

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Community,

WELCOME TO THE 2018 SCHOOL YEAR!

We welcome back all our families, children and staff. We offer a particularly warm welcome to the new families whom have joined our school community this year. We offer a special welcome to the Prep class of 2018. It gives us all great pleasure to see the little one's wonderfully innocent faces, full of anticipation and excitement as they join us for the first time.

We trust that all new families and children in our school will feel at home with us in no time at all.

We are proud to announce an all but 100% staff retention rate at our school as we move into 2018. This fact tells us staff morale is high and happy staff make for happy kids!

We welcome Fr. Paul Chandler, who will be supporting Monsignor Portelli as the second priest in our Parish. We look forward to Fr. Paul's involvement in the life of our school.

We welcome Mrs. Nancy Greige, who has been a mother in our school and Emergency Teacher. Nancy will be teaching with us one day a week. We welcome back to SMMPS, **Mrs. Yolanda Bezerra and Mrs. Vicki Himmelreich** from Parental Leave, who will also be working with us one day per week.

2018 TERM DATES

Term 1-Thursday 1

February-

Thursday 29 March

Term 2-Monday 16 April-

Friday 29 June

Term 3-Monday 16 July-

Friday 21 September

Term 4-Monday 8 October-

Wednesday 19 December

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday Mass at
12pm

Wednesday 21 February

Parent Teacher Conversations
1pm-6pm

Thursday 22 February

Parent Teacher Conversations
3.45pm-6pm

Wednesday 28 February

Penance Sacramental Family
Night- Year 3 Families.
7:00pm

We also welcome Mr. Frank Krnac who will be supporting our Maintenance Team with the many projects we aim to undertake this year.

You may have noticed we have re-designed our newsletter. We are looking to provide a more relevant format with easy to access information. We also intend to provide more 'real-time' news, as it happens.

This newsletter will generally be published fortnightly. However, there will be extra editions published as necessary.

We will communicate with you via Skoolbag, as the improved version provides: convenient digital format, instant push notifications, school calendar integration and the school newsletter.

To this end, we ask you to re-instate the Skoolbag App on your digital devices. If required, please refer to the instructions attached or see Kellie or Joe at the front desk.

The newsletter will also be available via email, on our website and on your Parent Portal.

We trust that our new newsletter format, 'real-time' news and various forms of access will ensure you have all the information you need in regards to your school readily available.

In the coming weeks I look to forwarding you some information about processes and procedures within our school, in the form of a Parent Reference Guide. This information will provide you with an understanding of the how and why of the way we operate here at SMMPS.

In short, we are hoping to improve communication between school and home.

As we move into a new school year, we look to our School Vision Statement for inspiration and guidance as we forge the way ahead.

We look to a positive, respectful and happy year together, in which we all do lots of learning.

Friday 2 March

Whole School Photos

Monday 5 March

Whole School Photos-catch up day

Tuesday 6 March

Confirmation Family Night
7:00pm

Monday 12 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 13 March

School Closure Day for
Teacher Development

Thursday 15 March

Sacrament of Penance at 7pm

Thursday 29 March

End of Term 1. School
finishes at 1pm

We commit our year, our learning, our safety, our families and our children to the care and protection of St. Mary MacKillop. We ask St. Mary MacKillop to pray for us.

Have a great year everyone.



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

SMMPS VISION STATEMENT

*Inspired by the Gospels
and in the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop,
we never see a need
without taking action.*

*We live and celebrate
our Catholic faith.*

*In and through positive relationships,
we aspire to protect all children under our care,
prioritising their safety and wellbeing.*

*We learn to be,
to know,
to do,
to live together
and to change.*

We are a community of lifelong learners.

More Important News

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

We are determined to improve communication and parent engagement. We sincerely want you to know what is going on in your child's school, hence we look to opening up more and more ways for you to be directly involved in your school, if you so choose. I understand we are all busy with either careers, home life or both.

Parent Engagement

Saturday 3 March

Bunnings BBQ Watergardens

*A call for volunteers:
please see Kellie*

Mother's day Stall

*A call for volunteers:
please see Kellie.
A meeting to be scheduled*

Hotdog Days

More Details to come

Subway Days

More Details to come

Icy Pole Days

We are asking for a team of parents to volunteer to be available to distribute icy poles to the classrooms at 1.30pm on days to be notified. If you are able to assist, please contact Kellie at the front desk and nominate the day or days you are available.

However, the invitation will be there, for, when and if you can take up our call to be involved. It may be only one event in the year where you can assist for an hour or so. That's okay too!

We are excited about planned Parent Information Evenings. We appreciate any support with our Parent Helpers Program:

- Reading Partners
- involvement in the classroom
- attending excursions
- support with our PMP, Phys. Ed and Sports Program, and
- organising and/or helping with Fundraising Events.

In a desire to encourage more parent engagement, we are moving away from the concept of a Parents' Association. Whilst we have been extremely appreciative of the support given by many wonderfully dedicated parents over the years, we understand it is a major commitment that takes much time.

In 2018, we will trial a new way forward.

We aim to establish **Parent Support Teams**. The school will notify parents of events, where we will need support. These notifications will be made through the newsletter. We may call for helpers. We may even call for a team to organise a particular event.

We anticipate a Hot Dog Day, Icy Pole Day, Subway Day and Pasta Day will be coming up. We will also need to start thinking about our Mother's Day Stall. Calls for organising teams and volunteers will be made in the adjacent ribbon on our newsletter, under Parent Engagement.

Ms. Jenny Melki and Mrs. Kellie Doherty will coordinate the Parent Support Teams.

Thank you for your support as we look to involve more parents in the life of our school.

ICY-POLES TERMS 1 and 4.

We are intending to sell icy poles on hot days in Terms 1 and 4. However, we will need your support.

We are asking for a team of parents to volunteer to be available to distribute icy poles to the classrooms at 1.30pm on days to be notified. If you are able to assist, please contact Kellie at the front desk and nominate the day or days you are available. Parent volunteers on the list will then be contacted confirming their availability.

On the first school day of each week, we will send a notification to all families via Skoolbag of the days icy-poles will be available that week.

We are asking each family to contribute 5 dollars per child to cover the cost of the icy-poles for the term. We are simply looking to cover costs. We are not aiming to make a profit. Please send the money with your child's name in an envelope via your child's classroom teacher.

Permission Forms and more details will be made via CareMonkey this week.



Welcome to Scholastic Book Club for 2018!

Did you know 91% of kids are more likely to finish books they choose themselves?

This year our school will be participating in Scholastic Book Club. Twice a term during the school year a Club catalogue will be sent home with a wide variety of books offered. The Book Club catalogues provide quality, age appropriate selections from which children can select their own books.

All books offered are carefully reviewed and levelled by a team of experts to appeal to a wide range of abilities and interests. Purchases made through Book Club generate rewards for our school, so we can continue to provide quality educational material to your children however there is never any obligation to order.

Children improve their reading skills by **READING** so providing quality books they will **WANT** to read is a priority. **Orders will be processed entirely online** with instructions sent home with your child's first book club. Orders will be due **online one week** after the catalogues are taken home. We hope you enjoy developing your children's home library whilst supporting our school.

The first Book Club catalogue will be distributed on Thursday 8th February, 2018.

Online book club orders need to be placed by 2pm Friday 16th February, 2018.

[WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND](#)

Invest in your most precious asset.....Your Marriage!

Forget life's tensions and interruptions and rekindle the closeness, intimacy, love and romance that brought you together. Recharge your relationship batteries and explore the precious nature of your marriage, allowing you both to share your feelings, hopes and dreams with each other in ways that normal, daily living tends to inhibit.

There is no group sharing. Couples and a priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

2018 Melbourne weekend dates : 16-18 March, 1-3 June, 17-19 August, and 9-11 November 2018

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: PH: Andre and Maria 0411 225 992

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: www.wwme.org.au



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:

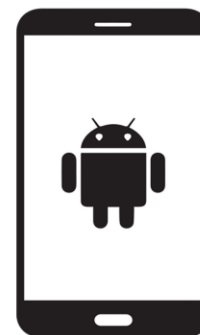
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.



For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

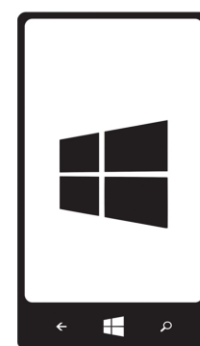


Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.



Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!