

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 4 Week 8

Friday, 8th December 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](http://www.mmms.catholic.edu.au)



*in all things love*

### UPCOMING DATES

#### -December -

- 10 Second Sunday of Advent
- 11 Year 6 Class Mass (11:30am)  
Year 6 Luncheon at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Penola (12:30pm)  
Class swaps
- 12 End of Year Thanksgiving Mass, Awards, farewells and Graduation Presentation (5:30pm)
- 13 Last Day of Term 4  
Assembly (2:30pm)
- 14 **Student Free Day**  
Staff professional Learning
- 15 **Student Free Day**  
Staff professional Learning
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day
- 31 New Years Eve

#### -January -

- 01 New Years Day
- 20 Penola Rodeo
- 26 Australia Day
- 29 First Day of Term 1

#### -February-

- 02 Beginning of Year Mass
- 05 Swimming Lessons (All Week)
- 13 Shrove Tuesday
- 14 Ash Wednesday

## Class News

### Year 2/3

This year has been one to remember and I am going to miss all the incredible people at MMMS. During the term we have been spreading kindness to each other and other people. We created a kindness advent calendar where we discussed 24 different ways to be kind and wrote them. Children then placed these inside and drew pictures for the outside. We are opening them each day to help remind us of how to be kind.

For HASS we researched different celebrations around the world including Chinese New Year, Saint Patricks Day, Independence Day, Bastille Day and Basant Kite Festival. Children wrote an imaginary day in the life of experiencing that celebration.

This during Design and Technology we designed, created and evaluated our own marble runs. It was great to see the collaboration and problem solving between children.



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*in all things love*

# From the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

As the end of the year draws to a close and we reflect back on the 2023 year, I am amazed at all that we have achieved. Thank you to the school community for your support and kindness. We thank the amazing staff for all their hard work in providing rich learning opportunities for our students throughout the year. To our enthusiastic, motivated, and dedicated students, who have shown that they are determined in education and life as they have learnt about themselves, both academically and emotionally.

## Christmas Carols and Songs

On Wednesday night we celebrated a wonderful Christmas Celebration and Community BBQ. The atmosphere of festivities and Christmas joy was certainly felt by all. It was wonderful to see so many families stay afterwards for the BBQ.

The R/1 Nativity set the scene and reminded us about the true meaning of Christmas, with a little twist of humour. All classes then entertained us with some beautiful and fun Christmas songs. Our School Captains Sidney and Sophie certainly did an outstanding job of compering the evening. Congratulations to all!

## Farewells

We farewell our leaving families; Preston-Hill, Lee and Cabarrubias, and thank them for their contribution to our school over the years. May they forever hold fond memories of their time at Mary MacKillop Memorial School.

We also farewell our graduating Year 6 students Kira, Annabelle, Ellie, Indi, Sophie, Alex, Finn, Sidney and Kenzo and wish them well in the next step of their schooling. They will celebrate their Graduating Luncheon with their families on Monday, and Graduating ceremony at the End of Year Thanksgiving Mass, and with a final farewell at our End Of Year Assembly.

Finally, we farewell staff members Ashlee Fensom, Lauren Millar, Kimmi Tincknell, Kathy Dempsey and Kathy O'Connell who will not be returning to Mary MacKillop Memorial School in 2024.

The Admin Trainee position was undertaken by Lauren Miller and she has been a valuable asset to the school. Lauren has fulfilled the role of social media, has developed new initiatives in admin and has provided assistance to both Janice and I in front office support.

We thank her for her contribution to Mary MacKillop Memorial School and wish her all the very best as she begins her further studies next year. We look forward to welcoming our new trainee in the new year, Ainsley Gillings.

We also farewell Mrs Kathy O'Connell as she has made the decision to not return to Mary MacKillop Memorial School. She has been an incredible asset to Mary MacKillop Memorial School and Catholic Education over her years, with her dedication to preparing our senior students for secondary school and her vision to develop the Performing Arts program. We thank Kathy for her commitment and passion to education and wish her all the very best into the future, whatever it may hold for her and Tony.

We farewell Kimmi once again. She has taken on a teaching position at St Anthony's at the beginning of 2024, however, Kimmi and Sam will welcome baby no. 2 in May! Congratulations and thank you once again to Kimmi for her commitment and care to the MMMS students.

Dale Domleo, our caring and thoughtful school counsellor, will be taking six months leave as she and her partner, Ryan, welcome baby no 2 in the new year. We wish Dale all the very best and look forward to welcoming her back mid-year. Bec Baker will be taking on the role of school counsellor in Dale's absence.

Kathy Dempsey will also not be returning in 2024. We have greatly appreciated what Kathy has brought to our Early Years program, particularly Playgroup and the way in which she has worked with all students over the year.

We will miss all of these amazing students, families and staff and wish them God's blessings for the future.

I would personally like to thank each and every member of our school community for the contribution made in 2023, in whatever capacity.

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas.



Nicole Coote.

in all things love

# Community News

## Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Paige, Camilla, Fred, Ben, Abby, Piper, Tait, Max M., Elijah, Harry G., Sidney, Robert and Henry who received Flourishing awards at assembly the last two weeks.



## Class Structures and Staffing for 2024:

- R/1 Danni Heazlewood
- 2/3 Kellie O'Neil
- 4 Kaitlyn Lusty and Alison Smith
- 5/6 Amy Boyd

### Education Support Officers:

Jen Eckermann, Rachel Manninen, Ebonie Moulton and Jack Muhovics

PE/Health	Sasha Reilly
The Arts and Science	Kaitlyn Lusty
Italian	Alison Smith

Religious Education Coordinator and Leader of Learning  
Sam Baxter

Inclusive Education Coordinator and Wellbeing  
Kaitlyn Lusty  
School Counsellor    Bec Baker

Admin/Finance	Janice Coote
Admin Trainee	Ainsley Gillings

IT    Ryan Agnew

## House Points

Cameron ★ 263

McCormack 241

Woods MacKillop 276

## 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**



# Community News

## Celebrations and Farewells

A reminder of events for the end of the year.

Monday 11th December

Year 5/6 Class Mass, Year 6 luncheon, Class swaps for 2024

Tuesday 12th December

Thanksgiving Whole School Mass, Awards, Farewells and Graduation Ceremony starting 5.30pm, St Jospeh Church

Wednesday 13th December

End of Year Assembly @ 2.45pm followed by guard of honour farewell for Year 6s

## School Captains for 2024

Congratulations to Ben and Laura who will take on the role of School Captains for MMMS in 2024. We wish them the very best as they prepare to lead the school next year. Thank you to Sophie and Sidney for their outstanding leadership in 2023. They have led with integrity and respect, modelling the values of the Josephite Sisters in their words and actions.



## End of Year Reporting

Reports will be sent home on Tuesday 12th December. The End of Year Report is a summary of your child's learning throughout the year. If you have any questions about your child's report, please contact your child's class teacher.



## Music Lessons 2024

PIANO | BASS GUITAR | DRUMS

Expressions of interest are now open for music lessons with local professional musician Rod Ennis.

Rod is a Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music graduate with over 25 years experience in teaching, lecturing, directing ensembles, composing, arranging and performing. He has played with Guy Sebastian, David Campbell and Rhonda Burchmore to name a few, and is available for instrumental music lessons next year for the whole year, except for term 3 due to previous commitments.

Please contact Rod at [rod@rodennismusic.com](mailto:rod@rodennismusic.com) for more information, and find out more about Rod at <https://www.rodennismusic.com/>

## Transition Afternoon

On Monday all students will spend the afternoon with their class and teacher for next year. We especially look forward to Miss Kellie O'Neil visiting our school and getting to know her students for 2024 and the wider Mary MacKillop Community. We extend a very warm welcome!

# Community News

## Developing self-esteem in children

Self-esteem is an important part of a child's wellbeing. Self-esteem is the way a child sees themselves and the value they attach to who they are. Developing positive self-esteem in children can be a difficult task. Although self-esteem can be affected by daily situations, it can also be built up through using a few intentional strategies at home:

### 1. Unconditional love and acceptance

Children need to know that despite their achievements and failures, that they are unconditionally loved. By reinforcing that a child is loved despite their behavior is important in giving children a safe base from which to venture out from. Returning to a home where they are loved, gives children the courage and self-confidence to try new things and be more resilient when away from their home environment.

### 2. Teach problem solving skills

Children need to be confident in their own ability to solve problems, but also know where and how to ask for help when they need it. By teaching your child/ren how to resolve conflict, ask for forgiveness, say sorry, accept an apology, solve minor problems helps them to learn to not be swayed by daily problems that come their way. By reassuring your child that speaking to you is a safe space, allows them to feel comfortable in sharing their burdens with you. It is important to not try and rescue our children from every challenge that they face (depending on the severity of the problem), but rather equip them to attempt to solve problems on their own. This may involve explaining to your child how to ask for help from a teacher/ trusted adult when they need it.

### 3. Remind children of their strengths

Children often doubt their own abilities the older they get. By reminding them that they are capable, brave, compassionate etc. helps them to believe in their own abilities, especially when facing problems which they feel might be overwhelming.

### 4. Avoid modelling negative self esteem

Children will often treat themselves the way they see their parents treat themselves or others. Avoiding negative self-talk or negative talk about others, models positive self-esteem to children. By showing children how you as an adult learns from wrongdoings, has a positive mindset amidst struggle and asks for help when needed shows children strategies that they can use to enhance their own self-esteem.

### 5. Provide age-appropriate responsibility

By offering children the opportunity to grow their responsibility skills, enables them to trust themselves when they have to take responsibilities on outside of the home. E.g. Keeping one's room clean, taking out the trash, cleaning dishes (and being commended for doing a good job of it) helps children to remember their contribution to the household and that they are a valued member of a team. This spills over into their willingness to trust themselves and their capabilities when taking on tasks outside the home.

Our child/ren's self-esteem can tend to get knocked from time to time, but by providing them support and open communication channels gives them the space to learn and grow in their own opinion of themselves, which, inevitably will increase their self-esteem. Allowing them to learn from their mistakes in a safe environment gives our children the courage to believe in themselves as they travel through daily ups and downs.



# Catholic Identity

## Advent

This Sunday will mark the second Sunday of Advent. While all the hustle and bustle is going on preparing for the festivities of Christmas, we should take a moment to remember what the fuss and excitement is about, the true meaning of Christmas. The first Christmas began with a gift from God. More than 2000 years have passed since that night in a stable, but everywhere this is a special time to thank God for giving us His only Son.

The second candle represents John the Baptist, who proclaims Jesus as the Messiah. This candle is the candle of peace, a sign that God's promises will be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ - Prince of Peace. Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace, when we turn to him in faith.

### ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER

God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, As we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.

Amen

## The Jesse Tree

What is a Jesse Tree? The symbol of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1-2 "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: From his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him." Each branch of the tree is a story, one of the stories that make up the whole sacred Story of God's relationship with his people, with us. These stories remind us who God is and who we are. Their roots sink deep, all the way back to the beginning, to the creation of the cos-mos and of this small planet. Their branches reach wide, embracing the whole Story of God-with-us, from Eden to Bethlehem. A Jesse Tree helps us remember our story, the story of God's people, who waited so long for the coming of the Messiah. Just as we are waiting through the days of Advent for Jesus.

## The Giving Tree

Thank you all for the generous donations for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. These donations will be used to support individuals and families doing it tough this Christmas. The staff at Vinnies, Mt Gambier also wish to pass on their thanks and are very grateful for the contributions of our community.

These donations will be taken down on, Thursday 14th December. If you have anything to donate please do so prior to this.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary – Friday 8th December

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." [Luke 1:38a](#)

Happy Solemnity! This is a day to celebrate! Today, we honor the glorious and miraculous Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Mother, an act of God's most profound mercy.

"Immaculate Conception" means that when God created the Blessed Virgin Mary, He created her without sin. This was done through what we call a prevenient grace. This grace given her is an act of God's perfect and gracious mercy. She did not earn it or merit it; rather, God in His goodness chose to create her without original sin so as to have a suitable instrument by which the Son could come into the world. Mary, for her part, embraced this gift and chose to remain sinless throughout her life by a continual act of her free will.

The Immaculate Mother Mary is now our spiritual mother in the order of God's grace and mercy.



# photo gallery

Year 2/3 Camp





# Merry CHRISTMAS

## ★ AT THE LIBRARY ★

### FESTIVE CRAFT

CHOOSE FROM A CHRISTMAS TREE FRAME

OR A CD TEA-LIGHT!

LIMITED AMOUNT AVAILABLE.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY 19TH

WEDNESDAY 20TH

THURSDAY 21ST

10 AM TO 3 PM

CHRISTMAS INSPIRED COLOUR  
SHEETS AVAILABLE ALL WEEK



**Naracoorte**  
Library + Town Hall

93 - 95 Smith Street  
Naracoorte SA 5207






# Library Summer Fun



## January 2024



All Craft Sessions  
10am - 3pm



Tues 2nd  
to  
Fri 5th

Happy New Year!  
Colour-in, quiz and word search sheets available all day and over the week.



Tues 9th  
Wed 10th  
Thurs 11th

- It's getting hot!
- Create your own pool floatie.
  - Pirate craft (limited available)
  - Icy pole craft good enough to eat!



Tues 16th  
Wed 17th  
Thurs 18th

- Make your own portable game!
- Wacky Spinner
  - Cup & Ball
  - Board game



Tues 23rd  
Wed 24th  
Thurs 25th

- Let's get organised! Design your own:
- Morning routine organiser.
  - Night time routine organiser.
  - Daily chores/ jobs list



**FREE**

Some events  
have limited  
places so be  
quick!

# 4 *Fantastic* EVENTS FOR YOUNG CARERS

Mount Gambier

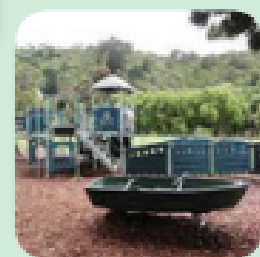
## 1 Valley Lake Playground

5 - 8 year olds

Thursday 25th Jan 2024 10:30am – 1:30pm

Davison Drive, Mount Gambier Lunch provided.

Join us for a time of play, followed by sausage sizzle for lunch.



## 2 Browns Beach Day

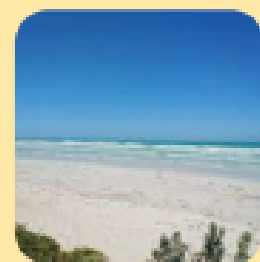
9 - 12 year olds

Wednesday 10th Jan 2024 10:30am - 2:30pm

Browns Beach Road, Innesston Transport and lunch provided.

Spend the day out at Browns Beach and enjoy a fish and chips lunch.

Mini bus pick up and drop off at Carers SA office.



## 3 VR and Robotics Experience

13 - 17 year olds

Thursday 11th Jan 2024 10:30am - 1:30pm

Mount Gambier Public Library: 6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier

Spend the day out experiencing VR, Robotic and more at the Mount Gambier Public Library.



## 4 Dinner at Jens Hotel

18 - 25 year olds

Wednesday 10th Jan 2024 6pm - 8pm

Mount Gambier Jens Hotel: 40 Commercial Street E.



To RSVP or for further  
information please contact  
Sam on 0491 066 939

 **Carers SA**  
Australia