

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue. Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

[www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)

T: 03 9367 6199



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Community,

## WELCOME TO THE 2019 SCHOOL YEAR

On behalf of Monsignor Portelli, Fr. Paul and all our staff here at SMMPS, I offer you all a very warm welcome to the school year. I trust that all new families and children feel welcome and at home in our school. We are excited to welcome 98 Prep children who are joining us this year. We look forward to journeying with them as they grow and learn together.

This is my thirteenth year as principal leader of our school. It has been an absolute privilege as I have walked with the children of our school, as they have grown from excited, but nervous five year olds, starting school, through to the fine young people they become as they graduate from SMMPS seven years later. I am always very proud of our children and sincerely am personally committed to ensuring that each child has the best education possible in the safest environment we can provide.

## Upcoming Events

### Term 1

#### **Wednesday 13 February**

Year 3 Reconciliation Information  
Night-7pm more details soon

#### **Wednesday 20 February**

Parent Meet and Greet 1.00pm-  
6.00pm

#### **Thursday 21 February**

Parent Meet and Greet 3.45pm-  
6.00pm

#### **Monday 25 February - Wednesday 27 February**

Year 5 Camp

#### **Friday 1 March and Monday 4 March**

School Photos

#### **Monday 11 March**

Labour Day Public Holiday

#### **Tuesday 12 March**

School Closure-details soon

#### **Thursday 14 March**

Year 3 First Reconciliation-7pm

#### **Wednesday 20 March**

Families as Partners in Learning  
1.30pm-3.00pm or 7pm-8.30pm-see  
flyer

#### **Friday 05 April**

Last day of Term 1-school finishes  
at 1.00pm

In some ways the 'shoe is on the other foot' for me this year. My granddaughter, Ivy, started school this year. I wonder where the past five years have gone, as our precious baby has grown and is now making her own way, as she begins navigating school life. I face timed Ivy on her first day. She was keen to tell me about her friends and school, but had to go, "Pappy, I have homework to do"! You can't but love your little ones!

I tell this story to reassure you all, that I understand exactly the love and care you have for your children and will always do my absolute utmost to provide the best I can here for your children as they journey through our school.

In the words of St. Mary MacKillop,

***'God's will and glory and in these, the good of our children is alone what we seek.'*** 1873

We are a school in the name of St. Mary MacKillop, under whose patronage and care, we look to for inspiration.

Mary was a role model in faith, word and deed for all people. For that reason, Mary is now a saint of our Church.

Mary reminded us in 1882, to

***"Do all you can to work on in unity. In unity is our strength."***

So, I implore you all, parents, teachers and children to work in unity, so we can have a happy school, where all people feel safe, welcome and able to learn together.

Have a wonderful year together everyone.



**Anthony McCluskey**  
**Principal**

### **2019 Term Dates**

**Term 1:** Thursday 31 January-Friday 05 April  
(note: Easter 19-22 April)

**Term 2:** Tuesday 23 April-Friday 28 June

**Term 3:** Monday 15 July-Friday 20 September

**Term 4:** Monday 7 October-Wednesday 18 December  
(Year 6 students finish on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December)

## WELCOME

**Beside welcoming 98 Prep children and their families, we also welcome 8 new children, across Years 1-6, together with their families.**

**Welcome also to our new staff members:**

**Lucy Vassallo:** Religious Education Leader

**Sandra Lind:** Learning Diversity Leader

**Stephanie Adam:** Year 4 teacher

**Tayla Christodoulou:** Year 4 teacher

**Joshua Anderson:** Year 5 teacher

**Nicki Wierzbowski:** Learning Support Officer

**Taylah Melki:** Admin Support

**Luke Murphy:** Admin Support

**Tayla Rees:** ACU Student Teacher

**Leonie Seisun:** ACU Student Teacher

**Olivia Kapodistrias:** ACU Student Teacher

*(Our ACU Student teachers will be supporting teachers in the classroom 2-3 days a week over the whole school year.)*

### **PARENT/TEACHER MEET and GREET**

It is really important that you take the time to meet with your child's class teacher for 2019. To this end we have scheduled a **Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet on:**

**Wednesday 20 February 1.00pm- 6.00pm**

**Thursday 21 February 3:45pm- 6:00pm**

**Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet** is an ideal opportunity for you to tell us something about your child. You may wish to discuss social and emotional needs, academic strengths and weaknesses, health issues etc. we want to know your child and who better to tell us about your child, than you the parent.

There is no need to schedule a meeting if your child is in Prep, as Prep teachers are meeting with parents on Wednesdays over the next weeks.

A letter will be available this week on Caremonkey.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication between the school and home is vital.

Please make sure you supply an up to date mobile numbers and email addresses to the school office.



**Newsletter**-A comprehensive and detailed Newsletter, is emailed to parents and carers every second Tuesday. It is also available on our website. [www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au) or our skoolbag app.



**Skoolbag**- Is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all school communications. If your child is absent due to illness, an appointment, a family holiday etc, you can complete an eform via the app.

**Stay informed with the SkoolBag App**

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

- 1 Download the app**  
Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store
- 2 Create an account**  
Sign up in seconds with your email address
- 3 Add your school**  
Search for your school and add your subscription groups

SkoolBag

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a light blue background. It features an illustration of a man and a woman looking at a large smartphone screen. The screen displays a notification from the SkoolBag app. To the right of the illustration is a smaller image of the app's interface on a smartphone. The text is arranged in a clear, step-by-step format.



**Care Monkey**- Is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form for schools with a duty of care. It's an electronic version of the paper based forms you would normally complete for excursions, camps, enrolments, etc. It provides parent's the opportunity to update medical information promptly and accurately while providing the school with instant access to the emergency information provided by you.

CareMonkey offers the school and families the following:

- Up to date emergency information
- Mobile access
- Electronic permission forms
- Multi-use care profile for families

You can download the free CareMonkey app for iPhone and Android smartphones, iPad and Android tablets and have access to your family care profiles on these mobile devices.

For further information on the features please visit the website: <http://www.caremonkey.com>

## ***Child Safety at Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School SMMPs Commitment to Child Safety***

At ***Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School*** we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel ([CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)).

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school (Congregation for Catholic Education 1997, n. 9).

We have zero tolerance to child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

In the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop, we want children to feel safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers.

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.

Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

## **Further to our commitment to Child Safety, we prioritise the physical health of our children also....**

With an estimated 1 in 20 children suffering from food allergies and **approximately 45 children in our school being diagnosed with being at risk of a potentially life threatening food allergy – anaphylaxis**, it is important that we as a community take the risk of severe allergic reactions seriously. Whilst we can never create a completely 'safe, allergen free' environment for students diagnosed with allergies, we can certainly help reduce the risk if everyone does their bit.

### **A few small steps can make our school a safer place for all children:**

1. Talk to your child about the importance of not sharing food at school, and washing their hands after lunch.
2. Avoid packing foods with nuts or other allergens if requested by your child's class teacher.
3. If you are uncertain about sending an item to school please check with your child's teacher.
4. Take 10 minutes with your children to see if they are allergy aware
5. Read the school's anaphylaxis policy on our website or follow the link. [Anaphylaxis Policy](#)

### **Are you allergy aware? Take the test and see.**

Do you...

1. Understand that allergies can be life threatening? Up to 10 Australians die from mostly preventable allergic reactions and thousands more require emergency treatment. Be aware that even very small amounts of food can trigger life threatening allergic reactions.
2. Know about your child's school/preschool/day care allergy policies/guidelines? Your school can inform you on what safety strategies they need you to help them with. Always stick to the safety strategies that have been implemented – yes, they do make a difference! Remember, no one chooses to have food allergies.

3. Know someone with a food allergy? If you do, talk with them or their parents about the triggers, symptoms, first aid procedures and ask them for hands-on training in the use of the EpiPen - an auto-injector containing adrenaline which reverses the symptoms of severe allergic reactions.
4. Talk with your children about food allergy? If not, then take some time to do so - chances are they have someone in their school class, soccer team or ballet lesson with the condition.

For more information on allergies visit the AAI website: [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au)

## **PARENT FACILITIES**

If parents/carers or toddlers supervised by their parent or carers or need to use a WC, we request that you do not use the children's' toilets. We have installed a new WC in the hallway next to the sickbay. This WC is for the use of parents/carers or toddlers supervised by their parent or carers.

We have made this request as this action also supports our child safety initiatives. In short, if a staff member sees an adult in the children's WC, they know to inquire and direct the adult to the correct facility.

**Quite simply, it is all about keeping your kids safe.**

## **CAR PARK and drop off and pick up**

I ask you to remain ever vigilant in using the school grounds for dropping off, picking up and parking. Do not double park or speed. Move very slowly as little children are running everywhere and as we know are most unpredictable.

**IT IS TO YOU AS DRIVERS PARKING OR WAITING FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND YOU AS PARENTS or CARERS WALKING YOUR CHILDREN THROUGH THE CAR PARK TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE.**

As a courtesy, our staff are circulating, but it not their responsibility to remind you of basic manners on the road or in the car park.

**If everyone cooperates we will continue to have a safe school. THANK-YOU**

***Just some reminders:***

***-the rear carpark needs to be cleared by 9:10am as Phys.Ed. and Sport Lessons begin at this time.***

***-the back car park gate is locked at 9:15 am and re-opened at around 2.30pm to 2.45 pm.***

## SCHOLASTIC-BOOK CLUB

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of books and the joy and benefits of independent reading for fun. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our school is participating in Scholastic Book Club this year. Up to twice a term, during the school year, we will send home a Club catalogue with a different selection of books offered for all ages.

You'll find award-winning books and bestsellers, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children's reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as \$2).

It is easy to order. The Book Club LOOP platform for parents allows you to pay by credit card. Your child's order is submitted directly to school safe and sound and the books will be delivered to class. You can place your child's order at [scholastic.com.au/ LOOP](http://scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Owning your own books is something special! We hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our classrooms and library however, there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Please see the attached flyer on how to register for LOOP (the online ordering platform).

**The 1<sup>st</sup> issue will be sent home this week and all orders must be in no later than 2pm Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February.**

Kind regards,

Anna Yorston

Book Club Co-Ordinator





Introducing

 SCHOLASTIC

# Book Clubs **LOOP** for Parents

**NOW  
AVAILABLE  
AS AN APP!**



**LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online  
Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.**

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

**Log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!**

- For a quick start, just click on **ORDER** in the top menu or **REGISTER** first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child's class
- Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date
- There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) and click on **HELP** in the top menu.



## **Families as Partners In Learning**

At SMMPS we value family / school partnerships as a way of working together collaboratively to nurture and support your child's learning journey. These partnerships are a great way to connect learning at home and at school. In fact, research suggests that students do better at school when families are involved in their child's learning.

With this in mind, we will be hosting an afternoon and evening session with our English Leader, Anna Yorston and Maths Leader, Aaron Kuras on how you can best support your child at home with learning. Anna and Aaron will provide you with helpful tips and handy hints when it comes to Reading, Spelling, Times Tables etc.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, 20th March

**TIME:** Session 1: 1.30pm-3pm

**OR**

Session 2: 7pm - 8.30pm

**WHERE:** Venue to be confirmed

**SAVE** this date in your diary and look out for more information to come via CAREMONKEY.

**Rita Krnac-Leader of Learning and Teaching**

