Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary of the Cross,

It has been a very busy last few weeks at St Mary of the Cross with us celebrating our first Feast Day last Friday, then a working bee on Saturday to prepare our school for our Official School Opening on Wednesday of this week.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in each of these events whether it be in the preparation or in attending. We hope the children enjoyed the special treat on Wednesday provided by our Parents and Friends and as a memento of our Official Opening the children will each be receiving a book mark today to keep and enjoy.

Prayers and Thoughts
We ask you to keep Leon Colla and his family in your thoughts and prayers this week. Leon’s mother passed away earlier this week.

Be calm and full of hope.
Mary MacKillop 1871

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**COMING UP:**

- Wednesday, 20th August - Community Conversation @ 2pm
- Friday, 29th August – School Closure Day
- Friday, 29th August – School Disco
- Friday, 19th September - End of Term 3
- Monday - 6th October - Start of Term 4
- Saturday, 25th October - Trivia Night
- Monday, 3rd November - School Closure Day
- Tuesday, 4th November - Melbourne Cup

**Student Absence**
If you need to report that your student is absent from school you can do so by sending a text message to the following school mobile number

M: 0497 265 795
Last Friday, 8th August was the feast day of St Mary Mackillop. It was also our first opportunity as a Learning Community to gather and celebrate Mary MacKillop’s life and teachings. The day got off to a great start with our celebration of Mass with Fr. Ian. From here we divided into groups and caught a bus to the Point Cook Coastal Park. We were met by a merry band of our wonderful families already setting up the picnic area with BBQs, bread, sausages, fruit drinks and fruit. We moved into our groups and completed activities. The activities included parachute fun, beach walk, bush art and playing on the playground. It was a great opportunity for us all to have fun and enjoy our local area as well as each other’s company. We finished the day with a whole group photo to mark the event in history. It was a great day! Thanks especially to all the organisers behind the scenes who assisted with catering and serving food.

**Trivia Night**
SMOC will host a "Trivia Night" on Saturday 25th October 2014 at The Brook on Sneydes. The Parents & Friends Association are kindly seeking any donations of goods or services from local businesses for prizes on the night.

If you or anyone you know are able to assist, please send us an email at pfa@smocptcook.catholic.edu.au. Further information on the event will be sent out shortly.

**SAVE THE DATE**
Our next "Community Conversation" will take place on Wednesday August 20 at 2pm (at school)
This is the second opportunity for parents and carers to come along, chat about how things are at school, get to know other parents, share opinions and ideas with each other and for us to respond to issues raised at our first session earlier this year. More details will be provided closer to the date.
We hope you can make it.

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**Prayer**

O God, you call us all to follow you in the way of Jesus. Gift us with wisdom and understanding as you did Mary MacKillop, to be faithful servants of the Gospel. May your love enfold those who bear the responsibility of leadership in our church. May we rejoice in the gift of Mary MacKillop to our church. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessed Mary of the Cross, gift of God to us today, pray for us.