

Keeping In Touch



News from Scott

22 May 2025



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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.

Walk Safely to School Day

Last Friday our school was visited by Senior Constable Stephen Kapitanow and the team from Nepean Police Area Command. They joined with us to support 'Walk Safely to School Day'. Our kids were very excited to see the shade tent set up in the park and even more excited when they were given balloons, wrist bands and other items to promote the day.

Activities like these remind us how important working in partnership with our community is to support our kids in building a better future for us all.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY - 2025



NEPEAN POLICE AREA COMMAND



NSW Police Force

News from Scott - Continued

Well Done to our P and F - Thank you for our movie night.

On Friday night our school hosted an outdoor movie night. With popcorn and drinks in hand our families settled into their blankets on the hill to watch Paddington in Peru. Fortunately the rain stayed away and northerly breeze kept it from getting cold so that we had a really enjoyable night together. The excitement from our younger kids at being allowed to be at school during nighttime with their friends and family was delightful.

For this to happen, our fabulous P and F have worked together to plan and organise the movie, hire popcorn machines and purchase cans of drink. The vision of the team was exactly what our community needed and they delivered for us in abundance. We are so blessed to have this active group of parents showing initiative to bring us all together as community. I hope that you and your family enjoyed the night.

In a recent meeting with the P and F executive, they shared that this year they have more volunteers than ever and it is really appreciated. In particular, they shared that the parent in this year's kindergarten cohort are super keen. This all hints towards a bright and fruitful future for our P and F and our community.

A massive thank you to Chanelle and the team.

We would love to hear from you.

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students in Years 4-6 and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at *St Mary MacKillop, Penrith South*.

To contribute to the survey please use the provided link. It is open from Monday 19th May: <http://tellthemfromme.com/zctqg>

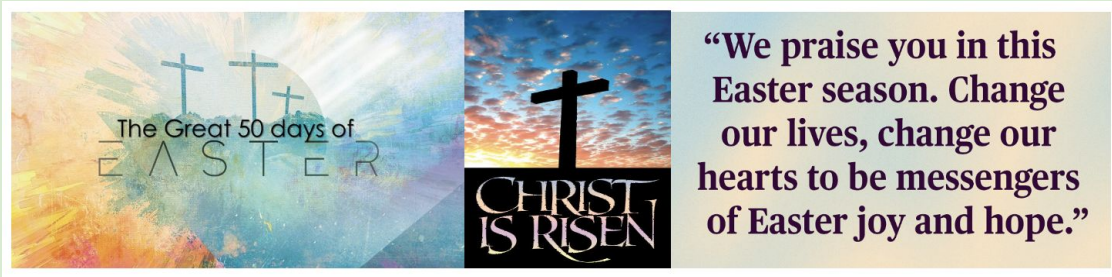
The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The survey will be open until Friday 6th June.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan

Religious Education News

The Season Of Easter



May – the Month of the Mary

The Catholic Church sets aside the entire month of May to honour Mary, the Mother of God. Mary is also the Mother of the Church - the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who seeks to be a servant of God. Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed 'Yes' to the will of God. Because of our devotion to Mary many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with their mother.

During the month of May, Catholics are invited to give Mary a special place in their prayers. We do this because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

*Hail Mary full of grace,
the Lord is with you*

*Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus
Holy Mary, Mother of God*

*Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death
Amen*



Congratulation to the following students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 8th May and are now fully initiated members of the Catholic Church:

Thomas B, Holly B, Isadora B, Alexandra B, Declan C, Chelsea D, Poppie E, Macks E, Ella-Rose G, Haven H, Olivia J, Rhys K, Roman L, Cruz L, Lucy L, Chloe M, Giselle M, Melanie M, Ella O, Jensen O, Mackenzie P, Khloe R, Everleigh R, Alara S, Lucia S, Layla S, Olive S and Charlie V.

A big thank you to Rodney Howard, the Sacramental Team and parents for preparing the children so well.

Religious Education News - Continued

Sacramental Program – Holy Communion

The Holy Communion Sacramental Program began on Tuesday night (20th May) with the Parent Information Session and Enrolment Masses are this weekend - Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th May. All enquiries can be made to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish

Ph:4721 2509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Year 6 Formation Day – Thursday 15th May

On Thursday, 15th May St Mary MacKillop's Year 6 students came together with 3 other schools, St Joseph's, Our Lady of the Rosary and St Finbar's for a Year 6 Formation Day at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. The theme of the day was: **"God created you on purpose, for a purpose"** and supported the current Religious Education Learning Cycle in Year 6: What is my purpose in life?

We started the day in the presence of God with a Liturgy of the Word and then broke open the scripture passage 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 to learn about spiritual gifts and how to use these gifts in the service of others for the common good, as we all share a responsibility to make our community a good place for everyone.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) spoke to the students about who they are and what they do. We were also lucky enough to have from Thanush who spoke about his personal experience as a refugee. We are excited to see our Year 6 students put their learning from this day into action this term as they use their gifts and talents to raise awareness about the challenges faced by refugees and organise a food drive to support the important work of JRS.



Religious Education News - Continued

Grandparents Liturgy and Book Fair: Thursday 5th June

Please join us for our Grandparents Day Liturgy on Thursday, 5th June as we honour St Joachim and St Anne the grandparents of Jesus; and give thanks for the gift of our grandparents.

This Liturgy will be prepared and led by Kindergarten and we will pray for all grandparents and ask God to keep them in his loving care. The Book Fair will also be open on this day for any purchases.

Please see below for specific details:

9:15am – Grandparents Liturgy in the hall

- no hot beverages in the hall please.

10am – Grandparent Morning tea

- hosted by our wonderful P & F
- For adults only – no students, due to WHS

10:15am – Open classrooms and Book Fair

- Classrooms will close at 10:45am
- Book Fair will close at 11am

10:45am – Lunch: Eating time for students

11am – Playtime

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

We look forward to sharing this special time with you.

The staff and students of St Mary MacKillop

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



Faith In Action News



As a school community we strive to “Never see a need without doing something about it”. We are blessed to have a very generous community that is always willing to help us with our initiatives.

Some families have asked us how they can continue to be involved in initiatives and work together with their family to support organisations. In this section of the KIT, we will be updating you on Initiatives that are run at school but also initiatives that you might like to support with your family or workplace.

Lifted Live Jnr

On Wednesday 14th May, the Year 6 members of the Faith In Action Team, Miss Neilsen and Mrs Gillard attended the CSDP Lifted Live Jnr event at West HQ with many other primary schools from our diocese. The day was facilitated by Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) and the students learnt about the Catholic Understanding of hope, followed by different workshops about leadership, service and St Vincents de Paul. They experienced this faith building experience through song, prayer and discussion. It was a great day seeing so many students sharing their faith and putting it into action!



Faith In Action News - Continued

Laudato Si Week!

Laudato Si Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for creation. This global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together. Pope Francis called people to understand the effects that we have on our common home.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary since he wrote this encyclical. To respond and remember the teachings of Pope Francis, the FIA Team planned activities for the students to participate in at Break times about creation to celebrate the anniversary. Some activities and prayer experiences were nature mandalas, Laudato Si prayer and nature bookmarks.

Together we grow to make a difference in our world and care for all creation.

Miss Stephanie Neilsen
FIA Coordinator



Office News

School Fees

Instalment 2 School Fees have now been sent to your home address and are due by **Wednesday, 4th June 2025**. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this notice.

The statement will come with options on how and when to pay your fees. If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees by the requested date please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 02 4724 3200.

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

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



School
FEES

Office News

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.

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.**

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.

Kindergarten Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm

On Monday of Week Two, Kindergarten went on their very first school excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm. The children were very excited to travel on the bus and we were lucky to have a great bus driver who played lots of fun songs for us.

At the farm, the children had the opportunity to milk a cow, watch a sheep dog work with sheep, pat some baby animals like chicks and bunnies, wander amongst the animals in the farmyard petting area, find out about where our food comes from and even find out some information about native animals. We watched a whip cracking show and some of us even got to have a turn at cracking a whip. One of our favourite activities was the bumpy tractor ride which took us out around the farm to learn more about the animals and the work that is done on the farm. We had such a great day and have been applying what we learnt on our excursion to our learning in our Science unit "What Are Living Things and How Do They Meet Our Needs?"



The Day Yr 2 Students Became Botanists

On 19th of May, the library was turned into a science lab! The makeshift lab was abuzz with enthusiastic, curious, clever and budding botanists, as Yr 2 explored the world of living things, focussing on plants. They investigated: the structure & function of plants; the growth of plants from germination through to pollination; the garden biome - which included the roles different insects play in the process of plant pollination; the break-down of dead plant material; how photosynthesis works and how water is transported from the roots to the leaves. Our team of scientists examined plants, using: microscopes; energy; cause and effect; comparing and contrasting; digging and sifting; experiments and much more! The smiles, conversations, questions, learning and enthusiasm amongst the students was inspiring!



P & F News

We hope everyone had a great Mother's Day last week, the Mother's Day stall was a great success. Lots of positive feedback and a huge thanks goes to Sam snow for the work ordering all our awesome gifts this year. It was a massive learning curve for the executive committee transitioning to cashless, lots to take on for the next one but the day itself went swimmingly, all packed up by the end of the students lunch break. And of course not at all possible without the help of the parents and grandparents that so generously donate the time out of their busy days to come and volunteer!

Thanks to the awesome team that joined me, Kathy R, Melissa J, Simone G, Justine N, Tamara H, Cassandra D, Jodie N, Larissa O, Rebecca D, Leanne C & Sonya L.

Thanks to our community coming out to our Movie Night event last Friday! It was a great night with the rain clouds holding out for a great night complete with our own candy bar. It's great to be able to put these events on for the community, we hope all the kids had a great night!

Thanks to our awesome team of volunteers for helping make the night a success.

Sam S, Sonya L, Rania Y, Jodie N, Kathy N and Tamara H.

Lots more awesome events coming up for the P&F the first being the information evening being held next Thursday night. Please find more info below and rsvp asap.

We've also got grandparents day coming up on the 5th of June and a sausage sizzle lunch day planned in a few weeks, if you are able to help out at any of these events please let us know via email at smmppandf@gmail.com

The next P&F meeting will be held on the 11th of June At 6.30pm.

Questions or Enquiries? We are reachable via email, facebook and on our website!

Email: smmppandf@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/smpppf?>

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/smpppf/home?>

Chanelle Vella

P&F President



P & F News - Continued

BRAD MARSHALL INFORMATION EVENING- 29TH MAY 2025

The P&F have funded an incredible opportunity for families in our community to attend an information evening all about navigating the online world with our children.

The evening will include presentations by Brad Marshall and the Australian federal Police.

Brad AKA The Unplugged Psychologist, is an internationally published author, researcher and clinician who focuses on healthy screen habits and tech use. Brad is NOT anti-technology but rather uses his years of practical experience to provide insight and guidance on how to manage the ever changing demands of technology and the effects this can have on our children's developing brains. This event will focus on the effects of online gaming and addiction as well as real-world experience and guidance for parents and caregivers on how to set healthy, achievable boundaries.

We kindly ask this to be kept a child-free event to ensure limited distractions to our speaker and other guests.

If you haven't already please RSVP ASAP using the link below, the invitation is for up to 2 adults of St Mary Mackillop students.

Please follow this link to reserve your seats:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdVN4ZelWHb_-GJduD6yFbhztLh32WcWhgd39pmXA0VdpmA/viewform 

PLEASE NOTE THE INVITATION HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO SOME LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR A TICKET PRICE OF \$5 FOR FAMILIES OF OTHER SCHOOLS. IF YOU HAVE EXTENDED FAMILY OR FRIENDS THAT MAY ALSO LIKE TO PURCHASE TICKETS THEY CAN DO SO ON THE QKR! APP. SIMPLY SELECT ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THEN SELECT TICKETS AND PURCHASE AS A GUEST.

REMEMBER IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR CARER AT OUR SCHOOL THE P&F ARE FUNDING THE EVENT FOR UP TO 2 ADULTS FOR YOU, TICKETS VIA QKR! ARE JUST FOR THE EXTENDED COMMUNITY, FEEL FREE TO SHARE THE FLYER BELOW.



St Mary Mackillop Primary School South Penrith
Parents & Friends Association Proudly Present

Brad Marshall

\$5
booking fee
per family

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Cyber Safety & Security
Presentations conducted by
the Australian Federal
Police

THE UNPLUGGED PSYCHOLOGIST

Expert in healthy screen use
including online gaming and the
effects this has on our children

THURSDAY 29TH MAY 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FOR A 6:30PM START

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
150 FRAGAR ROAD SOUTH PENRITH

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Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 23 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 28 May	9:00am	Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day 2nd Hand Uniform Shop Open	Jamison Park School
Thursday 29 May	9:15am 6:15pm	Year 6 Mass P & F Guest Speaker - Brad Marshall	School Hall School Hall
Friday 30 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 5 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy Open Classrooms Book Fair	School Hall
Friday 6 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Monday 9 June		King's Birthday Public Holiday NO SCHOOL TODAY	
Wednesday 11 June	6:30pm	P & F Meeting	School Hall
Thursday 12 June	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 13 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 17 June	5:00pm	Holy Communion Practice	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 19 June	7:00pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Communion Candidates	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 20 June	2:20pm	Years 2-6 2025 Athletics Carnival Whole School Assembly	Harold Corr Werrington School Hall
Tuesday 24 June		Stage 2 & Stage 3 Boys & Girls Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 26 June	9:15am	Year 1 Liturgy P & F Sausage Sizzle	School Hall

Dates for your Diary

TERM 2 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 27 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 2 July		Stage 3 Boys Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 3 July	9:15am 6pm-7:30pm	Year 4 Mass P & F Primary Disco (3-6 only)	School Hall School Hall
Friday 4 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Last Day of Term 2	School Hall

TERM 3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 21 July		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)	
Tuesday 22 July		Term 3 Commences for Students	
Friday 25 July	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 1 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 8 August	2:20pm	Feast of St Mary MacKillop Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Friday 15 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Feast of the Assumption Mass Whole School Assembly	School Hall School Hall
Tuesday 19 August	7pm	Reconciliation Parent Meeting	St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday 21 August		P & F Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser	
Friday 22 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

Free Stepping Stones Parenting Webinars

Triple P

For parents of primary school aged children with disabilities

Attend one or attend all three! Please register for each session separately using the link or QR code.

WEBINARS

1 Positive Parenting for children with a disability

- Having positive learning opportunities.
- Taking a planned approach to discipline.
- Having reasonable expectations.
- Looking after yourself as a parent.

Date: Wednesday 28th May 2025

Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm



1. REGISTER NOW!

2 Helping your child reach their potential

- Choosing a skill to teach.
- Choosing rewards.
- Using effective teaching strategies.

Date: Wednesday 4th June 2025

Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm



2. REGISTER NOW!

3 Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour

- How to deal with challenging behaviour that interferes with your child's learning, such as meltdowns, aggression, being disruptive.
- How to teach more adaptive ways to behave and cope with emotions.

Date: Wednesday 11th June

Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm



3. REGISTER NOW!

Contact
Jodie Caruana
School-Link
schn-chw-schoollink@health.nsw.gov.au

 The Sydney
children's
Hospitals Network



St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

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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



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