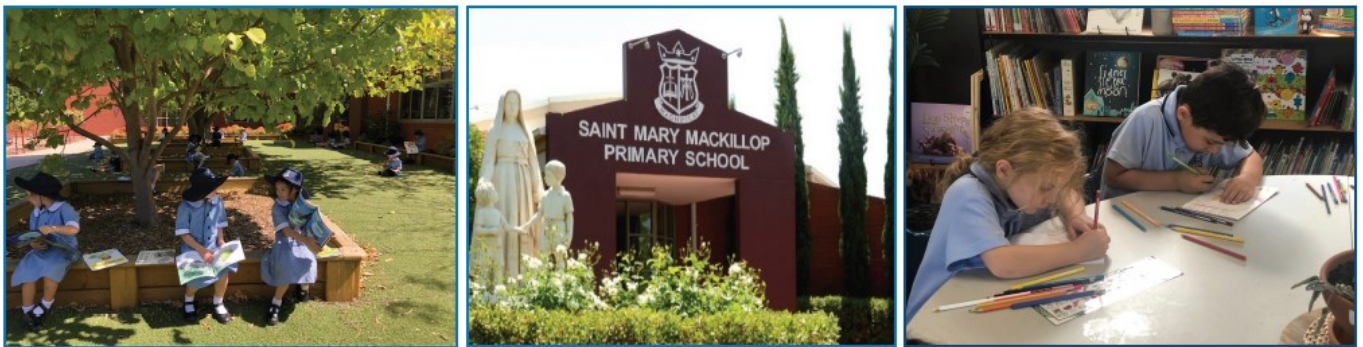


Monday 31 May 2021

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038 www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No. 12. 2021.

Dear Community,

Yesterday was the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**. The Trinity is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as one, in unity. Pope Francis said, ***“Unity is essential to Christian life because God is a communion of love”***.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St Peter’s Square from the window of the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace, the Pope said that Trinity Sunday ***“poses an invitation to grow in the unity to which Jesus calls us.”***

“And this unity I dare to say is essential to the Christian ... because it is the unity that is born from love, from the mercy of God, from the justification of Jesus Christ and from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts,” he added.

And therein lies the timeliest of messages to all of us here in Victoria during this worrying and trying lockdown. **We need to stick together in unity**. We need to listen to the health advice, get tested and isolate if required and when eligible, receive the Vaccine. It is urgent. We need to come together, do the right thing and support each other.

The need to stick together is just as important here at SMMPS. I acknowledge that we all have our opinions on how things should proceed. However, we are working with determination to consider all issues, apparent and otherwise, and make decisions based on practicalities and the wellbeing of our community. In many ways, we are as anxious and uncertain as you are about what the immediate and, in some instances, the long-term future holds.

I appreciate the support being offered by you the parent community. We are doing our best to continue providing a formal education for your children. In fact, we are currently working to get devices ready to distribute, with the full expectation we may have to take our remote learning online next week if the lockdown continues.

I acknowledge our teachers and the work they are doing. They would prefer to be at school with your children face to face, but that is something we have no control over.

I also acknowledge the work you are doing to support your children. I can only imagine how difficult it is to 'teach' your child. I appreciate you are juggling work demands and the demands of young children trying to work their way through their tasks. Whether on-line or off-line, it is challenging. My recommendation is be easy on yourself and on your children. You know what they are capable of doing and how much they can do in what time frame. Simply be encouraging, patient and realistic. It is stressful on the kids too!

Please see below for:

- advice for the roll-out of devices if we need to continue with on-line learning.
- current advice on First Communions, scheduled for this Saturday 5 June 2021.

Keep well and safe everyone!



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

ROLL OUT OF CHROME BOOKS

We are fully aware many families only have a limited number of devices available in their home. Hence it is difficult to have two or three children online and, in some cases, parents needing the device too, so they can continue working. That is one of the reasons as to why we did not move to on-line remote learning, for what we hoped, and still hope, is a four-day lockdown in regards to schooling.

In fact, we gave out in excess of 300 devices (chrome books) last year during the long lockdown. We are currently preparing devices for distribution.

If you require a chrome book, please email Anthony D'Amico on adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au, stating your name, children's names, classes and the number of devices required.

They will be ready for collection from school on Friday morning.

FIRST COMMUNION

At this moment, First Communion is still scheduled for Saturday as planned. If it does go ahead, it will go ahead in line with the directives set by the Government, based on health advice. I would imagine that means reduced numbers on guests, in line with density limits.

If we are still in lockdown or churches are reduced to 25 people as per last year, it will be postponed to a date later in the year. We will confirm this date, if needed, after meeting with Monsignor.

I fully understand, many families have bookings in place, guests invited and have spent money on various things in preparation for the big day. That is why, I am reluctant to postpone, if we come out of lockdown.

I apologise for the uncertainty, but this situation is beyond our control and we are doing our best to navigate the way through. When we know more, I will communicate with you.

Lucy Vassallo will be personally in touch with those families who have previously emailed her.

Thank you for your support and patience.