

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 2 Week 4

Friday, 26th May 2023

Reception to Year 6 Co-Educational Catholic Primary School

5 Portland Street, Penola SA 5277

Telephone: (08) 8737 2902 www.mmms.catholic.edu.au



in all things love

UPCOMING DATES

- May -

- 29 Occasional Care
Reconciliation Week
- 31 Year 4/5 Grampians Camp
- 1 Vinnie's Winter Appeal Begins
- 2 Playgroup
- 4 Millicent Gala Day
Trinity Sunday
- 5 Occasional Care
World Environment Day
- 7 Combine School Board Meeting
- 8 Cans and Coins for Casuals
STUDENT FREE DAY
- 9 SAPSASA Cross Country Adelaide
- 12 **STUDENT FREE DAY**
PUBLIC HOLIDAY - KING'S
- 13 **BIRTHDAY**
- 14 Basketball Sessions
Lion's Mad Minute

Class News

Year 5/6

Last week the 5/6 class (along with help from the 4/5's) spent time making tie-dye socks to sell at the MacKillop Market for the Coonawarra-Penola Arts festival. All students were so excited to be creative and have some fun designing their socks. A big thank you to Bec Baxter for showing us how to effectively tie-dye and for helping prepare them ready for packaging.

We also had several students helping out at the market stall on Sunday. A big thank you to all that gave up their time to support the stall.



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

in all things love

From the principal

Dear Friends and Families of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

What a wonderful weekend was had by all. The Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival was a terrific success. A huge thank you to the staff for outstanding efforts in the lead up to the Festival and for helping out on Sunday.

Catholic Education Week

All Catholic Schools across South Australia celebrated Catholic Education week last week. We were very proud to name what we love about our Catholic school and share our thoughts with others. In wrapping up the special week we received from Andrew Chinn – faith singer and songwriter, a special clip that he put together for us. Last year we held a staff retreat day, where our facilitator, Robyn Mercer, taught the MMMS staff how to sign Andrew Chinn's song, Precious Child. Knowing that Andrew was then visiting our school for a concert the following month, teachers taught the children how to sign the song. On the day of Andrew's visit the whole school surprised him when he sang the song for them by standing up and signing it. From there Andrew asked if together we could create a video of it.

So here it is. Please enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlpsQsCgxaY>

We love our Catholic School!

Volunteers Week

Last week we recognised the people in our community and thanked them for the vital role that they play in our lives. Our helpers in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen, volunteers to supervise excursions, to coach teams, to score for sports games, to assist at sporting events, to cook BBQs and to assist at special events at school and in the community. Plus, our wider Penola Community volunteers who co-ordinate events, volunteer with the CFS and other important services to our community. You are change makers and one in a million.

We also recognise our hard-working staff who are changemakers and willingly volunteer to many extra activities of our school life. They put in the extra effort behind the scenes so that we are all able to enjoy unique and fantastic experiences. Their actions show that they truly care for every student at MMMS.

All parents and friends of the school community are welcome to become involved in the Mary MacKillop Memorial School community. The following steps are to be completed to become a volunteer.

- Obtain a working with children check

- Complete the personal information form, available at the front office.
- Complete the Reporting to Abuse and Neglect Training for volunteers online.

For further information, please contact the front office

National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday we came together for National Simultaneous Storytime. The book this year was The Speedy Sloth by Lauren Young. The picture book has many tongue twisters, with a wonderful message that at the end of the day it actually doesn't matter where you come in a race, a competition, as long as you never give up. The children were truly engaged with this story that was shared across the nation.

Professional Learning Days – Student Free

Thursday 8th June and Friday 9th June are Professional Learning Days for staff. These days are extremely important in building the capacity of our staff. This year we will engage in three different areas. Firstly, LEAP levels training (Learning English: Achievement and Proficiency) will support staff in developing their knowledge of the English language, particularly in the area of Writing. Staff will then engage with David Kelly from the Life Buoyancy Institute, with a particular focus on developing our Personal Responsibility and Wellbeing Policy. In this session we aim to elevate the charism and values of our school into a revamped policy that reflects a growth-action approach. Finally, we will revisit our Crossways curriculum work with a reflective session with all three schools on the unit that was collaboratively planned and taught this term. There will be time for moderation across the year levels.

We look forward to these important days as a region to build our capacity as educators.

Welcome to New Staff

Next week we welcome Kathy Dempsey, Ebonie Moulton and Jack Muhovics, who will be taking on one day each as Educational Support Officers. Jack will be with us on a Monday, Ebonie on a Wednesday and Kathy on a Friday. I am sure if you see them around school you will give them the Mary Mac special welcome.

God bless

Nicole

in all things love

Community News

Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to Milly, Kria, Ellie, darcy, Leila, Sidney (30th) and Patrick (9th). We hope you will all have a wonderful day.

Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Alex, Ben, Lola, Sophie, Josh, Levi, Elijah and Fred who received Flourishing awards at assembly this week.



House Points

Cameron ★ 175

McCormack 147

Woods MacKillop 139

Absentees

A reminder that if your child is absent from school, for any reason, it is important that this is communicated with the school. The Catholic Education system has advised all schools to follow up on unresolved absences with families. Your support and communication in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Text Absentee Number

When texting the Absentee Line to explain your child's absence from school please make sure you put both their name **and reason** so it can be recorded properly.

0459 799 596

Playgroup

Playgroup is held every Friday morning from 9.30 – 11. We have a new playgroup coordinator, Kathy Dempsey who is looking forward to meeting our families and any new families who would like to come along. All you need is yourself, your children and a gold coin donation. Come and enjoy the inviting learning environment where experiences are set up for you to engage in with your child.

Early Learning at MMMS

Early Learning takes place on a Monday with the option of a half or full day. Ashlee Fensom, a qualified educator in early years, plans new and exciting experiences from the Early Years Framework for all children aged 3 – 5.

A full day begins at 8.45 with pick up at 3pm and only costs \$25. Half day is \$15, with pick up or drop off at 11.45 – 12 noon. Children need to bring a water bottle, morning and afternoon snack, lunch and a hat.

Call the school today to secure your child's spot next week.

Mission Statement

Spirited by our Founders, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, our community is a place of welcome, inclusion and kindness as we live out the Josephite Motto, In All Things Love

Vision Statement

Children, educators, families and the parish work in partnership to advance each individuals love of life and to experience learning through curiosity, discernment and endeavour and support them as they, Learn to Flourish.

"Find happiness in making others happy" (St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)



Community News

Counsellor's corner

Whilst our students have greatly benefitted from the advancement of technology in recent years, as parents and care-givers, it can often be a challenge to balance the quantity and regulate the quality of screen time our children are exposed to.

A few helpful tips and guidelines on limiting screen time are:

- Discourage screen time for toddlers under the age of 2.
- We suggest that families decide together on an acceptable amount of screen time with the children in their care. All members of the family will benefit from knowing when and for how long screens can be used or viewed. It is suggested that screen time be limited to a maximum of 1 hour per day.
- Having a communal area in the house (as opposed to children having their device in their rooms) for children to have screen time is beneficial for adults to be able to monitor the time spent on a screen as well as what your child is watching.
- Parents and Caregivers can download helpful applications (apps) to monitor and/or limit screen time usage, as well as to keep an eye on what children are saying via text, searching on internet browsers, or playing online.
- Screens should be turned off at least 1 hour before bed time, as the blue light emitted can hinder sleep effectiveness.
- Participating in screen time activities with the child in your care enables you to monitor the amount of time they spend viewing, as well as who else they are interacting with online (eg online games).
- Have "no-phone-zones" in the house e.g at the dining room table, where the focus is more on uninterrupted family interaction.

By clearly communicating screen time limits and expectations encourages children to self-regulate their own screen time. If you are concerned about the amount of screen time your child is having, are needing support in regulating their screen time, or are becoming concerned about behaviours they present during or after screen time, please contact me and together we can take helpful steps in supporting the child in your care to have a healthy screen time balance.

Dale Domleo
School Counsellor

Mid-Year Intake 2023

If your child turns 5 on or before the 31st October, they are able to start mid-year. If you are interested in your child starting mid-year, please contact the school as soon as possible. All Reception mid-year intakes are fee free.

New Enrolments for 2024

As planning begins for 2024 I strongly encourage all families considering Mary MacKillop Memorial School for their child's education in 2024 to contact the school today! You are able to book a tour with either the Principal, Nicole Coote or with our school captains, Sophie and Sidney.

For families already at MMMS, if you have a little one starting in 2024 Reception, please complete your enrolment form and return to school.



Community News

Sport

SAPSASA

Cross Country

Congratulations to the 23 children who participated in Cross Country in Naracoorte on Friday 12th May. The conditions were great for the event and all participants ran fantastic races. We congratulate the following children who had a top 6th placing; Sophie, Finn, Chloe, and Ben and Alex, who both came first in their races. Ben and Alex will compete in Adelaide on Thursday 8th June and we wish them all the very best.

Netball

Congratulations to Ellie, Sophie and Lilly who will represent the Mid-South East in Week 9 for SAPSASA Netball.

Hockey

Well done to Chloe who has made the SAPSASA Hockey team and will compete in Adelaide in Week 8.

Millicent Gala Day

Millicent Gala Day will be held on Sunday 4th June. We have entered a combined Penola-MMMS footy team and thank Justin Kain for coaching this team. We also have a Junior Girls team entered and are looking to combine with another school to make a Senior Girls team.

Basketball

We look forward to school based basketball sessions beginning in Week 7 this term, with the Basketball Round Robin day scheduled for early Term 3.

National Reconciliation Week

As we head into Week 5 we acknowledge National Reconciliation Week. Every day of the year and particularly from May 27 – June 3 is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements and to explore how each of us are able to contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for this year is "Be the voice for generations."

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As a school we spend time learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and share history by exploring the Indigenous culture. We thank Aunty Michelle for her visit to our R/1 and 2/3 classes last week. It was an excellent experience for all children and for their understanding that as people of faith, reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians.



Catholic Identity

This week we celebrated a whole school Mass for the Feast Day of Mary, Help of Christians. This feast day is of particular importance to us here in Australia because Our Lady, under the title 'Help of Christians', is a spiritual Patron of Australia, along with St Mary of the Cross. This means that Mary holds a special place for all Australians.

Last week the Church celebrated the Ascension, and this Sunday Pentecost is observed, concluding the liturgical season of Easter.

The Ascension

Even though we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can always feel His love and presence in our hearts, and we know that one day, we will be with Him in Heaven too.

'No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man' – John 3:13

The Ascension is a special event in the Christian faith when Jesus, who had risen from the dead after Easter, went to Heaven to be with God, His Father. It happened 40 days after Easter, and Jesus told His disciples that He would be going to Heaven to be with God but that He would always be with them in their hearts. The Ascension also reminds us that Jesus is in a special place in Heaven, preparing a wonderful place for us to be with Him someday.

Pentecost

Pentecost occurs ten days after the ascension of Jesus. At Pentecost the disciples received the Holy Spirit, and they were filled with joy and courage. They went out into the world to spread the good news about Jesus with everyone. They started to preach and teach about Jesus, and many people became followers of Jesus because of their words and actions. Pentecost is often referred to as the 'birthday of the church' as it marks the start of the disciples building the church upon Jesus teachings.

Liturgies and Masses

TERM 2

WEEK 7 Friday 16/6

Whole School Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart at 9.15am

WEEK 9 Tuesday 27th June

Year 2/3 Class Mass @9.15am

Reception/Year 1 liturgy @ 10.30am

Friday 30th June

Year 4, 5, 6 Class Mass @ 9.15am

