
Tuesday 22 March, 2022

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Staying Connected No. 6, 2022

Hello Everyone,

On Saturday we celebrated a highlight of our school year within the Catholic tradition, when many of our students in Year 6 received the gift of the Holy Spirit in the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. We were privileged to welcome Bishop Martin Ashe who conferred the sacrament.

Saturday was also the Feast of St. Joseph who was married to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and became the foster father of Jesus. Bishop Martin reflected on the fact, that, just like St. Joseph was inspired by the Spirit to say 'yes' to caring for and guiding Jesus as a child; the children too are invited to say 'yes' to whatever the Spirit may ask of them now and into the future.

St Joseph led a quiet life doing the work of the Holy Spirit. Our very own St. Mary MacKillop also spent her life doing the work of the Holy Spirit, saying 'yes' to the many challenges she faced in life as she did God's work.

Each of the children chose a saint's name as their name in Confirmation. Each of the saints chosen lived a life inspired by the Spirit. We pray that our Year 6 students all live a life inspired by the Holy Spirit and no matter what they do in life, they know that just like St. Mary MacKillop, they too can be ordinary people doing extraordinary things.





Congratulations Girls and Boys!

ASSEMBLY

We have been gathering for our Weekly Assembly in the school grounds each Monday Morning, I am delighted to be gathering again and connecting as a school community.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of our land, past, present and future and as a proud Catholic school we pray together, with prayers led by different year levels each week. We talk about our values and things that have been happening around our wonderful school. We encourage the children to do their best in all things. We celebrate a child from each year level with a Principal's Award, which acknowledges their living of our school values and/or in the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop.

We finish by raising the Australian Flag and the singing of our national anthem. In such a tragic time in our world today; it is good to acknowledge our country and the fact that we live in peace.

Pictured here are children, who were present on the day they were acknowledged with a Principal Award thus far.



LEADERSHIP @ SMMPS

At next week's Assembly on Monday 28 March we will present badges to elected and chosen leaders for 2022. We invite all parents and family members to witness these children receiving their badges. These leaders include:

SMMPS inaugural **Student Representative Council** (SRC) who provide opportunity for student voice.

Sports Captains who lead our House Color Teams in local and interschool sports events.

Peer Tutors who hear younger children read or read to them, giving the younger children (and the older children) the opportunity to grow in confidence as readers.

IT Leaders who support the teachers with setting up devices and keeping them in order

Congratulations to:

SRC:

Zara Morello **3R**

Emiliya Spiteri **3B**

Kiara Debrincat **3Y**

Amelia Clements **3G**

Riley Maytom **4R**

Annabel Riggio **4B**

Tiana Mitrevski **4Y**

Amrit Singh **5R**

Ava Fox **5B**

Mia Mitrevski **5Y**

Heaven Halim **6R**

Chloe Mazzon-Sammit **6B**

Sethan Calleja **6Y**

Sports Captains:

Anabel George and Chelsea Debrincat-**Red House**

Orlando Palmieri and Zara Galea-**Green House**

Jacob Caput and Sienna Power-**Yellow House**

James Attard and Alyssa Di Natale-**Blue House**

Peer Tutors:

Aidan Yao
Vid Krslovic
Sophie Vidovic
Sofia Pudney
Keira Le
Ivy Dang

IT Leaders:

Sabrina Calidonna
Christian Blake
Cas Nguyen

THE BIG SHIFT

We have commenced the big shift out of the Prep Portable block. We also have a Year 4 class who has been temporarily located in this block who will commence the shift soon. Our Year 4 classes in other school buildings will also be relocating. And of course, we need to begin shifting the library.

The learning spaces the Preps and Year 4 are moving into are spectacular classrooms in the old Mary of the Cross building, near the front carpark.

They are light, well ventilated and modern. It is very exciting for the children and teachers. Despite the hard work involved in shifting, it will be well worth it.

There is a little bit to be done to complete these spaces, but like a home renovation we will simply work around it. Finishing off touches will be completed on the weekends and after hours.

I will include photos in an upcoming *Staying Connected* and bring you up to speed with our building program which is expected to commence on Tuesday 3 May.

*And as a Catholic community I beseech you to pray that peace comes to Ukraine and this madness ends. We must do as our Pope has said, and **"Flood heaven with prayers"**. We desperately and urgently pray for peace in Europe and the often-forgotten Middle East. Lord send down your mercy and protect all the weak and vulnerable that suffer in these wars.*

Go well everyone; grateful for the peace we have in our country.



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Important feedback on the rapid antigen testing (RAT) program is being sought from our school community through a short survey that has been developed by the Department of Health.

RATs are helping students and staff to safely return to school and ensure positive cases are identified as quickly as possible. All RATs ordered by the Victorian government for schools are effective in detecting coronavirus (COVID-19) variants, including Omicron.

To help evaluate and improve the roll-out of the program to schools and ensure that staff and students have the required support, a short survey is being sent to parents at a sample of Victorian schools.

Our school has been selected to complete the survey from Tuesday 22 March 2022. The survey is voluntary and anonymous. Our school will have no access to your individual data or responses. The link to the survey is here:

- [Rapid Antigen Testing in Schools Survey - Parent Survey](#)

You are asked to complete the survey by 5.00pm Sunday 27 March 2022.

Upcoming Events-Term 1

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 is happening at SMMPS.....

Sydenham District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday the 2nd of March. Our SMMPS Swim team traveled to Oak Park Leisure Centre to compete at our District Swimming Carnival.

We competed against various other schools from our local District. Everybody swam really well in their individual events, then combined to swim fantastic times in the freestyle and medley relay events. Congratulations to all that participated and represented our school with pride. We wish those students who have qualified for the next level the best of luck!

Mr. Maxwell & Ms. Higgins

Well done Saint Mary Mackillop students who represented our school at the swimming carnival on the 2nd of March. It was great to see everyone cheering and enjoying the success of others. Even though we didn't have a full team we came 2nd overall! Congratulations! This is a great achievement, we are very proud. We wish those who made it into the next round best of luck.

GO MARY MAC!

By Chelsea Debrincat 6B

First SRC meeting

Today we had our first SRC meeting in the staff room, how exciting! We welcomed our SRC reps from years 3 to 6.

Mr. McCluskey welcomed us. He told us how proud he was because we were voted to be a voice for our class and the younger classes and to come up with ideas to make this school a better place. We discussed the purpose of SRC and read through the agenda and how our meetings would run in the future.

We spoke about how we would receive our badges at Monday morning assembly on Monday 28 March.

Next Ms. Lind read us a story called 'My Friend has Down Syndrome' because we are raising awareness about disabilities and inclusion. On Monday 21 March we hosted a 'rock your socks day' where students wore bright funky socks and show people with Down Syndrome that we care for them no matter what.

Ms. Lind and Mr. D'Amico will be supporting us in running the SRC. We look forward to many more productive meetings and making Saint Mary MacKillop the best school ever.

Emilie Sweedman and Letti Sacco (Vice School Captains)



What's happening in Religious Education?



On Tuesday 1st of March SMMPS had 'Purple Day'. On this day we celebrated the beginning of Lent as a school community. This year we celebrated on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the beginning of Lent. We all wore purple as Purple is the liturgical colour of Lent.

Everyone bought a gold coin donation that we placed in our Project Compassion donation boxes to help people in need around the world. The gold coin donations will help Caritas to provide the resources so the people in need can have fresh water and food and other basic things so they need to survive.

The Preps and the Year Ones made delicious pancakes on this day as Shrove Tuesday is also known as 'Pancake Tuesday'. They learnt that people often make pancakes on this day to use ingredients in their pantries before the time of fasting begins.

The next day was Ash Wednesday and we were lucky enough that our parish priest, Monsignor Portelli, provided a video recording of a liturgy so we were able to celebrate this special time in our church and still receive ashes in our classrooms.





On Wednesday 9th of March, the Year 6s participated in their Confirmation Reflection Day. Reflection day is a day to prepare and celebrate for the upcoming Sacrament. We first started the day by creating scratch art posters to demonstrate our interpretations of the Holy Spirit. They were all very creative. Some included crosses, candles, doves and flames. After we completed that, we met the Bishop who is confirming us; Bishop Martin Ashe. He discussed the importance of Sacraments with us, the power of the Holy Spirit and asked us questions about our chosen saints.



We began the third session by having a Subway lunch to share a meal as a year level. We then went back to our class to deepen our understanding about Confirmation. We learnt more about what Confirmation is, why we do it and how it started. The fourth session was a very reflective because we wrote a letter to someone who we think is very special and who we see as a spirit-filled-person. Most people wrote to their sponsor but some wrote to people who are special in their lives.



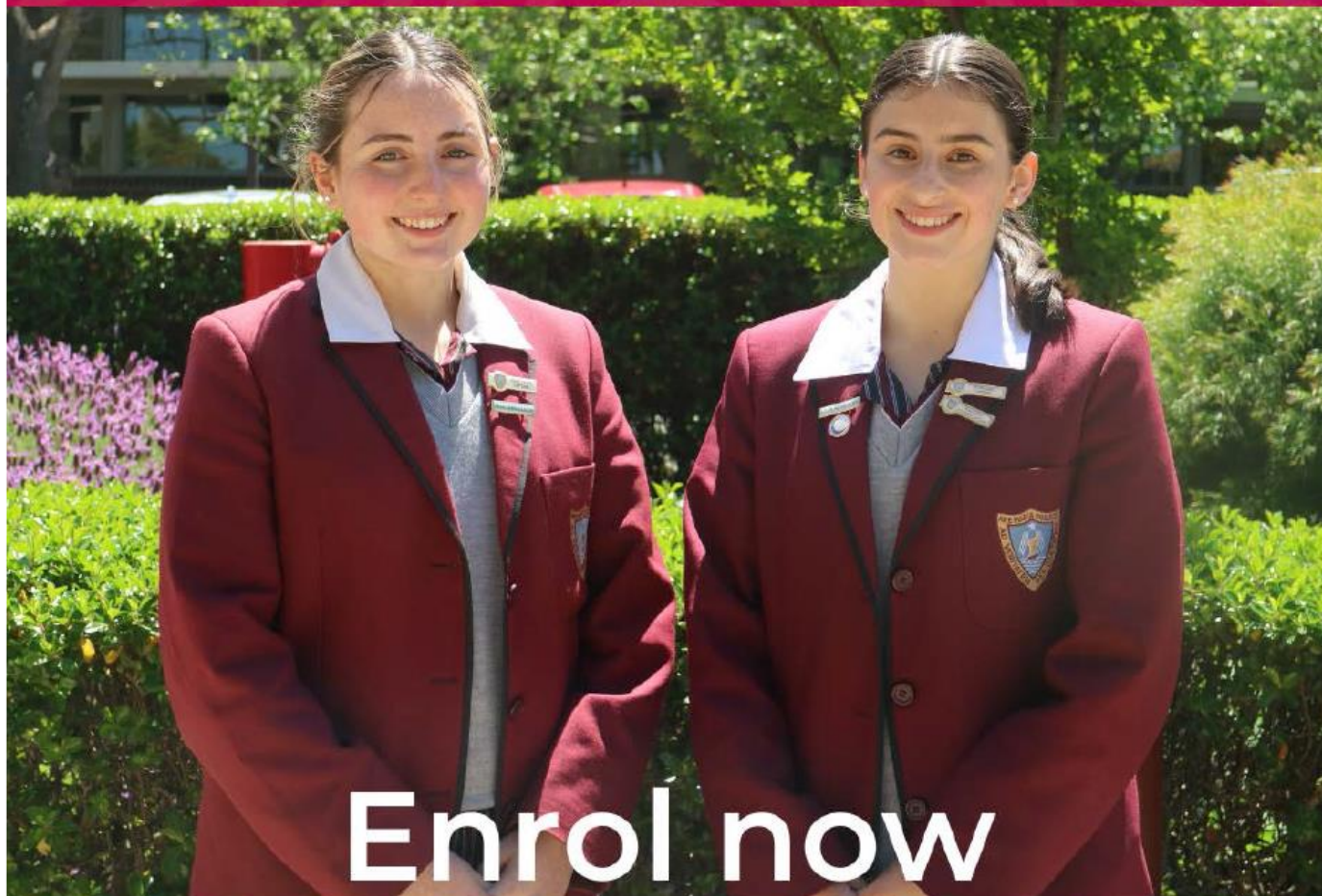
In the last session we created prayer bags that contained a candle and a Holy card. We also created prayer beads and we received a rock on which we wrote a Gift of the Holy Spirit in which we would like to strengthen in ourselves. After that, we read our special letter from a family member. These letters were very emotional and something that we will keep forever.



Overall, Confirmation Reflection Day was a very special day and an important part of our preparation for this Sacrament.

Written by Thomas Atkinson, Rita Haddad, Letti Sacco & Emilie Sweedman

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or contact registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au



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