

7th August 2014



Term 3

No. 4

Dear Parents

Tomorrow, the 8<sup>th</sup> of August is the feast of St Mary Mackillop of the Cross. Many of you are very familiar with the story of Mary Mackillop and the amazing qualities she demonstrated to the people of her era. By the time of her death in 1909 she was renowned as a woman of great vision, of heroic character and outstanding holiness. What was so amazing about this woman? In an interesting article written by Mary Cresp rsj it was described that it was Mary's personal virtues that made her so special rather than her achievements. This statement, I believe, is worth contemplating. In a world that focuses heavily on results, financial success and position in society many people forget in the importance of being a good and decent human being, willing to show generosity, service, compassion and forgiveness. The two categories are not necessary mutually exclusive however and I know of people who have been highly successful and who embody the characteristics described. What I notice however is that their focus seems to be the personal fulfillment that comes with sharing one's gifts with others. These people seem to possess the condition of happiness.

Another significant feature of Mary's life is her belief in the dignity of all humans, especially through the provision of education. This belief is particularly interesting to me as I maintain that education; learning about God, oneself, the world and each other, is such a powerful privilege and one that we can often take for granted in Australia. Providing quality learning experiences in the family and in the school can often help students to recognize their moral obligation to learn. This concept is described by Professor Therese D'Orsa, lecturer at the University of Newcastle who says that learning is, "a responsibility to oneself, one's community, one's future and the relationships which circumscribe that future."

A well known saying by St Mary Mackillop reflects this moral obligation; 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' Her dedication to the poor and marginalized was a key element of her ministry and one that we can emulate in our own way. Allowing our children to begin to take on small responsibilities around the home and the school begins to empower them to recognize that they CAN contribute in very significant ways; to the family, the school and society. Sometimes parents can feel that children are too young to do chores, to look after their own possessions and to take on tasks to assist them. I can understand that at times it is in fact easier to do things for them however imagine the 'seeds for service' parents can sow and the sense of self efficacy ie the strength of one's belief in one's own ability to complete tasks and reach goals, that can be developed in our children, through these experiences. The life of St Mary Mackillop is as significant today as it was to the people of her time. She taught us that life is precious and the impact we can have on our world is in essence only brief. Using her wise words, "We are but travellers here" let us work together to make a positive impact on those around us each and every day.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

## Mary MacKillop Prayer



Ever generous God,  
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.

With confidence in your generous providence and joining with Saint Mary MacKillop we asked that you grant our request.....

We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness.

Ever generous God hear our prayer.

We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Student of the week is awarded to the child who demonstrates outstanding application across any Key Learning Area



### st patrick's award

The St Patrick's award is given to the child who lives their life through Faith in action

3L	Lucienne Tolentino
3T	Mylan Do
4B	Zayden Weaver
4G	An Le
5C	Marybeth Abraham
5T	Kasey Lao
6P	Christian Tanna
6W	Yvette Roque

3L	Adrian Pangan
3T	Alexander Sicurella
4B	Wendy Chen
4G	Mikayla Urizar
5C	Amelia Tannous
5T	Nathan Didier Serre
6P	Josie Wehbe
6W	Joseph Bechara

Dear Parents and Staff of St Patrick's Parramatta,

This **Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August** some of our students will be celebrating the **Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral**. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Anthony and Fr John Paul at **2pm**.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a special celebration as the children renew their Baptismal Promises and are Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are independently confirming their faith and belief and saying 'Yes' to continuing their journey as part of God's family.

On behalf of the children celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation we would like to invite you to attend the Mass at the Cathedral at 2pm on Sunday and show your support to the children and their families. The children appreciate the effort you put in to helping them celebrate and making them feel extra special on the day. It is important to help our Catholic community grow through showing support and love for one another.

### MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday	8.00am
	6.00pm (Vigil)
Sunday	8.00am
	9.30am (Family)
	11.00am (Solemn)
	6.00pm

#### Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday	6.45am
	12.30pm
Public Holidays	8.00am

#### Pastoral Team

Bishop Anthony Fisher OP  
Rev Fr Andrew Bass  
Rev Fr John Paul Escarlan  
Rev Fr Steven Hyun  
Rev Robertus Kim  
Sr Susan Ward rsj



**Happy Birthday to the following children who will celebrate their birthdays in the following week:**

Evelyn Gereige, Brailey Qumi, Sandy Nguyen, Claudia Elias, Valerie Liu, Aaron Neroy, Thomas Kougelis.

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Change of Date

Term Three	Has been postponed until Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
Term Four	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> of December (last 2 days of the school year)



## Pyjama Day— Tomorrow

Inspired by the life and reflections of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross, the St Patrick's School community is celebrating her feast day **tomorrow Friday, 8 August**. Please bring

a gold coin to donate towards the fundraiser for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.

Through the day we will remember those people who don't have much to wear and feel quite chilly, even freezing, through winter.

This is not a day for a PJ fashion parade but a day to reflect on how blessed we are and an opportunity to help others in a practical way. For safety reasons we asked all children to please wear joggers, **coloured joggers are allowed for this day only**.

## Farewell and best wishes to Father Andrew

We would like to send our best wishes to Rev Father Andrew Bass who left for Rome yesterday Wednesday 6th August. Due to his tight schedule Father Andrew was unable to accept any of the school's invitations however we were able to give him a small token of our appreciation before he left.

Please keep him in your prayers as he commences a new phase in his life.

### **PARENT GROUP MEETING**

Date: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>, August Time: 1.30pm

Topic: Anxiety and Resilience in Children Venue: School Hall

Alison Kaylinger from the Behaviour and Wellbeing team at Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will present an informative discussion for parents on strategies they can use to support their child to manage their worries.

Alison is a Social Worker who has worked with children and families for many years in both Health and Educational settings. The presentation will be skills focused and there will be time for questions.

All parents are welcome.

### **BOOK WEEK PARADE—WEEK 6**

The alphabet is a brilliant invention. We connect to reading through words and the letters that make up these words. Abecedaries (or alphabet books) are some of the first books in which children engage. Who can forget Dr Seuss's ABC?

This year's Book Week Parade will have a theme of LETTERS.

The Alphabet Parade — Each student is asked to pick a letter of the alphabet and come dressed as something beginning with that letter. The letter needs to be clearly displayed somewhere on the child ie badges, hats or a large number pinned to the child.

**Date:** Tuesday 19th August **Time:** 11.30am — 1.00pm (School playground)

**Dress:** An Alphabet letter (joggers must be worn)

The Parent Group meeting will follow in the Library at 1.30pm





## MILO CRICKET CUP

On Tuesday the 5th August Year 6 went to Doyle park to play in the Milo Cricket T20 Blast versing other schools. When we got there the milo cricket representatives called the roll and explained the rules. We then played 3 games and had a lunch break. Fortunately Mrs Wehbe and Mrs Sarkis came to the park and brought us all ice blocks. After our lunch break we were told who was in the finals.

The boys had 2 teams, the 'Sixers and the Thunders' and played 4 games each. The Sixers won 2 and lost 2. The Thunders won 1 and lost 3. Both teams did very well and are quite proud of themselves. The girl teams also did quite well and thanks to Mrs Graham and Mr Younis we had a great day

Narella Wakim and Christian Tanna



### Lost Property

We still have a lot of lost property in the office. If your child is missing a sports jacket, bomber jacket, jumper please come into the office to collect.

### **2014 SCHOOL FEES — Term 3**

Term 3 School Fee accounts have been sent out by the Catholic Education office. The due date for payment is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. **We would appreciate your prompt payment of these fees.**

**If you are experiencing difficulty in making fee payments, please contact Mrs Nutter.**



# St Patrick's MOVIE NIGHT

Dear Families and Staff of St Patrick's,

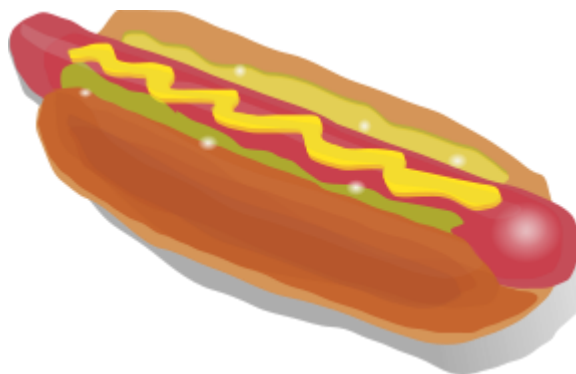
We are excited and pleased to announce that on **Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of September (last day of term)** we will be holding our first annual **Movie Night**.

What a fantastic way to celebrate the end of another term of learning and successful achievements. The students will soon get to vote on what movie they want screened on the **big outdoor cinema screen** and there will be lots of delicious treats for sale including popcorn, hot dogs, fairy floss, lollies, cakes, pizza, corn on the cob, soft drinks and hot chocolate. Great to give you a break from cooking dinner on a Friday night.....

This event is organised to continue to build community spirit within St Patrick's and will be a wonderful opportunity for families to meet and socialise, especially for families new to our school community.

A newsletter will be going home with the students shortly with further information. Please keep an eye out for more information in future newsletters and on the Skool Bag App.

We hope many families will be able to attend to join in the fun and continue to build our positive school community. We are fortunate to have such caring families within St Patrick's who always strive to support our school and open their arms to assist when needed.



## Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival 2014

A huge congratulations to the children who represented St Patrick's and participated in the 2014 Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival. We had a team of 29 athletes who all represented our school proudly in several track and field events. They did their best and never gave up, even when they were exhausted. What was even more inspiring to see was the way that our team supported and encouraged one another throughout the day. Their cheers could be heard throughout the park.

All of our St Patrick's representatives were on their best behaviour and were always respectful. They displayed exceptional sportsmanship not only with one another but also to the children from other schools. We even had comments from staff and parent helpers from other schools about how polite and well behaved our children were.

We were fortunate to have a nice sunny, warm day. When not involved in an event the children had a great time snacking on treats, especially the hot chips and lollies. Much needed refuelling after a race of course.

A huge thank you to Mrs Benkovich for assisting as a Place Judge. This is always a difficult job and her expertise was greatly appreciated. A big thank you also to the parents who assisted me in the stands with supervising the children. It is a busy day and having the parent helpers assisting with supervision while I got the children prepared for events and checked results was a relief. I appreciated your wonderful assistance. Thank you again for your care and support.

**A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Luke Maroun for achieving Cumberland Zone Junior Boys Runner-Up and to Ashleigh Grubba for achieving Cumberland Zone 11 Years Girls Age Champion.** Both Luke and Ashleigh competed tirelessly throughout the day in several track and field events. Even though they were sore and tired they battled on and competed to the best of their ability in all of their scheduled events and finals. We are very proud of your achievements and the way in which you both conducted yourselves throughout the day displaying strength, commitment and dedication.

Congratulations also to the following children who successfully qualified for the Diocesan Athletics Carnival which will be held on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. We wish you all the very best of luck and are confident that you will represent St Patrick's as well as yourself with great pride, enthusiasm and to the best of your ability.

### St Patrick's 2014 Diocesan Athletics Carnival Team:

**Junior Boys 4x100m Relay Team:** Luke Maroun, Jordan Moubarak, Nathan Rizk and Oscar Gray

**Senior Girls 4x100m Relay Team:** Crystal Makdissi, Antonia Khalil, Angeleena Loto'aniu and Annie Gittany

**Luke Maroun:** Junior Boys 800m, 9 Year Boys 100m, Junior Boys 200m

**Joseph Rahme:** Senior Boys 800m

**Prince Gyan:** 8 Year Boys 100m

**Ashleigh Grubba:** 11 Year Girls 100m, 11 Year Girls 200m, 11 Year Girls Long Jump, 11 Year Girls Discus

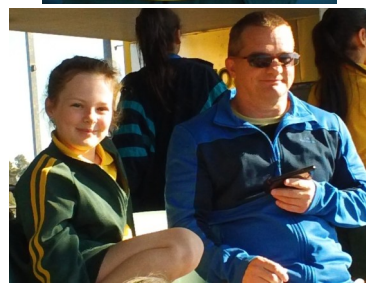
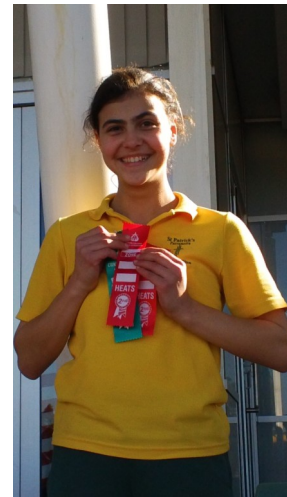
**Antonia Khalil:** 12 Year Girls 100m, Senior Girls 200m

**Marcus El-Chaar:** Junior Boys Discus

As you can see St Patrick's had a successful day thanks to the efforts and skills of our entire Zone Team. I was extremely proud to be at this event with this wonderful team. I'm sure we will see some of these super stars in future Olympic events.

Mrs Anne Fardell







**PRC Presentation: Anxiety & Children  
Term 3 Mon (1 September 2014)**

**Venue:** St Patrick's Primary School,  
51 Allawah Rd, Blacktown

**Topic:** Anxiety and Children

Dr Andrew Martin is a well respected and experienced presenter who was very popular at the recent Catholic Schools Parents Conference held in Parramatta in 2013.

An important area of interest for many parents and families.

The presentation commences at 7pm (Doors open 6.30pm)

**Contact:** Parents Representative Council,  
Parramatta Diocese

**Email:** [prcparraevents@hotmail.com](mailto:prcparraevents@hotmail.com)

Book Now!

**PARENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL,  
Parramatta Diocese (PRC)  
Term 3, 2014 (Mon 18 Aug 2014)  
General Meeting**

**Venue:** Diocesan Assembly

**Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd and Marion St,  
Blacktown**

**Topic: Learning Difficulties: How Do I Know?  
What Do I Do? What Support Can I Get?**

Presenters Sue Walsh & Mary Creenaune are Leaders in Systems Learning at the Catholic Education Office, Parramatta

This presentation leads into our Term 3 General Meeting and will be valuable for all parents who have children with learning difficulties or who suspects that to be the case.

**Contact:** Parents, Representative Council,  
Parramatta Diocese

**Email:** [prcparrasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:prcparrasecretary@gmail.com)



*sub tuum praesidium*

Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community within an innovative, interactive learning environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –

Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all experience belonging.

**Opportunity for all**

**TERM THREE – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Week Four**

Friday 8th August Primary Assembly Year 5  
Feast of St Mary Mackillop—PJ day

**Week Five**

Tuesday 12th August ICAS Mathematics Competition 7.45am  
Friday 15th August Feast of the Assumption Mass  
9.30am St Patrick's Cathedral  
Infants Assembly Kindergarten

**Week Six**

Monday 18th August Book Week commences  
Tuesday 19th August Alphabet Parade 11.30am  
Parent Group Meeting 1.30pm  
Friday 22nd August Diocesan Athletics Carnival  
Kinder Excursion to Calmsley Hill Farm  
Primary Assembly Year 4

**Week Seven**

Tuesday 26th August Parent First Aid course 11am—3pm  
Friday 29th August Whole School Assembly

**Week Eight**

Tuesday 2nd Sept Father's Day stall  
Friday 5th Sept Father's Day Mass  
Primary Assembly Year 3

**Week Nine**

Friday 12th Sept No Assembly

**Week Ten**

Friday 19th Sept Movie Night  
Last day of Term