

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 3 Week 2

Friday, 2nd August 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 on with strength  
and courage*

### UPCOMING DATES

- August -

- 5 Early Learning  
School Photos
- 6 Early Learning  
Feast Day St Mary of the Cross  
MacKillop Whole School Mass  
(9:15am)
- 9 Playgroup  
SAPSASA Basketball (Millicent)  
Quiz Night
- 12 Early Learning
- 13 Early Learning
- 15 Feast of the Assumption Whole  
School Mass (9:15am)
- 16 Playgroup  
Year R/1 Assembly
- 19 Early Learning
- 20 Early Learning  
YELP Naracoorte  
TWC 2024 Year 7 Subject  
Finalisation (4:30pm - 5:30pm)
- 21 Dress Up Day  
Book Week Parade  
School Board Meeting (6:00pm)
- 23 Playgroup  
Yr 4 Assembly  
SAPSASA Regional Golf Day  
(Naracoorte)
- 26 Early Learning
- 27 Early Learning  
5/6 Class Mass (9:15am)
- 28 Paperboat Theatre (R - 3)  
PPS

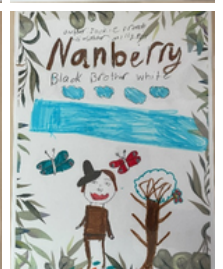
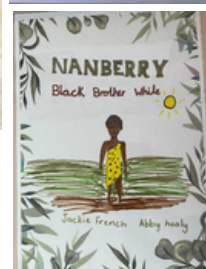
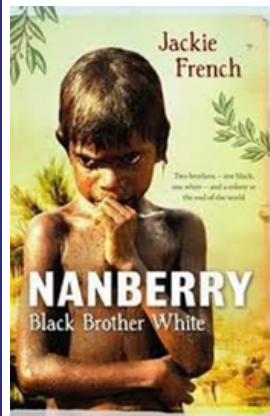
## Class News

### Year 4

This term, our Year 4's have been exploring Australia's First Nations and their perspectives in relation to their historical experiences. To assist the understandings, we have been reading the fictional novel 'Nanberry Black Brother White,' written by Jackie French, which explores the experience of a young Indigenous boy who was adopted by European Surgeon, John White, in Sydney Cove, 1789.

Based on what we have read so far, students have been working on completing a new front cover of the book. To do so, students have successfully interpreted ideas and how these ideas are developed through characters and events.

We are very excited to continue learning about young Indigenous boy, Nanberry and his experience during the colonisation of Australia.



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go on with strength and courage*



# from the principal

Dear Families 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 enjoyed started the term off with a flourish of activities.

## Grandparents and Grandfriends Afternoon

The Grandparents and Granfriends afternoon at school last Friday was a heart-warming gathering, with the House Captains and School Captains leading the festivities. Students gathered in their House Groups - McCormack, Woods MacKillop and Cameron with their Grandparents and Grandfriends for Prayer, led by the students and then participated in various fun activities. Portrait painting was a hit, as was the making of chatterboxes, which many of our special visitors remembered making when they were at school. Afterwards, 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.

## NAPLAN

Last 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 Test) 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. Keeping in mind that both cohort of students - Yr 3 and 5 are small, and therefore this impacts the reliability of the data. It does allow us to look closely at individual results and plan accordingly.

## Living Learning Leading Survey

I encourage all parents and caregivers to complete the CESA Living Learning Leading Perception Survey, which was distributed to all families on Monday. The survey will remain open until the end of Week 5 and all Catholic Schools in South Australia will complete the CESA LLL Perception Surveys. The surveys, which include both students and staff, result from a collaboration between Catholic Education SA (CESA) and Curtin University. They focus on developing, validating, and using system-wide surveys to examine the understanding and implementation of Catholic Education SA's Living Learning Leading Framework in schools, as perceived by students, families, and staff. Each survey has been trailed, refined, and piloted in various CESA school settings. The development team is confident that schools will gain valuable information for planning and improvement. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we highly value family's feedback, to support the school to continuously improve our faith, learning and wellbeing initiatives.

## NAPLAN Results

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy
Yr 3 MMMS	459	473	424	478	470
Yr 3 National	401	424	406	404	401
Yr 5 MMMS	494	474	477	504	444
Yr 5 National	484	484	487	488	480

go on with strength and courage



# from the principal

## 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 19th August - all day.  
Come for an hour - stay for the day!
- Come and Play at Playgroup on Friday 23rd August.
- Tour for new prospective families: Tuesday 20th August between 9.30 - 11.
- Twilight Tour - Thursday 22nd August at 5:30pm

## Requested Learning Conversations

In Week 4 teachers will be requesting learning conversations with some families to follow up with specific learning goals for students and to communicate progress and to set new learning goals. The meeting time 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 7th August.

Finally, congratulations to Amy and Kane and Sasha and Brad who both will welcome their first baby in December! How lucky are these babies going to be to have such wonderful parents. Such exciting news!

Wishing all a wonderful weekend.

God Bless,

Nicole.

go on with strength and courage



# Catholic Identity

## St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

This coming week, our school community will celebrate the Feast of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, one of the most significant dates in our calendar. St. Mary's Feast Day, which falls on Thursday, August 8th, will be marked with a range of special activities. We are thrilled to welcome Andrew Chinn, a renowned Australian religious songwriter and singer, who will join us for the celebrations. Andrew will provide the music for our school Mass, conduct workshops for our students, and conclude the day with a special concert. This celebration of St. Mary, Australia's first saint, promises to be an exciting and reflective experience for our students, offering a chance to honour her remarkable legacy.

## Who was Mary MacKillop?

Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, was born to Scottish immigrants on January 15, 1842, in Fitzroy, Melbourne. From a young age, her parents instilled in her the importance of good education. At 18, Mary arrived in our town of Penola in 1860. Here, she met Fr Julian Tenison Woods, a remarkable priest and scientist, and together they established her first school, initially holding lessons in a small cottage.

In 1866, Mary set up her first dedicated school in a stable, a site now commemorated as the Mary MacKillop Stable School Park on Queen Street. This marked the true beginning of her vocation. The following year, classes moved to a purpose-built school building, now known as the Woods-MacKillop Schoolhouse, located on the corner of Petticoat Lane. In Penola, Mary also founded the Sisters of St. Joseph with the support of Fr. Woods.

Shortly after the Schoolhouse opened, Mary boarded the steamship SS Penola and travelled to Adelaide, where she established the cathedral Hall School. There, she officially took her vows and became Mary of the Cross. Despite facing numerous trials throughout her life, Mary remained steadfast in her commitment to God's work.

This weekend, I encourage everyone to explore the rich history of Mary MacKillop in our town. We are truly blessed to walk on the same ground that St. Mary did in the mid to late 1800s.

## Masses and Liturgies for Term 3 & 4

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

WEEK 3 Thursday 8th August  
Whole School Mass to celebrate the Feast of  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop at 9:15am

WEEK 4 Thursday 15th August  
Whole School Mass to celebrate the Feast of  
the Assumption at 9:15am

WEEK 6 Tuesday 27th August  
5/7 Class Mass at 9:15am

WEEK 8 Tuesday 10th September  
R/1 Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 9 Tuesday 17th September  
Year 4 Class Mass

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SATURDAY 3rd August at 4:30pm  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME  
GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24 - 35

SUNDAY 11th August at 9:00am  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME  
GOSPEL: JOHN 6:41 - 51





# Community News

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated their birthdays in Weeks 1 and 2. We wish a Happy Birthday to Abby (25th), Lilly and Juliet (1st), Max (2nd), and Vinnie (4th).

We wish a Happy Birthday to Micheal (13th) and Anais (16th), who will be celebrating in week 4.

## House Points

Cameron	347
McCormack	378
Woods MacKillop	335

## Flourishing Awards

Today we congratulated 7 students who achieved Flourishing Awards at Assembly. Well done to Josh, Ben, Eddie, Swaye, Elsie, Poppy and Teddie!



## 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**

## Early Learning

Is your child 3, 4 or 5 years old and not at school yet? Our Early Learning Program is an opportunity for them to become familiar with the environment and how it operates. Hands-on structured learning experiences guided by the Early Years Learning Framework assist young children to explore and gain independence to prepare them for the future!

We are excited to announce that we are now offering our Early Learning Program on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Children make many friends in these sessions. Enquiries welcome to learn more.

## Playgroup

Our community Playgroup takes place on a Friday morning from 9:30 am - 11:00 am. It is an opportunity for families to come together and play together, capably coordinated by our Playgroup coordinator Ebonie Moulton. Come and enjoy a cuppa and catch up, while your child has a number of playful learning activities to explore in a safe and welcoming environment.



# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

### Tips for Adjusting Your Child's Device Schedule After the Holidays.

Have an honest conversation about why you want to limit device usage now that school has started.

Reinstate or set new boundaries for device use at the start of the term.

Encourage balance by monitoring app and device usage. Help your child stay aware of their time spent on various activities.

Create a family plan that balances screen time with offline activities. Involve your child in the planning process to ensure they are more likely to follow the rules.

Reduce your own screen time to set a positive example.

Use available technology, such as parental controls, to monitor and limit your child's online activities.

By taking these steps, you can help your child develop healthier habits and ensure a smooth transition back into school routines.

Regards,

Bec Baker.

## School Photos

Please note that school photos will take place this coming Monday the 5th of August.

## Lunch Orders On Tuesdays

A reminder that we are now offering Lunch Orders on Tuesdays. Orders need to be in Monday at school by 11am.

## The Quiz Night

The popular Mary Mac Quiz Night is set for Friday 9th of August. The cost is \$20 per person with tables of 8 - 10 people. Please contact the school to register! It is sure to be a fun night, with last year nearly selling out! Prizes, nibbles available for ordering, great questions and lots of laughs are all part of the evening. Organise your group today, and contact Ainsley to register!



**QUIZ NIGHT 2024**

**FRIDAY  
9TH OF AUGUST**

6:30pm for 7pm start  
At Mary MacKillop Memorial School Hall

\$20pp (pay cash on the night)  
BYO Drinks and Nibbles (and gold coins for quiz games)

Grazing Platters are available to pre-order  
Small: \$35 (2-3p) Med: \$65 (4-6p)  
Please advise any dietary requirements

Book by Tuesday 6th August  
Reserve a full table (8-10p)  
Or we will allocate you to a table if you have a smaller group

To book call Ainsley: 08 8737 2902  
Or email: [agillings@mmms.catholic.edu.au](mailto:agillings@mmms.catholic.edu.au)



# Community News

## School Jackets

Should you wish to order a school jacket for your child, please contact Janice at the front office. The turn around time from ordering to delivery is approximately 3 weeks.

## Book Week

Book Week is coming in Week 5 on Monday 19th August - Friday 23rd August with the theme 'Reading is Magic.' The dress up day will be on Wednesday 21st August. There will be a parade at 9am in the Hall should any parents wish to attend, we'd love to see you!

The Book Fair will be open for two sessions, 8:30am - 8:45am in the morning and 3:10pm - 3:30pm in the afternoon in the Hall. The fair will NOT be open during the school time for purchases. Cash and Eftpos payments will both be available.

## 100 Days of School

On Tuesday the 30th of July our wonderful Reception and Year 1 class reached a very big milestone of 100 incredible days of learning and fun for our littlest learners here at Mary Mac!

To celebrate, the class dressed as 100-year-olds and had a fun-filled day reflecting on their first 100 days of learning. There was lots of creativity involved from doing arts and crafts, plenty of laughter from watching funny granny episodes of Bluey, and lots of smiles.

To finish off such a fun day, everyone received a packet of smarties and a cupcake.

We can't wait to see what the next 100 days bring!



## South East Schools Continue to Enhance Leadership Skills

With the expert guidance of Dr. Stephen Brown, Managing Director of The Brown Collective, nineteen leaders from Catholic schools in South East South Australia completed the Adaptive Leadership course.

The Adaptive Leadership theory addresses the limitations of traditional leadership approaches navigating complex, adaptive challenges. This one-day masterclass provided school leaders from Mary MacKillop Memorial School, Tenison Woods College, and St. Anthony's Catholic School the opportunity to further develop their strategic leadership capabilities.

Nicole, Sam and Kaitlyn all attended this valuable masterclass and thank Stephen, for another excellent course in South East South Australia, as we continue to build our collective leadership capacity.



# Community News

## A Random Act of Kindness

For those that don't know me, my name is Justin McDonald and I have been helping out with the grounds and maintenance for a bit over a year now. Before that I have spent the past nearly 10 years working in schools.

It's not often a ground and maintenance person contributes to a school newsletter but on this occasion, I really have something I would like to share with you all.

Last Friday my heart melted at the unexpected random act of kindness I was shown by Year 1 student Elsie Sharbel.

Last Friday morning I was thoroughly digging through the sandpit as Ms Heazlewood and her class walked by with students showing curiosity at what I was doing.

Many Voices asked "What are you doing?" To avoid the negativity of my actual reasons, I chose to distract with claiming that I had lost a \$1 coin in the sandpit, and I was trying to find it. As you can imagine this caused quite a stir and curiosity of some students. Specifically, as to why I would dig out a whole sandpit for just \$1. I explained to the students that I really needed the dollar so I could afford to buy my lunch later that day.

I was unaware at the time, but one young girl was overly intrigued and concerned. The young girl was Elsie Sharbel and she later returned to talk to me at the end of recess.

"Have you found your dollar yet?" she asked.

"No no yet, I'm still looking" I replied.

"Do you like vegemite?" Elsie enquired.

Confused at the question I nervously replied "yes!" As recess ended, running back to class, Elsie yelled, "If you haven't found your dollar by lunch time you have can half of my vegemite sandwich!"

I could not believe this kindness I was being offered by a Year 1 student caring enough about someone she had never spoken to before. Willing to sacrifice some of her own hunger so that I wouldn't have to go without.

This kindness played on my mind as I spent the next 2 hours digging through sand until lunch time came around.

Elsie ran straight for her bag, grabbed her sandwich and made her way straight for me.

"Have you found your dollar yet?" she asked again. "No still looking" as Elsie handed me half of her sandwich.

I hesitantly took the sandwich confirming with her that it was ok. Miraculously a Mary MacKillop miracle shone over us at that very moment and I spotted my \$1 coin! I graciously returned the uneaten half of my vegemite sandwich to Elsie and thanked her for her kindness and that it really meant a lot to me.

What an amazing child.

Thankyou for reading this, I didn't want this kindness to go unrecognised. My hat goes off to Elsie and those responsible for raising a young girl with a kind heart, and to all the staff of Mary MacKillop for doing such a wonderful job ensuring the positive growth of local children like Elsie.

It is sure nice to be able to work here.

Justin McDonald.



# Community News

## Playgroup

The MMMS Playgroup now has their own Facebook Page and Group, run 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/YfWqHpaNA6>

## Early Learning

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.

Call the school today to secure your child's spot next week. Seven is our current capacity, and we have recently been at that number.



Mary MacKillop Memorial School  
**EARLY LEARNING**  
An early years service for families of 3-5 year olds  
Facilitated by a qualified educator Leah Kuiper

**Now on a Monday and Tuesday!**  
For this term, if you attend for one day, get the next day free of charge.

All children from Penola and surrounds welcome

**MONDAY & TUESDAY**  
Drop Off: 8:45 am  
Pick up:  
Half day: 11:45am  
Full Day: 3:00pm

Half Day \$15  
Full day \$25

For more information  
8737 2902  
lkuiper@mms.catholic.edu.au  
Use the QR code for information and to book



# Community News

PENOLA TENNIS CLUB PRESENTS

## TERM 3 JUNIOR TENNIS

ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS

AGES 8 - 16 Y.O.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

- 1 HOUR TRAINING SESSION
- QUALIFIED TENNIS COACH  
TAEGAN WHITE
- GROUP SESSIONS

14TH AUGUST - 25TH SEPT

4.30-5.30PM  
5.30-6.30PM  
6.30-7.30PM

**\$90/CHILD INCLUDES 6 SESSIONS**

TO BOOK CONTACT  
LIZ RYMILL 0401 854 638




## Growing Resilient Kids Program

Facilitators  
Gez Walter & Ellie Stokes



We are offering our parent and child program which has been developed by our Senior Psychologist. This program is aimed at up-skilling primary school aged children in the following areas:

- Learning the brain science behind emotions.
- Learning about the purpose of anxiety and stress (it's not all bad!).
- Increasing understanding of how feelings (e.g. anxiety, stress) impact our thoughts and body (physiology).
- Learning ways to recognise, accept and/or manage unpleasant thoughts and feelings.
- Learning ways to improve coping abilities and ways to persist through challenging moments and feelings (e.g. anxiety, overwhelm, frustration, disappointment).

For students aged between 8 to 12 years

Final acceptance to the program will be determined by the Smiles All Round team.

Comminces - Term 3, Tuesday 13th August to 10th September (4-5pm)

Smiles All Round HQ  
223 Smith Street, Naracoorte

\$500 per family - 1 caregiver & 1 child

Register your interest by 31st July via [admin@smilesallround.com.au](mailto:admin@smilesallround.com.au)

For more information:  
☎ 0430 022 705  
✉ [admin@smilesallround.com.au](mailto:admin@smilesallround.com.au)



MARY MACKILLOP PENOLA

## Breakfast Club



Do you come on the bus? No time for breakfast at home?

COME TO BREAKFAST CLUB SUPPORTED BY **FOODBANK.**

Breakfast Club operates every morning between 8.30am - 8.45am in the Woods Learning Centre.



A CONCERT WITH

# Andrew Chinn



Composer of:

- These Hands
- Rainbow
- May God Be In My Heart
- Together As One
- In The Beginning
- An African Blessing
- Ubuntu
- Rise Up!
- We Are God's Hands & Holy Spirit Come

APPEARING AT:

Mary MacKillop Memorial School  
Thursday 8th August at 1:50pm



[butterflymusic.com.au](http://butterflymusic.com.au)



# STRONGER FAMILIES:

## A POSITIVE PARENTING CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY



**Catholic  
School  
Parents**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### OUR SPEAKERS



MAGGIE DENT

HELP ME  
HELP MY TEEN



PAUL DILLON

TEENS, PARTIES,  
ALCOHOL AND VAPES.  
WHAT DO PARENTS  
NEED TO KNOW?



MADHAVI  
NAWANA PARKER

BEING CALM IN  
THE EYE OF A  
PARENTING STORM

THE SANCTUARY  
ADELAIDE ZOO  
1 PLANE TREE DRIVE

SATURDAY  
AUGUST 31

9AM  
REGISTRATION  
9.30AM TO 3PM

\$25 + Booking Fee per person. Light lunch included

Tickets available at Humanitix

[www.events.humanitix.com/stronger-families-conference](http://www.events.humanitix.com/stronger-families-conference)

[cspsa.catholic.edu.au/events](http://cspsa.catholic.edu.au/events)





# photo gallery

Justin and Elsie last Friday



## Early Learning Olympics



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw





# photo gallery

## Some Snaps from Grandfriends and Grandparents Day



## Some Snaps from 100 Days of School with the R/1 Class



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw