

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No.15. 28th October 2024

Dear Community,

As we move into Week 4 of Term 4, we reflect on the vibrant activities that continue to bring our community together. Over the last few weeks, we have celebrated faith, learning, and the spirit of service that St. Mary MacKillop exemplified throughout her life.

As many of you are aware I was away for the last 5 weeks on a holiday in Europe. This was an opportunity to spend time with family and to also visit the many wonderful places in Italy and Portugal. One of the many places I visited in Portugal was 'Fatima' which is a very sacred place where 'the Virgin Mary' appeared to 3 shepherd children throughout the month of October in 1917. This is a place of profound significance in our faith. The shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is a destination for many pilgrims seeking peace and inspiration and, certainly, a place where I felt a sense of calm and peace. I would like to thank Jenny Monaghan and Aaron Kuras who looked after the school so well in my absence.

While I was away we had our yearly Bunnings BBQ which was held on Sunday 20th October at Bunnings Taylors Lakes. We raised almost \$4000 which will go towards funding our new Covered Outdoor Learning Space which will be constructed over the next month or so outside our Performing Arts building. I would like to thank Crystal Maros for all her work in getting the BBQ up and running and to all the parents who volunteered their time to help sell sausages and support this school fundraiser. See Photos.

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.

The Year 6 children are preparing themselves to embark on their Sydney Experience leaving tomorrow Tuesday 29th October and returning on Thursday 31st October. The children will travel to Sydney and explore the many wonderful sights Sydney has to offer. We will be staying at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney and supported by Mrs Bree Artuso, Mr Ross Botoulas, Mr Peter Marinucci, Ms Jenny Monaghan, Mrs Natalie Mulford, Mrs Kellie Doherty and myself. We look forward to creating many wonderful memories and experiencing a deeper understanding of the impact Mary MacKillop had on all Australians.

A reminder that next Monday 4th November there will be a school closure day followed by the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday on Tuesday 5th November. Then on Thursday 6th November, we welcome our new prep children for 2025 to their first Prep Orientation where they will get a chance to meet the classroom teachers. This may be a nerve-wracking time for some but it will also be an exciting time for many families.

Let us remember the words of St. Mary MacKillop:
"Never see a need without doing something about it."

As we continue our journey through this term, may we embody her spirit in our actions and interactions.

Have a great week everyone.

Anthony D'Amico

REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The rear carpark will be locked at 9.00am and will re-open at 2.45pm.
- 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 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.

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- 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 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

Dear St Mary Mackillop School Community,

Each year our school holds a number of School Advisory Council meetings, which enable us to continue the high-level strategic direction and oversight of the operation and management of our school. St Mary MacKillop is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

The School Advisory Council provides an important connection between the wider school community and school leadership. The role of the School Advisory Council is to provide support to the Principal and is an important connection to the Parish.

As we look towards 2025, we are seeking expressions of interest for new members to join our School Advisory Council. This group will comprise of a minimum of six and a maximum of 10 council members, who value the importance of the educational mission and ethos of the Catholic Church. Please see below:

- a) the principal (ex officio)
- b) the parish priest (ex officio) (custodian of mission)
- c) two parents of children attending the school
- d) one parishioner
- e) another person who in the opinion of the principal has the relevant knowledge, skills, expertise or interest and commitment to the mission of the school to serve a particular need on the council
- f) additional parents of children attending the school*
- g) additional parishioners*
- h) any other person who in the opinion of the principal has the relevant knowledge, skills, expertise or interest and commitment to the mission of the school*

If you are interested in joining the St Mary Mackillop School Advisory Council group, please send your expression of interest to the Principal: Mr. Anthony D'Amico principal@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au by Friday 8th November 2024. (Please include a picture and some background information about yourself).

This role is crucial to the success of our school, we greatly appreciate those who volunteer their time and expertise to support the successful direction of St Mary Mackillop Primary School.

Kindest regards

[Anthony D'Amico](#)

Principal

Social Justice Report



St Francis of Assisi with the animals

SRC and Mission REPORT

The SRC met on Thursday afternoon in Week Two to talk about the school social justice action, Operation Christmas Child. In this SRC meeting, we discussed how we could donate to the

Operation Christmas Child project.

We imagined not having presents to open on Christmas day. Imagine being so poor, you don't have money for new toys or clothes or your own toothbrush! We decided that we would share this message and promote this cause to our classes during prayer time this week.

-SRC

On Friday 25th October our donations were collected- a total of 20 gift boxes were made with all of your donations. This is a huge effort in such a short amount of time. I am grateful to our community for pulling together so many fantastic donations for a truly great cause. More pictures to come via SeeSaw.

God bless and thank you!

-Natalie



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser-Sunday 20th October

A big thank you to Crystal Maros for organising the day. It ran very smoothly.

Thank you to all the parents who made contributions. From parents cooking and serving sausages and drinks, donating money to go towards items for the day or baking cookies/slices/muffins for the bake stall.

We would also like to acknowledge Keilor Central Butcher who donated sausages, Bakers Delight Keilor Downs and Watergardens stores for donating bread and the Dellai Family for the onions.





**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>



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 4: 07 October-17 December

Tuesday 29 October to 31 October

Year 6 Camp to Sydney

Monday 4 November

School Closure Day-No School for all students

Tuesday 5 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Thursday 7 November

Prep 2025 Play and Stay-Session 1

9.00am to 9.50am or 10.00am to 10.50am

Monday 11 November to Wednesday 13 November

Year 4 Camp

Upcoming Events 2024 Cont....

Wednesday 13 November

Prep 2025 Play and Stay-Session 2

9.00am to 9.50am or 10.00am to 10.50am

**Monday 25, Tuesday 26 November and Wednesday
4 December**

Teeth on Wheels

Thursday 28 November

Prep 2025 Play and Stay-Session 3

9.30am to 10.30am

Thursday 5 December

Christmas Carols @ 6.30pm on school Oval

Friday 6 December

School Closure Day-No school for all students

Upcoming Events 2024 Cont....

Tuesday 10 December

Thanksgiving Mass @ 12pm-All welcome

Thursday 12 December

Year 6 Big Day Out

Friday 13 December

Year 6 Guard of Honour @ 12.45pm

Year 6 finish @ 1.00pm

Year 6 Graduation @ 7.00pm in church

Tuesday 17 December

Last day of 2024 for Prep to Year 5

Students finish at 1pm