

Tuesday 02 February 2021

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Staying Connected 2021. No. 2.*

Dear Community,

**Our school year is well and truly underway.** The girls and boys in Years 1-6 started last Friday and our new Prep children on Monday morning. I am proud to report we have had a very settled and smooth start, despite the fact the older children started on the wettest day in the past twelve months! The smooth start is in no doubt a testimony to the organisation and dedication of our team here at SMMPS.

### **THANK YOU**

**I must also thank you the parent community for the trust and support you offer us.** As I have said in a previous communication to Prep families, "I appreciate our limits on density may sound harsh, but we live in a COVID world and whilst we have had no community transmission in Victoria for 27 days, COVID is still a risk. I am trying to strike a fine balance between ensuring a COVID safe school and attending to the emotional needs of students and parents. I remain committed to doing my best to keep your kids safe, and in turn your families safe. I am also committed to keeping my staff safe under Occupational Health and Safety laws".

**I express my sincere gratitude to the many families that have offered their support and encouragement, whether in person, through a staff member or in an email.**

We are all treading uncharted waters and simply doing our best to stay afloat and then thrive in our world as we know it today.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

You may have noticed a number of school improvements happened over the holidays and are nearly completed.

- We have laid some **artificial turf near the multi-purpose courts**. This space will provide a softer surface for children to play on or take instructions during Phys.Ed lessons. There is probably even enough space for some Phys.Ed lessons to happen on this surface. Parents may also like to wait there when collecting their children. This new surface also provides a warmer ambience to our school grounds.
- We have ordered a **10m x 6m cantilever cover** to be constructed over part of this new surfaced area. This new cover will provide shade and shelter to both children and parents waiting to collect children.
- You may have noticed the **blue athletics track** running down the yard. This track will serve a multitude of purposes at recess times, sport times and as path through the car park before and after school.
- **We have also covered the deck outside Rooms 11 and 12 with artificial turf**. This area is to be fenced, thus creating a 'backyard' for our Prep children. You will also soon see sandpits and cubbies installed in the backyards too.
- **A new fence has been installed across the yard**. This will be an added security measure. Even when we do open the grounds to parents and visitors again, this fence will assist us in monitoring who is on the property. It is all about keeping everyone safe.
- **The opening to the rear car park has been widened**. This will assist with the flow of traffic both ways. We have already seen an improvement since school opened.

We are always planning and you will continue to see school improvements. It is all about making our school the best place it can be for your children. We take a lot of pride in our school grounds and gardens, confident in knowing that in providing the 'best' we will get the 'best'. We want all children to be proud of their school.

Rev. Julian Tenison Woods, who worked with Mary MacKillop, wrote in 1879,

***"There is an echo in the harmonies of nature which permeates the soul."***

It is this love of nature and what it can do for our soul, which drives me to ensure we have a treed and attractive environment.

We are also fortunate enough to have received some funding, through Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (**MACS**, formerly Catholic Education Melbourne CEM). This funding is for Capital works. We look to remodelling and refurbishing the building named Mary of the Cross (where Year 3 is located) and Fitzroy (where Prep and Year 2 are located). We are currently working with architects and hope to have plans, permits and builders ready to go later in the year. Watch this space for more news!

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP primary school

We will always look to St. Mary MacKillop for inspiration. In 1881, St. Mary MacKillop wrote,

***"Begin once more in real earnestness."***

In a spirit of positivity and joy we enter our school year and ask St. Mary MacKillop to pray for us.



Have a good week everybody.

*Anthony McCluskey*

**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

**Start the chat** about online safety to celebrate Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Safer Internet Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the safe and positive use of digital technology. It's also a good time to explore the role we can all play in creating a better online community.

This global campaign is celebrated by millions of people in 170 countries across the world.

Help us make every day a Safer Internet Day!

- Join our parent webinar [eSafety's guide to cyberbullying and online drama](#).
- Visit [esafety.gov.au/SID](#) for tips to start the chat at school, at home and in your community.



**about online safety**

## COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is essential if we are to care for our children and each other.

***Staying Connected*** is SMMPS's regular communication with home.

You will also receive formal communication through:

- Emails
- Skoolbag app and
- Operoo

Communication is a two-way street. So, please, make sure you carefully read any communication from home so you are in the know.

We need to hear from you too, of course. I appreciate with restrictions with onsite attendance, I encourage you to email teachers if you need. Protocols for these emails will be published soon, but for the time being please allow teachers at least 48 hours to respond.

Teachers are keen to hear from you and will respond.

A full list of staff names and email addresses has been published as an Appendix below.

## MEET THE TEACHER

It is important that you meet your child's teacher. **Parents in Year Prep** will have the opportunity to come in and meet your child's teacher on Wednesdays for the next few weeks. Invitations and timetables will be arranged. I understand at least half of our Prep parents have had limited chances to view the school or meet the teachers, so I encourage you to take this opportunity to come onsite and view your child's classroom, whilst chatting to your child's teacher.

**Parents of children in Years 1-6** will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher online on Tuesday 9 February and/ or Thursday 11 February. Details regarding booking appointments have been sent out via Operoo.



## Religious Education News

Vol I February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2021! Let's hope and pray that this year sees us staying safe and well as we live in a new COVID normal way. Throughout the school year we have a number of religious events which include level masses, whole school masses and Sacramental celebrations.

### SACRAMENTS 2020

This year we will have the Year 4s and Year 3s receive the Sacraments of Penance and First Communion and Year 6s celebrating their Confirmation.

***A letter with further information is being sent out this week to Year 4 parents.***

***Next week, Year 3 and Year 6 parents will receive further details about their Sacraments.***

Please note that each mass will be capped as we continue to follow the Chief Health Officer's instructions around keeping our community safe. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

### SACRAMENT 2021 DATES ARE:

#### Year 4

##### **Sacrament of First Reconciliation –**

Thursday 25 February at 12.00pm

##### **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

Saturday 13 March

- 1pm – Year 4B and half from 4R (TBC)
- 3pm – Year 4Y and half from 4R (TBC)

*This week the parents of 4 Red students will be informed about which mass their child will be making their First Holy Communion.*

#### Year 6 2021

##### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Saturday 1 May

- 12.30pm – Year 6B and half from 6R (TBC)
- 2.30pm – Year 6Y and half from 6R (TBC)

#### Year 3 2021

##### **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

- Thursday 13 May at 12.00pm

##### **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

Saturday 5 June

- 1pm -3B and half from 3R (TBC)
- 3pm – 3Y and half from 3R (TBC)



February 17



Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allows Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each family will receive a Project Saint Oscar Romero is our inspiration for Project Compassion 2021, so in his words let's "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." *Always be thankful. (SMM) - Lucy Vassallo*

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## Staff Names and Emails

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Jenny Melki	Literacy Leader	<a href="mailto:jmelki@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au">jmelki@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au</a>



## 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**