

Wednesday 04 August 2021

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 20. 2021.

Dear Community,

How fast things change under COVID regulations and restrictions! Sometimes we are scrambling to keep up with them. For instance, last Wednesday we were directed not to hold Interschool Sports, but by Thursday evening that directive had changed and Interschool Sports were on again! We just have to be ready to move quickly and adhere to directives as they are made available. Perhaps this is the COVID or post-COVID world we have to adjust to.

At this time, we are not permitted to hold meetings at school. Even staff meetings have to be held remotely.

Hence, **Parent, Teacher, Child Conversations are to be held remotely next Tuesday 10 August between 1:00pm and 6:45pm and Wednesday 11 August between 3:45pm and 6:45pm.**

You have already received instructions regarding booking your Conversation. Teachers will send remote invitations to your nominated email address on the day of your Conversation.

You have also been asked to nominate whether you are collecting your child on Tuesday afternoon or whether you require them to be cared for at school. Thank you for your support.

Parent, Teacher, Child Conversations provide you a great opportunity to connect with your child's classroom teacher and to hear from your child and their teacher as to how they are going with their learning.

The Parents Group are meeting for the first time remotely on Thursday 5 August 2021. SMMPS Parents Group will be an informal body of generous volunteers who aim to support the school with:

- Fundraising efforts
- Activities for the children
- Social gatherings for parents.

Our aim is to reconnect our school and parent community in a COVID and hopefully soon, a post-COVID world!

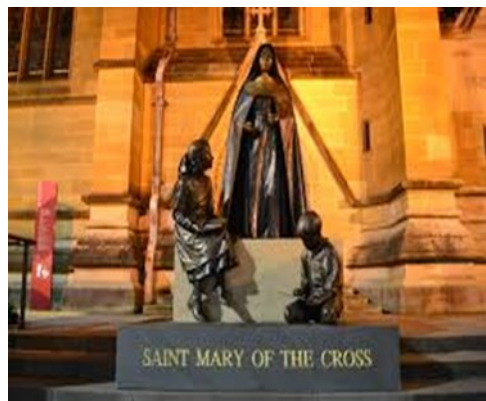
We have all missed out on that sense of being together.

Through the generous efforts of The Parents Group, we look to welcome each other, our ideas and contributions to ensure our school is a connected community.

Watch this space for The Parents Group initiatives and for meeting times. We will try and vary these times, so more parents can be involved if they so choose.

And of course, **this Friday we celebrate St. Mary MacKillop feast Day which falls on Sunday 8 August.** The children will be engaged in activities focusing on St. Mary MacKillop. They will also be wearing casual clothes as something special to signify the day. The children will also be praying together as a class or level, reflecting on the person and the saint who is Mary MacKillop.

At this time, we are not permitted to gather for an Assembly, however **our School Captains, led us in prayer, over the PA, commemorating the Feast of St. Mary MacKillop.**



Alex: This Sunday, 8 of August, the Church celebrates the Feast of St Mary MacKillop. We will celebrate this important Feast Day as a school, this Friday.

Alex: Let's start our prayer with the Sign of the Cross.
In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Matilda: Throughout her life, St Mary MacKillop accomplished many extraordinary things. She showed courage, determination and overall, a tremendous amount of faith. These virtues in particular are what led her to being the first Australian saint, and a great religious role model.

Amelia: Her legacy of compassion has inspired hundreds of Australians to be better people, and to help those less fortunate. She gave her life to those who needed it, and her quote, "Never see a need without doing something about it," has motivated generations of Australian Catholics to better themselves by giving generously, and to live humble lives, regardless of the situations they find themselves in.

Matilda: What St Mary MacKillop did and achieved was extraordinary. Regardless of the circumstances she found herself in, even when she was excommunicated from the Church, she persisted with making a difference. This was clearly visible to all.

Alex: St Mary MacKillop was neither the richest, nor the most faithful person alive, yet she demonstrates to us that irrespective of the situation and challenges you find yourself in, you can make a change to anything you see fit to.

St Mary MacKillop is the patron saint of Australia and of our great school.

Amelia: St Mary MacKillop had a great devotion to St Joseph so she named her congregation, Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart or the Josephites.

Let us pray:

Amelia - Pray after me.

Dear God,
You chose Mary MacKillop to do your work.
Help us to know that we can each make a difference
wherever we are.
St Mary MacKillop - Pray for Us.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Go well everyone,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal



Children's Book Week is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading. During this time schools and public libraries spend time celebrating Australian authors and illustrators. At SMMPS we have started to read and enjoy some of the shortlisted books with the students. We are focusing on visual literacy and the importance of images to support the meaning of a text.

We would like to have some fun and celebrate Book Week by asking the students to dress up as a book character.

There will be no pressure for families to purchase costumes, in fact we are asking students to either wear something they already have OR just bring along their favourite picture book or novel to share with their class.

Children are asked to use their imaginations and think how everyday items may be used to create a costume eg: a piece of fabric could become a cape or a skirt, a hat etc. Unfortunately, there will be no whole school book parade, but classes will celebrate and have fun in their own grade. We will be celebrating this special day on

Monday 23rd August 2021

Jenny Melki and Rita Krnac - Literacy Leaders

Learning Conversations Term 3

This term we will have another opportunity to discuss the progress of your child through a formal Learning Conversation led by the student. We tried this process previously and we have received positive feedback as the students take on a lead role to share and take ownership of their learning.

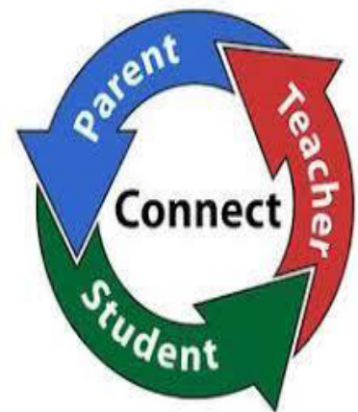
In the learning conversations your child will share work they are proud of and discuss their progress (supported by their classroom teacher, if needed). It is a great opportunity for your child to reflect on their own learning whilst increasing pride in their achievements.

The dates and times for these conversations are:

Tuesday 10th August 1pm-6:45pm

Wednesday 11th August 3:45pm-6:45pm

In a nutshell:



Role of the student - to share a work sample that they are proud of and highlight their strengths or areas of improvement.

Role of the parent - to listen, provide encouragement and praise, and ask qualifying questions

Role of the teacher - to facilitate the conversation and contribute any comments or questions.

In an effort to make these Learning Conversations beneficial below is a list of prompts you may like to use:

- I am pleased to see your effort in
- I am proud of your improvement in
- What makes this your best work in
- How did you go about doing it?
- Did you encounter any problems?

The student led conversations will run for 15 minutes.

If you would like to discuss something of a private nature with the classroom teacher ONLY, please inform your child's teacher at the beginning of the discussion so that time can be allowed.

UPCOMING *events*

TERM 3

Thursday 5 August

The Parents Group-meeting online

Sunday 8 August

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 August

Parent Teacher Child Conversations (letter sent out on Operoo)

Sunday 15 August

Feast of the Assumption

Monday 16 August

School Closure Day (Postponed)

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)

Monday 06 to Friday 10 September

Book Fair (New dates)

Friday 17 September

Last Day of Term 3

Students finish at 1.00pm