

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 3 Week 4

Friday, 16th 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



*go on with strength
and courage*

UPCOMING DATES

September

- 2 Early Learning
- 3 Early Learning
- 4 Footy Colours Day
- 6 **STUDENT FREE DAY**
Staff Retreat Day
- 9 Early Learning
- 10 Early Learning
R/1 Class Liturgy (10:30am)
- 12 RUOK Day
- 13 Playgroup
- 16 Early Learning
SAPSASA Athletics (Adelaide)
- 17 Early Learning
Year 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
- 18 Cricket Clinics
- 20 Playgroup
R/1 and 2/3 Big Day Out
2/3 Sleepover
- 23 Early Learning
- 24 Early Learning
House Team Week
Woods-MacKillop Day
- 25 McCormack Day
- 26 Cameron Day
- 27 **LAST DAY OF TERM 3**
Playgroup

Class News

Year 5/6

With our Jump Rope for Heart jump off just around the corner, we've been busy perfecting our skipping skills! From learning new tricks and fancy footwork to mastering challenging routines, everyone is putting in their best effort. Not only have we been practicing hard, but we've also been teaching our skills to other students across the school, spreading the fun and excitement of skipping. It's amazing to see everyone improving, supporting each other, and staying active. We can't wait to show off our skills and jump for a great cause!



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

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.

Thankyou to the Mary Mac staff who pitched in with 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. Know that you are so precious to us all.

Book Week

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 2024 Book Week theme: Reading is Magic. We had a fantastic time at our PJ Reading Night and everyone enjoyed a milo and biscuit, while listening to books read by our older students, parents and teachers. We certainly love books and reading at Mary Mac!

Golf - Sporting Schools Grant

This term all students are experiencing golf! Craig Davis is providing 4 weeks of golf coaching at Mary Mac, supported through our successful Sporting Schools Grant. Many of our students displayed great skills in the first session on Wednesday and were very excited when they 'got on to one.'

Sporting Schools programs are provided free to all children to help students build confidence and capability to be active in life. The Australia Sports Commission target this program to all Primary Schools.

Staff Reflection Day

Next Friday 6th September Mary MacKillop Memorial School will be holding its annual School Reflection Day. Sr Mary Ryan will lead us through the day, with a focus on our values as a school and it will also be an opportunity to learn more about Mary MacKillop's parents, Flora and Alexander, and their impact on Mary's life. We also take this time to nourish our spiritual selves and to connect with God through prayer and reflection.

2025 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.

The Right To Disconnect

The Closing Loopholes Act No. 2 introduces a 'right to disconnect' for employees and took effect as of 26 August 2024. Employees have the right to disconnect from contact and attempted contact by employers and third parties (e.g. parents/caregivers) after working hours. A key driver for the introduction of the legislative change is to better support employees to maintain healthy boundaries between work and personal life, providing them with improved rest and recovery time outside working hours.

What is the right to disconnect? The 'right to disconnect' will allow an employee to switch off after hours and choose not to engage with work communications. These changes give an employee a legal right, under the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) to refuse to monitor, read or respond to contact, or attempted contact from their employer outside of working hours.

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

The same will apply to contact or attempted contact from a third party, (e.g a parent or caregiver) where it relates to the employee's work. The scope of this right will apply to phone calls, texts, emails, Teams or Seesaw messages and any other contact by an employer (or third party) after hours that is not reasonable.

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we value the work that all employees undertake. Please be aware that all staff will respond to parent/caregiver communication within 48 hours or should the matter be discerned as urgent, a shorter response timeframe will occur.

Staff will respond between the work hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm in most circumstances. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact the school's office in the first instance for general information and enquiries. We understand that parent/caregiver engagement is essential for student wellbeing, and productive communication with parents/caregivers is a significant feature of a positive school culture.

We thank parents/caregivers for their support in this matter.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

God bless,

Nicole.

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 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.

2025 Enrolments

It is now time for 2025 enrolments to be submitted. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 1 2025 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 2025, please encourage them to contact the school. We welcome all new families!

Wearing Hats

We are a Sunsmart School acknowledged by the Cancer Council Foundation. In accordance with our Sunsmart policy as of Monday 2nd 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 will be on the evening of Wednesday, October 23rd at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre in Mount Gambier.

We congratulate Max Mulligan who auditioned for a solo performance and was successful!

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

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.

go on with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

Pilgrimage - The Aussie Camino

This week our 5/6 class hosted their Term 3 Class Mass, and we were very fortunate to have a number of pilgrims join us as part of their Aussie Camino tour. This is not the first (nor will it be the last) time we have had pilgrims join in at class and school Masses, such is the nature of living and worshipping in Penola. At the conclusion of Mass, we were very excited to have these pilgrims join us for a cuppa over in the Hall where we were able to get to know them and a little about their journey. One big question that always pops up when our pilgrims visit is, "what is a pilgrim and what is a pilgrimage?"

A pilgrimage is a devotional practice consisting of a prolonged journey, often undertaken on foot, toward a specific destination of significance. These destinations are often associated with special religious places, cities, events or people. We often see pilgrims (participants of the pilgrimage) in Penola due to our strong connection with St Mary MacKillop. People often make pilgrimages to places like Rome and Jerusalem to visit holy places as mentioned in the Bible.

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is an annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation. It unites our Christian family around the world to listen and care for our common home. The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and concludes on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of ecology.

This year's theme is "To Hope and Act with Creation" with the symbol 'the first fruits of hope,' inspired by Romans 8:19-25. During this Season of Creation, we are called to work together for a future of hope and action to make our world a better place. As a school we will be engaging in a series of prayerful experiences and activities to highlight the beauty and wonder of God's creation and our responsibility to be caring and thoughtful stewards of our world.

Catholic Charities - We Love

Next week each family will receive a flyer from Catholic Charities providing information about their 2024 Appeal. Each year in the month of September, this campaign is launched and aims at supporting a range of Charities within the archdiocese of Adelaide. This campaign speaks to our value of *We Love*, as we strive to be more like St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, by helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

The agencies supported by Catholic Charities are:

- **Hutt St Centre**
- **Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**
- **Our Lady of La Vang & St Patrick's Special Schools**
- **Centacare Catholic Family Services**

You can find out more about the **five agencies** here.

We will be holding a small fundraiser for these charities early in Term 4. In the meantime, if you are able to support any of these charities, donations can be made through the link below or using the information on the flyer.

<https://www.me4u.org.au/schools/mary-mackillop-memorial-school>

Safeguarding Sunday and Child Protection Week 2024

This year's National Child Protection Week will take place from the 1st - 7th of September 2024, 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 2024 is "Every conversation 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 8th September 2024

Community News

House Points

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Cameron | 459 |
| McCormack | 498 |
| Woods MacKillop | 438 |

Flourishing Awards

Last Friday in Week 5 we congratulated 8 students who achieved Flourishing Awards at Assembly. Well done to Alice, Tessa, Cameron, Harry, Amber, Patrick, Paige and Alfie.



Today we congratulated 11 students who achieved Flourishing Awards at Assembly. Congratulations to Belle, Camilla, Lola, Henna, Flynn, Matthew, Ted, Brittney, Sophie, Vinnie, and Jett. Well done!



Text Absentee Number New Phone 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.

0488 280 711

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.

Masses and Liturgies for Term 3 & 4

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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 31st August at 4:30pm
TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY
TIME

GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SUNDAY 8th September at 9:00am
TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY
TIME

GOSPEL: MARK 7:31-37

Community News

Counsellor's Corner

The importance of Routine: How Structure Helps Us Feel Safe

Having a routine is very important because it makes our lives feel more predictable. Children in particular need these feelings so they can feel safe and sure about things.

Here's why routines help us and our children to strive:

- **Predictability and Security:**

Less Stress: Knowing what to expect each day helps us feel less worried

Control: Routines make us feel more in control of our time and actions.

- **Better Health:**

Healthy Habits: Regular routines can include exercise, healthy eating, and good sleep.

Good Sleep: Going to bed and waking up at the same time every day helps us sleep better.

- **More productivity:**

Time Management: Routines help us manage our time and get things done.

Less Procrastination: When tasks become part of our routine, we're less likely to put them off.

Tips for Creating a Routine for yourself and your child:

Start small: Begin with simple routines like a regular wake-up time.

Be Flexible: Adapt your routine when needed, preparing your child if possible.

Use Tools: Use planners or reminders to keep track.

Creating a simple daily routine can help us all to feel more secure, healthy, and productive.

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.

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! Our Early Learning Program is offered Mondays and Tuesdays.

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

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

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.

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.

Community News

School Bus

Families of bus students please note the following important points.

- If your family will be away for an extended period during the term time and your child(ren) will not be travelling on their normal bus route, please make sure you notify the bus driver of the dates your child will be absent so the bus is not waiting at your stop unnecessarily.
- As courtesy, please keep your bus driver informed if your child(ren) will not be travelling on the bus in the afternoon if they are attending after school commitments or the morning run if they are absent due to illness ect
- Parents are reminded to please be at your stop at least 5 minutes before your allocated pick up time in the morning so that buses are not kept waiting and the timetable can run to time. Drivers are not obligated to wait for students in the morning if they are not at their stop at their designated time.

Sport SAPSASA Golf

Last Friday, Henry competed in the regional SAPSASA Golf trial at the Naracoorte Golf Course. Remarkably, he's the first Mary MacKillop Memorial student in quite a while to advance this far in SAPSASA Golf.

Henry was proud of his competitive score, but was even more excited about the chance to represent his school at such a high level of competition.



Sport Millicent District SAPSASA Basketball

On Thursday, several students from our 5/6 class competed in the Millicent District SAPSASA Basketball competition. Our boys finished third in their pool, showcasing impressive skills, including some flashy behind-the-back passes, and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the close games. The girls also had a strong showing, enjoying several victories and progressively improving without standard defensive plays and fantastic intercepts. A big thankyou to Coach Bridget Woolston for managing the team.

This carnival provides a fantastic opportunity for our older students to represent their school, bond as a team, and forge deeper connections with friends from across our wonderful Mid South District. We wish the teams from Millicent North, Saint Anthony's, and Penola Primary the best of luck at the regional carnival next week.



WEAR YOUR HAT
WEAR YOUR HAT
WEAR YOUR HAT
WEAR YOUR HAT
WEAR YOUR HAT

FROM MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 2ND



BE SUN SMART



MARY MACKILLOP MEMORIAL SCHOOL

SPORTS COLOURS DAY

WEAR YOUR TEAM COLOURS!
FOOTBALL, NETBALL, HOCKEY,
SOCCER OR ANYTHING ELSE.

WEDNESDAY **04** SEPTEMBER

SPORT ACTIVITIES FROM 2-3PM RUN
BY OUR SRC, HOUSE AND SCHOOL
CAPTAINS.



photo gallery

Playgroup Week 6 Father's and Special Persons Day Activities



SAPSASA Sport





photo gallery

YELP Excursion



Father's and Special Person's Day Breakfast



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw