

# 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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## *Staying Connected No. 6, 17th May 2024*

Dear Community,

As we continue through the month of May, we find ourselves surrounded by the ever changing colours of our trees, the coolness of the evenings, the warmth of the days and two significant celebrations that resonate deeply with love and devotion: Mother's Day and the Month of Mary.

Last Sunday we celebrated Mother's Day. This day serves as an important reminder of the immeasurable impact of maternal love. It's a time to honour the women who have shaped our lives with their unwavering support, boundless affection, and endless sacrifices. Whether it's our mother, grandmothers, aunts, or other important women in our lives, their love forms the cornerstone of our existence.

Last Friday was an opportunity to come together and celebrate these wonderful women in our lives. It was great to see so many mothers, grandmothers, aunts or other significant women come together and celebrate such an important occasion. It was a great event which highlights the wonderful community we have here at St Mary Mackillop Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who helped set up the hall and who came early on Friday morning to make sure the event ran smoothly, serving over nearly 300 breakfasts to those that were here. I would also like to thank Kellie for all her preparation and organisation in making sure everything was ready and set to go.

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

May holds a special significance for Catholics around the world as it is dedicated to honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout this month, we as Catholics engage in various devotions and prayers, to express our love and devotion for the Mother of Jesus.

Mary, often referred to as the Queen of Heaven, embodies qualities of compassion, grace, and strength. Her unconditional love for humanity and unwavering faith in God serve as an inspiration to millions. As we journey through the Month of Mary, let us reflect on her virtues and strive to emulate her profound love and devotion in our own lives.

At Monday morning's assembly the Year 2 students lead us in prayer. Every prayer ended with 'Give us the power!' The message was that each and every one of us has the power to be kind, brave, respectful and responsible towards one another. This was a great reminder that we need to look after one another and treat each other the way we would like to be treated.

Have a great weekend everyone.

As Mary MacKillop said on this day in 1847;

"Trust in God."

Anthony D'Amico

Principal



## REMINDERS

- The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am.** If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it **must be handed** into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the following pages.
- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas, The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.



## CHANGES TO NOTE

- As there is no supervision on the playground area in the morning, the playground is out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must use the back car park area. There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



## SRC MEETING

On Monday the 13th of May we had an SRC meeting with Ms. Monaghan and Ms. Lind. We discussed good things that are happening at this school, improving the school and updates that are in the school.

Some of the good things that are happening at this school are...

- Garden club
- New turf ground
- Mother's Day breakfast (the waffles were great!)
- Mother's Day stall
- New Building (Tenison Woods Building)
- Hope in a suitcase

Some suggestions for improvement are...

- Swings
- Blue friendship benches
- Possible special food days like hotdog or pie day
- Opportunities to play in the hall at break time
- The maintenance man got into surgery and the basketball rings are going to take longer than expected
- Higher fences or nets to stop the balls from going over

### What's coming up

- Crazy hair/hat day Thursday the 27th of June to raise money for the homeless. The fundraiser for this term is Backpack Bed for the Homeless on crazy hair/hat day. On that day you can please bring a \$2 donation!

Shaleni, Claire and Emily Year 6 SRC reps

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# St Mary MacKillop PS

## Mobile Phone & Smart Watch Policy



Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) is a company limited by guarantee that has been established by the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to assume the governance and operation of MACS schools.

### MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE

#### PURPOSE

To explain to our school community St Mary MacKillop's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices such as Smart Watches] during school hours.

#### SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at St Mary MacKillop Primary School and,
- Students' personal mobile phones [and other personal mobile devices eg. Smart watches] brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

#### DEFINITIONS

A **mobile phone** is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. "For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as smart watches."

#### POLICY

St Mary MacKillop Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or smart watch to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At St Mary MacKillop Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored in secured box in the classroom during school hours. Smart watches must be set to School Mode and not connected during the school day.
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

#### Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's Mobile Phones Policy issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at St Mary MacKillop Primary School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess.

#### Secure storage

Mobile phones owned by students at St Mary MacKillop Primary School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. **Please note that St Mary MacKillop Primary School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft.** Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items.

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, St Mary MacKillop Primary School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At St Mary MacKillop Primary School students are required to hand their phones to the classroom teacher to be placed in a lockable box.

#### Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at St Mary MacKillop Primary School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing policies (Student Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Policy).

At St Mary MacKillop Primary School there is to be no use of mobile phones **during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted.

Students are not to use their Mobile Phones:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission, and
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, school buildings, gyms and school grounds (or surrounding areas afterschool)

#### Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

St Mary MacKillop Primary School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

#### Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)
- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

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# SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

## *Hope in a Suitcase*

We are the Year 6 Mission Leaders and we want to tell you about our whole school social justice action: Hope in a Suitcase. Hope in a Suitcase is an organisation that helps kids who go into foster-care. They organise bags and suitcases to give to children who have been removed from their homes to keep them safe. Sometimes these kids leave all of their belongings behind. This organisation's aim is to give these kids a suitcase full of things to help them feel special, important and loved.

We would like our whole school to work together to gather important items to go into the hands that need them. We have been thinking about and connecting with children the same age as us: children in primary school.

**Wouldn't it be great if we could collect BRAND NEW things to put in these suitcases for children aged 6 to 12 years old?**

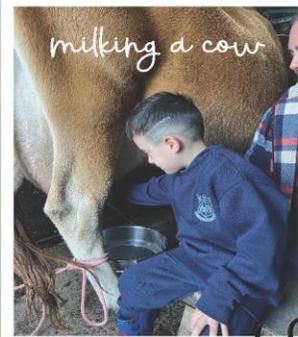
Our collection boxes will be placed in the Office foyer. You can bring your donations to the Office and pop them into the boxes. Let's work together this term to support this great organisation and children in need!

Final donations will be collected by Friday 14th June, the end of Week 9 this term.

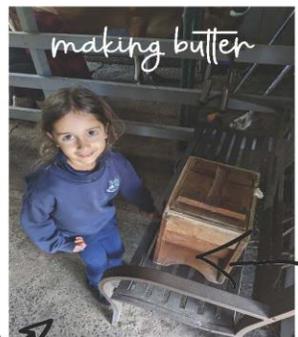


**Donations for  
6-12 year olds:**

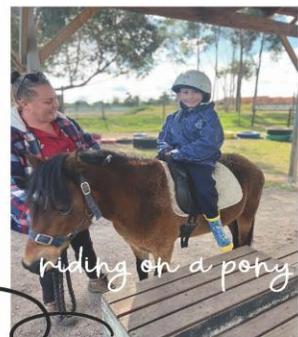
- carry on size suitcases
- duffle / overnight bags
- pyjamas
- singlets
- underwear
- socks
- clothes
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- small toys and crafts
- hairbrush, headbands, scrunchies and hair clips
- books to read (fiction/non-fiction)
- colouring, drawing or activity books
- pencils and textas
- body wash/soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- cards and card games



milking a cow



making butter



riding on a pony



stroking guinea pigs & rabbits



planting seeds



stroking chicks

We saw and did so many things on the farm!

# Prep farm excursion



Now we are wondering ...  
Why do we have farms?  
What jobs are there?  
Why are there so many different animals?



tractor ride



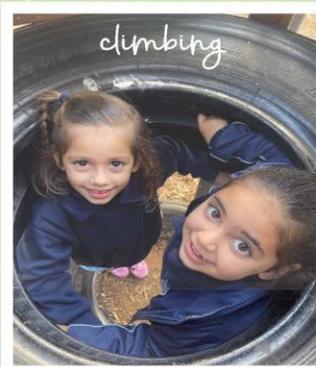
scooping poop!



feeding sheep, goats and alpacas



feeding ducks and geese



climbing





## Saint Mary Mackillop Primary School Winter Uniform

In Terms 2 & 3 students are required to wear their Winter Uniform.  
The photos below show what all students should be wearing.



\*Hair ties, small bows or headbands need to be pale blue, royal blue, navy blue or white.

Uniform items can be purchased in the following ways:

- **In Store at: Academy Uniforms, Deer Park. Monday to Friday: 9am - 5pm Saturday: 9am - 12 noon. 10/85 Mt Derrimut Road, Deer Park. Phone (03) 8385 9111**
- **On-line:** at [www.academyuniforms.com.au](http://www.academyuniforms.com.au) for home delivery or a free weekly delivery to school.

# Year One Scienceworks Excursion

On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, the Year 1s went to Scienceworks to discover more about our inquiry topic "What do scientists do?"



The Year 1's watched a 'Toys and Forces' show that showed us how we use forces such as push and pull to make different things around us move.



In the Planetarium we joined Tycho the dog on his wild space adventure and learnt about how the sky changes from day to night.



We can't wait to find out so much more about what scientists do in Term 2!



# Werribee Zoo

On Tuesday 30th April, Grade 6 visited the Werribee Zoo. We went to learn about different biomes and where animals live. We learned that there are some species that are endangered, and the world needs to take action to protect them and their environments. We saw gorillas, hippos, rhinos, giraffes and koalas. Our favourite part of the day was riding on the safari Bus and seeing all the wild animals in their natural habitats.



During our visit we focused on the African animals, particularly looking at the Gorillas. This linked with our Inquiry unit back at school. Through our sessions with the educators we learned that the Gorilla population in many areas is declining due to many different reasons such as deforestation, mining of coltan that we use in our phones and devices, poaching and tourism.



By Maximus Artuso, Nathaniel Sapuppo, Olivia Padovano and Kayla Strangis

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# MOTHER'S DAY

*breakfast*



We enjoyed a wonderful breakfast with the beautiful women in our lives last week. It was great to see so many families attend our special celebration.

## Annual St Mary MacKillop PS

# READ-O-RAMA

**Flex your reading muscles!**

**Increase your reading strength.**

**Build your reading powers!**



**Starting from Monday the 6th May 2024**

**Your challenge is to read as many books as you can until the end of term.**

P-2s will track how many books they read  
3-6s will track the number of pages they read



Students record their reading each day,

Teachers keep a tally of their students' reading for the week,

Year levels will keep a running, weekly total of BOOKS/PAGES READ  
and **display** them in their areas.

At the end of term we will celebrate!

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### School Attendance

I would like to reinforce the importance of students attending school and being present and ready to learn by 9.00am every day. Classes begin at 9.00am so we can maximise the learning time the students have at school.

When students arrive late, they miss the important whole class instruction period and are therefore missing key concepts, modelling and information that is vital to their learning.

Please note that if your child/ren are late (after 9.10am), they **must** come to the office to be signed in late. **Parents are not to accompany them straight to their classroom.**

I also understand that there are times when early departures cannot be avoided. In these cases, I would appreciate if you could pick your child/ren up at either 11.00am-start of lunch break, 11.45am-end of lunch break, 1.40pm-start of second break or 2.20pm-end of second break as picking up during class times disrupts the lesson and the other children in the class.

Due to the busy nature of the office and classroom in the afternoon, we cannot call children out of class between 3pm – 3.15pm (unless it is an emergency). Please try and collect your children in the hours listed above if they must leave early.

Thank you.

# St Mary MacKillop Cross Country

On Wednesday 8th of May, all students from Grades 3 to 6 participated in the St Mary MacKillop Cross Country competition. Students were required to run a 2 or 3 kilometre Cross Country run around our school. The top runners from each age group would then advance to the next level and participate in the District Cross Country. Everyone on the day participated with enthusiasm and put in a great effort. At the end of our races we were all lucky enough to receive a gelati or icy pole.

At the end of the day, we all gathered to hear Mr Maxwell and Miss Higgins announce the top 5 from each age group, these students would go through to the next round. We also eagerly anticipated the announcement of the winning house. It was close with only 2 points the difference, but Blue House took out the win for 2024.



## Age Group Winners!



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Catholic Regional College  
Sydenham

# 2024 COLLEGE TOURS WITH THE PRINCIPAL



*Every Student  
Every Pathway*

### COLLEGE TOUR DATES

- Tuesday 19 March - 11:00am
- Thursday 16 May - 9:30am
- Thursday 13 June - 4:00pm
- Tuesday 15 October - 11:00am

To register for a College Tour,  
scan the QR Code below.



Or visit our website:  
[crcs.vic.edu.au](http://crcs.vic.edu.au)  
and navigate to  
'Join our Community' and  
'College Tours / Events'

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PLAY



# come find your awesome

## KEILOR AUSKICK CENTRE

Keilor Football Club, Old Calder Hwy  
Service Rd, Keilor

Friday's 5:00pm - 6:00pm



[play.afl/auskick](http://play.afl/auskick)





Catholic  
Regional College  
North Keilor

# EXPERIENCE CRC NORTH KEILOR

## GRADE 5 IMMERSION PROGRAM

CRCNK are running a Grade 5 Immersion Program throughout Terms 1-3. Students engage directly with our inspiring staff and our Year 10 student leaders for an exciting & fun hands-on Immersion program.

From interactive projects to collaborative activities, this unique experience provides Grade 5 students with an opportunity to explore high school subjects in a safe and supportive environment and gain invaluable insight into what student life is like at CRCNK.

- Sessions run from 3:45pm - 5pm
- Students are required to attend in their school uniform
- A parent/carer is required to attend for the duration of each session and are invited to attend presentations by members of our Leadership Team.

Each program will run on a Thursday after school for 3 consecutive weeks. The dates for the Term 3 programs are as follows -

**Term 3:** Thursday 18 July, 25 July & 1 August  
**OR**  
Thursday 15 August, Thursday 22 August & Thursday 29 August

**Students will be required to attend all 3 sessions in one program.** Places are limited so register online via our College website using the link below. **Registration will open on Monday 27 May at 9 am.**

 [crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2026](http://crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2026)



  
**Food  
Technology**

  
**WoodWork**

  
**Science**

[www.crcnk.com.au](http://www.crcnk.com.au)

**1C Santa Monica Drive  
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038  
9361 5900**

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# 2024 Term Dates

**Term 1: 31 January-28 March 2024**

**(Good Friday 29 March-Easter Monday 01 April)**

**Term 2: 15 April-28 June 2024**

**Term 3: 15 July-20 September**

**Term 4: 7 October-17 December**

**(Year 6 finish Friday 13 December)**

## **Upcoming Events 2024**

**Term 2: 15 April-28 June 2024**

**Monday 20 May and Friday 24 May**

Teeth on Wheels

**Monday 27 May**

Communion Family Faith Night @ 7pm

**Saturday 15 June**

Year 3 Communion @10.30am and 12.30pm

**Friday 28 June**

Last day of Term 2

Students finish @ 1.00pm