
Friday 03 June, 2022

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

T: 03 9367 6199

Staying Connected No. 10 2022

Hello Everyone,

This weekend we celebrate **Pentecost Sunday**. As Christians we believe that fifty days after the Resurrection, Jesus sent the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the same Holy Spirit which gave rise to today's Church.

Our School Vision Statement calls us to '**live and celebrate our Catholic faith**'. This is the faith of our Church, which came into being at Pentecost.

As Christians and as members of the Church, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we show the fruits of the Holy Spirit. St Paul tells us that the **fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity and faithfulness**. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and courage to genuinely practice these fruits in our everyday life.

As a community, we ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and grant us the courage to show the fruits of the Holy Spirit in all we do and say, each and every day. In this way, we become authentic members of our community.

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School Advisory Council.

SMMPs School Advisory Council held its first meeting last Tuesday evening. Mr. Robert Aaron from MACS conducted an induction and then we chatted informally around the direction we would be taking. We also elected our Chairperson and Secretary.

Our SAC members are:

- *Emma Langoulant (Chairperson)*
- *Laura Sacchetta (Secretary)*
- *Narelle Galea*
- *Ana Iacobaccio*
- *Michelle Nathanielsz*
- *Kirsten Mifsud (Staff Rep)*
- *Anthony D'Amico (Deputy Principal)*
- *Monsignor Charles Portelli (PP ex-officio)*
- *Anthony McCluskey (Principal ex-officio)*

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 July 2023. We will provide you with a report on each meeting.

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BUILDING PROGRAM

We expect the construction of our new library, art studio and digital technologies studio to begin next Monday. We welcome onsite, the Bowden Corporation who are the builders appointed to construct our new building, under the direction of LAW Architects, who have designed a contemporary, energy efficient and sustainable building, constructed largely of earthy and natural materials, with lots of glass and natural light.

The expected completion date is mid-January next year, so we hope to be moving in and utilising these wonderful facilities early in Term One 2023.



PARKING

There is going to be significant disruption to the convenience of the parking we have onsite at this time. I am not particularly concerned, because *'it is what it is'*, and this new building will be worth some disruption. In saying that, however, I have put much thought, consultation and planning into how we will manage for the next two terms.

I will communicate that information to you early next week, once I have signed off on the final couple of hurdles we are facing.

We have another week's grace parking, so enjoy it!

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Have a good week everybody,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

COVID IS REAL

I absolutely urge you to have your child vaccinated against COVID and the Flu. Both of these viruses are causing much angst in our school.

To date this term, we have had **64 children** reported to us of having COVID. I wonder how many other cases there have been not reported to us.

We have also had **12 staff** absent over the term with COVID. This is particularly challenging as it is very difficult to find replacement staff. We are working hard not to split classes, but we have had to, out of necessity, on a few occasions and may well have to do so many more times.

I am most grateful to the generous staff who step up and help us out when needed. Thank you! We really do have a great staff!

PLEASE, IF YOUR CHILD DISPLAYS COLD or FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS; keep them home, even if they are negative to a RAT.

I've seen many adults and children test negative, but eventually test positive, particularly if they go for a PCR. It is better to be cautious!

REVISITING HOUSEHOLD CLOSE CONTACT ADVICE

Household close contacts are advised to:

- wear a mask when not at home (i.e. at school, inside and out),
- eat outdoors, away from others, and
- have 5 negative RATs over 7 days

OR Alternatively, isolate at home for 7 days.

The information can be easily sought at this website:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-contacts>

Please follow the advice.... We are just trying to keep our community safe and well!

CHILD SAFETY

At SMMPS '***we aspire to protect all children under our care, prioritising their safety and wellbeing***'. (SMMPS Vision Statement).

An area of concern, is your children's use of social media. Quite simply, they are legally too young to be on social media, but we know it is a reality.

To this end, **we are offering workshops to children, teachers and parents, to support them with children's use of social media.**

Please see attached flyer.

More on this to come in following editions of 'Staying Connected'.

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

FACE TO FACE WITH Year 4 – 6	18th Aug (on site)
FACE TO FACE WITH STAFF	18th Aug (onsite)
ONLINE WITH PARENTS	09th Aug (More details to come)

Cyber Safety sessions designed to empower young people to take control of their own digital safety and wellbeing through engaging and interactive workshops and presentations. All student workshops align to the Cyber Safety Project Curriculum Framework values of Responsibility, Integrity, Strength and Empathy with a focus on either **Digital Safety** or **Digital Wellbeing**.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

To ensure that we support and empower ALL Australian students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies both at home and school, we must arm ALL teachers, parents and the wider community with digital literacy skills and resources.

The Cyber Safety Project partners with school communities to ensure all school leaders, teachers and parents are kept up-to-date with the latest trending digital topics. We must provide space and time to learn and understand the way students can connect and interact through digital platforms, devices, sites, apps and gaming networks.

SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS

Our school-based programs aim to provide opportunities for teachers to stay up-to-date with the latest information as well as provide resources and curriculum linked to the National Curriculum. The core outcomes of our program include:

- Teachers know relevant digital citizenship elements of the digital technologies curriculum, ethical and social responsibilities
- Teachers are aware of and understand current digital literacies and trends impacting on young people in their care
- Teachers are able to design learning to achieve the cyber/digital technologies outcomes for students

EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE

to self-manage their own privacy and security and to be responsible digital citizens when using connected technologies.

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Year 3

First Holy Communion

On Saturday May 28, 2022, we celebrated the Year 3 First Holy Communion. It was fantastic to come together as a faith community to celebrate this special milestone. We congratulate the Year 3 communicants.



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We again congratulate the Year 6 Confirmation Candidates and the Year 4 Communicants for 2022. Thankyou to all the families who came to celebrate at the special assemblies where we engaged in prayer as a faith community and these students received certificates to commemorate this special milestone in their faith journeys.



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We ask you to keep the students who have celebrated their Sacraments in your prayers...

Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent.

Look kindly on our students as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

They continue their faith journeys, make each of us an instrument of Your love.

Teach us all to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand.

Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us.

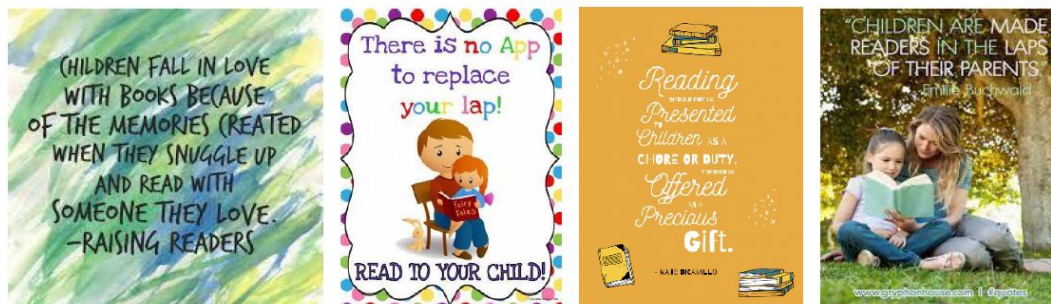
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Weekly Principal Awards



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Literacy Update



Building Stamina for Sustained Reading and Writing

One of the most important things that a learner can do to be successful across all areas of learning, is to be a strong reader. This strength is developed through lots of experience/practise. This one thing can have a huge impact on your child as a learner. Check the table below. The number of words a reader is exposed to in a year makes a big difference.

It is vital that students also do some reading practise outside of school time- **daily**.

Have high expectations that your child will bring their reading material home from school or choose a good fit book at home and be ready to read at home daily for 20 minutes. It helps to have a regular time to read at home. Map out the regular activities your child does and when there is time available for reading. Sometimes bedtime is not the ideal time to have your child read to you as they may be too tired. It is a better time for a story read to them. Memories of close, comfortable times, reading with Mum or Dad build a positive feeling about reading.

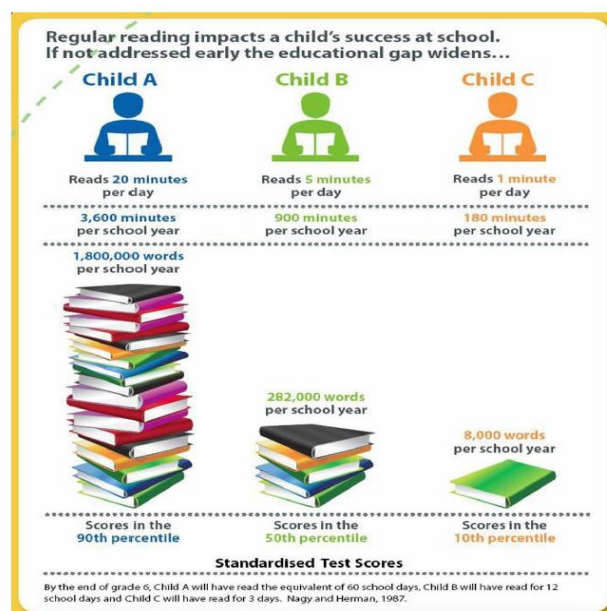
For young, beginning readers, parents can read to or with their child. You can take turns reading a page each. Or they can echo read- you read a page and then they read it. As the year progresses, your child will begin to read to you. Try to remain calm and give your child time to grapple with new learning.

For middle and upper primary students, it is still great to read to or with your child but they should be reading also.

The parent's role is to support and discuss the book with the child. If the text seems too hard, read it to them.

Talk about books that you have enjoyed reading and make reading time a happy, relaxed time. The chart below shows the significant impact that reading for 20 minutes after school can have on a student's success across all subjects.

.Andrea Gale, MMPS Literacy Leader



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The First Annual St Mary MacKillop PS

READ-O-RAMA

Flex your reading muscles!

Increase your reading strength.

Build your reading powers!



Your challenge is to read as many books as you can this term.

P-2s will track how many books they read

3-6s will track the number of pages they read

Students record their reading each day,

Teachers keep a tally of their students' reading for the week,

Year levels will keep a running, weekly totals of BOOKS/PAGES READ
and display them in their areas.

At the end of term there will be prizes for the class in each year level who has
read the most!

Starts in week 5, goes until the end of term 2.



Jen Melki and Andrea Gale

SPORT at SMMPS

Season One Interschool Sport wrap up & final ladder standings.
Thank you to our coaches and congratulations to our kids on a great sports season!



AFL Mr Botoulas 7th Place	Boys Soccer Mr Maxwell 9th Place	Girls Soccer Mr Maxwell 1st Place	Mixed Netball Ms Higgins 1st Place	Girls Netball Ms Higgins 4th Place
Boys Tee Ball Ms Adam 3rd Place	Girls Tee Ball Ms Adam 5th Place	Boys Tennis. Mr Saxon 6th Place	Girls Tennis Mr Saxon 3rd Place	

Girls Soccer:

On the 27th of May the SMMPS girls soccer team did the impossible!! We traveled to Green Gully reserve to play in the Sydenham District Soccer Grand Final. The grass was wet and slippery but the girls managed to push through and put that aside. Our opponent was Overnewton College who we had beaten earlier in the season. Our girls were hungry for the win! And once we warmed up, we began to control the play. All the girls that participated in the match did an outstanding job! Special mention to Bianca who broke out into space mid way through the first half to score our 1st goal. But Overnewton countered quickly and we went into halftime 1-1.

The second half was a real physical test for our girls. Overnewton had a few chances but Alivia was great in goals. Eventually, our persistence paid off and Zara managed to break the game open with a dominant goal. From here we held on and finished with the WIN. The final score was 2-1.

Thank you again for all the support from our parents, Mr Maxwell and Andre Botoulas for giving us confidence when playing. Our team accepted the 1st place flag with pride and many photos!

The teammates that accomplished this amazing win are Alivia Garra (**GK**), Siera Muraca (**LW**), Klara Sakic (**RW**), Alyssa Di Natale (**CM**), Bianca Gurrese (**ST**) Zara Galea (**ST**), Alicia Horvartic (**LB**), Catarina Pereira (**RB**) Charlize Hanna (**CB**), Evangeline Deluca (**RB**), Destiny Jakie (**CB**) Treasure Ikedashi (**CM**), Emilie Sweedman (**CM**), Christina Attard (**LB**).

We now progress to the Keilor Division Finals later this term where we will play a Round Robin of 5 games.

By Siera Muraca, Klara Sakic & Alyssa Di Natale :)



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Mixed Netball

On the 27th of May 2022, our school's mixed netball team participated in a grand final against Keilor Primary School. It was very exciting as we were level for most of the game. In the last quarter, we came out on top with a score of 15-18. We are the first Mary Mac netball team to win the Grand Final. We are all very excited as on the 17th of June we get to play against other schools in divisional games. We get to play 5 games in 1 day!!

By Chelsea Debrincat, Sienna Power, Lilly Ansell, Ruby Lewis, Saskia Wong, Letti Sacco and Makayla Denkel



SMMPS House Cross Country Carnival

Recently our students in years 3-6 competed in our House Cross Country Carnival. Our 9/10-year olds completed a 2km event and the 11 – 13yr olds completed the 3km event. Each student who participated earned points for their house team. The overall winning house was Yellow house! The shield was accepted by our Yellow house captains Jacob and Sienna. Congratulations to everyone in Yellow house on a fantastic WIN!



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SDPSSA Cross Country Carnival

On Wednesday the 25th of May, some students from Year 3-6 represented our school at the Sydenham District Cross Country Carnival. We travelled by bus to Brimbank Park and competed against 7 other schools in either a 2 or 3 kilometre race. It was a cold and slippery morning and we were all very nervous before our events. Everyone gave their best efforts and we managed to achieve some amazing results (see below). As always our students supported and encouraged each other every step of the way. Sometimes just giving that little extra push to run through to the end. Overall our students managed to finish in 3rd place which is a great result given our short preparations.

Congratulations to all our team members on a fantastic performance. Best of luck to those students who progressed to the next round of competition.

Thank you to Ms Higgins and our RMIT Helpers for supervising and supporting us on the day!

GO MARY MAC!

Results	
<u>9/10 Boys (2km)</u> Phoenix Zeine 2nd Emmanuel Oliha 4th Max Artuso 10th	<u>9/10 Girls (2km)</u> Mila Zeine 5th
<u>11 Boys (3km)</u> Dominic Bilic 5th Jordan Rando 8th Jerry Benjamin 10th	<u>11 Girls (3km)</u> Taliah Pistikakis 4th Eva Mehmet 10th
<u>12/13 Boys (3km)</u> Kobie Pettenon 5th	<u>12/13 Girls (3km)</u> Siera Muraca 5th Alyssa Di Natale 7th Saskia Wong 9th

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE

OPEN DAY



Acknowledging the Feast of the Sacred Heart
Saturday 18th June 2022
10.00am – 4.00pm

- Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available @ 11am
- Mass in the Chapel @ 1pm
- Take a tour of the Museum
- Visit the Gift Shop
- Refreshment options available for purchase

We appreciate you being respectful of our COVID Safe practices.

For further information and registering for the walk and mass [Click here](#)
or call 03 9926 9300 or admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au



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Welcome to the first SPS 'speech box' for the year. This speech box considers the types of questions you can ask your child to elicit information. Each speech box will cover a different topic and provide information and suggestions for things you can do at home to support your child with their learning. If you would like further information, contact the SPS speech pathologist at the school.



Generating language through questions

There are many types of questions you can ask your child to get information. Often adults ask children closed ended questions which will generate single word responses. Ask open ended questions and try to set up a daily routine for talking about the day. Encourage responses in sentences.

Often when parents ask the questions

- "How was school today?" response - "ok"
- "What did you do?" response - "nothing"

Instead try asking "what was something good that happened at school today and tell me why it was good?"

Rather than asking these questions at the busy, noisy school pick up time try asking it at the dinner table or as part of bedtime routine. Get everyone to take turns asking the questions and take turns answering them.

Initially you might use a starter phrase

"One good thing that happened today was..."

"It was good because..."

Include "why do you think..." or "what would happen if ..." types of questions that don't have a right or wrong answer.

Questions can relate to imaginary scenarios *"what do you think would happen if instead of driving home I drove us all to the moon?"*

Children often enjoy nonsense scenarios and can come up with some wonderfully creative responses.

Include a family word for the week that everyone needs to try and use each day. The word for this week could be **/magnificent/**.

*Remember to try and get your child to respond in sentences. Producing good oral sentences in conversation is a precursor to being able to produce good sentences in written work. Make sure you allow enough think time for a response.

Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants Program



Recipient of a 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant



We've been successful with our application for a 2022 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant for our project, Aussie Outback.

The aim of our project is to plant, grow and eat native species introducing Junior students to some native plants. The children will be involved in the process of caring for plants, observing changes and experiencing the cycle of food from garden to plate. Students will learn about the different steps involved in growing and preparing food through first hand experiences.

St Mary MacKillop Primary School is one of 1,054 primary schools and early learning centres throughout Australia receiving a Woolworths Junior Landcare grant to help grow our next generation of environmental champions.

The children and teachers are looking forward to working and learning from this project and we'll keep you updated on the results.

Click on the [Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant map](#) to read about our project and others.

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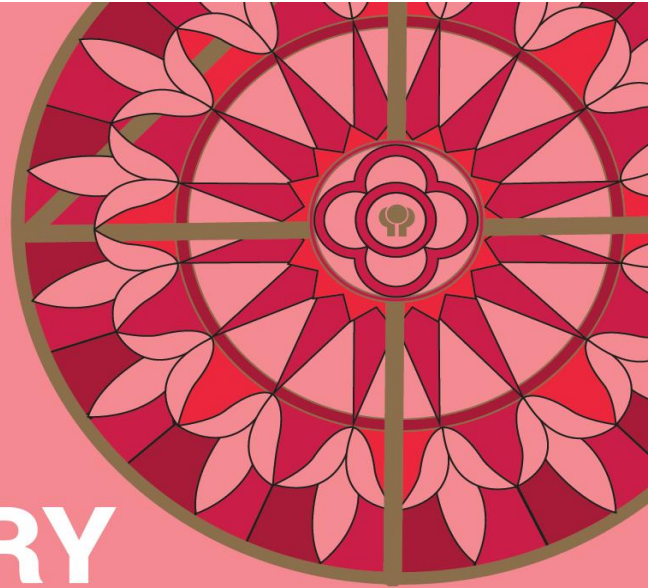


CATHOLIC REGIONAL
COLLEGE SYDENHAM
INVITES PAST STAFF
AND STUDENTS TO

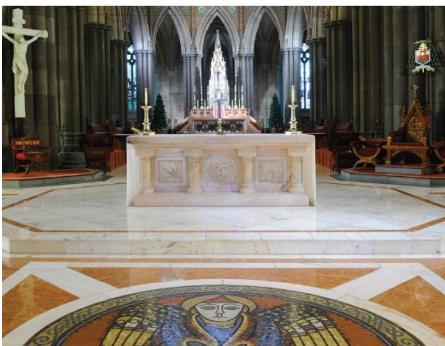
40TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

RSVP to
principalsoffice@crcs.vic.edu.au
by 11 June 2022.

*Every Student
Every Pathway*



**ST PATRICK'S
CATHEDRAL** | **10:30
AM**



WEDNESDAY
22
JUNE

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Upcoming Events-Term 2

Monday 13 June

Queen's birthday public holiday

Friday 24 June

Last Day of Term 2-children finish at 1.00pm

Upcoming Events-Term 3

Monday 11 July

First Day of Term 3

Monday 25 July to Friday 29 July

Prep 2023 Meetings for existing families

Book Fair

Monday 8 August

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Tuesday 9 August

Cyber Safety Project Online-see flyer

Monday 15 August

Feast of the Assumption

Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August

Book Week