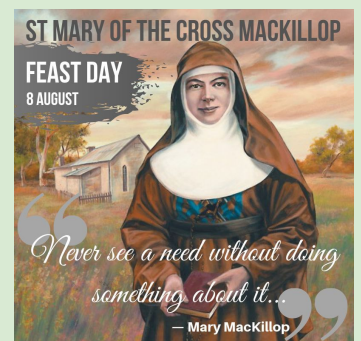
St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Celebrations – Thursday 8th August

On Thursday 8th August we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a variety of faith and fun-filled activities.

Before school the students were greeted with balloons and a special welcome from St Mary herself. Mary even joined in with some before school games on the playground.

Students, teachers and many parents then celebrated Mass with Fr Rojan, our new Assistant priest. During the mass we also launched our new St Mary MacKillop School Prayer.

After Mass the children enjoyed Mary Mac-muffins – a delicious fundraiser for Mary MacKillop Today - a registered charity that proudly continues the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and carries on Mary's motto of "Never see a need without doing something about it."



Religious Education News

The students then participated in grade based activities to learn more about St Mary MacKillop – An Australian Saint who devoted her life to caring for the poor and defending the rights of all people. Her tireless love and trust in God is an inspiration to us all.

To conclude the learning about St Mary MacKillop each class participated in a short Mary MacKillop prayer and each student received a copy of our newly launched school prayer to keep as a memento of the day and to share with their family and friends.

The final part of our day was a gift of a popper and lollipop for all students from our wonderful P and F.

It was a truly special day as we honoured our school patron and Australia's First Saint! St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, a teacher, a Sister of St Joseph, a friend to the poor, Australia's First Saint, our Patron Saint.pray for us.



Religious Education News

St Mary MacKillop School Prayer

Last Thursday, on the Feast of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross we launched our new school prayer.

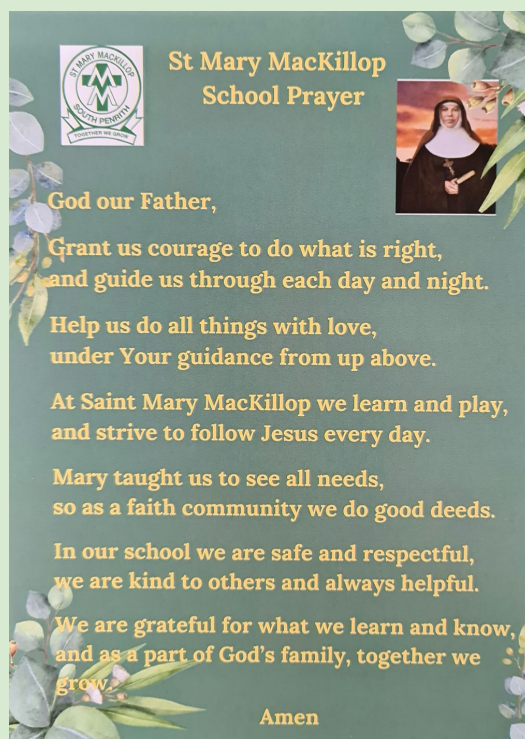
The process for writing this prayer began on St Mary MacKillop's Feast day in 2022 when we began collecting student and staff voice for a whole school prayer based on our patron saint Mary MacKillop. Students were asked to write prayers or contribute ideas and phrases that they would like included in a school prayer. These ideas and contributions were then taken by a group of teachers to be formed into a prayer that was meaningful to all in our school. We wanted to develop a prayer that nurtured our relationship with Jesus, honoured St Mary MacKillop and complemented our school song.

Over the next year there was much discussion, editing and many drafts put together. At the end of 2023 a prayer was then shared with staff and some classes to get their feedback and more editing was completed. Finally at the beginning of 2024 we had written a prayer that all staff and students were happy with.

During Term 2 of this year the students and teachers have been learning the St Mary MacKillop School Prayer. Each classroom has a copy of the prayer in a frame which is displayed on their class prayer table.

Last Thursday, 8th August we officially launched and shared our St Mary MacKillop School Prayer with the wider community. Every child was presented with a copy of the prayer to take home and share with their family.

In honour of St Mary MacKillop and the love and trust she had for God, we now regularly pray this school prayer together.



Religious Education News

Father's Day Celebrations – Thursday 29th August

Please join us on Thursday 29th August as we honour our fathers and other special male role models in our lives. Fathers are very special people and the very presence of our fathers in our lives, or the memory of our fathers, is a gift. On this day we will show our appreciation and love for all the men in our lives who give us care and protection, love and guidance.

On Father's Day and it is a time to think about our fathers, to honour them, and to give thanks for them. This is a day for all fathers, to know how much we love and respect them. Most importantly this is a day for us to thank God, our Father in heaven, for His presence in our life.

Please see below for an outline of our Father's Day celebrations:

8am - Father's Day sausage sizzle breakfast (Thank you to our wonderful P & F!)

9:15am - Father's Day Liturgy in the hall.

The Year 1 children will lead us in prayer to celebrate our Fathers and the special love that they share with us.

No hot beverages in the hall please due to WHS and the sacredness of the prayer space. Our hall becomes our church during liturgies and masses.

10:15am - Open classrooms

10:45 – Lunch: Eating time for students

- normal school procedures return and all visitors are kindly asked to exit the school grounds so the gates can be locked for a safe playtime for all students

We look forward to sharing this special time with you and wish all our dads and grandads a wonderful Father's Day!

The staff and students of St Mary MacKillop

Mrs Gillard

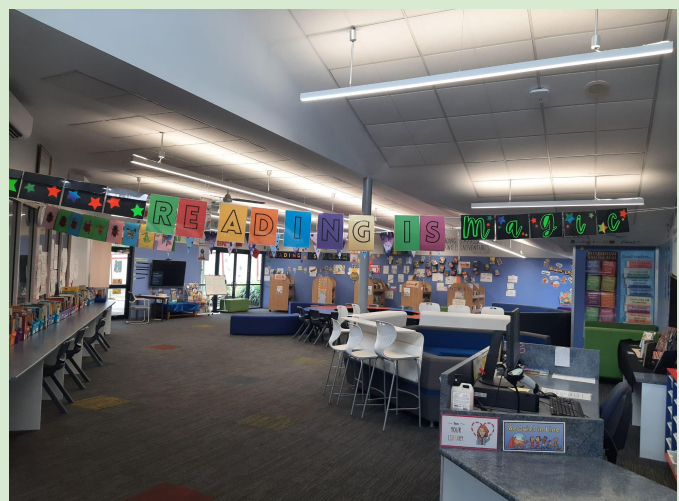
Religious Education Coordinator



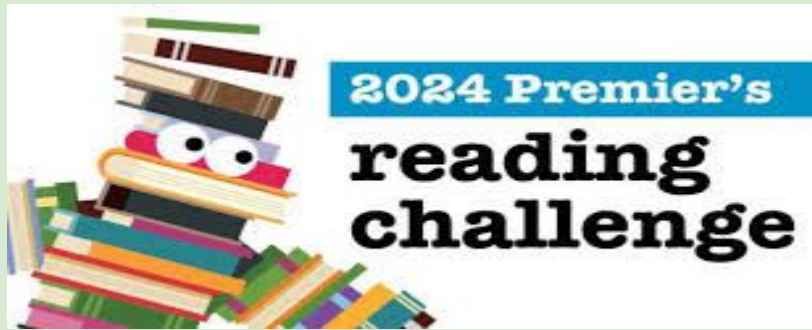
LIBRARY NEWS



The library is ready for our 2024 Book Week celebrations, the shortlisted books are on display and we are looking forward to lots of activities to engage our students in this annual event. Please continue to remind and encourage students to borrow books from the library. We have lots of new titles ready to go home.



LIBRARY NEWS - CONTINUED



The 2024 PRC closes for student entries on Friday, 23 August 2024. Please ensure all books are logged before this date.

See important updated information below:

Student accounts are now automatically redirected to the [Student Experience Site](#) regardless of if they log in from the PRC main site or the Student Experience Site.

The NSWPRC student site allows you to search for books to read from the PRC reading lists, save them to read later, and add them to your reading log.

For more information go to the [PRC Student Website Guide](#)



The link below outlines how students can log both PRC titles and choice books using the Student Experience site.

[How to Add a...](#)

Kindergarten reading records will be logged at school by Mrs Eisenhuth. Certificates for completion of the challenge will be distributed in Term 4. Special certificates (silver, gold, platinum) will be presented at assembly.

For any issues around the PRC, please contact Mrs Eisenhuth via the school office.

Mrs Maree Eisenhuth
Librarian



On Friday 2nd August at assembly, the 2024 St Mary MacKillop Talent Quest was launched.

This year there will be two different sections to the Talent Quest, but your child can **only enter one section and only one entry.**

The two sections this year are:

- **Performance** - Singing, dance, playing an instrument, magic show, acrobatics dance, jokes.
- **Art** - Painting, drawing, sculpture, collage.

Artworks will need to be brought into school by the end of **Week 7**. Students will take them to their classrooms where they will be collected to be displayed. Students will need to bring in and be prepared to present their Performance from **Week 8**. Notes will be sent home with the exact date your child will be presenting.

In **Week 9**, 3 students from each stage will be awarded as finalists and will perform in the Final Showcase to share their talent with the whole school. 3 students will also be awarded in the Art Section from each stage as a finalist and their artwork will be featured in the Final Showcase.

Our **Final Showcase will be in Week 10** (day and date to be advised) to celebrate the finalists from the Talent Quest. Families are welcome to attend this celebration.

TALENT QUEST - CONTINUED

HOW TO ENTER:

Until Friday 30th August (Week 6), your child has the opportunity to enter the Talent Quest. Please take the time to fill in the form on your child's behalf when your child is sure of their entry and it has been approved by a parent/carer, as no changes can be made to the forms after submitting.

If students are wanting to do a group act, only one Google Form entry is required for the whole group as the Google Form allows for group members' names to be written on the entry form.

The Talent Quest is an exciting event for the school community, but it does take some time to organise so that it can run smoothly. For this reason, no forms or entries will be accepted after the due date.

Please click on the following link when your child is sure of their entry.

Email address- please use the students parrastu account or parent email address.

GoogleLink:<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBYur4Z8BMt3xkfQhZIYKCOWGyaQ4vcTI7ie9C1Yw8ETntxQ/viewform>

Please see the Information note on Compass for some further details about the two sections and requirements for entries. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards,

Miss Neilsen and the Creative Arts Team

P & F News

FANTASTIC NEWS - We are underway in preparations for our School Fete. SUNDAY 20th October, 2024...

SPONSORSHIP

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

Platinum – **Wisdom Dental and Denture Clinic**

Silver - **Western Suburbs Concrete**

Silver - **Laser Electrical & Communications**

Silver - **Trade Wise Group**

Bronze - **Melissa Peters Beauty**

We have received a generous donation from **Bell Partners Finance**

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!

Throughout this term and the start of term 4, we will be relying on you, parents and friends, to donate your time, energy and resources to make the Fete a success. Below is a list of requirements that will be asked of parents in the lead up to the fete. This can be used as a checklist or organisational tool to keep us on track to reaching our goal.

The Fete Committee cannot do this without the support of our amazing parents and friends, who have always shown incredible generosity. We thank you in advance and our children will thank us all after they've had a terrific fete day!

Date	To do...	Explanation	Due Date
TERM 3			
Week 4	Raffle Tickets	Sell as many as we can, great prizes up for grabs!	Wed August 14
Week 5	Ride Band Pre-Sale	Ability to purchase online	Wed August 21
Week 7	Volunteer Call Out	Each family will be asked to volunteer at least one hour to a P&F Stall on fete day – One of the greatest gifts you can give, is your time!	Online form available: September 4

P & F News - Continued

Date	To do...	Explanation	Due Date
TERM 3			
Late Term 3	Mufti Day	Donations for our Sideshow Alley, each class will be nominated a theme	TBA
TERM 4			
Week 1	Cake Stall	One cake box is given out per family to fill with delicious cakes and treats to serve on Fete day	Wed October 16
Week 1	FETE DAY	ENJOY THE FUN & ENTERTAINMENT!!	Sunday October 20

Looking forward to an amazing Fete!

Any questions, please contact smmppandf@gmail.com

The St Mary MacKillop Fete Committee

Thanks to our amazing sponsors:

Wisdom 
Denture & Dental Clinic PTY LTD

 **Laser**
Electrical & Communications

 **TRADEWISE**
Group
SETTING THE STANDARD

 **WSC**
WESTERN SUBURBS CONCRETE

MELISSA PETERS
MEDI SPA | BEAUTY | LASER CLINIC

BELL PARTNERS
FINANCE

Office News

School Fees

Instalment 3 School Fees are due by Wednesday, 23rd August 2023. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this due date.

If you are **not under an arrangement** all school fees will need to be paid by **Wednesday, 28th August 2024**. If you feel you may have difficulties in paying your school fees by this date, please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

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.

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 16 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Year 4 Assembly Item	School Hall
Wednesday 21 August		Zone Athletics Carnival	Blacktown International
Friday 23 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Book Week Parade Whole School Assembly	School Playground School Hall
Tuesday 27 August	7:00pm	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 29 August	8:00am 9:15am	Father's Day Breakfast Father's Day Liturgy Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 30 August	2:20pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 4 September		Netball Gala Day (Years 3-6)	Jamison Park Netball Courts
Thursday 5 September	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 6 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 10 September		Year 1 Excursion	Rouse Hill Estate
Friday 13 September	2:20pm	Stage 2 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly	Kingsway School Hall
Tuesday 17 September		Year 4 Excursion	Penrith Lakes
Thursday 19 September	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 24 September	5:00pm-8:00pm	First Reconciliation Practice and Ceremony	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 27 September	2:20pm	Stage 3 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly Last Day of Term 3	Kingsway, St Marys School Hall

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 October		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Friday 18 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Sunday 20 October		P & F School Fete	
Thursday 24 October	9:15am	Year 4 Mass	School Hall
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
Friday 1 November	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