

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear Community,

As the days grow longer and warmer we can definitely feel Spring in the air. This is a great time to start heading outdoors and spending some time enjoying the warmer weather. The last couple of weeks have been very busy and exciting here at St Mary MacKillop Primary School. After a very successful Book Fair we celebrated Book Week with a Book Parade. The children were all very excited and went to great efforts to dress up in their favourite book character. Many staff and toddlers also participated in the parade and made the day a very memorable one.

Last week saw the excitement of Father's Day with our Father's Day Stall and Father's Day Breakfast. The children were able to bring in their pocket money to purchase gifts for the special man in their life. We ended the week with a Father's Day Breakfast where the children were able to share a breakfast with their dad, grandpa or significant male in their life. It was wonderful to see so many children celebrate this special day and enjoy bacon and eggs for breakfast. A big thank you to Heath, Frank and James for cooking the breakfast, Kellie for setting up the hall and making sure we had enough food to feed everyone and to all the staff who assisted on the morning.

A big thank you to all the parents and school captains who helped out with our Father's Day Stall and our Father's Day Breakfast. Without the help of our parent community these events would not be as successful as they are.

As the end of term gets closer we are preparing for another successful Learning Conversation between the children, their parents and the teacher. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to look at the great work your children are doing and to celebrate all their successes. The Learning Conversations will take place in Week 9 on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Please refer to the information further on in the newsletter with specific details on how to book your Learning Conversations.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe week.



**Anthony D'Amico**  
**Acting Principal**

#### **JUST A FEW REMINDERS:**

- If you are visiting the school during class time, all parents and visitors must go straight to the front office and not to the classroom
- Children must be in their full school uniform at all times apart from sports days when they can wear their full sports uniform
- Summer uniform can be worn from the start of Term 4 and summer hats must be worn from the beginning of the term (Children are encouraged to start wearing their hats from this week)
- All children who are not collected from the classroom at the end of the day must wait at one of the following pick up points:
  - Front Carpark
  - Rear Carpark
  - In front of Specialist portables.
- If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please fill out the eform on Skoolbag. This form will then be sent directly to the school.

#### **MOBILE PHONES:**

If you need to contact your child or get a message to them for any reason you must contact the office and we will pass the message on to your child.

If your child needs to carry a Mobile Phone for any reason they must bring their phone to the front office in the morning (with a note from yourselves) and then collect it again in the afternoon. Children should not have their phones in their bags at any time.

# LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

## term 3

This term we will have another opportunity to discuss the progress of your child through a formal Learning Conversation led by the student. We trialed this process for the first time last term and we had positive feedback as the students took on a lead role to share and take ownership of their learning.

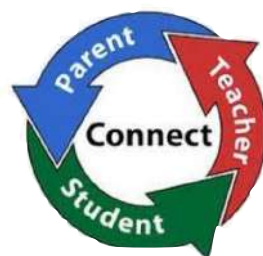
In the learning conversations your child will do most of the talking (supported by their classroom teacher, if needed) as they share work they are proud of and discuss their progress. It is a great opportunity for your child to reflect on their own learning, whilst increasing pride in their achievements.

The dates and times for these conversations are:

**Monday 9th September 3:45-6:00 pm**

**Tuesday 10th September 1:00-6:00 pm**

**As a reminder...**



**Role of the student** - to promote ownership of their learning and share work samples they are proud of, highlight their strengths or show improvement.

**Role of the parent** - to listen, praise and encourage your child's efforts, as well as, ask questions for clarification and elaboration.

**Role of the teacher** - to facilitate the conversation and contribute any comments or questions.

In an effort to make these Learning Conversations beneficial below is a list of prompts you may like to use:

- I am pleased to see your effort in ....
- I am proud of your improvement in .....
- What makes this your best work in ....
- How did you go about doing it ?
- Did you encounter any problems?

The student led conversations will run for 15 minutes.

*If you would like to discuss something of a private nature with the classroom teacher ONLY, please inform your child's teacher at the beginning of the discussion so that time can be allowed.*

Students will finish school on Tuesday 10th September at 12:30 pm. Please refer to the note sent out on CareMonkey for care arrangements.

Bookings to be made via the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website using the code: **gn4xp**

The link and code has also been sent out via Care Monkey.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

news



## Religious Education News

Vol 11 September 4 2019

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday September 8



Photo by Sergio Ruz Vázquez on Unsplash

### SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION LET'S REACH OUT!

Please continue to collect your plastic bottle tops and bring them to school. I will be dropping them off at Envision during the school holidays. This is an ongoing project that requires your support.

Just a reminder that 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.

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

I have been working with the Year 6s and Year 1s to introduce Christian meditation in the classroom. Christian meditation is a form of prayer where we pray collectively a short prayer (mantra) such as 'God loves me', followed by sitting in a period of silence. It can take from 5mins to 15mins. This time of silence stills our mind, calms us down and helps us listen to God. This time of silence also helps children in their learning. We use a singing bowl to begin and end the period of silence.

Today I asked the Year 1s, 'Why do we meditate?'

Here are some of their responses:

- ✚ 'To be calm'
- ✚ 'To respect God'
- ✚ 'To clear our minds of bad stuff'
- ✚ 'To pray to God and listen to Him'
- ✚ 'To help us concentrate'
- ✚ 'To relax in God'

If you have a child in Year 6 or Year 1, ask them about Christian meditation. Maybe they can lead you in a session! My hope is to embed this practice throughout the school over the coming years.



Tibetan Singing Bowl

God is our Father and He loves us all in spite of all our faults.  
(SMM)

Lucy Vassallo

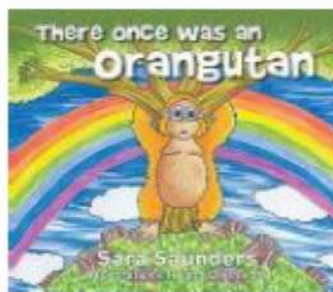
Religious Education Leader

[lvassallo@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lvassallo@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)

# LEARNING and TEACHING

## Illustrator Visit with Heath Clements

All students at St Mary MacKillop were fortunate enough to have a visit from an illustrator during Book Week. Heath Clements, illustrator of "There once was an Orangutan" spoke to all of the classes about being an artist. The students asked some great questions and some were given the opportunity to have a drawing lesson with Heath. Heath is a parent from our school and we are very grateful for his time and expertise.



## **Catholic Regional College North Keilor**

*Education in Faith...Education for Life*

### **Year 7, 2021 Enrolment Closing Soon**

*Closing date Friday 23 August, 2019*



Faith



Compassion



Resilience



Respect

### **College Tours - Term 3, 2019**

**Tuesday 23 July, Friday 2 August, Monday 19 August, Monday 2 September, Friday 13 September**

**Bookings essential for all tours, please contact Mrs Samantha Beg, College Registrar  
Phone: 9361 5904 or Email: [enrol@crcnk.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrol@crcnk.vic.edu.au)**



1c Santa Monica Drive, Keilor Lodge VIC 3038  
Phone: 03 9361 5900 Web: [www.crcnk.com.au](http://www.crcnk.com.au)

**2019 the Year of  
Resilience**



## BOOK WEEK PARADE 2019

*WOW! WOW! WOW! What a wonderful parade this year at SMMPs. Every year, the parade gets bigger and bigger. With the theme being: "Reading is my secret power" it was great to see so many students, teachers and toddlers dressing up to celebrate the day. The hall came to life and everyone really enjoyed the atmosphere. Students paraded around the hall, dancing away to music. For the remainder of the day, classes participated in activities celebrating books. Some classes paired up and read their favourite picture story book to each other. Congratulations to everyone for their creativity and willingness to dress up.*





# News from the Preps

## AROUND THE WORLD

*day!*



"I'm from Italy and Elisa is from Vietnam so we made our flags from the country we come from". Oliver (PY)



As part of our inquiry unit "Around the world" the Prep students explored their own cultures and found out about some European countries. They used Leigh Hobbs "Mr. Chicken" books to find out about landmarks, food, clothing and traditions in the places he visited. Each week the students were immersed in cultural experiences from London, Paris, Rome and Melbourne. Who knows where their curiosities will take them?



Charlotte, Danel and Miller used images and books to create the Trevi Fountain during Discovery Learning.



# CAPTURING THE MOMENT!

Did you know...

"The  
Tower Bridge  
opens for big  
ships" Xavier  
(PR)

"Buongiorno means  
good morning in  
Italian" Miller (PY)

"I made a  
connection  
that the  
Melbourne  
star looks like  
the London  
Eye" Olivia  
(PB)

"Mr. Chicken rode  
on a rosso vespa.  
Rosso means red"  
Ayden.R (PG)



We enjoyed eating crepes  
when we visited Paris!





Marvellous

# MELBOURNE

with year 3!

On Friday August 30th the Year 3's had a wonderful day celebrating Melbourne's birthday as an immersion to their new Inquiry topic Marvellous Melbourne. As part of their writing the students wrote a persuasive piece on why they should be Lord Mayor for the day. The students presented their speeches to the class and their peers voted for the top two. Then on Friday eight candidates (2 from each class) read their persuasive pieces in front of Mrs Yorston and all of the Year 3 students. Mrs Yorston then announced the two winners on the day who were Sophie Vidovic (3 Yellow) and Orlando Palmieri (3 Blue). Take a read of the winning speeches.

## Lord Mayor Speeches:

### **Sophie V (3Y)**

In my opinion I should be Lord Mayor.

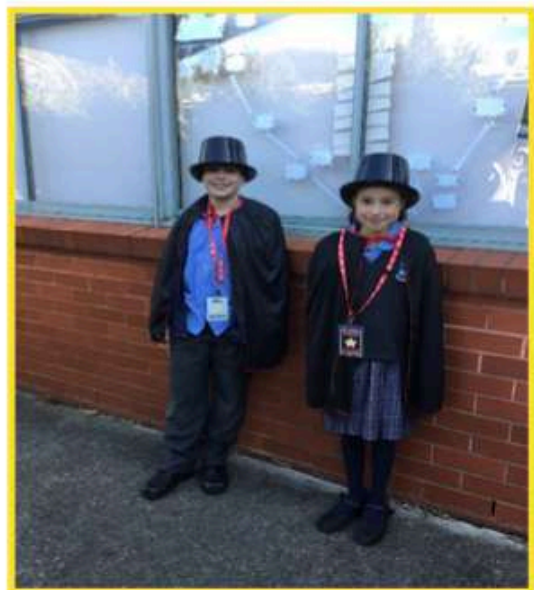
I am certain that I should be the Lord Mayor because I am usually confident so there won't be much hesitation.

I firmly believe I should be Lord Mayor because it just sounds like so much fun and I have never done anything like this.

Finally, I strongly believe I should be Lord Mayor because I am usually organised and ready to get things done. So vote for me now!

### **Orlando P (3B)**

Hi, my name is Orlando Palmieri and I have a wish to become a junior Lord Mayor. 1 main thing that I would do in Melbourne is I would make one big charity and fundraiser for all schools in Melbourne. What I would do with all that money would be to create new playgrounds and make electric cars cheaper so we could have less air pollution in our world. Thank you for listening to my dream to become a junior mayor





# Heathy Body, Healthy Mind

Friday 30th August 2019

On Friday 30th August all the Year Ones immersed themselves in learning about the different ways we can keep our bodies and minds healthy. They participated in 4 different rotations exploring how we can use meditation, mindfulness, healthy relationships and fitness as a way of staying healthy.

## Meditation

In the Meditation rotation, students listened to relaxing music, focused on their breathing and engaged in slow movements and poses that relaxed their minds and body.

*"After meditating, I felt calm and peaceful"*

*"I like listening to the music. It made me feel calm and happy."*

## Fitness

Students looked beyond the idea 'that only running and fast physical exercise can keep you fit'. Students engaged in activities that utilised different muscles, yet kept them moving. They used objects such as fris-bees, ladders, exercise balls, stilts, skipping ropes and hula hoops as a way of experimenting with using different muscles in their body, whilst keeping their heart rate high.

*"We learnt that some exercises are more challenging, but when we start to use different muscles, over-time they will become easier."*

*"There are so many different ways to stay fit using physical activities."*

## Mindfulness

Students were immersed in a quiet environment where they explored how coloring can be used as a way of calming ourselves down. They also discussed that mindfulness is the practice of focusing our attention on our emotions and engaging in calming and relaxing activities such as playdough, lego, colouring and drawing.

*"We coloured in mandalas. They made us calm and focus on what we were doing."*

## Healthy Relationships

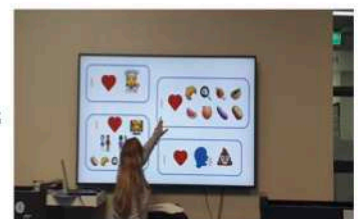
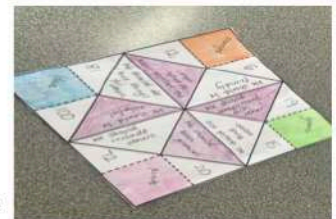
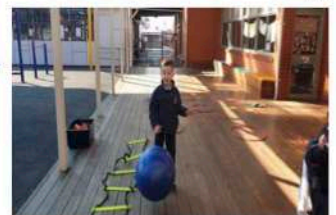
Students explored how positive encounters with others led to positive thinking. They discussed actions and words that made themselves and others feel happy, as a way of maintaining healthy relationships. Through making Healthy Relationship chatterboxes, students became more aware of how to make positive interactions how our relationships keep us happy and as a result keep our minds calm and healthy.

*"Having positives relationships keeps our minds and bodies healthy"*

*"We made the chatterboxes to remind us how we can use positive words and actions."*

## Nutritionist Visit

After lunch students were privileged to have a guest speaker Natasha educate them about healthy foods and gut health. They looked at different foods, explored why humans eat and how fibre in food effects their bodies. The students favourite part was learning more about our 'poo' and how it is the key to knowing how our body works and whether we are keeping it healthy.





# FATHER'S DAY

*celebrations*



Thank you to staff who lent a helping hand!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## TERM 3

**Monday 9th September**

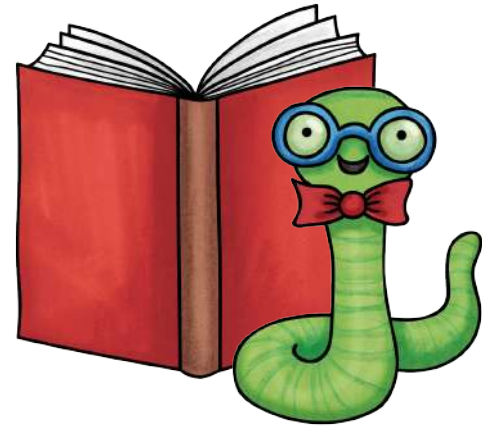
Learning Conversations  
3:45pm to 6:00pm - see information

**Tuesday 10th September**

Learning Conversations  
1:00pm to 6:00pm - see information

**Friday 20th September**

End of Term 3  
School finishes at 1:00pm



## TERM 4

**Monday 7th October**

School resumes for Term 4

**Monday 21st October - Thursday 24th October**

Year 6 Sydney/Canberra Experience

**Wednesday 30th October**

2020 Prep Parent Orientation  
9.30am & 7.00pm

**Friday 1st November**

Carnevale Day  
More details next term



**Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th November**

2020 Prep Stay & Play  
3.30pm - 4.15pm

**Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th November**

2020 Prep Stay & Play  
3.30pm - 4.15pm



# UPCOMING EVENTS

*continued*

Wednesday 20th November - Friday 22nd November  
Year 4 Camp



**Wednesday 4th December**  
2020 Prep - Meet the Teacher  
9.30am - 11.00am

**Thursday 5th December**  
Annual Christmas Carols 7:00pm - 8:30pm

**Friday 13 December**  
Year 6 Finish @ 1.00pm  
(Guard of Honour at 12.45pm)  
Graduation in Church at 7.00pm



**Wednesday 18 December**  
Year Prep to Year 5 finish @ 1.00pm

## CANTEEN - TERM 3

**Friday 6 September**  
Subway Day (closed)

**Friday 13 September**  
Sushi Day (cancelled for term 3)

**Thursday 19 September**

Pie Day (Footy Casual clothes day - gold coin donation)

