



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

SECRETS OF HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE

I recently read an article by Katherine Mangan titled, "Traits of the 'Get It Done' Personality" which I would like to share for your thoughts and reflection. Recent thinking on how some people get things done despite distractions and self-doubt remind us of useful ways to improve our own effectiveness. Some of these traits are:

- **Passion and resilience** – If you don't believe in yourself, it's easy to think you're hopeless and stop trying.
- **Self-regulation** – This means focusing on key goals and having the discipline to avoid temptations. Some people get totally caught up in trivia and later they complain they were asked to do too much and ran out of time. You have to decide what your priorities are and say, 'I'm going to make it happen' – and then make it happen.
- **Focus** – We know from all kinds of psychological research that multi-tasking doesn't work for everyone. The most successful people take care of little things on their desks quickly and efficiently and they also block out hours of time to work without e-mailing or Facebooking. It's hard to have a sustained, meditative reflection on anything when you can always change the channel or click on another link or download another app.
- **Grit** – Grit is dogged determination and focus. The gritty person approaches achievement as a marathon. The gritty person sticks with it, whereas others might be distracted by boredom, failure, adversity, or plateaus.
- **Conscientiousness** – This means being organised and responsible, willing to follow rules and fulfil obligations. But being too conscientious can undermine another important trait...
- **Creativity** – Whether you're an engineer or an artist or an English teacher, your job is to create new knowledge.

Enjoy challenging yourself and moving from good to great in all we do as we continue to be life long learners.

A Lenten Prayer

*God of mercy, you gave us new life through baptism,
- make us grow day by day in your likeness.*

*May our generosity today bring joy to those in need,
- in helping them may we find you.*

*Help us to do what is good, right and true in your sight,
- and to seek you always with undivided hearts.*

*Forgive our sins against the unity of your family,
make us one in heart and spirit.*

Amen



Thought for the Week

"Create your future from your future, not from your past."

Werner Erhard

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL



The Season of Lent:

The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by evil. Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more faith – filled person than when we entered.

As we enter the last weeks of Lent, it seems that there is so much left to do, to ask for, to be open to, to surrender and to change. Jesus assures us that he is the “resurrection and the life,” and that if we place our faith in him, we will “never die.” This week we let the powerful light of God’s love shine into the deepest, darkest corners of our soul, revealing the most un-loving parts of our hearts, and we ask for forgiveness and healing. In the weeks ahead perhaps we might:

- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (St Nicholas of Myra, Saturday 9:30am-10:30am and 5:00pm-5:45pm)
- Go to Mass (St Nicholas of Myra, Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am and 6:00pm)
- Make the Stations of the Cross
- Attend one of the many Easter Season masses to stir our hearts more deeply with the sense of his love for us.

Inspired by his love, guided by his example, now is the time to change our selfishness into self-giving.

Project Compassion:

Our first Social Justice Initiative for the year will come to a close at the end of this term and so far our school community has given generously to raise over \$900 for Project Compassion. This is a fantastic effort and the money will really help those most in need in our world.

Project Compassion, Week 5, brings you the story of Lorraine. When Lorraine, from Aboriginal Australia, learnt that she would have to move 550km away to receive vital dialysis treatment, she was heartbroken to be separated from her mob and culture. *The Purple House* is providing her with a home away from home. An income-generating bush balm program is helping her reconnect with culture and community. Your donation to Project Compassion helps Lorraine and other First Australians, retain their dignity and connection to culture during difficult times.



Project Compassion, Week 6, brings you the story of Nirangini. After moving 11 times during the civil war, Nirangini is now re-establishing her life back in her childhood village in Sri Lanka, thanks to a permanent home and participation in an income-generating program. Your donation to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia to continue aid and development work reflective of the life of Jesus Christ, in over 30 countries. www.caritas.org.au



The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Congratulations to the following students who made their First Reconciliation on Tuesday 1st April. Lachlan A, Sonny A, Cheyenne A, Alexia B, Riley B, Ky B, Joshua C, Alex C, Ella C, Nicholas C, Harley C, Laura C, Daniel C, Sienna C, Lachlan C, Jennifer C, Emma D, Olivia E, Riley E, Abigail F, Joshua F, Jessica G, Joshua G, Dominic G, Ella G, Lachlan H, Mitchell H, Chloe H, Monique H, Liam H, Mason J, Leah J, Chloe K, Brayden K, Zack Mc, Ace M, Liam P, Bruno P, Chloe P, Kye R, Benjamin R, James R, Stefania S, Hannah S, Isabella S, Annabelle S, Caroline S, Brock S and Michael T.

Easter Celebration:

Please join us in the hall on Wednesday 9 April at 9:30am for our celebration of Easter. Our celebration will focus on the last week of Jesus’ life as the students dramatise the events of Holy Week. After we return from the school holidays we will gather together on Tuesday 29 April at 12:30pm to celebrate the Resurrection and ANZAC Day.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

AFL Ambassador:

Our school has joined the AFL ambassador program. This involves involving our students in AFL clinics as we did in 2013, and making available guest speakers at our assemblies from time to time to promote AFL in Western Sydney. As an AFL Ambassador school, Greater Western Sydney Giants (GWS Giants) have given us a limited amount of General admission passes to be used by students and families enrolled at our school for any GWS Giants games played this year at their home ground 'Spotless Stadium' in Homebush. If you would like access to these tickets for any of the GWS Giants home games please contact Mr Cauchi the week prior to the game on the weekend. Please note that these tickets are limited and no more will be available once they run out.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Students in Year 3 and 5 will be participating in NAPLAN on 13, 14 and 15 May. During this testing period the students will complete an assessment on Language Conventions, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. Further information about NAPLAN will be distributed to Year 3 and 5 students shortly.

Mr Steve Cauchi

Assistant Principal

P & F News

Chocolate Wheel Donations - Thank you:

We wish to extend our humble appreciation to the kindness and generosity of all the families at SMMPS. We were overwhelmed by your donations for our Chocolate Wheel hampers and we wish to thank you for your support. Our kids looked fabulous throughout the day. God Bless your big hearts. A big thank you also goes out to Mr and Mrs Ellston for their assistance in collecting and packing the donated items - it was a big job.

Zooper Dooper days: The following days Zooper Doopers will be sold to the students during the 1:30pm recess. Prices are 60c for a whole and 30c for half. **April: Thursday 3, Monday 7 and Wednesday 9.**

BUNNINGS FUNDRAISING BBQ VOLUNTEERS - SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday 19 April 2014 - Thank you so much to all the parents and friends who have volunteered to help out on the day of the Bunnings BBQ taking place on Saturday 19 April 2014. A hard copy and soft copy of the roster will be sent out on Monday, 7 April. Thank you for your support in helping raise funds for our beautiful school. Hope we will see a lot of familiar faces coming down to support us on the day by purchasing a sausage sandwich with a drink.

SMMPS Autumn School Fete Sunday, 18 May 2014 - (7 WEEKS TO GO!!) Next fete meeting: Monday 7 April 2014 @ 6:45pm in the Multi Purpose Centre.

RIDES WRISTBAND and SHOWBAG ORDERS - Wristband and showbag orders were due last week. If you haven't done so already, please don't forget to hand in your orders FINAL DATE is Friday 4 April.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - SUNDAY 18 MAY 2014 - We are looking for all those amazing parents and friends who want to help us with the running of our huge fundraiser event of the year. If you can spare a couple of hours on the day, please leave your details at the front office by filling out the fete volunteer form. Please provide your details by Wednesday 9 April.

BOOKSTALL Donations - Loving all those books. Please keep bringing them in and place them in the box located in the student foyer with the label 'BOOK DONATIONS' and thank you for your support.

Common Courtesy of Parking:

It has been voiced recently that there are some problems arising with parking across the road from the school. Understandably we are all picking up our children from school and we all would like that optimum parking space, however, please just be mindful of the space your vehicle takes up and above all, let's be courteous and kind towards one another.

School Holiday Activities:

Power House Museum (9217 0111) 'Game Masters'. *Penrith City Library* (4732 7891) 'Magic shows, Embroidery and Egyptian art workshops, Science Workshops and Lego Robotics (St Marys). *Mamre House* (9670 5321) 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party' and 'cupcake decorating workshop'. *Penrith Regional Gallery* (4735 1100) Collatype prints and artist run workshops. Get out and have some fun, take care and appreciate each other and may you all have a Holy Easter break. See you in Term 2.

Thank you and God Bless

Liz Whalen

President - On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tuesday	8 April	10:45am	Year 6 ANZAC Day Service @ Penrith Paceway
Wednesday	9 April	9:30am	Easter Celebration
Friday	11 April		Staff Development Day-Pupil Free Day Last Day of Term 1

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	28 April	8:45am	Kindergarten-Year 6 students return (Winter Uniform)
Tuesday	29 April	12:30pm	Resurrection/ANZAC Day Prayer (Lead by Year 5)
Friday	2 May	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	6 May		Diocesan Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Friday	9 May	TBA 2:30pm	Mother's Day Liturgy and Stall Whole School Assembly
Monday	12 May	2:05pm	6PM Assembly
Friday	16 May	9:15am 2:30pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Whole School Assembly
Friday	23 May	9:15am 2:30pm	Year 2 Liturgy Whole School Assembly
Monday	26 May	2:05pm	1R Assembly
Friday	30 May	9:15am 2:30pm	Year 4 Grade Mass Whole School Assembly
Monday	2 June	2:05pm	3B Assembly
Tuesday	3 June	7:00pm 7:30pm	Parent Representative Meeting P & F General Meeting
Wednesday	4 June		ICAS Science Competition
Friday	6 June		Staff Development Day-Pupil Free Day
Tuesday	10 June		Year 4 Old Government House & Experiment Farm
Thursday	12 June	2:30pm	Primary Athletics Carnival-Blair Oval St Marys Whole School Assembly
Monday	16 June	3:30pm-8:00pm	ICAS Writing Competition Parent/Teacher Interviews
Wednesday	18 June	3:30pm-6:00pm	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Friday	20 June	9:15am 2:30pm	Year 5 Grade Mass Whole School Assembly
Monday	23 June	2:05pm	KA Assembly
Tuesday	24 June	TBA	Whole School Mass-The Birth of John the Baptist
Friday	27 June	2:30pm	Whole School Assembly Term 2 Ends