

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear Community,

Winter has well and truly set in... it's cold, wet and windy! However, we welcome the rain and the change of seasons. The change of seasons is one of the beautiful gifts Melbourne offers. We can take the change for granted and sometimes we can be annoyed by it, especially when it seems we have four seasons in one day. Nevertheless, we really do have mild weather here in Melbourne and that is something to celebrate.

I have been pointing out to the children, the change of colour on our many Autumn trees. There are many wonderful green, red, gold and orange shades adorning our school yard. That was part of my plan in planting so many trees. I wanted to create a beautiful space for our children, one in which they can take pride. Our children do take pride in the school environ and strive to keep it clean and attractive. I am proud of the way in which our children honour the environment.

I have been talking to our Year 6 children about the power of prayer. I have been talking about the strength, calmness, comfort, connection and inspiration prayer can bring to our life. I was then talking to a friend about prayer and he gave me this wonderful poem which reflects on winter and prayer. I share it here with you.

Principals Message continued over the page....

A Winter Way of Approaching God

Each time you go into your temple to dwell,
go as though it is the first time
you have ever really prayed.
When you do something for the first time,
you may be excited, but also a little fearful.



Let this be your winter-way of approaching God.
As you enter into that sacred space within,
let this become your prayer:
I am the one for whom God waits!
I am awaiting the One who is awaiting me!
Embrace the season of winter with hope.
It is a good teacher.
It will lead you to your inmost depths
where God is contemplating you.


Macrina Wiederkehr

And I finish with a thank you.... I decided to manage the crossing and rear carpark on Monday evening in the extremely heavy and constant rain. As always I was concerned for the children's safety, so wanted to be out there to personally watch over the children.

Despite the rain, the large number of cars and pedestrians running for their cars, I was pleased to see the respectful and careful way people managed to negotiate the carpark.

If we ask our children to be **Responsible, Respectful, Resourceful and Safe**, it absolutely starts with us as adults! Thank you!

Have a good week everybody.



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD



I make mention of Ava Zeine in Year 4 Red. Ava noticed me struggling with far too many things in my arms as I was walking across the school yard last week. She ran across to me and offered to help. Ava truly lived in the Spirit of St. Mary MacKillop, whereby she saw a need and did something about it.

Thank you Ava and Congratulations on your Principal's Award.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Thank you to the many families who made an appointment to meet with your child's class teacher last week to engage in a Learning Conversation. Our new approach to engaging the children in the conversations seems to have worked quite well. The feedback from teachers, parents and children has been positive.

Learning Conversations are about feedback. It just seems to make sense to me, that the children should be involved in reflecting on their work, giving feedback and gaining feedback. I am proud of the children's participation. The smile on their faces and the smile on many of your faces, as parents said it all.

Learning should be about successes and what we need to learn next. This model promotes our **POSITIVE SCHOOL WIDE FRAMEWORK.**

You will now receive your child's written report toward the end of this term. If you have any questions regarding this report, please make a time to see your child's class teacher. However, I don't expect any surprises, as you have already met with your child's class teacher and you are receiving regular Seesaw updates that report to you on your child's progress in real time.

Seesaw updates also give you a great opportunity to have a conversation with your child about their day and learning.

We will explore the possibility of another Learning Conversation in late Term Three (more to come on this) and you will receive another written report toward the end of the school year.

ABSENCE

Mr. Anthony McCluskey and Mr. Anthony D'Amico together with some staff will be absent for the rest of this week. They are attending an educational conference in Sydney.

Ms. Jennie Monaghan is Acting Principal and Mrs. Anna Yorston is Acting Deputy Principal

JUST A REMINDER

Next Monday 10 June 2019 is a
Public Holiday.

The school is closed.



WOOLWORTH EARN & LEARN

SMMPS is collecting the earn & learn stickers.
Please send them to the office. We have spare
sheets if you need them.



SAINT MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL
152 ODESSA AVENUE
KEILOR DOWNS, VICTORIA, 3038
Principal: Anthony McCluskey



PREP 2020

ENROLMENTS

NOW OPEN

For all enquiries please contact Kellie
on:

9367 6199

or

email: kdoherly@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

Visit our Website to discover our school:

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

Religious Education News

Vol 7 June 4 2019

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday 9 June 2019

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church because before Pentecost, there really was no church. Jesus had ascended back into the heavens, the Apostles were hanging around, scared and confused, and nobody knew what to do. Going out to baptise people and preach about Jesus was the last thing they had in mind because their lives would be in danger.

But Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit – the force that turned a bunch of frightened, mixed-up folks into Church. There was a rush of wind, tongues of fire, and then suddenly there was courage, knowledge, direction and commitment! Everyone started speaking and was understood, no matter what the language of the listener was! These were saints suddenly on fire with the Holy Spirit. And it all began with the wind and fire of the Spirit.

What changes in you do you wish the Spirit could blow your way? How can you cooperate with the Spirit? In what ways do you need more courage, knowledge, direction or commitment? What else might you need?

In what ways are you and your parish like the disciples before Pentecost? In what ways are you and your parish like the disciples after Pentecost?

When people speak about your school, would they say that it has school spirit? What do they mean by that? How is school spirit like the Holy Spirit? Written by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart



SACRAMENT OF FIRST EUCHARIST



The Year 3s engaged in an excellent Reflection day yesterday which focused on the question 'How can we be the Body of Christ to others?' Some responses were - we could give of ourselves and our time; to be generous, kind and to pass on love. To be fully present to others, to cheer people up and to be faithfilled.



We also had a very good response to our Eucharist family night. It was affirming to see families engage in this session as they support their child who will be celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist later this month. A letter with some reminders about First Eucharist will be sent home next week.



The celebration of First Eucharist will be held on:

**Saturday, 22 June, 2019
at St Mary Mackillop Church.**

Times are:

Group One: 12.30pm - 3 B & 3 Y

Group Two: 2.30pm - 3 R & 3 G

Religious Education News

Vol 7 June 4 2019

PROJECT COMPASSION * Joseph's Corner



Thank you so much for your donations last term for Project Compassion & Joseph's corner. Our school **raised \$1964.20c** ! Your generosity will provide life-giving opportunities for our neighbours who are poor and in need of shelter, clothing, food and education.

SMMPS Choir

Some members of the SMMPS Choir supported the singing at our Confirmations this year. These students were:

Year 3 – Makayla, Claudia, Amelia

Year 4 – Jasmyn, Sophie F, Alexa R

Year 6 - Veronika

Many thanks to these students for the commitment and giving up their lunchtimes to rehearse. Thanks also to the parents who supported their children in committing to the choir and adding to our celebration.

The SMMPS choir continue to rehearse on Wednesdays during the first break. We are rehearsing now for First Eucharist Masses at the end of this month. We will also be preparing for our whole school masses that we shall celebrate next term for the Feast of St Mary Mackillop and the Feast of the Assumption.



LET'S REACH OUT!

The Year 5 students are leading the promotion to assist ENVISION to collect **1,000,000** plastic bottle caps to make prosthetic limbs for children who have lost their limbs due to difficult circumstances. What is needed are plastic lids bearing the numbers 2 and 4 - [primarily milk bottle caps (1,2 and 3 litres size) and plastic lemonade bottles caps] Go to: <https://envision.org.au/bottle-top-drop/> for more information. A container for these bottle tops will be placed in each year level for the collection of these bottle tops!

Seek to please God. SMM)

Lucy Vassallo

Religious Education Leader

lvassallo@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au



SDPSSA Cross Country Carnival

On Thursday the 23rd of May; our SMMPS Cross Country team travelled to Brimbank Park to compete against ten other schools at the Sydenham District Cross Country Carnival. Our team had been training very hard under the watchful eye of Mr Maxwell for the past four weeks, and it surely did pay off!

Our students competed MAGNIFICENTLY and achieved some amazing results. Our junior runners got us off to amazing start, competing in the 2km events with great efforts from Emmy, Jack, Maks and Oscar. Which put our team into the lead. Our 11 year old group then rose to the occasion, and ran their hearts out in some very tough races. Special mention to Kiara Sacchetta who dominated the race from the get go, and finished in 1st Place!

This set up team Mary Mac for big finish, we knew we had some great runners still to come, but we also knew the competition was very strong. Our senior girls really tried hard, but finished a little further down the field than they would have liked. It was now all down to our senior boys. This race had a boy from Sydenham Hillside who had never been beaten (in 4 years of racing) so the challenge was set for our boys. You could see our boys were pumped, but then a late scratching for Alex G with a knee injury, meant we were a man down, the pressure was on!

Jamie Zeine then took off, fought to the front, and made the previous champion chase him down. A bold move, but his determination paid off and Jamie managed to hold him off and win the race but a comfortable margin! WHAT AN AMAZING EFFORT!

This meant that team Mary Mac had won the carnival, and brought home the trophy!

We are so proud of all our team members! We have the Trophy on display in the cabinet inside the hall foyer!

We wish our competitors who are progressing to the Division competition all the best!!

GO MARY MAC!



Standout Results

9/10 Girls

Emmy Traynor 2nd

Grace Cullen 4th

Ava Zeine 12th

9/10 Boys

Jack Power 2nd

Maks Putrino 3rd

Oscar Zeine 4th

11 Girls

Kiara Sacchetta 1st

11 Boys

Seb Kucma 4th

Jean Luc De La Porte 7th

Pavao Bilic 12th

12/13 Boys

Jamie Zeine 1st



FEES & LEVIES

I appreciate all the families that pay their Fees and Levies up front or in instalments. I also appreciate any family that talks with us about hardship and works with SMMPS to pay some regular contribution. Thank you to all our families who take their obligation and responsibility to pay their way seriously.

As you may be aware, we are continuously updating and improving our buildings and facilities, so we can give your kids the very best. Have you checked out the Penola refurbishment or our new playground and soft fall? These projects cost us around \$300,000. We now have to pay for them and ensure we have cash flow in our school!

We need to now refurbish a very tired and shabby Year 2 and 3 building, which we call Mary of the Cross. Our Junior Toilets also need a complete refurbishment. We are looking to take a loan for \$500,000 to undertake these projects, however we have to show we have the capacity to repay any loans we wish to take out.

I will be writing to all families that are not paying their Fees and Levies. I will be reminding them of their obligation and commitment to pay their way. It is only fair and just when so many families do make a real effort. I will then be referring families who are not paying to a debt collector service.

It amazes me when I hear of overseas holidays and see expensive cars in the car park, but still no Fees and Levies are paid.

Ultimately if we don't get the Fees and Levies we expect, we will need to start making cuts to services and programs. First things to go will be excursions and sporting programs followed by additional programs. Alternatively, I would hate to have to exclude children whose families don't pay. It's not fair on them, as they are only children, but please understand, we need you to pay your way.

I don't want to make cuts to staff and increase class sizes, but we are a business and we need the money you commit to paying when you enrol in our school. We cannot effectively offer what we do otherwise.

When it is all broken down we only ask \$10.06 per child per school day. Come on, that's absolutely nothing. It's two cups of coffee or a trip to MacDonald's and I have never got out of McDonald's under \$10.00!

I understand how hard it sometimes can be to find the money. I put three kids through Catholic primary and secondary schooling and now I am supporting my grandchildren's education. No matter the difficulty or stress, I have always paid my way.

SMMPS is a great school with an excellent reputation in the local community and beyond. SMMPS was independently reviewed in 2017 by the Australian Council for Educational Research, using the National School Improvement Tool. We were found to be in the **top 6% of Primary Schools nationwide**, who have undertaken this particular review. **SMMPS is considered to be a HIGH PERFORMING to OUTSTANDING SCHOOL.**

If you continue to pay your way, we can keep striving towards being the best school we can be for your children.

IT REALLY IS QUITE SIMPLE... COME AND PAY YOUR FEES and LEVIES BEFORE THE END OF TERM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 2

Wednesday 5 June

Subway Day



Monday 10 June

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 14 June

Donut Day

Wednesday 19 June

Hotdog Day



Saturday 22 June

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

Thursday 27 June

Hamburger Day



Friday 28 June

End of Term 2-School finishes at 1pm

Term 3

Monday 15 July

School resumes for Term 3 at 9am



The artroom needs your help!

Do you have any of the following?

- Newspapers
- Old CDs - used or unused (for printmaking, doesn't matter what's on them)
- Margarine containers - or similar

We'd love whatever you can donate. Please drop donations directly to the Art room anytime on Tues/Wed/Thurs until the end of term.

Thank you for the wool & other things!

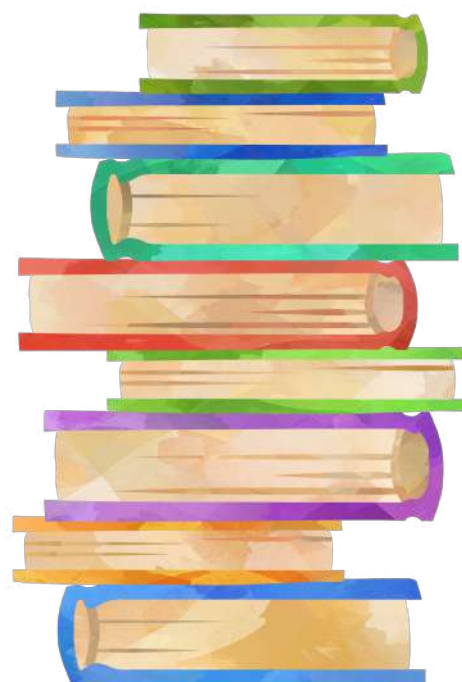
Thank you for the huge donation of wool & other things that were received in the Art room last week. It is much appreciated and perfect timing!

SCHOLASTIC

Issue 4 is out now. All Book Club orders are due by

Friday 7th June. Orders close online at **2:00 pm.**

Many thanks-Anna Yorston Literacy Leader



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



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Regional College
North Keilor

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2019 the Year of
Resilience

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

