



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.



Wishing you all a safe and holy Christmas from the team at St Mary MacKillop Penrith South.

COMPASS and End of Year Student Reports

The introduction of COMPASS as our new communication tool has been an enormous undertaking. The team want to thank you for 'getting on board' with this change. We will build more features into this tool next year and welcome your feedback and questions along the way.

Another significant change we have gone through has been the development of new Student Learning Reports. We will continue to develop and adapt these reports in 2021 to get them functioning around what our teachers and parents believe will best support our work together

Creative Arts Program 2021

Next year we will see some changes to our Creative Arts Program. Some of these changes are due to staffing movement and inviting CEDP Captivate to support our work.

Creative Arts will remain a focus area for Release from Face to Face teaching. Each week your child will have an hour working with specialist teachers to learn about dance, music and drama. We farewell and thank Mrs Borg and Mrs Viski for their hard work and commitment this year. We wish them all the very best as they engage in new opportunities next year. Mrs Rachel Nekic will teach Creative Arts – dance for Term 1 next year. We will then welcome back Mrs Harman from maternity leave and she will teach Creative Arts – music and drama in Terms 2, 3 and 4. In 2021, Year 3 and 4 students will learn to play a stringed instrument (violin / viola) as usual, however Mrs Harman will be supported at these times by a specialist Captivate tutor provided by CEDP.

Some parents choose to engage in private strings tuition for their children in Years 4, 5 and 6. This will continue in 2021 but instead of Mr Russek and Mrs Bray providing tuition, we will have tutors from CEDP Captivate working with the students in this program. Billing for this optional tuition will be through school fees as usual.

In 2021, our School Orchestra will not commence rehearsals until Term 2. This will align with Mrs Harman's return from maternity leave. We will make information available regarding orchestra 2021 later in Term 1.

Together We Grow.
Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

News from the Assistant Principal

Thank you for your support during this challenging year.

In January we will publish on our school Facebook page as well as on our Compass Parent Portal the Student Resources List and the days the students will need to wear their sports uniform. The 2021 Classroom teachers will let you know when the term starts when their library borrowing day is.

Have a wonderful and relaxing holiday.
Merry Christmas!

Margaret Rowan
Assistant Principal

Religious Education News

The Season of Advent: Year B

Advent is the first season in the church calendar. Beginning four Sundays before Christmas, its purpose is twofold: first, it prepares us for the celebration of the birth of Christ and second, it reminds us that we are eagerly waiting for Jesus' return in glory. "Prepare the way of the Lord," serves as a main theme of this season. As we get ready for Christmas, we should not neglect to prepare our lives for Jesus, who came as "the light of the world."



*Dear Jesus,
you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas.
Amen.*

2020 Christmas Celebration

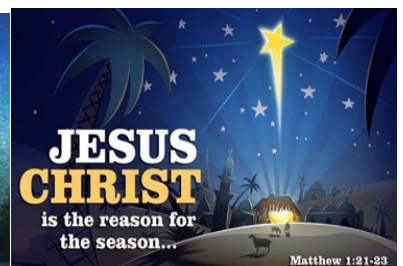
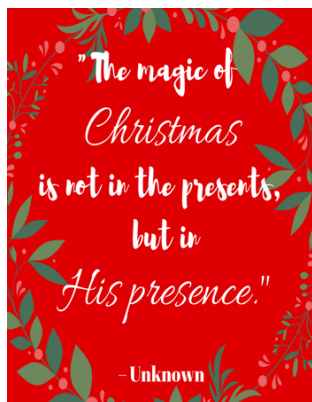
In this current climate, we could not celebrate the Christmas Season in the traditional way that we usually would at St Mary MacKillop, however, acknowledging the birth of Jesus is at the heart of our community.

For this reason, the teachers and students have been busy in class/stage groups preparing the Christmas Story told through the eyes of the innkeeper who offered Mary and Joseph his stable on that special night. This presentation is now complete and has been posted onto the school Facebook page.

I hope that this whole school production will bring you joy as you enter the Christmas Season.

A big thank you to the teachers for preparing the children so well and to Miss Carey for creating the video!!!!

May the joy of the Christmas Season be with you and I wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas.



Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

P & F News

This week marks the end of 17 consecutive years of primary school for me, 11 of which have been spent at St Mary MacKillop and the last 3 of which I have been the P&F president. It was indeed a final year to remember thanks to covid-19.

In the role of president, I have had the absolute pleasure of working with the most amazing team of dedicated and selfless parents who are passionate about raising funds to better this school for our children and about building a strong sense of school community. I have also had the pleasure of working closely with the wonderful staff of St Mary MacKillop and I am forever thankful for the time and effort that they devote to our children. Thanks also to the fantastic support staff of the school who always support us in all of our activities.

I wish to thank Paul Bortolazzo for being the best vice president that I could have asked for, and he cooks a pretty mean BBQ too! Thanks to Michelle Dryden Darwen for her dedication to the P&F, taking on any and every role as required. To our treasurer Kylie Beazley, even though there wasn't much face-to-face interaction this year you have embraced the role of treasurer and are an invaluable part of the team. Huge thanks to Catherine Watson for her commitment to the role of major fundraiser and her endless energy in ensuring that our children get to experience events such as the colour explosion and the fete. And thank you to Joanne Randall for taking on the role of minor fundraiser and providing our children with fantastic Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, infants and primary discos as well as organizing all of the morning teas which are always enjoyed immensely by the parents and grandparents. Thanks also to everyone who has helped in any way, the P&F cannot do what they do without you!

I look forward to coming back to enjoy future events as a participant!!...such as the next trivia night to see if we can improve on my girl's wooden spoon efforts in 2019 and to the bush dance that I hope will become a reality, I do love a good bush dance rendition of Give Me A Home Among The Gum Trees! And I look forward to the fete in 2021!

So, for now, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year and thank you all for your friendship over the years, thank you for the laughs and the special memories xx

Veronica Neal

thank you...
...AND good-bye

School Fees and Finance

If you have any outstanding school fees or payments that you wish to make please do so via Bpoint, BPay and AUS-POST.

School
F E E S

Orchestra 2020

Congratulations to all students and families who took part in the 2020 String Program and Orchestra at St Mary Mackillop Primary.

The program provides students with a unique opportunity to learn an orchestral string instrument as well as extend their learning and skills through Orchestra.

Students have demonstrated dedication, a willingness to learn new things and a special kind of perseverance in 2020! As to have the families and parents who arrive bright and early every Wednesday morning so that their children can attend rehearsals. Many thanks to all of you!



Best wishes to our Year 6 Students who have shown great leadership and dedication to Orchestra for many years but most especially this year! *Tanya Trad, Darcy Lonsdale, Rylee Randall, Sara Rowley, Marie Borg, Georgia King, Cameron Johnston and Stefania Guillemette.*

Thank you to Mr Andrew Russek and Mrs Anna Bray whose mentoring and guidance have provided a strong foundation for all of our students. All that you have given to these students and our school will stay with them for many years to come!

It has been a real gift to have shared this time with you. You constantly amaze us! We can't wait to see what the next chapter of your Creative and Performing Arts Journey brings!

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes!

Mrs Borg



P & F Fete News

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need people power to help coordinate the St Mary MacKillop Fete 2021!

Are you a great:

- event organiser
- social media warrior
- donation seeker

We need hands on deck, so any help that can be offered would be amazing!

Please get in contact with smmppandf@gmail.com to let us know your super powers, and let's make this fete the best one yet!

SPONSORSHIP

We have been extremely fortunate in welcoming our top sponsors to the St Mary MacKillop community:

Platinum – **Wildman Cranes**

Gold – **Outback Steakhouse**

Gold – **Bella Dental Penrith**

Silver – **West Air**

Sponsorship packages still available:

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 your 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 can be taken to the school office. Electrical items cannot be accepted.

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 the beginning of 2021.

Looking forward to an amazing fete!

Catherine Watson



Sport News

2021 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials are OPEN!

ALL 2021 Team Sport Trials are OPEN, however, the Summer Sports of **BASKETBALL & TENNIS** registrations close for these sports only on Monday 23rd November as these trials are planned for November & December 2020. This will be confirmed closer to the date due to COVID-19 restrictions and venue availability.

All other sports trials will be held in Term One & Two in 2021.

Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2021 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials. 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 2021 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports: **AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union, Softball, Tennis & Touch football**. The sports of Diving & Golf will be held at the MacKillop level.

To be eligible for selection for these trials the **2021 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** Form must be completed. Please visit the Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport website or Facebook for the link and information.

WEBSITE: www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

FACEBOOK: [Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese](#)

This online form is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** for 2021 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY** and MUST be approved by the child's school. For the child to attend the nominated trial or event, the school approves students based on playing history and selection criteria. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" if applicable to the sport MUST be completed. Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the **2021 CEDP Primary Sport TEAM Registration** Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date.

More detailed information can be located in the **2021 CEDP Parra Primary Sport Rep Team Trials Info for Parents COVID19 information sheet**

2021 Primary Sport Trials COVID-19 Information as of 3rd November

The prevailing COVID Safe restrictions regarding school sport events and public gatherings will be observed at the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

- Parents will be advised of the protocols to be followed according to the public health orders in force at that time of the trial.
- It is possible that this will restrict parent/spectator access to the venues as currently parents/spectators are not permitted at school events. Participating students will then remain in the care of the nominated Parramatta team managers for the duration of the trials.
- Parents/carers will be required to provide a mobile phone number that they will be able to be contacted on should they be required to return to the venue at any time.

Sport News—Continued

Current CEDP Guide for Sport and Physical Activity guidelines that the following advice applies to all CEDP school sport and should be read in conjunction with the current NSW Health guidelines, NSW public health order, venue protocols and CEDP and school specific directives.

- The number of participants including staff and parents/guardians (if permitted) attending a facility must be limited to ensure compliance with external venue restrictions (one person per 4 square metres of space, 1.5m distancing and to a maximum of 500 people).
- Even if sporting competition occur in an external venue, if the sporting activity is held 'non-essential' adults should not attend.
- The use of public change rooms should be avoided wherever possible. Students should come to school wearing their sport uniform and appropriate footwear where possible.
- Shared travel arrangements such as car-pooling should be avoided where possible.
- All sports or physical activities conducted must meet all recommendations listed in the [DoE Sport Safety Guidelines](#) including teacher/student ratios.
- Compliance with general COVID-19 restrictions concerning capacity / hygiene etc.

Currently, NO parents / spectators are permitted to attend school sport events. More detailed information will be provided for each individual sport trial via the Team Sport Trial Information sheet provided to approved students.

COVID-19 Safety and Hygiene

The following hygiene measures will continue to apply to all sport and physical activities in schools:

- Practise good hygiene
- Staff and students are required to wash their hands prior to and at the conclusion of sport and physical activities. Encourage hand hygiene practices at regular intervals as required.
- Maintain good respiratory hygiene.
- Always discourage spitting or clearing of nasal or respiratory secretions.
- No shining of a cricket ball with sweat/saliva.
- Do not undertake physical exercise if unwell - students should not attend school if they are unwell. If they become unwell during the day, they should be collected by a parent/carer.
- Do not share items such as drink bottles or towels - Students should provide their own personal items such as water bottles, towels, clothing, etc as required for physical activities.
- Implement cleaning protocols - All sport and physical activity equipment (including shared equipment and clothing such as school sporting singlets and bibs) must be cleaned at the end of each session. Equipment and/or clothing that cannot be cleaned after each use must not be shared.
- Cleaning environments - Standard daily cleans as well as the cleaning of high touch areas should occur within sporting facilities, such as change rooms and in accordance with COVID-19 cleaning and sanitation requirements.
- Infection control - Apply standard precautions for infection control.
- Regular protocols for spills of blood and other bodily substances must be followed where any clothing, equipment and surfaces are contaminated by blood or other bodily fluid.
- Physical contact - shaking hands, high fives and hugging are to be avoided. Students must minimise any physical contact with others for the duration of a sport activity.

PARRAMATTA TEAM SPORT TRIALS

Sport	Age Group	Trial Date	Nominations Open	Registration closing date
AFL	Open boys & girls	Feb 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 29 th January 2021
Basketball	Open boys & girls	1 st December 2020	Open 2 Nov 2020	Monday 23 rd November 2020
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Diving	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs boys & girls	Term One 2021	Nominations Open in 2021	Registration via CSNSW Sport in 2021
Football (Soccer)	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Golf	Open boys & girls	Term Three 2021	Nominations Open in 2021	Registration via CSNSW Sport in 2021
Hockey	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Netball	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Rugby League	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Rugby League	11yrs boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Rugby Union	Open boys & girls	April 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Softball	Open boys & girls	April 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 5 th February 2021
Tennis	Open boys & girls	27 th November 2020	Open 2 Nov 2020	Monday 23 rd November 2020
Touch Football	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2021	Open 2 Nov 2020	Friday 29 th January 2021

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 1 - 2021

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday	27 January		Staff Development Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)
Thursday	28 January		Years 1-6 Commence School
Friday	29 January		Kindergarten Commence School



**XAVIER COLLEGE
2021 OPEN DAY**



TUESDAY 2ND MARCH

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND STAY UP TO DATE AT
[XAVIERLLANDILO.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/ENROL-NOW/OPEN-DAYS](https://xavierllandilo.catholic.edu.au/enrol-now/open-days)

KIDS DECEMBER CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

For Puppet Sake! (4 –12yrs)

Children are naturally curious! Children communicate more easily with a puppet on their hand, giving them confidence to express their ideas and feelings. The children will have great fun as they try out different types of puppets. They will also make a number of their very own puppets to take home.

Superhero Academy (4 –12yrs)

Does a superhero live inside your imagination? Unleash the power within! Find your inner hero!
A super energetic workshop aimed at building confidence, self-esteem, and a healthy body! Design your own superhero and make your own cape and mask! Create your character, complete with a catch cry and superpowers. Children take home their own superhero cape, mask and make their own arm cuffs.

If The Hat Fits (4 –15yrs)

Today we will have a ball and use hats to develop interesting characters, learn positive group dynamics, cooperation, and physical awareness. The hats will be used as a tool for creating, developing, and experimenting with characters. What type of character will you become?

Suitcase of Memories (4-15yrs) - 1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie

On the other side of the world a strange, curious suitcase was found. It had no name or address, and no one seemed to know where it came from. Use your powers of deduction to discover the secrets and history of this magical case. Come join us on this fabulous day where we excite our imagination & discover the secrets of the case. Let's film it!

But Wait There's More! Sell It! (4 –15yrs) - 1,2,3 Let's Film It!

Today, we will learn the art of persuasion and how to sell any product to anyone. Convince the audience they really need it and to buy anything you offer. Can you sell ice to the Eskimos? Let's make and film some fabulously fun ads.

Owner reserves the right to cancel any workshops

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

KIDS DECEMBER CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER

SPRINGWOOD

9.30-2.30pm

For Puppets Sake!

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER

SPRINGWOOD

9.30-2.30pm

Superhero Academy

2.30-5.30 pm
If The Hat Fits

WEDNESDAY 30TH DECEMBER

SPRINGWOOD

9.30-2.30pm

1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie

Suitcase of Memories

2.30-5.30pm

1,2,3 Let's Film It!

But Wait!

There's More! Sell It!

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR
\$100 CREATIVE KIDSVOUCHER



THURSDAY 31ST DECEMBER

PENRITH

9.30-2.30pm

Superhero Academy



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KIDS JANUARY CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

A Super Duper Crazy Knight- ACT & MAKE (4 –13yrs)

When a mysterious spaceship comes crashing in to Dream Land, everyone goes to investigate it. An old, fat knight emerges and starts attacking them! Who is this so-called knight? It seems like he's missing a few marbles... The children will make their own knights helmets & swords, wizard's hats or princess hats to take home.

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.

Outside the Box- ACT, MAKE & PAINT (4 –15yrs) Get creative! Ignite your mind! Look inside and see what you can find. In this integrated craft/performance workshop the children have to think outside the box. They will explore what their own special talents are that make them special and unique. Over 2 days the children will paint/decorate their own large box that is a symbol of themselves. The second day will culminate with a filmed performance based on their discovery.

The Day I Fell Into A Storybook...And Survived- 1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie (4-15yrs) Ever fallen into a storybook? What happens when you fall into a Fairy Tale. Find yourself, being yelled at by a girl saying, "How dare you be on this page?" She says is Goldilocks. After contending with her, an angry wicked stepmother, and a disappointed Cinderella, all you want to do is find your way out. Can you escape and make everything happily ever after again? Let's film it!

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.

Puppetry DESIGN & MAKE (4 –15yrs)

Make your own puppets and watch them come to life! What sort of characters will you create? In this integrated craft and performance workshop, the children will discover puppetry techniques on how to breathe personality into their puppet creations. The children will also design and make a number of different types of puppets to take home!

It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It! -Let's Make A Movie OLDER STUDENTS (9-15yrs) Have you ever been framed for something you didn't do or tried to get out of something you did? The students will develop the storyline from life experience and imagination, exploring times they may or may not have committed the "crime" or been framed for something they had no part in.

Owner reserves the right to cancel workshops without required numbers to operate.

www.kidscanact.com.au Cathie 0414 475 158

KIDS JANUARY CAN ACT HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

MONDAY 18th JAN

SPRINGWOOD

One Super Duper Crazy KNIGHT!

9.30-2.30pm

Drama Games & Scenarios

2.30- 5.00pm

TUES 19th & WED 20th JAN

SPRINGWOOD

Outside The Box

9.30-2.30pm



THURSDAY 21st JAN

PENRITH

1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie

The Day I Fell Into A Storybook ...and Survived

9.30-2.30pm

FRIDAY 22nd JAN

SPRINGWOOD

Puppetry

8.30-1.30pm

A Bag Full Of Stories Storytelling

2.30-5.00pm

1,2,3 Let's Make A Movie
It Wasn't Me! I Didn't Do It!

1.30- 6.30pm

OLDER STUDENTS (9-16 years)

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR
\$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER



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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.

B E Y O N D
A PEANUT
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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