



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

Welcome To Term 4 Learning at SMMK

A very warm welcome back to Term Four at St Mary MacKillop. As we begin Term 4 the children have been asked to think of one personal goal they will strive to complete over the term. Some children may choose academic goals, such as giving more time for independent reading, providing depth to written responses or using hard Maths thinking during the Numeracy Block. Other children may choose to have goals aligned to social skills. In all we do at St Mary MacKillop we are reminded of our learning agreement, which is: To be **safe respectful learners**.

Launch of MacKillop Radio

We have been fortunate at St Mary MacKillop to establish an online radio station *MacKillop Radio* under the leadership of Mr McErlain.

MacKillop Radio has been designed as an educational tool to promote literacy at school and home, and is aligned with the new English syllabus. It gives the children the opportunity to create material with a purpose. It also allows students to write and produce for an audience beyond the school environment through online podcasting and broadcasting. It is a non-profit station established for educational purposes.

Podcasting is an audio-only way of sharing pre-recorded material or listening to captured LIVE broadcasts that you may have missed online. *MacKillop Radio* is not on a local AM/FM band, but streams on a global online website on all devices with internet access. To listen to the podcasts you just need to register for free with an email address on Mixcloud here: <https://www.mixcloud.com/MacKillopRadio/> and click Follow *MacKillop Radio*. Mr McErlain has produced Podcast 1, 2, 3 & 4. These podcasts are available 24/7, with Podcast 5 already in production.

Podcast 1 & 2 includes book reports, community service announcements, weather updates, a news report on the Year 3 excursion, and some songs from the 1960s to encourage people of all ages to tune in! To listen to future LIVE broadcasts during the day, you can tune in here: <http://mixlr.com/mackillopradio/>

We will notify you on Facebook and the School Bag App of future dates and times to listen online anywhere in the world.

The slogan for the station is "Skies the Limit" and the project encourages children to write away, record away and join in the fun! Students have the opportunity to write and record audio files at home or in the classroom, such as performance poetry, plays, songs, interviews and book reviews, and share their work beyond the classroom. It is like a Talent Quest, School item assembly and Open Day all rolled into one!

Submissions can be created in class or at home and sent to mackillopradio@yahoo.com.au It can also be submitted on USB for consideration in future podcasts. *MacKillop Radio* is a platform that publishes children's work with real voices and welcomes unlimited contributions from K-6.

This project has generated enthusiasm across our community, and a strong eagerness for the children to become actively involved in radio to develop their communication skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. *MacKillop Radio* has been launched –the idea is now a reality. Sincere thanks to Mr McErlain for bringing this educational initiative to St Mary MacKillop.



Year of Consecrated Life.

The Year of Consecrated Life, called by Pope Francis, concludes on 2 February 2016. Pope Francis has called us to be increasingly aware of the gift that is the presence of the many consecrated women and men in our Diocese. He has invited us to express thanksgiving for all that we continue to receive because of the fidelity with which they live out faithfully their particular vocation.

Many school communities, including St Mary MacKillop Primary School, were founded upon the hard work and sacrifice of the consecrated women and men who gave of themselves in the hope that future generations might come to have an education infused with the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

In this latter period of the Year of Consecrated Life, I invite and encourage our families associated with St Mary MacKillop Primary School to pray for vocations to religious life, particularly the Sisters of St Joseph, as a family.

Let us Pray

I would ask that you keep Mrs Anne Tucker, our St Nicholas of Myra Parish Sacramental Coordinator, in your prayers. Anne has been unwell over the past few weeks and I request that you keep her and her family in your prayers. Anne has prepared all our parish children in the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation for a number of years. She has given so much of her time and religious knowledge to others. May God bless her and keep her safe.

Thought for the Week

*"God is Good and has brought light and help when all was very dark."
St Mary MacKillop 1890*

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL



End of Year Reminders

Bus Travel 2015:

Parents are reminded that students who travel by bus and are going into **Year 3 2016** will need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from the school office. Applications must be returned ASAP

Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2016:

If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2016 we need this confirmed in writing as a term's notice must be given to enable us to plan our overall staffing and learning groups for next year. It will also assist us with enrolment enquiries we are receiving for next year.

World Mission Month:

Socktober: 'Sock it to Poverty- Crazy Sock Day, Wednesday 28 October'

October is World Mission Month and the theme this year is "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." This theme invites all students in Catholic Schools across Australia to reach out to help children who are living in poverty in Madagascar. Unfortunately, in areas of Madagascar clean water and proper sanitation is scarce, and sadly results in thousands of children dying from preventable diseases each and every year.

Catholic Mission aims to help students learn more about the issues of justice and how we can all be involved with global mission, and participate in this wonderful work of sharing the loving grace of God throughout the world.

Every year, as part of the Parramatta Diocesan Religious Education program, every grade in the school completes a 2 -3 week mission unit at the start of Term 4. In addition to what is occurring in the classrooms we would like to put our learning into action by holding a **"CRAZY SOCK DAY" on Wednesday 28 October. All students are asked to wear crazy socks with their school uniform and donate a gold coin to help the children in Madagascar. We look forward to a bright and colourful day, whilst we help to "sock it to poverty!"**



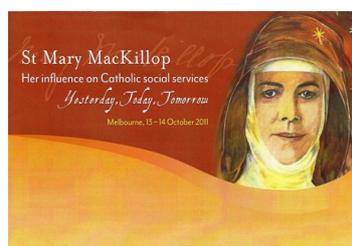
The Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop:

Friday 17 October marks 5 years since the canonisation of our patron saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop at St Peter's Basilica, Rome. This very significant day officially recognised the work and dedication of Mary MacKillop, and gave Australia their very own saint.

'The Church does not make a saint – it recognises a saint. Canonisation is the act by which the Holy Father declares in a definitive and solemn way that a Catholic Christian is actually in the glory of heaven, intercedes for us before the Lord and is to be publicly venerated by the whole Church. Canonisation is a double statement – about the life of the person and also about the faith of the people who are alive at this moment. <http://www.marymackillop.org.au>

On the 17 October I invite you to reflect upon the following Mary MacKillop Prayer:

*Ever generous God,
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop
we ask that you grant our request.
We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh
by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like
Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.
Ever generous God hear our prayer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ.
Amen*



Praying The Rosary:

Traditionally the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and this has been a tradition in the Catholic Church for a long time. Catholics pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God through His mother, Mary.

The word 'rosary' comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolise the Virgin Mary. It is recognized as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

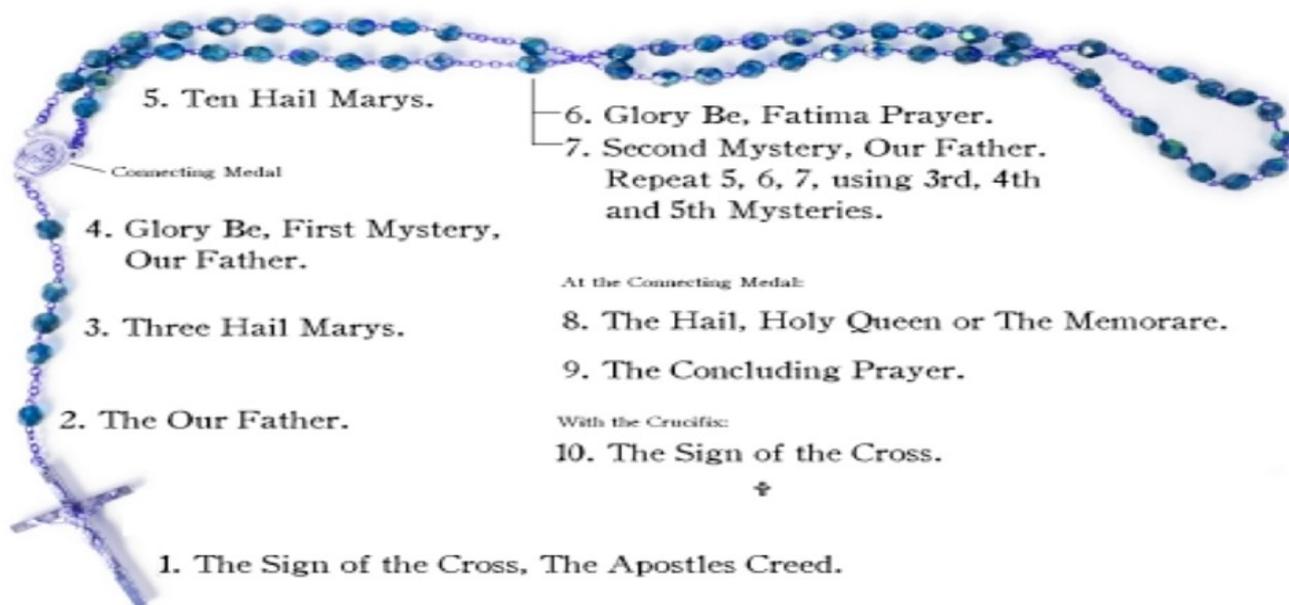
During the month of October there has been a school focus on the Rosary. The Thursday morning prayer group (8:25am in the glass classroom in the hall) have been gathering to pray the Rosary. Also the K-2 students have been focusing on the Hail Mary, whilst the students in Years 3-6 have been learning and praying The Rosary during whole school prayer time at 2:00pm on a Friday afternoon.

Whilst we have Rosary beads at school the children are encouraged to bring in their own set of beads to personally enhance their prayer experience and to foster the prayerful practice in their own homes.

Kind regards

Leesa Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator



2016 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Any Primary students enrolled in **Year 5 and 6 in 2016** are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2015 and Term One in 2016. It is important to note that these trials are for those **children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport.**

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Basketball (B&G), Cricket (B&G), Diving (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), Softball (B&G), Tennis (B&G), & Touch (B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au. This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** for the 2016 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. If you have any further questions please see Miss McNally, Sport Coordinator.

WELCOME BACK BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE. We pray that you all had a well earned rest and took the time to appreciate your children by spending priceless quality family time that will be cherished forever. If you haven't watched ODDBALL yet, I suggest you do, as it is a wonderful film that touches hearts and conservation in one lesson.

SOUTHLAND COMMUNITY REWARDS RESULTS

WE CAME SECOND IN DIVISION 2!!!! Thanks to our wonderful families and friends at St Mary MacKillop Primary School with their spending efforts and collecting the reward stickers with every dollar spent at Southlands, our school won \$2,763.16!!!! WOW!!!!!! What a great team our families make. A very big thank you goes out to Mrs Ellston and Mrs Inskip for chasing these stickers daily and keeping us all posted on double point days to increase our chances in winning a cash prize. We also humbly thank the team at Raine & Horne Commercial and Southlands Shopping Centre Management for making this program possible for all community groups within our district. What a great bunch of people.

Bargain Bus Buyers Success

Thanks to the wonderful organisational skills of Mrs Bryant, our Bargain Bus Buyers Trip was an absolute success with a massive outcome of 35 women who shopped till they dropped and spent just over \$12,000 with their bargain hunting skills, just check out the photos on our FACEBOOK page as proof. THAT IS AMAZING!!! BECAUSE a percentage of the profit is donated to our school. So a very big thank you to all the beautiful ladies and gentlemen for supporting our school fundraiser event, as you all made the day so much fun. Your beautiful personalities and hearts are very much appreciated. Thank you again Mrs Bryant as this day would not have been a success without your persistent involvement and passion for shopping. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

ZOOPER DOOPER TIME!!! - FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

Zooper Doopers will be sold on Friday, 16 October and will continue every Friday thereafter. Zooper Doopers are sold at recess 1:30pm and are priced at 60c for a full size or 30c for half. Volunteer parents are always required for the lead up to these sales, so if you able to help out, please advise the front office and forward the message to Jenny Inskip.

PRC (Parent Representative Council) Presentations - 17 October 2015

Strictly Parenting - Everything you need to know about raising school-aged kids Presenter: Dr Michael Carr-Gregg Date: Saturday, 17 October from 2:00pm - 5:00pm Venue: St Andrew's Parish Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong. Book your place by contacting: prcparrasecretary@gmail.com or call (02) 9840 5600.

JUST DANCE - A - THON - Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Sponsorship forms were sent out last Friday for our JUST DANCE - A - THON event. Students will be participating in a JUST DANCE-A-THON organised by Mr Carroll from 11:30am for Kindy to Year 2 and from 12:30 for Year 3-6. This will be a fun, active and healthy dance session for the students as they will also be entertained by special guests and the teachers may even get in on the act. Participation and sponsorship is essential and need to be handed in on the day of the JUST DANCE - A -THON to your teacher. ONE student from each grade will have the opportunity to win a \$30 WESTFIELD gift voucher. Winners for the vouchers will be drawn at assembly on Friday, 23 October. Children will be provided with a popper drink at the end of their session. Parents are most welcome to attend and we always appreciate a couple of extra hands with handing out the drinks. JUST DANCE EVERYONE for our beautiful school.

UNIFORM SALE - Thursday, 22nd October from 8:30am - 9:00am

Come on in and update your children's summer uniform at a decent price. Uniforms sale is located near the Kindergarten classrooms.

GINGERBREAD BUILDING FAMILY EVENT - MONDAY, 23 November 2015

Gingerbread building family event will be taking place on Monday, 23 November at our school hall from 5:30pm. This is a wonderful afternoon filled with lucky door prizes, quality bonding time with your beautiful children and with grandparents whilst being creative. There will be prizes for best design, so get those inspirational ideas flowing. To order your KIT, please ensure to place your \$10 deposit along with the order form into the school office by Friday 16 OCTOBER (LAST AND FINAL CHANCE). Let's get together and have some fun.

God Bless

Liz Whalen

President - on behalf of the P & F Executive Team

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2015

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	16 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 1J Item
Monday	19 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Wednesday	21 October		P&F Dance-a-thon K-2 11:30am Yr 3-6 12:30pm
Friday	23 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Monday	26 October	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	27 October	7:30pm	P & F Exec. Meeting
Wednesday	28 October		'Socktober' Mission Fundraiser-Gold Coin Donation
Thursday	29 October		Year 5 @ Teen Ranch
Friday	30 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly and 2M Item
Monday	2 November	2:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Wednesday	4 November	9:00-11:00am	2016 Kindergarten Orientation Morning
Thursday	5 November		Year 6 Canberra Excursion
Friday	6 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 2A Item
Tuesday	10 November	7:00pm	Year 2 Botanical Gardens Excursion P & F General Meeting
Thursday	12 November		P & F Disco K-2 4:30-5:30pm Yr 3-6 5:45-6:45pm
Friday	13 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 3W Item
Thursday	19 November	6:00-7:00pm	Year 5 Personal Development Evening
Friday	20 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 6M Item
Monday	23 November	5:30pm	P&F Gingerbread House Evening
Friday	27 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 4M Item
Monday	30 November	11:00am	Parent Helper's Morning Tea
Tuesday	1 December	7:00pm	Christmas Concert @ St Dominic's Hall
Friday	4 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 5G Item
Thursday	10 December	9:00am	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday	11 December	6:00-9:00pm	Year 6 End of Year Disco
Monday	14 December	9:30am 7:00pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	16 December		Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday & Friday	17 & 18 December		Staff Development Days

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2016

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Wednesday	27 January		Staff Return for Term 1
Thursday	28 January	8:45am	Years 1 - 6 Return for Term 1 2016