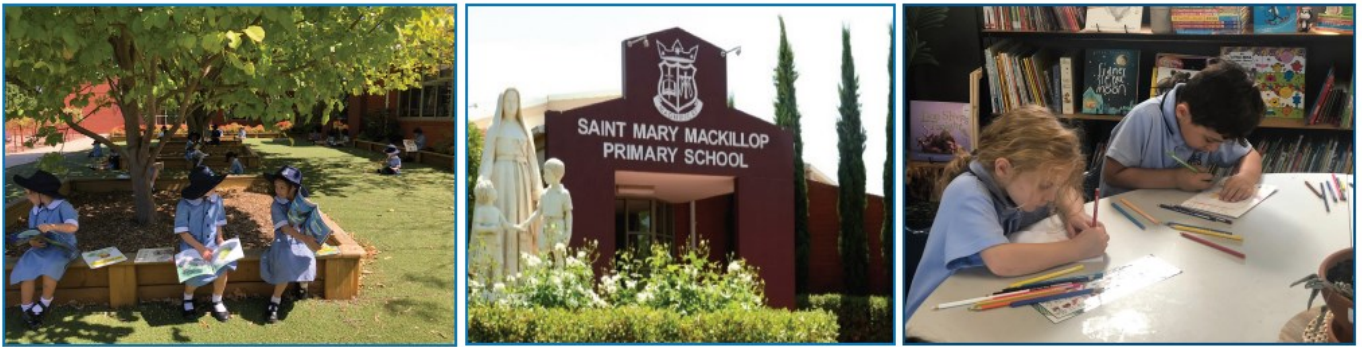


Friday 12 June, 2020

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038 [www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au) T: 03 9367 6199



## *Staying Connected... No. 12*

Hello Everyone,

What a marvellous week it has been for us as we have welcomed back all of our children in Years 3-6. It is wonderful to have all of our classes back and running. I see the children's smiling faces as they enter the school each morning and what gives me more pleasure is the fact that the children are smiling as they leave at the end of the day!

I remain extremely grateful to our teachers who absolutely led brilliantly with Remote Learning and are now working with determination to ensure every child settles back into school life. It is not an easy task ensuring everyone integrates back into some sense of routine, however I see great things happening. We do have the best teachers at our school.

I would also like to express my personal appreciation to so many of you parents that have provided such positive feedback on the way we managed Remote Learning and the return to school. I sincerely appreciate your positivity and feedback.

I have invited the staff and the students in Year 6 whom I teach each week to reflect. We have had some amazing opportunities to learn throughout the crisis period that is COVID-19.

I look to providing a forum for a **'Rapid Capture'** (of thoughts), so we can plan for the future. Staff and students in Year 6 are currently providing some data. The **PROMPT** questions include:

- What surprised you about your students over the last two months?
- What are you most proud of? In what ways have you surprised yourself?
- What were the key factors that contributed to your success?
- What have you come to more deeply understand about effective teaching?
- What did you learn about collaboration and teamwork?

- What are we sensing about what is now different in the ways we might be willing to work together?
- What question are we now willing to ask that we weren't before? What is really clear now that wasn't before?
- What have we discovered to be essential?
- What things that we lived without, can we avoid letting back in?
- What have we deeply missed?
- What things should we bring back in?

**In essence I am asking...**

**What do you want to retain?**

**What new ways of working do we want to keep and deepen?**

**What do you want to 'chuck' out?**

The results thus far are interesting.

I welcome any feedback from parents around these questions. Please forward any feedback you might like to make to [principal@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au).

Above all this chaos, we see it for what it is

**We experienced a CRISIS**

**We made ADJUSTMENTS**

**We now look for OPPORTUNITIES.**

***And as a Catholic School Community, we believe in the bounty of blessings given to us from an infinite God, who loves us and places his finger in the arena of our human affairs.***

We don't always understand, but God is present.

We continue to ask St. Mary MacKillop and Our Lady of Perpetual Help to Pray for Us.

Go well everyone,



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## **Staggered Start and Finishing Times to the school day.**

Thank you so much for your cooperation with the start and finishing times to the school day. Everything has been working very well. However, I've been chatting with parents and school staff, whom have made a few observations.

In consideration to these observations, we are going to make a couple of amendments, which will remain in place until the end of term. We will then notify you of any new arrangements.

## **PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIMES FROM THIS MONDAY 15 JUNE**

- **8:30am-9:00am All students in Years Prep-6 may be dropped off.**

We are finding that with parents not walking their children into class, the car park is moving well and emptying more quickly. We are still mandated to keep parents off-site, however, if you can drop your children off between 8:30am and 9:00am it would be appreciated.

The afternoons are working well, but we are bringing the time back slightly.

- **2:45pm-3:00pm All students in Prep, 1 and 2, together with their older siblings will be dismissed.**
- **3:00pm-3:15pm All students in Years 3 and 4, together with their older siblings to be dismissed**
- **3:15pm all children in Years 5 and 6 to be dismissed.**

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## **SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

On Tuesday I presented badges to our Year 6 School Captains. Of course, you would understand that with the school being closed, all of our usual routines needed to be put on hold. Unfortunately, we are not able to assemble and have parents on site. However, we made the presentation in front of the Year 6 class and their teachers.

Our School Captains have shown outstanding leadership throughout the period of Remote Learning. We are most proud of them.

A crisis reveals, amongst other things, the capacity to adapt and the ability to connect. Our School Captains certainly revealed their capacity and ability to connect.

Congratulations to Darko Krslovic, Lily Sorpreso and Carla Sultana.

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP

*primary school*

