

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue. Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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Upcoming Events

Term 1

Wednesday 20 March

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

Wear Purple Day-Project
Compassion

Friday 05 April

Last day of Term 1-school finishes
at 1.00pm

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Community,

Our School Vision, in part, states, **'We live and celebrate our Catholic faith.'** Over the past week we have very much lived and celebrated our Catholic faith. I was proud to join with Lucy Vassallo (RE Leader), Anthony D'Amico (DP) Sarah Fogarty (Year 6 teacher) and the twelve members of our SRC, School Captains included, at the Catholic Education Week Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 15 March.

Most Catholic primary and secondary schools were represented at this Mass. It was a spectacular sight with many young people gathered in their school uniforms. A particular highlight was the procession of banners, where each school marched into their Cathedral with their school banner.

As Christians we are called to be people of hope. Our young people gathered in celebration gives us much cause to hope!





Congratulations to our School Captains, Jessica, Emma, Jin and Apollo, who received their badges on Monday and their blazer, which they wear to special events.



Our School Captains spoke at our Prep Information Sessions 2020. They spoke well and sold our school to new families. I was really proud of their efforts.

We do have much to celebrate here at SMMPS!
Have a wonderful week everybody.

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

I also include with this Newsletter an article published by Michael Grose, on how you might talk to your child about the tragic events that occurred in New Zealand recently. I include the article as a resource if you chose to use it at home.

Notice to Parents in Year 6 Students-Transition to Year 7 at State Government Schools

Like us, you have possibly been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Year 6-7 Transition information packs for government schools for this year. According to the published timeline, these were to be provided to schools by today. Late yesterday we were informed that the packs have been delayed and that we should be provided with further advice shortly.

Advice on the Education Department [website](#) is: **Transition materials for 2019-2020 will be available for parents from their child's primary school and on this page from 23 April 2019.**

We apologise for this disruption to the process. Rest assured we have expressed the difficulties this delay creates for schools.

Canteen Days-Term 1

Pie Day- 3rd April-**orders close 7pm 28th March**

All orders must be placed on flexischools.com.au.



If you have never used flexischools, get on the website, set up an account and it will debit your bank account or credit card.

SHE WHO SUCCEEDS



Applications for Year 7 in 2021 close on Friday, 23 August 2019.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.avemaria.vic.edu.au

LEARNING AND TEACHING

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.

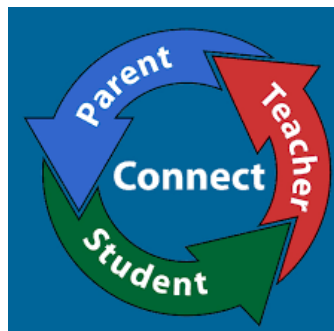
WHEN: Wednesday, 20th March

TIME: Session 1: 1.30pm-3pm

OR Session 2: 7pm - 8.30pm

WHERE: Multi Purpose Room

Rita Krnac-Leader of Learning and Teaching



YEAR 2 SCIENCE INCURSION

WOW! Amazing! So Cool!

These were some of the words expressed by the year 2 children who thoroughly enjoyed an interactive science incursion last Thursday and Friday.



Using a range of materials including plasticine, straws, water, wax, foil and more, the children took on the role of scientists as they investigated, tested and formulated questions about items that float and sink, forces (push and pull) and movement on land.

Below you can read some of the learning articulated by the children.



"I liked the rocket because it went so high" Maxi 2R

"I really enjoyed the incursion and I especially liked making the rockets. I learnt that if you want something to float in water it needs to be an oval shape." Tia 2B

"My rocket went really high and I got to take it home" Jacob 2R

"I enjoyed having a go at the different experiments. I learnt that the shape of an object can either make it float or sink" Sofia 2B

"We got some water and things that floated and didn't" Aiden, 2G



"My favourite part was making our own shapes to float" Elissa, 2Y

"It was tricky moving the brick with the pencils" Isabella 2G

"My favourite part was the challenge of moving the block without touching the table" Stefani 2Y



Religious Education News

Vol 3 March 19 2019

WEAR SOMETHING PURPLE On Wednesday, 20 March Gold Coin Donation

Purple is the Church's color for the Season of Lent. Wearing something purple, will remind us that we are in the Season of Lent which is about giving to others. Children may wear casual clothes, which includes wearing something purple! The money raised will go towards Caritas Australia. You can read about the great work Caritas does by going to:

<https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/schools#blank>



During the Season of

Lent, a Lenten action is that of almsgiving. We invite you to support Caritas Australia. This is an Australian organization that provides support to our poorer neighbours in Australia and around the world. Please continue to collect donations and when you have collected your donations, please return your project compassion box to school. This way we can track how much money we are raising for this worthy cause.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parent, Sponsor and child faith night
Thursday, March 28 at 7pm
St Mary of the Assumption Church

Our Year 6 students are beginning to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Part of this preparation is for parents, sponsors and their child to attend the faith night next week. A letter regarding this has been sent out via CareMonkey. A letter with further details about the Sacrament of Confirmation will be sent home on Friday this week.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is being celebrated on Saturday, May 18 at 12.30pm and 3pm.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK REFLECTION

On the 15th March we went to the beautiful cathedral of St Patrick to celebrate St Patrick's Day and Catholic Education Week. We learnt that saints are people found by God. We were inspired by the message of Saint Patrick and his influence on the Irish people. A key message for all of us was to be friends with God and others. Also, that each one of us is a saint.

After this inspiring event we attended a concert in the park, ate lunch and played games, including a tug of war (which we won). Some of us even went into the front of the mosh pit and we had a sing along party. Finally, we attended an art gallery and voted for the best artwork done by primary and secondary school students. Overall, it was a marvelous occasion to be part of.

By Jessica, Celeste, Thomas, Ethan, Apollo, Mikaela Alessia, Emma, Michael, Jin, Kiara and Valerie – Student leaders from Year 6.



SMMPS CHOIR

Congratulations to the SMMPS choir who led the singing for our Ash Wednesday Mass last week. Rehearsals continue to take place on Wednesdays at the first break. The choir will be preparing to support the Holy Week Reflection which will be held on Thursday, April 4 at 2.15pm

Courage, courage, trust in God who helps you in all things. (SMM)

Lucy Vassallo
Religious Education Leader
lvassallo@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

SPORT NEWS

YELLOW HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2019



Hi my name is Jamie Zeine and this year I have been chosen to represent Yellow house as sport captain at Saint Mary Mackillop Primary School. I've been in team Alexander or team Yellow for 6 years now and I'm trying to make the 7th year the best of all for everyone in Yellow house. I'm really confident Yellow house will definitely get at least one shield this year! To be honest I love every sport and I'm always willing to give any sport a go and just try it out, but in general my favourite sports are soccer and long distance running. These are my favourites because they are always the two that get me back up when I'm down and make me happy again. What I plan to do as sport captain

of Yellow house is lead us to victory and make every person in Yellow house cheer their teammate's off and on the track, it doesn't matter if we are in Cross country, Athletics or Swimming we should always cheer each other on!

WE ARE THE BEST CHUCK OUT THE REST WE ARE BLESSED FROM MARY MACKS NEST



Hi I am Danae Potter from **Yellow house**, here is a little bit about me: My favourite sport is athletics, in athletics my favourite events are high jump and long jump so I am super excited for athletics this year. I like to watch the AFL, my favourite AFL team is **Essendon (Go Bombers)!!!!**

As sports captain I plan on helping and supporting other people with sports and being a good role model in and out of school grounds. I am NOT the fastest and may not win everything but I will encourage my team or individuals to never give up and give everything a go. **GO YELLOW!**



BLUE HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2019

Hey guys,

I'm Amelia Fenech your Geoghegan (Blue house) sports captain for 2019. This year is going to be a blast especially in sport. Personally I love netball I play for a living for hurricane netball club, I also love gymnastics and dancing. I've done dancing for five years but after I finished dancing I started playing netball. As Geoghegan sports captain I plan to give everyone the opportunity to try new sports and if anytime anywhere someone needs help even if it's as simple as throwing or kicking a ball I'm always there to help. Something to always remember when you're doing sport if you get knocked down always get back up again (exactly like the song). I hope everyone enjoys this year! Thank you guys I personally think this is going to be the best year yet.

Signing off,

Amelia



!GO GEOGHAN BLUE HOUSE!



Hi, my name is Michael Simic, but I am also known as Mikey. I am one of the Blue House Captains and I have a great passion for sport. The sport that I love and cherish the most is the beautiful game of Soccer. My main interests are playing Soccer, Tennis and going for bike rides. The role of Sport Captain is very important. It includes many ways to help with things that are sports related and bringing the school community together. My plan is to help Mr Maxwell and Miss Clarke set up for sporting activities in the morning and assist students that are struggling in any way. I will encourage and give confidence to any student who may not like sport to find that it can be really fun. I look forward to cheering my fellow Blue house team mates and most importantly be a memorable and inspiring Sport Captain.

C'mon Blue House!

GREEN HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2019



My name is James Mai and I represent Green house and also have a big love for sport. My favourite sport that I would play is probably soccer and an interest that I have is getting better at Tee ball. Being sport Captain is an important role and the things I would plan to do is help Mr Maxwell and Miss Clarke set up the sport equipment needed for the day, help children who struggle at playing sport and want to get better, cheer on the people that are nervous when participating at sport events, make sport more enjoyable for those who don't like sport and most importantly, motivate others who do play sport to do the best they can. I can encourage my house by motivating them to get better at sport and also help them practice to get better. Most importantly, I'll be a great role model to younger ones looking to also be Sport Captain!

Let's go Green House!

Hello my name is Mia Tomassi and I am one of the new sports captain for Green house/Woods!
I absolutely LOVE sports and it is such a great honor to be sports captain.



My favorite sport is soccer I even play for a soccer team called Calder United. Sport/soccer is my life, I am always active and always doing something. To me being a sport captain is all about encouragement, working together, team spirit and most importantly **FUN!**

As sport captain I plan to make activities fun for Green house and other students, I will also encourage and support ALL students to be the best they can be and try their hardest. I am so excited to be able to help run sport carnivals and help Mr Maxwell and Miss Clarke.

Like I said this is such a great honour to be sports captain and I will try my hardest to be a great role model and be the best person I can be.


I believe this year will be **AMAZING** and let's go **GREEN HOUSE!**



RED HOUSE CAPTAINS FOR 2019



Hello everybody,
My name is Alex Galea and I am in 6 yellow. I am the McDonalds sport captain for 2019. My favourite sport is soccer and I am the biggest Liverpool fan.



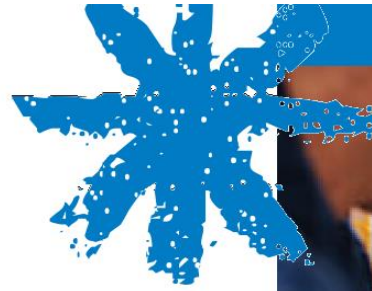
As a sport captain this year I would like to make a soccer game teachers vs students. I would also like to do a fun run that will include bringing a gold coin that would go to charity. I would love to win the team spirit cup for Red house because we only have won it once, back in 2013 five years ago. And I would also like to get the most points in Cross Country if possible.
So I am Alex Galea the Red House Captain for this year 2019.

‘Sport is the love of my life and no one can ever stop me from doing it. Sport is very important to me and that is why I want to become a sport captain to encourage young graders to be brave and to never ever give up’.

My name is Josephine Ibrahim and I am a **Red House** sports captain for 2019. I love to play soccer, netball, swimming and athletics. I was born to do sport and I will never ever let anyone stop me even if the whole world was against me! As a sport captain, I will encourage everyone to never give up and to support them in any situation and problem. I love to help when it comes to playing sport and especially my team. By the way..... **GO RED HOUSE!!!!!!!!!!**



insights



Responding constructively to the Christchurch shooting

by Michael Grose

Last Friday's shooting of innocent people in two Christchurch mosques is an event that has shaken people to the core worldwide.

While we'd like to protect our children from such events, in reality it's impossible, as the news coverage is so widespread and the event itself has impacted so many people. The personal nature of this particular tragedy makes it even harder to stomach than some recent natural disasters that have made the news, as awful as they have been.

So how do you approach this with your children? There is no easy answer, but be assured that your child will benefit from talking to you. These ideas may help:

Be available

Let your child or young person know that it is okay to talk about the events in Christchurch. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

Filter the news

While we don't advocate censorship, we do suggest that you take particular care about your child's exposure to news events. The consistency of images can be frightening for young children who don't understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Older children and teenagers will probably be interested in the news events, but they probably need an adult available to answer their questions and reassure them.

Engage in the news with older children

Many issues are now arising from this event that may be of significant interest to older primary-aged children and teenagers. Be prepared to engage in discussions about political leadership, gun laws, the coverage of the event itself by the media and other issues that will emerge. Increasingly, young people are demonstrating that they want to have a voice in shaping the world they live in. Give them a chance to air their concerns and formulate their ideas in the safe confines of home.

Manage emotions raised

The Christchurch tragedy may raise many emotions for children and young people including sadness over the loss

of life, confusion over how such an event could happen, and outrage over injustice. Take your cues from your children and follow the threads that emerge. Demonstrate that you understand how that they may be upset and clarify their emotions if possible: "It's understandable to be angry when you hear news like this."

Moderate your language

Currently, we live in very divisive times. The fact that this shooting was carried out on one particular group demonstrates just the extent of the divisiveness of our community. Encourage kids to be inclusive, steering clear of valued-laden, extreme language such as 'terrorists', 'evil' and 'horrors' when describing the events and the alleged perpetrators. Not only does this type of language encourage children and young people to take a position rather than focus on the problems, it risks desensitising them to the reality of the impact of this event. The use of more sedate, yet descriptive language such as 'gunman', 'awful' and 'tragedy' can take remove the emotional sting, while demonstrating the enormity of the event's impact.

Keep to a normal routine

Your child may feel powerless. You may feel the same way as that's what events like the Christchurch shooting does to us. Maintaining the same sleeping, eating and daily routines can help to restore a sense of control over our daily lives.

Show them how to change the world

Arguably, these are the worst of times in terms of social divisiveness. Our children in many ways are letting us know that they don't want to continue living this way. So how can they have an impact? Recently a timely clue came my way in the form of a notification from Facebook. Over the weekend, a parent shared an existing message to her Muslim friends as a message of hope. The quote reads:

"Don't become too pre-occupied with your child's academic ability, but instead teach them to sit with those sitting alone. Teach them to be kind. Teach them to offer help. Teach them to be a friend to the lonely. Teach them to encourage others. Teach them to think about other people. Teach them to share. Teach them to look for the good. This is how they will change the world."

We get that power back when we start to impact the people around us in small ways, making positive changes for the better.

'Kindness', 'helping others', 'encouraging', 'sharing' and similar concepts don't make great political slogans but they form the basis of every strong community- which is precisely what kids need.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.