



Keeping In Touch

8 November 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.

This week, Mrs Gillard and I attended some training in a CSPD Project that focuses on enhancing the Catholic Identity of schools in the context of the contemporary world that we live in.

Over the past three years, all of the Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) learning communities have undertaken a new chapter of growing Catholic identity in all areas of their work and ministry. This identity will be shaped through dialogue with all community members.

To support this important work CSPD has partnered with the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven to introduce a survey that will provide insights for teachers and leaders regarding how the Catholic identity of their community is experienced and expressed by its members. This will enable schools to tailor formation opportunities for their communities. In doing so the Diocese of Parramatta will join a number of other dioceses throughout Australia that use these surveys to guide the next steps in areas of Catholic Identity.

For the community of St Mary MacKillop, 2025 will be the year we commence this project. At the start of next year we will be asking all families as well as students in Years 5 and 6 to help tell us what our current Catholic Identity looks like. As mentioned above, we will invite our community to learn more about this project and contribute via an online survey.

The information that the school receives from the community will help us shape the strategic direction and key decisions for our school as we move forward.

Please look out for further information at the commencement of 2025 as we count on your support in getting a clear picture of what our Catholic Identity looks like.

Together We Grow

Scott



Anti Bullying 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.*

What is Bullying?

- Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm.
- It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.
- Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert).
- Bullying behaviour can be verbal, non-verbal, physical, sexualised, discriminatory, inappropriate communication using technology and exclusionary.
- Bullying behaviour is repeated over a period of time, however, Conflicts or fights between students and single incidents are not defined as bullying.

Bullying behaviour is not:

- children not getting along well
- a breakdown of a friendship
- a situation of mutual conflict (e.g. disagreements)
- single episodes of nastiness
- random acts of aggression, cruelty or intimidation
- isolated incidents of conflict separated by many months or years does not constitute a pattern of bullying behaviour.

Whilst the behaviours above do not meet the definition of bullying, any poor or anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and will be responded to appropriately.

For more information about our schools approach to bullying, please contact the school office for a copy of our **2023 St Mary MacKillop Pastoral Care Policy**.

Religious Education News



Thank you for your generous support of our 'Colourful Sock Day' on Thursday 24th October. All donations have now been finalised and we raised \$701 dollars, which is a fabulous effort! This money will be forwarded to Catholic Mission in support of the Caring Centre in Mongolia, which provides a home for children who have nowhere else to call home.

Faith In Action Initiative - Hope in a Suitcase

Thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Hope in a Suitcase donation drive for children entering foster care or out of home care. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

There is still time to donate items from the lists below and return them to school via classroom teachers or the office.



Items to donate:

0-1 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

- Nappies (Newborn – Size 6)
- Baby wipes
- Bottles and dummies
- Clothing items: bodysuits & singlets (Sizes 00000 to 1)
- Baby wash
- Something to cuddle (i.e teddy/bunny – suitable for age)
- Bibs
- Blanket/wraps
- Bath towel
- Face washers
- Story book
- Toy

2-3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

- Pull-ups/underwear
- Pyjama's/singlets/socks
- Other clothing items
- Toothbrush/infant toothpaste
- Something to cuddle (i.e teddy/bunny)
- Blanket
- Hairbrush (clips/scrunchies)
- Toy
- Colouring books/crayons/pencils
- Story book
- Bath toys
- Kids bath wash

4-6 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

- Pull ups/underwear
- Pyjamas/singlets/socks
- Other clothing items
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Something to cuddle (eg.doll/toy)
- Blanket
- Hairbrush/hairbands
- Toys (play dough/craft/cars/puzzles)
- Colouring in books/pencils/crayons
- Story book
- Bubble bath

6-8 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

- Pyjamas/singlets/underwear/socks
- Clothes sets (eg. shorts and tops)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Something to cuddle (eg.doll/toy)
- Blanket
- Hairbrush/hairbands
- Story book
- Toys (craft/cars/animals/dolls)
- Colouring in or activity books
- Pencils/textas
- Bubble bath

10-12 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

- Pyjamas/underwear/socks
- Other clothing items (eg. shorts and tops)
- Something to cuddle (e.g doll/toy)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Body wash/soap (in zip lock bag)
- Shampoo/conditioner (in zip lock bag)
- Hairbrush/hairbands/clips/scrunchies
- Reading book
- Activities: i.e craft, balls, card games
- Colouring in or activity books
- Pencils/textas
- Bubble bath (in a zip lock bag)
- Journal

12 YEARS + CHILDREN

- Pyjamas/underwear/socks
- Other clothing items
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Body wash/soap (in zip lock bag)
- Roll on deodorant (no aerosols)
- Hairbrush/hairbands
- Shampoo/conditioner (in zip lock bag)
- Toiletries bag
- Sanitary items
- Novel/interesting facts/quote book
- Journal/stationary items
- Puzzles/challenge toys
- Mandala colouring books/find-a-word/crosswords

Religious Education News

Remembrance Day: Monday 11th November

Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day) is a solemn day observed since the end of World War I (1914 – 1918) to honour members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day is observed on the 11th November to recall the end of hostilities of World War I in 1918. Hostilities formally ended *"at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month."* Each year we observe a one minute silence at 11 am on the 11th November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour is an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.



In honour of Remembrance Day the students will gather in class groups on Monday 11th November for a prayer service.

2024 Christmas Celebration – Carols on the Hill

This year to celebrate the Season of Christmas, we invite you to come to the St Mary MacKillop 'Carols on the Hill' evening on Wednesday 4th December. The students from Kindergarten to Year 6 will perform Christmas Carols in preparation for celebrating the Birth of Jesus.

Bring your family and friends to join us in celebrating the meaning of Christmas!

More specific details will follow shortly!

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator



PUT YOUR TALENT TO THE TEST



The Maths Olympiad Challenge has finished for 2024.

Congratulations to the following *Maths Olympiad Junior* team in **Stage 3**

Congratulations to the following *Maths Explorer* team in **Stage 2**

Peter Bachtis Joel Haydon Gabiella Petulla Christopher Bullock Thomas Mitri Lila Butchard Jack Jenkins	Eshanya Iyer Zane Moxey Grayson Michael Bailey Smith Jack Vella Alexander Song Braidan Swannell	Katie green Beau Piggot Matteo Joseph Vivienne Lander Lucy Lenihan Ethan McNamee Mihika Vihashi	Toren Grundstrom McKinley Calder Charlotte Rossi Massimo Bartuccio Katelyn Groger
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Chelsea Dowers Poppy Eisenhuth Jensen O'Reilly Giddy Hyslop Spencer Mitchell Chris Sebastian	Jaziah Lim Cailin Soper Enzo Dousdebis Asher Coombs Anastasia Dagher Preston Redding	Zayden Metcalfe Alara Simon Dominic Lenihan Tomislav Rezo Adrian Munro Emily Aviles	Ashton Bedrossian Jovita Manavalan Lily Vieira Gigi Michael
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Well done to **Christopher Bullock** -Received highest score in the Stage 3 team. **Christopher** received a score within the top 30% of all students competing in the *Junior Olympiad* competition across Australia.

This year, all of Year 6 participated in the Maths Olympiad. These students participated in '*Math Games Junior*'. Year 6 students worked collaboratively with others to improve their mathematical problem solving skills.

It was great to see the students' determination and perseverance in all of our teams during the competition and we look forward to seeing their mathematical thinking and their problem solving skills continue to grow.

Amanda Joseph

Math Coordinator

P & F News

Hello St Mary Mackillop community!

We have some very exciting news from the Fete held last month. We would like to reveal that the final figure raised is an amazing **\$19,000, WOW!!**

We can't thank everyone involved enough and the generosity of those who came to support our amazing school. The P&F will be using this money to contribute towards the rebuild of the Infant Playground behind the multipurpose centre, so THANK YOU!!

Congratulations to our Fete Raffle Winners

Shelly Beach Voucher –	Henry Butchard
Lilianfels Voucher –	Kate
Atmosphere 4-week pass –	Joan McPhie
Melissa Peters Beauty Pack –	Maree Moss
Taronga Zoo Pass –	Adele Richard
Raging Waters Pass –	Sharon
Kings Gold Pass –	Andrew
Giants Gold Pass –	Moussa Family
Rusty Penny Voucher –	Anastasia Dagher
Panthers Pack –	Ken Olander
Susie Succulent Plants –	Cathy Habib
Tangled Hair Voucher –	Moussa Family
Nepean Aquatic (10 visit Aqua pass) –	Enzo.D
Nepean Aquatic (10 visit Swim pass) –	Dave Grundy
Nepean Aquatic (1 month free lessons) –	Luke Swannell

P & F News - Continued

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

P&F Meeting and AGM – Wednesday 20th November from 6.30pm (Light refreshments served and ALL ARE WELCOME!!)

Year 6 Cake Stall – Friday 15th November

Zooper Dooper Day – Friday 22nd November at recess (\$1 each – don't forget your coins)

Year 6 Farewell – Friday 13th December (preparations are well underway)

Friendly Reminder - P&F meeting & AGM, Wednesday 20th November

This will be our final meeting for the year and will be followed by our 2024 AGM. The P&F is an essential part of our school community and creates opportunities for community engagement between parents, school staff, parish and students.

The P&F supports the principal and facilitates fundraising events to benefit the students and the school community. So please come and join us, we'd love to see you there and join this amazing team.

At this meeting the 2025 elected Executive committee will discuss the goals for next year. Any fundraising events held and money raised in 2025 will be up to them to decide how the money is to be spent.

Michelle Darwen
P&F President



PARENTS & FRIENDS

The P&F is just run by Parents like you! We work, have young families, kids sport, meetings, commitments and more! We have a common interest in wanting to see our school community thrive, the students participate in fun events & the social engagement these events bring. We also aim to raise funds to make the school environment the best it possibly can be for our children.

As some of you may know, the P&F requires a minimum of 7 positions to be filled at AGM to continue. All current positions will be vacated and a vote is held to fill new positions for 2025. We will see many changes as some of our current members will be leaving at the end of the year with Year 6 children. We would like to thank them for the years of work they've donated to the school!

Without your help the P&F doesn't exist and events we run can't happen. This means events like Mothers and Father's Day stalls, Welcome BBQ, school discos and much more can't be run.

We need your help to bring fresh ideas, engage in planning and help run our events. Have you always wondered where fundraising money goes? What events are being planned? Have you got ideas on where we could take the P&F into the future? Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Friends are very welcome.

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming meeting, where we aim to create a team that takes the Parents and Friends association forward into the future. Whether you are new to the school or you've been here for years we'd love to have you join us!

Fundraising Activities

Creating fun ideas and organising events that not only raise funds for our school but also make the school experience fun and exciting for the Students

School Fete

An ongoing tradition held at our school to bring the community together and a great day out for families.

Canteen events

With no on-site canteen, our P&F events like food, lolly and in summer zooper dooper days, allow the students to bring some coins and have a treat.

Community

We run events like welcome BBQ, grandparents morning tea, Mother's Day and Father's Day events and much more. Without your help these events can't happen. We meet once a term.



**PLEASE FOLLOW US TO
STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR
SCHOOL EVENTS**

Find us @ St Mary MacKillop P&F, South Penrith or scan the QR Code

20
NOVEMBER

6.30PM

IN THE SCHOOL HALL,
ENTER THROUGH STAFF PARKING

ALL WELCOME





Let's eat
CAKE!



YEAR 6 CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER



PRICES RANGE FROM 50
CENTS TO 2 DOLLARS

LUNCHTIME FRIDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER

ALL MONEY GOES
TOWARDS A YEAR 6 END
OF YEAR GIFT FOR THE
SCHOOL

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.

Office News

A reminder that the Bus Bay out the front of the school is only for **Buses/Before and After School Care Buses** to pick up and drop off students. **No cars** should be stopping to drop or pick up their students during **Bus Zone operating hours**. We also ask Parents not to walk their children through the Bus Zone areas as the Bus drivers may have trouble seeing you. Please see picture below.



Penalties for parking in a Bus Zone is from \$352 + 2 DEMERIT POINTS as well as parking in the Bus Zone during operating hours.

We do have a School Drop Off & Pick Up Zone available further up the road on the same side of the school.

Safety tips for drivers using a Drop-off and Pick-up zones

- Always drop off or pick up your child from the designated zone and follow the school's procedures.
- Drivers should remain in their vehicles at all times in the Drop-off and Pick-up zone.
 - Make sure children use the Safety Door (the rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.
 - Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationary.
 - Always park legally.
 - Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.

Please see next page with a list of fines from the Penrith City Council

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.



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>



**HELP BUILD OUR
'PAVILION OF FELLOWSHIP'**

For your chance to win and
help, buy your tickets online.

raffletix.com.au/pavilionoffellowship

Dates for your Diary

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 7 November	9:15am 5:00pm-6:00pm	Year 1 Liturgy Infants Disco (K-2 only)	School Hall School Hall
Friday 8 November	2:20pm	Stage 3 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly	The Kingsway, St Marys 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	Kingsway St Marys
Thursday 14 November	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 15 November	1:30pm 2:20pm	Year 6 Cake Stall Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 18 November	9:00am-9:45am 10:00-10:45 am	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	P & F Zooper Dooper Day 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

Dates for your Diary

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 5 December		Year 6 Big Day In	School Oval
Friday 6 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 12 December	6:30pm	Year 6 Graduation Mass	St Nicholas of Myra Parish
Friday 13 December	9:15am 2:20pm 6:00pm	Year 6 Graduation and Awards Ceremony Whole School Assembly Year 6 Farewell	School Hall School Hall School Hall
Tuesday 17 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions	
Wednesday 18 December		Last Day of School for Students	

TERM 1 2025 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 4 February		Years 1-6 Return to School	
Wednesday 5 February	6:30pm	Kindergarten Commence School Twilight Swimming Carnival	Glenbrook Pools
Friday 7 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 14 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 21 February	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