



Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop Primary School,

THOUGHTS ABOUT HELICOPTER PARENTS

Our job as parents is to put ourselves out of a job. As parents, our goal is to help increase independence and self-sufficiency, as our children get older. When they're preschool and K-2 infants age we hold their hand as we cross the street and talk to them about traffic and safety. As they reach 7-9 we might stand at a safe distance and watch them practice and cross the street on less busy sections. Hopefully by the time they are 11 they can do this on their own. We repeat this gradual release of responsibility in many areas of parenting. Certainly this varies depending on your parenting style, beliefs and disposition, but in general, all parents are trying to get their kids to be relatively independent adults by the time they reach 18.

At school we endeavour to give the children the appropriate level of independence for their age in their daily learning in all subjects. We allow children to choose, allow them to make mistakes they can learn from and allowing them to consistently experience success and discovery.

As a parent of four, I know I'll always be a parent. In that respect, I'm not really working myself out of a job. But my role has to change somewhat. My influence changes as does the relationship. Instead of helping them cross the street, I'm advising them on buying a car or house.

So are you a helicopter parent? I'm sometimes a helicopter, or a drone or even a satellite. How can we as parents help children become self-sufficient? Teach them the skills they'll need in real life and give them enough leash to practice those skills on their own. And have them do chores. Chores build a sense of accountability. They build life skills and a work ethic. I've often referred to these chores at assemblies as, "Real Home Work."

The Limits of Parenthood

*I can give you life,
 but I cannot live it for you.
 I can teach you things,
 but I cannot make you learn.
 I can give you direction,
 but I cannot be there to lead you.
 I can take you to Church,
 but I cannot make you believe.
 I can teach you right and wrong,
 but I cannot decide for you.
 I can offer you advice,
 but I cannot accept it for you.
 I can give you love,
 but I cannot force it upon you.
 I can teach you to share,
 but I cannot make you unselfish.
 I can teach you respect,
 but I cannot force you to show honour.
 I can tell you about goals,
 but I cannot achieve them for you.
 I can teach you about kindness,
 but I cannot make you gracious.
 I can warn you about sins,
 but I cannot make you moral.
 Amen*



Camp Quality Primary School Education Program

The Camp Quality Primary School Education Program has been invited to perform at St Mary MacKillop on the 17 November. Camp Quality is a children's family cancer charity. Their purpose is to make a better life for every child living with cancer in Australia. For over 25 years the Education Program, the Camp Quality Puppets, have transformed thousands of schools by helping children and teachers learn how to create a supportive school community for children affected by cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves or have a family member living with cancer.

The program consists of a live, educational performance focusing on cancer education, optimism and friendship. The performance aims to dispel common misconceptions about cancer in a safe, open environment; giving schools a shared knowledge and language to call upon. By the end of the performance they aim for students to learn about chemotherapy, side-effects and positivity. There is no charge to the school or the students, but donations are welcome. Following the performance, students are encouraged to ask questions and share their concerns. Teachers are provided with resources to supplement the performance and aid classroom discussion. Over 4 million children have seen our puppets since the program began. We trust that your child will benefit from the positive messages promoted in the performance. If you'd like more information about the program, please visit the website www.campquality.org.au or contact Renee on (02) 9876 0565 or by emailing renee.gentle@campquality.org.au

World Teachers' Day

Internationally World Teachers' Day is celebrated on the first Friday in October. However, as this is usually during Australian school holidays, Australia celebrates the day on the last Friday in October of each year. Every day our teachers at St Mary MacKillop make a difference as they inspire and engage our children to learn and succeed. Often it is years later that a teacher realises the impact that she or he had on a student, or an entire class. World Teachers' Day is an important day internationally to acknowledge the skills and efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex society. There are many challenges and rewards in engaging and supporting students and teachers today require a combination of valued skills, including quality teaching, management, collaboration, insight, creativity and understanding. The slogan for this years World Teachers' Day is "*Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies.*" I would like to thank our amazing teachers and all the support staff at St Mary MacKillop. I extend my respect, admiration and appreciation to you on World Teachers' Day.

Thought for the Week

*"However difficult life may seem,
there is always something you can do and succeed at."*
Stephen Hawking

Have a Blessed Week
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'

Yesterday, as the culmination of the students' religious education mission units, our school community celebrated World Mission Month by having a crazy sock day to raise money for Catholic Mission. Catholic Mission is a charity organisation which supports children who are vulnerable and in desperate need throughout the world.



This year the money raised, by all students in Catholic schools across Australia, will support the children 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.

On behalf of Catholic Mission, thank you for your kind donations. If anyone has any further donations these can be forwarded to the school office. Once all donations are finalised I will announce the amount raised in the next KIT.

Sunday 1st November:



The Feast of All Saints is the day on which we celebrate all the saints, those known and unknown, who have died faithful to God and now share his life in heaven. Every day in the Church calendar honours a saint, but the Feast of All Saints is when the Church celebrates every saint. While we have information about many saints, and we honour them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never been specifically honoured. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. All Saints is a common feast day in order to ensure that all saints, known and unknown, are properly honoured because they have shown us how to live a life devoted to God.

Monday 2 November:



All Souls' Day is a solemn feast commemorating all of those who have died and are now in heaven with God. Churches have special liturgies and may invite the congregation to write the names of deceased friends or family members in a special book that would be placed on the altar at each mass during November.

Remembrance Day:

Wednesday, 11 November, is Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day). Remembrance Day is a solemn day observed since the end of World War I (1914–1918) to honour members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month." Each year we observe one minute silence at 11:00am on the 11 November, in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

The *red remembrance poppy* has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "*In Flanders Fields*". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

Why is Remembrance Day special to Australians?

Taken from: www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/remembrance/tradition/

At 11:00am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back, having inflicted heavy defeats upon them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted allied terms that amounted to unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This first modern world conflict had brought about the mobilisation of over 70 million people and left between 9 and 13 million dead, perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919 two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new Cenotaph in London. The silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was working in Fleet Street. At about the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the worldwide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom". The two minutes' silence was popularly adopted and it became a central feature of commemorations on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the armistice in 1920 the commemoration was given added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an unknown soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triumph in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the unknown soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade.

After the end of the Second World War, the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which would commemorate all war dead.

In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice in 1993 Remembrance Day ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. The remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed from a First World War military cemetery in France, were ceremonially entombed in the Memorial's Hall of Memory. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns and cities all over the country, culminating at the moment of burial at 11 am and coinciding with the traditional two minutes' silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later, in 1997, Governor-General Sir William Deane issued a proclamation formally declaring 11 November to be Remembrance Day, urging all Australians to observe one minute's silence at 11 am on 11th November each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts.



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them"*

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

ZOOPER DOOPER TIME!!! - EVERY FRIDAY

Zooper Doopers will be sold on every Friday this term (volunteers permitting). 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 are able to help out, please advise the front office and forward the message to Jenny Inskip.

JUST DANCE - A - THON : WOWFUL SUCCESS

Well done to all those students and teachers that contributed towards a fun event where students danced to keep healthy whilst at the same time raise funds for our school. There was grooving, moon walking, stepping to the beat, mixing the peanut butter and hip hopping. YOU DID SUCH AN AMAZING JOB!!!. Thank you Mr Carroll for leading the students during this event. A very big thank you also goes out to the P & F team and volunteer parents, who make the workload so much lighter. Bless your hearts. Congratulations to the following winners of the Westfield \$30 Vouchers Kindergarten: Hayley C, Year 1: Jasmin T, Year 2: Rafferti G, Year 3: Harrison C, Year 4: Talei S, Year 5: Oscar T and Year 6: Hemish A. Thank you for all your support and due to your efforts we raised just over \$5000!!! WHAT A SENSATIONAL EFFORT AND WHAT AN AMAZING COMMUNITY WE HAVE AT ST MARY MACKILLOP. GOD BLESS.

FINAL GENERAL P&F MEETING

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015 @ 7:30pm in school hall

All Welcome. Please come and join us at our next meeting where you will be updated on the reports relating to our school by the P&F President, Treasurer, Fundraising team, PRC team and Mr Siciliano. This is a great way to also find out how you can join us and assist with events that take place around the school.

P & F SCHOOL DISCO

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2015

Students CAN COME ON OVER AND HAVE A DANCE. Entry to the disco will be \$5 per child. This will cover entry, a drink and a glow bracelet. There will be two sessions.

- **Session 1** will be for KINDERGARTEN to Year 2 from 4:30 - 5:30pm and
- **Session 2** will be Year 3 to Year 6 from 5:45pm - 6:45pm.

Entry can be paid at the door upon entry. If you are able to volunteer your time for any of these sessions, it would be very much appreciated.



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. Final outstanding balances for KITS ordered are due before 16 November. Any questions, please refer to Marissa McGregor on 0404 489 554

NEXT FETE 2016 MEETING - TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2015 @ 7:30PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL. Any questions please refer to the fete team committee Erin Carroll, Michelle Darwen, Natalie Cilia or Jenny Inskip.

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	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 Friday	5 November 6 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 6 Canberra Excursion Year 4 Liturgy 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 Year 3-6 5:45-6:45pm
Friday	13 November	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly & 3W Item
Tuesday	17 November	7:30pm	2016 Fete Meeting
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-SDD
Thursday	28 January	8:45am	Years 1 - 6 Return for Term 1 2016
Friday	29 January	9:00am-12:00pm	2016 Kindergarten Commence 1/2 day
Monday	2 February	8:45am-2:50pm 8:45am	Kindergarten commence full days Primary Swimming Carnival
Friday	25 March		Good Friday
Monday	28 March		Easter Monday