

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No.16. 15th November 2024

Dear Community,

As we pass the halfway point of Term 4, it's hard to believe how quickly this term is unfolding and how quickly we are coming to the end of the year! Our students and staff have been busy, and we are excited to share some of the highlights from the past few weeks and what's to come. There have been many exciting things happening over the last few weeks, such as Year 6 Camp, Year 4 Camp, welcoming our 2025 preps to our orientation sessions and, as you may have seen, the beginning of the construction of our new Cover Learning Outdoor Area, to mention just a few. Let's continue to work together in faith and love as we finish the year strong.

Our Year 6 students spent 3 days in Sydney travelling to various sites and continuing to build their understanding and love of the wonderful woman St Mary MacKillop was. They continued to explore the impact she has on us all by spending the day at Mary MacKillop Place Museum in Sydney. I am always so proud of the way our Year 6s conduct themselves while they are away and we always receive positive praise from the public on how well they are behaved and how well they participate in all activities. (See photos and reflections.)

Our Year 4 students returned from their Adventure Camp in Mt Evelyn on Wednesday where they spent 3 days exploring, team building, testing their limits on the Giant Swing and trying new things. From all accounts, they had a wonderful time and came home with many stories to tell.

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.

I would like to acknowledge all the staff who attended these two camps and looked after the children so well. Without their care and dedication these camps would simply not be possible. I would like to thank Bree Artuso, Ross Botoulas, Peter Marinucci, Jennie Monaghan, Natalie Mulford and Kellie Doherty who attended the Year 6 camp and Angela Amato, Julia Maio, Madison Barlow, Matt Saxon, Sarah Higgins, James Quinn, Jason Maxwell and Erin Abson who attended the Year 4 camp.

As we continue our journey through Term 4, let us keep the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop alive in our hearts. Her life reminds us that no act of kindness or service is too small, and that we are all called to make a positive difference in the world. Thank you for your continued support of our school community. I look forward to seeing how we can all live out Mary's values together in the coming weeks.

Let us remember the words of St. Mary MacKillop on this day in 1883:

**“With humility, charity and truth on our part,
all will in the end be well.”**

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

Have a great weekend everyone.

Anthony D'Amico
Principal

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



Are You Leaving Us?

It is that time of the year when we are finalising classes and enrolments for 2025.

If you will not be returning to SMMPS in 2025, could you please email Anthony D'Amico as soon as possible at adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au if you have not already done so.

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

(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

Sydney Experience 2024!

"Year six camp was one of the best primary school experiences ever. From the ferry to the Opera House tour, everyone had so much fun."



"We had arrived in Sydney, shortly after we went to the Sydney Opera House! We had a tour of it. We went in a room where performances were held and we got to see the Sydney Symphony Orchestra practising their performance! It was amazing!!! We also got to see inside the Opera House, you could see underneath the sails and the outside of the sails. I didn't know the sails are made from cream and white squares."



"From Macquarie's Chair we slowly walked to the Opera House. We had a guided tour of the inside and we got to see and touch the tiles of the sails. From the Opera House the bus took us to Anderledy Lodge where we had time to relax in our room until dinner and bowling later on."

"We had a bit of time in our rooms, before we had to get changed for dinner and bowling. For dinner we had garlic bread with lasagna and of course vegetables, there was so much food that it filled everyone's bellies."



"On our first night we went out for bowling. This was a memorable time, especially because I was with some of my friends during the experience. Even though I came 2nd last, I still had time to enhance my skills."



"We all had a great time at bowling. Our excitement filled the bowling alley, you could hear loud cheers from everywhere and sighs of disappointment when we missed. Everyone was so competitive and some people even thought that their lane was crooked."



"The next morning, our first destination of the day was the Saint Mary Mackillop Museum. At the museum we got to look around the house that Mary Mackillop lived in, and even her tomb. After we explored the museum we celebrated Mass at Saint Joseph's Chapel with Monsignor Portelli."



"We visited the Mary Mackillop Museum and learnt about her journey. We even saw where she lived in Alma Cottage. After the Museum we gathered together for Mass and to pray around her tomb."

"We had an interesting session led by Anthony in the school house learning about the importance of prayer in our lives. Everyone listened and participated, there were even prizes if we answered a question. It was great listening to him share his thoughts with us."



"We took a short bus trip to Manly Beach where the girls played the boys in Beach volleyball. We then travelled to Circular Quay by ferry for dinner and we danced with Aboriginal street performers while we waited for our ice cream treat."



"The Ferry ride from Manly to Circular Quay was so fun. We got to see lots of things around the harbour and have a laugh with our friends. At one point it was so windy, someone even lost their hat."

"At Circular Quay we had dinner at a restaurant and after that we got an ice-cream treat. While we were waiting for our ice-cream, we saw Aboriginal buskers and some of us were invited to dance with them."



"Then we began our 2.5km walk from Bronte to Bondi Beach. As we were walking we were surprised to see how much art they have in Sydney. Then we made it to Bondi and had some fish and chips."

"On the last day we went to the Sydney War Memorial where we got to see a monologue of Frank, a soldier of the Light Horse Brigade and his experiences with his horse. We also saw a display of the suburbs and towns that the soldiers came from."



"We explored the Memorial and learnt about the pain the soldiers experienced."





**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





CHRISTMAS CAROLS CATERING

5th DECEMBER
ORDERS DUE BY THE 3RD

pre order on

QKR

Qkr!



Upcoming Events 2024

Term 4: 07 October-17 December

Monday 25, Tuesday 26 November and Wednesday 4 December

Teeth on Wheels

Thursday 28 November

Prep 2025 Meet the Teacher

9.30am to 10.30am

Thursday 5 December

Christmas Carols @ 6.30pm on school Oval - see flyer

Flyer for Christmas Carols Catering via the Qkr app attached

Friday 6 December

School Closure Day Planning 2025 - No school for all students

Upcoming Events 2024 Cont....

Monday 09 December

Thanksgiving Mass @ 9.30am-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