

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue. Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Community,

We have come to the end of our first term together for the 2019 school year. We have much to celebrate.

I sincerely thank all of our staff for their hard work, determination and commitment to the task of caring for and educating the children of SMMPS. Whatever their role in our school their contribution as an educator and role model is most important to the formation of our children as whole and rounded individuals.

We acknowledge and know that it is important that our children know the basics, that is, to read, write and count. However, we also know and explicitly state in our school vision that we want our children to learn-

to be- *know who they are as they grow in wisdom and become comfortable and confident in themselves.*

to know- *grow in knowledge*

to do- *learn skills*

to live together- *work together, collaborating, respecting differences,*

to change- *adapt to changing situations*

Our task is to effectively engage the students within our classroom.

This is becoming an increasingly difficult task as our children have instant access and gratification in their world today. Interestingly, YouTube is the most utilised search engine in the world today. Kids and often adults don't even want to read for information. You Tube provides an immediate visual video clip.

Upcoming Events

Term 1

Friday 05 April

Last day of Term 1-school finishes at 1.00pm

Term 2

Tuesday 23 April

School resumes for Term 2 at 9.00am

Thursday 25 April

Anzac Day Public Holiday

Friday 3 May

2020 Prep Enrolment Forms Due

Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 16 May

Year 3 and Year 5 Naplan

Saturday 18 May

Year 6 Confirmation-12.30pm & 3.00pm

Monday 20 May

School Closure Day-More Details Soon

Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 May

Year 3 and Year 5 Naplan

Wednesday 22 May

Year 3 Eucharist Family Night at 7.00pm

Saturday 22 June

Year 3 Sacrament of First Eucharist-12.30pm and 2.30pm

Friday 28 June

End of Term 2-School finishes at 1pm

Our teaching style needs to be interactive and a learner centered environment. Gone are the days of teachers delivering content with little to no interaction. Kids want and need:

- **Visual** as opposed to **verbal**
- **Try and See** rather than **sit and listen**
- **Facilitated teaching** not **command and control**
- **Collaboration** over **silence**
- **Open book world** not **closed book exams**.

Our classrooms must be **Real, Relevant, Responsive and Relational**.

When we consider the **Relational** aspect of our work here at SMMPS, our emphasis on the development of Social Emotional Learning is an essential element. Social emotional learning develops pro social behaviours and attitudes, empathy and team work. It is a critical element for the promotion of positive mental health. We have put significant emphasis on making these skills an important part of our day to day work with students as well as specific planning of curriculum. We are making our contribution to helping our students build to their potential, cope with the normal stressors of life and to contribute to their community.

I would like to hope we do all of the above well here at SMMPS. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but our Discovery, Passion Projects and 80/20 when done authentically, go a long way towards creating that learner centered environment. And we know there are many ways we can make our classrooms real, relevant, responsive and relational in our day to day lessons and interactions.

Our School Wide Positive Framework Model provides an effective framework to support children in learning acceptable behaviour within the context of our school setting. Our SWPBS Framework of Expectations are displayed both inside and outside of the buildings in various locations. We regularly ask the children, ***What does this expectation look like?*** We re-teach the expectations regularly and when a child makes a mistake, begin by re-teaching the expectation again. We always start by asking; ***Which expectation have you not lived up to?***

We know that 80% of children will grasp concepts with little effort, whilst 15% of the children may need some prompting and support. It is then suggested 5% of children will need intensive support. I am confident in stating that in our school of 602 enrolments, we would not have 5% of our children who would require intensive support. (5% being 30 children) In the main, the children who need that intensive support are diagnosed with a special need.

We are a school of which to be proud.

School Renovations....

As you know I am committed to school improvement. We are constantly renovating and improving our school buildings and facilities. We want our school to be a place children are proud to come to each day.

We have been renovating the Penola building (Year 6 Block) over this term. Hopefully all Year 6 classes will be back in the building at the beginning of Term 2. New furniture is to be delivered and we have installed lockers in Penola for the students.

In talking with students in Year 7 and staff from our secondary colleges, I was amazed to hear one of the biggest stressors for Year 7 students is managing lockers. We hope to remove this stress by introducing the students to lockers in Year 6 and it's also a great way for our students to keep their own belongings secure.

We look forward to showing this outstanding and modern educational facility to our school community early next term. Thanks to the Year 6 teachers and students for their patience with the renovations. I admire your joy and positivity.

We now look to doing paths around the new front gate and installing a secure entry.

We are hoping to start a complete refurbishment of the Mary of the Cross building (Year 2 and 3 classrooms) in Term 3 and we are also looking to tidying up the frontage of our school on Sunshine Avenue in front of the building.

Thank you to our exceptional Maintenance Team in Heath, Frank and James. They do a tremendous job in keeping this facility up to an excellent and noteworthy standard. Visitors who come to our school, always comment on the environment and facilities.

And over the holidays we are installing new soft fall under our playgrounds, extending the playgrounds with some new equipment and painting them up.

Have a peaceful and restful holiday everyone and may the spirit of the Christ be with you over the Easter period and always provide you with insight and fortitude.



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

WELCOME

We welcome to our school, **Mrs. Catherine Brawn**. Catherine is our new **First Aid Officer** and will look after the needs of children in sick bay. We look forward to Catherine's involvement in the life of our school.

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.

Catholic Regional College North Keilor

Education in Faith...Education for Life

Year 7, 2021 - Enrolment Now Open

Enrolment Information Parent Evening - Wednesday 20 March, 2019. Tour 6.15pm, Information Session 7pm



Faith



Compassion



Resilience



Respect

College Tours - Term 2, 2019

Tuesday 7 May, Friday 17 May, Thursday 6 June, Tuesday 25 June at 9.15am

Bring your child to learn about student life at CRCNK, meet the College Principal, chat to student leaders and share morning tea with Leadership and Enrolment staff

Bookings essential for all tours, please contact Mrs Samantha Beg, College Registrar
Phone: 9361 5904 or Email: enrol@cronk.vic.edu.au



1c Santa Monica Drive
Keilor Lodge VIC 3038
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www.cronk.com.au

2019 the Year of
Resilience

Religious Education News

Vol 4 April 1 2019

HOLY WEEK REFLECTION STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Parents are invited to come and pray with us as we gather for the Stations of the Cross.

This will be held on
Thursday, April 4 at 2.15pm
in the School Gym.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS ON WEAR SOMETHING PURPLE DAY

We have raised
\$523.00



at this stage for Project Compassion.

All money raised will go towards Caritas Australia.

Please return your project compassion box to school this week by

Thursday, 4 APRIL.

Thank you for your generosity.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Our Year 6 students, their parents and sponsors attended our Confirmation family night last week.

It was a very inspirational evening which gave the children, parents and sponsors the opportunity to reflect on the importance of this sacrament of initiation.

PARENTS PLEASE RETURN THE CONFIRMATION INFORMATION DETAILS BY THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

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

SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST



Eucharist Family Night Wednesday May 22 at 7.00pm.

More details to come next term.

SMMPSCHOIR

The SMMPS choir will be leading the singing for our Holy Week Reflection this Thursday afternoon April 4 at 2.15pm. Rehearsals continue to take place on Wednesdays at the first break. Many thanks to our students who have committed themselves to this important part of our school life.

I cannot forget that there is a dear good God watching over us. (SMM)

Lucy Vassallo

Religious Education Leader

lvassallo@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

Sacrament of Reconciliation-Year 3

On Thursday the 14th March, the year 3 students participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Throughout term 1, they learned about the four stages of Reconciliation and related their learning to the Scripture Stories of *The Prodigal Son* and *The Story of Zacchaeus*. On the night, the students conducted themselves reverently and made it a truly special evening. Here are some students' recollections of their first Reconciliation.

Anabel George (3Y)

Last night I was feeling nervous because I was shivering. At the end of Reconciliation I was feeling happy because all my sins were washed away. I was scared if I forgot a word. My highlight was sitting and waiting while listening to music which made me feel less nervous.

Alivia Garra's (3G)

Last night was a very Holy Night because we made our first Sacrament of the year. As I walked into the Church, I made the sign of the cross. Then, I sat down and prayed. Next it was time to move to the next place. My mum said you can do it! That gave me more confidence. When I got in, I wasn't that nervous. I said my sins to the priest. At the end, I got a St Mary MacKillop coin and I said to myself I will treasure this forever.

Chelsea Debrincat (3R)

On Thursday the 14th of March, I participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I felt a bit nervous at first but after that I warmed up to the priest and got a bit more confidence. I had Monseigneur Portelli who was my Reconciliation Priest that helped me to do it. When I lit the candle I felt excited and to light the candle means that you can start a new life. It can also mean that God and Jesus is our light.

Klara Sakic (3B)

On Thursday the 14th of March at 630pm my family and I drove to our church. We sat in the pews, I sat next to Ella and her family. We sang some songs and then we moved to a few more pews. We were about to make our Reconciliation. I felt nervous and my knees were shaking, it was almost my turn and I was waiting a little longer. Then it was my turn and I said the Act of Contrition and my sins. I went to say my penance and after that I found my Mum and Dad. We got a special coin from Mr McCluskey and then we left the church.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

Families as Partners In Learning

On Wednesday March 20th we held two information sessions briefing families on how they can best support their children at home with learning. We had over 100 parents attend and listen to Anna Yorston (English leader) and Aaron Kuras (Mathematics Leader) present how we teach English and Maths here at SMMPS. Both leaders provided key ideas, strategies and tips on how children best learn key concepts in English and Maths. It was a great way to connect learning at home and at school.

In Maths the main ideas presented were:

- Place value underpins number sense. A strong understanding of place value helps with calculation.
- Estimation improves your number sense and helps you to check if your answer is reasonable.
- The importance of learning number patterns to support number sense.
- It is better to solve one problem five different ways, than five problems only one way.

In English the main ideas presented were:

- Oral Language is the overarching umbrella that encompasses reading, writing and spelling.
- The various stages of reading and strategies children use to maintain comprehension.
- All writing communicates a message and the developmental stages of writing.
- Spelling is taught in context rather than through spelling tests.

If you would like copies of the handouts given out on the night they will be available from the front office.

Rita Krnac

Leader of Learning and Teaching



Prep PMP News Term 1

After three very successful information sessions where 40 interested parents attended, the Prep Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) has begun! Through parent involvement children's view of themselves as positive and successful learners is enhanced.

It has been exciting to see the children developing confidence, group and problem solving skills, literacy and numeracy concepts and perceptual skills in only a few short weeks.

A Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) aims to give children experiences in seeing, hearing, touching, processing, making perceptual judgements and reacting through carefully sequenced activities which children enjoy doing, like, jumping, crawling, throwing, balancing, skipping etc, using a variety of common and specially designed equipment.

Thank you to all who have committed their time and have become involved for the successful start of PMP 2019.

Prep Green

Marina Radic, Loretta Pizzicarola, Vicky Parisella (who helps in other classes as well), Vesna Stojceviski and Jenny Pisani.

Prep Blue

Samantha White, Lisa Todorovski, Anita Eres, Melissa Romano, Isabelle Jones, Lisa-Marie Malic, Sera Tobolov, Katia Morello, Joe Morello, Karen Camilleri-Le, Richelle Zealley, Joanne Georgiou, Nancy Arena and Janelle Langley-Dunn .

Prep Yellow

Christina Milicevic, Amanda Pinteric, Tanya Spera, Faye Laskaris, Jwan Habeeb, Marija Bourke and Maria Arganaraz (who helps in other classes as well).

Prep Red

Tina Pettinau, Saidy Taleb, Shelley Clements, Rebecca Buhagiar, Liz Pausic, Jinelle Borg, Mai Gilhooly, Christine Paladino, Marj Garcia and Lil Alp.

1 Blue

Sarah Xuereb

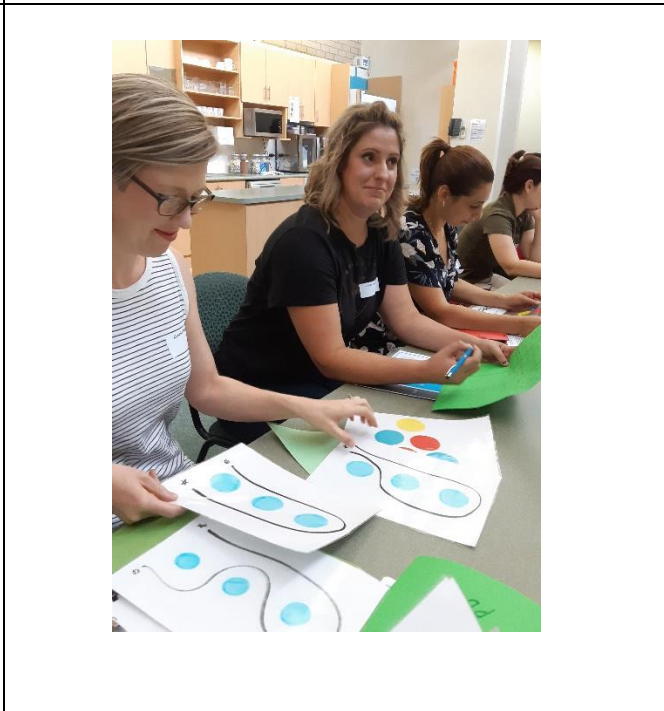
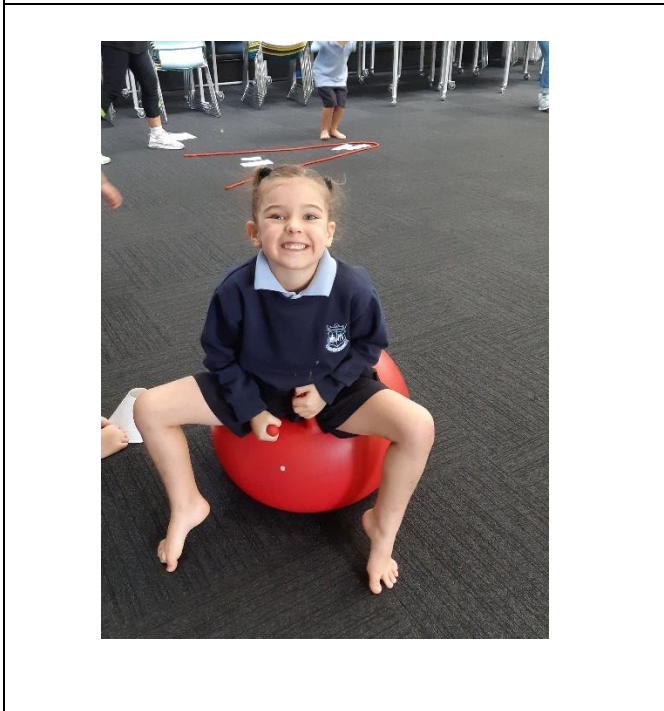
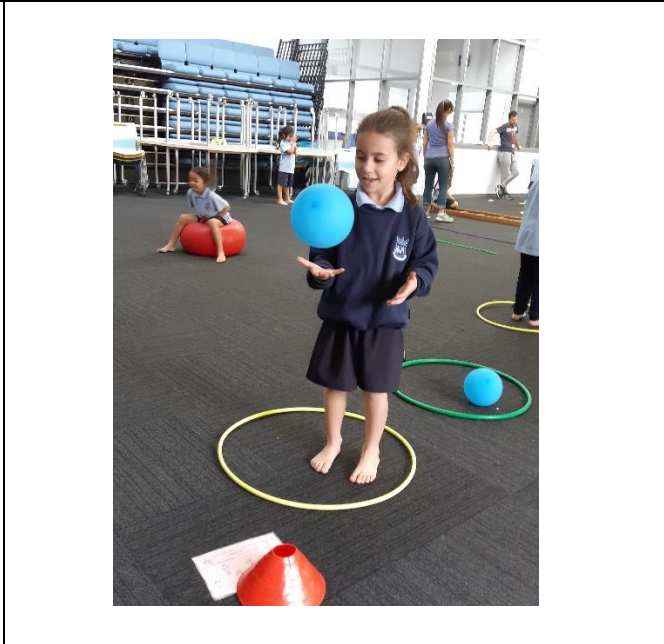
Your involvement is valued by the children, teachers and myself.

Thank you also to those who expressed disappointment due to work commitments. Your interest was noted.

If you want to find out more about the program or wish to be involved in Term 2, please come and see me in the MPR on a Thursday afternoon between 2.30 -3.00pm. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Have a great break everyone.

Connie Simiele



ICT/STEM LESSONS YEAR 1



Many great things are happening all over our school. The Year 1 students have been thoroughly enjoying their fortnightly ICT lessons with Mr Quinn this term. They have spent time familiarising themselves with Chromebooks, learning how to navigate the keyboard, school homepage and use a mouse pad. Over the term they have been working collaboratively with their peers to build and program robots using LEGO WeDo kits.



ICT/STEM lessons are a great extension to traditional curriculum as they require students to use and develop:

- fine motor skills and hand eye coordination
- visual literacy skills
- number and spatial awareness skills
- technology operation skills
- reasoning and oral language skills
- communication, collaboration and problem solving skills

The Year 1 students were lucky to be supported by their teachers alongside a team of fantastic Year 6 ICT Leaders.



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