

Wednesday 23 November, 2022

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Staying Connected No. 18. 2022

Hello Everyone,

We have much for which to be grateful.

However, sometimes we can get caught up wanting more. We can get negative and defensive, constantly seeking what might appear better. The grass always appears greener on the other side!

As I grow older, I am coming to appreciate more and more that we have all we need. If we look within, we can find much to be grateful for; it is this attitude of gratitude that gives us peace. Mary MacKillop spoke about gratitude and lived a life of gratitude despite her struggles, challenges and rejections. Mary was aware and at peace.

I came across this **Prayer of Awareness**. The imagery of our blessings coming from the very soil of our soul, the early freshness of morning and the first breath of day, reminds us that we have much for which to be grateful and perhaps we do not have to seek so earnestly.

***It is in the depths of life that we find you
At the heart of this moment,
at the centre of our soul
deep in the earth and its eternal stirrings.***

***You are the Ground of all being,
The Well-Spring of Time,
Womb of the earth,
The Seed-Force of stars.***

*And so,
at the opening of this day, we wait not for blessings from afar,
But from You, the very soil of our soul
The early freshness of morning
The first Breath of day.*

Be still and aware.

(Praying with the Earth by John Philip Newell.)

My hope for us all is that we find peace in the awareness of what is good; that is already around us and within us.

WITH GRATITUDE

You may be aware staff in Catholic Education are taking industrial action at this time. I am most sincerely grateful to our staff who are ensuring your children do not miss out on any planned events. We really do have the most generous and wonderful staff.

I must acknowledge with gratitude the staff whom ensured the Year 6 Sydney Trip and Year 4 Camp went ahead as planned. These staff gave up many hours, including overnight, to care for and support your children as they engaged in these wonderful experiences.

I cannot thank the staff enough for their tremendous efforts in Sydney; not to mention all the work pre-planning, preparing and organising the children. I was privileged to work alongside a great team of staff; **Jasmine McIlvena, Stephanie Adam, Ross Botoulas, Kellie Doherty, Heath Thomas, Jennifer Monaghan, Anthony D'Amico, Jason Maxwell and Andrea Gale** who so generously gave of their time. All staff played a significant part in making sure this trip was as memorable as it was. Thank you!

I absolutely admire their dedication and commitment to your children, their well-being, care and even their idiosyncrasies. They allowed the children to be themselves, whilst still maintaining boundaries. It was a job well done by everybody. Thank you!

I also acknowledge that they worked many hours overtime, away from their homes and families to ensure your children enjoyed this trip. They really are a generous team.

I must also thank the children. The behaviour and participation of every child was outstanding. Each child fully entered into the spirit of the experience and despite their tiredness as we covered many steps during the day, they were cooperative and respectful.

We were blest with great weather; not too hot, not too cold and no rain! This made for ideal conditions as we played on Manly Beach and walked along the cliff walk from Tamarama to Bondi.

Our visit to Mary MacKillop Place was definitely a highlight. I trust that the children have grown in appreciation of the person and Saint, who is Mary MacKillop. Honestly, the children were so respectful visiting this centre, in the chapel and when visiting the tomb of Mary MacKillop. I was proud to be their Principal.



ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL



Last week the Year 4 children traveled to Mt Evelyn for their Adventure Camp. Despite the constant rain the children enjoyed themselves. I offer my sincerest thanks to the following staff, who gave so generously of their time; **Jason Maxwell, Sarah Higgins, Erin Cultrera, Georgia Widdop, Rebecca Micallef, Jennifer Monaghan and James Quinn.**

Thank you also to all the staff who remain at school, attending to extra responsibilities, so staff can attend the camps.

We really do have much for which to be grateful.

GRANDPARENTS MORNING

Yesterday we held our inaugural Prep Grandparents Morning. This is an event we aim to hold annually. This gathering will give the Prep students the opportunity to have their grandparents visit their classroom and engage in some simple activities. The children can be proud to have their grandparents visit and the grandparents can be equally proud to see their grandchildren at school.

I believe we even had a grandparent visit from Perth and a grandparent in Ireland zoomed in. How wonderful! It was a happy event and it was great to see all the smiles. I trust all the grandparents felt welcomed.

Thank you to the teachers for organising the event.

Please look for some photos below.

HOT DOG DAY

BIG THANKS to the Mums who assisted in ensuring the Hot Dog Day last Friday was successful. We can't provide such experiences for the kids without your support.

Thank you to Skye Rando, Sonali Tinaro, Chelsea Barr, Natalie Copeland and Narelle Galea.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas Carols will be held in the Church on Tuesday 6 December at 11:45am. Each class will be singing one traditional carol; interspersed by our School Captains telling the Christmas Story.

The Carols will be recorded and a link to view the carols will be made available to all families.

COLOUR RUN

Please keep a look out for the information that should have come home with your child last night. The Colour Run is to be held on Wednesday 7 December. This aim is to be a fun event for the staff and children.

LEAVE

I will be taking Leave this week from Tuesday 22 November @ Midday and will be returning on Friday 2 December. **Anthony D'Amico will be Acting Principal, ably supported by Jennie Monaghan as Acting DP.**

In gratitude, for all our school is for all of us. Thank you.

Go well everyone,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

Are You Leaving Us????

It is that time of the year when we are finalising classes for 2023.

If you will no longer be returning to SMMPs in 2023, could you please email Anthony D'Amico at adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au if you have not already done so.

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 skolbag 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

Principals Awards



GRANDPARENT'S *day*



Change of Date: Our last meeting for 2022 will be next Thursday 1st December at 2.30pm.

Year 6 Police Experience

On Tuesday the 22nd November, the Year Six students had the opportunity to meet two Police Officers, one with thirty-five years experience, Leading Senior Constable Matt and First Constable Elise with three and a half years under her belt. They taught us life lessons and informed us about the training you have to do if you want to join the force. Also shared was the difference between what it was like when Matt had to qualify compared to Elise, which was interesting to hear.

It was an engaging incursion and it was great to hear the amazing stories these Police Officers shared and the real situations they have experienced with us. The officers explained that they have never been too seriously injured. It surprised many that they usually don't have to resort to handling weapons and usually try to talk to people in the situation and the witnesses. Talking is their best tool. Everyone enjoyed asking questions and finding out more about what it was like to be a Police Officer.

Two lucky students got to try on the vests which Police wear out and about. They also got to tune into the radio just to find out that there was a situation occurring near us and the Police had clear procedures on how to control this situation. Thank you for your care and helping us to be safe.

It was a really great experience as the Year 6 students learned so much. Now many of us want to be Police Officers!

By Alyssa and Chelsea



Upcoming Events-Term 4

Term 4: Monday 03 October-Friday 16 December 2022

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 11.45am in the church

Wednesday 07 December

Colour Run at 1.45pm

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

TAYLORS LAKES



LIONS
FOOTBALL CLUB

Calling all **GIRLS** and **BOYS!**

Keep fit and meet new people by joining
a family friendly and inclusive club.

Auskick (5-12 YEARS OLD)

U8 mixed (BORN 1 JAN 2015 – 30 APR 2016)

U10 mixed (BORN 2013 – 2014)

U12 mixed (BORN 2011 – 2012)

U14 boys and U14 girls (BORN 2009 – 2010)

U16 boys and U16 girls (BORN 2007 – 2008)



Interested in joining our junior football program for the 2023 Season?
Visit the link below to register* your interest or call Skye
on 0412 949 227 for more details:

form.jotform.com/221848875777881

* - no registration fees or payments are required at this time.

