



e-NEWS



Dear Community,

You may have noticed reports in the media regarding the Federal Government plan for school funding. This plan may mean severe cuts to funding for Catholic schools over the next ten years. Leaders of Catholic education have been campaigning widely and meeting with the Government to ensure Catholic schools get a fair share of their funding. We have made some headway; however, I think it is important that you as parents know the truth.

It is your money that you are investing in Catholic education through your fees, and it is your taxes that the Government needs to give back to you through the Catholic education system.

Just imagine if Catholics schools were not funded. We would have to close our schools, as we could not ask you the parents to pay the \$12,500 per year, per child, which is the current estimate to educate a child of primary age, plus ask additional money to build and upkeep buildings, provide resources, furniture and general grounds upkeep. And there would be no such thing as a family fee. One in four children in Australia are educated in a Catholic school. We save the government of the day many billions of dollars per year.

I publish below a summary article on the issue to keep you informed.

Catholic school principals have said they will resist the Education Minister's attempts to "drive a wedge" between Catholic school communities, two principal associations said in a joint media statement on Friday.

Catholic Secondary Principals Australia and the Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association sent a letter to senator Simon Birmingham last week, urging him and his colleagues to reconsider proposed changes that would disadvantage Catholic schools and Catholic school families.

"Catholic school principals stand united with the broader Catholic school community in the face of a deliberate strategy by the government to undermine the system by pitting principal against principal, school against school," the letter said.

The principals said the government's decision to go around Catholic school systems and write directly to principals, as well as the publication of the School Funding Estimator website, was a clear example of trying to create internal battles within the system of 1737 Catholic schools across the country.

"CaSPA and ACPPA want to make it clear that the tactic will not work," the principals said.

"CaSPA and ACPPA can assure the Minister that Catholic education will stand together to ensure Catholic schools remain affordable and available for all families who seek them – whether that be in a metropolitan city or Thursday Island.

From The Principal Continued Over The Page.....

IMPORTANT DATES 2017 Term Dates

Term 2
18 April-30 June

Term 3
17 July-22 September

Term 4
9 October-20 December

2017-Term 2

Saturday 27 May
Year 3 Communions

Friday 3 June
Year 3 Eucharist Reflection
Day

Monday 12 June
Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday

Friday 30 June
Last Day of Term 2-
Students finish at 1.00pm

*The wisdom of
St. Mary MacKillop
"God is merciful
because He knows
how weary we are."*

21.5.1877

From The Principal Continued...

On Friday, the National Catholic Education Commission said the government's rhetoric around its school funding reforms was "crumbling" as the reality of drastic funding cuts to some school communities becomes apparent.

"Minister Birmingham is publicly claiming that his new funding model delivers needs-based, sector-blind funding," NCEC acting executive director Danielle Cronin said in a media release.

"If the Minister is indeed delivering what he claims, why are Catholic school systems and state and territory education ministers condemning the plan? Those responsible for running almost 90 per cent of Australia's schools are clear that this funding reform proposal will not deliver what schools and students need."

I will keep you informed on this matter.

THANK YOU

I thank you for your support, as the parish staff, staff of St. Paul's School and our staff gathered with our parish priests in Sydney last Thursday and Friday. We spent the days away learning more about the person of Mary MacKillop, who became Australia's first saint, recognised by the Church. We also visited a Museum dedicated to telling the life story of St. Mary MacKillop. Monsignor Portelli and Fr. Gerard celebrated Mass with us at the tomb of St. Mary MacKillop. Overall, it was a tremendous experience for all of us. I trust that our teachers will now have an even greater understanding of the ordinary lady who lived an extraordinary life and went on to become known as St. Mary MacKillop.



Have a good week everybody.

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

Assembly-Monday 29 May 2017

On Monday, there will be an assembly to present certificates to those students who make their First Eucharist this weekend.

Condolences

We would like to offer our condolences to the Guerrisi Family (Nikolas 6Y and Bianca PR) on the passing of their father/grandfather yesterday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time.

Parent Assistance in the Classroom

Parents as Reading Partners.

On **Tuesday 30th of May** we will be holding a **Parent as Reading Partners** briefing in the school library at **2.00pm**. Parents as Reading Partners give children the much-needed opportunity to read aloud to a supportive adult and thus build their confidence as a reader.

All interested volunteers (**this includes parents who have previously participated in Parents as Reading Partners**) will need to attend to sign a Child Safety Code of Conduct before assisting at SMMPS. You will also be required to produce or apply for a Working with Children's Check.

Once this induction has been completed, we will work through the role of a parent assisting as a reading partner in a classroom. We will discuss how children make meaning from print and various strategies to support their reading.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday afternoon.

Rita Krnac, Anna Yorston & Jenny Melki

Do you want to play tennis?



All new enrolments will receive a
FREE Hotshots t-shirt



BOOK NOW for a FREE trial lesson
at lunchtime in the hall at Mary Mackillop PS



Anthony Raso
0426 893 683
www.jlts.com.au
anthony.raso25@hotmail.com



CatholicCare Family Week 2017

CatholicCare invites all schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate Family Week! This year it falls between 15 - 21 May.

In recognition that children are vital to building kinder, more equitable societies, we have continued our Family Week theme: 'Champions for Change'.

**“Children and young adults make natural 'champions for change'.
They are interested in how they are connected with,
and can contribute to the world.”**

Fr Joe Caddy, CEO - CatholicCare

At SMMPS we are committed to the work begun by St Mary MacKillop and we endeavour to live by her example. Mother Mary MacKillop encouraged the Sisters of St Joseph to always do their best to serve the communities they worked in, remembering that they were sent out to do God's work.

One of St Mary MacKillop's most memorable quotes, "We are but travellers here", challenges us to consider the ways in which we can do God's work wherever we are. Therefore if we are all considered "travellers" wherever we are, the land that we walk on belongs to everyone. This caused me to consider the large number of lands the community of SMMPS come from. The families at this school represent over 50 different nationalities. I really do love working in such a multi-cultural community.

With the assistance of a team of Year 6 students, I am working on a project to demonstrate just how multicultural we are. We are going to assemble a St Mary MacKillop Family Tree. Each family is asked to decorate a leaf with their family name to add to our tree. We also ask that you decorate around your family name with the colours of the flags from the country/ies your family represents. The tree will be displayed on the windows outside the hall facing the John Paul II building for all to see.

A leaf template will be sent home this week to each family via the eldest child in the family.

I wish you all a very blessed Family Week.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Conte
Religious Education Leader

Enrolment Key Dates

YEAR 7, 2019



Catholic
Regional College
North Keilor

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

Applications Open

Twilight Tour 5.30 – 6.30pm

**For bookings please phone 9361 5900*

Enrolment Information Session 7pm (College Hall)

**Parents only Session. Bookings not required.*

Friday, 25 August 2017

Applications close.

Friday, 13 October 2017

1st Round offers posted.

Friday, 27 October 2017

Final date for acceptance of 1st Round offers.



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PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Next meeting held this Thursday at 9am in the staff room.

TERM TWO

Crazy Hair Day– Date to be confirmed

Hoyts Movie Night – June - Date, Time and movie to be confirmed

TERM THREE

Ladies Night – August – Date and venue to be confirmed

Father's Day Stall– September - Date to be confirmed

Dance Party– Date to be confirmed

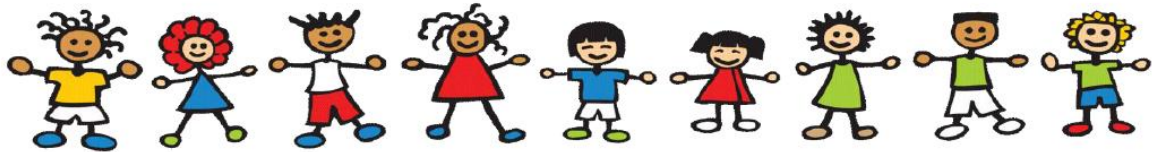
TERM FOUR

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle– Date to be confirmed

Christmas Carols Night– Date to be confirmed

[St Mary Mackillop Primary School is Fundraising with Entertainment Books!](#)

The brand **NEW 2017/2018 Entertainment Books** are in stock. If you would like to order your copy just visit www.entbook.com.au/9127y31 and place your order online. Books and digital memberships are just \$70 each and are packed full of great offers. Not only will you be receiving amazing discounts to a variety of venues and restaurants, but you will also be helping our school as St Mary Mackillop P.S will receive 20% of all membership sales! Thank you for your support.



Outside School Hours Care Program

Last week at OSHC we celebrated diversity. Our focus was multiculturalism. We introduced the children to a little international cuisine during the cooking activities. We made the Maltese traditional snack - Hobz biz zejt. We also made Greek - Tzatziki as well as little Italian pizzas. We tried to fit in as much as we could in a very short week.



This week our activities have an Aboriginal theme. We will continue to try and make the most of the good weather and sunny afternoons when possible before the winter sets in.

We hope everyone has a great week and we thank you for your continued support.

From the OSHC Team



Please remember to SMS Vicky/Mary on 0450 211 909 before 11.00 am all bookings and cancellations.

CANCELLATIONS AFTER 11.00 AM WILL INCUR A FULL FEE CHARGE.

Thank you.

If you have a Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card, please complete and return to the office to receive \$125.00 discount per child off your school fees.



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 ____ / ____ / ____

