



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 wish to extend to each and every one of our families a heartfelt;

### **HAPPY ST MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY**

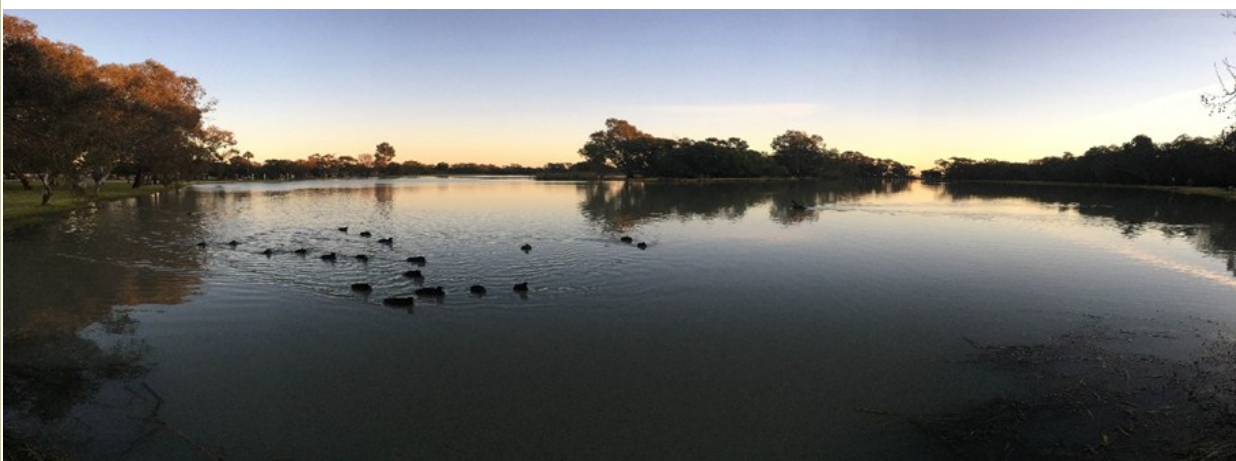
This week we celebrated the Feast Day of our Patron Saint in style. All of the staff of our school spent last Friday at St Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. We engaged in prayer and reflection, deepened our learning about the life and teaching of St Mary MacKillop and discussed the implications of such an inspirational woman for us as educators in the world today.

On Tuesday, following some great learning at school, we travelled together as a school to our parish church – St Nicholas of Myra to celebrate mass with Fr Matthew and our community. This was the first whole school mass that I have celebrated with our kids in our church..... I am so proud. The children gave generously through their reading, acting, singing, serving, playing of instruments and reverent participation. All the kids were thanked with a bag of chips, kindly donated by the P and F, on their return to school.

When we returned to school, a sample of the brilliant talent that resides in our school was on display. We held, in the school hall, a showcase of some of the performances that comprised this year's talent quest. Dancers, gymnasts and musicians entertained the school throughout the afternoon and demonstrated for all what great kids we work with each and every day.

I am sure that you would be aware that the talents and hard work of the students are matched by the wonderfully gifted and dedicated staff that work here at St Mary MacKillop. However, I feel it is always worth reminding you of the fabulous people we have here supporting your child to develop their gifts and talents. To our team of staff I say 'thank you' for all you do for our school and community.

Together We Grow.  
Mr Scott Buchan – Principal



## WHAT'S GROWING AT ST MARY MACKILLOP?

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July was National Tree Day. The environment leaders from Year 6 joined with their kindergarten buddies to plant some ground cover in our front garden at school. Not only will our school look much better when we are finished but we will be helping to create a better environment for our planet. It was great to see Year 6 and Kindergarten working so well together to improve our school.

The plants, gloves and shirts were generously donated by Penrith Toyota.



## MATHS CLUB YEARS 3-6

Maths Club is a new initiative at St Mary MacKillop Primary. Students will meet every THURSDAY on alternate weeks during lunch (11.00-11.30 even weeks ) and Maths class time (11.30-12.30 odd weeks ) to solve challenging math problems independently and collaboratively on personal interest projects.

The purpose of the club is for the students to develop a deeper understanding and passion for mathematics, compete in competitions, build confidence, and improve problem solving skills.

Maths club members should show a genuine interest in maths and enjoy solving detailed math problems. Members will be expected to attend all meetings and actively participate and share their learning.

## MATH CLUB YEARS K-2

Math Club is also open to our younger students during Thursday lunchtimes in weeks 4,6,8 and 10. They will have the opportunity to investigate, create, solve, manipulate, construct and communicate a variety of mathematical concepts with their friends.

### **Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the patron saint of our school.

A huge thank you to the Year 5 teachers and students for organising such a great day!!!

Congratulations to 2M who won the Bingo Competition.....they raised over \$300 for the Mary MacKillop Institute. A final tally will be announced once all the coins have been counted. Thank you for your generosity!



### **2017 Religious Literacy Assessment - Year 4 and Year 6**

Under the direction of Bishop Vincent and the Parramatta Diocesan Schools Board, all Year 4 and Year 6 students in Primary and Year 8 and Year 10 students in Secondary will participate in a Diocesan Assessment of their religious literacy. Students in these grades will complete an online assessment during Term 3. The students will answer a series of multiple choice questions to assess their capacity to express their growing understanding, appreciation, thoughts, questions and insights into God, Jesus, the Scriptures, the Church, the Sacraments, Prayer and life as a Christian.

In addition, Year 4 students only will complete a variety of learning tasks related to the Religious Education unit, **Reconciliation: God's Forgiveness and Healing**. Their achievement in completing these tasks will be formally assessed.

A report based on students' completion of these assessments will be forwarded to parents during Term 4.

### **Feast of the Assumption: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 9:15am Whole School Mass**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August is the Feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. God gave her this privilege because of her sinlessness and role as the Mother of Jesus.

Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all faithful servants; that they too will be received into the kingdom of God. To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption we will have a whole school mass in the hall at 9:15am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August. All parents and friends are invited to attend.

### **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

As many of our students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September it is an opportune time to reflect on our understanding of this sacrament.

The sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and completes the process of initiation into the Catholic community. It establishes young adults as full members of the faith. This sacrament is called *Confirmation* because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to believe in God and the Church on a child's behalf. At Confirmation, the candidates renew those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles at Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts. The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe.

A bishop celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation, because each bishop is a successor to the Apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The bishop wears red vestments to symbolize the red tongues of fire seen hovering over the heads of the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the anointing of the confirmation candidate with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop). At the time of anointing the bishop will say "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*". This seal is a consecration, representing the safekeeping by the Holy Spirit of the graces bestowed on the Christian at Baptism.

All baptized persons can and should be confirmed. The effect of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to give strength in faith and for the practice of faith.

As a faith community we are encouraged to pray for our Confirmation candidates as they begin to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Parish Mass – 10am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

To foster our school/parish relationship, the St Mary MacKillop and St Nicholas school communities will combine on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August to lead and celebrate the 10am mass at our Parish Church, St Nicholas of Myra. The orchestra and choir will provide the music and there will be many ways for the students to participate in the mass. A note will be coming home shortly asking for volunteers to participate in this special mass. All in our community are warmly invited to attend as we celebrate our faith together.

Mrs Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

## 2017 ZUMBA DANCEATHON

Next Wednesday 16th August, the students will be participating in a Zumba Dance-a-Thon organised by the P&F.

The session will be run by Pistachio Entertainment and the students will be dancing for 45 minutes.

Sponsorship forms were sent home last week and donations raised will go toward assisting our school technology goal in 2017. Students are asked to bring back these sponsorship forms on the day of the event. Extra forms are available from the office.

Students will be wearing Mufti on the day and they will receive a treat from the P&F after they have danced.



## Student Banking

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Due to unforeseen circumstances our Student Banking Co-Ordinator is unable to process our student banking at this time. Student Banking will not resume until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding



## Family Holidays

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We understand that families sometimes travel during school terms and this cannot be avoided. All schools across the Parramatta Diocese are required to have paperwork for any travel period of 5 or more school days.

If you are taking your child/children away for 5 or more school days you will need to complete an Application for Extended Leave—Travel form which is available from our school office. This form once completed is then approved by Mr Buchan and a Certificate for Extended Leave is signed and given to you.

If you have any concerns around this please contact Mr Buchan or Mrs Rowan.



## **SMMP FETE - MAY 2018**

Thank you to the wonderful parents who joined us for both planning meetings and those who have taken on coordinator roles for this huge event.

We are still looking for people to coordinate the following stalls: **Sideshow games** (Choc-a-toss, Hoopla, Footy pass etc), **Chocolate Wheel & Lucky Ticket**. If this sounds like you, please come along to our next meeting on Friday, 25 August 2017 at 9.00am in the hall to find out more, or contact us at [escarroll1@gmail.com](mailto:escarroll1@gmail.com).

## **BACK TO THE 80's TRIVIA NIGHT: 2017 MAJOR FUNDRAISER - THANK YOU!!!**

To all our participants, sponsors and supporters...THANK YOU!!

We had a fantastic night full of awesome costumes, laughter and great music.

Ticket sales, raffle and auction items combined raised an AMAZING \$7,000 for our school to help fund the new screens and electronic devices available to all our classes. What a great community effort!

Raffle winners have been notified and a notice of winners will be made available in the next KIT.

## **WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN HAS COMMENCED**

We are excited to be taking part in the 2017 promotion. Earn 1 sticker for every \$10 spent at Woolworths (ends 19 September 2017)

**The P&F have set up a central collection box in the school office. All you need to do is place your stickers in an envelope, send it to school, and place them in the box provided.** Our wonderful P&F volunteers will do the rest

Tell your family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours and ask them to help collect stickers for our amazing school. Every extra sticker helps :)

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

## **FATHERS DAY GIFT STALL - Thursday, 31 August 2017**

All students are invited to purchase a gift for their Dad, Grandfather or other treasured male in their life.

Any extra gifts will be available for purchase during lunchtime. Prices range from \$1 - \$10. :)

## **FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST & LITURGY - Friday, 1 September 2017**

Invitation to all Dad's to come along for a celebration in their honour. Be there by 8.15am to enjoy a bite to eat before a beautiful school liturgy.

## **BOYS NIGHT IN - Friday, 15 September 2017**

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

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

Erin Carroll  
P & F President

### Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day

The Stage 2 Soccer Gala Day was held at Jamison Park on Wednesday 2nd August and we had 32 students representing our school. A huge thank you to our wonderful coaches, Mrs Watson, Mr Kericopolas and Mr D'Costa who gave up their day to organise, guide and coach our three teams. Thank you also to Mrs Joseph who supervised on the day. All teams enjoyed wins and experienced a loss; exactly what you want in a Gala Day!

Congratulations to our girls team who finished 2nd in their pool and a special mention to our Year 4 boys team who were the winners of their pool and were awarded medals! All students will be recognised with a certificate at the Friday afternoon assembly.



### Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival

The Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival took place today at Blacktown International Sports Park. Congratulations to our 36 students who represented St Mary MacKillop today. Successful athletes will qualify for the Diocesan Athletics Carnival, to be held at Blacktown International Sports Park on Friday 25th August.

### Netball Gala Day

The St Nicholas Netball Gala Day will be held on Tuesday 22nd August (Week 6) at Jamison Park. Permission notes have already gone home to those students who have been selected. If your child was selected and you are interested in helping as a coach or manager on the day, please send a note in with your child ASAP.

Maryanne McNally  
Sport Coordinator

### Dates for Your Diary Term 3—2017

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	11 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 1 Liturgy Whole School Assembly-2M Assembly Item
Tuesday	15 August	9:15am	Year 1 & 2 History Excursion to Pioneer Village Feast of the Assumption Whole School Mass
Wednesday	16 August	11:00am-1:30pm	Dance-a-Thon
Thursday	17 August		Math's Olympiad
Friday	18 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Kindergarten Liturgy Whole School Assembly-3M Assembly Item
Tuesday	22 August		St Nicholas Netball Gala Day @ Jamison Park
Wednesday	23 August		To Federation & Beyond
Friday	25 August	9:15am 2:20pm 2:15pm-3:15pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival Year 2 Liturgy Whole School Assembly—4J Assembly Item Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Tuesday	29 August		Voice of Youth
Friday	1 September	9:15am	Father's Day Liturgy <b>No Whole School Assembly</b>
Friday	8 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly—KM Assembly Item
Friday	15 September	9:15am 2:20pm 6:00pm-9:00pm	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 <b>Last Day of Term 3</b>

### Dates for Your Diary Term 3—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