

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Dear Community,

I trust you have all settled into Term 4 well and everyone is thriving in their home, school or workplace. A successful and happy life is all about relationships. As people we are 'wired' to connect with others, be their family, friends or simply acquaintances. When we authentically connect we thrive and life has meaning.

I am excited to return to SMMPS and reconnect with my colleagues, students and families of our school. Our school is a wonderful place where we have the opportunity to connect and flourish with each other. The relationships we have with each other can be very rewarding and satisfying, and support us in coming to know ourselves and each other.

We are in a privileged position. I value the opportunity to come to work each day, recognising all that is afforded to me. I value the opportunity I have to make a difference in the life of other people. This is particularly so in the life of children, perhaps our most valuable asset, as children are the future of our society and planet. We have an immense responsibility.

Let us continue to work together to ensure our kids have a great life. The older I get the more passionate and committed I become in wanting the best for our kids. Having three beautiful grandchildren, causes me to reflect. I remember how busy I was when I had my own kids. However, my grandchildren get my full attention. We can't afford to lose those moments of wonder.

I want your children to have a happy time here at our school. I will continue to work with determination for their happiness.

I come back to you full of excitement for the new learnings I have gained in Amsterdam. I was privileged to have spent two weeks of intensive study at VU University in Amsterdam.

Whilst the program was taxing (and certainly not a junket), I have gained many new understandings and appreciations of people, cultures and religions. I trust this program will support me in working with our community in making a difference.

The program I undertook, centered on **Interreligious Dialogue- Learning from each other.**

We are confident we are on the right path, when we look to our Catholic leader, Pope Francis for inspiration...

Pope Francis has underlined the importance of friendship and respect between men and women of different religious traditions. He has noted that due to increasing movement of peoples because of phenomena such as migration, Christians are being challenged to be more open to different cultures, religions and traditions.

Quoting from his recently published Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Pope said "an attitude of openness in truth and love must prevail in dialogue with believers of non-Christian religions, despite the various obstacles and difficulties, particularly fundamentalism on both sides" Recognizing the fact that there are situations in the world where coexistence is difficult due to fear, the Holy Father underlined that the one way to overcome this fear, was to foster dialogue.

Dialogue, he went on to say, does not mean giving up your identity as a Christian. On the contrary, the Pope stressed "true openness means remaining firm in one's deepest convictions, and therefore being open to understanding others.

We recognise that

... Catholic schools embrace a sacred responsibility to create environments which enable each student to flourish... Every individual and every family who supports the Catholic ethos of the school should be made to feel welcome, appreciated and that they fully belong...

Catholic Foundation Statement, *Identity and Growth: A Perspective for Catholic Schools*, 2018.

We look to our patron and namesake, St. Mary MacKillop, who was ahead of her time. Mary befriended people of other faith traditions at a time when this was uncommon and even frowned upon within the Church. Mary worked for greater understanding amongst people of different faith traditions. In turn, Mary was offered great friendship and support, as her respect and loving concern for all people was greatly valued.

In fact, when Mary was excommunicated, she was taken in by a Jewish family, who cared for her in what must have been a most difficult and hurtful time. This family actually paid for the marble slab on Mary's tomb in Nth Sydney.

We consider our School Vision Statement... **We learn to be, to know, to do, to live together and to change. We live and celebrate our Catholic faith.**

Therein lies our challenge.

We live in a world of plurality. There are many faith traditions surrounding us, where we live, work and play. Unfortunately, our attitudes can be largely coloured by the ignorance and influence of the media, social media, our friends and our politicians.

We live in a world of plurality. There are many faith traditions surrounding us, where we live, work and play. Unfortunately, our attitudes can be largely coloured by the ignorance and influence of the media, social media, our friends and our politicians.

As leaders and educators of children we have a responsibility to lead the way and model truth- a truth that acknowledges all people regardless of gender, lifestyle, culture, nationality and religion deserve to live with dignity and be treated with respect.

We believe, **God created man in His own image, in the image of God** He created him; male and female. He created them. (Genesis 1:27) 'God created man, He made him **in the likeness of God**. He created them male and female' (Genesis 5:1). We have therefore, no choice, but to respect all people.

I have a lot more to say on this topic. You will hear from me over the next weeks.



CONGRATULATIONS

Many of you would remember Mr. Nickolas Krikelis who taught here at SMMPS (2012-2017).

Nickolas is being ordained as a Deacon in the Greek Orthodox faith next Thursday 24 October. This is Nickolas' next step on his journey to Priesthood. Nickolas will now be known as Fr. Christophoros.

We are very excited for Nickolas and very proud that he has the courage to take such a radical step in such a secular world. Nickolas is witnessing to Christ in a most real and tangible way, as he dedicates his life to spreading the message of the Gospel.

Congratulations Nickolas!

This week I am in Sydney and Canberra with the year 6 children. Ms. Jennie Monaghan is acting Principal and Mrs. Anna Yorston is acting Deputy Principal.

Have a great week and term everybody!

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

NAPLAN

We appreciate NAPLAN as a test at a moment in time. It can be influenced by many different factors. I am particularly interested in NAPLAN though, as it gives the teachers and I some information about the direction of our school and how we are travelling in the teaching of Maths and English.

I am absolutely delighted to share some outstanding news!

I can report that ACARA (Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority) has acknowledged us as a high achieving school for our significant results in Numeracy and English. This is based on our 2018 data.

This student achievement has been demonstrated in three ways:

- I. overall gain compared to previous years; and
- II. gain compared to schools with similar students, based on the index of community socio-educational advantage (ICSEA) level; and
- III. gain compared to other students at the same average NAPLAN starting score.

We have been identified as a high gain school by having demonstrated substantial improvement in English and Numeracy as follows:

1. an overall gain that exceeds the national average by more than one standard deviation; and
2. an overall gain higher than schools with similar ICSEA levels, by more than one standard deviation; and
3. an overall gain higher than that shown by students with the same NAPLAN starting score, also by more than one standard deviation.

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	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
State	82	43	80	64	89
SMMPS	108	73	99	103	111
Difference	26	30	19	39	22

The State of Victoria routinely achieves some of the best NAPLAN results in Australia. All Victorian schools are measured against the Victorian State average.

This year we are also pleased to report that our current Year 5 students achieved dramatic growth between 2017 and 2019. They outperformed the State in Writing and they surpassed State growth benchmarks in Numeracy, Reading, Grammar and Punctuation, and Spelling. Our Year 3 Students outperformed the State in Writing and Grammar & Punctuation. They also continued a positive upward growth trend towards the State average in Reading and Numeracy.

The strength of these results demonstrates that our commitment to ongoing school improvement and targeted teaching continues to result in growth and success for all students.

I am very grateful to all of our teachers for their work and commitment in ensuring the children of SMMPS learn to read, write and count!

LEARNING TEACHING and

Year Six Parliamentary Incursion

On the first day of Term Four, the Year Six students had an opportunity to attend an incursion conducted by the Parliamentary Education Office. The students discovered a lot and had a great experience.



"We participated in a role play that helped us to understand how bills are passed through State Government."

"Participating in a debate regarding the banning of plastic straws was inspiring and we can all take action as global citizens."

"We discovered the history and tradition of the mace and did you know a law can't be made without it?"

"It was an amazing opportunity to experience the upper and lower house using virtual reality headsets."

"It felt like we were really at Parliament House having the experience, It was if it was real."

"The incursion was very educational and I learnt about how local and federal governments make laws."

"The learning was fantastic – especially because in Victoria we have 13 415 laws."



Year 3 Hoddle Waddle Excursion

The Year 3's are learning about Marvellous Melbourne. On Friday the 11th of October, the Year 3's attended the Hoddle Waddle Excursion to the city of Melbourne. The students had a wonderful experience in exploring and learning about specific landmarks important to Melbourne's early history. The students were engaged, excited and energetic as they walked along a specific route and even had the opportunity to travel on the city circle tram!

Here's a snapshot of what students enjoyed learning about:



3 Green on the Sandridge Bridge in Southbank overlooking the Yarra River

This is what the children thought about their city excursion:

"It was fun because I saw new places in Melbourne's city" Richard 3G

"This was a great opportunity to learn more about Melbourne's history" Rita 3G

"It was a really great day because I learnt about the unique landmarks - Melbourne Gaol" Dante 3G

"I enjoyed walking over the bridges" Ruby 3G

"It was a good experience because I learnt about the history of Melbourne while riding the City Circle Tram" Hamish 3G



3 Yellow at Melbourne Gaol

"I enjoyed the State Library of Victoria because it had governor LaTrobe.

Governor La Trobe made the state library. We went to the Melbourne city baths and that was fun. We learnt that men and women can't swim together." Anabelle 3Y

"It was very interesting at the old Melbourne Gaol because my group could see inside where the shop was

and I could see things of NED KELLY! Duc-Nghia 3Y.



3 Red at Parliament House

On the excursion the Year 3's all went on, I enjoyed walking through the city and seeing Chinatown, Immigration Museum, Yarra River, Bolte Bridge, Marvel Stadium, and Docklands. I was excited to learn from a statue of Captain Matthew Flinders that Flinders Street and Flinders Street station are named after him.

My favourite place that I visited was Chinatown. At Chinatown I saw hanging lanterns. When I visited the Immigration Museum I saw a lots of names and surnames on the outside of the building. I found out that all those names are all from some people who migrated to Melbourne. Letti 3R



3 Blue admires the 'free art exhibition' on the walls of Hosier Lane.

"I enjoyed Flinders Street Station because I realised it had more than 9 clocks. It actually has 13." Amelia L 3 Blue

"I enjoyed the Hoddle Waddle walk, because we got to see Hosier Lane where there was lots of art and we got to see an

Aboriginal person high up on the building." Klara 3B

"I enjoyed the Hoddle Waddle because we got to experience the Coops Shot Tower. It was very fascinating to know what is inside a bullet and the technique as to how it is made." Zara 3B

"I liked the Hoddle Waddle because we got to see Hosier Lane and see all of the art that is constantly changing right in front of our eyes." Cas 3B

"I liked the Hoddle Waddle because we got to see Cow Up a Tree, at first I thought it was pretty funny, but it actually represents when cows get caught up a tree when there are floods in Australia." Emanuel 3B

The Yr 4 students have had a big focus on writing. Students have been taught grammar through literature and below is a sample of writing that incorporates some of the skills that have been taught. Enjoy the read.

The Lonely Road

by Oscar Zeine (4Y)

Whoosh!

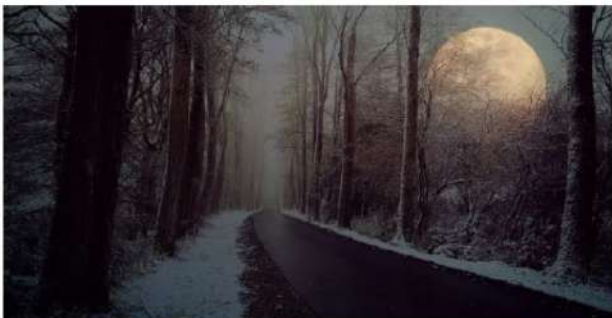
As the wind howled through the dark, misty woods, the lonely road just sits there waiting for a car to pass by.

As Autumn approaches, the leaves glide off into the hazy woods but the lonely road just sits there waiting for a car to pass by.

Up comes Winter when the snow is soft as silk and the leaves fresh with ice but the lonely road just sits there waiting for a car to pass by.

Along comes Spring when the birth of creatures await and the leaves filled with blossom and joy but the lonely road just sits there waiting for a car to pass by.

As the years grow smaller, the road gets weaker and older but the lonely road just sits there waiting for a car to pass by.



ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY

Friday 1st November

DRESS UP AS AN ITALIAN ICON
OR IN ITALIAN COLOURS



GELATI \$3.00

FUN ACTIVITIES

Mask making, Costume parade, Quiz
Competitions, Cooking, Bocce, Italian
card games, photo booth, soccer,
art/craft traditional and contemporary
Italian social dances



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East Keilor venue

When: Term 4 begins Friday 11th October

- U8's - Fri 5pm.
- U12's – Fri 6pm

Where:

- Keilor Heights Primary School Hall on Ronald Grove, East Keilor.

Duration:

- 1 hour per session. 10 week term 4.

Cost:

- \$20 per session GST Inc.
- \$180 Term 4 Discounted Fee when you pay on time.
 - Uniform Fee = \$85.

(One time fee providing Adidas Soccer Pro Academy Uniform of Socks, Shorts, and Top.)

Interested?

Our groups have a maximum of 16 players, so spots are limited, be Quick!!!

All coaching by current North Geelong soccer club NPL Senior assistant coach & Personal Trainer Adrian Cagalj.

Contact ex Socceroo, Olyroo & International Professional player Joe Spiteri **0422 087 191** or go to

www.soccerproacademy.com.au/book to secure your spot.



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Catholic Regional College-Sydenham

When: Term 4 begins Saturday 12th October

- U8's - Sat 9am
- U12's - Sat 10am

Where:

- Catholic Regional College Sydenham, 380 Sydenham Rd.

Duration:

- 1 hour per session. 10 week term 4.

Cost:

- \$20 per session GST Inc.
- \$180 Term 4 Discounted Fee when you pay on time.
- Uniform Fee = \$85 GST Inc.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Monday 4th November
School Closure Day

Tuesday 5th November
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

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

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 4



Donut Day

31st October

Sushi Day

14th November

Cookie Day

19th November

Hamburger Day

28th November

Xmas cupcakes

11/12 - please note change of date

Get onto flexischools.com.au to order





KIDS CLASSES

Free Trial Lesson!

Smaller courts, lighter racquets and low-compression balls that don't bounce too high make learning tennis fun and easy for primary school-aged children. This means that kids are able to start rallying and having fun right from their first lesson!

Cost: \$9.00 a session



CARDIO TENNIS

Free Trial Lesson!

- High energy workout and burn 300 to 1000 calories
- Drill-based and play-based activities
- Lose weight, get fit and have fun
- Participants wear heart monitors, exercise to music and use low compression balls and a variety of equipment such as agility ladders

Cost: \$12.50 a session.

LOCATIONS: Kensington Banks TC Smithfield Rd • North Park TC Flemington Rd
Gladstone Park TC 18 Elmhurst Rd • St Matthews TC 95 William Rd

1300 22 33 86 ACEFUNTENNISCHOOL.COM