



IMPORTANT DATES

2016-Term 1

Tuesday 16 and
Wednesday 17

February

Parent Teacher
Conversations-see
information below

Monday 29 February
to Wednesday 2

March

Year 5 Camp

Monday 14 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 15 March

Preps start Fulltime

Thursday 24 March

Last Day of Term 1

Students finish @ 1pm

Friday 25 March

Good Friday

e-NEWS

From the Principal

Dear Community,

We are proud to be a Catholic Primary School enlivened by the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop. St. Mary is in many ways our light for the way, as we work to make God's kingdom a reality here on earth.

As we look at the life of St. Mary MacKillop, we see an ordinary woman doing extraordinary things for the poorest of the poor. Just like Jesus, Mary cared for those whom society shunned. In her response to the needs of her time, "never see a need without doing something about it." And again, just like Jesus, we see in Mary a woman who persevered in the journey of faith despite the sufferings she endured. Mary was no stranger to suffering.

In her life Mary experienced hardship and poverty, the death of loved ones, sickness, the breakdown of a close friendship and unjust criticism; yet through it all she placed her trust in God.

Like Jesus, she found the courage to face life positively and not run from it. She is known by the Church as St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

As a Catholic school which is very proud of our Catholic identity, we continue to ensure our children know who St. Mary MacKillop is for them today, as light for Christ. I am very proud of how well our children come to know Mary over their time in our school, culminating with, in Year 5, a visit to the Mary MacKillop heritage centre in Melbourne and then in Year 6, a trip to Mary's burial place and museum in Sydney.

Please see below an invitation to each and every one of you to visit the Mary MacKillop Heritage centre on its Open Day. It is well worth a visit.

Have a good week everybody.

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

*The wisdom of
St. Mary MacKillop*

*"Have patients with
yourselves when you
see that you have failed
and patience with
others when they seem
to have done so"*

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre at 362 Albert Street East Melbourne invites parishioners & friends to the first weekend Open Day for 2016 on Saturday 20th February from 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Visit the Mary MacKillop Museum, the Chapel where Mary prayed as well as the Gift Shop & Refreshments area.

A local guided “Walking Tour” will take place at 11.00am. Everyone is welcome.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

This week you have the opportunity to meet with your child’s classroom teacher. This is a time for you to tell your child’s teacher a bit about your child and how you feel they are going so far this year.

I understand some people may have booked an appointment with specialist teachers. They will not be available at this time. If you’d like to see a specialist teacher, please make an appointment with the particular specialist teacher you wish to see. Thank you.

HOMEWORK

Last year we conducted a review of our current practices in the area of Homework and our current Homework Policy. We invited feedback on our current practices from parents, carers, students and teachers while conducting an investigation into relevant literature and research concerning Homework. Thank you again for your valuable contributions into this process.

We respect you as the first educators of your children and value the partnership between school and home. As a result, we have produced a new SMMPS Homework Policy which was forwarded home to all families yesterday.

We listened to and acted on key feedback from the community along with findings from research including:

- Flexibility for families with busy schedules
- Set amounts and timing of homework P6
- Student choice and motivation
- Differentiation for students with additional needs
- Keeping homework relevant and useful for students
- A balanced inclusion of the curriculum
- Clarity of expectations for all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students)
- Making homework a cohesive, developmentally appropriate practice P6.

We are confident that this new policy and accompanying guidelines will lead to improved satisfaction in homework for our school community. If you require further clarification of the policy, your child’s classroom teacher is happy to speak with you or make an appointment to see Denis Johnstone, Deputy Principal-Teaching and Learning.

ASSEMBLY

We are trialling a new approach to our Weekly Assembly. There will be a whole school assembly and level assemblies on rostered Mondays in Mary MacKillop Hall

WEEK A	Whole School
WEEK B	Years 4, 5 and 6
WEEK C	Years 2 and 3
WEEK D	Years Prep and 1

We will publish which year level is having assembly each week in e-News. Next week it is Years 4, 5 and 6.

In trialling this approach we hope to more fully engage with each year level, passing on lessons in faith and school life at a more age appropriate level.

Principal's Awards as we know them, a feature of our assembly, are being modified to complement our **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Program (SWPBS)**. Our SWPBS is marked by the **3 R's**, i.e. all members of our community are expected to be **Responsible, Respectful, Resourceful and Safe**, in all their actions and words.

As part of our SWPBS, children are acknowledged for their positive behaviours in their classroom context. We are currently structuring how we might place the Principal's Awards into our SWPBS program. However, we appreciate the value Principal's Awards have for the children, hence they will exist as we move into the future. Look for more to come.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Our first meeting will be held on Thursday 18th February at 9am in the staff room. It will be great to see new families join us as we look forward to a fun filled year of events.

PROPOSED EVENTS FOR TERM ONE

As a lead up to Easter we have decided to have a little fun with the children. Each class will receive a jar filled with Easter Eggs. The children will have the chance to guess how many eggs are in the jar. A spreadsheet will have numbers from 1-150 for the children to mark their name against the number of their choice. This way there will not be any double ups.

**IT'S ALL IN THE GUESS??? HOW MANY EGGS ARE IN THE JAR??? TAKE A GUESS AND THE JAR IS YOURS!!!
\$1 PER GUESS OR 3 FOR \$2**

Winners will be announced on the last day of term.

Thursday 17th March – St Patrick's Day – Get creative in something Green – Hats, Ribbons, T-shirts, Ties the choice is yours. Gold coin donation.

Thursday 24th March - Easter Raffle - (Donations would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them to the front office).

Thursday 24th March – Casual Day - (Optional): This will be the last day of term. Gold coin donation

MUSIC

We are proud to introduce our Music program which commenced last Friday with children in Years 2 and 4. However all children in Years 1-6 will be taking part in a 10-week Music program over the year. Whilst it is only for half an hour a week over this 10-week block, we are at the beginning of starting something exciting for our school which I hope will grow. Ms. Kellie Kimber from Junior Rockers (a music education company) is conducting these lessons, with your child's classroom teacher present.

Junior Rockers

Curriculum Based Ukulele Program

The Junior Rockers Curriculum Based Ukulele Program is a 10-week program designed to teach students the fundamentals of learning an instrument. Students learn to play the ukulele and sing some of their favourite songs.

The program assumes students are beginning with no previous music education, however, students who have prior musical experience are given opportunities to extend themselves.

It is relatively simple to learn the basics of playing ukulele. Thus it is a perfect start for young students wanting to learn music. Owing to its simple left hand fingering patterns, more time can be spent focusing on learning rhythm, songs and more complex musical concepts rather than simply having to work on the physical aspects of playing the instrument.

Learning rhythm is one of the most difficult skills for any new musician to master. This program puts emphasis on rhythm and how it relates to "feel" of music. Through a series of progressive exercises, students gradually learn to play different rhythms and "feels". This skill is transferable to every other instrument they may go on to learn and also helps students to dance, sing and generally to express themselves musically.

The program puts significant emphasis on attainment of the core competencies outlined in both the state and national curricula. By the end of the program, students will have spent time:

- Rehearsing and performing songs and music they have learnt
- Develop and practice technical skills and use expressive elements of music in singing and playing instruments
- Learn and use music terminology to express concepts and ideas
- Identify features of music they listen to, including song structure, tonality and timber

Children in Prep have music lessons each week for 50 minutes in either Semester 1 or 2. This semester children in Prep Red and Prep Yellow are engaging in Music lessons. These lessons are with Ms. Jennifer Pereira.

This music initiative is an exciting part of our school improvement strategy, adding a wonderful extracurricular program for all children in our school.

UNIFORM SHOP

Remember, our Uniform Shop is open Tuesday Mornings from 8.30am until there are no more customers. Alternatively you can purchase uniforms from Academy Uniforms, 238 Wolseley Place Thomaston, 3074.
www.academyuniforms.com.au

VACANCIES

For any Family who wants to book a venue for the Year 6 Confirmation, there are still vacancies at Luxor Reception Centre.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016

Term 1

Friday 29 January – Thursday 24 March

NB:

- Easter Sunday 27 March
- Reconciliation – Thursday 17 March @ 7.30 pm

Term 2

Monday 11 April – Friday 24 June

NB:

- 21 May- Year 6 Confirmation.
- 28 May- Year 3 Eucharist

Term 3

Monday 11 July – Friday 16 September

Term 4

Monday 3 October – Thursday 15 December

(Year 6 finish: Friday 9 December 2016 with Graduation)

CANTEEN

Could all parents please note that the cut-off for ordering is 8.30am via the website (for orders that day)

Please make sure that you update your child's class for 2016.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CANTEEN

If you'd like to volunteer to work in the Canteen, please leave your name at the front office. We will then contact you about times and days, so we can prepare a roster.

Volunteering in the canteen is a practical way in which you can support your school and having enough volunteers is essential to ensure we can keep the canteen operating.

**Canteen Special for next week-Tuesday
23/2/16**

2 x fried dim sims and 2 potato cakes for \$4.00

FEES and LEVIES 2016

You should have received a Fee invoice. We can now accept payments at the office.

We recommend that you set up an instalment plan for direct debit or credit card. Could you please get these forms back to us as soon as possible

Thank you for your support of the school.

PARENT PORTAL

The purpose of the PARENT PORTAL is to improve communication between home and school. At this stage our e-News, letters home regarding events, excursions etc. and your child's reports are **securely** available via the PARENT PORTAL. Our School Calendar is also available. As we further construct our PARENT PORTAL you will have ease of access to policies and information about our school. The PARENT PORTAL will also provide the space to update all family and child details and you will also be able to access details of your account.

I encourage all parents with access to the internet to utilise the convenience of our PARENT PORTAL.

A PARENT PORTAL icon/hyperlink is available on our school website: www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

A printed letter was sent home yesterday via the mail to all families with a password and login to the PARENT PORTAL.

e-NEWS is also available via the Skoolbag App. You can download the Skoolbag App through the App Store (and it's free!). **We also send out reminders and information on short notice via the Skoolbag App.**

E-NEWS is also available on our website: www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

Ave Maria College-Enrolment Applications Year 7, 2017

Applications for Enrolment for Year 7 2017 are currently being accepted by the College. All families, including families with another daughter currently enrolled at the College, must submit an Application for Enrolment. All applications are considered according to the criteria listed in the College Enrolment Policy.

Applications for Year 7 2017 close on 26 February 2016. Late applications are considered in order of receipt.

To organise a copy of the College Prospectus, organise a College tour or for further information, please contact the College Registrar, Carmel Brewster on 9331 9308.



Do you want to play tennis?

Tennis lessons will be held during lunchtime in the hall

First lesson is FREE!

All new enrolments will receive a FREE tennis racquet



CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE NORTH KEILOR

College Tours Term

College Tours Term 2, 2016

Experience life as a student at CRC North Keilor. Bring your child along to meet the principal, visit classes in action and chat to students and staff.

Tours commence at **9am** and run for approximately 1 hour, beginning with an introduction in the Chapel followed by a tour of the College grounds.

Dates:

Thursday 28 April
Wednesday 18 May
Friday 17 June

To book, please contact the College Office:
Phone: 9361 5900
email: office@crcnk.vic.edu.au



Catholic Regional College North Keilor, Santa Monica Drive, Keilor Lodge. Web: www.crcnk.com.au

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE NORTH KEILOR

YEAR 7, 2017 ENROLMENT KEY DATES

Enrolment Key Dates:

Friday 26 February, 2016 – closing date for applications

**Forms submitted after this will be processed as late.*

Friday 22 April – First round offers posted to families

Friday 26 May – Final date for acceptance of first round offers

College Tours Term 1, 2016

Experience life as a student at CRC North Keilor. Bring your child along to meet the principal, visit classes in action and chat to students and staff.

Tours commence at 9am and run for approximately 1 hour, beginning with an introduction in the Chapel followed by a tour of the College grounds.

Wednesday 17 February
Tuesday 23 February
Tuesday 8 March

To book, please contact the College Office:
Phone: 9361 5900, email: office@crcnk.vic.edu.au



Catholic Regional College North Keilor, Santa Monica Drive, Keilor Lodge. Web: www.crcnk.com.au



Ten ways to Celebrate Lent at Home

In the early Church Lent began as a period of intense preparation for those preparing for baptism. Today it is celebrated as a period of repentance and renewal for all Christians as they prepare to celebrate Easter.

1. Talk it over

On Ash Wednesday gather as a family or household for a simple meal (in keeping with the Lenten fast). Table topic: What does Lent mean to you and what practical steps will you take in your Lenten observance this year?

2. Set up a sacred space

Set up a sacred space in a corner of your home. Spread a purple cloth on a small table. Add a bible and a candle, a bean bag or chair nearby. Make it a restful and inviting place where members of your household can go, whether alone or in company, to read the scriptures.

3. Pool family funds

As a family or household adopt a Lenten project. This might be Project Compassion or a particular project such as the building of a hospital or school in an impoverished town. Invite household members to contribute a portion of their income or pocket money each week during Lent towards this cause. Give from your substance not just your surplus.

4. Hold simple meals

Come together for the simplest of meals during the week. Invite a different family member to prepare the meal each week. Discover joy and creativity in plain foods: bread, rice, water. Be mindful of those who hunger. Talk about how your Lenten plans are progressing.

5. Organize a family action

Pool your talents and resources to assist someone in your local neighbourhood. This might involve mowing the lawn of an elderly person or serving meals at a shelter for the homeless.

6. Make Sundays special

Sunday is the Day of the Lord. During Lent make an effort to celebrate it well, uncluttered by work and activities of your regular week. Include rest, prayer, Mass, time for family and friends.

7. Celebrate the saints

Buy a book on the saints (or search the internet) and read a short excerpt each night, perhaps just after dinner and while everyone is still seated at table. This needn't be a long reading, just enough to spark a few thoughts and comments. Close with a short prayer, calling on the chosen saint of that evening to pray with you.

8. Gaze upon the cross

Take a special cross or crucifix (the kind designed for hanging on a wall) and give it in a prominent place in your home. If you don't have such a cross, buy or make a rustic one out of two bits of wood. During Lent stop to touch or look at the cross as you go about your day. At family prayer time, bring it down and pray with it. Use it to bless or commission a member of your family before an important event.

9. Gather your friends

Invite some friends to your home for a couple of hours each week during Lent. Use that time to reflect and pray together. [See also: "Ten Ways to Hold a Lenten Group."]

10. Say sorry

Make forgiveness a natural part of your Lenten journey. Look for everyday ways to say 'sorry'—in word and gesture—for the ways we have hurt one another.



Helpful Hint

Translate terms like 'repentance' and 'renewal' into specific challenges tailored to your life situation. E.g., this Lent you might decide to work at an aspect of your marital relationship or pray each day for a particular intention. A Lenten commitment has more chance of success when it is specific and practical, challenging but achievable.



Brimbank Sustainable Living Expo 2016

Saturday 20 February 10am-3pm

Presentations	Details	Time & Location
Good Start To Your Day: Breakfast Cooking demo	Chef Graeme will demonstrate two nutritious recipes using affordable ingredients that are easy to prepare.	10 - 11am Community Garden
Edible gardens, a practical guide	Author Craig Castree will explain how to take the hard work out of vegetable gardening by using the whole garden as an edible garden.	11.15am - 12.15pm Community Garden
Expo opening & welcome	Official opening of the 2016 Brimbank Sustainable Living Expo	12.15-12.30 Community Garden
Don't miss! Compost for Healthy Soils	Garden expert Jane Edmanson from ABC Gardening Australia and 3AW will present on compost and tips and tricks for healthy soil, followed by a Q&A session.	12.30 - 1.45pm Community Garden
Best & Biggest Fresh Home Grown Produce competition	Enter your best looking fruit & vegetables and biggest fruit or vegetable. Prizes to be won. <i>Drop off your entries at the 'fresh produce swap' marquee until 1pm.</i>	Judging at 2pm Community Garden
Less is more. Declutter your home, mind and life.	Crime & Trauma Scene Bio Recovery technician Lorinda offers a practical approach to dealing with clutter; less equals smaller environmental footprint, bills and stress.	2.15 - 3pm Neighbourhood House Zone
All day activities		
Fresh produce, seed, jam & preserves swap	Take part in a community swap. <i>Bring your season's surplus or seeds for other home grown/ made produce.</i>	Community Garden
J Bee-Keeping School	Learn about backyard bee keeping; see a bee hive in action and sample delicious honey varieties.	Community Garden
Werribee Park Heritage Orchard	Discover fruit varieties; get advice on caring for your fruit trees or purchase freshly grafted trees.	Community Garden
Pop up Westvale Men's Shed	Bring your bike in for a quick tune up, make a key holder or just relax and enjoy the social gathering.	Community Garden
Brimbank City Council Youth Services Neighbourhood Houses Brimbank Libraries Volunteering in Brimbank Environment department Waste Services department	Sign up for the L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program. Discover your local Neighbourhood House, complete a DIY project and find out about classes on offer. Visit the Pop Up Library, become a member and borrow the latest hot reads. Learn about the vast volunteer roles and opportunities. Learn about energy conservation, sustainability education, recycling, composting & more. Find out about Council bin sizes and options.	Marquee Zone
Kids Teaching Kids (KTK)	Brimbank school students showcasing exciting sustainable ideas!	Marquee Zone
National Hearing Care	Book in for a free hearing test and get tips on how you can improve your hearing health.	Marquee Zone
Bunnings Warehouse	DIY seed planting, displays, information and more.	Marquee Zone
Clothes Swap	Bring your garments to donate, collect your tokens and use the tokens to 'buy' clothes.	Marquee Zone
City West Water	Get advice and tips on reducing your water bills, waterwise gardening and water conservation	Marquee Zone
Sustainable story time	<i>Story time sessions at 11am and 1pm</i>	Marquee Zone
Displays & information	Council's waste services options, Sustainability Victoria, Melbourne Period Project, <i>Mobile Muster & more</i>	Marquee Zone
Neighbourhood House Activities Zone	Join the classes running on the day.	10-11am: Meditation Class 11.15am-12.45pm: DIY library or shopping bag 1-2pm: Bingo and afternoon tea Neighbourhood House Zone
Animals of Oz	Wildlife education and handling program.	Earth Zone
Friends of Groups	Friends of Kororoit Creek, Iramoo, Maribymong Valley and Organ Pipes	Earth Zone
Farm Animals	What came first, the egg or the chicken? Where does milk come from? See a goat milking demonstration.	Earth Zone
Community Groups	U3A Brimbank, Keilor Model Aircraft Society, Sunshine Model Railway Club, Red Hats Brimbank Ladies, Croquet Club Cairnlea, BRIMBUG Brimbank Bicycle Users Group	Earth Zone
Garden & Lifestyle exhibits	Keilor Garden Club, Sunshine Golden Age Garden Club, EHOW Edible Harvest Out West formally Caroline Springs Garden Club, In Bloom Floral Design, Angels' Realm, Tri Nature Cleaning, Natasha Burns Candles	Across all Zones
Children's activities	Face painting, seedling potting, animal farm, jumping castle, recycled art & craft, balloon art plus lots more	Across all Zones
Food Vendors Charges apply	Deer Park Lions Club, ice cream, coffee trucks and Dutch pancakes	Across all Zones

Please note activities on this program are subject to change.



THE EDUCATION STATE

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
 - a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. .

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____