Greetings!

Last week we celebrated the feast day of St. Ignatius. St. Ignatius was the founder of the Society of Jesus. We of course know them as the Jesuits. Bishop Vincent celebrated mass with the parish community on his first visit to the parish. Happy Feast Day to our priests, Greg, Pat, Stan and Brendan. We appreciate all that you do for us.

We also celebrated Grandparents Day. Thank you to everyone who was able to be with us on the day. Thank you also to Mr. Baird, Fr. Pat and the staff for the liturgy and morning tea. I hope the grandparents and children enjoyed the class visits. Thank you teachers for your assistance with this.

This week we are celebrating the Feast Day of St. Mary MacKillop who founded the Sisters of St. Joseph. I wonder how many of you were taught by the sisters of St. Joseph? The sisters of St. Joseph started many of the local Catholic Schools. Happy Feast Day to our own sister of St. Joseph; Sr. Katherine.

Our Year 5 students had their excursion to Bathurst on Friday. The excursion gives an insight to life on the Goldfields back in the 1850s. Congratulations to the children on their excellent behaviour. Staff at the centre commented on the behaviour and manners of the children. Thank you to the staff for the planning of the excursion and the long day.
I hope the children have had an opportunity to tell you all about the day and their quest for gold!

Best wishes to our children who will be competing at the Zone Athletics Carnival next week. Enjoy the day! Thank you to the staff and parents for your help with the carnival.

We have been advised that the YMCA OOSHC Blackett will be closing at the end of the term. We are looking at what alternative arrangements may be possible. Please let us know if you will be affected by the closure. A special note was sent home this week via the Skoolbag App.

Welcome back Miss. Jessell and Miss. Mae Matienzo who have both been on leave.

Best wishes for the week ahead,

John Spadrow
**The Learning Corner**

**Art and Mathematics**

Art and Mathematics have a lot in common with each other. In fact you can see the Maths in Art and the Art in Maths! Patterns, shapes, geometry, symmetry, spatial reasoning, proportional reasoning etc… are all a part of the arts (visual art, music and dance), as they are of Mathematics.

Some of what you see your child doing in school during Art is also an engagement with mathematical ideas at the same time! By blending mathematics and the arts, students learn in ways that are intellectual, emotional and physical. Children learn in many different ways, and research tells us that participating in the arts is one way that is very engaging for all of us.

A child stringing beads in a pattern on a string or creating a patterned bracelet is creating an understanding of patterning, although to them it may look simply like a pleasing design. When a child learns to play the piano, they are developing mathematical understanding of the relationships between scales, notes and chords. Symmetry can be seen in the symmetrical features of a butterfly or in a design when building. Children may notice patterns in wallpaper, tile tessellations on the floor or on a phone cover, rhythmic beats or repeated choreography in music videos or chords in a popular song. Maths is everywhere!

Regards,
Mrs Angela Alonzo
Stage 3 Coordinator

---

**Sports Update**

**Zone Athletics Carnival**
The Blacktown Zone Athletics carnival will be held on Tuesday 16th August at Blacktown International Sports Centre. We wish all our representatives the best of luck for a competitive and fun-filled day.

**Netball Gala Day**
The 2016 Netball Gala Day will be held on Tuesday 23rd August at Jamison Netball complex. All notes have been sent home so please return your permission notes as soon as possible. Thank you to our parents that are volunteering to help coach a team on the day.

**Dates for the Diary**
Zone Athletics: 16th August
Netball Gala Day: 23rd August
Diocesan Athletics Carnival: 26th August

Kind regards,
Mrs Leonie Preston
Sports Co-ordinator

---

**Fundraising News**

**Cookie Dough**
Our major fundraiser for Term 3 will be Billy G’S Gourmet Cookie Dough and Heather Brae Shortbread. Order forms will shortly be sent home with your children.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Grandparents Day Raffle**
We had a very successful Grandparent’s Raffle and we hope the winners have enjoyed their prizes. Thank you for your support we raised $405. Thank you also to the generous donations of:
- Valvoline Raceway
- Lollipop’s
- Australian Reptile Park
- Calmsley Hill City Farm
- Go Bananas

---

**Library News**

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**
The due date for all PRC entries is Friday 19 August. This is an important date to remember if your child is in Grades 3-6, as students in these classes are undertaking the challenge with teacher guidance only. Please remind your child to get their PRC Log sheets into the library, preferably, BEFORE the DUE DATE! It’s not too late to get reading as there are still three weeks left. Unfortunately, late entries cannot be accepted.

If your child is in K-2, the challenge is being done in class, so each child in these grades will automatically qualify for a certificate.

Please note that certificates from the Premier of NSW are not received by our school until late in Term 3.

**Book Week Australia! - Story Country**
Book Week will be held later in the term during Week 8. Our Book Character Parade is scheduled for Thursday, 8 September, in the morning, followed by the Annual Teacher Play. Parents and extended family members are most welcome to attend both of these events.

More details about our Book Week activities will be sent to you in future newsletters, but it's never too early to start planning that costume for the parade!

Regards,
Mrs Janet A. Marie
Teacher Librarian
**Achievement Award Recipients**

To the following students who have been awarded an achievement award in Week 3:

- Georgia Lepoualii
- Deegan Williams
- Tiana-Lee Doyle Lobo
- Olga Nimmo
- Emma Luatuanuu
- Frederick Bell
- Balanti Afualo
- Jordan Mawson
- Maria Spudic
- Dylan Wilson
- Anna Antakley
- Drew Stevenson
- Noah McNally
- Summer Tobruk
- Georgie Mallia

**Parent Contact Details**

Please ensure that the school has your updated emergency contacts and phone numbers. There have been a number of times where we have not been unable to contact parents during an emergency. We ask this for the safety and well-being of your children.

**Assembly**

**Year 1** will lead the first assembly for Term 3. Assembly will be held in the Multipurpose Hall @ 2:15pm.

All are welcome to join us!

**Holy Family Pre-School Enrolments**

Holy Family Pre-school have started taking enrolments for 2017. Please contact the Pre-school reception on 9628 7844.

**School Fees**

School Fee accounts for Term 3 have been mailed out and are due Monday, 22nd August 2016. Any family having difficulty completing payments and or who wish to make payments by instalments using cash, Centrelink or BPay etc, please contact the school office for an appointment with Mrs Denise Carroll on 9628 9232 to set up a new arrangement.
United in Faith, Love and Learning

Australian Saint Mary MacKillop
Next Monday is the Feast Day of our Australian Saint Mary MacKillop.
Mary MacKillop was born on 15 January 1842 in Melbourne, Victoria. Her parents were born in Scotland and came to live in Australia. She had three sisters and four brothers.

Mary cared about the people who had no one to look after them such as boys and girls who just roamed the streets, children in the country who had no school to go to, people who were old and sick and people who had nowhere to live. Mary wanted more than anything to help these people.

Mary went to work as a teacher in a little country town in South Australia called Penola. There she met Father Julian Tenison Woods who also wanted to do something for the poor children who could not afford to pay the money needed to go to school. Together, in 1866, they began the first St Joseph’s School in an old stable. Two of Mary’s younger sisters also taught in the school and other young women came to help them.

On 19 March 1866 (St Joseph’s Day) Mary started to wear a simple black dress and began the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph. Now as a Sister, she dedicated her life to doing God’s work. As more and more young women joined Mary as Sisters, they were able to start more schools. All children were welcome at the Josephite schools, which provided free Catholic education.

In Adelaide they opened a place for women who had nowhere to live, an orphanage for children who had no parents to look after them and a house where poor people could come and stay.

The Sisters visited people who were in gaol and those who were poor and sick.

Mary MacKillop was kind to all people, even if they did not agree with her. She died on 8 August 1909 in Alma Cottage, North Sydney. Mary helped many people during her lifetime and after she died, the Sisters of St Joseph kept on doing the good work she had started.

Mary MacKillop kept her faith in God and bravely challenged those who did not support her vision for a more caring world. Mary is an important Australian who spent her life helping people, especially children. She is Australia’s first Saint.

Mary’s well known motto was, Never See A Need Without Doing Something About It. Wouldn’t it be a great world if we all thought that way.

Regards,
Mark Baird
Acting Religious Education Co-ordinator

Dates for your Diary

August
12  Year 1 Assembly @ 2:15pm in the Hall
15  Feast of the Assumption Mass in the Church
16  Blacktown Zone Athletics
23  Netball Gala Day
26  Diocesan Athletics Carnival
Year 5 Assembly @ 2:15pm in the Hall

Email: emerton@parra.catholic.edu.au  Website: www.holyfamilyemerton.parra.catholic.edu.au