
Wednesday 15 March, 2023

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 3, 2023

Greetings Everyone,

Last Sunday, the Responsorial Psalm was, ***"If today you hear his voice; harden not your heart"***.

This response invited me to reflect upon, how often do I harden my heart and not to listen to the whisperings of God in my heart.

Mary MacKillop wrote that we are invited to "believe in the whisperings of God in our own heart". 1868. It is in being still and listening, that we discover God and hear the voice of God. And then we realise that....

"The discovery of God is like a spring within us. A spring which we can drink and refresh ourselves. A spring which bubbles up into eternal life." (Fr. Mario Conte OFM)

Significant women in our Catholic faith, most appropriate to consider, as we have just celebrated International Women's Day, absolutely listened to the whispering of God in their heart.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary MacKillop, Catherine Mc Auley, Caroline Chisholm and Mother Teresa, to name a few women, all listened and responded to God's voice and in doing so made a major difference in the world. In many ways, their significant influence helped shape the history of our Catholic tradition.

So how do we hear his voice and harden not our hearts? Perhaps Mother Teresa summed it up with some practical suggestions.

1. Speak as little as possible about yourself.
2. Keep busy with your own affairs and not those of others.
3. Avoid curiosity.
4. Do not interfere in the affairs of others.
5. Accept small irritations with good humour.

6. Do not dwell on the faults of others.
7. Accept insults and injury.
8. Be courteous and delicate even when provoked by someone.

In simply being present to self, without distractions, provides the best opportunity to hear the voice of God.

That can be simply achieved with a change of routine.

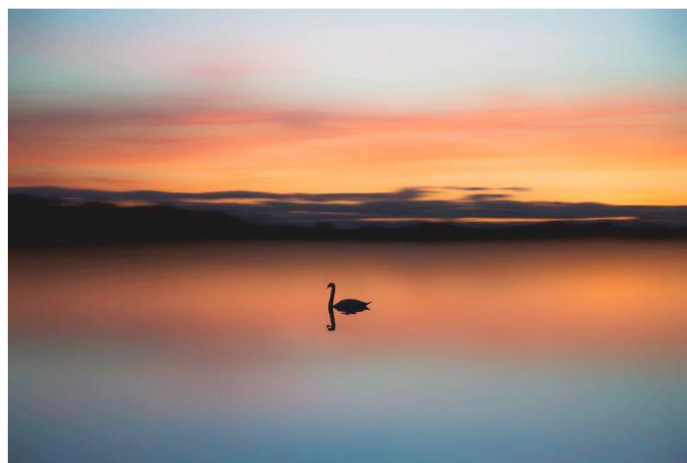
Use nights for input:

- Books
- Netflix
- Twitter

Use mornings for output:

- Exercise
- Meditation/Prayer
- Physical work

Avoid screens, for at least the first hour of each day.



In the stillness of the quiet,
if we listen,
we can hear the whisper
in the heart
giving strength to weakness,
courage to fear,
hope to despair.

Howard Thurman

Have a good week everybody,


Anthony Mc McCluskey

Principal

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.

Curriculum

This week our Year 3 and Year 5 students will participate in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The purpose of this testing is for the Australian Government to gather a range of student achievement data across Australian schools on reading, writing, grammar, spelling and mathematics. This can be a stressful time for some students, so we do our best to alleviate anxiety by supporting them with practise questions and test-taking strategies.

At Saint Mary MacKillop, we do our best to avoid placing additional strain on our students because we know that students can have good days and bad days. NAPLAN is only a measure of what a child was able to do in a single test on a specific day; it is not a summary of a child's ability or capability. NAPLAN results are best interpreted in concert with the rich range of student data that we collect throughout the year in the classroom and our own school-based testing. NAPLAN results, on their own, don't provide a rich picture of your child.

We would also like to celebrate our strong 2022 NAPLAN results. Our school ranked 419th out of over 2,000 schools in Victoria, which places Saint Mary MacKillop Primary in the top 20% of schools in the state. This is an excellent achievement and demonstrates that our student-centred approach, where the needs and interests of our students help guide the work that we do and learning is contextual, not rote, is paying strong dividends. In this way, we strive every day to cause learning that is meaningful, powerful and limitless in potential.

At Saint Mary MacKillop, we believe that:

- Education is about developing an identity as a learner
- The goal isn't to complete an assignment. It is to be a thinker
- The goal isn't to get the right answer. It's to be a questioner
- The goal isn't to read a book. It's to be a reader

Aaron Kuras-Director of Learning & Teaching Mathematics Leader

PRINCIPAL AWARDS






2023 ICT Captains



2023 Peer Tutors



2023 Sport Captains



A reminder for all Year 3 families that the
Family Faith Evening for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
with Maria Forde
will be held this week, on

Thursday 16th March

at 7pm

online.

A link will be sent to you via SeeSaw on the day.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of denomination.

Please bring a candle with you to the session (a great choice is your child's Baptismal candle).

Find a cozy place to sit with your child/ren.

We look forward to seeing you there.

THE PARENTS GROUP

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY 31 MARCH @ 2:30pm in the MPR

SACRAMENT DATES 2023

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Year 3): Thursday 30 March at 12 pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (YEAR 3): Saturday 3 June at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

CONFIRMATION (Year 6): Saturday 18 March at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

TERM DATES 2023

Term One: 31 January- 6 April (Holy Thursday)

7 April: Good Friday and 9 April: Easter Sunday

Term Two: 26 April-23 June

24 April: School Closure. Staff engaged in Professional Learning

25 April: ANZAC DAY. Public Holiday

Term Three: 10 July-15 September

Term Four: 3 October- 15 December

Year 6 students finish on Wednesday 13 December with Graduation being at 7:00 pm on that date.



Lots of socks!

Believe it or not, socks help us to get people talking on World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) Help us celebrate this year on

Tuesday 21st of March.

All you need to do is choose some socks that are going to get noticed. They might be mismatched socks or your craziest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy!



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend

“Live Your Best Life in Love”

Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This experience gives married couples the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details.

28-30 April 2023 in Melbourne

(Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



COME AND JOIN US IN THE FUN

MONDAY NIGHT FUN HOCKEY

Starts on the 6th February at 5pm

Sunshine roller skating centre
38 McIntyre Road Sunshine North



phone 0421 091 366



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Catholic Regional College NORTH KEILOR



YEAR 7 2025 Information Evening

Thursday 16 March
at 7pm

Register
Now

We invite families to join us for an

INFORMATION SESSION

with Mr Tullio Zavattiero, Principal,
members of the College Leadership
Team and the Transition Team to
learn about:

- Enrolling your child at CRCNK
- The Enrolment Process
- CRCNK's Criteria for Enrolment
- Year 7 2025 Enrolment Timeline

Register online via the Enrolments
page on our College website



2023 The Year of Resilience

'All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle' (Attributed to St Francis of Assisi)

Catholic Regional College NORTH KEILOR



COLLEGE TOURS

Bring your child to a College Tour and:

- Meet the College Principal
- Visit classes in action
- Chat to the Transition Team
- Engage with Student Ambassadors
- Share Morning Tea

Term 1 2023 Tour Dates

- Friday 17 February
- Wednesday 22 February
- Friday 3 March
- Wednesday 8 March
- Friday 31 March

Tours commence at 9.15am sharp and run for approximately 75 minutes.

Online bookings essential, to reserve your place: Visit our website: www.crcnk.com.au



2023 The Year of Resilience

'All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle' (Attributed to St Francis of Assisi)

YEAR 7 2025 KEY DATES

Thursday 16 March 2023
Enrolment Information Evening

Friday 18 August 2023
Applications close

Friday 20 October 2023
Offers sent to families

Friday 10 November 2023
Final date for acceptance

For more information contact:
Josie Zanic, Enrolment Registrar
Email: enrol@crcnk.vic.edu.au
Phone: 9361 5904

Upcoming Events-Term 1

Term 1: 31 January-6 April (Holy Thursday) 2023

Wednesday 15 March to Friday 24 March

Year 3 and Year 5 Naplan

Thursday 16 March

Year 3 Family Faith Evening @ 7pm online

Friday 17 March

St. Patrick's Day Iced Green Donuts

Saturday 18 March

Year 6 Confirmation-10.00am and 12.00pm

Tuesday 21 March

World Down Syndrome Day-wear crazy socks-see flyer

SAC Meeting @ 6.30pm

Thursday 30 March

Year 3 Reconciliation-12.00pm

Tuesday 4 April

Pie Day

School Photos

Wednesday 5 April

School Photos

Thursday 6 April (Holy Thursday)

End of Term 1-Students finish at 1.00pm

Term 2: 26 April-23 June 2023