
Wednesday 06 April, 2022

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Staying Connected No. 7, 2022

Hello Everyone,

We have come to the final week of our first term together for 2022. We thank God that, despite the challenges of many children and teachers with COVID, we have managed to come through relatively unscathed and have remained open. Let's trust that the winter months, where COVID will no doubt continue as a challenge, will see SMMPS continue to thrive with hopefully few of us impacted by the virus.

We know that the best place for children to learn is at school. In fact, **everyday counts!** We want, as you do, our children at school, where they have maximum opportunities to undertake their formal and very necessary education. The children want to be at school too. We have positive, bright and resourceful children here at our school. They make SMMPS a wonderful place to be.

Together with our exceptional teaching staff and support staff in whatever capacity, we will continue to grow as a school of choice, where all children will be provided with the opportunity to grow in faith and life.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Holy Week marks the last week of the season of Lent – the week leading up to Easter.

Here's a rundown of what it all means.

Palm Sunday – entrance into Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when Christians commemorate Jesus' 'triumphant entry' into Jerusalem where the Gospels tell us he was greeted with crowds waving palm branches and crying 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' (Mark 11:9-10).

Traditionally, worshipping Christians will receive palm branches or palm crosses on Palm Sunday as a tangible sign of Jesus' 'triumphant entry' into Jerusalem

Holy Thursday – the Last Supper

Holy Thursday marks the Last Supper that Jesus shares with his disciples, where he gave us the gift of his himself. Holy Thursday also marks, Jesus' betrayal by his disciple Judas Iscariot, and his arrest at the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday – Jesus' agony on the cross

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate, his sentence of death, his torture, and his crucifixion and burial.

For many Christians, Good Friday is a day of fasting, with the faithful attending a church service where they will meditate on and venerate the cross of Christ.

Holy Week moves from the enthusiastic shouts of 'Hosanna' to the somberness of Holy Thursday, to the horrors of the agony and death of Jesus on Good Friday, to the joyous celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

As Christians we anticipate the hope and glory of the resurrection of Christ at Easter, which is at the heart of the Christian Gospel and the center of Christian faith and worship.

Have an enjoyable holiday everyone, and if you can, find the time to attend at least one of the Holy week Services or Easter Sunday Mass.

Go well and keep safe everyone,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

SCHOOL REVIEW

Every four years Catholic schools are reviewed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Victorian Regulations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

This review examines the five spheres of Catholic Schooling:

- Religious Dimension
- Learning and Teaching
- Leadership and Management
- Student Wellbeing
- School Community

The review affirms practice and makes recommendations which form the goals and outcomes for our next School Improvement Plan.

To this end MACS requires us to take two school closure days next term to conduct an audit of these dimensions.

Under our current Industrial Agreement, schools are permitted four school closure days a year. Usually we would take one a term, but I decided to avoid doing so this term, so the children could reestablish some routine after the many months of school lockdown.

Therefore, **the school will be closed to students on Friday 6 May and Tuesday 24 May.** On these days Mr. Mark Workman from MACS will be facilitating an audit of where we are at under the spheres mentioned above.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The pressure is on this week as we finalise the decommissioning of the old Prep Classrooms and Library. Some rooms are being donated and relocated to Cana Primary School in Hillside. Other rooms are being demolished next week as they are really not worth keeping. We need to make way for our new building which we expect to **commence construction on Tuesday 3 May 2022.**

The Prep classrooms are now located in the newly refurbished building up near the front car park. The Year 4 classrooms are also located in this building. These large classrooms are absolute state of art with high ceilings and wide opening doors for ventilation.

The library has been relocated into two empty classrooms and is looking like an ideal library space until the new building is completed.

I sincerely thank all the staff who have worked very hard to shift furniture and resources, so as to establish these new learning spaces.

The new building will comprise:

- SMMPS Library
- Art Studio
- Digital Technologies Studio, and
- Staff Office and meeting spaces.

We hope to take possession of the new building for the beginning of the 2023 school year.





The new building will be largely constructed of natural and earthy materials and have a focus on light, ventilation and outdoor learning areas.

PARKING: TERM TWO, THREE and FOUR 2022.

Whilst the new building is being constructed we will lose access to much of our rear car park.

We are currently finalizing parking arrangements during the construction period and will communicate these arrangements to you in Week One of next term. The carpark will still be open for parking in that particular week.

It will be an inconvenience for a period of time, but quite simply, it is what it is. The inconvenience will be worth it, as we will gain an outstanding learning facility for generations of children to enjoy.

STUDENT VOICE

31 March 2022- By Rita Haddad and Thomas Atkinson (School Captains)

On the 31st of March, we had our 2nd SRC meeting. We began by saying a welcome prayer together. Then Mr D'Amico explained our badges and our roles to make the school a better place. We then discussed the good things and ideas to make our school better. Below are things that are working well and ideas to make the school better.

Things that are working well are...	Ideas to make the school better are...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working well as a team • Supporting each other • Working hard • Helping others • Taking care of each other • Good education • Being respectful • Safe play • Great spaces and play areas like cubby houses • Nice and loving teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch orders • Nets on the basketball hoops • Aboriginal flag next to Australian flag • More water bottle stations. • Talent show • Quiet places • Multicultural day • More books in the library • Special food lunch orders

After that we came up with the idea of donating the money from the casual clothes day in the future, towards flood victims. Our casual clothes day event information is below.

Friday 8th April

Bring a gold coin donation to support flood victims.



Please wear sensible clothing (clothes and footwear to suit the weather)

An SRC initiative

THE PARENTS GROUP

The need to continue rebuilding community and parent involvement is essential to the life of a well-functioning school. It is in fact, one of the five spheres of Catholic schooling as set out by MACS.

To this end, I am going to try again to establish a parent group to support fundraising and organising events for the school community. We have had a number of attempts, but COVID and lockdowns have got in the way. In a spirit of optimism, we will have another go and look forward in hope.

We will call this group of generous volunteers, quite simply, **The Parents Group**. I am inviting for expressions of interest from parents and volunteers from staff to support this initiative, depending on what the activity or event may be. We all have a variety of talents and may be able to contribute. We might meet during school time or after hours depending on the parents who are available and willing to be a part of the group.

To this end, I am asking any parent who may be interested in being part of The Parents Group, please shoot me or Anthony D'Amico an email, simply giving us:

- **your name**
- **your children's names and classes**
- **your availability to have an initial meeting. We'd like to know the day (Monday to Thursday) and time (2:30pm or 6:30pm) that is most suitable.**

We will then choose the time that receives most nominations. We will meet and decide on the way forward, form a leadership team and start exploring options.

Perhaps, some parents might only be available occasionally. What I propose is calling for support with specific events. If you consider you might have a contribution to make at different times when convenient, that will be okay too.

Of course, we live in a COVID normal world. All volunteers must, as always has been the case, produce a Working with Children Check. Under the law, all volunteers must also be doubly vaccinated and have also have received a booster (i.e. three vaccinations) to volunteer on site. I appreciate this may not suit some people, however, I don't make the rules; I just follow them!

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

I will be making some announcements in regards to our School Advisory Council early next term, where I will be announcing our SAC members and beginning the process of meeting and consultation.

Watch this space for more information.

Congratulations to this week's students who received a Principal's Award



SMMPs Reminders.....

- School finishes for Term 1 this Friday 8th April at 1.00pm
- Prep Enrolments for 2023 are OPEN. If you have a child starting next year and you have not enrolled, please email Kellie at kdoherty@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au for an enrolment form or come to the office to pick one up
- 2022 SMMPs School fees. Statements went home earlier this term. If you pay by this Friday 8th April, you will receive a \$50 discount. Come and see Kellie or Joe at the office



Year 5 Camp 2022

In week nine of this term, our Year 5 students and staff travelled down the Great Ocean Road to attend our annual Surf Camp in Lorne. The camp was located on the foreshore of the iconic Lorne surf beach. Our accommodation was at the Lorne Surf Club overlooking the ocean and Lorne township. We were split into two groups, with each group staying for two nights. Group One went Monday to Wednesday. Group Two was scheduled to attend Wednesday to Friday.

Each day consisted of Surfing lessons and Life Saving Training, free time, beach games and spending time getting to hang out with friends in such a beautiful location.

We were able to learn how to bodyboard, stand up surf, rescue a swimmer in danger, perform CPR and identify and manage a rip current in the surf. We also hiked up to Teddy's lookout to enjoy the view of the local area and also try to catch a glimpse of a whale, dolphin or even the famous rip of the area.

It was a great experience, and definitely one we will never forget!

Thank you to all the staff who gave up their time and left their families to come along and support our Year 5 students on this experience. Your attendance and support is greatly appreciated!

Mr Maxwell Mr Quinn Ms Higgins Mrs Mulford Ms Amato Mr Saxon Marc Botoulas

Please visit the Club Lorne Webpage if you would like to see more about this camp - clublorne.com.au

Our camp program at SMMPs is a very valuable tool in assisting our students to develop resilience, independence, social skills and experience activities they may not have had a chance to do outside of everyday life. We begin this program in Year 4 with an overnight experience, progress to two nights in Year 5 and culminate the process in Year 6 with Sydney/Canberra experience (Subject to restrictions and permissions as per MACS advice)



Year 5 Camp continued...

The waves crashed furiously and tried to topple me over. I panicked as the surfboard shook helplessly. I held on tight and took a deep breath. The surfboard steadied and was now straight on the water. I was excited and nervous at the same time! I was kneeling carefully on the surfboard. Birds laughed as they passed by. The water made a deep, distracting noise as it crashed into other surfers. Salt water splashed in my mouth. It was horrible, but I dealt with it. A huge gust of wind nearly flipped me, but I held on. I stood up on my knees, slowly making my way up. I felt the surfboard's cool, smooth surface. My eyes drooped as I stood up. I finally let go of the safe surfboard. Water crashed into my poor ear. Kids laughed as the air brushed against me, gently, for once. As I stood up on the surfboard, for the first time, I was confident. Salt water soon made its way up into my nose. I didn't care. I was standing up on a surfboard.

Isabella P

5 Blue



Catching the Waves

As I was paddling to catch a humongous wave I could feel the salty cold water on my surfboard. I felt nervous and excited at the exact same time!! I took a deep breath and I was off getting up on my surfboard!!! I could feel the tiny fish and seaweed tickling my toes. The smell of fresh salty air made me want to eat fish and chips!! But some people came in front of me and I screamed "GET OUT OF MY WAY!!!" at them. As they moved, I could see Phil and his employees at the Orange and Yellow flags in front of the Lorne S.L.S.C. watching us surf. As I was standing I let out a big "WOOHOO!!!" The seagulls got scared and started making noises and flew off. But then someone got in the way and I fell. I was so proud and happy that I stood on my surfboard. As I got back up I saw some rips hitting the Pier. Off to go try again!!!

Angelina

5 Blue

What's happening in Religious Education?

Stations of the Cross

As we celebrate the Season of Lent, we prepare for Holy Week and the upcoming celebration of Easter. To commemorate the events of Holy Week, classroom teachers selected students to participate in the Stations of the Cross Performance. These students featured in 'Freeze Frames' that depicted the events of Holy Week. A video of these Freeze Frames has been collated and will be viewed in classrooms. Your child's classroom teachers will also post this video on Seesaw at the end of the term for your convenience.



Catholic Meditation

Christian meditation "engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire" in prayer (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2708). It is also known as mental prayer. This prayer practice has been introduced to our students over the past two years, however, due to interruptions in these years, we have not been able to provide students with the opportunity to practise this regularly.

This year our wonderful classroom teachers began to reintroduce this practice and highlight it as an important part of their classroom prayer routines. While the teachers begin by facilitating this Meditation, students slowly work towards facilitating it themselves.

Furthermore, every Tuesday afternoon, we pause as a school and engage in Catholic Meditation together. This is facilitated online. It is a sacred time in the school day where we stop as a faith community to pray and work towards further enriching the Catholic Identity of our school.

Below is some literature and information regarding this practice:

- It is beneficial for every Christian to practice prayer daily as prayer is "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God." (Catechism, 2744 & 2558)
- "Prayer is essential to the Christian life and is essential to nurture even the smallest faith"
- Meditation is a form of Mental Prayer
- "Don't let the word "meditation" fool you. Mental prayer is very different from Eastern meditation practices. Non-Christian meditation practices aim at emptying the mind. Christian meditation engages the mind in prayer."
- Catholic meditation seeks use the faculties of the mind to know the Lord, understand his love for us, and to move into deep union with him. Use of the mind "is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ." (Catechism, 2708)

Stephanie Taylor
Religious Education Leader

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Thursday 31st of March, the Year 3 students celebrated their First Reconciliation. We congratulate the students on this important step in their faith journeys. On Thursday the 7th of April we look forward to the Year 3 Sacrament Reflection Day, where the students will have the opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament of Penance and begin preparations for their First Holy Communion.



Outside School Hours Care Program

St. Mary of the Assumption Outside School Hours Care aims to provide high quality Before and After School Care programs for children and parents of the school community. The program is designed to support working and non- working families. We ensure that families can participate in the work environment without concerns about the safety and care of their children.

Our school age program of exceptional quality, provides a safe environment for children to learn, relax, thrive and have fun.

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember it is free to enrol!! Please create an account online via the Smart Central website <https://www.smartcentral.net/v2/home>

Program's Operating Hours Before School Care 7.00-8.45am

After School Care 3.15-6.00pm

if you have any queries about the program please feel free to contact the program Co-ordinator on 0450 211 909



The Easter Hat Parade

Today, the 6th of April, students were encouraged to participate in an Easter Hat Parade. Students along with their families, created an Easter Hat. They were asked to incorporate aspects of the Christian Easter story into their designs. We appreciate the efforts of all families who participated and attended the parade. Everyone looked amazing! Prizes were awarded for the most creative hats in each level.



ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH 2022 EASTER TIMETABLE

PALM SUNDAY – 9th-10th April

Saturday

5:00 pm Solemn Mass - St Mary MacKillop

Please note that Confessions will end at 4.40 p.m.

5:00 pm Mass (Latin) – St Paul's

6:30 pm Mass - St Paul's

Sunday

8:00 am Mass- (Maltese) - St Paul's

9:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop

10:00 am Mass - St Paul's

11:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop

5:30 pm Mass - St Mary MacKillop

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 11th April

9:30 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 12th April

9:30 am Mass – St Mary MacKillop

10.00 -11:00 am Confessions – St. Mary MacKillop

7.30 pm Chrism Mass –
St Patrick's Cathedral

Adoration postponed to Wednesday evening

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – 13th April

9:30am Mass - St Paul's

10.00 -11:00am Confessions – St Paul's

7.00 - 8:00pm Confessions – St. Mary MacKillop

7.00 pm Adoration & Benediction

HOLY THURSDAY – 14th April

There is no Morning Mass today

11am-12:00 pm Confessions - St Paul's

5:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- St Paul's

*followed by Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament until 9:00pm*

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- St Mary MacKillop

*followed by Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament until 10.30 pm*

GOOD FRIDAY – 15th April

8:30 am The Way of the Cross
- St Mary MacKillop

9:30 am -11:30 am Confessions - St Mary MacKillop

3:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of The Passion
- St Mary MacKillop

3:00 pm Solemn Liturgy of The Passion
- St Paul's

HOLY SATURDAY – 16th April

11.00 am -12:00 pm Confessions-St Paul's

7.00 pm Mass of the Easter Vigil
- St Mary MacKillop

This is the only Mass celebrated today

EASTER SUNDAY – 17th April

8:00 am Mass – (Maltese) - St Paul's

9:00 am Mass - St Mary MacKillop

10:00 am Mass - St Paul's

11:00 am Mass – St Mary MacKillop

There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday

EASTER MONDAY – 18th April

9:30am Mass – St Mary MacKillop





CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE NORTH KEILOR SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE Expression of Interest



Catholic Regional College North Keilor is establishing a local School Advisory Council to support the Principal and Leadership Team on important school matters at the College, including:

SCHOOL VISION & MISSION:

- Provide input into school improvement plan to ensure Parent Voice and Student Voice is represented, as well as Master Plan.
- Provide advice as required on College's progress against achievement of Annual Action Plan

RECEIVE REPORTS ON:

- Budget, Annual Financial Statement, monthly Income & Expenditure, Annual audits
- Child Safety / OHS / Risk Management.
- Compliance Matters in general, i.e. VRQA, Local Policies and Procedures

PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE LOCAL COMMUNITY / PARISH RELATIONSHIPS

A balanced membership, with parent and parish voice, on the School Advisory Council is required and as such we have three (3) positions to fill.

If you are a member of the parish, or have children at our College, and wish to be part of this exciting new era at our College, we would welcome your application to join our local School Advisory Council, which meets once per term.

We are seeking a range of diverse skill sets and whilst no particular qualifications are required, we would welcome experience in the following areas:

- Financial sector
- Risk Management/Compliance/HR
- Strategic educational focus, ideally in a role working with families and young people, e.g. related to learning and teaching, student wellbeing, community engagement, or school planning and development, etc.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST DUE
Friday, 8 April 2022 to:**

Mr Tullio Zavattiero
Principal, CRC North Keilor
Via email at
principal@crcnk.vic.edu.au

Please outline your connection to the College, and what skills and knowledge you believe you can bring to the School Advisory Committee.



Upcoming Events-Term 1

Friday 8 April

End of Term 1-children finish @ 1pm

Upcoming Events-Term 2

Tuesday 26 April

First day of Term 2

Wednesday 27 April

9.30am Prep 2023 Informal Info Session and Tour

Thursday 28 April

9.30am Prep 2023 Informal Info Session and Tour

Saturday 30 April

Year 4 First Communion

12.00pm 4B and half of 4R

2.00pm 4Y and half of 4R

Monday 2 May

9.30am Prep 2023 Informal Info Session and Tour

Thursday 5 May

9.30am Prep 2023 Informal Info Session and Tour

Upcoming Events-Term 2 continued....

Friday 6 May

School Closure

Tuesday 10 to Friday 20 May

Year 3 and Year 5 Naplan

Wednesday 11 May

2023 Enrolments Due

Monday 16 May

2023 Enrolment Interviews commence

Tuesday 24 May

School closure

Saturday 28 May

Year 3 First Communion

12.00pm and 2.00pm

Friday 24 June

Last Day of Term 2-children finish at 1.00pm