

Friday 09 September, 2022

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

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Staying Connected No. 15. 2022



Today we lower our flag to half-mast out of respect for our Monarch and Head of State,
Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022).

Queen Elizabeth reigned for 70 years.

It is the end of another great Elizabethan Age.

May Her Majesty's Soul Rest in Peace.

May she be rewarded in Heaven for her great service.

Hello Everyone,

Good things continue to happen at our school.

Yesterday we held our inaugural **St. Mary MacKillop's Got Talent!** Many children auditioned over a number of weeks, showing great talent, but like everything we could only select a few acts to perform on the day... and did the kids perform! They were brilliant! We look forward to bigger and better performing arts opportunities for the children as we move forward, with many more parents involved.

Thank you to Sandra Lind who initiated the talent show. Sandra spent many hours listening to auditions and then managing rehearsals. Thank you to staff who supported Sandra and the children. Thank you to all the children who rehearsed and graciously accepted that it was not their year to perform. They showed outstanding maturity. Their opportunity will come. Thank you to our performers, our outstanding compere, Thomas Atkinson and our judges, Emilie Sweedman and Letti Sacco. I am particularly proud of all our students, whom showed great respect and encouragement on the day, celebrating their peer's achievements.

We are currently editing a recording of the talent show and will provide you with a link to the edited show, when it is available.

Capital Works

Some major school improvements continue to happen at our school. My personal commitment is to continue creating learning and play spaces that will enhance opportunities for the children to grow socially, physically, spiritually and academically.

SMMPS Learning Essence Statement, states that *'relationships are at the heart of our learning community.'* The spaces we create must promote opportunities for the students to translate the values of our school community into personal behaviours. We need to create safe spaces for the learners to feel welcome and affirmed. We must give the children spaces of which they are proud.

We must create spaces that are learner accessible, which will focus student interest and attention. These spaces, both indoor and outdoor must engage student thinking, support student performance, a sense of belonging and partnership.

Our new building has commenced construction (at long last after many delays)! This building captures the essence of what we are trying to achieve here at SMMPS. It will contain a **library, digital technologies studio and arts centre for both visual and performing arts.** There will also be some other spaces for staff collaboration.

You may have noticed the **Acoustic Wall** along part of Sunshine Avenue. I appreciate it appears a little stark at the moment. However, it will be painted, signage (the name of the school and an image of St. Mary MacKillop) and up lighting will be included. We have received a grant from the Federal Government under the Queens Jubilee Grant Scheme of \$10,000, which we will use to landscape the space behind the wall, with substantial native planting and irrigation.

We will also be including a swale (dry creek bed) and some cubby spaces for the children. The wall will create a barrier to Sunshine Avenue, which will reduce noise, the sight of cars racing past at 80kms per hour and also provide the children with privacy from people walking past or waiting at the bus stop. Give us the term to make this a beautiful established space for children from Year Prep and One, to play, gather and learn.

Our capital works are about creating wonderful spaces for children to learn and form relationships.

Remember, Term 3 finishes on Friday 16 September at 1:00pm.


Term 4 commences on Monday 3 October

Primary School concludes for Year 6 students on Wednesday 14 December

Graduation @ 7:00pm in the Church on Wednesday 14 December

Term 4 concludes for all children 1-5 on Friday 16 December

Have a good week and safe holiday period everybody.



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

Congratulations to James Quinn (a long-time teacher in our school) and his wife, Courtney and daughter, Kaia, on the birth of their baby girl, Rian Joy Quinn. 🎉

Upcoming Events-Term 3

Term 3: Monday 11 July-Friday 16 September 2022

Thursday 15 September

Footy Day-See flyer

Friday 16 September

Last Day of Term 3

Students finish at 1.00pm

Term 4

Term 4: Monday 03 October-Friday 16 December 2022

Monday 03 October

First Day of Term 4

Tuesday 11 October

School Closure Day-details soon

Tuesday 01 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Monday 07 November-Friday 11 November

Year 6 Camp-Half will go Monday 07 and the other Wednesday 09

Monday 14 November to Wednesday 16 November

Year 4 Camp

Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 November-Session 1

Prep 2023 Orientation and Information Sessions 9.15am to 11.00am

(Please note change of dates-letters will go out early next term)

Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 November-Session 2

Prep 2023 Orientation and Information Sessions 9.15am to 11.00am

Upcoming Events-Term 3 and 4 cont...

Monday 05 December

School Closure Day-2023 Planning Day

Tuesday 06 December

Annual Christmas Carols at 6pm

Thursday 08 December

2023 Prep Meet the Teacher

9.30am to 10.30am

Wednesday 14 December

Year 6 finish at 1.00pm

(Guard of Honour at 12.45pm)

Year 6 Graduation

7:00pm in the Church

Friday 16 December

Year Prep to Year 5 finish at 1.00pm for 2022

Principals Awards





St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.



Australian Government



PLANTING TREES FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

EVENT

Tree planting ceremony

DATE

Wednesday 14th September 2022

TIME

2:45pm

PLACE

Rear of Mary of the Cross building
(Prep / Year 4 building next to
Odessa Avenue carpark)

Parents and families are warmly
invited to a tree planting ceremony.

Two students from each year level
will plant native trees to celebrate
the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and
mark the start of 'growing' our
outdoor learning space.

*A society grows great when the old
plant trees in whose shade they
shall never sit.*

Greek Proverb





Ukraine Crisis Appeal

Wear your favourite team colours with pride

Footy Colours Day

Thursday 15th

September 2022

Football unites communities – whether you follow AFL, NRL, Soccer, Rugby Union or any other sport – unite, stand shoulder-to-shoulder with your fellow Aussies and help to fundraise for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal with a gold coin donation.

An SRC initiative



SRC Meeting

On the 25th of August 2022, we had our 5th SRC meeting. We started with a prayer.

Afterwards, we discussed different charities we could raise money for. These ideas include kids with ADHD, Homeless Animals, Ukraine charities, Malala Fund, Refugees and The Big Sleep. We all voted that we should raise money for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

“Since 24 February, nearly 12.8 million people are estimated to have been displaced in Ukraine, most of whom have not left the country. According to the most recent estimates, 7.7 million people are internally displaced as a result of the conflict, which is equivalent to 17.5 percent of the entire population. These are people who have had to leave their homes and everything behind in a desperate attempt to escape death and destruction.” – UN human rights experts [source](#).

We ask everyone to bring a gold coin donation to support this wonderful charity. We will raise this money and have a footy day on the 15th of September.

After this, we talked about the good things that are happening in the school and the things our school needs to work on. Good things that are working well in school are: the talent show, everyone had great fun with the Book Week parade and it was great to be celebrating as a school community and the students are working well in class.

Things we need work on include: the big puddle near the hall, most rubbish doesn't end up in the bins in the yard and people bring food outside of class.

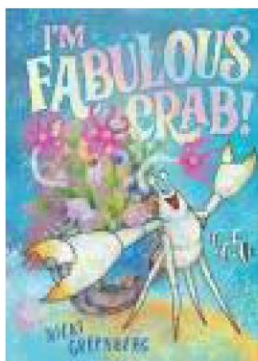


Children's Book Week 2022

Monday 22 August we celebrated a very busy Book Week. Students took part in a range of activities and events that focus attention on the wonder of reading.

- We had authors and illustrators, **Andrew McDonald, Nicki Grenberg and Heath Clements**, visit the school to run sessions for Prep to year 6 students. Classroom teachers will now follow up these sessions in class, discussing how authors get ideas for their writing, how authors develop characters and the techniques used by illustrators to create illustrations that complement and enhance a story. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear from the artists themselves about their craft. Thank you to Jen Melki for arranging these visits and the students and teachers for their participation.
- Class teachers swapped grades to read and enjoyed some of the Australian Children's Book Council's shortlisted books. We have had rich discussions and reflected on the visual images, the techniques that authors use to hook the reader's interest, the themes and messages in these texts.
- Art classes linked into Book Week. Students used inspiration from the nominated books, producing wonderful artistic responses. These are displayed around the school. Below are some examples of our artists' work. Thank you to Laura Barui for her work.
- Our dress up day was a marvelous experience. It has been a while since we have had children, parents and staff enjoying an event together. A big thank you to all who participated, designed and made costumes, wore costumes and applauded the students as they paraded.
- All of these great activities aim to send a message to learners that reading is highly valued, fun and something we can celebrate and learn about with others.

Author, Illustrator- Nicki Greenberg

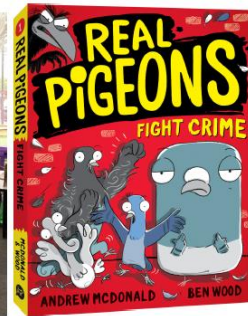


Book Week Continued....



Year 2s - artistic responses to the Book of Curious Birds

Author- Andrew McDonald





A miracle of unicorns spotted working in the office



Prep- artistic response to Solomon Crocodile



Year 1- artistic response to the book Stellarphant

Many thanks to everyone for participating and making the week a success.

Andrea Gale

Literacy Leader, SMMPs



Year 6



1 Yellow



4 Red



2 Yellow



4 Blue



3 Red



Prep Yellow



Prep Red



3 Blue



5 Yellow



5 Blue



4 Yellow



KEILOR RETIREMENT VILLAGE MARKET DAY:

Sunday 2nd OCTOBER 9am to 2pm

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

3 YEARS ACCUMULATION OF PRE-LOVED GOODS.

DEVONSHIRE TEA. LIONS CLUB SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**A WIDE RANGE OF BRIC A BRAC, ELECTRICAL, SMALL FURNITURE ITEMS,
BOOKS, CUSHIONS, JEWELRY, TOYS, CRAFT, PLANTS, WALL ART.**

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

You are invited to a night of
canapés, cocktails, entertainment
and mingling!

MUMS OF MARY MAC

Night Out

Friday 9th of September @ 7pm
Westwaters Entertainment Complex
Caroline Springs

Invite your Mum tribe or tribes and come join in on the fun.
Meet other Mums of our school and catch up with the ones you miss, all in the
one place!

Tickets cost \$60
incl- canapés entertainment and drink on arrival. Plus a goodie bag too!

RSVP- Crystal MAROS or Sandra Deluca on any of the below socials.
Or in the comments below!

Payment for tickets can be cash or transfered to the following account
C. Maros

083-832

170355007

(please write your FULL NAME as reference)

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THORNHILL DRIVE KINDERGARTEN

39 Thornhill Drive
Keilor Downs

Free Kindergarten for 2023

Our session times for 2023:

3 & 4 year old kinder

Monday : 9:00am - 2:00pm

Wednesday : 9:00am - 2:00pm

Friday : 9:00am - 2:00pm

We are a not for
profit kindergarten
managed by:



We have Vacancies for 2023, in our 3 & 4 year old kindergarten program.

To enrol contact Brimbank City Council on 9249 4490.

To book a personal tour contact the centre on 9356 9553

To be eligible for 4yr old kinder your child must have turned 4 on or before 30th April in the year of attendance.

To be eligible for 3yr old kinder your child must have turned 3 on before the 30th April in the year of attendance.



9356 9553



thornhill.dr@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

BOOK NOW