



e-NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES

2017 Term Dates

Term 4

10 October-20 December

2017-Term 4

Wednesday 13 December

Christmas Carols Night
from 7.00 pm

Thursday 14 December

Year 6-Big Day In

Friday 15 December

Last Day for Year 6 at
1.00pm

Year 6 Graduation at 7pm
in the Church

Wednesday 20 December

Last Day for Year P-5 at
1.00pm

2018 Term Dates

Thursday 1 February

School Starts for
Year 1 to 6

Monday 5 February

School Starts for Preps at
9.30am

Dear Community,

This is the final e-NEWS for 2017. We have come to the end of another school year and very nearly the end of another calendar year.

These final weeks of a year very much become a time of reconciliation and reflection as we look back and look forward with optimism and hope.

Our External School review this year, conducted by the Australian Council for Education Research leaves us in no doubt that we are in a good space. We received many 'outstandings' across the nine domains of schooling. Speaking with the Council recently, I have discovered only 6% of schools ever receive an 'outstanding'. This leaves us confident we are on the right track!

Therefore, with this confidence, we look to the future and to 2018...

And, always remember,

"A GREAT ATTITUDE becomes a great day which become a great month, which becomes a great year, which becomes a GREAT LIFE"

We end this year; looking forward with a great attitude.

During the Advent season, as we prepare for Christmas, we recall Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and all that this means. For many, whilst the theological dimension is not necessarily to the fore, there is however the importance of coming together as family and friends. Yet, even in all of this, life is not always so straightforward.

The good news of the Christmas message, peace and good will to all is about relationships. Our relationships start at home and extend into our community.

We look to the lesson of Christmas.

Love is born
With a dark and troubled face.
When hope is dead
And in the most unlikely place.
Love is born,
Love is always born.



The wisdom of
St. Mary MacKillop

***"Have a pure heart and
be faithful"***

1871

From The Principal Continued....

I wish to formally thank and acknowledge many people and groups for all you do to bring life to our school. St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is a great school of which I am very proud. This is in no small part to you our community that makes our school all it is and can be.

Thank you to:

Monsignor Charles Portelli and Fr Gerard Johnson: For their unwavering guidance, support, encouragement and spiritual leadership.

Mr. Anthony D'Amico: For his outstanding support as my Deputy Principal. This is Anthony's first year at our school. I am personally appreciative of the job he does so well.

All the staff of our school: For their hard work, commitment and dedication to our children. Thank you for creating a great team, which makes coming to work a pleasure.

All the children of our school: We exist for one sole reason and that is to serve the children. The children's wonderful innocence, awe and wonder, personalities and smiles make our jobs rewarding and give great meaning to our day.

The Parents Association and all parent support personnel: In whatever capacity. Your support, loyalty, hard work and commitment really makes a difference.

All families in our school: Thank you for entrusting the care of your children to us each day.

OSHC staff: We thank the staff who looks after the Parish OSHC program. Your kindness and care is most appreciated.

FAREWELL

We farewell Fr. Gerard Johnson (SMM Aug 2015-2017). We are immensely grateful for Fr. Gerard's gentle presence in our school community. I have personally appreciated his support, humour and company. We wish Fr. Gerard all the best in his new appointment as parish priest at St. Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South.

We farewell Mr. Peter Ansell (SMMPS 2017). We wish Peter well in his retirement and thank him for a lifetime of authentic dedication and commitment to Catholic education.

We farewell the Class of 2017. Our Year 6 class of students have been an exceptional group of young people who have been a pleasure to teach over the years. We wish them all the very best as they embark on the next exciting phase of their life's journey into secondary education.

We look forward to farewelling our Year 6 students on Friday at 1:00pm with our Annual Guard of Honour and then a formal graduation ceremony and supper at 7:00pm here in our Church and Hall.

We also farewell a number of families from our school that have children transitioning from Year 6. We wish them well and thank all families leaving us for their ongoing support and loyalty.

We farewell all children and families leaving our school from whatever level they might be in now. We wish you well.

Together with my staff, we wish our families a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year. Have a wonderful holiday period.

God's Blessings to all,



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

**SCHOOL CONCLUDES FOR YEAR 6
FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER @ 1:00pm**

**SCHOOL CONCLUDES FOR ALL STUDENTS YEARS
PREP TO 5
WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER @ 1:00pm**

**SCHOOL RESUMES in 2018 FOR ALL STUDENTS YEAR
1-6
THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2018**

**PREPS START in 2018
MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY @ 9.30am**

Carols Night- Tonight 13 December @ 7.00pm

Carols will start at 7.00pm sharp, so all students need to be at school and in their classroom by 6.30pm. Children are asked to come dressed in Christmas colours.

At the conclusion of the Carols, students will be signed out by the teacher in charge. We anticipate, the evening will conclude around 8.30pm.

Are You Leaving Us?

Now that we are in the final term for the year, it is timely that we look forward to 2018 to ascertain our student numbers.

If you have a child/ren in Years Prep – 5 who will not be returning to St Mary MacKillop Primary School for 2018, please forward a letter/email to Mr Anthony D'Amico, Deputy Principal, advising us at your earliest convenience.

Alternatively, you can email us at: office@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

This will assist us with our classrooms, students and staffing requirements for the coming year.

Saint Vincent De Paul

The Year 4 children would like to thank all the families who have generously donated items to the Saint Vincent De Paul Christmas hamper appeal. It is great to see that we are seeing the message of the Holy Spirit in action at Saint Mary MacKillop Primary school and that our Christian values are being put into practice. We would appreciate as many new items as possible to be donated by Friday 15th December.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

From the Year 4 Team.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

TERM FOUR

Christmas Carols Night– Wednesday 13th December, 7.00pm until 8.30pm. BYO food and drink.

REQUEST FOR CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES

See flyer for raffle prizes. We have extra raffle books if you want them. See Kellie or Joe in the office

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

RAFFLE

By now all families should have received their book of tickets for our annual Christmas Raffle. Tickets are only \$1.00 each and there are heaps of great prizes to win! The raffle will be drawn on the 13th of December- Carols Night. (please remember to write your name and phone no. on the ticket stubs)



1st Prize - Nintendo Switch
Mario Odyssey Bundle
(Valued at \$530)



Other prizes include:

4 Burner BBQ (donated by Bunnings Watergardens)

AMF Laser Tag/Bowling Vouchers

10-visit pass from Crocs Playcentre Keilor

Christmas Hamper from Taylors Lakes Market

Dinner for 2 at JBJ's Taylors Lakes Hotel

Portable Cooler Bag (from Bunnings)

Facial Voucher from Total Tan & Beauty

\$100 Skechers Shoes Voucher

\$100 Hype Store Voucher

\$100 Platypus Shoes Voucher

\$80 Galli Winery Voucher

2 x Squash Racquets by Wilson

1 camping chair by Statewide 4 x 4





Outside School Hours Care Program

Dear Families,

The last few weeks we haven't posted much in the newsletter as our priority has been to have all 2018 enrolments returned. Please keep in mind if you have not returned your 2018 enrolment form by the end of this week your child/children will not be able to attend the program next year.

At OSHC over the last few weeks, we have been super busy finishing off all our sewing projects. The finished projects look amazing. Children have worked on completing personalised cushions for their bedrooms and Christmas Table Runners, which will be used to decorate their homes. It was great to see the children being creative, designing, transferring ideas from paper onto fabric and turning an idea into reality. These children have never used a needle and thread before.



A reminder next Wednesday the 20th December is the last day of term. The program will run until 6.00pm on this day. Please SMS the OSHC program if you need a booking on this day.

We hope everyone has a wonderful week. We thank everyone for their continued support.

From the OSHC Team.



Please remember to SMS:

Vicky Mamo/Mary Giacchi - 0450 211 909 before 11.00 am all bookings and cancellations.

Mary Zambara - 0478 746 370 regarding accounts. Thank you.

CANCELLATIONS AFTER 11.00 AM WILL INCUR A FULL FEE CHARGE.



Christmas Timetable 2017

Mass Times

Saturday 23rd December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

5.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

5.00 pm St Paul's Church (Latin)

6.30 pm St Paul's Church

Sunday, 24th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00 am St Paul's Church (Maltese)

11.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church

Sunday, 24th December – Christmas Eve

5.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

6.30 pm St Paul's Church

8.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

9.00 pm St Paul's Church

12 Midnight St Mary MacKillop Church
(Carols at 11.30 pm)

Monday 25th December- Christmas Day

8.00 am St Paul's Church (Maltese)

9.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church

10.00 am St Paul's Church

11.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church

There will be NO evening Mass on Christmas Day

Monday 1st January, 2018 – New Year's Day

9.30 am St Paul's Church

11.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church



2017 Christmas Confession Times

Tuesday 19th December 2017

10 am - 11 am St Mary MacKillop Church
7 pm - 8 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

Wednesday 20th December

10 am - 11 am St Paul's Church
7 pm - 8 pm St Paul's Church

Thursday 21st December

10 am - 11 am St Paul's Church
7 pm - 8 pm St Paul's Church

Friday 22nd December

10 am - 11 am St Mary MacKillop Church
7 pm - 8 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

Saturday 23rd December

11 am - 12 Noon St Paul's Church
4 pm - 4.50 pm St Mary MacKillop Church
6 pm - 6.20 pm St Paul's Church

