

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 3 Week 2

Friday, 4th August 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

- August -

- 07 Early Learning
- 08 Feast Day St. Mary of the Cross
MacKillop Whole School Mass
(9:15 am)
- 09 YELP Forum
- 11 Playgroup
SAPSASA Basketball (Mount
Gambier)
- 14 Early Learning
National Science Week
learning Conversations
- 15 Feast of the Assumption Whole
School Mass
- 16 School Board Meeting
SAPSASA Soccer
- 18 Playgroup
Year 5/6 Assembly (2:30pm)
- 21 Early Learning
Book Week
Catholic Schools Open Week
School Tours
- 22 TWC 2024 Year 7 Subject
Finalisation
- 23 Dress Up Day Book Week Parade
- 25 Playgroup
SAPSASA Regional Gold Day
(Naracoorte)

Class News

Year R/1

This week the Reception and Year One class reached the very big milestone of 100 days of school! It's been 100 incredible days of learning and fun for our littlest learners here at MMMS. To celebrate, they dressed as 100 year old's and had a fun-filled day reflecting on their first 100 days of learning. We can't wait to see what the next 100 days bring!



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

in all things love

From the principal

Dear Family and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

A warm welcome back to school as we start Term 3. It has been great to see so many smiling faces and I have enjoyed listening to all that our students got up to in the holidays.

We have certainly started the term off with a flourish of activities. Grandparents and Grandfriends Afternoon

The Grandparents and Grandfriends afternoon at school last Friday was a heartwarming gathering, with the Year 6 students delightfully serving a cuppa and biscuits to our visitors. The whole school participated in a special liturgy expressing gratitude to our Grandparents and Grandfriends. Afterward, the children acted as tour guides, showcasing their learning displays and environments. The well-attended event fostered a sense of love and connection among all.

Aboriginal Artists in School Program

This week we have welcomed the Aboriginal Artists in residence program. It has brought cultural enrichment to children by immersing them in the rich heritage of indigenous communities. Through this initiative, the children have learnt about Aboriginal culture, language, and traditional crafts. The artists, Sonya, Sarah and Suzy Smith have imparted valuable skills like weaving, a fundamental technique for basketry. Additionally, the children have been introduced to the art of painting on canvas, expressing their creativity and connection to the land. The program, funded by Carclew, encourages collaborative efforts, with participants contributing to a collective display, fostering mutual respect and appreciation for diverse cultures. This inspiring initiative cultivates cultural awareness and promotes a sense of pride and unity among the children and the community. We thank Carclew and particularly Suzy, Sonya and Sarah who have been with us this week!

NAPLAN

This week the Year 3 and Year 5 students received their NAPLAN results. These results are a snapshot of a student's knowledge in a variety of domains on one particular day. At MMMS staff spend time analysing these results along with PAT (Progressive Assessment Tests) testing, classroom assessments, using rubrics and observations to inform their teaching and learning. Our practice is very much individualised for each student so that they have the opportunity to flourish. However, it is very pleasing to see the continued trend of being above the average mean score when compared with the mean score of Australian schools in the majority of areas. The analysis also helps us to identify the areas that require growth for our students and the areas that we need to focus on to build teachers capacity. Our focus remains on Literacy, particularly in the area of writing. Recent professional training for teachers, LEAP Levels, gave teachers and ESOs a further insight into teaching the mechanics of writing to students.

NAPLAN Results:

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Yr 3 MMMS	423	408	410	427	432
Yr 3 National	404	417	404	409	407
Yr 5 MMMS	517	430	484	498	510
Yr 5 National	496	483	490	496	488

Living Learning Leading Survey

I encourage all parents and caregivers to complete the Living Learning Leading Survey. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we highly value family's feedback, to support the school to continuously improve our faith, learning and wellbeing initiatives.

Catholic Schools Open Week

During Week 5 all schools in Catholic Education are celebrating Catholic Schools Open Week (and Book Week!). Throughout this week schools will open their doors and provide extra tours, open days, and special events to showcase the excellence of their schools. We, here at Mary MacKillop Memorial School, have some exciting things planned to showcase our fabulous school. Please see below for a list of what we will be offering.

- Free Come and Try Early Years Program for 3 – 5 year olds on Monday 21 August – all day. Come for an hour – stay for the day!
- Come and Play at Playgroup on Friday 25th August.
- Coffee and Craft for new prospective Reception families: Tuesday 22 August 9.30 – 11
- Open Day Wednesday 23 August 9.30 – 11 Come and visit your child learning in their learning environment.
- Prospective Parents Information Evening – all Year Levels Wednesday 23 August 5.30pm

School Tours led by our School Captains:

Tuesday 22 August 2.30pm

Thursday 24 August 9am

Requested Learning Conversations

In Week 4 teachers will be requesting learning conversations with some families to follow up with specified learning goals for students and to communicate progress and to set new learning goals. The meeting times and requests will be managed by the classroom teacher.

Should you wish to request a time to meet with your child's classroom teacher in Week 4, please contact them directly no later than Wednesday 9th August.

Wishing all a wonderful weekend.

God Bless,

Nicole

in all things love

Community News

Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Vinnie, Levi W, Camilla, Jensen, Indi, Levi D, Chloe 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

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.

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

Friendships

As children journey through primary school, their friends play an increasingly important role in their lives. They spend plenty of time each day at school together followed by sports, play dates and social activities outside of school. As with any relationship, friendships go through seasons. Some are happy and some require more work, but overall, friendships are a blessing to have and they help mold our children into people who can share, be kind and interact with others positively later on in life.

If your child is experiencing a more challenging time in their friendships, it is great to be able to hear not only what your child is saying, but also what they are truly feeling. As adults we can support our children to navigate different friendship dynamics simply by active listening and proactive modelling. Sometimes our children are learning to give space, not get offended, encourage, listen, support and even to put the needs of their friends first. Friendships are a give and take. As parents and care-givers we play a vital role in helping our children know how to do both.

If your child is going through a bump on their friendship journey, you might find that they will need to talk about / reflect on/ use you as a sounding board to get perspective. As parents and caregivers, we do this best by first actively listening and proactive modelling:

- Creating a safe space for you child/ren to talk – not in front of others or their siblings
- Listening not to give advice - but rather to hear exactly what emotions they are feelings.
- Restating their words back to them – this helps your child understand and put into context what they are saying and feeling and helps them to know that you are listening e.g. if your child tells you through tears that they had an argument with a friend, a reply could be “I can see by your tears and can hear in your tone of voice that you are feeling really upset because you had a fight with your friend.” Whilst this may seem obvious to us as adults to your child it says “I see you. I hear you. What you feel is important to me.”
- Asking your child if they have any thoughts on how to handle the situation going forward – this is as opposed to instantly giving a solution to their problem. By not fighting our children's battles for them, but rather EQUIPPING them on how to handle day-to-day social situations helps them to grow in the resilience and confidence needed to navigate their own friendships.

- Letting children know that you are there to help them if they feel that progress is beyond them– in certain situations, parents need to intervene by speaking to their child's teacher / principal/ coach etc. It is helpful to contact this person in advance and give them a “heads up” about what the conversation will be about, but then taking your child with you to watch you MODEL how to approach the teacher / coach etc is very important. Children will learn how to handle tough situations based on what they have seen modelled for them. E.g “[Insert your child's name here] let's chat to Mrs Coote about how you are feeling. Mrs Coote, Molly (random example) and I have spoken about a few challenges she has been facing at school in her friendship group. Molly, could you tell Mrs Coote what happened and how you are feeling?” This equips our children to approach their problems confidently and to convey their concerns and feelings within a safe and supportive space.
- Model the response that your child is wanting to enact – by re-enacting (modelling) how to respond in a social situation helps your child to know which body language and tone of voice to use – e.g. “When you ask your friends if you can be included in the group use a kind, inquisitive tone of voice like this...instead of a demanding one which might sound like this...It would be a good idea to not fold your arms or crunch your eyes. But rather use your hands for gestures like this...
- Emphasising positive character choices – Sometimes we might feel that our child has been wronged and whilst we generally want to pursue justice on their behalf, perhaps pointing their positive character points gives them the courage to deal with the situation on their own, e.g “I can see that you were practising patience when that person took your turn on the swing,” or “You showed great self-control by not retaliating back when your friend was mean. Well done for going to the teacher straight away. You managed that situation really well. I'm proud of you.”
- Empathy – an easier way for children to understand empathy is to ask them to imagine how that person was feeling when they acted out/ said that mean statement. This helps our children to learn how to look below the surface and respond to need as opposed to reacting to behaviour. Perhaps their friend needs to feel included or heard.

By active listening and proactive modelling, we help our children to learn the social skills needed to thrive in their friendships and enjoy the blessing that primary school friendships provide.



Community News

Youth Group

Last Friday, the 28th of July, the St Joseph's Youth Group met up again for an evening of games, craft and Catechism. The theme for this session was the Eucharist. Bec gave a fantastic speech about the importance of the Eucharist for Catholics. Children then created their own stained glass windows, out of card and cellophane, to remind them of this special part of the Catholic tradition.

Our next session will be on Friday the 25th of August, please RSVP to Sam Baxter on either 0402915911 or sbaxter@mmms.catholic.edu.au by Wednesday the 23rd of August. All school aged children from years 2-6 are welcome to attend.

Book Week

Book Week is coming in Week 5 on Monday 21 August – Friday 25 August with the theme 'Read, Grow, Inspire.' The dress up day will be on Thursday 24 August (please note change of date/day). There will be a parade at 9am in the Hall should any parents wish to attend you are more than welcome. The Book Fair will be open for two sessions, 8.30 – 8.45 in the morning and 3.10 – 3.30 in the afternoon. The fair will NOT be open during school time for purchases. Cash and Eftpos payments will both be available.



Charter for Parents in SA Catholic Schools



Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie work in partnership with parents* and their school communities to promote a shared responsibility for the education of each child. This charter provides the principles and expectations to achieve this partnership.

* Parents is a collective term that includes carers and legal guardians.

A thriving relationship between parents and schools provides a powerful environment for the flourishing of each and every child. Within this relationship, both parents and schools have distinct responsibilities to nurture a strong ongoing partnership.

The Partnership recognises:

- The primary role parents play in their child's faith formation, learning and wellbeing
- The contribution that parents make by valuing the Catholic identity and mission of the schools
- The shared responsibility for the social, spiritual and emotional development of our students in our schools.

1 Parents

Our parents can expect their child's school will:

- Provide an excellent holistic education inspired by Catholic teachings and traditions
- Ensure high quality curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting practices are delivered
- Strive to create an inclusive environment which values and respects the diversity of faith and cultures across the school community
- Model Christian values with all members of the school community
- Provide timely and accurate information on their child's progress
- Communicate clearly and effectively to enable a mutually supportive environment
- Provide staff with professional development opportunities to maintain currency and expertise
- Demonstrate respect for the privacy of families in all interactions, including through the use of technology and social media
- Encourage parents to ask questions and speak to their child's teacher or member of the school leadership team at a mutually convenient time
- Allow any concern to be heard and commit to ongoing respectful relationships
- Address parent concerns in accordance with the school's grievance procedure and the Complaint Response and Resolution Procedure (CESA).

2 Schools

Our schools can expect that parents will:

- Act as positive advocates and first educators for their children
- Work in partnership with schools and parishes to achieve the best possible outcome for each student
- Support their child's learning at school and home
- Respect the skills, knowledge and experience of school leaders and teachers
- Model respectful behaviour within the school community in both real and digital worlds
- Listen, talk collaboratively and share relevant information with teachers and school staff to understand and resolve any issues and concerns
- Respect the privacy of every member of the school community - students, parents and staff
- Support the school expectations and guidelines that are in place for the wellbeing and effective learning of students
- Contribute to a safe school community where intimidation, bullying or harassment are not acceptable behaviours
- Adhere to the financial commitments made at the time of enrolment including payment of all fees and levies in a timely manner
- Promote and encourage a collective responsibility to support the Charter for Parents in SA Catholic Schools.



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Sport

SAPSASA Basketball

On Thursday two Yr 5/6 teams played off in the SAPSASA basketball competition in Millicent. Even though there was some tough teams and the standard was extremely high, both the Girls and Boys teams performed admirably. Well done all!



Catholic Identity

Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Next Tuesday is St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day. This is the most significant day on the calendar for our school, because without Mary MacKillop's vision, passion and drive, our school would not be the place of welcome that it is today! The Josephite values are core to how we live our lives, as we walk in Mary's footsteps each and every day.

On Tuesday students are able to wear boots, rubber boots or sandals (like Mary would have worn – old fashioned footwear) and bring a gold coin donation to go toward the work that the Mary MacKillop Today Foundation do for the people of East-Timor.

Everyone is invited to the celebrations on Tuesday beginning with Mass at 9.15am. At 11.30 the students will be involved in three different rotation activities, watercolour painting of the Sisters of St Joseph emblem, tour of the Interpretative Centre and singing of Mary MacKillop songs. If any parents would like to help out from 11.30 – 2.30pm on this day, please feel free to pop in – the more the merrier!

We will also be welcoming students from St Anthony's and Tenison Woods College to join in with the celebrations.

Who was Mary MacKillop?

Mary was born to Scottish immigrants on the 15 January 1842 in Fitzroy Melbourne. It was from her parents that Mary learned the importance of a good education. In 1860, at the age of 18, Mary arrived in our town, Penola.

It was here that she met Fr Julian Tenison Woods (a remarkable priest and scientist) and set up her first school, holding lessons in a small cottage. In 1866 Mary set up her first dedicated school in a stable. This site is remembered today as the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park and is located on Queen Street. It was here that Mary truly began her vocation. In 1867, the classes shifted to a purpose-built school building now referred to as the Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse, which is located on the corner of Petticoat Lane. While in Penola Mary started up the Sisters of St Joseph's, with the help of Fr Julian Tenison Woods. Within weeks of the school house opening, Mary MacKillop boarded the steamship SS Penola for the journey to Adelaide, where she went on to establish the Cathedral Hall School, officially took vows and became Mary of the Cross.

Once she left Penola Mary's story continued, she suffered many trials but kept on doing God's work. I encourage you to go out and visit and see some of these significant sites in our very own backyard this weekend.

Feast of Assumption

On Tuesday 15 August we celebrate a whole school Mass for the Feast of the Assumption. This day is one of only two 'holy days of obligation' within the Australian Catholic Church calendar (the other is Christmas Day). On this special feast day, we celebrate the fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken into heaven, body and soul, to be reunited with her son, Jesus. We know that Mary is in heaven, and we also know that Mary is always with us and willing to intercede on our behalf. When we say the Hail Mary prayer, we ask Mary to 'Pray for us' because we know she is present in heaven with God and is always ready to hear our prayers.

Ways to Pray This Week at Home

Lectio of Nature

Start with a focus on breathing to calm and still thoughts. Then, when you experience an inner calm and stillness, set out purposefully and:

- Read a text about nature and all that is around you.
- Reflect on things that speak to you: stop and wonder, pause and think on creation.
- Respond in prayer, in gratitude, in writing or in images. Or simply "be."

Thank you, Creator God, for the many gifts of creation you have given to inspire our care and our wonder. May we always be aware of your presence as we journey through nature. Amen.

Liturgies and Masses

TERM 3

Week 3

Tuesday 8 August Whole School Mass: St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Feast Day @ 9.15am

Week 4

Tuesday 15 August Whole School Mass: Feast of the Assumption @ 9.15am

Week 6

Friday 1 September 2/3 Class Mass @ 9.15am
R/1 Liturgy @ 10.30am