



## Keeping In Touch

29 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.***

### Corrected - Forecast Increase to School Activity Fee 2025

In our last newsletter I shared that it has become a challenge to maintain our excursion experiences for the children at the existing funding level. Unfortunately, I didn't include the correct increases that we need to make.

Below is a table of the anticipated changes.

	2024	2025
Kinder	\$60	Increase to \$63
Year 1	\$60	Increase to \$63
Year 2	\$60	Increase to \$70
Year 3	\$72	Increase to \$80
Year 4	\$72	Increase to \$80
Year 5	\$87	Increase to \$90
Year 6	\$87	Increase to \$90

Together We Grow  
Scott Buchan

## **News from Scott Continued.....**

### **New Religious Education Curriculum: *Encountering Jesus***

Dear Parents and Carers,

In partnership with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, I am pleased to announce that we have a new Religious Education Curriculum called “Encountering Jesus”, which will be available for use by our school communities in 2025.

This curriculum has been developed by Religious Education leaders in the Diocese of Parramatta and endorsed by leading Catholic theologians, Catholic Scripture scholars and experts in Catholic Religious Education. It has been developed in response to a range of feedback from these experts and from school communities, families and the wider community.

It offers a framework for our teachers of Religious Education to be clear on the Catholic teachings and traditions that are to be taught from Kindergarten to Year 10 in an age-appropriate manner. It is not related to any NSW Department of Education curriculum documents.

The new Religious Education Curriculum reflects our intention for all of our students to know and love Jesus Christ. For our students from Catholic families, this will serve to nurture and enrich their Catholic faith in support of their families as their first educators of faith. Our Catholic school communities also welcome students from other religious perspectives and this curriculum will help them grow in their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic tradition, which is based on faith, hope and love.

Encountering Jesus invites all students to consider how the teachings of Jesus Christ can apply to their lives.

It includes opportunities for reflection and prayer, drawing on the wisdom of Mary, the Holy Mother of Jesus, our Catholic saints and spiritual traditions. It also includes a call to faith in action, encouraging students to know and love the teachings of Christ and then live them in their families and communities, to make a difference in our world, and to help build the kingdom of God. We will continue to partner with our parishes and leading Catholic charities, such as Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul, to support us in offering opportunities to bring the curriculum to life.

Encountering Jesus includes reflections connected with every piece of learning that parents and carers can access to stay engaged with the learning of their children. This is very important to us as we seek to support families in sharing the Catholic faith with their children.

We have been working closely with theologians and scripture scholars from the Catholic Institute of Sydney and the University of Notre Dame Australia to develop professional learning and formation resources of the highest quality for our teachers. This will ensure that all of our teachers who are accredited to teach Religious Education will have a strong understanding of the content being covered.

This high quality, theologically sound Catholic Religious Education Curriculum has been endorsed by a range of expert theologians, scripture scholars and Catholic religious education experts.

My prayer for CSPD is that our new Religious Education Curriculum lives up to its name and enables all of our students to encounter Jesus Christ and, through this encounter, find inspiration, meaning, purpose and peace.

For a copy of Encountering Jesus, please go to:

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/learning/specialised-learning/religious-education>

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to enrich our students' lives through holistic Catholic education that is grounded in excellence and Gospel values.

Yours sincerely

Jack de Groot  
Executive Director of Catholic Schools  
Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese

# Religious Education News

## **2024 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation**

The Sacramental Program for Reconciliation began at 7pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August with a Parent Information Session at St Nicholas of Myra Church. 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 Mac-Muffin Fundraiser – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Mary Mac-Muffins fundraiser for Mary MacKillop Today. Through your participation and generosity, we raised \$992.50 – which is a great effort!

These funds will allow the Mary MacKillop Today charity to continue the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and carry on Mary's motto of *"Never see a need without doing something about it."*

## **Happy Father's Day**

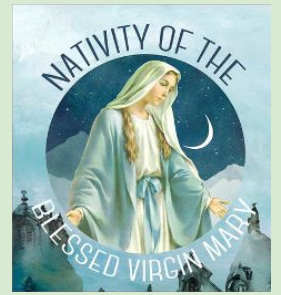
On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August we honoured our fathers, male role models in our lives and God our father in heaven through sharing a BBQ breakfast, praying in a Liturgy of the Word and open classrooms. It was a great morning and we thank the P and F for organising the BBQ and Year 1 for leading our Liturgy!

We wish all our Fathers and male role models a fabulous Father's Day on Sunday!

Heavenly Father,  
you entrusted your Son Jesus,  
the child of Mary,  
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers, as they care for their families.  
Give them strength and wisdom,  
tenderness and patience;  
support them in the work they have to do,  
protecting those who look to them,  
as we look to you for love and salvation,  
Amen.



# Religious Education News



## **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Sunday September 8th**

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church since about the 6th Century. This is one of only three birthdays celebrated in the Church Calendar:

- the Birth of Jesus (December 25)
- the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24); and
- the Birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus (September 8<sup>th</sup>)

The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary, though the "Gospel of James" (a book dating from the 2nd Century AD and not part of the Bible as we know it today) fills in the gaps. According to this account, Mary's parents were Joachim and Anne. They were old and beyond the years of having children, but prayed to God that He would grant their longing for a child – which He did.

In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son Jesus, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour.

The feast of Mary's birth marks a great day in the history of the world, as it was a vital step in the coming of the Jesus. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world.

*Holy Mary, mother fair, filled with love for God, Pray for us in all our needs.  
Pray for us today.*

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*



## Stage 3 Primary Schools Basketball Program

As part of the Physical Education program, students in Years 5 and 6 are taking part in the Primary Schools Basketball Program - Ford Aussie Hoops. This fun and engaging program will take place each Wednesday during PE lessons until the end of term. It consists of warm-up games, skill activities and modified games all delivered by accredited coaches. This program has been funded by Sporting Schools and is free for all students.

Erin Smiles  
PE Teacher



# Office News

## School Fees

The Instalment 3 School Fees are now overdue. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this due date. If you are **not under an arrangement** all school fees should have been paid by **Wednesday, 28th August 2024**.

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. **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.





# Book Week 2024

Last week, St Mary Mackillop celebrated Book Week; an annual celebration of Australian Literature.

We marked this special occasion with lots of fun and engaging activities including a Book Week performance, the Masked Reader and our Book Week Parade.

On Thursday last week, our students in K-3 watched a performance of one of the shortlisted books *Timeless* by Kelly Canby. This was followed by a performance of *Being Jimmy Baxter* by Fiona Lloyd for our students in Years 4-6. The students were captivated by each of the performances.

On Friday 23rd of August, we held our Book Week Parade. It was amazing to see all of the fantastic costumes that showcased the student's favourite books. A big thank you to parents who put time and effort into this event.

Throughout the week, the teachers also celebrated this by reading this year's Shortlisted books behind a mask. The students were thrilled to try and work out who the Masked Reader was for each book.



# Book Week 2024







# Emily Smith - Gender Equality



Everything you say is powerful. What you say can impact someone in a positive or negative way. Words have the potential to be weapons. Like when a boy said to my friend "that was a good goal but I'm a guy so I could have done better". I can't help but get frustrated that this is what girls and women still have to deal with just because they are a different gender.

## "You can't go to school you're a girl"

School. Some we take for granted. Something we have to go to by law. Something that a basic human needs, yet is a privilege. It is estimated that around 119 million girls aren't allowed to go to school purely because they are female. In 2008 the Taliban, a group of male leaders, banned girls from going to school. There are girls out there, our age, fighting for an education, for example Malala. Malala is a 27 year old girl born in Pakistan. Malala knew this was wrong and decided to speak up about this and why girls should go to school. Because of this when she was 15 she was shot on the left side of her head, she survived the attack and is still fighting to ensure that every girl gets a free, safe and quality education.

## "Your not strong enough"

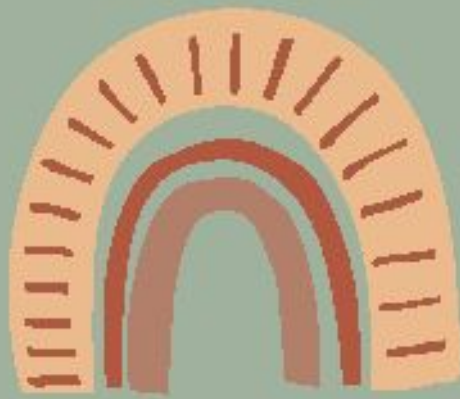
Almost every day I get told you're not strong, not like a boy. When really I know I have the same strength as any boy, the strength of my mind. Like Ash Barty, her mind is astonishing. She won 3 grand slams and she was ranked 17th for tennis in the world and was selected to go to the 2020 Tokyo olympic games but in the first round she was eliminated. However that didn't stop her, in 2022 she entered for the Australian open for women's singles. Ash won all the sets she played, and won the Australian Open. She was the first Australian to win the title in 44 years. This proves that we can all be strong in the mind.

## You'll never get that job

When researching this topic, I was interested in the amount of women who were in leadership roles such as CEOs and managers in the workforce. I was flabbergasted that only 22% of women are in these sorts of roles. This led me to look into the glass ceiling effect. This effect refers to an invisible barrier that stops women from reaching higher positions and achieving their full potential. These barriers are due to things like gender bias and wanting to achieve a work life balance. I believe that we should shatter this glass by making a positive environment and treating everyone equally, not just based on gender. Let's draw strength from people like Lisa Su, Mary Barra and Jane Fraser, all CEOs in different fields and all breaking the glass.

As I come to my conclusion, remember boys and girls alike You can go to school, are strong enough and you will get that job. Let's break the glass and make this world a better place for all, together.





## *Olivia Darwin - The sorrowful truth of the youngest child stereotype!*

"Hey mum, can I have some friends over please?"

"Of course," she replies to my sister.

As my smile grew I was ready to cheer in delight. Finally I had the chance to ask for my own friend to come over too. But when I asked, I was met with the dreaded. "no, your sister already has friends coming over" Unfair right? yeah well this is the reality of being the so called "favourite child." MY older sister always says "you're the favourite child, you always get what you want. Mum and Dad never let me do that". I can confidently disagree. The youngest child isn't always the favourite. My story is a perfect example of that. FORGET THAT STEREOTYPE!

Stereotypes. Stereotypes are when someone takes one look at you and assumes something about you, whether that be that you play a certain sport, you have a certain personality or even what your race is. When a stereotype is made, it affects how people see themselves. Stereotypes are part of life, however they can be seriously damaging. So back to my story about the favourite child. One of my reasons we aren't the favourite is... Wait let me put it this way: vanilla ice cream. It's a classic, so called everyone's favourite, but the thing is i hate vanilla ice cream. I get sick of it. Just like me, people like my sister think I am everyone's favourite and I am not! So you see me and vanilla ice cream are TWINS! We both have a stereotype of us, but don't quite fit that mould.

The youngest child being the favourite isn't the only stereotype we face in our lives. There are other stereotypes that affect people most, and sadly, about gender or race. For example, women are better at cooking and housework. Has anyone ever heard of Gordon Ramsey, the so-called best english chef and you all forgot about him. Unbelievable. Another stereotype is men are better at sport than women. However, out of the 18 gold medals Australia claimed in the paris 2024 olympics, 13 won by female olympians, and 5 won by men. Who's better at sports now? Stereotypes have many impacts on people, whether it's mental, physical or even emotional impacts. Some repercussions stereotypes have on your mental health is making you feel ashamed, hopeless or even feeling isolated from friends, simply for just being yourself. Some people might take a stereotype a different way and think you mean to assault them and intentionally pick on them. Other times you can physically see how stereotypes affect people. They wear your words impact all over their face. Emotional impacts stereotypes have on people are, shutting down, being distracted or even have mood swings.

To end this war, Not all younger siblings are the favourites, it's proven by 3 different websites that younger children are risk-taking, funny and outgoing. As you can see in my family my sister is the favourite and it's clear, clearer than the beaches in hawaii. But if you look a little deeper into those waters you can see that stereotypes really affect people mentally, physically and emotionally. Even though they like my sister more, I still love her and don't worry I didn't forget about you vanilla ice cream, my number 1 fan. JUSTICE FOR YOUNGER SIBLINGS! Aka the "favourite child." even saying it sends chills down my spine.

## 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](mailto: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 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
TERM 3			
Late Term 3	Mufti Day	Donations for our Sideshow Alley, each class will be nominated a theme	TBA



## P & F News - Continued

Date	To do...	Explanation	Due Date
<b>TERM 4</b>			
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	<b>FETE DAY</b>	<b>ENJOY THE FUN &amp; ENTERTAINMENT!!</b>	<b>Sunday October 20</b>

Looking forward to an amazing Fete!

Any questions, please contact [smmppandf@gmail.com](mailto:smmppandf@gmail.com)

The St Mary MacKillop Fete Committee

**Thanks to our amazing sponsors:**



# SCHOOL ZONE OFFENCES

WHAT ARE YOU RISKING?\*

## FACT

Children are small, harder to see, behave unpredictably and are extremely vulnerable. They need **you** to take extra care when driving and parking around school zones

### NO PARKING

**No waiting.** You have **two minutes** to drop-off or pick-up. You must stay within **three metres** of your vehicle



### NO STOPPING

You must not stop on a length of road with a no **stopping** sign. The first **10 metres** from an **Intersection** is a no stopping zone. **Yellow kerb** lines are also a no stopping zone.



### BUS ZONE

Only a public bus can stop in a bus zone



### MOBILE PHONES

Extra fines apply for using a mobile phone in a school zone. *May be subject to Double Demerits.*



### SPEEDING OFFENCES

**40km/h** is the limit. Children are vulnerable, so slow down in school zones. *May be subject to Double Demerits.*



### DRIVEWAYS & FOOTPATHS

Do not park on or across a driveway or footpath.



### PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

1. In a queue of traffic, **no part of your vehicle can stop** on a pedestrian crossing.  
2. Do not let **your children in or out of a vehicle** at a pedestrian crossing as this is a no stopping zone.



### U TURNS

U turns are illegal on or near a pedestrian crossing and across a double white line



### DOUBLE PARKING

Double parking is illegal and is very dangerous in a school zone.



\*Fines current as of 1 July 2021. Fines and demerit points are subject to change. For more information check out the NSW Centre for Road Safety website.

# Dates for your Diary

## TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 30 August	2:20pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival Whole School Assembly Father's Day Stall	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
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  <b>Last Day of Term 3</b>	Kingsway, St Marys School Hall



# Dates for your Diary

## TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 October		<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	
Tuesday 15 October		<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	
Wednesday 16 October		<b>Students Return to School TERM 4</b>	
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
30th -31st October		Year 6 Canberra Excursion	
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
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



**FOOTBALL  
SCHOOL**



**BOOK  
YOUR  
PLACE  
TODAY**  
SCAN CODE

# REGISTER FOR OUR TERM 3 SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS



**LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE  
OPEN TO YEARS 4, 5 & 6 STUDENTS**

**30TH SEPTEMBER - 2ND OCTOBER 2024**

Session 1 - Years 4 & 5

9.00am to 12.00pm

Session 2 - Year 6

1.00pm to 4.00pm

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au/mancity](http://www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au/mancity) | Enquiries: [mancityfs@stdominics.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mancityfs@stdominics.nsw.edu.au)



### 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](mailto:stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au) Phone: 0492 367 298



*Learning for life*