



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School

National School Improvement Tool Feedback

Last term our St Mary MacKillop Primary School participated in a Diocesan Pilot called The National School Improvement Tool (NSIT) Review. The NSIT Review is used to drive school improvement processes in schools and is highly regarded in Australia as an instrument to measure school improvement. The two day process consisted of interviews with the leadership team, all staff members, P&F members and student representatives from each class. I would like to share some of the commendations and affirmations that will continue to inform our School Improvement and Implementation plans.

Commendations:

- Living by the charism of St Mary MacKillop underpins the vision and values of the school. This is reflected in the pastoral care policy and processes such as the whole school approach to Restorative Practice which assists in sustaining a positive and caring community.
- The school gives a high priority to developing positive and caring relationships for all members of the school community. Parents are very supportive of the school in nurturing their children's growth and development and have high regard for the staff. The teaching staff is supportive of each other and is collaborative in their work. A respectful, happy environment has been created by the school Community.
- The Principal, leadership team and staff of St Mary MacKillop are committed to continuous school improvement and the development of effective teaching practices to ensure the maximisation of student learning outcomes.
- The work of the Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinators in addressing the school improvement agenda demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of students' needs and the teaching and learning focus for the school.
- The teaching staff and the learning support team with the encouragement from the Principal and leadership team have developed sophisticated assessment procedures, together with the collation and organisation of student data, most notably in the use of data walls, to support the effective teaching program in the school.

Affirmations:

- The introduction of the high yield strategies of Instructional Walks, the Knowledge Building Cycle of Inquiry, the construction of classroom learning intentions and the development of success criteria with students are the key drivers that provide quality feedback to teachers and students and further enhance teaching practices across the school.
- Signs and symbols of Catholicity were evidenced throughout the school. The whole school approach to prayer and scripture was also reflected in classrooms and in the conversations with leaders, staff members, parents and students.
- The organised professional learning program is aligned to the school's implementation plan goals and enhances the quality of classroom practice.
- The implementation and school wide commitment of the case management process and the use of data walls to identify and address student needs.

OCTOBER, the MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:

This month we pray the Rosary and we are reminded of the importance of uniting our prayers with the Mother of God and conforming ourselves to Christ as revealed in the mysteries of his life. We grow in our appreciation of Christ through meditating on these Mysteries. We do, however, need to be careful that our prayer does not become wordy and mechanical. *Without contemplation, the rosary is a body without a soul.....*Pope Paul VI.

Safety Assessment:

Last term Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta engaged a level five Arborist to assess the potential hazards of trees to the safety of students, staff and visitors in our school grounds. I am currently in the process of gathering quotes to remove, replace and prune some trees as recommended in the detailed report.

Prayers Requested:

It is with sadness that I inform the community that Mrs Mitchells father, Mr Phillip Fehon, passed away during the holidays. Please keep Mrs Mitchell and her family in your prayers.

Thought for the Week

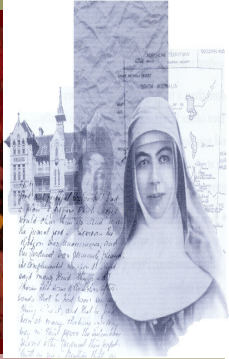
'Ask Jesus what he wants from you, and be brave!'

Pope Francis

Have a Blessed Week

Michael Siciliano

PRINCIPAL



Religious Education News

World Mission Month:

Socktober: 'Sock it to Poverty- Crazy Sock Day Thursday 23 October'

October is World Mission Month and the theme this year is "When I grow up I want to be....." This theme invites all students in Catholic School across Australia to reach out to help children living without hope in the dangerous ghettos of Jamaica (and around the world) receive a proper education and have the opportunity to break free from crime, violence and poverty to be 'alive' when they grow up and to achieve their dreams. 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 classroom we would like to put our learning into action by holding a "CRAZY SOCK DAY" on Thursday 23 October". All students are asked to wear crazy socks with their school uniform and donate a gold coin to help others in need. 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 4 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 recognised as a truly biblical form of prayer—after all, the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible. During the month of October the students in Years 3-6 will focus on 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.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Student Absences:

A reminder to all parents that it is mandatory that a child brings a note to school upon returning on the **first day back** after an absence explaining the reason for the absence. The reason for the absence is recorded in the class role and this is a legal requirement. Students without a note explaining their absence after 7 days are recorded as 'Unexplained' .

School Photos"

School photos will take place next Tuesday 21 October. Children need to be in full summer uniform. Please send the photo order form and money with your child on Tuesday, each child needs to return their envelope even if they are not purchasing photos.

Stage 3 Touch Football:

The postponed touch football gala day for Stage 3 will now be held next Friday 24 October. St Mary MacKillop are sending three teams. The children have been training hard and looking forward to competing next week.

Year 4 'Being Me' program:

Students in Year 4 are currently participating in a personal development program called 'Being Me'. This program, runs over four weeks and 8 lessons focuses on self-esteem, belonging, maintaining friendships, positive relationships, dealing with disappointment, power and responsibility and general well being. Through discussion and journaling, the children explore these concepts at a deeper level and have opportunities to reflect on the uniqueness and gifts of each individual.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

Online Newsletter:

Next year we will be asking parents to subscribe to receiving the newsletter online via the website. You will need to go to www.mackillopenrith.catholic.edu.au select News & Events>Newsletter and click on Subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

Not Returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary in 2015:

If your child (K-5) is not returning to St Mary MacKillop in 2015 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.

P & F News

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS DUE: FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER 2014:

Scholastic book club brochures went out last Friday. Please ensure that the *correct money* and the order form is *filled out correctly* and returned to the school office in an envelope with your child's name and class by Friday, 17 October 2014. Keep those literacy juices churning kids, your brain will love you for it :-)

SOUTHLANDS REWARDS PROGRAM - RESULT

WE CAME THIRD!!!! Due to the new method of calculating during this promotion, our school will be receiving \$811 as the cash prize for doing all that shopping at Southlands. Thank you so much for all your support, it is very much appreciated, especially those last minute receipts that made the difference. **Job well done everyone.**

BARGAIN BUS BUYERS - Success

Congratulations to all those ladies who survived the 'shop till you drop' trip, 35 shoppers had great day full of fun shopping, spending for Christmas and winning raffle prizes. A very big THANK YOU to Mrs Fiona Bryant for organising this fundraising event, as it would not have happened without your passion. What a great group of gals!!! We will keep you posted on how much we raised for our school as soon as the results come in. Looking forward to doing it again next year.

SCHOOL DISCO - 23 October 2014 - Ticket Price: \$5/student (includes glow stick & drink)

Just a heads up that our student school disco this year will be taking place on Thursday, 23 October 2014. There will be two sessions: Session 1 is for Kindy - Year 2 from 6pm - 7:00pm. Session 2 is for Year 3 - Year 6 from 7:15pm - 8:30pm. Helpers are always appreciated at these events to ensure students are supervised whilst enjoy their evening. Limited GLOW PRODUCTS POP UP STALL will be sold on the night.

PRC - Smart Start School Readiness - Wednesday, 29 October 2014 @ 6:30pm St Michael's Primary School, 155

Reservoir Rd, Blacktown South Danielle Mantakoul is one of the most dynamic speakers in the early childhood industry. **Smart Start School** aims at assisting parents in making the transition to school easier for children. Topics such as bullying, composite classes, parent teacher communication, the importance of social/emotional development and much more will be discussed. Book your spot today! email: prcparraevents@hotmail.com

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FAMILY FUN - 8 DECEMBER 2014

This fun event will be held on Monday 8th December from 5:30pm on the school premises. Thank you to all those families that placed their orders and deposits by the cut off date. The balance of your payment is due by November 17th, notes will be sent closer to the date. This fantastic event has been organised by Mrs Billington, Mrs McGregor and Mrs Sykes. For more information or if you still want to place your order please contact Jade at billo.mjte@gmail.com or Marissa at mccgregors25@live.com.au.

SUMMER IS NEAR- ZOOPER DOOPER IS HERE

The roster has been distributed. Ice block sales days can be downloaded from the school website in the 'Notes Sent Home' section. Zooper Doopers will be sold at 60c for a whole and 30c for a half at recess (1:30pm) on the following dates: Oct - 16, 22, 28, Nov - 3, 14, 20, 26, Dec - 2, 8, 17. Thank you kindly to the parents that are helping us out. God Bless,

Liz Whalen

on behalf of the P&F Executive

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2014

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	20 October	2:00pm	2015 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	21 October		School Photos - Summer School Uniform
Thursday	23 October	6:00-7:00pm 7:15-8:30pm	P & F Disco Kindergarten-Year 2 Years 3-6
Friday	24 October	9:15am	Year 3 Liturgy Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day
Monday	27 October	2:00pm	2015 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Tuesday	28 October		Year 2 Penrith Lakes Excursion
Thursday & Friday	30 & 31 October		Year 5 Teen Ranch
Monday	3 November	2:00pm	2015 Kindergarten Playgroup Session
Wednesday	5 November	9:00-11:00am	2015 Kindergarten Orientation Morning
Thursday & Friday	6 & 7 November		Year 6 Canberra Excursion
Friday	7 November	9:15am	Year 1 Grade Liturgy
Monday	10 November	2:05pm	5G Assembly
Tuesday	11 November	7:00pm 7:30pm	Parent Representative Meeting P&F General Meeting
Thursday	13 November	6:00pm	Year 5 Personal Development Information Night
Friday	14 November	9:15am	Year 4 Mass St Dominic's & Caroline Chisholm Year 6 Orientation
Monday	17 November	2:05pm	4H Assembly
Tuesday	18 November		Year 2 Botanical Gardens Excursion
Friday	28 November	TBA	Whole School Advent Mass
Monday	1 December	11:00am	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Tuesday	2 December	TBA	Christmas Celebration Carols
Friday	12 December	6:00-9:00pm	Reports Sent Home Year 6 Fun Day Year 6 EOY Disco
Monday	15 December	9:30am 7:00pm	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony Year 6 Graduation Mass @ St Nicholas of Myra
Tuesday	16 December		Class Promotions
Wednesday	17 December		Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday & Friday	18/19 December		Staff Development Day

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2015

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Tuesday	27 January		Staff Return for 2015
Wednesday	28 January	8:45am	Term 1 commences for Year 1-6 2015
Thursday	29 January	8:45am-12:00	Kindergarten commence 2015 ½ day