

Thursday 20 October, 2022

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## *Staying Connected No. 17. 2022*

Hello Everyone,

Mary MacKillop wrote, "Take on fresh courage with hope." When we experience any personal challenges, we need to heed this wisdom from Mary.



On Monday 17 October we remembered the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mary MacKillop's canonisation in Rome. Above is Mary's image adorning St. Peter's Basilica in Rome at the time of Mary's canonisation.

## SCRIPTURE

The Spirit of our God is upon me;  
because the Most High has anointed me  
to bring good news to those who are poor.  
God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,  
recovery of sight to those who are blind,  
and release to those in prison. (Luke 4:18)

The Spirit of God was certainly upon Mary MacKillop; she was anointed by God, to bring the good news to the poor...

Mary stood **present** among the poorest of the poor. She stood in solidarity with those who were the victims of any form of disadvantage, marginalisation and exclusion.

She responded with **compassion** and sought to **liberate**, by addressing injustice.

Despite the many personal challenges Mary encountered, she always took on ‘*fresh courage with hope*’.

I am confident that the lesson for us, when facing challenges, that are often stressful and hurtful, is to, “*Take on fresh courage with hope*”.

Have a courage filled week everybody!



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## **Student Absentees**

It is school policy that if your child is away from school for any reason that you must advise us. **We are no longer using the skoolbag app.**

You are required to email us your child's name, class, dates of absent and reason why.

The email address is [absent@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:absent@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)

# Upcoming Events-Term 4

**Term 4: Monday 03 October-Friday 16 December 2022**

**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 this week)**

**Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 November-Session 2**

Prep 2023 Orientation and Information Sessions 9.15am to 11.00am

**Monday 05 December**

School Closure Day-2023 Planning Day

**Tuesday 06 December**

Annual Christmas Carols at 11.30am in the church

**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*



### **THE PARENTS GROUP**

The Parents Group is an informal group of parents that volunteer their time and skills, when able, to assist with fundraising. An advantage of this group is the ability to form connections and build social relationships. Mums, Dads and any person connected to families within the school can offer their time, skills and support.

As we move back into a more 'normal' lifestyle, as COVID restrictions have eased, we generally look to meeting each fortnight.

Connie Simiele and Kellie Doherty support the Parents Group, by offering the school perspective and assisting with arranging supplies for events when needed.

#### **Meeting dates for Term 4, 2022:**

**27<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm, 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2.30pm and**

**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm.**

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Last week, I forwarded home an explanation as to why it is not practical or feasible to hold the Christmas Carols, as has been past practice at SMMPS.

However, we are grateful to Monsignor Portelli, who has offered the Church as a venue for Christmas Carols this year. A benefit of the location is that the Carols can be recorded and viewed later. This recording can be downloaded. Instructions will be made available at a later date.

The venue will be crowded with the children and visitors present; however, we will have chairs in the foyer and outside with screens streaming the Carols.

**The Carols will be held at 11:30 am on Tuesday 6 December 2022.**

This is the best way we can ensure we have whole school event at minimum cost and distraction.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

## LEGO Robotics

This term our Year 5 and Year 6 students have constructed programmable LEGO robots called Lego Mindstorm EV3s. The building of these robots requires some high-level teamwork and problem-solving skills but most of all they are super fun! Now they have all been built, the students are learning to programme them using Lego's unique 'block code' to control the Mindstorm EV3s.

### **From the students**

- *Madison Garcia, Oliver Rodoni and Tia Naumovski.*

They were so fun to build! The coding challenges are tough to tackle, but overall, it was a very enjoyable experience.

Our first challenge was to make the robot move, turn around and then return to us. We then tested them with a class race. It was so exciting, you could hear our cheers across the school. We've got lots more learning to do and challenges to complete, we can't wait for our next lesson.

- *Holly Fox, Rebecca Varghese and Selena Paladino*

We worked hard to make our robots. There are many parts: bricks of all shapes and sizes, cogs, wheels, connection wires and sensors. We learned how to put the robot together and use the iPads to code them.

After going over some of the basic programming code with Mr Quinn, we had a class race! Everyone was cheering for their robots in their groups. It was a lot of fun! We all loved the challenge and going head to head with robots.

We've all really enjoyed the whole experience so far and can't wait to use them again soon!







## Interschool Sport Girls Softball Team 2022

On the last day of term 3 the girls softball team played our district finals against Emmaus Catholic School. We were nervous because we had previously lost to them. It was a very close game but we won by 1 run, 14 to 15. We then moved on to division at Keilor Park where we sadly lost due to the weather being unsafe to play in. We would love to congratulate the other team, Saint Albans Meadows. We are proud that we have come so far and hope to make it this far and further next year. We have had lots of fun and victory's this season and would like to say thank you to our coach Miss Adam. By Amelia, Mikayla, Claudia, Mia, Grace, Harper, Ally, Ava and Amrit.



District Finals - Winners



Division Finals - Runners Up

## Year Six's Amazing Parliamentary Incursion

In the first week of term four, the Year Six students had an opportunity to attend an incursion, which was conducted by the Parliamentary Education Office. They participated in a parliament role play featuring relevant positions like the Premier and Speaker. All of the students had such a great time and made so many new discoveries.

We all participated in a roleplay that helped us to understand how bills are passed through the State Government. We had the option of choosing the bill that we wanted to debate about, such as a gambling ad bill, plastic straws bill, or a road safety bill. It was a magnificent and wondrous time for all the Grade Six's.



"It was a very fun experience and I thought it was really cool to have a roleplay debate."

"I found it a really cool and fun experience as I was able to learn new things about the Government in a fun and interactive way."

"It was a very exciting and incredible experience to be able to be a part of a roleplay of how parliament works."

"The incursion was very educational and fun. I learnt about the role of Local, State and Federal Governments."

"I had a really good time when it came to learning about the history of the Mace. It was also really interesting that a law can't be made without a Mace!"

By Sabrina, Orlando, Letti, Thomas and Angelie



# Year 6 News

## VINNIES APPEAL

The Year 6's who chose the Vinnies appeal targeted the appeal to the Year Threes, Fives, and Sixes. We began by brainstorming ways to do the Vinnies Appeal and how we were going to collect the donations. Secondly, we called the St Albans Vinnies to ask questions and be provided with information on what they do and how they help people. Next we created posters around the school to bring awareness to the students of what they were doing and what could be donated. We then went to classrooms to inform the students on the project and items that could be donated. At the end of the term, we collected the donations and packed the items into boxes. Finally, we took the donations to the St Albans Vinnies store.

In term 3 the year sixes had been doing a project to see a need and do something about it. The options for the projects were Vinnies appeal, community garden, Christmas child and little free library. All the projects were targeted to help those in need and the less fortunate.



## CHRISTMAS CHILD

At the end of Term 3, the Year 6s all took part in a community service project. Our inquiry unit was based on 'Let's see a need and do something about it'. One of the groups was 'Operation Christmas Child' where we were able to treat a marginalized child on Christmas Day with a present and a letter. There were the options of a girl or a boy aged between 2-4, 5-9 and 12-14. All students in the group planned their own individual letter and prayer for the special child and bought gifts. Kids in developing countries then receive a present on Christmas Day to bring them joy, as they cannot afford presents. In these presents we could put toys (couldn't be war related as the children come from countries that have been in war), shoes, stationary, books, education tools and much more. After we packed all of our gifts and letters, a worker from the charity came to pick up our gifts. Altogether, everyone felt good about themselves for living more like Saint Mary MacKillop and seeing a need and doing something about it.





## LITERACY WEEK

This term for our community project we decided to make a community Little Free Library. A little free library is a wooden structure that holds books. This gives people the chance to 'take one, leave one'. You take one book out to read, and leave a book of your own for others to read.

Our first step was designing. The main thing that we had to think about was making it waterproof because it was going to be outside. For our second step we had to get materials (wood, paint, roofing, screws). The third step was combining our math skills (area and perimeter) to measure our pieces of wood before cutting. We had to make sure our pieces were cut perfectly so they all fitted smoothly. Our fourth step was painting. Painting was fun because we got to mix and make our own colours. The fifth step was learning how to drill. This took a bit of practice but soon we were experts. Our final step was putting it all together and putting it in our local neighborhood. Many of the challenges we went through were design related issues. We had to make sure our Little Free Library was waterproof, weather resistant, and had enough room to hold lots of books. We couldn't have too few books, nor too much. Some people struggled to gain supplies; especially wood and waterproof gloss. We also struggled to find cheap, affordable products at a price of our liking. But we all worked together to work our way out of the learning pit. This project helped us become more creative, flexible and collaborative learners.



## COMMUNITY GARDEN

During Term 3 and Term 4, two year six classes (Red and Yellow) had started a Community Garden for the school. To begin this project each class had to look at the different plants that were in season so they knew what they were going to grow. When they came back for Term 4, both classes took three garden beds each and planted their own garden.

We are thankful for our Groundskeeper, Josh, as he built the garden beds for us over the holidays. He made sure that it was finished so we could begin when we came back. He's been an incredibly big help by teaching how to take care of the plants. We are very grateful for this opportunity and would like to say, Thank you.

Thank you to our teachers for encouraging us to go ahead with this big project. A very big thank you to Mr Mcluskey for giving us permission to do this and being so supportive.

