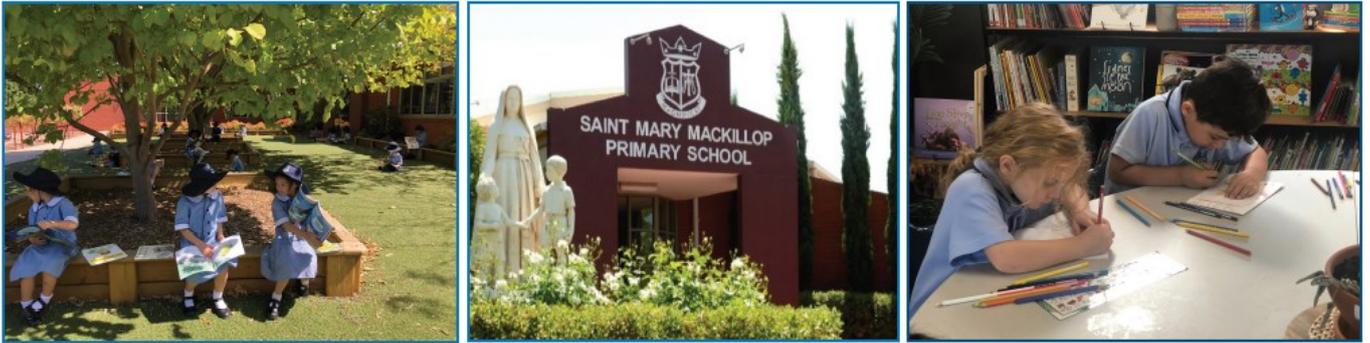


Wednesday 12 August, 2020

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038 www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected... No. 18

Dear Community,

As the weeks roll by and we endure lockdown or perhaps even get used to it, it is important to remember that we follow the restrictions. I appreciate how hard it is to be separated from family and friends and the usual activities that structure our lives. However, if we are to beat this virus, we have to stay home.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to keep your kids at home. This week we are averaging 14.2 children on site each day. This number reduces movement and helps keep the children and teachers safe, whilst at school.

I am being insistent on sighting Permitted Worker Permits. I do this because my aim is to have minimum staff on site. Under Occupational Health and Safety, the care of my staff is very much my responsibility.

It is interesting to note that 7NEWS reported this morning that there are 366 active cases of coronavirus in children nine years and under in Victoria at this time. I am aware of children in our local area with the virus, so **where and when you can, keep your kids at home.**

But of course, if you are a Permitted Worker, as broad as that term is, be assured we will welcome and care for your children whilst they are onsite. **For those of you, particularly in essential services, we really appreciate all you do for our community. Thank you.**

It is a stressful time. Perhaps we could look to the words of Pope Francis spoken on Sunday to the faithful in St. Peter's Square for inspiration and support.



When caught in difficult moments or trials, turn your heart to God, who is near even when you do not search for him, Pope Francis said in his Angelus address on Sunday.

"Having faith means, in the midst of the storm, keeping your heart turned to God, to his love, to his tenderness as a Father. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and his disciples, and also to us today, in moments of darkness, moments of storms," the Pope said.

Speaking from a window overlooking St Peter's Square, Pope Francis said that "even before we begin to seek [God], he is present beside us lifting us back up after our falls, he helps us grow in faith."

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Mary MacKillop pray for us. Please keep our community safe and well.

Take care everyone,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony McCluskey".

Anthony McCluskey

Principal

YEAR SIX FAITH and LIFE COACHING

Each week I enjoy the opportunity to meet with the Year 6 class as their Faith and Life Coach. I appreciate listening to the girls and boys in Year 6, as I build my relationship with them. Each week the students have lots of great things to say, many worth pondering. Last week, this contribution was made. I publish it here, because it is well worth reflecting on...

When you have negative thoughts, you need to push those thoughts aside and say, "I am worth it, I'm beautiful and I should be here" Liana Mandorla. Year 6.

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

On Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 of August, we are inviting you to book an online meeting with your child's teacher.

These are very different meetings this year, as the children have not been at school for much of the year. Hence it is simply an opportunity to connect with your child's teacher.

This is an opportunity for each student, parent and teacher to engage in a learning conversation using three prompts:

- * 3 things you are proud of
- * 2 things you have found challenging
- * 1 thing you would like to improve

There will be no online instruction on these days for the children. Activities will still be available on the Learning Grids, but teachers will be offline and unable to respond to emails or provide feedback.

Children of Permitted Workers who have registered their child's attendance will still be cared for at school.

A note from the School Captains...

Wow! Who would've thought that we'd be back here again? Despite all the ups and downs this pandemic brings, we will get through this no matter what. Due to the current booms of COVID-19 our school has shut down in order to keep our staff and peers safe. Even if we're not face to face we can still learn and still hang out with our classmates. Even if things seem bleak our teachers and school leaders are doing everything in their power to help out the students. We are going through hard times and we need to make sure we don't put any pressure of stress on ourselves. We all need to keep calm and stay positive!

So here we are again; Remote Learning 2.0. This time round the teachers have devised a new way of teaching students via Google Meets workshop groups rather than pre-recorded messages. Instead of having a couple of Google Meets every week we have one continuous Google Meets per day so if the students have any questions they can just join in the call. It's also there for guidance on any work or for people that might not understand a task they have that day. There may be some questions on the new Wellness Wednesday, however the concept is pretty simple. Mr. McCluskey decided that at the moment, our school is on screens too often so he implemented Wellness Wednesdays to calm the students down and to make the day smooth, fun and easy. On these days there won't be the key subjects which are Reading, Writing and Maths but there will be other tasks for example wellbeing, sport, art and the opportunity to finish unfinished work and to catch up. On these days' students will not have any Google Meets so students can work independently and have a break from screens.

Things may seem bleak however all is not lost. We have each other and we will get through this together. Remember, we are going through a tough time but we all need to relax and not put pressure on ourselves.

You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore-William Faulkner

Kind Regards,

Carla Sultana, Lily Sorpreso and Darko Krslovic

SMMPS School Captains 2020

Optional Challenge of the week

FaceTime or call a friend and see how they are doing.