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News from Scott

Dear Parents and Carers

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.

Term 3 at St Mary MacKillop is always a time for lots of community events and engagement. 2024 is no exception. Today we have our Year 3 students on excursion to Auburn Botanical Gardens and also Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 participating in their annual Tabloid Sports Day. Last week Year 2 went on an excursion to Penrith Lakes and Year 4 had their annual CARES bike safety excursion. We also celebrated kindergarten reaching '100 Days of Learning' last Friday. The involvement and support from parents and families made these events extra special for us all.

In the coming weeks there are further events and celebrations. These include our St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass and Feast of the Assumption Mass, NAIDOC Week activities, Book Week parade, Zone and Diocesan Athletics Carnivals, Father's Day breakfast and liturgy, Diocesan Netball Gala Day, Year 1 excursion to Rouse Hill Farm, Year 4 excursion to Penrith Lakes, as well as Year 3 and 4 boys Touch Football Gala Day and Year 5 and 6 boys Touch Football Gala Day. As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for us to come together this term. Of course we also have our Friday assemblies and Grade masses / liturgies throughout Term 3.

We are always grateful for your support and interest in the life of our school. I look forward to seeing you this term.

Staffing News

I received some wonderful news recently.

Ms Izzard, who is one of our Year 2 teachers, let me know that she and her husband Grant will be welcoming a new addition to their family. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing Lauren and Grant all the very best as they prepare to welcome a beautiful new child into the world. This is a wonderful next chapter in their lives together as they grow their lovely family. In 2025 Ms Izzard will be taking maternity leave from the start of the year.

Facilities Update

During the school holidays, work commenced on renovating our Year 1 and Year 2 toilet block.

It is the final stage of a three year project to improve all of the student facilities in our school. The refurbishment will continue into the first few weeks of Term 3. This work is only possible because of the school fees that we receive from our fantastic families. On behalf of our kids, thank you for your support.

During the holidays we also repaired the large door in our school hall. As you know, the door has been unusable since our Cross Country this year when it broke. With our many celebrations over the coming weeks having the door operable again will be a great support for these events.

Together We Grow

Mr Scott Buchan
Principal

Religious Education News

Sacramental Program – Reconciliation

A reminder from the parish.....

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Enrolments for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will open on our Website, stnicholasofmyra.org.au on **Wednesday 24th July 2024**

The website contains the requirements and commitments for parents and children and the dates of the Parent Information Evening, Commitment masses, Family sessions, Practice afternoon and Reconciliation

To be eligible for Reconciliation Children must be in Year 3 or above and must be baptised.

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas Parish
Ph:4721 2509
Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop: Thursday 8th August

On January 15, 1842 Mary MacKillop was born of Scottish parents, Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald in Fitzroy, Victoria.

Mary, the eldest of eight children, was well educated by her father who spent some years studying for the priesthood in Rome but through ill health had returned to Scotland until 1835 when he migrated to Australia with his parents. Unfortunately, he lacked financial awareness, so the family was often without a home of their own, depending on friends and relatives and frequently separated from one another.

From the age of sixteen, Mary earned her living and greatly supported her family, as a governess, as a clerk for Sands and Kenny (now Sands and MacDougall), and as a teacher at the Portland school. While acting as a governess to her uncle's children at Penola, Mary met Father Julian Tenison Woods who, with a parish of 56,000 square kilometres, needed help in the religious education of children in the outback. At the time Mary's family depended on her income so she was not free to follow her dream. However, in 1866, greatly inspired and encouraged by Father Woods, Mary opened the first Saint Joseph's School in a disused stable in Penola.

Religious Education News

Young women came to join Mary, and so the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was begun. In 1867, Mary was asked by Bishop Shiel to come to Adelaide to start a school. From there, the Sisters spread, in groups to small outback settlements and large cities around Australia, New Zealand, and now in Peru, Brazil and refugee camps of Uganda and Thailand. Mary and these early Sisters, together with other Religious Orders and Lay Teachers of the time, had a profound influence on the forming of Catholic Education as we have come to know and experience it today. She also opened Orphanages, Providences to care for the homeless and destitute both young and old, and Refuges for ex-prisoners and ex-prostitutes who wished to make a fresh start in life.

Throughout her life, Mary met with opposition from people outside the Church and even from some of those within it. In the most difficult of times she consistently refused to attack those who wrongly accused her and undermined her work, but continued in the way she believed God was calling her and was always ready to forgive those who wronged her.

Throughout her life Mary suffered ill health. She died on August 8, 1909 in the convent in Mount Street, North Sydney where her tomb is now enshrined. Since then the Congregation has grown and now numbers about 900, working mainly in Australia and New Zealand but also scattered singly or in small groups around the world. The "Brown Joeys" may be seen in big city schools, on dusty bush tracks, in modern hospitals, in caravans, working with the "little ones" of God - the homeless, the new migrant, the Aboriginal, the lonely and the unwanted, in direct care and in advocacy, in standing with and in speaking with. In their endeavours to reverence the human dignity of others and to change unjust structures, the Sisters and those many others who also share the Mary MacKillop spirit continue the work which she began.

This great Australian woman inspired great dedication to God's work in the then new colonies. In today's world, she stands as an example of great courage and trust in her living out of God's loving and compassionate care of those in need. ***(Extract from the Sisters of St Joseph)***

2024 Feast Day Celebrations - Thursday 8th August

To honour our school patron, St Mary MacKillop, we will celebrate a whole school mass in the hall at 9:15am. This mass will be led by Year 6 and all parents, staff and parishioners are warmly invited to join us.

At lunch time Mary Mac-muffin orders will be handed out and after lunch students will participate in grade based activities to learn more about St Mary MacKillop. The students learning will conclude with a short Mary MacKillop Prayer and each child being presented with a prayer card to keep as a memento of the day. At recess all students will receive a treat from the P and F.

We look forward to a great day of celebrating together!



Religious Education News

The Feast of the Assumption: Whole School Mass 9:15am **Thursday 15th August**

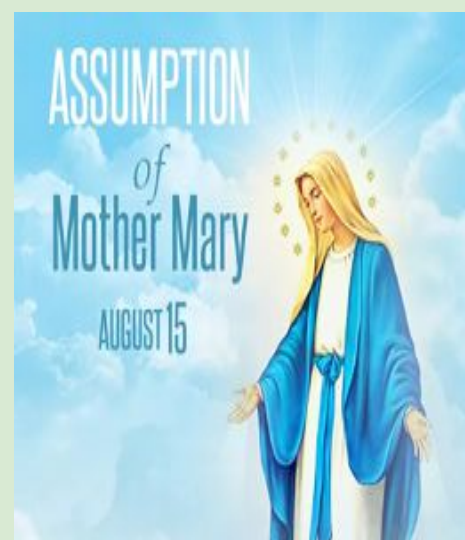
Thursday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption, a holy day of obligation. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates the belief that the body and soul of the Mary was taken into heaven after the end of her earthly life. God gave her this privilege because of her goodness and being the Mother of Jesus. Mary's assumption into heaven is seen by many as a fulfilment of Jesus' promise to all his followers that they too will be received into the kingdom of God.

To celebrate the Feast of the Assumption we will have a whole school mass, lead by Year 3, in the hall at 9:15am on Thursday 15th August.

All parents and friends are warmly invited to attend.

Mrs Gillard

Religious Education Coordinator





100 Days of Learning



Last Friday Kindergarten celebrated their 100th Day of Learning. We spent the day engaging in activities around the number 100. We had the BEST day!





100 Days of Learning



C.A.R.E.S YEAR 4, 2024



**AT C.A.R.E.S WE LEARNT ALL ABOUT ROAD SAFETY. WE ALL HAD A GREAT DAY RIDING BIKES OR SCOOTERS AND LEARNING ALL ABOUT DIFFERENT SIGNS AND INTERSECTIONS. WE SAW 3 POSSUMS. WE GOT BIKE LICENCE WITH 13 POINTS AND EVERYTIME WE BROKE A RULE WE LOST A POINT. WE HAD LOTS OF FUN.
BY DECLAN**



**MY EXPERIENCE FROM C.A.R.E.S WAS AMAZING! I HAD A FUN TIME LEARNING ABOUT ALL THE WAYS TO STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD WHEN RIDING A BIKE. THE TRICKIEST PART WAS TO INDICATE WHILE PEDALLING. IT WAS LUCKY I DIDN'T GET PULLED OVER, ALTHOUGH I DID MAKE A FEW MISTAKES. MY FAVOURITE PART WAS THE ROUNDABOUT. IT'S FUN GOING AROUND IT. ALSO THE PARENT HELPERS AND MRS JARRETT RODE ON THE BIKES TOO! THE CUTEST THING WE SAW THERE WAS 3 POSSUMS! THE C.A.R.E.S EXCURSION HAS BEEN THE BEST SCHOOL EXCURSION SO FAR.
BY ALARA SIMON**





Sporting News

Please find the Term 3 dates for sporting activities below. As always, these dates can be subject to change due to weather or CSPD changing dates due to venue hire etc. I will endeavour to let you know of any changes as earliest as I can.

Term 3			
Week	Event	Where	When
2	Infant Tabloid Carnival	School	Thursday 1st August
5	Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival	Blacktown Sports Stadium	Wednesday 21st August
6	Diocesan Athletics Carnival	Blacktown	Friday 30th August
7	Netball Gala Day	Jamisontown Netball Park	Wednesday 4th September
8	Stage 2 BOYS Touch BLUE	Kingsway Touch Fields, St Marys	Friday 13th September
10	Stage 3 Boys Touch BLUE	Kingsway Touch Fields, St Marys	Friday 27th September

Zone Relay Training

This week we commenced Relay training for our students who were selected to represent St Mary MacKillop in the Junior and Senior Boys and Girls relay teams. Training is on a Tuesday morning, starting at 8:25am. If your child is unable to attend, please contact the school office.





The 2024 PRC closes for student entries on Friday 23 August 2024. Please ensure all books are logged before this date. See important information below:

Student accounts are now automatically redirected to the [Student Experience Site](#) regardless of if they log in from the PRC main site or the Student Experience Site. The NSWPRC student site allows you to search for books to read from the PRC reading lists, save them to read later, and add them to your reading log.

For more information go to the [PRC Student Website Guide](#)



The link below outlines how students can log both PRC titles and choice books using the Student Experience site.

[How to Add a...](#)

Kindergarten student reading records will be logged at school by Mrs Eisenhuth. For any issues around the PRC, please contact Mrs Eisenhuth via the school office.

Mrs Eisenhuth
Librarian

P & F News

FANTASTIC NEWS - We are underway in preparations for our School Fete. SUNDAY 20th October, 2024...

SPONSORSHIP

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

Platinum – **Wisdom Dental and Denture Clinic**

Silver - **Western Suburbs Concrete**

Silver - **Laser Electrical & Communications**

Silver - **Trade Wise Group**

Bronze - **Melissa Peters Beauty**



We have received a generous donation from **Bell Partners Finance**

We would love to welcome more sponsors on board, please contact us on smppandf@gmail.com for a Sponsorship Proposal.

Many thanks for your support!

Throughout this term and the start of term 4, we will be relying on you, parents and friends, to donate your time, energy and resources to make the Fete a success. Below is a list of requirements that will be asked of parents in the lead up to the fete. This can be used as a checklist or organisational tool to keep us on track to reaching our goal.

The Fete Committee cannot do this without the support of our amazing parents and friends, who have always shown incredible generosity. We thank you in advance and our children will thank us all after they've had a terrific fete day!

Date	To do...	Explanation	Due Date
TERM 3			
Week 4	Raffle Tickets	Sell as many as we can, great prizes up for grabs!	Wed August 14
Week 5	Ride Band Pre-Sale	Ability to purchase online	Wed August 21
Week 7	Volunteer Call Out	Each family will be asked to volunteer at least one hour to a P&F Stall on fete day – One of the greatest gifts you can give, is your time!	Online form available: September 4

P & F News - Continued

Date	To do...	Explanation	Due Date
TERM 3			
Late Term 3	Mufti Day	Donations for our Sideshow Alley, each class will be nominated a theme	TBA
Week 1	Cake Stall	One cake box is given out per family to fill with delicious cakes and treats to serve on Fete day	Wed October 16
Week 1	FETE DAY	ENJOY THE FUN & ENTERTAINMENT!!	Sunday October 20

Looking forward to an amazing Fete!

Any questions, please contact smmppandf@gmail.com,

The St Mary MacKillop Fete Committee

Thanks to our amazing sponsors:



Office News

School Fees

Instalment 3 School Fees have been sent to your home address as from Monday, 29th July 2024 from our Catholic Education Office of Parramatta. The Instalment 3 School Fees are due by Wednesday, 23rd August 2023. If you are under an arrangement, please disregard this due date.

If you are **not under an arrangement** all school fees will need to be paid by **Wednesday, 28th August 2024**. If you feel you may have difficulties in paying your school fees by this date, please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Leaving Students

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. **One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.**

Planning a Holiday?

There are new Government guidelines for schools to follow when marking the school rolls. These guidelines require parents who are taking their children on holidays, during the school year, to complete a request of 'Exemption from School Attendance' form. This is required if you are taking your child on leave for **more than 5 school days**. A copy of your travel itinerary. The application form is available from the school office and are to be completed **prior** to your holiday.

Longer periods require the approval of the Director of Schools and the Catholic Education Commission.

COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

If parents wish their children to be collected from school early, please send a note to the teacher. If there is a doctor's/dentist appointment or some other very important reason why your child needs to leave the school at lunch (10:45 am - 11:30 am) or break time (1:30pm- 2:00 pm), we would ask you to take your child either before or after lunch or break, not during the break, as bags are kept inside the classrooms and classrooms are locked during break times.

****From our parent handbook**** Read our Parent Handbook here:

<https://www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au/Enrol/Handbook>

COLLECTING CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

Children are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided only until 3:30pm.

A classroom teacher will escort students to 'walkers' and supervise students crossing the street, riding bikes and going to cars as part of afternoon dismissal.

After school, staff will supervise children waiting for school buses or on 'waiters.' (***Waiters are to be collected after 3:10pm***) up on our playground.

If, due to extraordinary circumstances, eg: when a parent is detained, please notify the school and your child will be informed that you are delayed. Parents are reminded that all care will be given to the children but there is no formal supervision after 3:30pm when the last bus leaves the school.

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1 August	9:00am-12:15pm	Infants Tabloid Carnival (Kindergarten - Year 2) Year 3 Excursion	School Playground Auburn Botanical Gardens
Friday 2 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 8 August	9:15am	Feast of St Mary MacKillop Mass	School Hall
Friday 9 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Thursday 15 August	9:15am	Feast of the Assumption Mass	School Hall
Friday 16 August	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly Year 4 Assembly Item	School Hall
Tuesday 20 August	7:00pm	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting	St Nicholas of Myra
Wednesday 21 August		Zone Athletics Carnival	Blacktown International
Friday 23 August	9:15am 2:20pm	Book Week Parade Whole School Assembly	School Playground School Hall
Thursday 29 August	8:00am 9:15am	Father's Day Breakfast Father's Day Liturgy Open Classrooms	School Hall
Friday 30 August	2:20pm	Diocesan Athletics Carnival Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Wednesday 4 September		Netball Gala Day (Years 3-6)	Jamison Park Netball Courts

Dates for your Diary

TERM 3 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 5 September	9:15am	Year 2 Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 6 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 10 September		Year 1 Excursion	Rouse Hill Estate
Friday 13 September	2:20pm	Stage 2 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly	Kingsway School Hall
Tuesday 17 September		Year 4 Excursion	Penrith Lakes
Thursday 19 September	9:15am	Kindergarten Liturgy	School Hall
Friday 20 September	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall
Tuesday 24 September	5:00pm-8:00pm	First Reconciliation Practice and Ceremony	St Nicholas of Myra
Friday 27 September	2:20pm	Stage 3 Boys Touch Gala Day Whole School Assembly Last Day of Term 3	Kingsway, St Marys School Hall

TERM 4 2024 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 14 October		STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
Tuesday 15 October		STUDENTS RETURN - TERM 4 COMMENCES	
Friday 18 October	2:20pm	Whole School Assembly	School Hall

St Mary MacKillop, South Penrith

150 Fragar Road, South Penrith NSW 2750

Ambrose School Age Care provides fun, engaging programs before and after school. Our programs include games, sport, art, craft, and free-time facilitated by Ambrose educators experienced in the nationally approved learning framework, My Time Our Place. Children love Ambrose as the programs are developed around their interests and ideas

They're also a great way to make friends, develop social skills, and most importantly – have fun!



Our Opening Hours

Before School Care: 6.30am – 8.45am

After School Care: 2:30pm – 6.00pm

Pupil Free Day: 6.30am – 6.00pm

Our fees Government subsidy (CCS) available depending on each family's eligibility.

Session	Time	After 85% Child Care Subsidy*	After 50% Child Care Subsidy*	Advertised Fee No Child Care Subsidy
Morning	6.30am – 8.45am	\$4.23	\$11.55	\$22 per session
Afternoon	2.30pm – 6.00pm	\$6.06	\$16.54	\$31.50 per session
Pupil Free Day - Standard Fee - Early 'Bee' Special	6.30am – 6.00pm	\$14.43 \$ 12.51	\$39.37 \$34.12	\$75 \$65

*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can provide up to 85% of the cost of your childcare fees. External party charges for in-service workshops and excursions may apply.

All educators working directly with the children hold a valid working with children check and there is always an educator rostered who is qualified in first aid, asthma, anaphylaxis and CPR.

To enrol now - please complete the enrolment form [here](#)

Or contact the service on

Email: stmarymackillop@ambrose.org.au Phone: 0492 367 298



Learning for life