



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.

As we approach the liturgical season of Advent, which commences on the 1st December, I encountered something this week which challenged me. Advent is a time of 'getting ready'. Getting ready to do something different in our lives having been inspired by the Nativity message of the birth of Christ.

As you know, in the nativity, Joseph returns to his home town of Bethlehem with his wife Mary (who is heavily pregnant). Upon his return home however, he discovers that there is nowhere to stay. Effectively, Joseph, his wife Mary and his expected new born child all find themselves homeless.

On Sunday I was speaking with a neighbour who volunteers in my local St Vincent de Paul Society chapter. He shared with me that 'Vinnies' NSW is really concerned with the current housing crisis in our state. They are actively seeking to draw State, Federal and Local governments into dialogue about doing more in action around this issue. At present, 'Vinnies' provides community housing to those in need through their provider, 'Amelie Housing' but the demand far outstrips the available housing.

Some of the troubling facts I have learnt are:

- Less than 1% of rental properties are affordable to families and individuals on low incomes in Sydney.
- 50-60,000 people in NSW are waiting for social housing.
- Wait times for social housing exceed 10 years in most NSW cities.
- There has been an increase in homelessness of 37% since 2011. Almost 38 000 people in NSW now

I was able to take action this week by signing a petition of concern through my local St Vincent de Paul office. I have also made an appointment to see my State Member of Parliament to ask for more information about their policy and intention on this matter. Through these actions, I am starting my Advent a little early but I thought it might be a focus you could also consider as we move towards Christmas.

Creative Arts Showcase

We had a magical celebration of our kids and their talents this week. Our Creative Arts Showcase 2019, brought to life our vision of 'Challenging students to develop their unique gifts and talents'. Thank you so much to massive number of people who came to support, encourage and enjoy the performances of our boys and girls.

I would also acknowledge and thank on your behalf the amazingly talented and generous staff of our school. Without their guidance and efforts, last night would not have been possible. Well done team.

Together We Grow
 Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers – Social Justice Activity

Wednesday 4th December

As a Catholic community based on following the example of Jesus and St Mary MacKillop, we are asked to think of those less fortunate than ourselves as we approach the season of Advent. As part of our community building and outreach we have been approached by St Vincent de Paul to help assemble hampers for the poor as a way of preparing for Christ's birth at Christmas.



Each child/family has been asked to generously donate specific items as our offering towards the marvellous work St Vincent de Paul does in helping those in need. Could all donations please be well within their expiry date and returned to school **by Wednesday 4th December**.

The hampers will be presented to a representative from the St Vincent de Paul Society to be distributed to those most in need in our community.

I ask that you please give this appeal your consideration, as it is one of the outreach activities we undertake as a Christian Community throughout the year.

The Season of Advent (Sunday 2nd December)

The Season of Advent, which begins this Sunday 2nd December, 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 C to Year A as part of the church's three year cycle.



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 word 'Advent' comes from Latin and means "coming;" its purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth; it is a season that focuses on waiting. So, "Advent means something new is coming. This is really what the Christmas season is all about, isn't it? It's the celebration of the ADVENT of a new era. God broke into time and space and entered our world"

Through prayer, *we* can enter into *God's* world and ask Him to prepare our hearts the way He prepared all of history to receive the gift of His Son. During Advent we can try to cut away the distractions to make sure there's "room at the inn" of your heart this year.

Some Simple Things to Pray For During Advent:

1. Pray for attention to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
2. Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
3. Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
4. Pray for strong relationships with other people in the community.
5. Pray for peace.
6. Pray for freedom from all that burdens you.
7. Pray for joy and a sense of humour.
8. Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
9. Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
10. Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

Religious Education News—Continued

2019 Whole School Christmas Celebration: 9:15am Thursday 5th December

On Thursday, the 5th of December we will gather as a school community to celebrate the Season of Christmas.

This year, we will present the **Christmas Star** by John Burland. Based closely on the scripture story, the Christmas Star is a joyous and prayerful celebration of the events leading up to and including the Birth of Jesus.

Presently, all the children are busily learning their assigned songs and actions, as our celebration will involve song, music, narration and movement.

We have kept costumes simple for your ease and convenience. The children are asked to wear the following:

Class	Costume
4J	Clothes – purple/mauve colours
1N	Clothes – purple/mauve colours
3M	Girls – Mary Boys - Blue
3H	Boys – Joseph Girls - Brown
1E	Joseph and Mary or brown colours
2G & 2W	Joseph / townspeople
KC & KG	Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels or white colours
5J	Angels or white, silver clothes
5H	Yellow, gold, silver, white
4V	Yellow, gold, silver, white
6G and 6M	Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, kings or white colours

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you on the 5th December as we celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Mrs Leesa Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

INFANTS TABLOID CARNIVAL

Last Thursday, 14th November, students from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 participated in an Infants Tabloid Sports Carnival here at school. The day was so much fun with the students engaging in relay races, running races, obstacle courses, skipping, throwing and catching skills, dance and parachute games. It was wonderful to see the positive sportsmanship and love for fun and fitness present in the students. A huge thank you to our generous, energetic parents who gave up their morning to help run our carnival. Thank you to Chloe Jenkins, Alison Randall, Erin Simpson, Yvonne Kriss, Rebecca Cropper, Jocelyn Bartuccio, Manak Mitri, Kirrily Murphy, Naomi Murphy, Catherine Bullock and Kate Clarke. We could not have run the day without you, so thank you so much. A big thank you also to Mrs Woodhead and the K, 1 and 2 teachers for helping the day run so smoothly. The students cooled off with a refreshing ice block and took home certificates for their efforts. A great day!

Mrs Maryanne Churchill
Sports Coordinator / ES1 Coordinator



APSMO Maths Olympiad Competition

This year, 30 of our Stage 2 and Stage 3 students participated in the Maths Olympiad competition

The APSMO Maths Olympiad has been operating in primary schools since 1987 and in high schools since 2003. Each year thousands of schools participate in the competition from around Australia and New Zealand.

The Maths Games provide an opportunity for students in Years 3 - 6 to learn valuable problem solving skills and exposes them to the application of mathematical problem solving strategies and techniques.

The main aims of the competitions are to:

- Introduce students to important mathematical concepts
- Teach major strategies and develop flexibility for problem solving
- Foster creativity and ingenuity and strengthen intuition
- Stimulate enthusiasm and enjoyment of mathematics
- Provide for the satisfaction, joy and thrill of meeting challenges

St Mary MacKillop would like to congratulate the following students in their participation of the competition

Stage 3 Team

Aaryan N, Cooper W, Jonathon M, Isaac T, Marcus M, Jacob R, Christian M, Vedh C, Thomas F, Thomas G, Oliver N, Zachary P, Jarrod H

Stage 2 Team

Giuseppe C, Rhys N, Xavier A, Manorath G, Claude E, Alex M, Ava N, Koby L, James G, Isla M, Levi R, Michael O, Indee B, Matthew B and Luke G.

Special Mention to Vedh C (Yr 6) and Luke G (Yr 3) for receiving highest marks in the competition for St Mary MacKillop as well as placing within the top 20% of students participating in the Competition across Australia and New Zealand.

We look forward to watching their continual growth of their problem solving strategies.

Amanda Joseph
Numeracy Coordinator

Important Office Dates

2019

Friday, 29th November: Second hand uniform shop open 3pm (last one for the year).

Friday, 13th December: Last Day of the year for Student Banking.

Friday, 13th December: Last Day of the year for all payments, school fees to the office.

2020

Wednesday, 29th January: Parents are able to purchase of School Library Bags from the office cost is \$7.00



2020 Fete Update

Planning is underway for the 2020 School Fete.

We are calling out for all members in our community to get behind this fete, it is our major fundraiser for 2020 and it will be an amazing time for all involved. As many of you know, the fete is run by volunteering parents, teachers and community members, we are always in need of help and support. If you are able to help out in any way, let us know. Any time given is valued.

We are doing a huge shout out to any families within our school who have businesses that would like to promote and in turn sponsor our school. Sponsorship value starts at \$150.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Platinum - Welcome to Wildman Cranes, thanks for your support.

Gold - Welcome back Outback Steakhouse, once again, supplying delicious food for our fete.

Gold - \$1500, your opportunity to have your name front and centre of the rides on the hill!

Silver - \$750 each, have your name and branding on these awesome stalls. Choose from the Chocolate Wheel, Cake Stall, Kidzone, Trash & Treasure, Basket Stall or Garden Stall.

Bronze - \$250 each, your chance to sponsor the fete as well as promote your business for all to see.

Trades Board - \$150 each, be featured on our Trades board at the fete! Let St Mary MacKillop help promote your small business!

Plenty of opportunities for your business to support St. Mary MacKillop and for the families of the St Mary MacKillop community to support your business.

Email smmppandf@gmail.com to receive your Sponsorship proposal.

TRASH AND TREASURE – If you're doing a clean out, consider setting aside anything that is no longer useful for you but in good condition to donate it to our Trash and Treasure Stall. Donations will be welcome from the start of the 2020 school year. Electrical items cannot be accepted.

GARDEN STALL – Our Garden Stall will be a green thumb's delight, but we need your help to get started. If you have any plants you could start taking cuttings from and/or empty pot plants/containers, get in contact with us. We would love all the support we can get.

RIDES, RIDES AND MORE RIDES – Once again we will have some amazing rides and inflatables at this year's fete. Ride passes will be available for purchase at early bird prices from Term 4, Week 8. More information in the next KIT.

STALL HOLDERS – Over the next few weeks we will be finalising our stall holders for the fete, if you would like to be one or know someone who is interested, contact us for an application form today!

DONATIONS FOR RAFFLE – We need donations for our fete raffle and chocolate wheel, if you have anything in mind that would help raise some funds for our school, let us know today! We have some great raffle prizes on offer, so stay tuned for details.

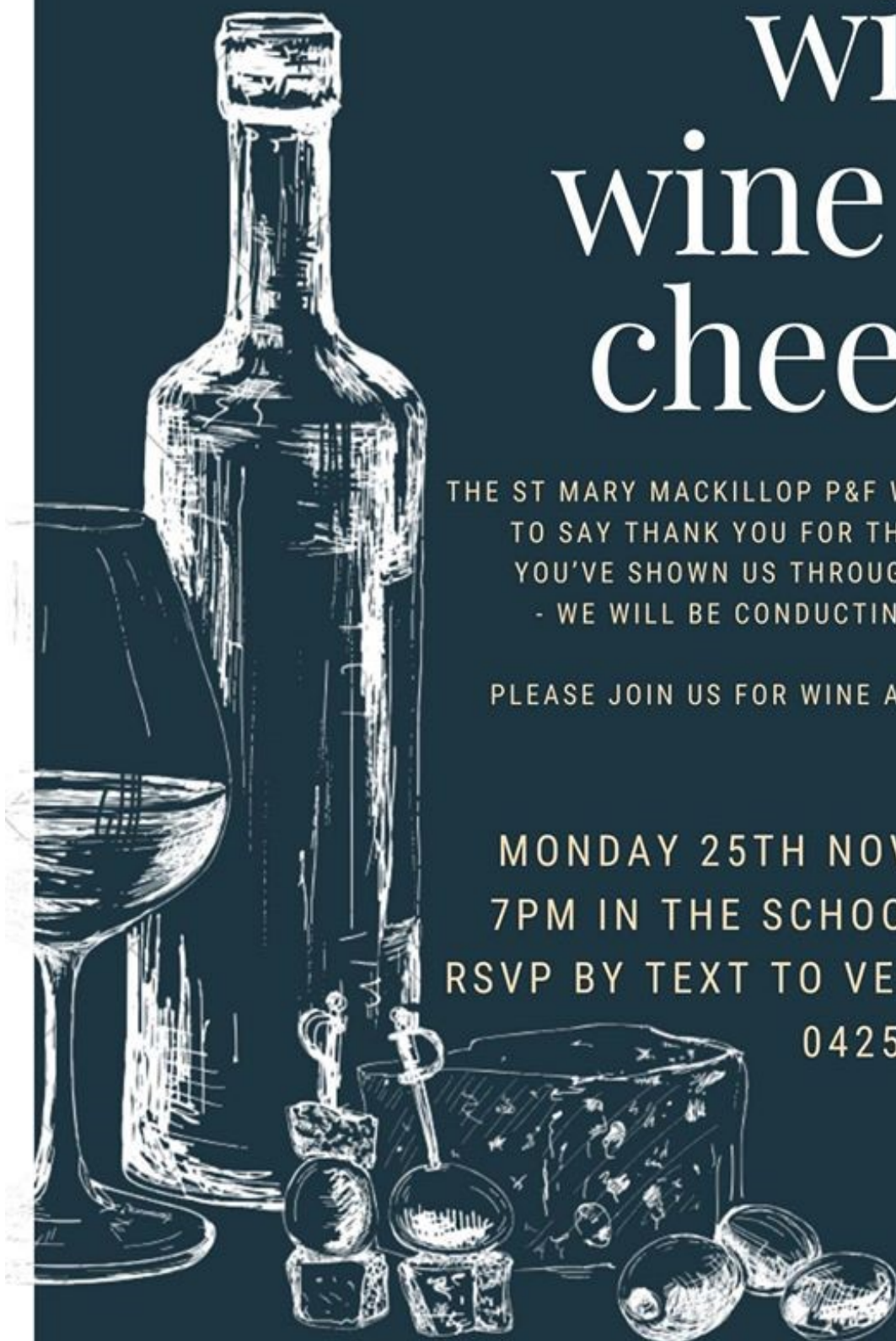
If you have any questions or want to help out in any way, please contact Catherine at smmppandf@gmail.com or 0408971675.

thanks with wine & cheese

THE ST MARY MACKILLOP P&F WOULD LIKE
TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT
YOU'VE SHOWN US THROUGHOUT 2019
- WE WILL BE CONDUCTING OUR AGM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WINE AND CHEESE

MONDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
7PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL
RSVP BY TEXT TO VERONICA
0425213850



HOUR OF CODE

Last year, St Mary MacKillop held its first 'Hour of Code'. It was held in the Stage 2 building after school and families were invited to come along.

This year, on the 7th and 8th of November, the Year 4 Coding Club hosted the Hour Of Code. Each grade had a whole hour of coding. The two days were very enjoyable. There was a lot of learning happening and kids were really engaged.



Some of the things kids were learning to do were:

- Coding designs for art,
- Using our knowledge of measurement and angles to use in our codes
- Linking geography and maths with coding and;
- we incorporated coding and story-telling

We would like to thank Mr Buchan for supporting the Coding Club to run Hour of Code throughout the whole school. We had a lot of fun planning and running the day and the SMMP kids had a lot of fun with the activities.

By Charlotte M, Charlotte C, Isla M, Anna B, Ava N, Zoe M, Claude E and Lillie S.



Dates for Your Diary Term 4 - 2019

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Friday	22 November	9:15am 2:20pm	Year 3 Liturgy Whole School Assembly 5J Item
Monday	25 November	7pm	P & F AGM
Thursday-Friday	28-29 November		Year 6 Camp
Friday	29 November	9:15am 2:20pm 2pm-3pm	Year 5 Leadership Liturgy Whole School Assembly—3M Item Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Thursday	5 December	9:15am	Christmas Celebration
Friday	6 December	9:00am 6:30pm	Whole School Assembly—6M Item Year 6 Farewell
Tuesday	10 December	11:30am	Year 6 Mass & Ceremony at St Nicholas of Myra
Thursday	12 December	2:00pm	Class Promotions
Friday	13 December	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly—Year 6 Leaving Families Farewell Assembly Reports go Home
Monday	16 December		Year 6 Fun Day @ Don Bosco
Tuesday-Wednesday	17-18 December		Year 5 YMCA Yarramundi Camp
Wednesday	18 December		Last day of Term for Students
Thursday	19 December		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Tuesday	28 January		Staff Development Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Wednesday	29 January		Years 1-6 Commence School
Thursday	30 January		Kindergarten Commence School



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

All correspondence to:
CEDP Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese
Aengus Kavanagh Education & Equity Centre
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www.primarysportpama.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

2020 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2020 Information For Parents of current Year 4 and Year 5 students

Registration window open

Dear Parents,

Parramatta Diocesan Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2020 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term Four in 2019 and in 2020. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is **strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in years 5 & 6 in 2020 be invited to attend**. To facilitate this, Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Basketball	Open boys & girls	19th November 2019	Open 28 Oct 2019	Monday 11th November 2019
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Diving	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2020	Nominations Open in 2020	Registration via CSES in 2020
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2020	Nominations Open in 2020	Registration via CSES in 2020
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Netball	Open girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby League	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby League	11 yrs boys & girls NB. No State team selected for 11 yrs	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Rugby Union	Open boys	May 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Softball	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Tennis	Open boys & girls	22nd November 2019	Open 28 Oct 2019	Monday 11th November 2019
Touch	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportpama.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the **SPORT** you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form". **Each sport has a different registration criteria.**

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for the 2020 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. You may complete this form to attend a selection trial or if you have been selected in a representative squad or team. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport and when completed, click SUBMIT.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and **MUST** be approved by your child's school. In order for your child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of your school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. **Please complete all fields and especially "Representative Experience".**

Your child's school will notify you one week prior to the trial date if your child is to attend to the Parramatta Diocesan trial for their selected sport by providing a trial information sheet.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

\$10.00 trialing fee is payable to your school if your child has been approved and confirmed to attend the Parramatta Diocesan Trials.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

2020 Team Sport Trials

Parramatta Diocese 2020 Information For Parents of **current Year 4 and Year 5 students**

Please note that the full day trials will be for boys cricket, boys soccer, boys rugby league & boys rugby union. Due to the popularity of boys cricket, boys soccer and girls netball a maximum of 2 children only are eligible to trial from each school. Selection of the 2 boys and girls will be made jointly by the school sport coordinator and principal. Discretion can be sought.

Half day trial for tennis and netball... all other trials will be held after school beginning at 4pm.

MACKILLOP TRIAL

It should be noted that the main purpose of the Mackillop trial is to select a team to compete at the NSWPSA Championships. The Inter-Diocesan Mackillop Trial is not a competition although a round robin format is often used to facilitate the selection procedure.

NSW PSSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Children who are successful at being selected in the Mackillop team will compete at the NSWPSA Championships. These championships involve three or four days of competition at various locations in NSW. Children selected in these teams may also be required to attend training sessions. At the NSW PSSA Championships a State team will be selected to participate at the School Sport Australia Inter State Exchange for some sports.

SCHOOL SPORT AUSTRALIA

To be considered for selection in the NSWPSA state team for participation at all School Sport Australia 12 Years & Under championships: Students must be turning between the ages of 10 and 12 in the year of competition i.e. Students turning the ages of 8, 9 and 13 in the year of competition are not eligible for NSWPSA State selection.

Please note the following information:

- Parents are responsible for all transport and supervision arrangements and **must remain to supervise their child at the trial at all times.**
- Children need to generally be of representative standard.
- Attendance at training days, where applicable is compulsory.
- The selector's decisions are final.
- **Parents will need to make their own travel arrangements for children representing Parramatta at Inter-Diocesan MacKillop trials. This may mean travel to Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Wagga or Forbes.**
- Please be aware that the teacher conducting the trial and accompanying the team to the venue is a "Team Manager" ~ not a coach.

If you would like your child to participate in one of the Parramatta Diocesan trials please complete the Team Online Registration Form that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDSPSC Expression of Interest Registration Form".

SUMMER SPORTS NOMINATIONS for the sports of Basketball & Tennis close Monday 11th November 2019.

ALL OTHER SPORTS NOMINATIONS close Thursday 6th February 2020.

Information regarding the team sport trials can be found on the Primary Sport website www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au and the **Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese Facebook.**

Good luck to all athletes as they progress through the School Sports Pathway.

Kind Regards,

Margaret Thornton

Teaching Educator Primary Sport ~ CEO Parramatta
WEBSITE: www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au
FACEBOOK: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese

Last Chance Super Sale!!
Use Your \$100 Creative Kids Voucher
And pay nothing else!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

**USE YOUR
\$100 CREATIVE KIDS
VOUCHER**



**Monday 23rd December
SPRINGWOOD COURT**

Voucher or \$100

9.00-3.00

**1,2,3 Let's Make a Movie
REWIND LET'S
START AGAIN**

**Tuesday 24th December
PENRITH**

Voucher or \$100

8.30-2.30

**Back By Popular Demand!
MAGIC, SPELLS AND
ILLUSIONS**

**Monday 30th December
PENRITH**

Voucher or \$100

9.00-3.00

**1,2,3 Let's Make a Movie
TIME FOR AN
ADVENTURE**

**Tuesday 31st December
SPRINGWOOD COURT**

Voucher or \$100

9.00-3.00

**Back By Popular Demand!
MAGIC, SPELLS AND
ILLUSIONS**



WWW.KIDSCANACT.COM.AU

**Cathie
0414475158**

www.kidscanact.com.au

VOUCHERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 16TH DECEMBER

Did you know ...

that every school aged child 4.5 years to 18 years is entitled to a

\$100 Creative Kids Voucher per year ?

(This is not the Active Kids Voucher)

Still haven't used your Creative Kids Voucher?



Kids Can Act are running a few workshops in December

in SPRINGWOOD and SOUTH PENRITH to allow you to use this \$100 and pay nothing else!

www.kidscanact.com.au

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **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!