



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 2021 school year.

Welcome back to those families returning from 2020 and a special welcome to those new families joining our community in kindergarten or in one of our other grades. It has been a big 5 days for our youngest students as they complete their first week at primary school. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

The holidays provided me with a wonderful opportunity to spend time with my family, recharge my energy and reflect on what was a challenging 2020. I am so very proud of the staff and community of St Mary MacKillop Primary School for the resilience, trust, cooperation and courage displayed last year. Our kids were well supported by us all to navigate the difficulties of last year whilst still growing and thriving. What a great community to be a part of.

One reflection that stayed with me was that at about this time twelve months ago, I was informing the staff, kindergarten families and whole school community that one of our staff had been diagnosed with cancer. One year on and I can let you all know that Miss Gillespie is continuing to respond well to her treatment and is so appreciative of all the support, care and love that was wrapped around her in 2020. To battle such a difficult disease whilst continuing to effectively teach our kindergarten children is a credit to her fortitude, stamina and commitment. What an inspiration she is! Thank you for giving her your love and support during this time.

Later in 2020, we were also told that Cameron Johnston, one of our Year 6 students and school captains, was diagnosed with Leukaemia. Again our community demonstrated the values of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and supported Cameron's family and each other to journey through such a difficult time. Over the holidays I have kept in touch with Cameron and his family and can share with you that he has completed his second round of intense chemotherapy treatment. His leukaemia went into remission after the first round of treatment and his recovery is good. We all pray that he continues to improve and that his cancer remains in remission. Please keep Cameron and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he still has a tough few months ahead with his treatment.

Over the holidays we also received some important news about planned work on our school facilities.

I am pleased to advise you that St Mary MacKillop Primary South Penrith has been selected to participate in the 2021 Energy Reduction Program. The program is designed to reduce energy consumption, operational costs and enhance the learning environments for staff and students.

Verdia will be managing the installation of solar panels and/or LED lighting onto the school infrastructure. The recommendation to install solar panels is an outcome of the site evaluation process conducted by Verdia engineers on behalf of CEDP. Verdia has worked with CEDP for three years and is familiar with school requirements and processes. Verdia will work with you to minimise disruption to the school business day during installation.

The cost of this program will be funded by CEDP.

Together We Grow
Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

COVID-19 BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2021

Student Travel

The government advice is that students over the age of 12 should wear face masks on all bus travel, including school-only buses.

Assemblies

Whole of school assemblies can continue. Wherever possible, students should remain within their relevant cohort to limit the mixing of students between cohort groups.

Parents and Carers

“Non-essential” adults are not permitted on school grounds or at school events.

Parents and carers are permitted to enter a school site for the following reasons:

- Purchase or pick up uniforms.
- Attend an essential pre-arranged meeting/appointment with school staff.
- Attend parent orientation meetings for Kindergarten or Year 7 and ‘meet the teacher’ meetings. These should be limited to 1 hour and a COVID-19 Safety Plan must be in place.
- P&F meetings can occur after school hours with a COVID-19 Safety Plan.

Field trips, Excursions and Camps

- These activities can continue.
- International excursions are on hold until further notice.
- All external providers and venues accessed during any off-site school activity must have a COVID-19 Safety Plan to ensure that measures are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of students and staff.
- Schools must consult with external venues and providers to understand what COVID-safe measures are in place, including physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning measures, and record keeping requirements.
- When planning school excursions and camps, it remains advisable that schools consider a ‘best and worst case plan’ should there be changes to the rules and restrictions in place to keep the community safe.

Square Metre Restriction and Physical Distancing

Over the Christmas/New Year period, the [square metre rule](#) was amended by NSW health authorities from *one person per 2 square metres, to one person per 4 square metres*. This applies to all workplaces. Please remember that 1.5m physical distancing remains unchanged. Staff and adults are expected to follow these guidelines at all times including within the school, at school events and at drop off/pick up.

COVID-19 testing

- Continue to exclude students and staff with even mild [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and encourage them to seek testing immediately.
- Parents of symptomatic children should provide evidence of a negative test result prior to them returning to school.
- In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their treating doctor is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

Religious Education News

Welcome to the 2021 school year –

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.

*God of Love,
We recognise Your presence in our journey together.
As we commence the start of this year,
Open our minds to know Your voice.
Open our hands to do Your work.*

And open our hearts to hold Your Spirit.

*St Mary MacKillop.....pray for us
Amen*



Opening School Mass Thursday 11th February

Our Opening School Mass will be held on Thursday 11th February. 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.

Sadly, due to COVID restrictions parents will be unable to attend the mass but we will record it and place it on our social media accounts.

Year Six Leadership Ceremony

Traditionally the Year Six Leadership Ceremony takes place within our Opening School Mass but again, due to COVID this ceremony will take place outside of the mass. A date for this important acknowledgement of our Year 6 leaders will be confirmed soon.

New Religious Education Curriculum

Religious Education in the Diocese of Parramatta has undergone much change in the last two years and in 2021 we take the next step towards a new curriculum that will replace 'Sharing Our Story', the current curriculum, that has been in place for over 20 years.

The process of developing a new approach, currently known as the Draft New Curriculum, has been a collaboration with students, parents, teachers, clergy and system leaders. This innovative and ambitious project has led to the development of Learning Cycles (one per term), that apply scripture and tradition in a meaningful way to the contemporary life of young people. This endeavour supports our students to grow in faith and understanding through prayer, reason and action in daily life.

In Term 1, many of the grades at St Mary MacKillop will be engaging with a Learning Cycle (unit of work) from the Draft New Curriculum. We will be providing updates throughout the year but in the meantime if you would like to know more please use the link below to visit the CEDP Draft New Curriculum Site.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/News%20and%20Events/Planning%20for%20the%20Future/New%20curriculum%20to%20connect%20faith%20learning%20and%20life>

Sacramental Coordinator

In 2021 we warmly welcome Mr Rodney Howard to the role of Sacramental Coordinator in our Parish. We also thank Mary Gale for all her hard work over the past years and wish her well with her future endeavours.

Religious Education News—Continued

2021 Sacramental Program - Reconciliation Parent Meeting, 7pm Tues 16th 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, 16th 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 Rodney Howard (Sacramental Coordinator – Monday and Wednesday) at St Nicholas Parish House 47212509.

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

Shrove Tuesday – 16th February

Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. It's a day of penitence and a day of celebration as traditionally it was the last chance to feast before Lent began. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So traditionally Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that weren't allowed in Lent. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. So that no food was wasted, families would have a feast on the Tuesday, and eat up all the foods that wouldn't last the forty days of Lent without going off. For this reason, pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.



Ash Wednesday - 17th February

Wednesday 17th of February is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. The Season of Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count) and is a time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

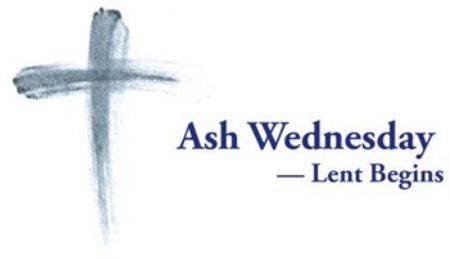
Ash Wednesday is the day for us to take stock of our spiritual lives and we are encouraged to attend Mass on this day in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. As Lent begins, we should set out specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them—for instance receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

To celebrate the beginning of Lent all students will attend an Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word.

During the liturgy the ashes, which give Ash Wednesday its name, will be distributed. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts.

The distribution of ashes, is a tangible reminder of our own need to focus on being better people. Through acts of penance comes a change of heart – a coming back to God. Our personal Lenten journey should be marked with reflection, prayer and penance. Throughout Lent we should strive to model the actions of Christ. As the prophet Joel wrote:

**'Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart.'**



Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees 2021

Term 1 School Fees will be sent to your home address as from Monday, 15th February 2021 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, 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.

Collecting Children from School (insert from our parent handbook)

If parents wish to collect their children from school early, the permission of the Principal is necessary. Please **send a note** to the Principal/teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist's appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45 – 11:30 am) or break time (1:30 – 2:00 pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or the break, **not during the break**.

Medication (insert from our parent handbook)

If your child takes long term medication, you must fill out the relevant form from the office. Medication will not be administered to any child unless authorised by a parent/guardian. All medication prescribed by a medical practitioner must be authorised by the doctor and all paperwork needs to be updated every year or when medication is changed. All relevant forms are available from the school office.

For short term medication, forms are also available from the school office. No child will be given medication unless it is recorded, prescribed by a doctor and in its original packaging. Many doctors will agree that medication to be given three times a day can be administered: morning, after school and before bed at night. Please check with your doctor.

We will not administer Panadol or aspirin, any eye medication or ear drops/nose drops. If a child needs to be on a Nebuliser, we ask a parent or a nominated person by the parent, to come to school to administer this medication. It is essential that we have up-to-date emergency contact phone numbers should we need you urgently. Please ensure your contact numbers are always up to date.

Change of After School Travel Arrangements

If there is any change to your child/children's after school travel arrangements please notify the office as soon as possible. Our office bags are collected at 2:45pm and we would appreciate all changes to after school travel prior to this time. We understand that we may receive phone calls after this time please do not hesitate to call the office should these arrangements need to change. Our contact number is 02 4724 3200.



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

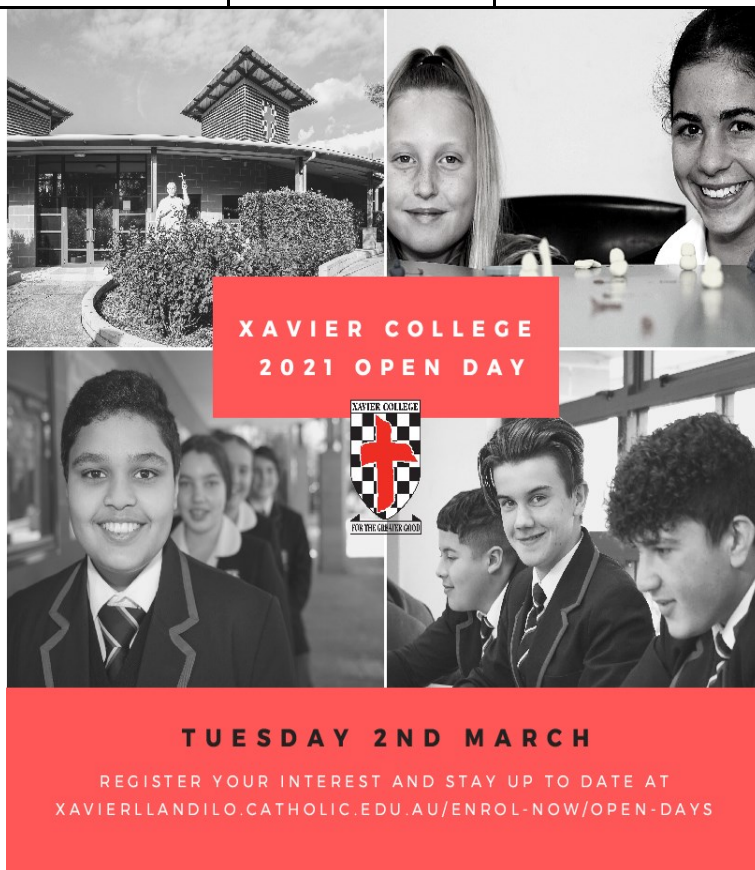
APPOINTMENTS

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
Friday	5 February		School Banking Commences
Wednesday	10 February		Kids Can Act After School Drama returns
Friday	26 February	9:00am	Second Hand Uniform Shop Open



**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



After School Drama Classes
WEDNESDAYS
 St Mary MacKillop Hall

KIDS CAN ACT
 DRAMA STUDIO

Classes start Wed 10th Feb 8 week term.

Ask about a **2 WEEK TRIAL**
 Enrolment required

Super Kids (K-Yr2) 3.15pm
 Cool Kids (Yr3-Yr7) 4.15pm
 Supervision available from 3.00pm -5.15pm if required

www.kidscanact.com.au
Mrs Cathie Parkes- 0414 475 158
 All enquiries & enrolments are to be through the website above. NOT school office.

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!