Dear Students and Parents,

**Launch of the Way of Mercy**

Today is the official launch of the Way of Mercy, which occurred at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Parramatta. The mass was followed by a procession at 11:00am. Some speakers shared on the Year of Mercy and there was a blessing to send the Cross and Relics into the wider diocese. All Mercy Representatives were invited to attend to share the love and mercy of God with the wider community of Parramatta. Sr. Julie and I attended to represent our school. We will in time become a host school/parish for this initiative. More news on this will follow. I encourage everyone in our school/parish community to get involved in the wonderful experience.

**School Mary Garden**

You may have noticed some changes at the front of the school. The area on the Farnham Road side of the school outside Year 5 is being converted into a new ‘Mary Garden’. This is scheduled to be completed and celebrated this October and will highlight our school’s devotion to Mary.

**Chinese Visitors**

This Wednesday 94 students from the Beijing Children’s Palace will be joining us in the afternoon to meet our student and sing songs which they will have sung that morning in the Sydney Opera House. Parents are invited to join us in the MPA for the commencement of the singing at 3pm.

**Signing in to School**

At our recent athletics carnival there appeared to be some confusion around the need for parents to sign in at the front office. For events such as the carnival where the whole community is invited to attend during the school day, signing in is not required. The same applies for assemblies and the like. Signing in is required when parents are coming in to work in classes, help on excursions etc with children as a volunteer. Details of requirements of volunteers are available at Building Child Safe Communities – Undertaking for Volunteers

Yours in Learning,
Stephen Dowd
Principal

**Healthy Kids**

Our busy lifestyles can be hard on our family’s health. Rushing around can make it difficult to find time to be physically active and eat well. Each week we will include tips and ideas in the newsletter to help take stock and make a conscious decision to follow a healthy lifestyle. The choices we make, are crucial in helping our children to develop healthy eating habits and be more physically active.

This week in Peer Support the children will be participating in activities helping them to identify and accept differences in people. Children will also identify ways they can demonstrate being caring through their actions.

Discuss with your child the importance of accepting differences in other people. Perhaps take the time to identify and discuss the various differences people may have eg. Appearance, religion, culture, disabilities. Ask your child to share the qualities they appreciate in their friends.

For more information, visit the website [www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au](http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au)
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day—Monday, 8th August

Today we celebrate the life and works of Australia's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Mary MacKillop is an important historical figure in Australia for the work she did ensuring that children received a formal education. She co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph and worked tirelessly with her sisters to start schools all over Australia.

She is our shining example of conquering all manner of challenges through hard work and faith in God. She would frequently tell her sisters to trust that God would provide, even when all seemed hopeless. You might like to pray this special prayer of Mary MacKillop with your families this week:

_**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 through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop
We ask 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._

Monday 15th August

St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

In support of the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, we are having a Pyjama Day on Monday 15th August. Students are invited to wear pyjamas and bring a gold coin donation to support the work of St Vincent de Paul. The Mini Vinnies Team is also organising a cake stall at lunch time on the day with a range of cakes, biscuits and slices ranging in price from 50c each to $2.
BOOK WEEK

2016 Theme: Australian Story Country
August 20th—26th

LOTS OF FUN!

More information to follow

PARENTS AND CARERS

Dental Staff from Blacktown/ Mt Druitt Dental Hospital Clinics
will be visiting Mary Immaculate Primary this Wednesday 10th August, 2016 to provide
Kindergarten, Years 2, 4, and 6
with a short talk regarding oral health information and diet advice plus a
FREE DENTAL CHECK

Uniform shop
Tuesday 8:30 till 10:00am
Friday 8:30 till 10:00am

We also do over the phone orders and online orders.
For any enquiries please contact—Elle
Phone: 0421216414
Email: elle@ozfashions.com.au

Student Banking

Please remember to bring in your student bank books on Fridays.

Acacia Gardens HM Studio
Quakers Hills Community Centre
Rebecca Verrier
T. 0430 104 539
E. info@rebecca-verrier.com
H. www.rebecca-verrier.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

to students who celebrated their birthdays between 26th July and 8th August
Raphael Anthony, Matilda Oxley, Mikayla Samaan, Alexander Hooper, Miguel Tabtab,
Benjamin Cockerill, Rohan Rangineni, Arul Kumar Manu, Kaitlyn Manityakul, Chanel Zammit,
Anna Rockson, Clarissa Dent
BUILDING CHILD SAFE COMMUNITIES – NEW FORMS FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

‘Building Child Safe Communities’ is a new initiative developed by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta that enhances our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students in our care. It is now a requirement that all volunteers and contractors complete an online undertaking form that confirms expectations in relation to behaviour whilst volunteering or contracting at schools, Catholic Out of Schools Hours Care and Catholic Early Learning Centres. This undertaking form also seeks to determine the suitability of volunteers and contractors by requiring them to declare that they do not have a criminal history involving children.

Volunteers - please click on ‘Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers’ or access the form via the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta public webpage http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au, then click on 'Child Protection Training Forms' (halfway down page on the right hand side).

Then click on 'Volunteer Form' (halfway down page).

You will receive a confirmation email once the form has been submitted. Your details are maintained confidentially in a central database and a copy of your confirmation is emailed to the location where you are volunteering.