



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

### Feedback following Parent Teacher Interviews.

A most powerful instrument for building up our community and our students is our own gift of speech. Words of praise and encouragement nourish self-esteem and strengthen relationships. Words spoken with enthusiasm can stimulate interest and motivate learning. Challenging yet supportive words from a parent or a teacher during reporting time can express our high expectations and prompt students to respond and to hopefully excel. Skillful questioning can also promote deeper thinking and reflection. It is sometimes said that a way of gauging the authenticity of a Catholic school is to simply listen to the way that people speak to each other.

*Jesus,*

*You spoke to people in ways that changed their lives.*

*You spoke with words of gentleness: 'Come to me all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28)*

*You spoke words of reassurance: 'Courage my daughter! Your faith has made you well.' (Luke 8:48)*

*You spoke words of challenge, grounded in compassion: 'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.' (John 8:7)*

*May our homes and our classrooms be places of many kind words.*

*Amen.*

### Quality Catholic Schools Survey

During March this year all staff, all students in years 5 and 6 and sixty randomly selected parents from St Mary MacKillop Primary School participated in the Quality Catholic School Survey. The Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) Project provides data about our: cultural behavior, school relationships and the school as a learning community. The QCS survey provides our school community with additional data which allows us focus improvement efforts in ways that builds on our successes to date. It is a strategic response by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) to the ongoing need for quality data about our work as a Catholic Educational school. Below is a brief interpretation of the St Mary MacKillop (SMMK) data for each indicator and cluster within the QCS survey.

#### Student Survey

##### Emotional Wellbeing:

The survey indicated that students are experiencing positive emotions at school, feel connected to the school and feel like they belong at the school.

##### Engagement in Learning:

At SMMK Student Motivation is at a similar level to Learning Confidence and Connectedness to Peers. This indicates that students want to learn, they feel confident in their ability to learn and they are learning in a context where their relationships with other students are positive.

##### Student Relationships:

Students at SMMK are saying that Student Safety is higher than Classroom Behaviour. This indicates that the students generally feel safe in the school but that the behavior in the classroom is an issue as it can get in the way of their learning.

#### Parent Survey

##### Community Engagement:

Parents at SMMK feel that that school is focused on improvement, they are satisfied with the reporting and they have an opportunity to make a contribution to the school.

##### Learning Opportunity:

Parents feel the educational programs and standards of the school address the needs of their children, that their children are well prepared and supported during their transition to the next stage of their schooling and that their children's homework aids their learning. Parents' perception of the range and quality of the extra-curricular activities provided by the school is an area for improvement in comparison to other learning opportunity indicators.

##### Staff Engagement:

Parents perceive Behaviour Management as lower than Stimulating Learning and Teacher Morale are strengths of the school. They feel that teachers deliver classes which are interesting and enjoyable for their child and that teachers are passionate about what they do.

##### Student Engagement:

Parents at SMMK have rated Connectedness to School as higher than Student Motivation (Which also is relatively high) in the student engagement section of the parent survey. This is an indication that parents see their children enjoying the learning they do at school and that their children want to go to school.

##### Peer Relations:

Parents at SMMK have rated Connectedness to Peers and Social Skills as quite high. This can be an indication that parents feel their child has positive relationships with their peers and they are developing a range of social skills.

##### Student Behaviour:

Parents of this school have rated Student Safety and Classroom Behaviour relatively equally. This is an indication that parents feel that their child is not being subjected to harassment or bullying at school and that behaviour in the classroom is not disrupting their child's ability to learn.

#### Thought for the Week

*"See the hand of God in all that happens"*

*Mary MacKillop 1871*

Have a Blessed Week  
 Michael Siciliano  
 PRINCIPAL



## Religious Education News

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### Social Justice Initiatives: Donation Mufti Day 19 June:

Today our school community had a mufti day to support the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal and Penrith Community Kitchen. Through the generosity of the children we will now be able to supply St Vincent de Paul with donations of beanies, gloves and scarves; and Penrith Community Kitchen with donations of tinned food (soups, vegetables, meat, tuna, salmon), packets of rice/pasta and bottles of pasta sauces.

These donations will help many people this winter.

I thank you for your commitment in reaching out to care for the poor and carrying on the mission of St Mary MacKillop. Please remember that *it is not too late to donate.....your generosity can change the harshness of this winter for many people. If there are any more donations please drop them into the office by Monday 23 June. Thank you*

### Feast of Corpus Christi and First Holy Communion:

Corpus Christi is a feast that has been celebrated by many Christians, particularly the Catholic Church, in honour of the Eucharist since 1246. The name "Corpus Christi" is a Latin phrase that translates to the "Body of Christ". The Feast of Corpus Christi is a moveable feast, which means that it depends on the date of Easter Sunday. This year the Feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated on Sunday 22 June. We observe Corpus Christi to honour the Holy Eucharist and it is also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.



The primary purpose of this feast is to focus our attention on the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Christ. Our worship of Jesus in His Body and Blood calls us to offer to God our Father a pledge of undivided love and an offering of ourselves to the service of others.

In our parish, the Feast of Corpus Christi will be celebrated with the First Communion of many of our students. Congratulations to the following students who will be receiving their First Holy communion this weekend.

*Grace A, Ellise B, Harrison B, Lachlan C, Harley C, Declan C, Liam C, Benjamin D, Gabriel D, Caleb E, Samantha G, Anna G, Lachlan H, Grace H, Harry H, Abbey K, Jedd K, Francesco L, Sebastian L, Lily L, Aidan Mc, Alexander Mc, Samantha M, Vincent M, Violet N, Thomas O, Oscar P, Xavier P, Nathan R, Stephanie R, Lachlan R, Liam R, Lily S, Peter S, Jack S, Javier T, Georgia T, Clayton T, Oscar T, Isaac T, Hayden W, Billy W, Xavier W, Jake Z, Oliver Z*

A big thank you to Mrs Anne Tucker, the Sacramental Coordinator, for overseeing the wonderful preparation of our students to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

### Whole School Mass for the Birth of John the Baptist: 9:15am Tuesday 24 June:

Please join us for a whole school mass at 9:15am on Tuesday 24 June to celebrate the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. This feast is special because ordinarily the Church observes the day of a saint's death as their feast, because that day marks their entrance into heaven. There are two notable exceptions to this rule, the birthdays of Blessed Mary and of St. John the Baptist. The day of John's birth, the day on which he began his mortal life, is sacred. The reason for this is that the Lord wished to announce to the world His own coming through John the Baptist, so that all the world would not fail to recognise Him.

*Mrs Leesa Gillard*

Religious Education Coordinator

## Maths Olympiad

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### Answer Question 1 - Week 4:

If Fran piles her stickers in groups of 8, there are 3 left over. If she piles them instead in groups of 10, there are 3 left over. If she piles them instead in groups of 12, there are 3 left over. Fran has fewer than 1000 stickers.

**What is the greatest number of stickers Fran could have?**

Start with 3 and count up by 120's to get the greatest number of stickers: 3, 123, 243, 363, 483, 603, 723, 843, 963 and then 1083, which is greater than 1000. The greatest number of stickers Fran could have is 963.

### Question 2 - Week 8:

*Find the sum:  $137 + 138 + 139 + 140 + 141 + 142 + 143$*

Answer in next Term's KIT.

## From the Assistant Principal

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### **Stage 2 Soccer:**

On Tuesday 24 June, 11 boys from Year 3 and 4 will represent St Mary MacKillop in the Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day at Rooty Hill. Congratulations to the following students for their selection and we wish you best of luck for your games. Thomas, Liam, Francesco, Billy, Jack, Harry, Brayden, Marcus, Zack, Christian and Blake. Special thank you to Mr Mount and Mr King for offering to coach and manage the students.

### **Parramatta Diocesan Rugby Union:**

Best wishes to Patrick (Yr 5) who travels to Forbes next Monday to represent the Parramatta Diocese in Rugby Union. We look forward to hearing about the success of the team in the coming days.

### **NSWCPS & CCC Cross Country:**

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the State Catholic Schools Cross Country carnival last Friday. We are proud of all their achievements to make it to such an elite level. Jack B, Sienna C, Cody D, Alison G, Samantha G, Tayla G, Mitchell H, Amy J, Brock S, Ella T.

### **ICAS Writing**

On Monday, 29 students participated in the ICAS Writing competition. Their task was to write a narrative about one of the following themes: 1. "Every cloud has a silver lining", 2. "Never judge a book by its cover" or 3. "One good turn deserves another". The children enjoyed participating and we look forward to them getting their results next term.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews:**

I would like to thank all our members of staff who have stayed back late Monday and Wednesday night this week to meet with the parents to discuss the wonderful learning that is taking place in our classrooms. I trust that you have found the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher reaffirming and future goals discussed for Semester 2. A reminder that if you ever have any concerns regarding your child's progress at school or any other welfare issues, please phone the school and make a suitable appointment time with your child's teacher.

### **Captivate**

Last Friday night, I had the pleasure of attending the CAPTIVATE strings concert at Nagle High school. Many of our children from Years 4-6 performed, showcasing their learning. Special thanks to Mr Carroll, who accompanied the students on the afternoon and night of the concert and for assisting to prepare our students. Also, thanks to Mr Russick and Mrs Bray for the work that they do in instructing our musicians. Thank you to the following students for your efforts in showcasing your music ability. Thomas (4H), Olivia (4H), Lily (4H), Jayde (4H), Abbey (4H), Alicia (4H), Hayden (4BL), Jedd (4BL), Lachlan (4BL), Harrison (4BL), Sophie (5M), Jake (5M), Patrick (5M), Nicola (5M), Thomas (6PM), Lydia (6PM), Sophie (6PM), Puluno (6PM), Brooke (6PM), Ella (6PM), Angelique (6M), Hannah (6M), Jordan (6M). Thomas, Patrick, Lydia and Angelique will be performing again next Monday night in the "Best Of" showcase.

*Mr Steve Cauchi*

Assistant Principal

## P & F News

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### **HOT FOOD DAY - FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2014**

We are organising a Hot Food Day for our students on Friday 27 June (last day of Term 2). The sausage sizzle sandwiches will be served at lunchtime 10:45am. The cost is \$3 per student and it includes a popper drink. Please find attached the note in this week's KIT to confirm numbers for catering. Volunteers would be very much appreciated to help out in preparing, cooking, distributing and cleaning up on this day.

### **CADBURY CHOCOLATE BOX MONIES DUE: FRIDAY 20 JUNE 2014**

Please ensure to have all the Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser monies returned to the front office before the whole school assembly tomorrow. For every full box sold, you get a ticket in the draw to win one of 3 prizes. Check out the school FACEBOOK page for the full list. Thank you for all your support and helping raise funds for our school. Good luck to you all at Friday's draw.

### **BARGAIN BUS BUYERS - SAVE THE DATE**

Don't forget to put it in your calendar Saturday, 11 October 2014. More details to come in Term 3.

### **School Holiday Fun:**

**The Reject Shop** colouring-in competition - are giving you a chance to either win 1 of 25 Samsung Tablets or \$5000 towards your school. If you would like to enter, please see Mrs Whalen after assembly to get a copy of the colouring in entry form. Entries need to be in by 20 July...so colour to your hearts content kids and give it a go.

**Penrith Library** has organised some fun workshops and magic shows during the July school holidays, for more information go to: <http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/Our-Facilities/Library/Kids-and-Students/>

**Mamre House Treasure Hunt** 8 July 2014 - for more information go to <http://www.mamre.com.au/events/school-holiday-treasure-hunt-around-mamre>

**Penrith Regional Gallery** July Workshops - for more information go to: <http://penrithregionalgallery.org/kids-holiday-workshops.php>

**Hunter Valley Gardens SNOW TIME!!!!**. For more information go to: <http://www.huntervalleygardens.com.au/>

Keep warm, take care of each other and see you all in Term 3.

God Bless

Liz Whalen

President on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

## Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2014

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	20 June	9:15am	Year 5 Grade Mass
Monday	23 June	2:05pm	KA Assembly
Tuesday	24 June	9:15am	Whole School Mass-The Birth of John the Baptist
Friday	27 June		Term 2 Ends

## Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2014

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	14 July		K-6 Students return for Term 3
Friday	18 July		NSWPSSA Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
Monday	21 July	2:05pm	2M Assembly
Wednesday	23 July		School Photos
Monday	28 July	2:05pm	1M Assembly
Tuesday	29 July		ICAS English Competition Year 2 CSIRO Incursion
Friday	1 August	TBA	Grandparent's Day Liturgy & Book Fair
Monday	4 August	2:05pm	3M Assembly
Tuesday	5 August	7:30pm	P & F Executive Meeting
Wednesday	6 August	1:00pm	Wizard of Oz School Performance
Thursday	7 August	1:00pm & 7:00pm	Wizard of Oz School Performance
Friday	8 August	10:00am 7:00pm	Feast of St Mary MacKillop Whole School Mass Wizard of Oz School Performance
Monday	11 August	2:05pm	6M Assembly
Tuesday	12 August		ICAS Mathematics Competition
Friday	15 August	10:00am	Feast of the Assumption Whole School Mass
Tuesday	19 August	7:00pm 7:30pm	St Nicholas Netball Gala Day Jamison Park Parent Representative Meeting P & F General Meeting
Wednesday	20 August		P & F Dance-a-thon
Thursday	21 August		K-2 Infants Tabloid Sports Carnival
Friday	22 August		Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Monday	25 August	2:05pm	2A Assembly
Friday	29 August	9:15am	Kindergarten Calmsley Hill City Farm Excursion Year 2 Liturgy
Monday	1 September	2:05pm	4BL Assembly
Friday	5 September	TBA	Father's Day Liturgy and Stall Stage 2 Touch Gala Day @ St Marys
Monday	8 September	2:05pm	KD Assembly