

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Community,

The end of term is fast approaching. Once again, I reiterate how proud I am of our students. In the main, most children behave in a respectful, responsible, resourceful and safe manner. Ok, of course, there are issues that arise, but we have to expect 'hiccups' along the journey, when we have 611 children trying to navigate their way through life. At times they will make errors of judgement or try solutions that may create a bigger issue but they are here to learn. I often marvel at how little children beginning their transition to school life, through to children preparing to leave primary school cope with and deal with the challenges of relationships, connecting and engaging.

Our job as adults is to let them sort it out within a supportive framework. We aim to teach the children to problem solve and be collaborative. We look to helping our students manage the smaller issues while seeking assistance for the larger and more challenging issues. The school will always intervene and protect children as needed, but ultimately, most children do a great job at working through the complexities of life with each other.

Thank you to the parents that support us in our work of not just educating the children, but also through your encouragement and example, support us in helping the children to grow socially and emotionally.

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday 29 March**

**HOLY THURSDAY**

End of Term 1. School finishes at 1pm

### Term 2

**Monday 16 April**

School starts for Term 2 at 9.00am

**Wednesday 25 April**

Anzac Day Public Holiday

**Saturday 28 April**

Year 6 Confirmation

12.30pm-6G & 6R

2.30pm-6B & 6Y

**Monday 30 April**

Year 5 Camps

**Tuesday 15 May-Thursday**

**17 May**

Naplan for Year 3 & 5

**Saturday 2 June**

Year 3 Eucharist

12.30pm-3Y & 3B

2.30pm-3G & 3R

**Monday 11 June**

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

**Friday 29 June**

End of Term 2

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Last week, the SMMPS School Captains for 2018 were elected from a field of 32 candidates. All candidates were worthy of attaining the role of school captain, but ultimately we had to choose.

Each candidate presented a speech to the School Leaders and the four Year 6 class groups. Feedback was offered after each speech.

Based on the presentations, the School Leaders voted and the Year 6 students voted. When we put the votes together, the results were very clear. **Congratulations to the 32 candidates who applied and congratulations to the elected SMMPS School Captains for 2018: Isabelle Atkinson, Duc-Tin Cao, Jackie Drinjak, Jai Krnac, Noah Pascale and Tia Nguyen.**

The first task of the our School Captains was to represent SMMPS student body at the St. Patrick's Day Mass for Catholic Education Week last Friday 16 March. This Mass was celebrated by our Archbishop, and a number of Bishops and priests from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. It was a great celebration held at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We also had four Year 5 students accompany us.

Here we see the captains pictured at the statue of St. Mary MacKillop in the cathedral grounds. And below please see the photo of Isabelle Atkinson and Jai Krnac who proudly carried the school banner into the Cathedral in the formal Procession of Banners, where up to 300 school banners processed into the Cathedral.



## LEAVE

I will be taking Long Service Leave for the months of April and May. I look forward to travelling to Germany to visit my son who lives in Germany.

Mr. Anthony D'Amico will be Acting Principal, supported by Ms. Jennie Monaghan who will be Acting Deputy Principal.

Go well everyone,



**Anthony McCluskey**  
Principal

## THE WISDOM OF ST. MARY MACKILLOP

*In each Newsletter, I provide a quote from the writings of St. Mary MacKillop. Mary was an extensive letter writer to the sisters within her congregation (Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, or the Josephites as they were known). She also wrote many letters to her family.*

*These wonderful words of wisdom provide us with much to reflect on... I know they inspire me in my personal life.*

**"We are all in the loving hands of a good God." (11.10.1871).**

## More Important News

### PARENT ENGAGEMENT

I am absolutely delighted with the number of parents who have volunteered to assist us with our fundraising efforts. We have 30 plus parents supporting us with the sales of Icy Poles and our Food Days. If we have not yet called you, it is because we are simply working through the list. We will get to you and yes, we do sincerely appreciate your offer.

We have ordered products to sell at the Mother's Day Stall. Kellie and Jenny will be in touch closer to the date regarding the organisation of the day.

## 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

## Parent Engagement

### Easter Raffle-

We are holding a raffle at the end of term. We are asking for donations to go towards the prizes. From Easter eggs, baskets, Easter soft toys, Easter story books etc...

Please send all donations to the office.

**Pie Day**-Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. You can order a pie and juice for \$5.00. Get onto [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) to place your child's order

**Mother's Day Stall- A call for volunteers:** please see Kellie. More details next term.

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT CONTINUED...

Please Note the Pie Day next week. Orders close tomorrow Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Icy poles will given out this Friday and next Thursday.

Thank you to the parents who are assisting with PMP. Your support ensure the success of the program.

Child Safety Inductions which we are bound to do by legislation are happening on an as needs basis. All parents supporting us in any way, must do this induction.

### **Unexplained student absence: New Requirements**

A review of school Attendance Guidelines was undertaken by the Minister for Education in Term 4, 2017.

#### **The Minister of Education has said that all:**

**'schools must advise parents/guardians of unexplained absences, on the same day, as soon as practicable'.**

The changes in the Attendance Guidelines were introduced at St Mary MacKillop P.S. as of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

If your child/ren are going to be absent from school for any reason, we ask that you log onto the skool bag app, then go to eForms, hit Absentee Form and complete the details of the absence then hit submit.

- All Absentee forms go to the front office and to myself. They are then forwarded to the classroom teacher.
- If your child is away and we have not been notified, you will receive an SMS message asking you to contact the school. If we do not hear from you within a certain time we will call your emergency contacts. If we cannot reach the Emergency contacts we will then need to call the Police.
- If you have not yet downloaded the Skoolbag app we ask that you do this as soon as possible.

These practices are to ensure the safety of your children.

Thank You for your support

**Anthony D'Amico**  
**Deputy Principal**

## **Enrolments for 2019**

Enrolments for 2019 are now open. If you are an existing family and have a child coming to school next year, please see Kellie at the front office and we can either send home an enrolment form or email it to you.



## St Patrick's Day Mass-Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March

The 2018 school captains have been invited to join a lot of the other Catholic schools in Melbourne to go to the St. Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate St. Patrick's day. Whilst representing our school. I was privileged to hold our school banner with fellow school captain, Isabelle which filled me with pride.

After the mass at the cathedral, the other school captains, teachers and I made our way to the Treasury Gardens where there were heaps of fun activities and a concert. The activities included tug of war, chicken throw, soccer, dodgeball and much more.

Overall, it was a fun, enjoyable day and I was very lucky to take part in having a fun day.

–Jai Krnac.

Today the school captains went to Saint Patrick's Cathedral to represent our school. Some Year 5's came along with us too. Lots of Catholic Primary and Secondary schools came as well to represent their school.

After the big mass, we went to take a photo with a statue of Saint Mary MacKillop. Then we went to the Treasury Gardens to eat and do activities. The activities that were there were soccer, dodgeball, colour tag, chicken throwing and pulling the rope. There was also a stage and people were singing. I think that us year 6's were so lucky to be there and we had heaps of fun.

-Noah Pascale



## St Mary MacKillop Primary School-Production

Yesterday marked the official start of the Production process!! Under the coordination of Miss Sarah Cornish, SMMPS will proudly present 'Legends of Rock'

Starting this week, Year 5 and 6 students will create, collaborate, rehearse and refine every Monday, while the Year 3 and 4 students will meet every Friday. Junior school levels will begin their Production journey at the end of Term 2.

Production date: Tuesday 16th October

\*Please advise your child's classroom teacher if your child will be absent on this day/night or for any great length of time in the lead up to Production

Production Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre

Watch this space for more information about the process, call outs, tickets etc..

Below: Images of Year 5 students engaged in a drama lesson on focus





## Year 5 Immigration Museum and Melbourne Walk Excursion

On Tuesday 6th of March, 5 Green and 5 Blue went on an excursion to the Immigration Museum. We went by bus and when we got there, we went into a big room and sat down at a table. On the table, there were suitcases, chests and baskets that had artefacts in them. The artefacts told us about an immigrant's story. We had to guess where the immigrants came from and what their journey was like. The museum was full of old artefacts that told how immigration has changed Australia throughout the years.

Then we went on a walk around the Yarra River. During the walk, we learnt about how Indigenous people used to fish. We saw some carvings of rocks of Indigenous Australians.

I am very interested in immigration after this excursion and for my project will focus on how immigration has impacted Indigenous Australians. **Nicholas 5 Blue**

### Immigration Museum

At the immigration museum, we were placed into groups. Each group had a suitcase on the table. We firstly had to work out what year we thought our suitcase was, then we had to open the suitcase and decide on who the suitcase belonged to. We discovered that our migrant was a Russian born Jewish man and his name was Sidney Myers who arrived in Melbourne in 1899 with no money. He eventually became wealthy and opened the first Myer store. Our group found this interesting and we really enjoyed dressing up and learning about this immigrant with the items found in his suitcase and looking through other items such as maps and documents.



By Petar, Angie and Ajak (5Y)

### Immigration Museum



On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 5 Red and 5 Yellow took a trip to Melbourne City to visit the Immigration Museum. After a morning of exploring different immigrant's suitcases, the students were able to reflect on different immigrants journeys and why they came to Australia. After trekking through the city, we then meet our next



tour guide at Federation Square where we were introduced to many different Indigenous Australian, their traditions and how they lived before the immigration of Europeans. "I loved it. It was so much fun and exciting." "I enjoyed the dress ups and learning about different immigrants." "My favourite part was making paint from sand and berries, just like the Indigenous Australians used to make." "Our excursion made learning fun." "The excursion was awesome. got to experience things I usually would not get a chance to."

5 Red

# PMP

## Week Eight PMP:

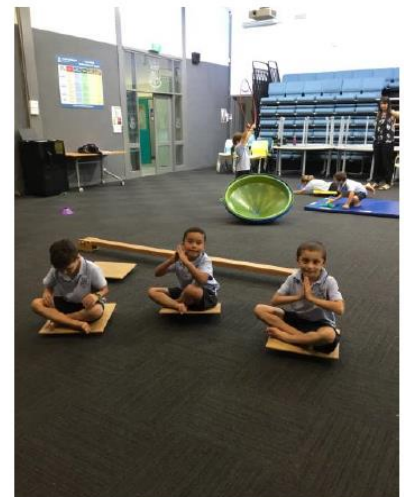
Year One students are completing their last week of PMP for Term 1 this Thursday. It has been an exceptional term for students in regards to their fine and gross motor skill development. I have enjoyed watching students challenge themselves each week to improve on a skill they have been practicing or by trying something new.

A huge thank you and sincere gratification goes out to all PMP Parent Helpers for this term. Your dedication and involvement each week is what makes the PMP program run so efficiently and effectively. Without you, PMP could not happen. Therefore I would like to personally thank:

Sofija Ivancic  
Stephanie Aquilina  
Tina Potter  
Zorka Dunstan  
Stana Guerrisi  
Andrea Rosa  
Pauline Symanond  
Narelle Galea  
Skye Rando  
Vicky Parisella  
Jessica Bruzzaniti  
Danielle Fraser  
Andrea Skourou  
Jennifer Brantcisanio

Next Term the Prep students will begin their PMP classes each Thursday. Parents please take the time over the holidays to practice preparing students with putting their shoes and socks on/off. Velcro shoes are most effective for PMP classes. I wish everyone a safe and happy Easter break.

*Corinne Clarke*





# SPORTS NEWS



## St Mary Mackillop Sydenham District Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday the 6th of March, 24 students from years 4, 5 and 6 all had the privilege of versing other schools at the Sydenham District Swimming Carnival. St Mary Mackillop Primary School did really well throughout the day, finishing 4th out of all the schools! We are all very proud of our results, especially swimming against a lot of other schools. Congratulations to the year 4 students who attended, as it was their first time at the swimming championships and they all did a fantastic job.

We have to give a big mention to Josephine Ibrahim who came first place in Backstroke in the 11 Girls race and to the 9/10 Girls Freestyle Relay team for coming 2<sup>nd</sup> and to all the other participants who placed. We all had fun cheering and swimming!

We would like to thank all the teachers and parents who supervised and cheered us on, and we would like to give a big thank you to Mr Maxwell and all the other teachers who made this whole day run so smoothly.

*Written by Georgia Traynor and Toby Boorman*

## Interschool Sports

### **5/6 Interschool Sports Results – ROUND 5 vs. Monmea Primary School**

**Teeball** – Girls Won (5-0 runs)  
Boys Lost (7-4 runs)

**Football** – BYE

**Hot Shots** – Girls Won (8-4 of 12 sets)  
Boys Lost (0-12 of 12 sets)

**Netball** – Girls Won (20-3)  
Mixed Lost (10-1)

**Soccer** – Girls Won (3-0)  
Boys Draw (1-1)

## Upcoming Sports Events

Round Six Interschool Sports (MMKD vs. Sydenham Hillside, Sydenham Campus) – **Friday March 23**

Keilor Division Swimming Championships – **Tuesday March 20**

SMMPS Cross Country Trials – **Wednesday March 28**







## LOTE INCURSION

### ST MARY MACKILLOP'S

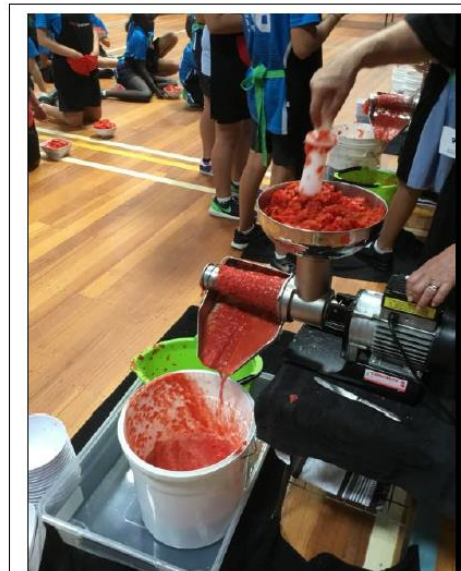
#### 'PASSATA' MAKING DAY.-Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March

There was an air of excitement amongst the Year 6 students eager to experience an amazing Italian tradition.

'Bigpocket' Production ran fantastic and super organised workshop with the children. Jill and her wonderful team delivered an engaging workshop where every child was stimulated in an authentic and real life experience of 'passata' making. There were plenty of 'hands on' activities happening, teamwork and a sense of accomplishment and pride at the end of it all. The very thought of bringing home their 500ml jar of their own 'passata' gave the students a sense of achievement. They were thrilled! Another highlight of the workshop was that all students had a taste test of pre-cooked 'sugo' / sauce with crusty bread and parmesan cheese.

Congratulations, to all of the students for their cooperation, their effort and manners, which they displayed during the workshop. **'BRAVISSIMI!'**

Signora Sarina Commisso



## Lote Incursion Continued...

The whole year six level made our very own 'passata' 'in a jar and we were taught the process of how to make it. 'Passata' is an Italian tradition that brings the family together. We sliced the tomatoes, squeezed the juice out, and then placed the tomatoes into the machine and filled our jars with the 'passata' . The 'Passata' jars, were boiled in a big urn. We learnt that 'Passata' is the preserved tomatoes. When it is cooked ,it is called 'sugo'. (TIA NGUYEN)

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March I made passata with my fellow peers. The process was long and slightly hard but I had a very enjoyable experience and it was a memorable time. (HANNA)

Signora Tassone from the Big Pocket Company started the incursion with an amazing performance, that made us super excited for the passata making . The part that we were waiting anxiously for was the taste testing. Signora Tassone showed us how to cook the passata. We got to eat the sugo with parmesan cheese on crusty bread. It was delicious. (REBECCA AND GURLEEN)





# Leadership Incursion



On the 15th of March, the Grade 6s had a leadership incursion, called *ASPIRE*, to help us understand the meaning of being a leader. Peter, who had come from Queensland, led the day by helping us to be better leaders for St Mary MacKillop Primary School. He showed us a range of fun and exciting activities and even shared a few laughs with us.

The first activity we did was helping us to collaborate with others and learning how to work as a team. Firstly, we found a partner that we have never worked with before and Peter showed us a

couple of handshakes that we did with our partner. We also talked with our partner about what our favorite holiday was, who we went with and also our worst injury. We played a game where we had to pull each other up without putting our hands on the floor and we did that in groups of 2, 4, 6 and 8. It was challenging but so much fun.

After lunch/break, we had an epic race. In the epic race, we had to work in a team to complete activities inside and outside the Penola Building. Some of the activities were making a puzzle, trying to tap the ball up 25 times, holding the ball up in the air without our hands and making a track with pipes for a marble to go through. After completing all or most of the activities, we went back inside and gave shout-outs to members in our team for something great they did. Even the teachers gave shout outs to teams who worked really well!

Overall, the whole day was fun and exciting and the entire Grade 6s learnt something new like working well as a team. We also discovered you do not need a badge to be a leader and we experienced fun and helpful games for becoming a leader. The biggest highlight for me was the epic race. Thank you Peter for the most enjoyable day.  
Yasmine Wong (6G)





## Year 4 Excursion to La Trobe University Wildlife Sanctuary

On Thursday we went to La Trobe University Wildlife Sanctuary. Our guide was Ruth. She showed us mysterious creatures in the water of the wildlife swamp. Then we went to a classroom that had water from the swamp. We used pipettes and plastic spoons to scoop up invertebrates and looked at them under the microscopes. We also went for a bushwalk and saw a possum in it's local habitat, a big tree that was 500 years old and a very old, wrecked car that animals now live in. We also saw a rainbow lorikeet. That was our trip to La Trobe University Wildlife Sanctuary. By Sienna and Maddy from 4 Red



Net-dipping was a really, exciting activity. We were catching macroinvertebrates that live just under the water in a pond. A water boatman was one of the most common macroinvertebrates we found. Their body is an oval like shape with two wing like flippers on the sides. These are used to move around the healthy pond a bit like a the oars on a rowing boat. By Stevie, Joshua and Darko 4 Yello



# Phonics and Spelling Parent Information Session

*Facilitated by David Hornsby*



**WHEN:** Monday May 7th

**TIME:** 7.00 - 8.30pm

**WHERE:** Multi Purpose Room

SMMPS would like to invite all Parents and Caregivers to attend an information evening exploring the place of **Phonics and Spelling** at our school. We are pleased to have David Hornsby a highly respected education consultant and author host the evening. Some of the topics David will address include:

- *What are the spelling strategies?*
- *How can we help our children with spelling?*
- *Why is phonics always in the news?*
- *Debunking some of the myths around phonics*
- *Why can't phonics work without meaning?*
- *Teaching phonics, in context, and as one of the essential spelling strategies*
- *What's the place of spelling lists?*

David has worked with the staff of SMMPS and shared his knowledge of using authentic literature to teach Phonics and Spelling. Many of the strategies David will discuss are implemented in our English program and across other learning areas.

We would love to have you join us for the evening. If you are interested in attending please complete the CareMonkey form.

**Please Note:** This information session is for **Parents / Caregivers only**.





## Enrolment Year 7, 2020

Enrolment Information Evening  
Wednesday 21 March, 2018 at 7pm  
For parents of students in Grade 5, 2018  
Bookings not required

## 2018, Term 1 Tour

Wednesday, 21 February at 9am  
Bookings required  
Phone: 9361 5900  
Email: [office@crcnk.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@crcnk.vic.edu.au)



Catholic  
Regional College  
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THE YEAR OF

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