

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No. 11, 9th August 2024

Dear Community,

As we come together we have many wonderful things to celebrate. On Tuesday we celebrated Prep's 100 days of school, yesterday we celebrated the feast day of our patron saint St Mary MacKillop and last week some of our Year 5 & 6 student's participated in the Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival.

As we celebrate the patron saint of our school we take time to reflect on the wonderful woman St Mary MacKillop was and remember the extraordinary things she did for those less fortunate.

St Mary MacKillop, also known as Saint Mary of the Cross, is celebrated for her dedication to providing education to the poor and her foundational role in establishing the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. She was born here in Melbourne on January 15, 1842 and was canonized as Australia's first saint on October 17, 2010

Mary inspires us in every way and every day here in our school. She founded schools, orphanages, and charitable institutions throughout Australia and New Zealand. She was an ordinary woman who did extraordinary things.

She lived by the creed,

“Never see a need without doing something about it.”

We certainly aspire to live by Mary's example.



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.

We were thrilled to share the joyous occasion of our 100 Days of Prep celebrations, marking a significant milestone in our Prep students' educational journey. This event was a wonderful way to acknowledge the incredible growth, learning, and achievements of our youngest learners over the past 100 days. We are proud of their progress and were excited to celebrate their accomplishments with a range of fun and engaging activities.

Our Prep students and teachers showcased their creativity by dressing up in various costumes and even as 100-year-olds. It was heart-warming to see the effort put into their outfits, complete with glasses, grey wigs, and walking sticks. The school corridors were filled with laughter and excitement as everyone enjoyed the celebration.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our teachers, parents, and volunteers who made this celebration possible. Your support and involvement are crucial in creating memorable experiences for all our students.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Anthony D'Amico

Principal

As Mary MacKillop said in 1894,
“God is Good.”

WAKAKIRI

Last week on Wednesday 31st July a number of our children in Years 5 and 6 performed in Wakakirri; a Performing Arts Showcase for primary-aged students. This performance was held at The Clocktower in Moonee Ponds.

Last week, we witnessed the spirit of our school, alive and pumping. It's times like this that make all our work and efforts worthwhile.

Wakakirri was a huge success. Congratulations to all the boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 who performed so successfully. We were proud to be recognised with a number of awards.

We received Notable Awards and for the second year running we won the Best Public Speaking Award:

A big congratulations to (Nina Gallardo Maj 6B, Emilia Clements 5R and Emily Pausic 5B) who were outstanding when answering questions on stage about our performance. These three children received the *Best Public Speaking Award*.

I am absolutely so proud of our school.

We sincerely acknowledge and thank Laura Kandzidis. Laura scripted the story, selected the music, designed sets and costumes, and directed and choreographed the performance. She also organised and managed endless rehearsals. Laura obviously put her heart and soul into making sure the performance was everything it could be. It was brilliant! Our success is Laura's success. **THANK YOU, LAURA!**

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Thank you also to Laura's support team; particularly Sarina Commisso, Loretta Pizzicarola and Angela Ferraro. Thank you for the brilliant job with hair and makeup for the children. Thank you to Josh who helped make and deliver the Props. Thank you to the many staff who came along to support the children during the performance. And thank you to the performer's parents who allowed their children to participate, supported them on their journey and were present last Wednesday evening.

Every time our school was mentioned, the screams and shouts from the auditorium, certainly outdid all the other schools! I was told our kids were thrilled out back when they could hear us roar! That's team spirit. This is our school! Well done everyone involved you certainly made us proud.



REMINDERS

- 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. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.
- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
- 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.
- St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.'
Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds.



- 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 school website.
- 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.

Parents and Friends Group

Here at SMMPS we have a Parents Group that volunteer their time for fundraising events. For example, events like the Feast Day BBQ, canteen distribution roster, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, our annual colour run and lots more....

The Parents Group have a whatsapp group for communication. When there is an event where we require volunteers, it is discussed on the app and if you are free and would like to help out you can volunteer yourself by responding on the group chat. The Parent Group meet every couple of weeks on a Friday afternoon to discuss any upcoming fundraising events.

You are most welcome to come along to the meetings.

If you would like to be part of the app, please email me at kdoherty@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au and I will pass your number onto the group.

Thanks, Kellie Doherty

PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



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YEAR ONE CULTURAL INFUSION INCURSION

On Monday the 5th of August, the Year 1s were immersed in the rhythms of African drumming. Kofi was born in Ghana and has lived in Australia for 15 years. He taught the students the importance of music and dance in African culture.



The Year 1s had the opportunity to play the drums, make music and dance with Kofi. We had so much fun learning about African culture. We can't wait for the rest of our Inquiry topic!





Each year since 1945 the CBCA has brought children and books together across Australia through CBCA Book Week. During this time schools and public libraries spend one glorious week celebrating books and Australian children's authors and illustrators.

Our aim at SMMPs is to grow a love of reading in all children.

We want them to see reading as a pleasure and a skill that helps them unlock many aspects of life.

We see the growth of book love as a responsibility of the whole school community. Beyond the classroom children need to experience the closeness of sharing reading with their family and discussing their enjoyment, wonderings, and opinions with others.

During this reading journey, a way of moving forward could be for parents to discuss with their children memories of their own favourite books, characters and authors.

At SMMPs we are planning to celebrate Book Week by having some fun asking students to dress up as a book character. **There is no pressure for families to purchase costumes.** (Time to get creative!!!!) We will be celebrating this special day on Monday 19th August 2024. The parade will begin at 9.10am-10.00am in the hall. **Parents are welcome to attend.** Additionally we have some Australian authors visiting, giving talks to the classes and we will be exploring and studying the various Shortlisted books.

2024 -READORAMA RESULTS

Congratulations and thank you to students and teachers who supported and read so much to build stamina for reading across the school!

The classes who read the most across the school were:

Prep Yellow, Year 1 Red, Year 2 Yellow, Year 3 Yellow, Year 4 Blue, Year 5 Blue and Year 6 Yellow

Jenny Melki
Literacy Leader

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BOOK FAIR

We have had a very successful book fair, so thank you to all students, parents & families who supported the book fair.

Staff & students purchased approximately \$10,000 (to be confirmed) worth of books & variety items.

The school will receive a commission to purchase new books from Scholastic.

Thanks you to all the staff for their support especially Jenny Melki.

Thanks also to our parent helpers Andrea, Monique, Sonali, Crystal, Faye, Kris, Kristiana & Chelsea who assisted throughout book fair week.

Thanks again everyone.

Denise Thorne
Library Technician

PRAYING TOGETHER

'Forming lives of faith, hope and love in the light of Jesus Christ'.

MACS 2030

What does prayer look like in our school?

We know that there is no one way to pray. Our school community is called to and committed to enriching the lives of our students by providing them with opportunities for meaningful communal and personal prayer.

At different times in the children's learning, they will explore different types of prayers, purposes for prayer and they will learn a range of traditional prayers.

Our children pray with their class, we pray together as a school community at Assembly, we gather in prayer and praise at Mass throughout each term, and we celebrate feast days and liturgical celebrations in classroom liturgies.



When we pray together

- we invite everyone to share the prayer space reverently with us.
- we create sacred spaces using symbols of our faith.
- we reflect the liturgical season with symbols, images, objects and colours.
- we make the Sign of the Cross.
- we can incorporate music, scripture or artwork into our prayer.
- we can share our own prayers and intentions.
- we can pray traditional prayers.

Ways we pray in our classrooms:

Prayer Circle

We can begin our time of prayer by examining scripture, reflecting on learning, or exploring songs. This is usually followed by offering our prayer intentions.

Classroom Liturgies

To celebrate bigger feast days in the Church, we gather with our class to participate in liturgies that help us to learn about and reflect on these important days through scripture, prayer, symbol and song.

Catholic Meditation

Teachers guide their classes through a period of meditation; intentionally calming and slowing down of the body to allow for the opportunity to deepen their connection with God.

More on Catholic Meditation on the next page.

Guided Meditation

Teachers sometimes use a story to guide the children into a space of restful, quiet contemplation. The stories focus on concepts that help to connect everyday life with Church teachings and to build deeper connection with, and a space to sit with God.

CATHOLIC MEDITATION

in classrooms

Catholic Meditation

Teachers guide their classes through a period of meditation; intentionally calming and slowing down of the body to allow for the opportunity to deepen their connection with God.

To begin praying through meditation, teachers spend time teaching the children how to still their bodies, regulate their breathing and become comfortable with silence.

The Sign of the Cross is made to bring us into a space of intentional prayer.

Prayerful meditation then begins with either a focus on scripture or a prayerful intention.

A bell is struck three times (once for each person of the Holy Trinity) to signify the beginning of the silence and time for meditation.

Children are encouraged to use the chant "maranatha," an Aramaic word with direct links to scripture (1 Corinthians 16: 22), meaning "Our Lord, come!" to help them stay in a place of silence and stillness of their minds and body.

After a period of silence, the bell is struck three times once more, to signify the end of meditation.

The children are given time to bring themselves back to the prayer space and we give thanks to God for the time to be with Him before making the Sign of the Cross once again.

Support for Use of Instruments in Catholic Meditation

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) - 1989
Letter to the Bishops (1989)

"On the contrary, one can take from them [the great religions] what is useful so long as the Christian conception of prayer, its logic and requirements are never obscured. It is within the context of all of this that these bits and pieces should be taken up and expressed anew."

In summary, it says that while Christians can draw from other traditions, they must ensure that their meditation remains firmly rooted in Christian doctrine. True Christian meditation involves a personal, intimate dialogue with God, centred on the teachings and life of Jesus Christ, and should avoid techniques that focus on self or impersonal experiences.

[Read more on the Holy See website](#)

What is the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF)?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) is a department of the Roman Curia, the administrative apparatus of the Holy See. It is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the doctrine of the Catholic Church. Here are some key points about the CDF:

1. History and Background:

- The CDF is one of the oldest among the congregations of the Roman Curia. It was originally established by Pope Paul III in 1542 as the Sacred Congregation of the Universal Inquisition to defend the Church from heresy.
- In 1908, Pope Pius X renamed it the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office.
- It was given its current name, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, by Pope Paul VI in 1965 following the Second Vatican Council.

2. Mission and Responsibilities:

- The primary mission of the CDF is to promote and protect the doctrine on faith and morals throughout the Catholic world.
- It examines doctrines and writings that appear contrary to the Church's teachings, offering judgments and corrective measures if necessary.
- The CDF addresses issues related to theology, canon law, and the moral aspects of human life, ensuring that the faith is preserved in its integrity.

Monsignor Portelli on the use of Singing Bells in Prayer and Liturgy:

The chiming of single bells is a well-documented practice in the tradition of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI canonized Hildegard von Bingen, a famous woman composer of medieval times, and designated her a "Doctor of the Church," a title given to those whose writings or teachings on the use of music in liturgical celebrations have had a particularly strong impact. She is one of only four women saints in history to hold that title.

[Read more about the music and influence of Hildegard von Bingen](#)

The Feast of St Mary MacKillop

Thursday 8th August, 2024

Yesterday we celebrated the Feast of St Mary MacKillop, with a whole day of celebrations. We wore light blue and teal to symbolise the Sisters of St Joseph representing the Josephites at Mary's canonisation in Rome and raised money for Mary MacKillop Today, an organisation that continues the work of educating women and children. Thank you for your generosity.

It was a pleasure to work with and prepare the Year 6 Mystery Leaders and School Choir to take on big roles during our whole-school Mass. In his homily, Monsignor spoke about heroes and Mary being a true hero for the great works she did throughout her life; a humble woman doing amazing things.

Many people were involved in making this day of celebration a great success. A special thanks to: Mr D'Amico for his support in all of the day's festivities, Monsignor Portelli for saying Mass for us, Kellie for organising an army of helpers and taking care of ordering and organisation, our parents and staff who helped cook and serve the BBQ and organise drinks and lollies, Mr Maxwell for organising the staff and student volunteers for the much loved and anticipated annual Teachers v Year 6 netball match and the SRC for their suggestions and consultation in organising the day's events.

Keep reading to have a look at some of the great snaps we got on our day of celebration.

Many thanks to all involved,
Natalie Mulford (REL)



Feast Day BBQ



Mary MacKillop Artwork

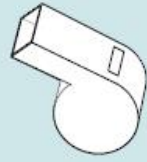
In the classrooms, teachers and students explored the life and achievements of Mary MacKillop. They began to work on their art installations for the Pilgrimage with Mary MacKillop coming up at the end of this term.



Teachers v Year 6 Students Match

The annual Teachers v Year 6 Students netball match drew a large and excited crowd. The Year 6 students were full of energy and bounce but the teachers were determined to not let the pocket rockets defeat them. The match was well-paced with players on both sides making considerable leaps and bounds to get the ball, defend it, and shoot some goals. The final score went to the Teachers. Better luck next year, Year 6!







The Final Score





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 for home delivery or a free weekly delivery to school.**

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Catholic Regional College
Sydenham

2024 COLLEGE TOURS WITH THE PRINCIPAL



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
and navigate to
'Join our Community' and
'College Tours / Events'

*Every Student
Every Pathway*



**Catholic
Regional College
North Keilor**

Term 3 College Tours

Bring your child to a College Tour and:

- Meet the College Principal
- Visit Classes in Action
- Chat to Enrolment Staff
- Engage with Student Ambassadors
- Share Morning Tea

Upcoming Tour Dates

Thursday 18 July

Tuesday 23 July

Friday 2 August

Tours commence at 9.15am sharp and run for approximately 90 minutes.

Online bookings are essential. Visit [crcnk.com.au/enrolment/college-tour](https://www.crcnk.com.au/enrolment/college-tour)



YEAR 7 2026 APPLY NOW

**VISIT THE WEBSITE TO COMPLETE AN ONLINE APPLICATION
FOR ENROLMENT FORM**

KEY DATES:

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST 2024 - APPLICATIONS CLOSE

Friday 18 October 2024 - offers of enrolment sent to families

Friday 8 November 2024 - final date to accept offer

<https://www.crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2026>



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



**Food
Technology**



WoodWork



Science

www.crcnk.com.au

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

PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
PRESENTED TO

Saint Mary Mackillop Primary
School

THANK YOU.

Your generosity during Project Compassion this year will support our neighbours worldwide, empowering the most vulnerable people to build a just future for their families and communities.

Kirsty Robertson

Caritas Australia CEO



caritas.org.au/project-compassion



1800 024 413



#projectcompassion



MOVING STORE

ACADEMY UNIFORMS WILL BE STOCKING
ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL, KEILOR DOWNS
AT THE NEW AND IMPROVED UNIFORM GROUP STORE

DEER PARK

FIRST DAY OF TRADE **TUESDAY 11TH OF JUNE**

LAST DAY OF TRADE AT ACADEMY DEER PARK STORE **FRIDAY 31ST OF MAY**

STORE ADDRESS:

UNIT 2, 51-53 WESTWOOD DRIVE,
RAVENHALL VIC 3023
[03] 9768 0342

TRADING HOURS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM
SUNDAY CLOSED



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Upcoming Events 2024

Term 3: 15 July-20 September

Friday 9 August

Casual clothes day-Olympic Colours-more details soon
Canteen special-see flyer
(Queen Baker Catering-QKR App)

Thursday 15 August

Feast of the Assumption

Monday 19 August

Book Parade-details soon

Tuesday 3 September

School Closure Day-details soon

Friday 20 September

Last day of Term 3

Students finish @ 1.00pm