

Friday 3 February, 2023

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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Staying Connected No. 1. 2023

Welcome to 2023 at St. Mary MacKillop Primary School.

We are delighted to welcome all children and families back to school and we are proud to welcome many new families and children to our school. Our Preps are settled and there is a general feel of clam over the school as all staff and students settle back in!

We are a proud school with an excellent reputation. Last year we engaged in an external review, where together with external reviewers and parent engagement, it was determined that we are a very high functioning school, in which a large number of strengths were identified.

The final report itemised the following five strengths, in particular:

- ***The Catholic identity of the school is embedded and visible in all operations of the school.***
- ***The school is committed to providing effective resources, professional learning and teaching practices to support students in their learning.***
- ***The learning environment is a positive and safe environment for staff, students and their families.***
- ***Staff are very approachable and are open to engaging with parents on their children's learning which builds trust in the school.***
- ***The well-being of students is supported by consistent implementation of behaviour strategies and constant monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of these strategies.***

So, you can be confident that your children will be educated and cared for in a safe happy school.

We have developed a School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the next 4 years, at which time it will be reviewed, as is the mandate set down by our governing body; Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). This SIP is available on our school website for those interested in viewing it.

Our Strategic Intent is as follows:

By making connections between the charism of St Mary MacKillop and the teachings of Jesus Christ, our aim during the period of this School Improvement Plan is to develop leaders, teachers and students to be witnesses to the Catholic mission. Within this context, we aim to empower students in their learning to ensure that they are active participants who are engaged in their learning and are successful learners. We will build teacher capabilities and confidence to cause learning by adopting whole-school systems, processes, practices and professional learning to support teachers and leaders in their work.

In short:

We desire to be inspired by St. Mary MacKillop to follow Jesus.

We want all staff and students to witness to the Catholic mission

We aim for the children to be active, engaged and successful learners

We look to build the confidence and capacity of teachers, supporting them in their work.

Thank you for your confidence in our school and choosing to join us this year or choosing to continue your enrolment at SMMPS.

I am proud of our school and we will work with determination to care for and educate your children.

I trust we will all enjoy a wonderful, exciting and engaging year of learning and being together.



Anthony Mc McCluskey

Principal

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected is the name of our school newsletter. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep families and the school connected. In this way you know what's going on! The name of the newsletter is very deliberate. It is all about; **Staying Connected**.

Look out for an alert that will be sent as a text to your phone and then check your email inbox for the latest edition.

THE PARENTS GROUP

Each year we have a very generous group of parents who meet informally, as needed to arrange funding events to support the school.

I offer a warm invitation to any parent who would like to join us as a member of The Parents Group. You are welcome to come in and out as you have time. It is not formal and it is not a big commitment; simply as you have time.

We have plans; so, your involvement would be appreciated. Kellie Doherty (Admin.) and Connie Simiele (teacher) will support The Parents Group.

This group provides a great opportunity to meet people.

THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE NEXT FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY @ 2:20pm in the MPR.

We are keen to arrange a beginning of the year Welcome to SMMPS BBQ. I look forward to parents helping out.

PARENT TEACHER CONVERSATIONS

No doubt, many of you are keen to meet your child's teacher, as the teachers are keen to meet you.

We have scheduled two dates; Tuesday 14 February 12:30 pm- 5:45 pm and Wednesday 15 February 3:45 pm- 5:45 pm. You will be able to register for a 10-minute on-line meeting with your child's teacher. The purpose of these meetings is for you to tell us a little about your child's personality and needs. The teacher will also let you know how your child is settling into class.

School classes will cease at 12:00 pm on Tuesday 14 February. We'd ask you to collect your child, if you can. Supervision will be provided for children unable to be collected. We will send out details, next week.

TERM DATES 2023

Term One: 31 January- 6 April (Holy Thursday)

7 April: Good Friday and 9 April: Easter Sunday

Term Two: 24 April-23 June

Term Three: 10 July-15 September

Term Four: 3 October- 15 December

Year 6 students finish on Wednesday 13 December with Graduation being at 7:00 pm on that date.

SACRAMENT DATES 2023

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Year 3) : Thursday 30 March at 12 pm.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (YEAR 3): Saturday 3 June at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

CONFIRMATION (Year 6): Saturday 18 March at 10:00 am and 12:00 pm

Next week we will send out more important dates for this term and more information regarding our exciting plans for this year.

O.H.S.C

Dear Parents,

The rear car park gate on Wairou St will be locked at 4pm every day for safety reasons. If you are picking your child/children up from Out of Hours School Care after 4pm please access the school via the front car park on Odessa Ave.

Thanks, SMMPs

Finally, **we offer a warm welcome to our school, some new staff:**

Danielle Camerota (Year 5)

Brooke Dohmen (Year 1)

Alana Muscat (Year 2)

Monique Alifaci (School Counselor)

Serena Burr (LSO)

Rita Cassar (LSO)

Kayla Saico (LSO)



Saint Mary MacKillop Contact List 2023

Prep			
Kim Siadis	PB		
Eileen Marner	PR		
Deana Cannatelli	PY		

Year 1			
Shannon Lange	1B	7	
Erin Cultura	1R	9	
Brooke Dohmen	1Y	8	

Year 2			
Kristie Minshall	2B	10	
Leah Butterick Yolanda Bezerra	2R	12	
Alana Muscat	2Y	11	

Year 3			
Alyshia Crea	3B	3	
Elyse Whitfield	3R	2	
Linda Marino Natalie Mulford	3Y	1	

Year 4			
Angela Amato	4B	32	
Matt Saxon	4R	34	
Georgia Widdop	4Y	33	
Laura Barui	4G	35	

Year 5			
Jasmine McIlvena	5B	31	
Danielle Camerota Melanie Gallagher	5R	30	
Fiona Parnell Sarah Higgins	5Y	29	

Year 6			
Bree Artuso	6B	24	
Ross Botoulas	6R	27	
Stephanie Adam	6Y	26	

Other Contacts			
Staff Room			
MPR			

Specialist Team			
Sarina Commisso	Lote (Italian)		
Laura Kandzidis	Performing Arts		
Samantha Kelly	Library Media		
Jason Maxwell	P.E/Sport		
Sarah Higgins	P.E/ Sport		
Jenny Brittain	Maths Intervention		
Connie Simiele	Prep PMP (Fri)		
Fiona Parnell	EAL Support (Fri)		
Melanie Gallagher	Prep Arts (Mon)		

School Leaders		
Anthony McCluskey	Principal	
Anthony D'Amico	Deputy Principal/Child Protection Officer	
Jennie Monaghan	Wellbeing /Child Protection Officer	
Aaron Kuras	Director of Learning and Teaching Maths Leader 4-6 Data Coordinator	
Sandra Lind	Learning Diversity Leader	
Natalie Mulford	REL	
Andrea Gale	Literacy Leader	
Jenny Melki	Literacy Leader	
Kirsten Mifsud	Maths Leader Prep-3	
James Quinn	Digital Technologies	

Admin Team		
Joe Murphy	Bursar	
Kellie Doherty	Assistant to Principal and Deputy Principal/Front Desk	
Heath Thomas	Property and Services Manager	
Josh McCluskey	Property and Services Officer	
Luke Murphy	Admin Support	
Catherine Brawn	First Aid	

Support Staff		
Denise Thorne	Library Technician	
Monique Alifaci	School Counsellor	
	Speech Pathologist	
Sharon Ciantar	LSO	
Luisa Ganino	LSO	
Bili Bosevski	LSO	
Heather Gauci	LSO	
Sandra Linehan	LSO	
Maryanne Favrin	LSO	
Cara Cristostomo	LSO	
Dianne Evans	LSO	
Frances Loprevite	LSO	
Julie Friggieri	LSO	
Rita Cassar	LSO	
Kayla Saico	LSO	
Serena Burr	LSO	