

Thursday 22 July 2021

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038 [www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au) T: 03 9367 6199



## *Staying Connected No. 18. 2021.*

Dear Families,

Lockdown continues... but hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel and we come out of Lockdown next Tuesday night at 11:59pm. I trust you and your children are coping with On-Line Remote Learning. I am realistic. I fully appreciate it is tough work. As parents or carers you need to be with your child supporting them as they engage in their learning. This would be particularly so for younger children, however, I know the older children need to be supported to. I just have to talk with my family and hear of how my grandchildren and their parents are coping, to get a first-hand reality check!

I stand very proud of my teachers and the continuity of learning they are offering your children. I see what many other schools are doing and I am confident that we are doing a great job! Let's just hope we are back to on-site learning at school next week sometime. In saying that however, you will note that next week's Learning Grids are planned for the whole week, just in case the Lockdown continues.

Hang in there everyone... keep well, keep safe and get vaccinated when you are able. It's the only way we are going to be able to return to a semblance of normality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony McCluskey".

**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## **LIFE IS STILL HAPPENING HERE AT SMMPS.**

We have our dedicated staff caring for children of essential workers, who can't work from home. We also have children who are vulnerable, for whatever reason, being cared for at school. These children are still engaged in the online learning their classroom teacher is offering. We have a committed group of staff supporting these children with getting online and completing learning tasks.

## **PLANNING AHEAD.**

We are continuing working with our architects. We will be building a new Library, Art Studio, Information Technologies Studio and some other spaces for learning. This building is to be located where the current portables are located. We will relocate classrooms into the main building and continue refurbishing classrooms this year and into next year.

It's all very exciting and will provide our children and staff with out-standing facilities.

Please see Artists Impressions supplied by our creative and responsive Architects, Law Architects, Fitzroy.

We are most appreciative that we have been allocated a Supplementary Capital Grant to fund a significant portion of this building.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) recognise the good things happening at SMMPS and therefore received our grant application favorably. I can assure you, it is a very thorough and demanding application process, but I firmly believe our student deserve the best facilities, so it was worth the effort. It's now all system go! We hope to begin building early next year.



Artist impression. View from main office building





Artist Impression. View from corner near Principal's Office.



Artist Impression. View from oval near water tanks.

## THE PARENTS GROUP

**Thank you for your interest in forming The Parents Group.** We have received 17 responses. I appreciate your interest.

I want to be very clear, when I say, I understand that many people are not in a position to be part of this group. Work, family and a myriad of other things keep us all busy. But as long as we support the work of The Parents Group, it will be successful.

In a spirit of transparency, I report that of those 17 responses, 12 parents asked for day time meetings and 5 parents preferred evening meetings, with 3 of those parents saying they could make day time work.

**In light of these responses, we will hold our first meeting on Thursday 5 August at 2:30pm, at which time I will outline my hopes and expectations and then hear your suggestions.** Of course, if we are still in Lockdown, we will have to postpone our inaugural meeting.

I will then discuss with this group the possibilities of an occasional evening meeting.

I look forward to gathering and forming The Parents Group. Again, thank you for your support and interest.



# UPCOMING events

## TERM 3

### **Friday 23 July**

Student Reports available

### **Monday 26 July-Friday 30 July**

Book Fair-**postponed** more details soon

### **Friday 6 August**

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

### **Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 August**

Parent Teacher Conversations

### **Friday 13 August**

Feast of the Assumption

### **Monday 16 August**

School Closure Day

### **Monday 23 August to Friday 27 August**

Book Week

### **Tuesday 24 August**

Year 6 Open Door Program

6.00pm and 7.30pm-more details soon

### **Friday 17 September**

Last Day of Term 3

Students finish at 1.00pm