

Friday 24 February, 2023

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 2, 2023

Greetings to all our Readers,

ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT

The forty days of Lent, the days before Holy Week and Easter commenced on Ash Wednesday. The children in Years 3-6 celebrated Mass in our church and received the Ashes, whilst many children in Years 4, 5 and 6 also received the Eucharist. The children in Years 1 and 2 received the Ashes in a simple prayer service later in the day. The sign of the cross on the forehead, marked with ashes, reminds us of our need to change.

We asked children to wear purple on the day, to assist them in recognising the significance of Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season to come.

Lent asks us to focus less on ourselves and more on others. It is a time to think of how we might make better choices and in doing so, make changes for the better. Taking time to reflect, as Jesus did when he spent 40 days in the desert, can help us to be better people.

For children; it might be as simple as cleaning up their room, obeying their parents or not fighting with siblings or school mates.

For us, as adults; it might mean being more patient with our kids and even our partner. It may even include, simply being more attentive to our partner. There are many simple ways we can make changes for the better.

In our school, we collect money for **Project Compassion** during Lent. For almost 60 years, Lent has been a time where many Catholic communities, throughout Australia give to those less fortunate. Project Compassion is a creative campaign organised by Caritas Australia, an arm of the Australian Catholic Church that provides works to eradicate poverty and injustice.

Project Compassion helps to support hundreds of thousands of people in Australia and far beyond.

So, please give generously in a spirit of social justice.

THANK YOU

I fully appreciate what an inconvenience the building program is to our school, in so far as our car park is significantly reduced. Hopefully, this will only be the case to late Term 2. We expect a May finish on the new building. The builders are working with determination to meet the deadline. It is generally only the availability of materials that holds things up along the way.

HOWEVER, I need to say thank you to most families and drivers for your patience and support. I am impressed by the number of people that are parking offsite, despite the walk. Look at the positives though; you get your steps up for the day!

Thank you too for utilising the drive through in the morning. That is working really well.

It is not an easy site to park on this corner, as we are surrounded by busy roads or limited parking in small courts. I really appreciate your support. **Thank you!**

GOOD NEWS

SMMPS has received our ranking for NAPLAN 2022. Out of 2,277 Registered Public, Private and Catholic Schools in Victoria, we ranked 419, placing SMMPS in the top 20%.

We ranked, in most cases, significantly higher than other Catholic and Public schools in the neighbouring area and suburbs. We are very proud. However, we will not rest on our laurels. We will always aim to do better.

SMMPS continues to maintain enrolments. We are very proud of this fact, as many schools are experiencing declining enrolments. In fact, our enrolments could be higher, but I have made a commitment to prioritising enrolling Catholic families. I intend to keep the school at 3 streams, i.e. 3 classes per level, as opposed to 4 classes per level.

We are a strong Catholic school and I am very proud and grateful to all families for your continued support.

In the words of St. Mary MacKillop, I definitely have *“an attitude of gratitude”*. I trust you also are grateful for all our school offers and the experiences the children are given.

“May God be praised for all things.” St. Mary MacKillop, 22.07.1870

Go well everyone,



Anthony Mc McCluskey

Principal

Next Monday 27th, there will be NO school assembly.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS



THE PARENTS GROUP

Each year we have a very generous group of parents who meet informally, as needed to arrange fund raising 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.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE TODAY 24 FEBRUARY @ 2:20pm in the new performing arts room (next to the Italian Room)

TERM DATES 2023

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

7 April: Good Friday and 9 April: Easter Sunday

Term Two: 26 April-23 June

24 April: School Closure. Staff engaged in Professional Learning

25 April: ANZAC DAY. Public Holiday

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

Upcoming Events-Term 1

Term 1: 31 January-6 April (Holy Thursday) 2023

Wednesday 1 March and Thursday 2 March

School Photos

Monday 6 March to Wednesday 8 March

Year 5 Camp

Wednesday 8 March

Year 6 Confirmation Family Night-7.00pm

Friday 10 March

Subway Day

Monday 13 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 15 March to Friday 24 March

Year 3 and Year 5 Naplan

Friday 17 March

St. Patrick's Day Iced Green Donuts

Saturday 18 March

Year 6 Confirmation-10.00am and 12.00pm

Thursday 30 March

Year 3 Reconciliation-12.00pm

Tuesday 4 April

Pie Day

Thursday 6 April (Holy Thursday)

End of Term 1-Students finish at 1.00pm