



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.

In spite of the restrictions we are all living and working with, the learning continues to be high quality and challenging for all of our students at St Mary MacKillop School.

Last week was National Science Week and our Year 3 and 4 students had a particularly big focus on learning in science. Year 4 have been working on the "laws of forces in physics" and were supported by a great incursion this week. They were able to explore how different forces act on objects in our world and learnt about concepts such as friction, resistance, attraction, repulsion and gravity. Year 3 have been learning about working technologically by applying a design process to produce solutions. An example of this was designing different shapes of rockets to test which would be most effective for travelling long distances in space. In the week ahead, videos of some of our student's projects will be posted on our school website and social media for you to view.

In Year 6 some of our students are engaged in a very challenging maths project. They are working with students from another school in our diocese by using online collaborative tools and joining 'zoom' meetings every week. Our teachers are working with the teachers from the other school and advisors from our diocesan office, to design really challenging learning for these students into advanced concepts and highly efficient strategies. The focus has been on Volume and Capacity and Mass. I have been very impressed with the hard thinking that the students have been undertaking.

We are doing things differently at St Mary MacKillop because we will not let the very important safety restrictions we are all abiding by become an obstacle to our learning. There is great problem solving happening to ensure we can deliver both for our students.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Wishing all of our Fathers and father figures a wonderful day of appreciation for next Sunday. Thank you for all you do.

Together We Grow.
Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Current Health advice for schools provided by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta:

COVID-19 Testing

- Currently, no student should attend school if they are unwell. That still applies but now, each student who is absent from school or who has been sent home because they have flu-like symptoms must have a COVID 19 test
- Students are not able to return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free
- A negative COVID-19 test result must be provided to the school before a student can come back to school. The test results can be a NSW Health or COVID-19 Testing Centre letter, SMS or email and/or a medical certificate
- These same protocols apply to school staff.

School Activities

- Wherever it's possible, schools will keep activities to Year groups or Stages (e.g. Year 5 and 6 together)
- Schools will stay within their local community area or zone for interschool activities, including sport.
- Group activities such as choirs, chanting and the use of wind instruments in a group setting won't take place
- Formal graduation ceremonies and other school-related social activities are now not allowed; however, a graduation assembly (e.g. Year 6 or Year 12) can take place but with restrictions. The assembly can only include the students from that Year group and staff. Regrettably, parents / carers and other family members are not able to attend the assembly. I know that schools are exploring creative ways to ensure parents and carers are part of this in other ways such as live streaming and the use of social media.
- Parent & Friends social events or functions cannot take place
- School or community-run playgroups are on hold
- Kindergarten orientation and transition to school activities remain on hold
- School-related overnight events like retreats, camps and excursions are suspended.

Religious Education News

Sacramental Program – First Holy Communion

We currently have many of our primary students involved in the Sacramental Program preparing to receive their First Eucharist (second Sacrament of Initiation). At this time it is appropriate to re-familiarise ourselves with this sacred sacrament and I invite all in our community to pray for the children who are preparing to receive their second Sacrament of Initiation - First Eucharist.

The word 'communion' means to be united with; Catholics believe that in Holy Communion we are united in a special way with Jesus Christ.

At his Last Supper, Jesus said of the bread that he shared among his followers, "Take and eat, this is my body."



When we receive Holy Communion, Catholics believe that in a mysterious way we are sharing in the body and blood of Christ. Holy Communion and the whole celebration is also known as Eucharist, from a Greek word meaning thanksgiving.

First Eucharist is a special occasion – a further step in becoming one with Christ and united with the people of God. For most people First Eucharist takes place at about the age of 9-10 years. Children should have an understanding of the sacrament that is appropriate to their age. Hopefully, this understanding will develop over the years. The church affirms that parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. You are handing on your faith to your children all the time. You have the wonderful responsibility of preparing your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Usually the celebration of First Eucharist takes place at Sunday Mass. This is the most appropriate time. As the first reception of Eucharist marks a key step in the initiation of your child into the community of the church, it is most appropriate that the gathered community welcomes your child. The celebration of Mass is not just a special occasion for your family, but for the whole parish community.

Your child needs to feel at home in the parish community. Therefore, ideally, your child should receive First Eucharist at whichever Parish and Mass she or he usually attends.

<http://www.catholicaustralia.com.au/>

Father's Day – Sunday 6th September

This year our Father's Day celebration will significant different to previous years. We will honour our fathers and other special male role models in our lives via a digital prayer reflection that will be posted on class/grade Google classrooms and See-saw page on Friday 4th September.

On Father's Day and it is a time to think about our fathers, to honour them, and to give thanks for them. This is a day for all fathers, to know how much we love and respect them. Most importantly this is a day for us to thank God, our Father in heaven, for His presence in our life.

*Dad, you're a wonderful father, so gentle, yet so strong.
The many ways you show you care
Always make me feel I belong.
You're patient when I'm foolish; You give guidance when I ask;*

*It seems you can do most anything; You're the master of every task.
You're a dependable source of comfort;
You're my cushion when I fall.
You help in times of trouble; You support me whenever I call.
I love you more than you know;
You have my total respect.
If I had my choice of fathers, You'd be the one I'd select!* By Joanna Fuchs



I wish all our St Mary MacKillop dads a wonderful Father's Day on Sunday 6th September!

Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Your School Fees statement for Instalment 3 have now been posted. We are aware of the financial strain that COVID-19 is having on some families and its impact on their capacity to pay school fees, we have asked families to pay 'what they can when they can'.

Fee Relief for families financially affected by COVID-19 Fee relief is available to support families who are experiencing significant financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. There are three ways that parents/carers can apply for fee relief with the process made as simple as possible.

Information is available on the CEDP website and is also available via the link <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/Our%20Schools/School%20Fees/Fee%20Relief>

The page includes a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

If you are already on a payment arrangement or are awaiting the outcome of a concession application, then the statement is for information purposes only.

We are here to help. If you have any queries regarding your account or you were not affected financially by COVID-19 however require financial assistance or set up an arrangement, please contact Mrs Monique Kearins, Senior Finance Officer on 02 472 3200 or email MMKP-SPRHFees@parra.catholic.edu.au

P & F News

Next week the P&F, with the help of the staff, will be ensuring that the children have an opportunity to buy a Father's Day present for their wonderful dads!

Please ensure that they bring money with them on Friday 4th September. Gifts will be priced from \$1-\$10

We would like to thank the Beazley family, the Darwen family, the Fitzpatrick family and also Myer C and Rylee R for being so generous with their time and wrapping the gifts so beautifully.



And we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the dads, stepdads, uncles, grandpas and father figures a wonderful Father's Day.

Veronica Neal
P & F President

Congratulations Harris Family

Congratulations Caimin and Christine on the arrival of their third child, Sophia Harris.

Born on Wednesday 25th August at 5.11pm weighing 3.665kg.

We wish Caimin and Christine all the best and they find much joy and happiness with their growing family.



Sports News

Last Thursday, the 20th August, we had our St Mary Mackillop Athletics Carnival at Parker Street Oval. The day was a lot of fun for all students, with students competing in 800m, 100m, 200m, 100 & 200m Finals, Long Jump and Novelty Games.

We had beautiful weather, despite the wind, and everything ran to plan. We need to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to all the students who came and had a go on the day. We understand it was under different circumstances this year but that didn't stop the students spreading house spirit and supporting fellow students during their events. Each and every student should be so proud of themselves and the effort they put in to making the carnival such a success.

Make sure you stay tuned. The results from the day will be shared shortly, where we will announce the winning house, finals results and age champions.

Well done St Mary Mackillop.

Miss Wotherspoon
Sport Coordinator



Afternoon Pick Up

Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm

Thank you for caring for our staff and kids.

Subscribing to the KIT (Keeping In Touch)

Our school newsletter is only sent home in hard copy for kindergarten the first newsletter of the year.

The newsletter is available by subscribing on the schools website www.mackilloppenrith.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.

Skool Bag App Instructions

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).

School Communication




APPOINTMENTS

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.

Dates for Your Diary Term 3 ~ 2020

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday	28 August	9am-10:30am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
Friday	25 September		Last Day of Term 3
Monday	12 October		Term 4 Resumes—All students to return in Full Summer Uniform

KIDS CAN ACT - OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS			
WEDNESDAY 30th SEPT PENRITH	THURS 1st OCTOBER SPRINGWOOD	FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER SPRINGWOOD	 WWW.KIDSCANACT.COM.AU Cathie 0414475158
9.30-2.30pm Fairylicious Fairies & Mischievous Elves	9.30-2.30pm Pirates of the Has-Been	9.30 –2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> The Worst Holiday Ever	
EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT ENDS 20TH SEPTEMBER	2.30-5.00 pm Drama Games & Improvisation	EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT ENDS 20TH SEPTEMBER	
WEDNESDAY 7th OCT SPRINGWOOD	THURSDAY 8th OCT SPRINGWOOD	FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER PENRITH	USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER  CREATIVE KIDS <small>REGISTERED PROVIDER</small> <small>Claim your \$100 voucher here</small> 
9.30-2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> A Magical Far, Far Away Land	9.30-2.30pm Fairylicious Fairies & Mischievous Elves	9.30 –2.30pm <i>1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie</i> The Worst Holiday Ever	
2.30-5.00pm A Bag Full Of Stories- Storytelling		2.30- 5.00pm Drama Games & Improvisation	

KIDS CAN ACT – OCTOBER HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Fairylicious Fairies(4 –12yrs)

This workshop inspires the imagination as children play fairy games, hear fairy stories, and do fairy craft. The children will also take home a set of their very own fairy wings, a fairy headband, and a fairy wand

Pirates of the Has-been(4 –12yrs)

A bunch of old pirates decide to come out of retirement to teach the young whipper snappers how to be a REAL Pirate. Come walk the plank, talk like a pirate and enter the world of the Has-been Pirates. Today we learn how to be a REAL Pirate.

The Worst Holiday Ever (4-15yrs) - *1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie*

Our bags went missing and the chef in the restaurant doesn't speak English and doesn't know how to cook! There were ants in the bedroom climbing up the walls and across the ceiling over the bed. The power stopped working, no aircon and worst of all it was Christmas Eve and the shops were shut! Let's have fun in the Hotel from Hell! Let's work out what our character is and how we fit in to the story. Let's film it!

A Magical Far, Far Away Land - *1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie*

Hold on tight to that magic carpet! Travel east of the sun and west of the moon! A girl whose magical necklace of raindrops keeps her dry in a storm; a tiger that runs faster than the wind; a huge floating apple pie with a piece of sky in it; a baker's cat who swells to the size of a whale; - these are just some of the things that may happen.

A Bag Full Of Stories- Storytelling(4 –15yrs)

The ancient art of storytelling is for all ages. Storytelling can encourage children to explore their own imagination and expressiveness. In our fast-paced world of mass media, storytelling can be a nurturing way to remind children that the spoken word is powerful, listening is important, and warm communication between people is an art.

Drama Games & Scenarios (4–15yrs)

Great fun where children get to work in groups or individually and be creative. Working as a team improves friendships and teaches us how to work with , cooperate, develop leadership skills and listen to others.

Owner reserves the right to cancel any workshops that do not have the required number to operate.

www.kidscanact.com.au Cathie- 0414 475 158

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