

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 2

Friday, 23rd February 2024

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)



*go with strength*

*and courage*

### UPCOMING DATES

- February -

- 26 Occasional Care
- 27 Year 5/6 Class Mass (9:15am)
- Year 2/3 Liturgy (10:30am)

- March -

- 1 Playgroup
- Clean up Aust Day
- Assembly 5/6
- 4 Occasional Care
- Caritas K Day
- 5 Year 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
- Year R/1 Liturgy (10:30am)
- 6 Tenison Woods College Twilight Tour
- 8 Playgroup
- Assembly R/1
- 11 Adelaide Cup
- PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
- 12 Staff Learning Professional Day
- STUDENT FREE DAY**
- 13 Year 4/5 Robe Camp (3 days)
- Naplan (3 days)
- 15 Playgroup
- Penola-Coonawarra Acoustic Music Festival: Year 6
- 18 Occasional Care
- 19 St Joseph Feast Day Mass (9:15am)
- 20 School Board Meeting (7:00pm)
- 21 Harmony Day
- SAPSASA District Athletics Day (Millicent)

## Class News

Year 5 / 6

In our 5/6 classroom, collaboration and teamwork have been integral to our learning journey. Through engaging in Design and Technology projects, participating in our class equity program, and collaborating in cooking groups, students have not only developed problem-solving and communication skills but have also embraced the joy of working together towards shared goals. These are invaluable skills that will be beneficial in all areas beyond the classroom. Furthermore, fostering a collaborative environment nurtures community-building and social responsibility, empowering students to become empathetic, proactive citizens capable of effecting positive change. Overall, our focus on team work and collaboration has brought immense enjoyment and fulfillment to our educational experiences.



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go with strength and courage*



# from the principal

Dear Parents and Friends of the Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

## **Footsteps Dance Program**

### **Swimming Carnival**

We had an incredible day on Friday for our swimming carnival. The Penola Swimming Pool was a hive of activity, with participation from students very high. The standard of racing and ability displayed was outstanding and the improvement of students was very evident. I was so proud of the way in which each student took part in the day, with great sportsmanship and encouragement of each other.

The student verses parent and other adults race at the end of the day was a highlight, as was the Watermelon race – with all students involved.

Congratulations to team Cameron for taking out the overall winners for the day. House Captains Chloe and Jimmy congratulated their team and thanked all those that helped.

A huge thank you to the House Captains who capably led their teams through the day, making sure that everyone was involved and also assisting in the pool with the younger students and any other jobs that needed to be done. All senior students should be proud of their involvement.

Thank you to the swimming carnival committee, Jen, Amy, Kaitlyn and particularly Rachel. It is an enormous task putting a swimming carnival together – it was an amazing job. Also, many thanks to the rest of the staff that supported the committee.

I would like to personally thank Sarah Kidman, who once again gave generously of her time to undertake the role of Pool Lifeguard. We deeply appreciate you doing this for us! Many thanks also to the parents who volunteered to be judges.

We enjoyed a BBQ lunch and thank those who helped out organising it for the students. A fantastic day for the Mary Mac community.

This week we have been lucky enough to have the Footsteps Dance Program at our school. Footsteps specialises in curriculum integrated dance programs and aligns with the Australian Curriculum v9.0. Dance is a vehicle to develop students' inter/intra personal skills, fitness levels and meets learning outcomes in The Arts and PE/Health for all.

There has been much fun and excitement as the student's have enjoyed learning their new dances to some of the latest tunes. The 40 min session each day has been integrated into our Arts, PE/Health and fitness lessons this week. A great way for children to learn.

One thing that I noticed this year is how quickly the children, who have been involved with Footsteps in previous years, follow instructions and pick up new skills. Their confidence in their ability to try new steps has grown and they have enjoyed being challenged by new and complicated steps!

### **Teaching and Learning at Mary Mac**

As we venture into Week 5 at the beginning of next week, it is extremely exciting to see and hear the rigorous teaching and learning happening in each room. The R/1s are on their InitialLit journey and have been for a few weeks now. Last week I was very pleased with the way in which the students were engaged in this learning in their literacy block, while I was teaching in their room. The Year 2/3s are working on a variety of spelling activities to consolidate knowledge with the activities being divided up into 'can dos' and 'must dos' giving the students both choice and agency along with responsibility. The Year 4s in mathematics have been learning about the types of language used when talking about place value and in writing learning about what is important to them and writing about these small moments in life. The Yr 5/6 class are deep into their novel study of War Horse.

*go with strength and courage*





# from the principal

They are using immersive reader to help with fine tuning their writing skills, particularly on the computer. They are engaging with the Ochre resources to assist with teaching and learning so as to maintain momentum in progress. Ochre have an affiliation with Catholic Education South Australia and is a recommended resource by Catholic Ed and our system coaches. We are very excited to be using this evidence based resource to assist in our teaching and learning, planning and implementation.

This week and next week students will continue to have conferences with their classroom teachers setting their learning goals for Semester 1. These conversations are accompanied by sharing the beginning of year assessments and shaping together goals that will assist each student in their endeavor to learn and grow. The students' learning goals will be shared on Seesaw and at Learning Conversations in Week 6.

## School Board 2024

At the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 21, Chairperson Tom Pearce chaired the meeting, and the 2023 Annual Report was presented to the community. Nominations were presented for vacancies on the School Board.

Congratulations to the following members who were re-elected:

Leticia Gosse(third two year term) and Glenn Tucker (second two year term).

We congratulate our newest school board members, Jodi Strother, Jess Malone and Michael Gruetzner, who all accepted a two year term.

We acknowledge the leadership of the Board members for 2024.

2024 Board Members

Ex-Officio Members: President: Fr Peter Zwanns,  
Principal: Mrs Nicole Coote

School Representative: Danni Heazlewood

Elected Members: Chairperson: Tom Pearce  
Parent

Parish Representative: Sr Loreto O'Connor

Representatives: Leticia Gosse(Finance  
Committee Chairperson), Amanda  
Flint(Secretary),

Liz Rymill, Tom Giles, Cath Kidman and Glenn  
Tucker, Jess Malone, Michael Gruetzner and Jodi  
Strother.

You are able to view the Annual School Report for  
2023 on our website or request a hard copy from  
the front office.

God Bless,

Nicole



go with strength and courage



# Catholic Identity

## Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Last week as a school we celebrated Shrove Tuesday and led the Penola community in a beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers and Rachel Manninen for the organisation, cooking and serving of pancakes on the Tuesday. An extra thank you to those families that donated generously to Project Compassion through a gold coin donation.

## School Values

Throughout the course of this year, we will be looking at the values that underpin who we are and what we do at Mary MacKillop memorial School. These values will be based on the teachings of Jesus and the Gospels, The life and work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the continued work of the Sisters of St Joseph and what it is that we as a community stand for. Importantly, the students of MMMS must feel that these values represent them, and their voice should be heard. These past classes have been working on unpacking our first value, that of love and connecting this to their Religious Education focus.

Love is central to the teachings of Jesus and the legacy of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. I look forward to sharing and unpacking our school values with our community over the course of this year.

## Lenten Prayer Resource

Once again, The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide have released a range of Family Prayer resources to support families during lent. Each fortnight I will share these resources with you.



**Lent Week Two**  
Second Sunday  
LIGHT: 8 Twilights + Christ Candle  
PRAY: Loving God, heal our hearts, transform our relationships, and transform our lives so that we too might shine like the sun and love and dream and live more like Jesus. Amen  
EXTINGUISH 3 Twilights  
READ Mark 9:2-10  
REFLECT: There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzling white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.  
BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as you follow Jesus' bright and brilliant ways of truth and life. Amen

**Activity**  
This week, go climb a mountain, or a hill, or simply go for a walk! As you go, play a walking game together. For example, tell a story by having one person begin with one sentence, followed by the next person with another sentence. Build your story together, one sentence at a time!

**Practice**  
You can transform the world! This week, choose one way (or more!) to help the earth.  
• recycling  
• composting  
• turning off lights  
• eating vegetarian or vegan  
• biking or walking instead of driving

**Almsgiving**  
This week, sit together as a family and read/watch one of these [Lenten Stories](#) and pray about how your family could help support people living in some of the most vulnerable communities across the world by making a donation to Project Compassion. Maybe instead of a canteen lunch or a takeaway coffee, during Lent you place that money in a Project Compassion box!

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

## Project Compassion

Last week we officially launched our Project Compassion campaign for 2024. Students have taken their boxes home and we have already had some donations on our school fundraising page. Please click on or use the QR code to help support our school's fundraising efforts.

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations. Click on the following links to watch a short film with your families: [Introduction to Project Compassion](#) (Primary school version) or [Introduction to Project Compassion](#) (General)



**Lent Week One**  
First Sunday  
LIGHT: 8 Twilights + Christ Candle  
PRAY: Dear God, here we are: beloved, flawed, beautiful, failing, and trying again to be your people in the world. Forgive the wrongs we have done, and the good we have left undone. Amen  
EXTINGUISH 2 Twilights  
READ Mark 1:2-15  
REFLECT: During the 40 days of Lent we enter the wilderness. We go back to the dust from which we came but we do not go alone. God is with us even in the wilderness as we pray, confess, repent, and become more fully ourselves.

**Practice**  
The Spirit draws us out into the wilderness and we are renewed there by Jesus' love. - Mark 1:2  
Make your yard more beautiful by planting a few packages of hearty seeds that will bloom in Autumn and Winter. Try Sunflowers, Zinnias, Marigold - or whatever your favourites are! After you plant your seeds, raise your hands in blessing and pray, "Loving God, please make the earth laugh with even more flowers. Amen!"

**Experience**  
This week, carve out spaces of time for encountering the wilderness.  
• Spend barefoot on the earth and take some time to be grateful for your place in God's kingdom.  
• Wake early enough to watch the sunrise without any distractions from your phone.  
• Go on a family walk after dinner to talk about your day.  
Remember that every interaction we have in the wilderness is an invitation to be closer to God.

**Fast**  
5 THINGS TO GIVE UP THIS LENT  
• Complaining  
• Consuming  
• Worrying  
• Negative self talk  
• Comparing yourself to others



# Community News

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who will be celebrating in week 6. Ben (4th), and Amber and Britany (7th)

## House Points

<b>Cameron</b>	21
<b>McCormack</b>	21
<b>Woods MacKillop</b>	30

## 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**

## Liturgies and Masses

**TERM 1: Everyone is welcome!**

WEEK 5 Tuesday 27th February  
5/6 Class Mass at 9:15am  
2/3 Class Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 6 Tuesday 5th March  
Year 4 Class Mass at 9:15am  
R/1 Class Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 8 Tuesday 19th March  
Whole School Feast of St Joseph Mass at 9:15am

## Swimming Carnival

Last Friday was our annual Swimming Carnival. The Penola Swimming Pool was a hive of activity, with participation from students very high. There were plenty of highlights and some excellent display of sportsmanship and encouragement.

A huge congratulations to our winning team for the day, Cameron! We also congratulate our Junior Champions, Angus and Rylee-J, as well as our Senior Champions, Chloe and Tait.

We thank those who helped out organising the BBQ lunch for the students that everyone enjoyed. We also thank our Swimming Carnival Committee for doing a wonderful job putting the day together.





# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

We're at the end of week 4, Term 1 already, and I'm sure your child is starting to get back in the swing of things but also feeling quite tired and sometimes emotional! Helping tired children get back into the routine of school after a break can be challenging but important. Here are some tips and reminders that may help as we get used to being back at school:

**Establish a Routine:** Consistency is key. Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time to ensure your child gets enough sleep every night. Stick to this routine even on weekends to help regulate their body clock.

**Healthy Diet and Hydration:** Ensure your child is eating nutritious meals that provide sustained energy throughout the day. Make sure your child stays hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Dehydration can contribute to fatigue and difficulty concentrating.

**Physical Activity:** Encourage your child to engage in regular physical activity, whether it's playing outside, joining a sports team, or simply taking a walk. Exercise helps boost energy levels and improve mood.

**Limit Screen Time:** Excessive screen time, especially before bedtime, can interfere with sleep quality. Set limits on screen time and encourage alternative activities like reading or playing board games.

**Open Communication:** Create an environment where your child feels comfortable discussing any challenges they may be facing at school. Listen to their concerns and offer support and encouragement. A simple question can help with communication allowing your child to open up and speak about their day, such as "Tell me one good thing about your day?", starting off with a positive can help refocus their minds if they've also had some challenges that day. Open listening without judgement will also help, if you then ask the question "tell me something not as good about your day?". This allows your child to be able to open up and be honest in their safe environment. After listening to your child's challenges, take them back to the positive thought that they started the conversation with. Allowing them to ask the same questions of you, can also help with communication and trust.

**Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge your child's accomplishments, no matter how small. Celebrating their successes boosts their confidence and motivation.

**Quality Time:** Spend quality time together as a family. Engaging in activities your child enjoys strengthens your bond and provides them with much-needed emotional support.

**Seek Help if Needed:** If your child continues to struggle with fatigue or other school-related issues, consider reaching out to their teacher or school counsellor for additional support and guidance.

By implementing these tips and reminders, you can help tired children adjust to the demands of school and thrive academically and emotionally.



# Community News

## ABOUT ME

### Bec Baker

Living in Millicent with two of my three daughters (the eldest away at university), I am a qualified counsellor and ESO. This year, I eagerly step into the counsellor role during Dale's maternity leave. I embrace this opportunity at Mary MacKillop wholeheartedly, aiming to positively impact our students' lives. Rooted in empathy and understanding, my approach focuses on ensuring every child feels heard and valued. I hope to support and encourage students to embrace their uniqueness and foster a sense of belonging. I am fortunate to be able to connect and build relationships with students, and love learning about, and supporting them through their primary school journey. Providing a supportive, inclusive environment is incredibly important, and I look forward to contributing to Mary MacKillop's school community.

Regards,

Bec Baker.



## SPORT

### Congratulations

After a rigorous series of trials Lilly, Max, Tait, Ben, Frank and Charlie have been selected in the Mid South East SAPSASA softball teams. These talented students will showcase their skills, determination and team work at the State Carnival in March later this term.



## SAPSASA ATHLETICS

Students (turning 8 years of age or older) and interested in trying out for SAPSASA Athletics should have brought home a nomination form. Please message your class teacher if you have any questions or require another note. Forms need to be returned by Tuesday 27th February.



# Community News

## Playgroup

The MMMS Playgroup now has their own Facebook Page and Group, ran by our Playgroup coordinator Ebonie Moulton. Included in the Facebook Page is a link for expressions of interest. Check out the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/YfWqHpNA6>

Playgroup will be held every Friday from 9:30am - 11:00am with a gold coin donation on arrival. Every week is a different theme, and all family and friends of the community are welcome.



## Occasional Care

Occasional Care 2024

To book please follow the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/GBzjFsZsbi>

Come along to Occasional Care each Monday. ALL families from the Penola and wider community are welcome to attend.

This year the Occasional Care program will be coordinated by qualified educator Leah Kuiper.

The Occasional Care Program is guided by the Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (EYLF). Each child's current knowledge, strengths, ideas and interests are foundational to our program. Educators actively engage with children in their play and facilitate and extend their learning and development. Flexible learning environments are designed as an invitation for learning, and our responsive routine enables children to make choices and decisions in their learning. Open ended experiences, child-initiated learning will be used to foster children's thinking and curiosity.

A poster for MMMS PLAYGROUP. At the top left, 'MMMS PLAYGROUP' is written in large, bold, green letters. Below it, 'Play Group Coordinator: Ebonie Moulton' is written in a smaller font. On the right side is the school's crest. The main body of the poster is a yellow sticky note with the heading 'WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT THIS YEAR!' and a list of bullet points: 'WHAT TIME? 9:30AM - 11AM EVERY FRIDAY MORNING', 'DIFFERENT WEEKLY THEMES', 'CREATIVE ACTIVITIES', 'A SAFE AND FUN SPACE TO PLAY AND ENGAGE WITH YOUR CHILD', and 'CRAFTED FOR BABIES, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN (AGED UNDER 4)'. Below the list, it says 'ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME!' and '\$\$ GOLD COIN DONATION ON ARRIVAL'. The background is light blue with scattered colorful stars and hearts.

A poster for Occasional Care. At the top is the school's crest and the text 'Mary MacKillop Memorial School OCCASIONAL CARE'. Below this, it says 'An early years service for families of 3- 5 year olds' and 'Facilitated by a qualified educator Leah Kuiper'. There are three circular callouts: a green one for 'MONDAYS' with drop-off and pick-up times, a pink one for 'Half Day \$15' and 'Full Day \$25', and a blue one for 'ALL children within Penola and surrounds welcome.'. At the bottom, there is contact information: 'For more information 8737 2902', 'lkuiper@mmms.catholic.edu.au', and 'Use the QR code for information and to book'. A QR code is provided. The background features colorful handprints and photos of children playing.





# Community News

## Learning Conversations

During Week 6 of this Term, 4th – 6th March Learning Conversations will take place, giving you and your child the opportunity to meet and discuss your child's learning goals and their progress thus far with their class teacher/s. Learning Conversations are a required part of our Reporting Policy.

You should have received a letter, where you are able to indicate times and days preferred. Please return this form to your child's classroom teacher by no later than Thursday 29th February.

## Mid-Year Enrolments

Mid-Year enrolments are now open for all children who turn 5 on or before the 31st October. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 3, 2024, please complete an enrolment form. If you know of any families who are thinking about enrolling their child at Mary MacKillop Memorial School for Term 3 2024, please let them know to contact the school on 87372902. We welcome all new families.

## Baby News

Mrs Domleo – our school counsellor currently on maternity leave and her husband Ryan and son, Cooper welcomed a beautiful baby girl recently. Welcome to the world Ceanna Mae and congratulations to the Domleo family.

## Professional Learning Day March 12th

In 2024 Numeracy is a priority for review. We are focusing on the updating of our school Numeracy Agreement, making sure that it aligns with our current practice. Part of our work in this space is continuing to build our capacity as numeracy teachers, improving our implementation of tasks focusing on reasoning and justification. In Week 0 the teaching staff engaged in professional learning, exploring research and 'best practice' in terms of teaching Maths. Educators investigated the importance of setting meaningful Learning Intentions and building Success Criteria for lessons alongside of, and with their students. This work is being continued at ground level with teacher collaboration and sharing. Our next Professional Learning Day (student free) on the 12th March. with Bruce White from the Mathematical Association of South Australia will focus on consolidation of our learning.



# Community News

## Movie Night Scrapper

Friday 15th March, 2025

Come join for their first official fundraiser to support the Penola Entrant for 'Swinging With The Stars' 2024 - Cory O'Conner.

standlikestone  
PENOLA COONAWARRA  
WELLBEING SUB FUND

### COONAWARRA

FRIDAY 15 MARCH 7.00PM

This vibrant and inventive father-daughter comedy follows Georgie (Lola Campbell), a resourceful 12-year-old girl who lives happily alone in her London flat, filling it with magic. Suddenly, her estranged father (Harris Dickinson) turns up and forces her to confront reality. Scrapper is full of spirit and humour. The actors imbue irresistible charm into this moving and frequently hilarious story of two emotionally tangled people: a grieving kid thrust into adulthood and a father in over his head.

★★★★ *Bold and youthful* *(sundance)* *Full of rare heart* ★★★★★

# SCRAPPER

harris dickinson  
lola campbell  
directed by charlotte rogan

PG

COONAWARRA HALL, 11 MEMORIAL DRIVE  
TICKETS: \$10 ADULT, \$5 CHILDREN - AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

This Fundraiser is in support of Stand Like Stone.  
Money raised will solely target charitable projects that benefit Penola Coonawarra.

## Greenbottles Hockey Club

The Naracoorte Greenbottles Hockey Club is hosting a free come and try session for all new and existing players aged from 5 to 13 years.

When: Friday 1st March 2024

Time: 4:30 to 6pm

Where: Naracoorte District Hockey Association Fields

2 Playford Drive West, Naracoorte

## 2024 GREENBOTTLES HOCKEY CLUB

### COME & TRY & JNR SIGN-UP

BOYS & GIRLS  
5-13  
Years Old

**Saturday Games**

- Under 9's - mixed
- Under 13's - mixed

Greenbottles Hockey Club is hosting a free come & try session for all new or existing players.

This session is a great way to take your first steps into hockey in a safe & controlled environment.

Hockey sticks can be provided.

Followed by signing-up information & a free BBQ. Bar facilities will be open for adults.

**COME & TRY**  
Friday 1st MARCH 2024

4:30 TO 5:30 PM - COME & TRY  
5:30 TO 6 PM - SIGN-UP  
6 PM - BBQ

AT NDHA FIELDS

**Contact**

HENRY NORCOCK  
0407 046 208

RACHAEL WITHERS  
0407 848 712

GREENBOTTLESHOCKEYCLUB GREENBOTTLES\_HOCKEY\_CLUB





# photo gallery

## Shrove Tuesday



## Ash Wednesday







# photo gallery

## Swimming Carnival



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw



# photo gallery

## Footsteps



## Playgroup

