



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

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.

I had the great pleasure of hosting the Voice of Youth Speech Cluster Final at St Mary MacKillop last Tuesday. This competition is open to all Year Six students in our diocese and is a major component of our literacy program for our senior students.

In my opinion, the greatest aspect of this competition is its purpose - of giving our young people a chance to have their voice heard about the issues that matter to them. Can you imagine a greater measure of success for your child than having them feel empowered enough to compose and share their views and opinions confidently in the presence of their peers and teachers?

What amazes me is the poise, confidence and power with which the children deliver their speeches. I cannot imagine having that type of confidence when I was in Grade Six, let alone the talent and interest to compose the quality speeches I was entertained with last week.

I headed home last Tuesday feeling very optimistic about the future ahead. Having shared in what our young students look and sound like at the height of their expressive powers, I wondered if I may have just witnessed a future Prime Minister, journalist or community leader. What a great reward for the investment that home and school have made in our children.

NAPLAN

We have received the data results for Years 3, 5 and 7 NAPLAN and the learning performance reflects very well on the hard work of the students and teachers at St Mary MacKillop. Individual student reports have been sent home for students in Year 3 and 5 over the past fortnight.

Staffing News

Deborah Aliberti will be taking leave from our school this week to welcome a new arrival to her family. We wish her and her husband Zac all the very best and look forward to meeting the new addition to their family. We have advertised, interviewed and appointed a replacement for Mrs Aliberti whilst she is on leave.

We welcome Miss Erin Hall to our staff commencing as teacher of 1A from next week. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming Erin to our team and encourage you to say hello when you see her at school.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Mary MacKillop International

On Tuesday 8th August we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the patron saint of our school. As part of our celebration we raised money for Mary MacKillop International.

As a school community we were able to raise \$1696.30, which is a fantastic accomplishment. Congratulations to all the generous people in our wonderful community! The money raised has now been forwarded to the Mary MacKillop International organisation.



Mary MacKillop International (MMI) is the aid and development organisation of the Sisters of St Joseph. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, they work in partnership with local communities in Australia, throughout Timor-Leste, Peru and Papua New Guinea in the areas of education, health and livelihoods. Their program aspirations are that all members of the community can read and write, enjoy good health and have sustainable livelihoods.

By partnering with local communities MMI brings dignity to thousands of children, women and families. With this in mind, we can be assured that our donation will help those less fortunate in our world.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Friday September 8th

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church since about the 8th Century. This is one of only three birthdays celebrated in the Church Calendar — the Birth of Jesus (December 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24) and the Birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus (September 8th)

The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary or her parentage, though Joseph's lineage is given in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The names of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, appear in the apocryphal "Gospel of James", a book dating from the 2nd Century AD, not part of the authentic canon of Scripture. According to this account, Joachim and Anne were also beyond the years of child-bearing, but prayed and fasted that God would grant their desire for a child.

In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Please keep the following children in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 12th September:

Jessica A, Brayden A, Tayla B, Georgia B, Mikayla C, Elise C, Trinity D, Liam E, Isabella F, Kate F, Emily F, James F, Ilaria G, Vashti G, Judith G, Georgia G, Emelia G, Lachlan H, Mitchell H, Bryce H, Liam H, Amy J,

Brianna K, Kalinda K, Alic L, Ella L, Lachlan L, Amelia Mc, Lincoln Mc, Jake Mc, Emily Mc, Joshua M, Jayden M, Whyte O, Ava O, Angelica P, Julian P, Lily P, Peony P, Olivia R, Kyle R, Chontelle R, Grace R, William S, Kaden V, Jeremy V, Matilda V, Genevieve W, Emily W, Tori W, Elle W and Xavier X



Combined Parish Schools Mass – Thank you

On Sunday 27th August St Mary MacKillop and St Nicholas of Myra Primary schools joined together to lead the 10am Parish Mass at our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. The mass was beautiful and many of our students participated in a variety of ways.

A big thank you to all the children, parents and staff who were able to attend the mass. It was lovely to celebrate our faith together.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

Birth Announcement

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the arrival of Tristan Trevor Brock!

Born Monday 4th September



Weight 3.8kgs
Length 58cm



Mum and bub are both doing very well.

Congratulations to Nicole, Jason, Calvin and Jayden on the precious addition to your family!

Diocesan Athletics Carnival

On Friday 25th August 20 students represented the Nepean Zone at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival, held at Blacktown International Sports Park. We had students in all track and field events and, remarkably, all four of our relay teams competed, having successfully qualified for this Diocesan Level.

Congratulations to the following students, who finished their event in the top 4 and progress to the MacKillop Athletics Championships on the 18th September:

- Junior Male Relay Team: Jarred H, Caleb K, Ciaran M and Ryan G
- Junior Female Long Jump: Millie-Jay C
- 9 Years Female 100m: Amber S
- Senior Male 100m, 200m, Long Jump and Shot Put: Mitchell H

What an amazing feat to have qualified again and again through school, zone and diocesan level athletics. This is competition of the highest quality and we wish you all the very best at the MacKillop Trials.



Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day

The Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day will be held on Friday 22nd September at The Kingsway, St Marys. We will be taking 1 x Boys, 1 x Girls and 1 x Mixed teams. Trials will conclude this week and successful students will be notified on Monday.

Netball Gala Day

On Tuesday 22nd August 80 students participated in the annual St Nicholas Netball Gala Day. This is always one of the most popular and fun Gala Days for MacKillop students and 2017 was no different. A huge thank you to our wonderful mums and dads who volunteered as coaches and managers on the day, and even gave up their time in the lead up for lunchtime training sessions.

- Senior Boys - Mrs Kimberley Mathewson - 1st place in their pool
- 12 Years Blue - Ms Nat Sibbald - 1st place in their pool
- 12 Years White - Mrs Tracey Marsh
- 11 Years Blue - Mrs Marni Wilson - 1st place in their pool
- 11 Years Green - Miss Maryanne McNally
- 10 Years - Mrs Megan Geyer
- 9 Years - Mrs Catherine King
- 8 Years - Mrs Tabatha Knowles - 1st place in their pool



Thank you to Mr Buchan for bringing the shade tent down for us all early in the morning. Fun, friendship and fitness were the real winners on the day! We can't wait for next year already!

Voice of Youth 2017

Last Tuesday three of our talented year 6 students presented their speeches at the Voice of Youth Cluster final.

Ella Carroll's topic was "Excuses", Olivia Eilersen's speech was "Refugees", and Isabella Smith shared her story about her "Great Nan".

Thank you to Mitchell Heather for giving each student support and being present as a reserve. Although they were all very nervous they spoke with confidence and ease.

We congratulate Olivia on receiving the Social Justice award for her outstanding speech and we are also very proud of each student and commend them on their preparation and dedication.



Mobilz Phones

A reminder that all student mobile phones handed into the office in the morning should be clearly labelled with your child's name and switched off or on silent mode.

School Banking

School Banking will resume as normal from tomorrow, Friday 8th September.



Second Hand Uniform Shop

The stock levels in our second hand uniform shop are still quite low. If you have any uniforms which your children no longer need and you would like to donate these to the second hand uniform shop, please bring them to the office. Your donation would be greatly appreciated!

Is this safe?

**PEANUT AND TREE NUT
ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL**

- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!

SMMP FETE - MAY 2018

We are still looking for people to coordinate the following stalls: **Chocolate Wheel, Lucky Ticket and KIDZONE**

If this sounds like you, please come along to our next meeting on Friday, 15 September 2017 at 9.00am in the hall to find out more, or contact us at escarroll1@gmail.com.

THAT'S MY TEAM - JERSEY DAY FETE FUNDRAISER - 20 September 2017

In an effort to start our planning for the 2018 Fete, we will be holding a Jersey day.



Be it Soccer, Football, Netball, Hockey or Badminton; come dressed in your favourite teams Jersey or colours.

All funds raised will go towards the initial costs involved with preparing for the Fete.

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN - KEEP COLLECTING

There are only two weeks left until the this promotion ends on 19 September 2017.

All you need to do is place your stickers in an envelope, send it to school, and place them in the box provided in the office.

A huge thank you to Mrs Tickner for taking time out to help collate all the stickers for our school!!

We also have a box available at Woolworths Southlands for anyone wishing to deposit stickers there :)



FATHERS DAY GIFT STALL & BREAKFAST - THANK YOU!

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the parents and families who donated goods, helped wrap, prepare, sell, cook, serve, set up and clean up over these two wonderful events.

The playground was a buzz with families enjoying the sunshine and catching up on the fantastic work our students are doing in class. We hope you all enjoyed your special day on Sunday with your loved ones.

BOYS NIGHT IN - Next Friday, 15 September 2017

PLEASE KINDLY RSVP BY 14/09/17

You're mission should you choose to accept it... join us for our first ever 'Boys Night In'.

A chance for all our male students to spend time with the important men in their life by bringing along their Dad, Grandad, Uncle or other treasured role model.

Enjoy games, music trivia, paper aeroplane competition, lucky door prizes, bbq dinner & drinks, a treat bag and more.

\$10 per person. Tickets available through order form (which has been sent home) or the school office.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an alcohol and smoke free event.

On behalf of Veronica Neal, Natalie Borg & Paul Bortolazzo

SAVE THE DATE : YR 3 - YR 6 DISCO - Thursday, 19 October 2017

** Keep an eye on the school Facebook page for more details on our upcoming events **

Dates for Your Diary Term 3—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	8 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly—KM Assembly Item
Friday	15 September	9:00am 9:15am 2:20pm 6:00pm-9:00pm	P&F 2018 Fete Planning Meeting Year 6 Mass Whole School Assembly-3F Assembly Item Boys Night In
Friday	22 September	2:20pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	Stage 3 Touch Gala Day @ Kingsway St Marys Whole School Assembly Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Last Day of Term 3

Dates for Your Diary Term 4—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	9 October		Term 4 Commences
Friday	13 October	12:30pm-1:30pm 2:20pm	Kindergarten 2018 Playgroup Session 1 Whole School Assembly
Thursday	19 October	TBA	Yr 3—Yr 6 Disco
Friday	20 October	12:30-1:30pm 2:20pm	Kindergarten 2018 Playgroup Session 2 Whole School Assembly
Friday	27 October	2:15-3:15pm 2:20pm	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open Whole School Assembly
Friday	24 November		Second Hand Uniform Shop Open



PENRITH

**IS CLOSING FOR
RENOVATIONS
FROM 4TH -
20TH SEPTEMBER**

**UNIFORMS WILL BE
AVAILABLE ONLINE
DURING THIS TIME**