

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 3 Week 8

Friday, 13th September 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

September

- 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
- 25 School Board Meeting
- 26 Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off  
Day
- 27 **LAST DAY OF TERM 3**  
Playgroup  
**SCHOOL DISMISSAL @ 2:15PM**

October

Term 4 Commences

- 14 Early Learning
- 15 Early Learning
- 15 Playgroup
- 18 Early Learning
- 21 Early Learning
- 22 Festival of Music
- 23 Choir Performance
- Staff Professional Learning Day
- 25

## Class News

**Year 2/3**

Over the last few Wednesdays, the Year 2/3 students have been participating in golf sessions with Craig. They've been learning a variety of new skills and having a lot of fun in the process.



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go on with strength and courage*

# from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

## Reflection Day

Last Friday was a significant event for our school. Our reflection/retreat days are so important for staff to connect to the Christian story, and particularly this year - our story. We were fortunate to have Sr Mary Ryan lead us through a very rich learning day of our Aussie 'Giant' of the Christian story. The day held a specific focus on St Mary's parents Alexander and Flora. Sr Mary also elaborated on St Mary of the Cross finest values and how St Mary portrayed these in her words and actions. Special gratitude to Sam Baxter for his organisation of our reflection day and to Sr Loreto who also joined us.

## R U Ok Day

R U Ok? A conversation can change a life. This week classes engaged in the conversation of how to have a conversation with others. They also wore a splash of yellow on Thursday and were lucky to have a cupcake baked by the SAKG kids - with yellow icing! The children were able to make their own R U Ok? badge. These are just a few ways at Mary Mac that we are able to highlight the importance of remembering to have the conversation.

The children learnt how to follow the four steps.

1. Ask R U Ok?
2. Listen
3. Encourage Action
4. Check In

This year we encourage all to ask R U Ok? any day because life happens every day. A lot can happen in a year, a month, a week. Whether it's your friend, family member, colleague, partner, or teammate, the people you care about go through life's ups and downs every day.

By having regular, meaningful conversations, you build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on, so when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know someone they can talk to.

As part of our values and pastoral care at MMMS, every day in every way we look out for those around us. It is our natural interactions with our friends, family and those who are important in our lives.

## Appointment

Mr Baxter will be spending Week 9 and 10 of Term 3 and Week 1 and 2 of Term 4 at St Anthony's in Millicent where he will be undertaking the role of Acting APRIM. Sam will continue to fulfil the position of Leader of Learning at Mary MacKillop one day a week, while I take on the role of Religious Education Coordinator for this time. We congratulate Sam on his Acting Appointment and wish him all the very best in this leadership position.

## Wellbeing as an Imperative

Recently all students undertook Catholic Education South Australia Classroom Pulse Check In. Every term every child undertakes this survey. It asks students questions about wellbeing, feeling supported, feeling like they belong and having agency of their learning. This data is then compared to the previous terms data and analysed by staff. It is important that as a school we continue to grow and develop and be accountable for providing a learning environment that makes all children feel safe, supported and feel like they are thriving. If not, why not? From the data we are able to highlight those students that require intentional growth action plan to improve outcomes for them. It is an important part of our accountability as educators.

Have a wonderful weekend.

God bless,  
Nicole.

go on with strength and courage

# Catholic Identity

## MITIOG - Made In The Image of God

Over the past two weeks our children have been engaging with the Made In The Image of God (MITIOG), Human Sexuality curriculum as part of their Religious Education lessons. MITIOG is a mandated curriculum for South Australia Catholic Schools, for Years R - 12. Each year our students engage with age-appropriate curriculum content regarding sexuality through MITIOG curriculum.

The Catholic understanding is that all humans are made in the image of God and therefore deserving of the utmost dignity and honour. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in discussions with their child about the work that has been covered at school.

## ReLat

This week our Year 4 students sat their ReLat (Religious Literacy Assessment Tool) assessment. Catholic Education SA has developed the ReLat with the primary purpose of providing a snapshot of Year 4 student's basic religious literacy. As a school we use the data collected to evaluate and refine our teaching practises in Religious Education.

Year 4 families will receive a student assessment summary in the coming weeks.

## Retreat and Forgiveness

Last Friday, the staff at Mary Mac's had their annual retreat and reflection day. This year, we visited Brands Liara for a wonderful day led by Josephite Sister Mary Ryan. The focus was on learning more about the life and legacy of one of our founders, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop precinct in Adelaide and her dedication as a Josephite nun, guided us through the day.

One of the key themes was forgiveness and St Mary MacKillop's remarkable ability to forgive. Sr Mary shared stories of St Mary's forgiveness, quotes from her writings on the topic, and connected these to Jesus' message of forgiveness. She also encouraged us to reflect on our own experiences of forgiving and being forgiven. Below are some quotes from St Mary MacKillop that I've shared for your reflection on forgiveness.

1867 - Make allowances for those who do not see you as you do.

1881 - Help one another, and forgive and forget anything painful in the past.

1877 - Try at least to excuse what you cannot understand.

1878 - Be not hasty in judging one another.

1887 - Try not excuse what you cannot understand, and be blind to the faults around you.

1889 - Remember on this earth no one is perfect.

God bless,

Sam Baxter

REC

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SATURDAY 14th September at 4:30pm  
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY  
TIME

GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-35

SUNDAY 22nd September at 9:00am  
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
GOSPEL: Mark

# Community News

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated their birthdays in Week 7. Henry the 2nd, and Lillith the 7th.

We wish a Happy Birthday to Josh who will be celebrating in Week 8 on the 12th. We also wish a Happy Birthday to Frank and Louis who will be celebrating on the 16th, and Elsie who will be celebrating on the 20th.

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who will be celebrating in Week 10. Sophie (23rd), Tait (29th), and Camilla (30th).

## 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**

## Masses and Liturgies for Term 3 & 4

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

WEEK 9 Tuesday 17th September  
Year 4 Class Mass

## House Points

Cameron	474
McCormack	520
Woods MacKillop	456

## 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.

## School Fees

A reminder that all school fees for 2024 are due by the **end of September** unless you have a payment plan in place. Please contact the Office if you are unable to finalise your fees by the end of September. Thankyou.

## Wearing Hats

All children 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.

## Scholarships from 2025

Mary MacKillop Memorial School is committed to a policy of providing an excellent Catholic education for young people, and in so doing, keeping fees to a minimum.

As a school we believe and share St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's vision, that no child should be turned away if they wish to attend a Catholic school. Our school provides an education for all children in the community and surrounding district, free from discrimination.

Following the vision of St Mary of the Cross, Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board offers Scholarships (full or part) to two students each year for two years. We believe that by providing the opportunity for a Catholic education to all we are encompassing the vision of our founder, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

If you wish to apply for a Scholarship for your child please visit our website or contact the front office, Janice, for more information.



# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

### Connection is Key.

Life is so busy that sometimes we lose connection with our loved ones, including our children. Connecting with our children is key to building a strong relationship. There are various ways we can reconnect with them by spending quality, focused time together daily, whether through play, reading, or talking about their day.

Show genuine interest in their hobbies and activities, participating when you can. Establish routines, like a bedtime story or weekly family time, to create stability and shared experiences.

Be an active listener, making sure your child feels heard and supported. Create a safe space for open communication, where they can express their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement. Encourage their independence by allowing age-appropriate choices and respecting their opinions.

Model empathy and healthy emotional expression, showing them how to handle feelings. Finally, consistently show your love through positive reinforcement, affection, and praise. These small, everyday actions help build a deep, trusting connection with your child.

Regards,

Bec Baker.

## 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.

## Sports Colours Day

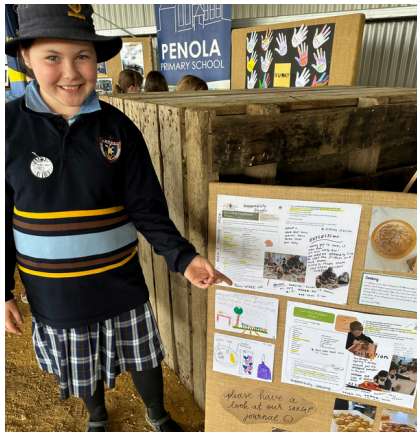
Last Wednesday, we celebrated Sports Colours Day by donning our team colours and diving into a range of exciting sports activities. Our House Captains, School Captains and senior SRC leaders organised and coached the events, ensuring a day full of enthusiasm and teamwork. From friendly competitions to spirited games, everyone embraced the chance to show their support for their favourite teams. The day highlighted the importance of teamwork and school spirit, making it a memorable and engaging experience for all involved. Good luck to all teams competing in finals this weekend!



# Community News

## Agricultural Town of the Year

On Monday, our entire school, along with local businesses and other schools, attended the Ag Town of the Year finalist event to spotlight Penola's best features. We showcased our Year 4 - 6 Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, which covers everything from garden planning and planting to cooking with our produce. The afternoon was full of fun, with highlights including hugs from George the Farmer and exciting giveaways. A big thankyou to Wattle Range Council for organising this memorable event. We're hopeful Penola will be named Agricultural Town of the Year!



## Sport SAPSASA Hockey

Congratulations to Chloe Bullock for her selection to the SAPSASA South East Girls Hockey Team! Competing against both county and metro teams at the State Carnival in Adelaide this week. Chloe started the competition strongly scoring 2 goals on day one. The South East Girls demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork, finishing the three-day competition with 8 wins, a draw, and conceded no goals to clinch the Gold Medal.

Chloe thrived in this high-level competition, honing her skills and forming valuable connections with players from across the region.

Well done, Chloe!





# photo gallery

## Footy Colours Day



## Early Learning Week 8 - Making Biscuits for R U Ok? Day & Celebrating Mrs Cootie's Birthday



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw



# photo gallery

## R U OK? Day



## Playgroup Week 8



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw