



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

A WONDERFUL 2014 FETE

After Sunday's enjoyable 2014 Fete I would like to share a prayer of thanks for the wonderful St Mary MacKillop P&F who helped make the fete a huge success.

Prayer of Thanks

*Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on our school.
You have provided us with more than we could ever have imagined.*

You have surrounded us with people who always look out for us.

*You have given us people who bless us every day
with kind words and actions.*

Thank you, Lord, for keeping us safe.

*Lord give us the ability to give them the same kindness
they have given us.*

*We are so grateful for all of your blessings in our life,
Never allow us to forget to show our gratitude in prayer
and returned kind acts.*

Thank you, Lord.

Amen.

DRAFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Last month Catholic Schools employers proposed a draft Enterprise Agreement for teachers and support staff to start a conversation and to consult with teachers on what a new enterprise agreement will look like. In the coming months the Catholic Schools employers and the Unions will continue the process of consultation in a variety of forums with the ultimate goal of achieving the best outcomes for staff, students and our school communities.

KEY ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE 2014/2015 FEDERAL BUDGET:

Following the recent federal budget there are a number of issues that have emerged, which I would like to bring to your attention.

1. In bringing down the Federal Budget 2014–15 the Federal government has given clear messages on spending cuts across many policy areas to reduce the government deficit and education is not immune.
2. Despite the impact of Federal government budget announcements, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta is committed to fulfilling its mission of providing affordable quality Catholic education.
3. Federal government has stated their clear intention of devolving responsibility for education to States following the National Commission of Audit recommendation.
4. Introducing indexed school funding meaning no **new** funding for schools beyond 2017 - only indexed increases in line with enrolments.
5. Funding of the **Better Schools Plan for School Improvement – (Gonski Review)** is not going ahead beyond 2017.
6. Federal funding for Catholic schools will now be tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which over the last 10 years has risen about 3% annually while education expenditure has risen by 5.5% in the same period.
7. Capital spending funding for capital works and new buildings remains unclear. Expected school population projections suggest 350 new Catholic schools needed over next 10 years across Australia
8. New Trade Training Centres will not be funded after June 2016, which limits pathways for employment and training for year 11 and 12 students. Parramatta Diocese has two Trade Training Centres in Mt Druitt and Emu Plains.
9. Significant cuts to the National teacher standards body (AITSL) who are responsible for determining the benchmarks for high quality teaching.

Cuts to the national curriculum body (ACARA) who are responsible for developing a national curriculum, assessment and reporting e.g NAPLAN

Thought for the Week

“Be Faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

Mother Teresa

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SOUTH PENRITH
Keeping In Touch



Religious Education News

Diocesan Works Fund Appeal – May 2014:

During the month of May, Bishop Anthony Fisher has asked all schools and parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta to join together to help support the Diocesan Works Fund. Also known as faith @ work, this fund reaches out to people in our local communities that are not supported by regular parish contributions. On Monday 26 May we will send out a collection envelope to each family with a letter to parents about the Appeal. On Wednesday 28 May we will have a mufti day where each family will be asked to return their donation envelope. Bishop Anthony Fisher has written his letter on the back of the Giving Envelope to you and other members of the Catholic community across Western Sydney to ask for everyone's support. The faith @ work appeal gives us the opportunity to act together as one Church family to support ministries and services that no individual parish or school can offer. Of particular interest is Blacktown Neighbour Aid service, which assists the frail, aged people with a disability and their carers in our community; and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) which trains religious education teachers who give witness to their faith in public schools in Western Sydney. Your contribution enables services such as Blacktown Neighbour Aid, CCD and Catherine Villa (supporting homeless mothers aged 16-25) to respond to more people in need. Please be generous so these good works, such as Grace's story below, can continue.



Grace went to a primary public school in the Blue Mountains and looked forward each week to the religion class on Tuesday morning. When she went on to a Catholic High School and in Year 11 Grace was invited to be a catechist in the local public school once a fortnight. Grace remembered her early years and volunteered to be trained as a Special Religious Educator. Grace deepened her faith through the sacraments, study, fellowship and leadership development and found that this assisted her in her teaching. Grace went on to University to train as a school teacher and reflected on the valuable experience as a catechist. She now has the confidence and skills to live out her faith, and is excited about what people her age can do to help make the world a better place. Your gift to the Diocesan Works Fund will make a big difference to other young people like Grace and older SRE teachers working in public schools as part of Catholic Catechists (CCD). Please show you care about sharing faith with children in public schools with a gift to the Diocesan Works Fund via gift envelope or online at www.parra.catholic.org.au

Did you know?

Did you know that CatholicCare Social Services responds to more than 20,000 calls for help each year? There are many requests for relationship or gambling counselling, or for assistance in dealing with a disability, mental ill health or ageing. Did you know that DWF supports the 13 seminarians in training and more than 1000 Catechists working in state schools in Western Sydney? Did you know that DWF Appeal provides funds for Youth Ministry and Faith Education in Western Sydney too! Your donations will be Faith @ Work!

Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

All children enrolled in the Sacramental Program for First Holy Communion are reminded that the first family group session begins this week. For further information please contact Mrs Anne Tucker (St Nicholas of Myra Sacramental Coordinator)

Sewing – Volunteers needed!

If there is anyone in our school community who is handy on a sewing machine I am in need of some volunteers to hem pieces of fabric, which are used at school during prayer, liturgies and masses. The sewing is very simple and the fabric can either be hemmed or over-locked. If you can help out please contact Mrs Gillard via the school office and leave your name and contact details. Thank you in advance for your help.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

AFL Ambassador

As an AFL ambassador school, we have been provided with a limited number of free tickets to Greater Western Sydney (GWS) home games played at Spotless Stadium Homebush. GWS play a home game this Saturday 24 May at 1.40pm. Please see Mr Cauchi if you are planning to attend this game to access some free tickets.

Primary Athletics Carnival

The Primary Athletics carnival for children who turn 8yrs or older in 2014 will be held on June 12th at Blair Oval St Mary's. Further information will be coming home shortly. If you are able to assist on this day your support would be greatly appreciated.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Mid-year parent teacher interviews will be taking place on Monday evening 16 June and Wednesday evening 18 June. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and establish goals for semester 2. Please look out for the parent teacher interview invitation and return it ASAP to ensure that an appropriate and suitable time slot has been allocated to you.

Maths Olympiad

30 students from Year 5 and 6 have nominated to participate in the 2014 Maths Olympiad. The Maths Olympiad is open to Stage 3 students across Australia and Asia. It consists of 5 separate tests, each with 5 problem solving tasks that the children are required to complete individually. The first of the five tests was completed today. Each fortnight, we publish an example question for you at home. You will find the first question at the end of this newsletter. How good are you with your mathematical problem solving?

Mr Steve Cauchi

Assistant Principal

SPORT NEWS

UNDER 9'S PANTHERS CUP:

Last Tuesday 12 boys from Year 3 competed in the Rugby League Panthers Cup. The boys trained extremely hard in the lead up to the day. Thank you to our coaches and trainers Mr Raven, Mr Bruest and Mr Stapleton. Thank you also to the Bruest family who donated the shorts for the boys to play in. We had a very supportive group of parents and grandparents there to cheer on our MacKillop Team. The boys did play well but unfortunately lost out in the Semi Finals. Congratulations to Ky B, Kye R., Mitchell H, Lachlan H, Liam H, Michael T, Ryan M, Reyce A, Brock S, Joshua G, Riley E and James R.

STAGE 3 SOCCER GALA DAY:

Good luck to our Stage 3 boys who will compete in the Parramatta Diocesan Gala Day next Tuesday 27 May. Thank you to Mrs Bizzanelli and Mr Perri for training our team.

Mrs Margaret Rowan

Sports Coordinator

P & F News

THE AUTUMN FETE, FETE, FETE!!!! 2014 WAS A SUCCESS!!!!

THANK YOU to all the volunteer parents and friends (including students) who helped set up the day prior and on the day, those who baked, and those who chased up things when needed or stepped in when needed (we were down on volunteers) you all did an amazing job and made life so much easier for the rest of us throughout the event. What a BEAUTIFUL day we were blessed with and the smiles and laughter were proof of that. Congratulations to everyone that brought it all together, you are an amazing group of people who made it all happen. IT IS VERY HARD WORK but rewarding in the end. Thank you also to our in house student performers and the amazing talents of the Carroll Bros & Co. You guys really made the atmosphere come alive.

Congratulations to the winners of the chocolate wheel, guessing competitions, silent auction, and major raffle prizes. A HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors who supplied all the amazing prizes and made it such a fruitful day indeed. Thank you also to our teachers and leaders who kept the momentum going throughout the day and connected with past, present and future families and friends. Your dedication to our major fundraiser is just phenomenal.

Mother's Day / AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA.

Thank you to the gorgeous and very talented families from Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 (and everyone else that volunteered to bake) for your delectable baked products that made this event such a success, whilst at the same time raising money for a good cause, that has touched each and every one of us in some way. GOD BLESS YOUR HEARTS. Thanks to all your donations as we were able to raise the final tally of \$573. Fantastic effort people.

A very big thank you to all the Mum's that kept the kitchen filled with sweets and lots of smiles as the teas and coffees were being poured and shared amongst our guests. Also to the parents that helped at the Mother's day stall, we are very grateful for your kind nature in helping out the students when choosing gifts for their loved one. A big thank you also to Mr Cauchi for his management with such events, it could not be accomplished without you.

Congratulations to the students who won an extra Mother's Day gift, they were: KA Georgia K, KD Grace H, 1M Sophie H, 1R Christian M, 2A Lachlan L, 2M Ava O, 3B James R, 3M Alex C, 3W Sienna M, 4BL Violet N, 4H Anna G, 5G Corey R, 5M Tayla G, 6M Taylor J, 6PM Puluno.L.

Parents Representative Council (PRC) Events:

Reflection Day - with Rev Fr Richard Leonard - 18 May 2014.

"Winbourne", Edmund Rice Retreat & Conference Centre, 1315 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa. This is a chance for us to see how the pluses and minuses of the role of the internet and social media now plays in our lives, and what a Catholic Response to it might be. Lunch and Morning tea are provided. Cost: \$20/person. Email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com for registration form and payment advice.

Link of Faith - 2 June 2014 Event

Event will take place at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St, Blacktown. The Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Fisher, Bishop for the Diocese of Parramatta will be presenting to parents to help link our faith. To book your place, please contact Selina Calleia, PRC President via Email: prcparrapresident@gmail.com

Class Parent Representative meeting / P & F Meeting - 3 June 2014

The next Class Parent Representative meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, 3 June 2014 at 7pm followed by the P & F meeting at 7:30pm. All are welcome as you hear about the current news and updates from the President, Treasurer, Fundraising team, Parents Representative Council, our school Principal and parents. We look forward to seeing you there.

POP UP STALL - FRIDAY, 23 MAY 2014 @ 2:55pm

There will be a pop up stall after assembly this week, where the P & F will be selling off left over fairy floss @ \$1, Sand Art packs of 20 with kits - usually retails at \$40 (only 7 on sale for \$20ea). This is a great time to grab a bargain especially if you have kids parties in the next week. EVERYTHING MUST GO. THANK YOU for continual supporting our fundraising efforts for your school.

SMMPS Bargain Buyers Bus Tour - Watch this space.

Liz Whalen

President - On behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2014

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
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
Friday	13 June		NSWCPS & CCC Cross Country @ Eastern Creek
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

MATHS OLYMPIAD QUESTION 1:

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?

Answer in next KIT - Week 6

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2014
PUPIL FREE DAY