

## Keeping In Touch

4 May 2023



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## News from Scott

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.*

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Welcome to Term Two of the school year. I hope that you had a wonderful Easter with family and friends and that the school holidays provided the opportunity to create some new family memories together. It is great to have everyone back together for the term ahead.

Our school is blessed to be filled with wonderful people. I cannot speak highly enough of the staff we have at St Mary MacKillop and the service that they provide for our kids and our community.

Our Administration Team is the first encounter that parents and the community have with our school. The team is comprised of Mrs Kearins (Office Manager / Senior Finance Officer), Mrs Brock (Administration Officer), Mrs Groger (Attendance Officer) and Mrs Law (Business Manager). They are the first voice you hear on the phone when you contact us and the first face that you see when you visit us. They are also absolutely brilliant at being able to listen to your concerns and questions with a listening ear and a compassionate heart. We are very lucky to have such a quality team in the office to connect our classes with our community.

### Outstanding Leadership

I had the pleasure of attending the 2023 Penrith City Council Primary Leaders Reception last week. Our School Captains Amelia and Lachlan acknowledged by the Mayor for their commitment and service leadership to our school. As always, they did a great job representing our school. Well done Amelia and Lachlan!!!



### APPOINTMENTS (from our Parent Handbook)

If parents have matters of concern, questions or difficulties, staff are available to assist. The first point of contact is the child's class teacher, followed by the Stage Co-ordinator.

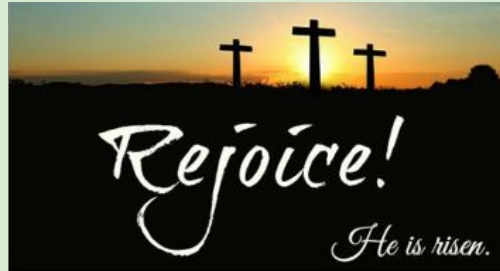
To ensure availability please phone the office to make an appointment. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher regarding his/her progress it is necessary to make an appointment before or after school. Appointments with class teachers can only be made outside of school hours. Parents are asked not to disturb classes - if there is an emergency please go to the office.

# Religious Education News

## The Season of Easter

Welcome back to Term 2 and the Easter Season in which we find ourselves!

Whilst most of our Easter celebrations occurred over the Easter Long Weekend, the Easter Season is actually a much longer event in the liturgical calendar. The Easter Season lasts for 50 days extending from Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April) to Pentecost (28<sup>th</sup> May) and is a time of joy and thanksgiving. The special word for the Easter Season is Alleluia. It is used for the dismissal from Mass and is an exclamation of great joy that means "Praise God!" which is the sentiment of the Easter Season. The liturgical colour for the Easter Season is white to symbolise joy and glory, as well as the Resurrection.



Thank you for your generosity to Project Compassion last term. As a school community we gave raised \$1, 699.40 for the 2023 Project Compassion Appeal. This money has been forwarded to Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.



Your generosity is the pebble that allows Caritas Australia to create the ripples that will improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, supporting them to flourish and create opportunities for future generations to live to their full potential and thrive. Thank you!

## May – the Month of the Mary

The Catholic Church sets aside the entire month of May to honour Mary, the Mother of God. Mary is also the Mother of the Church - the example, as well as the guide and inspiration, of everyone who seeks to be a servant of God. Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed 'Yes' to the will of God. Because of our devotion to her many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with their mother.

During the month of May, Catholics are invited to give Mary a special place in their prayers. We do this because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

# Religious Education News

*Hail Mary full of grace,*

*the Lord is with you*

*Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God*

*Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death*

*Amen*



## **Mother's Day Celebrations: Thursday 11th May**

Mother's Day is a special opportunity to honour Mary, our Mother in heaven and all mothers everywhere. This special day is an opportunity to let our mums and mother figures know how much we love them and how grateful we are for them and all they do for us. To celebrate all our special mums at St Mary MacKillop, all mums are warmly invited to join us for our Mother's Day celebrations, organised by Year 5, on Thursday 11th May.

Please see the timetable of the morning below:

### **9:15am – Mother's Day Liturgy in the hall**

This liturgy will be prepared by Year 5. During our prayer time we will pray for all mothers and ask God to keep them in his loving care.

### **10am – Mother's Morning Tea**

Organised by the P & F.

*All students will be in classrooms at this time preparing for open classrooms.*



### **10:25am – Open classrooms**

Please note: No hot beverages can be taken into classrooms

### **10:45am – Student eating time**

All adults are asked to exit the school grounds at this time so that we can secure the gates for a safe playtime for the students.

Looking forward to celebrating with you and wishing all our St Mary MacKillop mothers a wonderful Mother's Day full of love and joy!

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*

## **School Fees**

Instalment 2 School Fees will be sent to your home address as from Monday, 1st May 2023 from our Catholic Education Office of Parramatta.

The statement will come with options on how and when to pay your fees. If you are having difficulties in paying your school fees by the requested date, **Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023** please do not hesitate in contacting Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 4724 3200.

School Office hours are 8:15am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm

Payments may be made by EFTPOS, Bpoint, BPay, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPay please use the current statement.

## **Leaving Students**

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. **One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.**

## **Planning a Holiday?**

There are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the school rolls. These guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays, during the school year, to complete a request of 'Exemption from School Attendance' form. This is required if you are taking your child on leave for **more than 5 school days**. A copy of your travel itinerary. The application form is available from the school office and must be completed **prior** to your holiday.

Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.



# Year 4 News

This term for Science Year 4 is learning about our living world, in particular how people use animals and plants to create food, fibre and shelter in a sustainable way. We are having our own attempt at growing food sustainably in our gardens that we can hopefully use in the future to create some healthy and delicious meals. The gardens are now full of seeds and we will be seeing how green our thumbs are, hopefully seeing these plants grow over the terms to come.



## Library News

The start of the term was exciting for students visiting the library, some for the first time, to select and borrow books to take home and share with their families. We are also opening the library at lunch times for students to read, draw and play some quiet games during their break. Numbers will be monitored and in time we will create a timetable to cater for students who would like to use the space at this time. Please continue to encourage students to borrow books regularly from the library.



# P & F News

Well Term 2 is off to a great start with lots of our wonderful Mum's offering to help out with Mother's Day stall wrapping which is happening today. Thank you to Tracey, Kim, Kathy, Sonya, Dee, Tennille, Steph, Rebecca, Jade and Jodie for helping out.

Thank you also to all the ladies who helped out for our Hot Cross Bun day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Sam, Sonya, Kylie, Michelle, Claire, Dee, Kim, Kathleen and Isla.

The P&F will be hosting the **Biggest Morning Tea next Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May** after the Mother's Day liturgy. A Gold Coin on the day or Online donation (link below) would be appreciated to support this great cause.

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/stmarymackillop59349>

## Mother's Day Stall

Our **Mother's Day stall will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May** for the students to purchase items throughout the day. Kindy will be able to purchase something on Thursday afternoon due to their excursion held on Friday.



## P & F Meeting

Our next P&F meeting will be held in the hall on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May** from 7pm, all are welcome and it's a great way to stay in touch and see what the P&F are up to throughout the year.

Michelle Darwen

P&F President

On Behalf of the SMMP P&F Team



# Dates for your Diary

Friday 5 May	8:45am	Year 6 Formation & Outreach Day	Mt Schoenstatt
Friday 5 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 10 May		Diocesan Cross Country	Sydney Motorsport Park
Thursday 11 May	9:15am 10:00am  10:25am	<b>Mother's Day Liturgy</b> <b>Mother's Morning Tea</b> Organised by the P & F. <b>Open classrooms</b>	School Hall
Friday 12 May	9:00am	Kindergarten Excursion	Calmsley Farm
Friday 12 May		P & F Mother's Day Stall	School Hall
Friday 12 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 18 May		Whole School Photos	
Friday 19 May	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 19 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 24 May		Year 1 Excursion	Lizard Log
Wednesday 24 May		Stage 3 Girls Soccer Gala Day	Jamison Park
Thursday 25 May	9:15am	Year 5 Grade Mass	School Hall
Friday 26 May	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 31 May	7:00pm	P & F Meeting	School Hall
Thursday 1 June	9:15am	Grandparents Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 2 June	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall



## St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care provides fun, engaging programs before and after school. Our programs include games, sport, art, craft, and free-time facilitated by Ambrose educators experienced in the nationally approved learning framework, My Time Our Place. Children love Ambrose as the programs are developed around their interests and ideas

They're also a great way to make friends, develop social skills, and most importantly – have fun!



## Our Opening Hours

**Before School Care:** 6.30am – 8.45am

**After School Care:** 2:30pm – 6.00pm

**Pupil Free Day:** 6.30am – 6.00pm

## Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
<b>Morning</b>	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
<b>Afternoon</b>	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
<b>Pupil Free Day</b>	6.30am – 6.00pm			
- Standard Fee		\$14.43	\$39.37	\$75
- Early 'Bee' Special		\$12.51	\$34.12	\$65

\*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.

To enrol now - please complete the enrolment form [here](#)

Or contact the service on

**Email:** [stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au](mailto:stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au) **Phone:** 0492 367 298



*Learning for life*



Is this safe?



# PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



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- **WASH HANDS**  
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE  
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you  
for helping us  
provide a safe environment  
for our friends with food allergies!