

St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 3 Week 3 2020

Dear St Nicholas Families,

'Never See A Need Without Doing Something About It'

This motto of St Mary MacKillop led Mary to minister to those who were poor and pushed to the margins. Mary MacKillop believed in the dignity of each person. She brought love and hope to the people around her. Mary and the women who joined her, took steps to educate the poor children of rural Australia, cared for the sick and provided shelter for women and children. Today many Josephite Sisters continue to be motivated by this same conviction, serving in a wide range of ministries and meeting needs of our world and its people in a variety of ways. Just like St Mary MacKillop, who made a difference, so too can we make a difference - whenever we strive to respond to needs we see in our world.

Those in need is where the compassion of Christ is most profound. Her motto: "Never see a need without doing something about it", still has relevance in our world today. The speed of change, the grandeur with which we can do things, the profound influence that technology can and does have in our life, can lead us to a place that is lonely and dismissive of others. More than ever, Mary MacKillop has a message that we should all hear and act upon. When was the last time you saw a need and did something about it?

St Mary MacKillop was an 'ordinary' Australian who did extraordinary things! So as we celebrate St Mary MacKillop's [St Mary of the Cross] Feast Day on August 8, may we be like her and show great persistence as we each strive to achieve and be our best!



Mary MacKillop Prayer

*Ever generous God,
You inspired St Mary of the Cross
to live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus
and constant in bringing hope and encouragement
to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy.
With confidence in your generous providence
and joining with St Mary of the Cross
we ask that you grant the special requests in our hearts.
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 prayers.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic
Principal

Extra Curricular



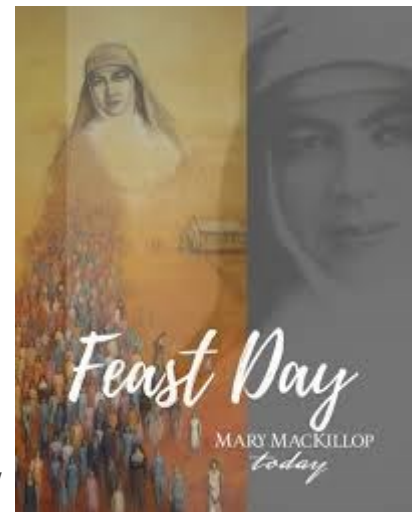
Next Friday 14 August, the children at St Nicholas of Myra will take part in a live zoom concert presented by Musica Viva. This is funded from the Excursion Levy. The musical group performing for us is called *Rhythm Works*. *Rhythm Works* incorporate junk and found percussion in their show, underscoring the accessibility and affordability of percussion for music making by any student, anywhere. All classes have been preparing for the concert during Creative Arts lessons with Mrs Clarke.

Religious Education

St Mary Mackillop Liturgy

Tomorrow, Friday 7 August, each stage will hold a liturgy at 9:30am in their learning space to celebrate Australia's First Saint Mary Mackillop. Earlier this week we shared an invitation and Zoom link for parents to be part of this celebration.

- We ask that you be patient as we trial this way of holding a community event for the first time.
- As this is a liturgy please be mindful of where you are watching and keep your device on mute during the liturgy.
- We will be admitting parents and carers from 9:25am for a liturgy beginning at 9:30am.
- Teachers will not be able to admit parents once the first song has been completed so that we can all remain reverent during the liturgy.
- Please refrain from taking pictures and screenshots during the Zoom. Stage teachers will post pictures from the liturgy onto Seesaw as soon as possible after the liturgy is completed.
- We understand that you may have students in different stages but for this event you will need to choose one to attend, perhaps ask your child if they have a reading or part in the liturgy.
- If all goes well we will be holding other events via Zoom in the future.



We welcome your feedback after the event as we continue to navigate whole school events during COVID-19.

Mrs Nicole Khoury

Religious Education



Congratulations to the students who are making their First Reconciliation tonight at St Nicholas of Myra Church. Due to COVID-19, the usual group photo cannot be taken.

A Prayer for our Reconciliation Candidates

*Loving God, help us to teach our children that You love us totally and unconditionally. Help us to encourage our children to grow in love and to learn how to say sorry, knowing that You always forgive. Give us the courage to pray with our children and to share our faith with them as we journey together. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Attending Mass or Other Services at St Nicholas of Myra Church

Please find below the latest information from the Diocese of Parramatta and specifically St Nicholas of Myra Parish in regards to attending the Church. This is relevant for families attending Mass, Sacraments such as Reconciliation, Holy Communion or any service at the Church.

Dear Parishioners

As you will have seen, NSW Health, supported by the Premier of NSW is highly recommending everyone in NSW to wear masks in any situation with the potential for COVID-19 transmission. Places of worship have been mentioned specifically.

We are therefore officially recommending all worshippers in the Diocese of Parramatta to wear a mask to Mass. This would be as people arrive on parish grounds, during Mass or the service and afterwards as they leave. During Communion, the mask may be removed, but it should be in place at all other times.

Priests and readers who cannot wear a mask to conduct their duties at Mass, must observe appropriate social distancing at all times.

Masks don't replace distancing or hygiene. If you're making a cloth one, aim for three layers, with a water-repellent outside layer.

Have a few for when you're out. Put the used ones in a plastic bag and wash at home later. Handle them safely – like you would a used tissue or hanky. No masks for children under 2 yrs – they're a choking hazard.

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during and from Mass and other services.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern. We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

- ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA PENRITH



General News

School Fees

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. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance.

The requirement for a term's notice (10 school weeks) is recognition by the family of the commitment to assist with funding of the School by having their child take a place that could have been offered to another family. Unless the student is present for the August census or the student is able to be replaced mid-year, which is unlikely, the loss of the student will most certainly result in the loss of significant government funding. Thus a term's notice provides the school with an opportunity to replace the student within the next term. Special circumstances that would warrant a waiving of this notice, include:

- Moving due to employment transfer
- Sale of house
- The student has been offered full time employment (High School)
- The student has been offered an apprenticeship (High School)



We would prefer if possible that all payment transactions be cash free e.g. Book Club and School Fees.

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Also available as an app:



Census 7 August 2020

ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information.

Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they don't want their child's data included in this report by 28 August 2020

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school. Please send through an email request.

PBS4L Double Points Focus

This fortnight, Weeks 3-4, the PBS4L playground focus is: 'I can play non-contact games/activities in the correct area for my stage.' Stage teachers have completed a reteach of this expectation in the classroom this week. Students can earn a double points playground token for their stage when staff observe this expectation in the playground. The stage with the most tokens at the end of this week, for the week 1-3 count, will receive reward time towards an activity of their own choosing for their stage.



At the end of Term 2, Stage 1 were the winners of the PBS4L Playground Initiative. They completed the following activities for their reward time with their class groups:

Year 1 Night at the Museum



Year 2 Splat



eSafety Webinars for Parents/Carers

In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join one of the following free webinars specifically for parents and carers:

- 1) Helping Kids Thrive Online (5-12 yrs) - Thursday 20 August 2020, 12:00 -1.00 pm
- 2) Tech, teens and time online (secondary schools) - 7 September 2020, 7.00 - 8.00 pm

These live webinars explore the latest research and they are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. All sessions are delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

About the courses

Helping kids thrive online

A one hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 5-12 years old. This session will cover:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and online bullying
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- skills that young people need to protect themselves online
- how to get help if things go wrong.

Tech, teens and time online

A one hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 12-18 years old. The session will cover:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, relationships and online harassment
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- online wellbeing strategies for teens
- how to get help if things go wrong.

What you need to do

1) Please register for the courses on the secondary site via the following links:

- Helping Kids Thrive Online- 20 August 2020 session - [link to register- https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2961544873308901646](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2961544873308901646)
- Tech, teens and time online- 7 September 2020 session - [link to register- https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3269364148621148942](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3269364148621148942)



Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey.

In the coming weeks we will be inviting students, teachers and parents to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey*. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at St Nicholas of Myra Primary.

Survey dates:

The upcoming survey window is open from:

Term 3, Week 4 to Week 6 (Monday 10 August – Friday 28 August 2020).

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/stnicholasofmyra2020>

Voice of Youth

This term Stage 3 students have been involved in a speech writing competition called the Voice of Youth. Each year all students in Stage 3 participate with finalists selected from Year 6. This year our finalists were: Julian Falzon, Jayden Harvery, Monette Banda, Richard Reales, Ian Geraldez, Verity Rodrigues, Ellie Moen, Lara White and Joshua Christian. On Wednesday 5 August these nine students competed in the St Nicholas school final. We heard a variety of well prepared speeches and it is always a tough decision to award the winner. Congratulations to the following students:

Winner: Lara White
Runner-up: Monette Banda
Social Justice Award: Richard Reales.

Lara will progress to the next round of competition held at Corpus Christi Primary School in Week 5. We wish her all the best as she represents our school at the cluster final.

Due to COVID-19 the students in Stage 3 will not be attending the final but will be able to zoom into the event during class to cheer and support Lara.

School Counsellor

Alison Docanto, our School Counsellor, will be available on Monday and Thursday in even weeks only until further notice due to COVID19. (We are currently in Week 3.) Thank you for your understanding.

Correspondence

- 😊 Emails - Head Lice
- 😊 Emails - Update on Covid-19
- 😊 Email - PBS4L Mascot Competition
- 😊 Email - Stage 2 Reconciliation—
need to wear masks
- 😊 Email & note - Year 6 Graduation
Gift order and payment form
- 😊 Email - Curriculum Overviews for
each Stage

St Nicholas of Myra Parish

326 High St Penrith
4721 2509

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 7:00am, 8:30am, 10:00am &
6:00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 6:45am, 9.30am
Wednesday 6:45am, 9:30am
Thursday 9:30am
Friday 6:45am, 12:10pm



Does this little treasure belong to your family?

This little snuggly toy has the name
“Willow Delma” and is looking for its owner.

Please notify the office via email by next Friday 14
August.