Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Resilience is a word used by many people these days. As parents and teachers we want our children to be resilient and we look to role models to guide us. The month of August is when we remember two women of great faith, resilience and courage.

On 8th August we celebrated a truly resilient woman ~ Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia’s first saint. Mary MacKillop laid the foundations for Catholic schools in Australia with the formation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and their many schools. Mary’s legacy is lived out today by the Josephite Sisters who continue to work with those in need and by the lay staff in our Catholic schools who are inspired by her vision.

Mary MacKillop, an Australian by birth, stands as one of our Australian heroes. She was extremely resilient; she did not pull out or give up when times got tough. As can happen in relationships, she suffered misunderstandings, betrayal, exclusion and injustice. No matter what happened, Mary kept her faith in God. She reached out to all people, even if they did not like her and she bravely challenged those who did not support her vision for a more caring and considerate world.

The feast of the Assumption of Mary, the Mother of God, on 15th August reminds us that Mary, our Mother faced her challenges in life with humility and faith. Her willingness to say ‘yes’ to God is evidence of her enduring faith. Mary is a source of strength, as through her inspiration, we pray for a deeper trust in God’s love and an enlivened faith so that we may be more resilient with our own struggles and be able to support others in their pain and suffering.

We will celebrate Mary’s Assumption into Heaven on Monday 15th August through a special liturgy led by Stage One at morning assembly.

God Bless

Anne Marrins
Principal
Don’t miss your chance to celebrate World Youth Day in Parramatta.
Firm in the Faith will be a dynamic celebration of faith—with music, drama, prayer, food and fun.

When and Where:
21 August 2011
St Patrick’s Cathedral

Events:
3.30pm Spectacular Live Concert with OASIS Youth Band and Youth Mission Team Youth Group Expo showcasing the youth groups of the diocese. A celebration of Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for the Sacrament Of Reconciliation.
5.00pm Live Broadcast on the big screen of the arrival Pope Benedict XVI and the WYD Madrid Final Mass.
6.00pm WYD in Parramatta Marist in St Patick’s Cathedral
7.00pm BBQ Dinner

Teaching and Learning

OPENING & BLESSING
The Blessing and Opening of our Library and refurbished learning spaces will take place next Friday 19th August 2011 at 1.30pm. Parents are welcome to attend. If you have not not indicated that you are attending on the day please contact the office by Monday to RSVP.

Monsignor Robert McGuckin will officiate at the blessing representing Bishop Anthony Fisher, and Mrs Danuta Maka, Head of System Performance, is replacing Mr Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools, both of whom are currently attending World Youth Day in Spain.

MORNING SUPERVISION
Morning supervision begins at 8:30 am when the school gates are opened. It is very concerning to see the number of children dropped off for school from 8:10 am and left unsupervised on the street. Many parents remain with their children until 8:30 am and your support is greatly appreciated.

It is also a concern that some children are dropped off to the parish centre/church often well before 8:00 am. The church is open to any member of the public to enter and is not necessarily a safe alternative option.

Children should not be gathering at the gates before 8:25 am. Please consider the safety of your children when choosing their before or after school arrangements.

CATHOLIC OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE CENTRE (COSHC)

As you are aware the Catholic Education Office commissioned a community survey last term to determine the viability of a Catholic Out of School Hours Care Centre (COSHC) at our school in 2012. A site inspection was conducted earlier this term to ensure our facilities will meet regulatory requirements. Although it has not been confirmed, it is highly likely that a centre will be opened at Mt Carmel next year. This is a wonderful service for our school community provided by the Catholic Education Office.

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE
The artificial turf will be installed on the grassed area playground in the next couple of weeks. The expense of maintaining a natural grass playground is not cost effective. Although artificial turf is initially a costly exercise it is guaranteed for ten years and is expected to last even longer. The artificial turf provides a comfortable surface for walking, running and sitting on (a sample is available in the office). The profits from the Parish and School Fete held in March this year will contribute towards some of the costs of this playground upgrade. We look forward to enjoying this improvement to our school.

CANTEEN NEWS - MEXICAN FOOD DAY
The Canteen Mexican Food Day takes place next Thursday 18th August. Order slips have been handed out and are also available from the office. A separate form is required for each child. Please fill in and return form/forms and money in an envelope with your child’s name and class and “Mexican Meal Day” on front of envelope to the class teacher. The orders must be returned by next Wednesday 17th August. Unfortunately NO OTHER FOOD will be available to order on this day. At recess and lunch there will be a selection of snacks & treats ranging from 50 cents to $2.00. If you are able to offer assistance on the day at any time please contact Freda Nousias on 0410 493 305.
We read the book Dear Greenpeace which is about a little girl, named Emily, who finds a whale in her pond. She writes letters to Greenpeace to find out information about whales and Greenpeace write letters to her to explain that she could not possibly have a whale in her pond. At the end of the story Emily tells them that Arthur, the whale, has gone back to the sea. We have written letters to answer Emily’s last letter.

Dear Emily,
I believe you saw Arthur at the beach because a whale is too big to fit in your pond. Thank you for saying we love him because we love whales very much!
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Julia

Dear Emily,
I’m very glad you found Arthur but whales eat krill not sandwiches! You sound happy that you saw him but he might have left to be migratory.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Sarah
P.S. Thanks for telling him we love him!

Dear Emily,
I must tell you that whales don’t eat sandwiches, they eat tiny shrimp-like creatures that live in the sea. Please don’t feed him anymore or he will get sick. I don’t think Arthur would let you pat his head because he is a whale.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Jesse

Dear Emily,
I’m so happy that you saw Arthur but he doesn’t eat food like sandwiches, he eats little creatures from the ocean. Thank you for saying bye to Arthur.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Joseph

Dear Emily,
Thank you for saying I love him too and I’m sure you can visit him whenever you want. I think he might be a Daddy whale. Please don’t feed Arthur anymore sandwiches.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Royel

Dear Emily,
Whales don’t eat sandwiches, they eat tiny creatures in the sea. Thank you for telling Arthur that we love him
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Christopher

Dear Emily,
I have to say that you are doing the wrong thing and whales eat shrimp crawling creatures that live in the sea.
I wouldn’t want you to give a whale a sandwich or it will stay on the sand and die. So please do the right thing.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Anthony

Dear Emily,
Well done for finding Arthur and thank you for saying we love him.
I am still not sure you should feed him your sandwich because whales don’t eat sandwiches.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Abhidi

Dear Emily,
I’m glad you saw Arthur at the beach but I’m sure that Arthur would get stuck on the sand near the shore.
Thanks for saying we love him because we do. Did you see his parents too?
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Luke

Dear Emily,
We are glad you saw Arthur and thank you for telling Arthur we love him because we really do love whales.
We don’t think Arthur would let you stroke his head because he would get stuck on the sand.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Michael

Dear Emily,
I don’t want to disappoint you or Arthur but for the very last time whales never ever eat sandwiches! They only eat shrimp-like creatures. However, thank you for saying that we love him.
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Ricky

Dear Emily,
I am very cross with you because whales don’t eat sandwiches they only eat shrimp creatures and you must never feed Arthur another sandwich.
I am very glad that you saw Arthur at the beach. Did you see Arthur’s family?
Yours sincerely
Greenpeace. By Pragash

Thank you to those parents who were able to come along to the P&F Meeting on Wednesday night. Your support is appreciated.
The P&F Disco scheduled to take place tonight unfortunately has been cancelled until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience.

STRANGER DANGER

Following an incident in Greystanes this week, the school has been advised by the Police Department to make students aware of strangers approaching them whilst walking to and from school. If your child/children walk to or from school without adult supervision please ensure that they know not to accept anything from a stranger who approaches them including getting into a car.

SECOND HAND WINTER UNIFORM SALE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls Tunics</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Sleeve Shirts &amp; Blouses</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfibre Jackets (broken zip)</td>
<td>$5.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V-Neck Sweaters</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trousers (Boys &amp; Girls)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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COME & GRAB A BARGAIN!!

8.30AM—9.30AM
MONDAY 15TH AUGUST 2011
Opposite School Office
(front entrance)

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN

Thank you to all the families who have been submitting Woolworths docks to the office. So far we have earned 1,793 points from Woolworths shopping docks. Please forward the bottom section of the docks only which contain the amount of points and the code for entering onto the system.

As it is a time consuming process to enter each docket on-line we are requesting that you only send docks which have accumulated 10 or more points. Thanks again and happy Shopping!!

DIARY DATES 2011

Term 3

August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Monday 15</th>
<th>Assumption Liturgy-S1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>ICAS Mathematics Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>3.15-4.15pm Chess</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 19</td>
<td>7.00pm Yr 5 Personal Development Night</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Monday 22</th>
<th>Morning Prayer—1S</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 23</td>
<td>Zone Athletics Carnival (Change of date)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday 26</td>
<td>9.00am Stage 1 Parish Mass</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Monday 29</th>
<th>Morning Prayer—2V</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 30</td>
<td>3.15-4.15pm Chess</td>
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<td>Wednesday 31</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Stall</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Monday 5</th>
<th>Morning Prayer—2B</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 6</td>
<td>3.15-4.15pm Last day Chess</td>
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<th>Monday 12</th>
<th>Morning Prayer-2C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>Creative Arts Expo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
<td>MacKillop Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 16</td>
<td>9.00am ESI Parish Mass</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday 18</td>
<td>First Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Monday 19</th>
<th>Morning Prayer—2M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 23</td>
<td>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSES FOR TERM 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES HOME THIS WEEK

1. Yr 6 Voice of Youth
2. Zone Athletics Note
3. Canteen Mexican Day (handed out last week)

OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE,
PARRAMATTA COLLEGE OPEN MORNING TOUR

MONDAY 15 AUGUST 2011

Commencing at 9.15am

Bookings are essential for this tour.

For further information or to make your booking, please contact the Enrolment Officer on 1800 Mercy Girl (637 294) or enrolment@olmc.nsw.edu.au