



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School
 Congratulations 2015 Student Leaders:

School Captains: Amelia Perri & Patrick Rowan

Vice Captains: Nicola Willmette & Marco Perri

Sport Captains: Carramar- Jake Zakostelsky & Lila Anderton, Uluru- Tyson Goodwin & Kaleesha Short
 Thoruna- Kailah Stapleton & Cole Powley, Girralong- Tayla Gallen & Joel Corcoran

Acting Assistant Principal: Mrs Elizabeth Devlin:

I would like to Congratulate Mrs Elizabeth Devlin who has been appointed as Acting Assistant Principal at Bethany Primary School, Glenmore Park, during 2015. I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Devlin for her 13 years of educational service and leadership to St Mary MacKillop. We will certainly miss her and wish her all the very best in her new role during 2015.

Diocesan Administrator-Father Peter Williams:

I would like to congratulate Father Peter Williams, former Vicar General of the Diocese, who has been appointed as Diocesan Administrator until such time as the Holy Father appoints a new Bishop for Parramatta. Father Peter was born in Melbourne and educated at Clifton Hill Sate School and Ivanhoe Grammar. He was brought up in the Anglican Church. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Medieval Studies and Philosophy from the Australian National University, a Bachelor of Theology from the Australian College of Theology and a Bachelor of Education from La Trobe University. He also has been awarded Masters of Theology from the University of Sydney, and the Master of Arts in Liturgical Studies from the Catholic University of America. In 2014 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of the University from the Australian Catholic University. On 19 March 1992, Father Peter was ordained a Catholic priest and has held appointments in many parishes in the Diocese of Parramatta most notably as parish priest of St Oliver Plunkett parish Harris Park 1998 – 2004, and Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta from 2004 – 2006. In August 2006 he was appointed Director of Liturgy for World Youth Day Australia, 2008. From 2000 – 2011 he served as Executive Secretary of the National Liturgical Commission; overseeing in this role the implementation across Australia of the new translation of the Roman Missal. He was elected Fellow of St Johns College, Sydney in 2009 and a Member of the NSW Chapter of the Australian Catholic University in 2010. He is Chairman of the National Liturgical Music Board (since 2005) and a member of the National Liturgical Art and Architecture Board (since 2010) and as Chairman of the Catholic Worship Book Project (since 2006) has worked on producing a revision of this music resource. Father Peter teaches at the Catholic Institute of Sydney and lectures and runs workshops on liturgy. From 2011 until 2014 he was Vicar General in the Diocese of Parramatta and Episcopal Vicar for Social Welfare. Father Peter is currently Moderator of the Curia (appointed 2011), and the Director of Liturgy (appointed 1998) in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Prayers for All Souls:

Since, about the 900's, the Church has dedicated the month of November as a month in which to pray for those who have gone before us, especially focusing on those souls who are in Purgatory. For, while we believe in Heaven and Hell, we also know that in order to enter Heaven it is necessary to be purified of all of those things that may impede us from loving God as completely and as fully as we are called to love Him, as we hear in Revelation 21:27, whereby nothing unclean can enter Heaven. Purgatory it is not as some think a "second chance" after death, but, rather, a process of purification for those who have died, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says in "God's grace and friendship, but are still imperfectly purified." (CCC 1030) It is dedicated for souls who, though will eventually go to Heaven, have not yet reached its heights and, as a result, are unable to pray for themselves. The Church, therefore, reminds us of the importance of praying for these souls, so that, indeed, we can assist them to their and our Heavenly homeland. By praying for these souls, we are fulfilling one of the spiritual works of mercy, that is, praying for those who are part of the Mystical Body of Christ, a Body that extends beyond life and death, a Body that was made whole by the Resurrection of Christ, a Body that benefits from every single prayer we utter to every single Mass we have offered on their, that is why St. Gertrude the Great, a saint of the 13th majority of her life in prayer and study, something that happened after began to have a series of visions. It is said, that as a result of those visions she began to also have a greater devotion to praying for the souls in Purgatory. The following is a prayer that we can say throughout this month and beyond, knowing how many souls are in need of our prayers, and knowing that God has given us the ability to help them in their need.

*"Eternal Father,
 I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus,
 in union with the Masses said throughout the world today,
 for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory,
 for sinners in the universal church,
 those in my own home and within my family.
 for sinners everywhere
 Amen*

Thought for the Week

*"I confidently ask of God to comfort and encourage you all"
 Mary MacKillop 1874*

Have a Blessed Week

Mr Michael Siciliano
 PRINCIPAL

Religious Education News

Diocesan Works Fund (DWS) November Appeal:

If any family still has a donation envelope that they have not returned to school could you please do so by tomorrow, 28 November. Donations can also be made at www.parra.catholic.org.au by clicking on the DWF Donations. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and Archbishop Anthony thanks you for your generosity.

The Season of Advent:

This Sunday (30 November) marks the beginning of the Season of Advent. Advent is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Advent marks the beginning of the Church year and the liturgical readings change at the start of Advent from Year A to Year B as part of the church's three year cycle.

As the Season of Advent approaches, it is helpful to re-familiarise ourselves with some of the important aspects of this time of waiting. The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. The Season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. The colour of this season is purple. This is the colour of penitence as well as the colour of royalty to welcome the Advent of the King. The purple of Advent is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death and resurrection.

As the calendar year draws to a close, family schedules and personal agendas fill with meetings, programs, parties and annual obligations. Yet this busiest time of year calls us to draw close to others, above all to God, who became flesh and lived with us. During Advent our challenge becomes – how do we find moments of quiet when we open ourselves to God's presence in our lives? I offer you the following prayer that might start your quiet time with God.

*God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.*

Whole School Advent Mass:

There will be a whole school mass to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Advent, tomorrow Friday 28 November at 9:15am. All in our community are warmly invited to attend.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity:

The true spirit of Christmas is about giving giving from the heart and giving out of love, just like God gave us his son Jesus Christ on that very first Christmas. As Jesus grew he instructed us about how we should look after each other:

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,*

I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Mt 25: 35 – 36

Our final social justice initiative for the year is well underway! It is evident from the amount of donations that I have already seen in classrooms that we have embraced the true meaning of Christmas and I am very thankful for the generosity within our community. The words spoken by St Mary MacKillop; "*Never see a need without doing something about it*" are truly alive within our school community.

It would be much appreciated if all hamper donations could be finalised by Thursday 4th December, as all hamper items will be presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society on Friday 5 December.

Christmas Carols Evening:

This year our annual whole school Christmas celebration will be a **Christmas Carols Evening** led by the students and Mr Carroll. All the children are busily learning their assigned songs and actions, as our celebration will involve song, music, movement and lots of fun as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The **Christmas Carols Evening** will be held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 2 December on the St Mary MacKillop Playground. A note containing more details was sent home earlier this week.

Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and Mass – Monday 15 December:

Just a reminder that our Year 6 Graduation Ceremony will be held at school on Monday 15 December at 9:30am. The Year 6 Graduation Mass will follow at 7:00pm that night at our parish church, St Nicholas of Myra.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

From the Assistant Principal

Maths Assessment Interview - 2015:

Shortly your child will bring home information regarding testing all children in the Maths Assessment Interview (MAI). This is a one on one interview between your child and their 2015 teacher. These will take place early next year. Please note that the first day of interviews will be on Tuesday 27 January commencing at 11.00am. Ensuing time slots are available on each of the next three Wednesdays after school. These interviews allow the teacher to gain important information on strategies that your child uses when thinking mathematically. This information is then used by the teacher ensuring that the learning is personalised and targeted to meet the needs of all learners in the classroom. I strongly urge you to nominate a time to bring your child up to the school in one of the allocated time slots to ensure that your child has the best possible beginning to their 2015 school year.

School Photos:

Yesterday the children brought home their school photos. Along with the photos, the children would have brought home a personalised card which includes details on how to access a digital image of the photos in case you wish to order further photos. As all siblings/families had their photos taken, it is not too late if you wish to order photos or extra copies of those previously purchased.

Mr Steve Cauchi
Assistant Principal

End of Year Reminders

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.

Bus Travel 2015:

Parents are reminded that students who travel by bus and are going into **Year 3 2015** need to re-apply for a bus pass. Applications are available from the school office. Applications must be returned ASAP.

Online Newsletter:

Next year we will be asking parents to subscribe to receiving the newsletter online via the website as we will no longer be printing a paper version of the newsletter. 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.

The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu on the left, including links for SCHOOL, PARENTS, LEARNING & TEACHING, NEWS & EVENTS, and CONTACT US. A search bar is located at the top right. The main content area is titled 'Newsletters' and features a sub-header 'Newsletters' with a social media icon. Below this, there is a paragraph about the school newsletter, KIT (Keeping in Touch), which is sent every second week on Thursdays. It mentions that the daily happenings of the school are given here, so parents can share as fully as possible in all that concerns their children. It also states that KIT provides relevant dates, curriculum news, and details of class activities, school celebrations, and Parents and Friends' functions. A call to action box encourages parents to subscribe to the online newsletter to receive the latest news and upcoming events straight to their email in-box. Below this, there is a section for the 'Current Issue' for Term 3 Week 8 4 September 2014, listing National School Improvement Tool, Father's Day Liturgy, REC News, and Dates for your Diary. An 'Archive' section lists years from 2014 to 2011. On the right side, there are sections for 'Related Links' (Latest News, Upcoming Events, Newsletters, Galleries, Notes From School), 'E-News Subscription' (Subscribe to our online newsletter (E-News)), and 'RSS Plugin' (Receive Our Feeds).

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2014

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	28 November	9:15am	Whole School Advent Mass
Monday	1 December	11:00am	Parent Helper Morning Tea
Tuesday	2 December	6:00pm	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 Days

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
Monday	2 February	8:45am-3:00pm	Kindergarten full days Years 3-6 Primary Swimming Carnival
Thursday	5 February	5:30pm	P&F Welcome BBQ
Friday	13 February	TBC	Opening School Mass
Tuesday	17 February	7:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Reconciliation Parent Meeting
Wednesday	18 February		Ash Wednesday
Tuesday	24 February		Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival @ Glenbrook
Wednesday	25 February	2:00pm	Parent Literacy Workshop
Friday	27 February		Diocesan Swimming Carnival @ Blacktown
Monday	2 March		2016 Kindergarten Enrolments Open
Tuesday	10 March	2:00pm & 7:00pm	Numeracy Parent Workshop
Friday	13 March		School Cross Country
Thursday	2 April		Holy Thursday - End of Term 1
Friday	3 April		Good Friday

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2015

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Monday	20 April		Term 2 Commences
Friday	26 June		Term 2 Concludes