

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 3 Week 6

Friday, 1st September 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

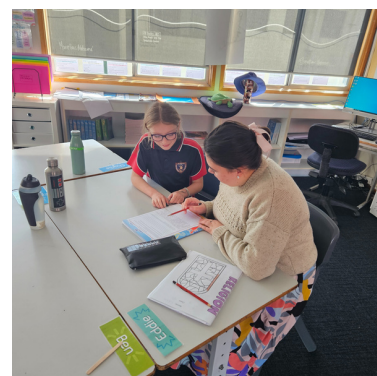
- September -

- 04 Early learning
- 05 Footy Colours Day
5/6 Class Mass
- 07 SAPSASA Golf
- 08 **STUDENT FREE DAY**
Staff Retreat Day
- 11 Early Learning
School Photos
- 14 RUOK Day
- 15 Playgroup
2/3 Assembly
- 18 SAPSASA Athletics Day
(Adelaide)
- 19 Musical Performance - Matinee
Musical Performance - Evening
- 20 Musical Performance - Matinee
Musical Performance - Evening
- 22 Playgroup
R/1 Big Day Out
- 25 Early learning
- 26 Year 4/5 Class Mass
Woods-MacKillop Day
- 27 McCormack Day
- 28 Cameron Day
- 29 Playgroup
Last Day of Term 3

Class News

Year 5/6

Already, what an adventure my final placement has been! For the past four weeks, I have loved teaching in the year 5/6 classroom, working closely with the 4/5s as well. In Maths we have been learning all things fractions and already the year 4/5/6s are fraction superstars, constantly reminding me of their capabilities and enthusiasm for learning. Coming from Adelaide city life to beautiful Penola has been a great adventure so far and the school community has been nothing but welcoming and supportive. The togetherness and generosity of not only the staff but also the students have made me feel right at home.



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

in all things love

From the principal

Dear family and friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

Wow! what a fabulous time we had last week celebrating Book Week. All students engaged in a variety of activities around the short-listed books, had a hoot of a time dressing up as their favourite book character or around the 2023 Book Week theme: Read, Grow, Inspire. Some families also came along to our PJ Reading Night and enjoyed a milo and biscuit, while listening to books read by our older students, parents, teachers and Sr Loreto! We certainly love books and reading at MMMS.

ESO Gratitude

Recently we said a very special thank you to our hardworking Educational Support Officers. Mrs E, Lauren, Ebonie, Kathy, Dale, Jack, Rachel and Ryan who all work tirelessly with the students and teachers and around the school to help every child to flourish and thrive. We are so very grateful for the gifts and talents that they bring to our school.

Regional Staff Reflection Day

Next Friday 8th September Mary MacKillop Memorial School will be holding its annual School Retreat Day. This year we will be joining Tenison Woods College and St Anthony's Millicent to bring all staff who work in Catholic education in the South-East together.

On this day the school will be closed. Staff will take the opportunity to nourish their spiritual selves and to connect with God through prayer and nature. The theme of the day is Nurturing Hearts, Heads and Hands.

Father's Day Breakfast

What a wonderful event this morning as we welcomed all our dads, Grandads, and special people in our lives for a hearty breakfast and tour of classrooms.

Thank you to the MMMS staff who pitched in with cooking the BBQ and organising the breakfast. Great teamwork!

We wish all our dads, Grandads and special male people in our lives a very Happy Father's Day this Sunday.

2024 Enrolments

It is now time for 2024 enrolments to be submitted. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 1 2024 please complete an enrolment form and return it to the front office. If you know of any families thinking about enrolling their child at Mary MacKillop Memorial School for Term 1 2024, please encourage them to contact the school. We welcome all new families!

2024 Scholarships

Mary MacKillop Memorial School offers full or part scholarships to new and existing enrolments. Scholarships applications and more information is available on our website.

Applications are now open until 16 October.

Musical Ticket Note

We already have ticket notes coming in and phone calls with people requesting tickets for our much-anticipated whole school musical – Peter Pan! Don't miss out, it is going to be epic!

Finally, tonight the MMMS School Board host our Quiz Night! We wish all those that are coming 'good luck' and we hope that you have fun! Many thanks to the School Board, particularly Squish Gosse, for their coordination of this fantastic community event.

God bless,



Nicole Coote.

in all things love

Community News

Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Louis, Elizabeth, Lucas, Milly, Henry, Alfie and Finn who received Flourishing awards at assembly this week.



House Points

Cameron	★ 251
McCormack	234
Woods MacKillop	222

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 Henry (2nd), Lillith (7th) and Josh R. (12th) We hope you will all have a wonderful day.

PLAYGROUP FRIDAY 9.30AM-11.00AM

- Come and enjoy a time to play and explore with your child.
- Guided by our Early Years Coordinator
- Bring a gold coin and a piece of fruit for a healthy snack

Contact the school for more information
8737 2902
lmiller@mms.catholic.edu.au

EARLY LEARNING
An early years service for families of 3 - 5 year olds.

MONDAYS 9AM - 3PM

- Full Day \$25
- Half Day \$15
- Led by a Qualified Educator

Contact Us
8737 2902
lmiller@mms.catholic.edu.au

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

National Child Protection Week

Dear families,

Next week, September 3rd-9th is National Child Protection Week. In 2023, the message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme '*Where we start matters*'.

Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us, and the opportunities presented to us make a significant difference to our life outcomes.

Where we start as a service sector in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.

Where we start as decision makers in addressing large complex policy problems such as child abuse and neglect, also has a significant personal, social and economic outcomes.

We invite you to use this theme to explore and talk about the many ways that 'where we start matters' for children, young people and their families.

Of course where we start isn't where we finish.

The aim of Child Protection Week is to bring together partners to focus on addressing the significant harms being experienced by children in Australia. By working collectively to change the trajectory of these children and families, we can reduce the number of children who may come in contact with the child protection system. The time to act is now.

<https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>

We Each year at MMMS we engage in a range of activities throughout National Child Protection Week. Last year we engaged in activities around feeling safe and supported and explored how we can develop our self-image and self-worth. These activities compliment the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum that is mandated in all schools across South Australia.

In 2023 we are having a focus on the role of community throughout Child Protection Week and are inviting our families to be involved in this process. Each child will receive a puzzle piece that they will use to answer the question "How can I support people in my community?" During our lessons, students will then decorate this puzzle piece in preparation for a school display of how we can support our community. We are inviting all parents to do the same by completing their own puzzle piece answering the question of "How can we support all young people in our community?" You will find a template for this puzzle piece below, or alternately, you can collect one from the front office. Please have these completed by Wednesday of Week 7 (6th September) so that we can add them to our school display.

We have included several posters with this newsletter that may assist you in answering this questions.

Thanks,
Sam Baxter.



Community News

Processing Grief with your Child

The death of a loved one, friend, acquaintance, member of community or pet can pose overwhelming feelings for children. It can be difficult to walk the journey of grief with your child, especially because children often grieve quite differently to how we expect them to.

Rachel Ehmke (Child Mind Institute, 2023) notes that *the way kids respond to death is different from adults. They may go from crying to playing, which is completely normal. Playing is a way of coping with their feelings. It's also normal for kids to get angry, to feel sad, get anxious and also to act younger than they are. For example, potty-trained kids may have accidents or kids might slip into baby talk.*

The following might be helpful to parents supporting their child/ren through a period of grief:

1. Encourage children to express their feelings.

Children often express their feelings behaviorally – crying, shouting, retreating etc. Grief is no different. Helping your child talk about what they are feeling relieves them of the pressure and anxiety of initiating a conversation they may be unsure of. Asking questions is helpful. “Are you missing grandpa? “Yes.” What other feelings do you have about grandpa?” Smaller children might benefit from talking about the size of their feelings. Asking children to compare the size of their sadness with a physical feature e.g. “My sadness is as big as this pencil or that boulder, how big is your sadness feeling?” This helps children to start to rationalize their grief and to see it getting smaller over time.

2. Use age-appropriate terminology.

Children respond better to words that are clear and easy to understand. By being direct (for example using words such as “death” as opposed to “passed away”). Helps children to get directly to their feelings without needing to navigate what you are actually saying.

3. **Stick to routine.** A death can often cause feelings of being overwhelmed, unsettled, displaced and out of routine. Routines help children to feel safe because they know what to expect. By sticking to normal meal times, school times, bath times, bed times etc. helps your child to remain physically structured even if they are feeling emotionally scattered.

4. **Unconditional acceptance.** Children might find the most inconvenient time to process their emotions e.g. just before falling asleep, when running late, at school drop off. This is because any situation that might cause a child to feel slightly out of sorts can trigger their emotions to start flowing. Some children will need to cry, others talk, others act out etc., but allowing your child the space he/she needs to process their emotions at their own time and pace allows them to deal with those emotions more thoroughly.

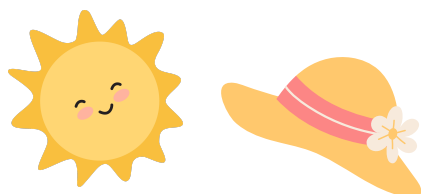
Whilst we cannot prevent our children from being exposed to the concept of death, we can support them through their journey of grief. Once a child has grieved sufficiently, they will generally tend to taper off the need for reassurance, attention and listening, but their needs to be at their own pace. By hampering a child to get past their grief does not allow them to sufficiently deal with the loss they have experienced. We can never underestimate the power of a supportive caregiver who there when needed.



Community News

Wearing Hats

We are a Sunsmart School acknowledged by the Cancer Council Foundation. In accordance with our Sunsmart policy as of Monday 4th September, all children will need to wear their hat when playing outside. Please ensure that your child has their hat as children without hats will need to play in the shade.



Choir News

We are excited to announce that our Festival of Music Choir Concert is the evening of Friday, October 27th at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre in Mount Gambier.

We congratulate our students who auditioned for dancing, solo and compere parts for the concerts. Ellie Healy was selected for a compere role which involves introducing the various acts on the night. Our soloists are Kira Pitt and Dance Troupe member Sophie Pearce.

We wish our students every success as they prepare for their performances.

Early Arrivals

We remind all families that yard supervision begins at 8.25am—when the first bus arrives. If your child arrives before this time they are to go directly to the front office where they will need to wait until the teacher is on yard duty. If students are riding or walking to school, it is best to leave a little later. The first bell for classes to start does not go until 8.45am.

Bike Riding Around the School

We ask that all children refrain from riding their scooter or bike out of the school grounds, in front of the school and Church. In the morning and at the end of the day these are high traffic areas and the safety of all is paramount.



BEING NEIGHBOURLY IS GOOD FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

WHERE WE START MATTERS

"A community is like a puzzle. You need to have all the bits to make it work." - M, aged 9



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

3-9 September 2023

Where can you start? www.napcan.org.au



NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

WHAT WE KNOW:

- Children feel safer when they know the people in their community.
- An important message from children is that adults can make a big and positive difference in a community by being kind and friendly towards children.
- Social connection helps to support families and protect children.
- Positive relationships with adults can make a big difference in the life of a child or young person.
- We can all look out for children and make sure they are safe – even if we don't know them.
- We all have a part to play in creating stronger, happier neighbourhoods for everyone.

For more information about how you can play your part or to get involved in **National Child Protection Week** (starting first Sunday September) visit: www.napcan.org.au

NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

HOW YOU CAN PLAY YOUR PART:

- Talk to your neighbours and take the time to **build relationships** among parents nearby. You can start by asking people how long they have lived in the area or asking parents about their children (e.g. their ages and hobbies) to show that you are interested.
- Swap phone numbers with other families and let them know if you are doing something they could **join in** with e.g. going to the park to play.
- When we **lighten the load** on parents, it helps give them time and space to build the close attachments that are so important for children's brains. Offer a helping hand to families in your neighbourhood. For example, offer to pick something up from the shop, watch the children, or bake some food.
- All families need **support** to navigate the journey of raising children. We can all help to guide families to the safe harbours and lighthouses that can help them **stay on track**. If you see a family that is facing challenges, you may need to ask advice from an expert about what to do. You could start by looking up advice hotlines e.g. Parentline, or Kids Helpline.
- Speak up if you see something that is unsafe e.g. broken equipment, kids playing near traffic, a small child alone, or unsociable behaviour.
- Think about how your **neighbourhood** could be improved for children and teenagers. Ask them what they like and what they might want to change, and help them advocate to make things better.
- Mark the **last Sunday in March** on your calendar so you can be part of **Neighbour Day** which is the annual day of action for the Neighbours Every Day campaign.



For more information about Neighbours Every Day and how you can get involved visit: neighbourseveryday.org



MARY MACKILLOP PENOLA

Catholic Identity

Catholic Charities

Each September the Adelaide Archdiocese launches the Catholic Charities Appeal. The aim of this is to bring into focus several charitable organisations that we, as a Catholic community, can support throughout the month. Students throughout South Australia continue to play a crucial role in fundraising for Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities has a bright and colourful me4u website that highlights and celebrates the fundraising work done in schools to help those in need 'in our own backyard.'

The me4u campaign's focus is to assist schools in generating ways to bring students together for an event and/or fundraising activity with the main focus of reinforcing Saint Mary MacKillop's message - 'Never see a need without doing something about it.'

Safe Guarding Sunday and Child Protection Week 2023

This year's National Child Protection Week will take place from the 3rd to the 9th of September 2023, with an overarching theme: "Every Child, in Every Community, Needs a Fair Go" and focusing on children growing up safe and supported.

The message for 2023 is 'Where we start matters.' At school we will be undertaking a series of activities with our students reminding them that they are valued and important and each have a special place within our school.

Safeguarding Sunday, follows National Child Protection Week and will be celebrated in all Australian Catholic Dioceses on Sunday 10 September 2023.

Liturgies and Masses

TERM 3

Week 7 - Tuesday 5 September

5/6 Class Mass @ 9.15am

Week 10 - Tuesday 26 September

4/5 Class Mass @ 9.15am

Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter and Fr Olek

SUNDAY 3rd September

21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

(4.30pm Saturday)

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Care for Creation:

In June 2015, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the world about caring for the earth, our common home. It was called Laudato Si. Later that year, he declared 1st September to be a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This annual day of prayer reminds us that God has entrusted creation to our care.

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we are constantly seeking ways to care for our environment, ably led by our Young Environmental Group, and such initiatives as 'Nude Food' and recycling.

God of All Creation, may your Spirit change our minds and hearts so that we learn how to care for the land, the seas that surround us, and the skies that overarch us, and how to wisely use their natural gifts. Amen



photo gallery

Book Week





photo gallery

Fathers Day

