Loving God, you speak to us in the quiet of our hearts. Speak of hope to our world. Speak of your gift of salvation. Speak to us, for we are listening. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
As the Feast Day for St Mary of the Cross MacKillop falls on Friday which is a Staff Development Day we were led by the children in Year 2F on Monday in a beautiful Liturgy. How better to celebrate the life of our country’s first Saint then to reflect on some of her quotes:

"Remember we are but travellers here." (1866)
"We must teach more by example than by word." (1867)
"Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God." (1891)
"Courage, courage, trust in God who helps you in all things" (1878)
"We feel our crosses hard at times, but our courage should rise with them." (1892)
"Let God’s Spirit guide you in your choice." (1898)
Mary’s motto for life was -
"Never see a need without doing something about it"

Blessed Mary MacKillop, witness to the young and the distant - pray for us

Grandparents Day
Please remember that next Friday 15th August we will be celebrating the special role grandparents play in our lives. We will celebrate Mass in the hall at 9.15 am then invite the grandparents to spend some time in the classroom talking to and reading to all the children. This will then be followed by the grandparents and their grandchildren enjoying some morning tea followed by a performance of Wakakirri at around 11.00 am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sports Update
Congratulations to all Athletics who performed in the Central Coast Athletics Carnival last Friday. As a school it was one of our most successful with St John Fisher coming 3rd overall out of the 11 schools. Congratulations to the following children who will be representing the Central Coast at the Diocesan Carnival: Bailey B, Thomas M, Lucy D, Fletcher S, Chet R, Joel H, Olivia L, Connor A, Joel S, Genevieve K, Ava M, Marc S and Jayden T.

I was also very pleased to receive an email after the carnival from the teacher running the high jump complimenting Bailey B on "his outstanding sportsmanship through the high jump - his manners and attitude to the other boys was commendable." Great work Bailey.

Congratulations also to our Rugby Union team. With very little experience the boys displayed commitment to learn a new sport and were a joy to coach. Many thanks to Mr Pobie and Mr Ellis who assisted with the coaching and the parents who assisted on the day.

The boys exceeded all expectations winning their pool then the semi-finals. The grand final provided a great battle which St Mary’s won by only 2 points. Outstanding result boys.

Staffing Update
Mrs Burdett will be accessing Long Service Leave for the last 4 weeks of the term. Year 6B will be taught by Mrs Newcombe in her absence who will be working with Mrs Burdett to build knowledge of the needs of the students and the curriculum.

Staff Development Day
As we have been stating there is a Staff Development Day this Friday 8th August. This will deal with deepening our knowledge of the new English Syllabus and Mathematics Syllabus.

P&F Update
Thank you to all the parents who ventured out on a cold night last night for the General P&F Meeting. We listened with interest to the committees who are doing an amazing job with areas such as social events, fundraising, the fair and the Diocesan Parent Council. As one of our P&F goals is to provide a forum between the parents and staff I opened up the area of homework to the group and was very interested to hear the experiences of the various parents. This is an area I would like to trial some changes further in the year.

Mini Working Bee
Thank you to Wayne Smith who worked with Mr Burns to spread our mulch piles on Saturday morning and to Karen Hardie who came along to offer her assistance. Mr Ceeney and I have made a good start on the marking of the car park which we hope to complete in the next few weeks.

God Bless

Barry Shanley
Principal
**RELIgIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

This coming Sunday will be the nineteenth Sunday in the church Year A. Matthew's Gospel tells the story of Jesus encouraging Peter to walk across the water to safety in a fierce storm. When Peter hesitates, Jesus catches him and admonishes him for not fully trusting in him and thus believing in the power of God. This reading has a simple but clear message. When your faith falters you will be saved and rewarded when you believe in God.

***Assumption of the Virgin Mary Mass***

The students from St. John Fisher will be celebrating the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Mass on Friday the 15th of August at 8:50am. At this mass we will also be acknowledging and celebrating the important role that grandparents play in our lives.

If you have a photo of a Grandparent that you would like to be included in a special reflection for this mass please email that photo to me by next Wednesday the 13th of August. My email Address is scot.frazer@dbb.org.au

**St. Cecilia’s Centennial Mass**

St. Cecilia’s is celebrating a Centennial Mass on Friday the 22nd August at 7pm in St. Cecilia’s church. The students from St. John Fisher will be leading the Gospel Procession for this Mass. We need some students to participate in this Gospel Procession. These students will practise this Gospel Procession at school and then will present the procession at this mass. Please contact me ASAP if your child is able to assist.

**Fr. Vlad’s Farewell Mass and Family Fun Day**

There will be a special mass to farewell Fr. Vlad at 10:30am on Sunday the 24th of August in St. John Fisher School. After mass the parish will be conducting a Family Fun Day in the grounds of the school. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch!

Scot Frazer
Religious Education Coordinator

**LARC NEWS**

Stay Connected! Book Week is fast approaching! Here are some dates for your diary!

**Friday, 15th August:** Children’s Book of the Year Awards announced

**18th - 22nd August:** Book Week - The theme is "Connect to Reading"

**Tuesday, 19th August:** Wyong Shire Library visit for Kinder and Yr 1

"The Reading Hour" Drop everything and read 6-7pm.

Friday, 22nd August: Children’s Dress up as a book character day! Children come dressed in their book character costume and may stay in this for the day. The Book Parade will take place at 9.00 am in the school hall.

Put Tuesday 19th August 6-7pm in your diaries and stay tuned for updates on events, competitions and how your family, business, school or library can help us celebrate the importance of reading again this year.

http://www.readinghour.org.au/

Happy Reading, Christine Higgins (Teacher Librarian)

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**JACKIE FRENCH IS THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN’S LAUREATE**

Jackie French, best-selling author of over 140 books, including the iconic Diary of a Wombat and Hitler’s Daughter, is the Australian Children’s Laureate for 2014 - 2015. French was presented with her Magpie Award, the symbol of the Laureate, at a ceremony at the National Library of Australia in Canberra today by actor, director and former Play School presenter Rhys Muldoon.

The Australian Children’s Laureate is an initiative developed by the Australian Children’s Literature Alliance, founded in 2008. The Laureate’s role is to promote the importance and transformational power of reading, creativity and story in the lives of young Australians. The theme for French’s two-year term as Australian Children’s Laureate will be ‘Share a Story’.

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**STARTING SCHOOL IS A BIG CHANGE FOR CHILDREN**

Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care about their needs.

**BELONGING IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH, WELLBEING AND LEARNING**

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing. Children who feel that they belong at school are happier; more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children’s mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older ‘buddies’ to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways that children’s sense of belonging at school can be supported.

**FUN DAY 2014**

Each year, the Year 6 children organise and run a Fun Day for the rest of the school to enjoy. The day is run as a thank you to St John Fisher School from the Year 6 children for their seven years of education and as a fundraiser to buy a gift for the school to be presented on Graduation Night from the Year 6 students.

This year’s fun day will be held on Friday 22nd August. This day is also the Book Week Parade, which is at 9am that morning. All
the children will be able to wear their book week parade clothes and costumes and are asked to bring in a gold coin donation.

Mrs Sue Burdett and Mr Brett Perkins
(Year 6 Teachers)

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION
Well done to our 13 students who elected to participate in the ICAS Science Competition this year. The Science paper was quite challenging and really tested this year's participants. The comments from the students afterwards were very positive and was viewed as a rewarding experience by those involved. Out of the 13 students who tackled the test, one received a Merit certificate so well done to Connor S. Congratulations to the following students who received Credit certificates: Thomas M, Oscar W, Thomas O and Annelise B. These students will be presented with their awards at Monday morning assembly.

P&F
GRANDPARENTS DAY
A celebration for Grandparents Day is being held at the school on Friday 15th August. The morning will begin with a special mass at 9.15am, followed by a visit to the classrooms, a performance of Wakakirri and morning tea. Please invite your family’s Grandparents along and return the invite sent out or complete the below slip.

YES, we will be attending GRANDPARENTS DAY
Name: ___________________ Child’s Class: ____________

SJF FAIR
Our plant stall needs donations of plastic pots - all sizes would be appreciated. We would also love to hear from anyone who is able to collect/grow plants for the stall. If you are able to assist please contact Kate on 0439478979 or sjf.fair@gmail.com.

Thank you, Kate Hooke, Fair Coordinator

CALENDAR 2014

WYONG PARISH MASS TIMES
St Cecilia’s: Daily Mass: Mon-Sat 8am
Weekend Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 7.30am & 9.30am.
Reconciliation: St Cecilia’s: Sat 8.30am & 4.30pm
St John Fisher: Daily Mass: Mon & Fri 9.15am Tues, Wed & Thurs 8am
Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil: 5pm, Sunday 8.30am & 5pm (6pm DST)
Reconciliation: St John Fisher: Sat 4.30pm

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