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Friday 25 February, 2022

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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. 5, 2022*

Hello Everyone,

This communication is largely to keep you up to date with all the wonderful happenings at our school.

On a positive note, we seem to have spiked with COVID infections and appear to be on the way down, with very few students with COVID and only one staff member out at this time. Let's pray that this trend continues as we move further into our Post-COVID normal world.

Government guidelines change on a regular basis. This is a constant challenge for school leaders as we try to sort the changes through and apply them. Each week school leaders of MACS schools across Melbourne meet online with Dr. Mary Oski, a Director of MACS. Dr. Oski supports us in unpacking the guidelines and answers our questions. This support is greatly appreciated as we navigate the way forward together.

### **At this time, in short, the directions are:**

- All children in Years 3-6 must wear masks. (This is due to the low vaccination rate in this age group.)
- Younger children are encouraged to wear masks, but this is not enforced. (Interestingly enough, the majority of cases of COVID in our school have been in the younger classes.)

- Staff, workers and volunteers at the school must wear masks and be double vaccinated. (Staff must be triple vaccinated by 25 March. We are still seeking clarity on workers and volunteers.)
- Any visitors entering a building must show proof of vaccination. (There is no requirement to QR Code.)
- We are to avoid large indoor gatherings for school events. (Ironically, the upcoming sacramental celebrations fall under the guidelines for religious ceremonies, which are looser than the school restrictions. We still class them as school events, so we have applied some restrictions at local level under the direction of our Parish Priest.)

It's not easy juggling the ever-changing restrictions. However, I sincerely appreciate the support of this marvellous community as we try and sort it all out. Thank you.

### MOVING FORWARD

**Assembly and Prayer-** We are to recommence an outdoor assembly on a Monday morning at 9:10am. With our enrolments standing at 538 children; we believe we can safely spread out on the Assembly area, maintaining some distance. **We believe there is value in: gathering together as a community; praying together; focusing on St. Mary MacKillop and her wisdom; hearing from me, as Principal, promoting values and expectations and of course, singing the National Anthem.** The assembly happens outdoors, so the risk is minimal.

We will also recognise a child from each level with a Principal Award. These awards will be given to children living the school values and the values of St. Mary MacKillop.

Parents are welcome to attend.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Next week we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent focuses our attention on the need for reflection, as individuals and as communities. Inspired by Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice and resurrection, we are invited to reflect on what we are doing or not doing that strains or breaks our relationship with God, with others and with our deepest self.

Monsignor Portelli has recorded an Ash Wednesday Service to support the teachers in engaging their class in prayer next Wednesday afternoon. Each class teacher will then sprinkle the children's heads with ashes to mark the significance of Lent in the Catholic tradition.

This recording, of our Parish Priest in our parish church, is an important aspect of reconnecting our children to our parish.

[See below for some marvellous happenings and learnings happening in our school....](#)

Have a great weekend everyone and we look forward to a great week next week together here at our wonderful school.



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## **Upcoming Events-Term 1**

### **Tuesday 1 March**

Wear Purple Day-Beginning of Lent (see flyer)

### **Wednesday 2 March**

School Photos-Year 1, 2, 5, 6 and sibling photos

### **Thursday 3 March**

School Photos-Year Prep, Year 3, 4 and sibling photos

### **Wednesday 9 March**

Year 3 Reconciliation Family night @ 7pm (online)

### **Saturday 19 March**

Year 6 Confirmation 10.00am and 12.00pm

### **Monday 21 March-Friday 25 March**

Year 5 Camp-Half go Monday and the other half go Wednesday

### **Thursday 31 March**

Year 3 Reconciliation @ 12.00pm

### **Wednesday 6 April**

Year 3 and 4 Communion Family Night at 7pm (online)

### **Friday 8 April**

End of Term 1-children finish @ 1pm

# What's happening in *Religious Education?*



The Prep classes  
created their own  
Prayer Mats and  
visited the Church.

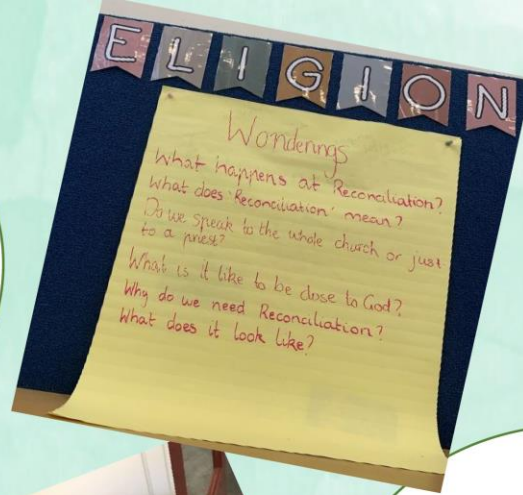
The Year Ones  
created their class  
prayer mats and  
have started their  
morning prayer  
routine.



The Year Twos  
expressed their  
own ideas of what  
God is like and are  
exploring the  
Creation Story.



The Year Threes  
have started  
preparing for the  
Sacrament of  
Reconciliation.



The Year Fours  
created their class  
prayer mats and  
have begun  
preparations for  
their First  
Eucharist.



The Year Fives are  
exploring the  
Catholic Social  
teaching, Human  
Dignity

How can we display human  
dignity?



We can display human dignity by  
always behaving respectfully to all  
people regardless of looks or where  
people come from. Everyone's rights  
should be respected. We can treat  
others how you want to be treated.  
The future is all of us.



## HUMAN DIGNITY

Human dignity is when you  
treat everyone with respect  
no matter what gender, race,  
skin colour, or religion they  
are. It's about equality and  
how we are all creatures of  
God. We are all a part of this  
world and we are all a gift.



## Human Dignity

Human dignity means everyone deserves the same amount of respect, also to treat each other equally. For Example: if you're rich and someone's poor, you should treat each other with the same amount of respect. God made us an image of him, so we are all equal although we have different passions, cultures, skin colors, and traditions- but we are still all the same. A teacher isn't a teacher without its students and a master isn't a master without their students.



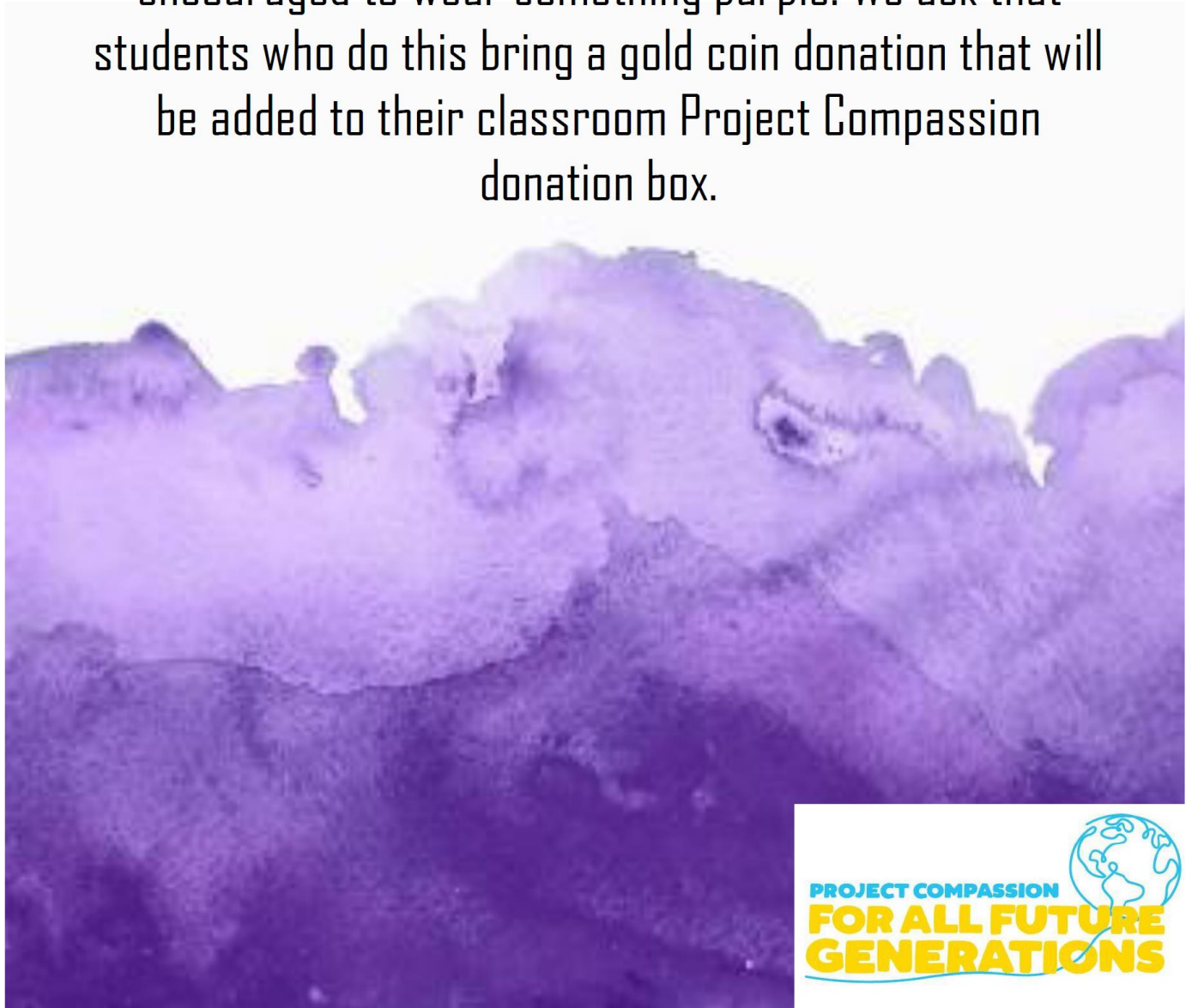
WE ALL NEED TO  
WORK TOGETHER  
SO THAT EVERYONE  
CAN HAVE A FAIR  
SHARE AND A GOOD  
LIFE!!

The Year Sixes have  
been learning about  
how Good leaders  
work towards the  
Common Good.

3/3/22  
Common Good  
Quotes  
Each person is a member of society,  
and we are all called to sustain  
the development of human society  
as a whole. (Cicero Phil. 1.1)  
Relationships  
Communities  
Special in  
Persons' rights  
Dignity  
our own way  
Important  
Fair  
Just  
Inclusive  
Working together  
Don't discriminate

# PURPLE DAY

To celebrate the launch of Project Compassion 2022 and the beginning of Lent, on **Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March** we will be having a **Purple Day**. On this day students are encouraged to wear something purple. We ask that students who do this bring a gold coin donation that will be added to their classroom Project Compassion donation box.





# Habitat Helpers

## Helpers to the Rescue!

On Monday 14th February, Year Two immersed themselves in an Incursion presented by Drama Tool Box. In a colourful and dramatic display about various habitats around the world, the students investigated the negative impact humans have on threatening the environment and native animals. From rubbish and pollution in the Great Barrier Reef, to tree cutting in the Amazon Rainforest and the influence of humans in the Australian Bush, students acted out different scenarios of environmental destruction. But all was not lost, The Habitat Helpers came to the rescue as students were able to identify ways in which they can encourage others to conserve our global environment. When back in the classroom, students created their own personal reflection about what they learnt and offered up different actions they and their families can do to help conserve our Earth.

2 Yellow

*"We are hurting all the animals in the ocean by littering and not caring. We all need to start picking up our rubbish."*



*"I want to learn more about what happens to the animals that lose their homes in the bushfires."*



*"It was SO much fun! I loved acting out all the different parts"*

2 Blue



2 Red

*"It was so sad and cruel to learn that fish and whales are killed just to use inf food and medicine"*



# Habitat Helpers to the Rescue!

On Monday the Habitat Helpers came to school. We were doing drama activities and it was so much fun.

We were acting and I was an Orangutan living in the jungle and I was a Platypus living in Outback Australia. Someone came and cut down all of the trees and the camper left his fire burning. We then got a lot of rubbish and threw it all over the floor.

We learnt about all the things happening to our environment and how we can be helpers and try to fix it.

Written by Marta and Daria (2 Red)



## Some reflections of our Learning from the Incursion





## Fizzics Education - Year 4 Natural Disasters Incursion

On Friday the 18th of February, the Year Fours participated in a Natural Disasters incursion, presented by Fizzics Education. They were immersed in learning opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the formation of various natural disasters.

The students had the opportunity to utilise different materials to create their own natural disasters and discuss the effects they have on people and the environment. They also watched a fire simulation which explained the three elements needed to create bushfires: fuel, heat and oxygen. Further to this, students were exposed to other experiments relating to the effects of natural disasters on the environment. This involved learning about a seismometer, seeing how debris travels during a tornado and how tectonic plates that collide can form a volcano.

After the incursion the students were engaged in a reflection to determine their new understandings. Some reflections have been included below:

*At our incursion we talked about volcanoes, bushfires and earthquakes. We made mini tornadoes in little bottles which was really fun. There was a game called Plague inc where you could be on the good or the bad side of a disease. If you were on the good side you had to cure people of a disease, on the bad side you had to infect as many people as you could. This was really fun and interesting. (Marcel Rosa)*

*At the incursion I learned that bushfires take a while to put out and you need oxygen, fuel and heat to start a fire. Fires occur a lot in bushland where it is dry and hot. We learned how easily a virus can spread and that tectonic plates when moving together cause an earthquake. (Olivia Ferraro)*

*Our excursion was amazing! We got to see a fire tornado and how viruses work. We saw a fire bomb, it was very big. We learnt about tectonic plates and how they work. (Nina and Karen)*



## Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) On School Students with Disability

### What is the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data?

Schools must now complete the *Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)* every year. It counts the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. The NCCD helps governments plan for the needs of students with disability.

### Who is counted in the data collection?

To count a student in the NCCD, schools must think through some key questions:

1. Is the student getting help at school so that they can take part in education on the same basis as other students?
2. Is the help given because of a disability? The word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA) and it can include many students.
3. Has the school talked to you or your child about the help that they provide?
4. Has the school kept records about the help they provide, the student needs and the reasons that the student needs this help? The school will need to keep copies of tests, student work, assessments, records of meetings, medical reports or other paperwork and information about how the student’s learning is moving along over time.

Once the school decides that the student should be counted in the NCCD, they then choose a disability group and one of four levels of help that has been given to the student.

### What does the word ‘disability’ mean in the NCCD?

In the NCCD the word ‘disability’ comes from the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#) (DDA). There are four types of disability that the school can choose from: sensory, cognitive, social-emotional and physical.

Many students that need help at school can be counted in the NCCD. For example, students with learning problems, e.g. specific learning disability or reading difficulty (sometimes called dyslexia), health problems (e.g. epilepsy or diabetes), physical disability (e.g. cerebral palsy), vision/hearing loss and social-emotional problems (e.g. selective mutism, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety).

Letters from doctors or specialists can be very helpful for schools as they plan how to support students with their learning. Schools do not need to have these letters before they can count a



student in NCCD. Teachers can use all that they know about the student's learning and the records that they have collected over time to decide if a student can be counted in the NCCD.

### **What sort of help does the school give students?**

Students need different types of help at school. Some students need a little help sometimes while other students need a lot of help nearly all the time. The type of help given depends on the needs of the student. The help can include changes to the school buildings or grounds (e.g. ramps or things like special desks or chairs), extra teacher help in classes, special learning programs, changes to the work they give the student or extra adult help.

### **How will the NCCD be different this year?**

All schools have been counting students in the NCCD since 2015. The government will use the NCCD data as part of the funding to schools.

### **What will the school need to know about my child for the NCCD?**

Schools work together with families to understand the needs of each child. It is helpful if families give their child's teacher a copy of any letters or reports they have. The letters or reports will help the school understand the child and the help that they might need. Letters from doctors, psychologists, speech pathologists, doctor, and occupational therapists etc. can be very helpful for schools. These reports along with information that the teacher has (i.e. school based tests, your child's work and learning plans) helps the school to understand and meet your child's needs.

### **What happens to the NCCD data? Who will have the NCCD information?**

Each school principal must check the NCCD data in August of each year. The school will give the information to the Catholic Education Office. The school will work with the Catholic Education Office to make sure that the NCCD data is OK before they give the data to the government. The government will not be given the names of any students or any letters or records. Please ask your school for their privacy policy if you need to know more.

### **Does the school need me to agree with them about counting my child in the NCCD?**

Amendments were made to the [Australian Education Act 2013](#) and [Australian Education Regulation 2013](#). Schools do not need you to agree to let them count a child in the NCCD. You cannot ask the school not to count your child.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please contact your child's school if you have further questions about the NCCD and/or refer to the national [NCCD Portal](#).

# Can you sew?

We are seeking parents/families who know how to sew to hem classroom prayer cloths. If you can be of any assistance, please contact Stephanie Taylor.

[staylor@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:staylor@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)





# KEILOR PARK COME & TRY!



**COME AND TRY AFL FOOTBALL!**  
**WEDNESDAY MARCH 2ND @ KEILOR PARK**  
**FOOTBALL CLUB, STADIUM DRIVE, KEILOR PARK**  
**5:00-6:30PM**  
**AGES 5-12**  
**AFL SUPER CLINIC**  
**+ INFLATABLES & ACTIVITIES**



Scan code to register!



Or click the link below!

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/27a603!>

## School Photos 2022 – Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken at Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School by Arthur Reed Photos on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.**

**There is no need to return any forms or money to school.**

Unique image codes will be issued to all students on/after photo day so families can register online to view images when they become available in the web shop.

Registration is simple, just follow the 3 simple steps on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it and remember to add the codes for all your children attending this school.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do it again this year using your child's 2022 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details.

When images are ready to view and in the web shop, all parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email.

**Once registered, please wait for notification that 2022 images are online to view before making your purchase.**



# SCHOOL PHOTOS 2022 - Important Registration Information

*School Photographs will be taken at*

**Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School**

Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd March 2022

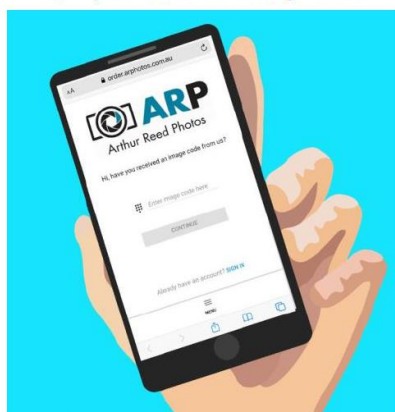
**There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day**

**Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day**

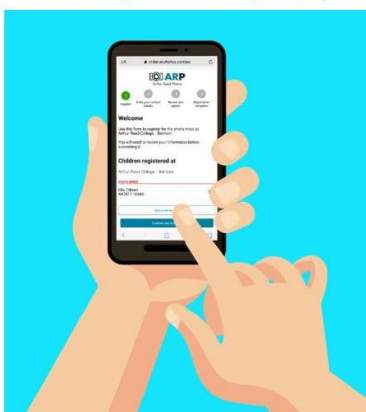
**When you receive the flyer with your child's 2022 image code**

***Follow these 3 simple steps -***

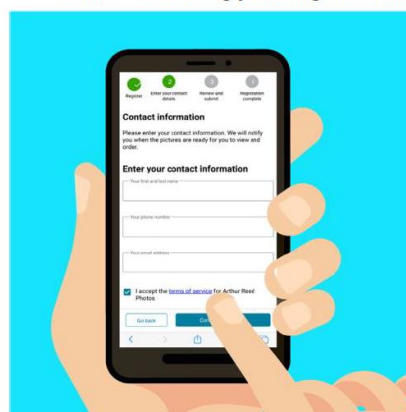
**1** Go to [order.arphotos.com.au](http://order.arphotos.com.au) and enter your child's **2022 image code**



**2** Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



**3** Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration\*



\*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

***That's it!***

**It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details**  
**When 2022 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS**

**\*\*BEFORE ORDERING for 2022, please wait to receive notification that new images are online\*\***

- **Order on any mobile device**
- **Share the images with family & friends for FREE**
- **Create a photo package with any layout + YOUR choice of images + Digital Downloads**