



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.

With weekend sporting finals well and truly upon us, I thought it was a good time to share our school expectations for participating in events at St Mary MacKillop or as part of our diocese. I believe that these reflect our community values and are lived and demonstrated by our staff, parents and students at all events – Thank you for being models of our values.

We acknowledge the place sport plays in our daily lives. We value respect of ourselves and respect of others. It is important how the game is played and the manner in which our players, officials, parents and spectators conduct themselves. We require all involved in our sporting activities to abide by the following Codes of Conduct which are based on principles of 'The Australian Sports Commission Codes of Behaviour.'

Players

Play by the rules at all times.

Never argue with an official.

Control my temper.

Will not abuse officials
or sledge other players.

Work hard for themselves
and their team.

Be a good sport.

Applaud all good plays
whether they are made by my team or
the opposition.

Treat all participants in the sport
as I would like to be treated.

Cooperate with the coach,
my team-mates and opponents.

Show quality sportsmanship by
thanking officials and team members
at the end of games.

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all
Participants regardless of their gender.

Together We Grow.
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

Parents

Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.

Focus on your child's efforts and performance rather than the final score

Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle agreements without resorting to hostility and violence

Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition

Show appreciation for volunteer and employed coaches, officials and administrators.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performance and skillful play by ALL participants

Support all competitions by ensuring your child's attendance until the completion of their events.

Inform school officials prior to departure

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, abilities, cultural background or religion

The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Saturday September 8th

The Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated in the Church since about the 8th Century. This is one of only three birthdays celebrated in the Church Calendar — the Birth of Jesus (December 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24) and the Birthday of Mary, the mother of Jesus (September 8th).

The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary or her parentage, though Joseph's lineage is given in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The names of Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, appear in the apocryphal "Gospel of James," a book dating from the 2nd Century AD, not part of the authentic canon of Scripture. According to this account, Joachim and Anne were also beyond the years of child-bearing, but prayed and fasted that God would grant their desire for a child.

In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and birth of her Divine Son, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

On Tuesday night (11th September) Mr Buchan, Mrs Rowan, Mrs Paine and myself had the privilege of attending the 5pm and 7:30pm Confirmation Masses. At these masses many of our Stage 3 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation - the final Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic Church. Fr Chris De Souza spoke to the children about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and encouraged the children to use these gifts in their life. A warm thank you to Colleen Nicholas (Sacramental Coordinator), the Year Five teachers and parents for preparing the children so well.



Congratulations to the following students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 11th September:

Cooper B, Layla B, Elise B, Austin B, Samarah B, Katie-Maree C, Millie-Jay C, Amelia D, Isla D, Liam D, Ava D, Thomas F, Rafferti G, Ryan G, Thomas G, Sophie H, Jacob H, Jarred H, Caleb K, Georgia M, Xavier Mc, Ella Mc, Christian Mc, Mia M, Ciaran M, Marcus M, Oliver N, Lily O, Jordan P, Maurice P, Riley P, Thomas R, Ben R, Jacob R, Madeleine S, Tanae S, Lachlan S, Tayla S, Anastacia W, Daniel W and William Z

These children have been graced with the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit and are now full members of the Catholic Church.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

Kindergarten Excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park

Last Thursday, 6th September, Kindergarten boarded the bus for their first official whole day excursion to the amazing Featherdale Wildlife Park! The students have been learning about living things, life cycles and the variety of God's beautiful Creation and they were so, so excited to be engaging in some real-life, hands on learning!

At the Wildlife Park, the students met and even touched Chester the Koala, Chip the Tawny Frogmouth Bird, Mario the Shingle-back Lizard and most exciting of all: Cornelius the Children's Python! Kindergarten also got to pat pigs, sheep, geese, and kangaroos and even see a real life crocodile up close and personal!

A big thank you to our wonderful teachers aides, Mrs Daines and Mrs Breia, and our parent helpers: Alison Randall, Chloe Jenkins, Kathleen McNally, Ashlee McPherson, Melissa Bog-nar and Rhonda Brebner.

Since arriving back at school, we have introduced baby chicks to our learning space! We are having so much fun watching them hatch in the incubator and move over to their heated, secure area to eat, drink, walk and grow. We are loving learning about living things!

The Kindergarten Teachers



Year 1 Healthy Eating Kitchen Kart

On Wednesday 12th September Year 1 spent some time in the school staffroom with our wonderful Kitchen Kart making yummy, healthy rice paper rolls! Before this exciting activity, the students had made a list of ingredients and written a procedure for making the rolls during writing time in their classrooms.

On Wednesday they collected their imaginary chef hats and aprons and were responsible for grating and cutting vegetables, preparing the noodles and wrapping the rolls. Students worked in pairs to complete this Masterchef challenge and then enjoyed their healthy snacks in the sunshine of the playground! Thank you to our teachers aides and Mrs Linda Field who assisted us in the Kitchen!

Year 1 loved it!

Year 1 Classroom Teachers



We hope all the dads enjoyed their Father's Day and especially the gifts so carefully chosen for you by your children!

Thank you to Natalie Sykes for beautifully wrapping the Father's Day gifts and thank you to Michelle Lynch, Nikki Warby, Catherine King, Michelle Bachtis, Justine Schafer and Kate Clarke for selling up a storm at the Father's Day stall.

Our Father's Day breakfast BBQ was a great success as we cooked up and served over 500 sausages to the dads, kids and families! We couldn't have done it without the amazing help of Aly Petulla, Carlea Calder, Adrian Mathewson, Brad Fitzpatrick, Anthony Randall, Jo Randall, Paul Bortolazzo and Paul's mum. We thank all the dads, grandads and special men who attended!

If we have forgotten to mention anyone that helped us out we apologize and we truly do appreciate all the help we get!

The next meeting to continue the arrangements for the year 6 farewell will be held on 19th September at Jamison Hotel at 6:30pm

Veronica Neale
P & F President

Book Week 2018

By Alic, Julian and Whyte

What's the scariest thing you have seen in your life? Well I know that Jack PC was the scariest thing I've ever seen! On Friday 7th September St Mary Mackillop had to dress up as a character from a book with the theme as "Find Your Treasure". We all had the best day ever with K-6 loving every bit of it! We all had the best time ever!

The variety of costumes were outstanding. From action books to fairy tales and even Where's Wally! Loved the costume Blake Lynch and Jeremy Vella! Every costume was unique especially the dude with the ride on shark! Thank you everyone for dressing up in your costume. Everyone had a fantastic time walking around the school in their costumes. The headless horseman costume was outstanding as well!

After the book parade we returned to our magical classrooms where we completed **fun** math tasks. From fraction walls to dice tasks. I'm sure it was a great day for everyone. $8 \times 3 + (64 - 32) = 56$! We are all Geniuses now!

And to finish the day off we had 6M's marvellous assembly item which was perfect! And that song at the end was so catchy, A mozzarella pizza! A huge thanks to all the parents and staff who organized the costumes and the book parade itself! A huge thanks to Mrs. Eisenhuth who lead the team in organizing the event. I can tell you we are all exhausted from the fun day we had!



Literacy & Numeracy Week at St Mary MacKillop

Last week at St Mary MacKillop we celebrated Numeracy and Literacy week. The students at St Mary MacKillop Primary had the opportunity to celebrate their learning in Literacy and Numeracy with the whole school community.

It was a fun and special day for all the students. We were invited to dress as their favourite book character following the theme “find your treasure”. Some students interpreted this as what book they adore. We had an award-winning amount of fantastic costumes ranging all over the place from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Dr. Seuss all the way to Harry Potter and even some Pirates of the Caribbean. The costumes were amazing. At 9:00am the whole school came out into the playground and took turns to parade around, showing off their costumes to the rest of the school and also some parents.

After lunch we did activities involving literacy based thinking. Then in the 2nd half of the day we did numeracy problems. The day was a great success and we couldn't have done it without the help of Mrs Eisenhuth and all the other teachers who contributed to helping to put on the display. The children are very grateful to have such generous teachers.



-Kate Flynn,
Mikayla
Castillo,
Emily
McClean

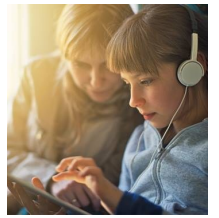
Dates for Your Diary Term 3 - 2018

Friday	14 September	2:20pm	Talent Quest HEATS (K-Year 2) (Year 5 & Year 6) Whole School Assembly (3F Item)
Friday	21 September	2:20pm	Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day Talent Quest HEATS (Year 3 & Year 4) Whole School Assembly
Wednesday	26 September	1:30pm-2:50pm	2018 School Talent Showcase
Friday	28 September	2:20 2:00pm-3:00pm	Last day of Term 3 Whole School Assembly Uniform Shop Open

Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2018

Monday	15 October		Students return to school—Term 4
Friday	19 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Thursday	25 October	2:00pm-2:45pm	Kindergarten 2019 Playgroup Session 1
Friday	26 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Friday	9 November		Staff Development Day No School Today

ONLINE GAMING



How can I help my child?

How do I know if my child is spending too much time playing online games?

Australian experts recommend less than two hours a day of entertainment screen time for children aged 5 to 17 years. Many young people spend a lot more than two hours a day online.

You have a key role in helping your child manage their [online time](#) and in monitoring any impacts in their everyday life. Look out for signs like:

- reduced school performance
 - lack of sleep
 - changes in eating patterns
- becoming withdrawn from friends and family.

In some cases, setting firm limits as a family may be enough to help address too much gaming. But in other cases, there may be underlying issues like depression and anxiety that are linked to problematic internet use. If you're worried that gaming is taking over your child's life, seek professional advice from your GP, a trained psychologist or the school counsellor.

You can also access advice and help from:

[Parentline](#) on 1300 30 1300. Parentline provides confidential telephone counselling which aims to support parents and carers of children.

[Kids Helpline](#) on 1800 55 1800. Kids Helpline is a free private telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25 years.

[eHeadspace](#) on 1800 650 890. eHeadspace provides a confidential, free and secure space where young people aged 12 to 25 years, or their families, can chat, email or speak with a qualified youth mental health professional.

How can I help my child play games safely with others online?

Some online games encourage team work and interaction with others, including adults. Players can usually communicate with each other by:

- sending messages that can be typed as part of the game
- chatting online while playing the game
- physically speaking using headsets or microphones.

With most games you can choose to restrict chat features through parental controls. You can also activate privacy settings, and make sure these settings are password protected.

If your child is communicating with others during play, supervise their communication and establish rules about the information they share.

While many gaming environments are moderated, some are not, which can place your child at risk of being in contact with adults that are looking to groom children and solicit personal information for the purpose of real life contact.

ONLINE GAMING

Help your child maintain a healthy level of anonymity by:

- talking to them about what type of information they should not share, including full names, birthdates, address, phone numbers, school name and photos
 - using an avatar or other image with a screen name that doesn't reveal their real name
 - agreeing not to talk to another player in private chat or game chat mode
- telling them to notify you immediately if a stranger tries to start a conversation about something inappropriate or requests personal information.

The interactive nature of online gaming means they can also be exposed to cyberbullying. If another player is behaving badly, harassing or bullying your child:

- encourage your child to not respond or retaliate to cyberbullying
 - keep a record of the harassing messages
 - help them block, mute or 'unfriend' that person from their players list
- help them report the matter to the game site administrator.

See our [cyberbullying](#) pages for more information on how to report cyberbullying and ways to talk to your child about this.

What should I know about in-app purchases?

Additional costs can be incurred after purchase of an online game, such as the option to pay for extra content. To help control the costs of online games and apps you can:

- talk to your child about costs—games, apps and the extra features in them all cost real money
 - turn off 'in-app' purchase settings so your child has to ask to buy additional items
 - keep passwords to yourself so your child can't purchase apps and add-ons without you knowing
- set a reasonable weekly or monthly spend for apps, games and data, and help your child track their usage so they can make good choices.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education>

Building Child Safe Communities - Forms For All Volunteers

'Building Child Safe Communities' is an initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering at schools. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers – please access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au>, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).

Then click on '**Volunteer Form**' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.

If you would like to be a parent helper at sports carnivals, reading groups, gala days, excursions etc you will need to complete the form.

School Fees

Thank you again for your patience with any issues you may have experienced with school fees while CEDP have transitioned the management of school fees.

If you have not yet received your school fee statement or have requested a direct debit arrangement which has not yet commenced could you please contact the school office on 02 4724 3200.

School Banking

School banking day is Friday. School banking encourages your child to develop regular savings habits by giving them the opportunity to deposit money into their Youthsaver account at school each week. If you are interested in school banking and your child does not already have a Youthsaver account you can apply online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or visit any CommBank branch.



School Contact Information

St Mary MacKillop has migrated to a new digital phone system which in turn means our phone number has changed. The new school phone number is **02 4724 3200**.



Phone Number Change

The old phone number is still in effect and will be for the next 12 months, however, when we call you the new contact phone number will be shown on your caller id.

Kids Can Act

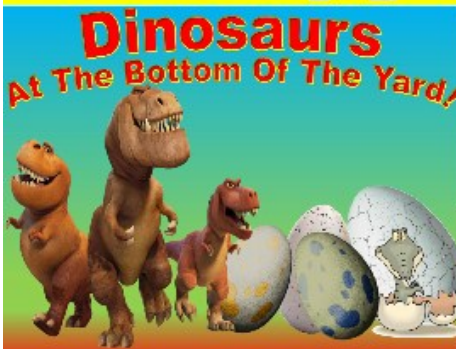
3 DAYS ONLY!

Holiday Workshops

All info & prices go to: www.kidscanact.com.au



**DON'T MISS
The
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!**
Call Cathie 0414 475 158



**BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL!**

SCHOOL HOLIDAY KIDS YOGA WORKSHOP



Engaging activities & creative exploration of yoga. A fun filled event not to miss!

**DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 8TH.
TIME: 1-4PM
LOCATION: EMU PLAINS**

**INVESTMENT: \$50 PER CHILD
(\$45 FOR SIBLINGS)
HEALTHY SNACKS PROVIDED**

**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRES:
JUSTINE - 0413 236 542**

