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Wednesday 03 November, 2021

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# 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. 29, 2021*

Dear Parents and Carers,

**I trust everyone enjoyed their long weekend.** Perhaps some of you were able to 'escape' Melbourne and enjoy time in the country or by the beach and in many cases, be reunited with family. I was able to visit my grandchildren again, after so many months, so that was really special.

However, despite the goodness the weekend brought, we come back to the reality of our world.

**Unfortunately, the school has been advised that a student who was onsite last week has tested positive for COVID.**

Following advice and direction from the Department of Health and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, the children in the class, in which the child belongs are now limiting their movements and will not be returning to school for 14 days from their last date of contact.

**We have spoken with all the parents of the children involved. I am very grateful for their support, patience and cooperation.**

I understand this news will be concerning for many of you. There is no cause for alarm. I am simply informing you of the situation, in a spirit of a transparency.

Please be aware that we cannot provide information about the child who has tested positive for COVID and I ask that you respect their privacy. *Our thoughts are with the child and their family during this worrying time.*

COVID will be with us for some time and inevitably other classes will have to isolate if a case is detected. This is the reality of our world today, so if you or anyone in your family develop even the mildest of symptoms, please get tested.

In fact, I implore you to get vaccinated if you are not already. I appreciate everyone has their views and reasons for not being vaccinated, however, if you are able to be vaccinated, please do so. Vaccination is about keeping your community safe. For those of you with religious concerns, both our Pope and Archbishop, ask us to get vaccinated, so religious concerns are a cop out. Vaccination is the only way we are going to minimise the effects of COVID in our society.

If your child tests positive for COVID, please contact the school directly by phone during the school day (9367 6199) or after hours by email:

[adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au) . We are then able to act promptly.

I want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to contain and slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of our whole school community.

**Some of the procedures in place, to minimise the spread of the virus, if and when it impacts our school are:**

- Classes are operating as a 'bubble', within their classroom. That means they are not mixing with other classes in common spaces or indoor areas. They may meet outside with classes from their own level. (We have been assured by the Department of Health that mixing outdoors, during classes, recesses or Phys. Ed lessons is low risk.)
- Children are entering classrooms where possible through external doors to classrooms. This avoids overcrowding in common doorways.
- We are encouraging the use of masks in Years 3-6. I am impressed by the children in younger classes who are also wearing masks. I am most appreciative of your support and the support of the children in wearing their masks.
- If your child is sick; keep them home.
- We will be asking you to collect your child from school, if they display any symptoms associated with COVID.
- Additional surface cleaning is undertaken each day at midday.
- We are conducting remote assemblies on a Monday morning to keep that vital sense of connectedness and to provide me the opportunity to speak with, support and encourage the children.

**Other strategies include:**

- Requesting parents limit their contact on school grounds. Please do not crowd outside buildings waiting for your children. Wait in the middle of the yard and once you have collected your children, please move offsite.
- At this time, we are holding no large school events. Therefore, First Communions will not be held this year. There are very strict COVID restrictions for the Church and the Church is booked out for Weddings and Baptisms this year, that have had to be postponed because of COVID.

As I said, last week, we are still exploring options to ensure the children in Year 6 graduate with at least their parents present. More on this to come.

The reality is schools are currently 'hotbeds' of transmission, so we need to work together to keep us all safe.

**The good news though**, it was wonderful to welcome nearly all the classes back onsite today. After 20 months of lockdown and disruption, we do not expect to see long periods of lockdown again, if at all. Despite the occasional time a class may have to isolate, we look forward to seeing the year out together onsite at school.

Keep well everyone and in the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop, we are grateful for being together again and for everything we have. Remember, in the words of Mary, let us all have '**an attitude of gratitude**'.

Keep well everyone.



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

I am sure you are all breathing a sigh of relief with all our children being back at school!

Each Monday we are having a virtual assembly where we pray together as a school. Mr. McCluskey also shares some insights about the prayer, as well as sharing some school news.

This week's prayer had the theme of having an 'Attitude of gratitude'. We have so much to be thankful for!!! Here is the link to the prayer for your reference:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YyUc\\_-Ek3XwUQdxPzw1F5ZIkTvyMbrB7eyH-1AfuaMc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1YyUc_-Ek3XwUQdxPzw1F5ZIkTvyMbrB7eyH-1AfuaMc/edit?usp=sharing)





ALL STUDENTS  
WELCOME TO  
ENTER



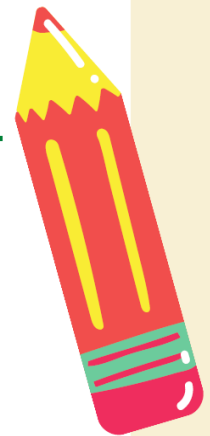
ST MARY MACKILLOP

# ART COMPETITION

Please join in the art competition. You will need to submit your entry by Thursday 11th of November. There will be a dropbox for your masterpiece in front of the art room. Please make sure you include your full name and class on your work.

The outstanding pieces will be posted in the school newsletter for everyone to see!

If you have any questions please email Miss Barui at:  
[lbarui@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lbarui@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)



The theme is SEASONS. All pieces must reflect a chosen season, be sure to experiment with line, colour, shape and pattern. Please create your piece on either A4 or A3 paper, you can use any material you like e.g. water colour, crayon, pencil.