
Friday 03 December, 2021

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Staying Connected No. 31, 2021

Hello Everyone,

We are fast coming to the end of a very tumultuous year for all of us. COVID has wreaked havoc in the lives of so many Australians and others worldwide. I know that it has also caused much stress for many families in our school.

As we move forward into a better year, let's hope. We look to the wisdom of St. Mary MacKillop, who said "All is in the hands of God." (1.12.1881). Whoever God is for us, we need to look to the greater force that will sustain us and bring us hope.

St. Mary MacKillop also said, "I would advise all to trust more to God". In these most difficult of times that is what we must do.

St. Mary MacKillop continues to inspire.



As we wind up our school year, we are busily preparing for 2022.

We will be saying **FAREWELL** to some staff and welcoming other staff.

We congratulate and farewell **Nicola Hinds** on her appointment to Overnewton as a Learning Support Officer.

We congratulate and farewell **Luisa LaRosa** on her appointment, as a classroom teacher to Our Lady of the Nativity, Aberfeldie.

We congratulate and farewell **Rita Krnac** on her appointment, as Deputy Principal to Bethany, Werribee.

We congratulate and farewell **Lucy Vassallo** on her appointment, as Deputy Principal to St. Francis Xavier, Corio.

We congratulate and farewell **Vanessa Willis** on her appointment as Leader of Learning and Teaching to Our Lady of the Rosary, Kyneton.

I am particularly proud to see Vanessa, Lucy and Rita move onto senior leadership roles. Catholic education needs good people leading our schools and each of these women are absolutely outstanding educators who bring much value to Catholic education.

I am proud of how SMMPS may have shaped them and encouraged them to take this courageous step. I certainly look forward to watching their leadership journey and perhaps seeing them as Principals in the future.

I have worked with Rita and Vanessa in a number of schools, on and off, over the past 22 years, so I will definitely miss their wonderful professional collegiality and warm friendship.

We wish each of our staff members leaving a successful and happy career and life into the future.

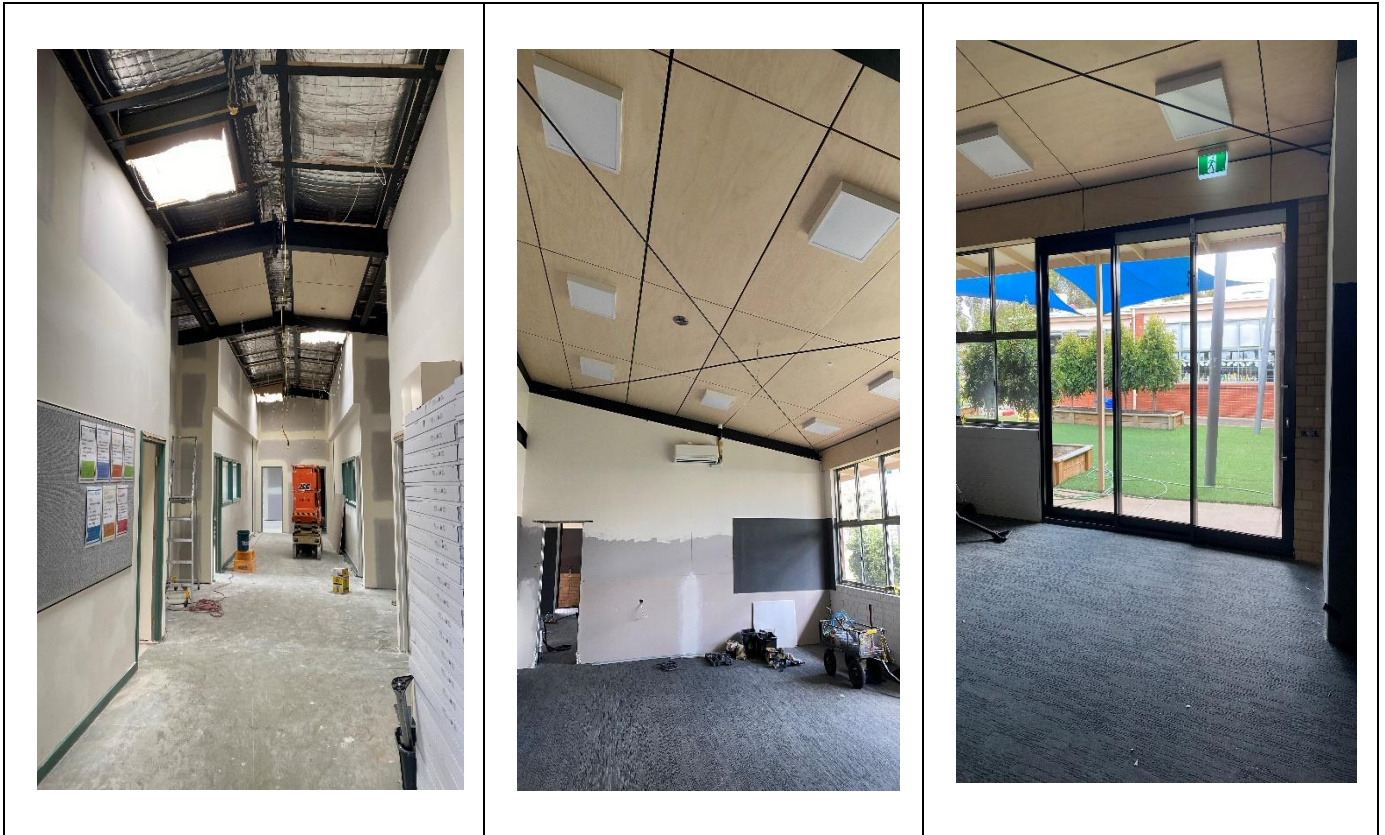
I will announce new staff in the new school year.

RENOVATIONS and IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

We are working furiously to complete the renovation of Mary of the Cross (the building closest to the front carpark).

The six classrooms and corridor in this building will be state of the art when completed. Each of the classrooms are light and spacious with triple sliding glass doors opening to outside, thus increasing airflow and ventilation; something we have realised, since the advent of COVID, is vital for creating healthy environments.

They will also include decking, as outdoor learning spaces for each classroom.



Prep and Year 4 will be moving into these new classrooms, before the conclusion of February 2022.

The current Prep rooms and Library will be moved off site, beginning 14 March.

The new Art Studio, Digital Technologies Studio and Library will begin construction on 18 April to be completed for the 2023 school year. Earlier if we are lucky!



Next week, we are having a cyclone mesh fence placed around our newly constructed synthetic surface courts down the back. This fence will divide the courts from the drive way making the courts a great deal safer.

We have also secured a \$25,000 grant towards a shade structure. We will organise and have this structure constructed next year over the multi-purpose courts.

We look forward to continuing with these school improvements to ensure our school provides the very best facilities for all of our community; students in particular.

FEES AND LEVIES 2022

As we keep moving ahead, we need to ensure we have the income to manage. Our Family Fee and Levy has remained the same for the past two years. However, we now need to make a small increase.

We have sought the approval of our governing body, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, who have completed an analysis of our income, expenditure, loans, projected costs and the capacity of families to pay, which is based on government demographical data.

Based on this information the:

2022 Family Fee will be \$2,450

2022 Levy will be \$625 per child

And there will be a Capital Levy of \$50.00 per term to support our loans.

In effect our Family Fee is \$12.44 per family per school day and the levy is \$3.17 per child, per day. In comparison to Child Care or Secondary School, our charges are very reasonable.

I appreciate that finding money for school fees can be tough. I put three children through Catholic primary and secondary schools. The best way to manage was to pay by direct debit. The vast majority of our families use direct debit, so I encourage you to set up a direct debit with Kellie at the school office. It does make it easier.

I remain, as always, grateful for your financial support of our school.

YEAR 6 CAMP LEVY

There will be letter sent out next week regarding the refund of the Year 6 Camp Levy. All families who have paid that fee and have no monies owing will receive a full refund of that levy. Details to come.

SOME HAPPENINGS NEXT WEEK



Christmas Celebration Day

Monday, December 6, 2021

Once again, we are unable to celebrate our Twilight Christmas Carols Night due to Covid19. Instead, we will have a day of Christmas activities in each class.

On this day, children can come to school dressed in Christmas colours or as characters from the Christmas story. These characters could include coming dressed as Mary, Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, a cow, a lamb or even a star.

We look forward to celebrating this day with the children.

Tuesday 7 December: We welcome our Prep 2022 class for their second orientation session.

Pictured below are Joshua, Denise and Mila enjoying their first Prep Orientation Day.



Friday 10 December: We farewell our Year 6 Class of 2021

12:50 pm-1:00 pm -GUARD OF HONOUR

At this time the school community farewell the Year 6 students through a Guard of Honour. Parents are welcome to attend.

7:00 pm GRADUATION in our Church

Monday 13 December: The Year 6 students are invited back for a **BBQ and activities between 11:30am-1:30pm.**

This will be the Year Six student's final formal activity with us, before they are dismissed into their family's care.

Wednesday 15 December

All children in Prep to Year 5 will be dismissed for the 2021 School Year at 1:00pm.

I will send out a final Staying Connected next week with any other details that might come to mind.

Go well everyone.



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

Are You Leaving Us????

It is that time of the year when we are finalising classes for 2022.

If you will no longer be returning to SMMPS in 2022, could you please email Anthony D'Amico at adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au if you have not already done so.

Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2022

SMMPS CONFIRMATION

Saturday 19th March at 10am and 12.00pm

YEAR 4 FIRST COMMUNION

Saturday 30th April at 12.00pm and 2.00pm

YEAR 3 FIRST RECONCILIATION

Thursday 31st March at 7pm

YEAR 3 FIRST COMMUNION

Saturday 28th May at 12.00pm and 2.00pm

As is our practice, children will be allocated their particular time, by class groupings. We will notify you of this time, early 2022.