



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.*

We wish everyone a huge 'Welcome' as we commence the 2020 school year.

Welcome back to those families returning from 2019 and a special welcome to those new families joining our community, whether through kindergarten or starting in one of our other grades. It has been a big day for our youngest students today as they begin their first day at primary school. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.



Over the holidays I had a wonderful opportunity to go on pilgrimage with my 17 year old son Liam and a small group from Sydney. We travelled to Timor-Leste and visited a number of significant historical sites as well as engaging in some social works such as visiting schools, pre-schools etc... As part of this trip we visited "Mary MacKillop Today". This is an arm of the Sisters of St Joseph and a charity that our school has supported for many years through gold coin days and Mary MacKillop Feast Day activities. On behalf of our community, my son and I took over some suitcases of supplies to support the teams work in providing education to remote communities. The supplies were greatly appreciated and are making a difference to the lives of the families they have been given to – Never see a need without doing something about it.



Over the holidays we have also been doing some work on our school facilities. Each year an arborist reviews our trees around the school and issues a report recommending removal and maintenance to ensure safety for everyone. Last year we had to remove some large trees from the playground near the hall and library. To fill the space left behind and also to provide a place where our kids can dig (they have been asking for some time now), we had a new play space constructed. Thank you to the P and F who provided a big contribution of funds on behalf of our parents to support this work.



### Staffing News

Unfortunately I have to let you know that due to changes in personal circumstance, Miss Jones will be unable to teach the Year 5 class assigned to her for this year. She contacted me during the school holidays to let me know that she had accepted a position at another school closer to her home. I can assure you that it was very difficult for Miss Jones to come to this decision as she was genuinely excited to be working with our children and creating many fond moments and successes with them this year.

For Term One, we have asked Mrs Claire Harman to teach the class. She will then be leaving us to start maternity leave. We have commenced advertising and recruiting a quality teacher for the remainder of the year. Mrs Harman is well known to our community at St Mary MacKillop. I wish to thank Mrs Harman for her wonderful support of the school and your child in taking up this position for the term.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

### Sport Days for Term 1

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This year Mrs Rachel Nekić will be joining the staff of St Mary MacKillop as our sport teacher. Sport will be held on the following days

Monday : Year 3, Year 6 and 4M

Tuesday: Kindergarten, Year 2 and 4V

Wednesday: Year 1 and Year 5.

## Religious Education News

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Welcome to the 2020 school year – a new year, in a new decade.

With the beginning of a new school year, we are reminded of our purpose and place within the St Mary MacKillop community. Each one of us brings unique gifts and talents that weave together to create the richness and compassion of this wonderful community.

### A New Start

So this is it – the new decade!

A beginning:

undreamt opportunities, unimaginable discoveries,  
healing for broken bodies, calm for anxious minds



Creating God: *you make all things new.*

So this is it – the new decade!

A remembering:

the past behind us, joy and sadness inter-mingled,  
memories of delight and pain, of births and deaths.

Engaging God: *you make all things new.*

So this is it – the new decade!

An exploration:

each present moment full of possibilities,  
New generations joining us in pilgrimage.

Promising God: *you make all things new.*

So this is it – the new decade!

A commitment:

Our intention joined with God's,  
lives filled with hope, expectancy and wonder.

Loving God: *you make all things new.*

### **2020 Masses and Liturgies: Change of Day**

This year to better align with the Parish timetable and commitments, the majority of masses and liturgies will be held on Thursdays.

## Religious Education News

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### Opening School Mass and Year Six Leadership Ceremony: 9:15am Thursday 13th February

Please join us for our Opening School Mass on Thursday 13th February at 9:15am. At our mass we will gather as a school community to pray for God's blessing on the school year and welcome Kindergarten and the new students across the grades to St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We will also induct the Year 6 students into their 2020 leadership roles.

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate our Catholic Faith together.

### Sacramental Coordinator

In 2020 we warmly welcome Mary Gale to the role of Sacramental Coordinator in our Parish. We also thank Colleen Nichols for all her hard work over the past years and wish her well with her future endeavours.

### 2020 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting, 7pm Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

The Parish based Sacramental Program will begin this year with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance). Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will commence with a parent only session on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

If you wish to enrol in this program it is **compulsory that at least one parent/carer attend**. The meeting will be held in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. This program is for all children in Year 3 or above who have been baptised and would like to enrol in the Sacramental Program.

All enquires to Mary Gale (Sacramental Coordinator) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509.

Email: [sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au](mailto:sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au)

Mrs Gillard

*Religious Education Coordinator*



## Cyber Safety Talks

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On Thursday, the students in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 connected in with the counsellors from Kids Helpline through a video web-chat. The counsellors discussed with the students the importance of being safe, respectful and responsible digital citizens and offered strategies to support students around those areas.

For further information around the programs offered by Kids Helpline, follow the link

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents>

Alternatively, you may contact the school.  
Contact person: Amanda Joseph



kidshelpline  
Anytime Any Reason

## Afternoon Pick Up

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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)

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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](http://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

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### 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).

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all of the new and existing families of our school...we are looking forward to 2020!!

We had a lovely morning meeting the kindy parents who joined us for a cuppa and cake after they had dropped their little ones off for their first day. Thanks for joining us, it was great to meet you all!



Your P&F Executive committee for 2020 is:

President: Veronica Neal

Vice President: Paul Bortolazzo

Secretary: Michelle Darwen

Treasurer: Kylie Beazley

Major Fundraising: Catherine Watson

General Fundraising: Jo Randall

PRC Representative: To be appointed

We will be holding our first P&F meeting of the year at 7.00pm on Tuesday 3rd March in the school hall. We would love to see you all there.

We look forward to seeing you at our welcome BBQ...more details to follow!

Veronica Neal  
P & F President

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Win a **GOOGLE  
CHROMEBOOK**

Read as many books as you can, tell us why you love them, and you could win one of two Google Chromebooks or one of thirty gift vouchers valued at \$30.

Competition opens on 2 December 2019 and closes at 5pm on 2 February 2020

Terms and conditions apply.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
 **Teachers Mutual Bank**  
We put you first

 Catholic Education  
Diocese of Parramatta



# After School Drama

@  
St Mary MacKillop School Hall

Wednesdays

**CLASSES START  
WEDNESDAY  
12th FEB**



**ASK ABOUT  
2 week TRIAL!  
Enrolment required**

INFANTS KIDS (K-YR2) @ 3.15pm

PRIMARY KIDS (YR3-6) @ 4.15pm

**Limited Vacancies! Get in quickly!**

**[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)**

**Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158**

ENQUIRIES and ENROLMENTS to be completed through the website above or call Cathie. NOT the school office.

## Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2020

<i>DAY</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
Tuesday	4 February	7pm-8:30pm	Twilight Swimming Carnival @ Penrith Ripples
Friday	7 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Thursday	13 February	9:15am	Opening School Mass and Year 6 Leadership Ceremony
Friday	14 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly 3M Assembly Item
Tuesday	18 February	TBA	Nepean Zone Swimming Carnival— Glenbrook Pool
Friday	21 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	25 February	7:00pm	Parent Meeting Reconciliation @ St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday	26 February	8:00am	Orchestra Commences
Wednesday	26 February	9:15am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word
Friday	28 February	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly
Tuesday	3 March	7pm	P&F Meeting—School Hall



**Wednesdays** during school terms.

Supervision provided from **3.00pm**.

**YOUNGER KIDS(K-Yr. 2) -Class 3.15pm** (1 hour)

**OLDER KIDS (Yr3– Yr7) - Class 4.15pm** (1 hour)  
(Children from all schools welcome)

Supervision also available from **3.00pm till 4.15pm** for OLDER KIDS and after class for the YOUNGER KIDS until **5.15pm** upon request .

**KIDS CAN ACT** is a

**CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER PROVIDER**

**Mrs Cathie Parkes:- 0414 475 158**  
**[www.kidscanact.com.au](http://www.kidscanact.com.au)**

Mrs Parkes has taught for **12 years** at St Mary MacKillop in a part time capacity.

She is always happy to chat to discuss your child's needs and answer any questions

LIKE OUR FACE BOOK PAGE :- <https://www.facebook.com/KidsCanActDramaStudio/>



# 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	<b>Open boys &amp; girls</b>	<b>19th November 2019</b>	Open 28 Oct 2019	<b>Monday 11th November 2019</b>
Cricket	Open boys & girls	Feb – Mar 2020	Open 28 Oct 2019	Thursday 6th February 2020
Divling	10/11yrs & 12/13yrs girls & boys	Term One 2020	<b>Nominations Open in 2020</b>	Registration via C3SS 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	<b>Nominations Open in 2020</b>	Registration via C3SS 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	<b>Open boys &amp; girls</b>	<b>22nd November 2019</b>	Open 28 Oct 2019	<b>Monday 11th November 2019</b>
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](http://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](http://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 "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form".**

**SUMMER SPORTS NOMINATIONS for the sports of Basketball & Tennis close Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

**ALL OTHER SPORTS NOMINATIONS close Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

Information regarding the team sport trials can be found on the Primary Sport website [www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au](http://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](http://www.primarysportpara.catholic.edu.au)  
FACEBOOK: Primary Sport Parramatta Diocese



# St Mary MacKillop Primary School Welcome to Cashless!



The St Mary MacKillop Primary Canteen is happy to announce that we are now using Cashless for all recess and lunch orders as of Term 1, 2020



## What is Cashless?

The Cashless app makes school life easier for parents, starting with the canteen. Parents can order and pay for recess and lunch for their kids from the Cashless website and app. Simple!

## How do I get started?

Just go to [www.cashless.school](http://www.cashless.school) or download our mobile apps to get started!

## How much does it cost?



Your first 3 orders do not incur any fees, so feel free to try it out!

After that there is a simple low fee of \$5 per child per term. We don't like hidden fees either, so this covers all transactions, top ups & purchases.

## What do I do with my Flexischools account?

Simply contact Flexischools to advise you are closing your account and you would like your remaining funds refunded.



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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FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

[www.beyondapeanut.com](http://www.beyondapeanut.com)  
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

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