ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 6, 2023



Greetings everyone!

The Feast of Pentecost (28 May) invites us to be attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus had experienced a series of dramatic highs and lows – they had seen Jesus die, come back to life, and ascend to heaven. What happened next?

Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit. Though the disciples had the hope of his promise, they were living in a time of uncertainty. Then one day, the Holy Spirit came to them: there were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, is after all, Christ's Spirit; a paraclete, i.e., a helper. The Holy Spirit helps us in our journey, sometimes struggle, to live a Christian life.

Pentecost is a day to honour the many gifts of the Spirit alive in the hearts of women and men seeking to live in service of those in most in need and be the voice; the hands and feet of Christ today. Through the Holy Spirit, God continues to gift us, the presence of God in our world.

May our hearts be open as the Spirit stirs within us the call to new understandings of what it means to be a neighbour, new ways of being the people of God and new ways of embodying peace in our world.

Come Holy Spirit, pour your love into our hearts so that like the first disciples we will courageously witness by our actions to the Gospel way of life.



On Saturday of this week; many of the Catholic children in Year 3 are receiving their First Holy Communion. We celebrate with these children and hope that they will receive Holy Communion on many more occasions throughout their life.

I know the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is my lifeblood in staying true to my faith. The Eucharist really is 'the bread of life.'

So, take your children along to Mass and encourage them to receive the Eucharist as often as possible. It will really do them a world of good, as it does for me.

Have a good week everybody.

Muchey

Anthony McCluskey

<u>Principal</u>

OUR NEW BUILDING

Our new Library, Visual Arts Studio and Digital Technologies Studio is on track for completion by the beginning of Term 3. The building is locked up and the painters are inside. We have just finalised some landscaping issues and requirements; so, we expect to take possession early next term. And we will have our rear carpark back too! Here's hoping!

ENROLMENTS 2024

I am very proud to say that St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is absolutely the school of choice in our local area. We received 100 applications for Prep 2024.

The programs we offer, the culture of our school (many prospective parents commented on the positive 'vibe 'of our school), the facilities we offer, our student-initiated inquiry and our outstanding NAPLAN results (which are significantly higher than any public or private school in the area) all contribute to SMMPS being a school of choice. And of course, our exceptionally talented and caring staff who work with me, as a team, provide the best for your children.

Unfortunately, though, I had the regretful decision, whereby I am committed to keeping our Prep classes at three streams, so many applications for Prep were knocked back. I personally found this decision very difficult.

I based my decision on the MACS Enrolment Policy, reminding you that MACS is our governing body. The order of priority for MACS primary schools is:

- 1. Catholic children who are residents of the parish
- 2. siblings of children already enrolled in the school
- 3. Catholic children who are not residents of the parish but are recognised as parishioners by the parish priest
- 4. Catholic children from other parishes (for pastoral reasons)

 children from non-Catholic Eastern churches (i.e., Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox and other Orthodox) who are residents of the parish
children from non-Catholic Eastern churches (i.e., Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Ukrainian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox and Other Orthodox) who reside outside the parish

- 7. other Christian children who are residents of the parish
- 8. other Christian children who reside outside the parish
- 9. non-Christian children who are residents of the parish
- 10. non-Christian children who reside outside the parish.

We look forward to welcoming our new Prep children next year.

MOTHER'S DAY



It was wonderful to see so many mothers, grandmothers and other family members come together with their children to celebrate Mother's Day at school. Thank you for coming along to support the event.

Thank you to Kellie Doherty who arranged the event and put much time and effort into organisation, set up and clean up. Thank you to the staff who assisted her. Thank you to Queen Bakers, our canteen supplier, who did a great job with the

catering



Principal Awards



St Mary MacKillop Primary School Social Justice Leaders

present

The Humble Mission Project

We would like to introduce our school community to The Humble Mission. Over the term, we hope that all of our families can contribute to the cause of this wonderful organisation that strives to promote inclusivity and dignity in our city of Melbourne.

Who is The Humble Mission?

The Humble Mission is a voluntary, not-for-profit based business that offers essentials for the people that cannot afford supplies for themselves or their families. Their vision is to give support to the disadvantaged community by creating a society of kindness across Melbourne.



Pop-up Pantry

The Pop-up Pantry is a weekly event run by the Humble Mission

around the Melbourne CBD. Along with the outdoor pantry they provide hot lunches and every so often they give out blankets, diapers, clothing and health products such as shampoo conditioner and soaps.



Who Are the People that The Humble Mission Helps?

The organisation uses volunteers and donations to assist individuals and families in difficulty with affording the basic essentials, like health products, necessary clothing and hot and fresh meals.

Stay tuned to find out how you can support this project by:

- Contributing to the Goods Drive
- Fundraising

Learn more about The Humble Mission: https://www.thehumblemission.com/about-us

Social Justice Leaders 2023: Ava Pasturi, Madison Garcia, Isabella Pham, Amelia Jovica, Angelina Banovksi & Brendon Pukaj

Religious Education Newsletter Term 2

What has Religious Education looked like at Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School in Term 2?

We celebrated the beginning of the term by exploring the sacred stories that recount the events of Easter Sunday and Jesus' Ascension to heaven.

All year levels then focused their learning around the Catholic Social Teaching of Stewardship and Pope Francis' encyclical letter, Laudato si' to enable them to share the Church's message that all of creation is a Gift from God and in need of care and protection.

Grade Prep





I can retell what happened to Jesus between Easter Sunday, the Ascension and Pentecost.

Year One









I can talk about Scripture that explores forgiveness and compassion for others.

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Year Three

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I can explain the significance of the Last Support to the Charist



I can explain Jesus' commandment to

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I can explain the historic connection to the Last Supper in the feast of the Passover.

Year Four



Why do we need to care about this issue Because God made us protectors of earth so need to take care of earth and it's contents.

What actions are causing this issue? Actions that are causing this are people are chopping down trees and people are greedy so they want more than they need.

Year Five

I can explain the Church teaching of human dignity.



Caritas Stewardship: **Care for Creation** We need to take care of the earth because it is for everyone.

What does it sound like?

1. What does it look like? It looks like someone

having a smile and taking care of earth and the

olic

living things inside of it. People are getting along. People are reducing water and saving

electricity

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1. The main message of this scripture is God has created everything for us so it is our job to take care of it and make sure it doesn't turn into a dump.

2.Some key words and phrases in this scripture are in his hands are the life of every creature and the breath of mankind.

3.we should protect God's creations because God has left us as protectors of all creation (animals, birds and marine life) and it is our duty to listen, respect and take care of what He gave 115

I can share my understanding of Stewardship and how this calls me to look after all of God's creation.



I can explain the goals of Pope Francis' letter, Laudato si'.



Year Five Excursion to the Immigration Museum

Last Thursday 4th of May, Year 5 students took a journey into Melbourne city to learn about some of the immigration history of Melbourne. We went to the Immigration Museum where we had a mini workshop learning about different cultures from around the world, their immigration stories, reasons for immigrating and what they contributed to Melbourne once they arrived here.

We then had a chance to explore the Immigration Museum looking at different artefacts, art work, timelines and different representations of people's immigration journeys.

Our last stop was the Sandridge Bridge. Here we wandered along admiring the wonderful sculptures and glass panels that outlined the immigration history of different countries to Australia. We recorded different facts about each country that we will use in our Inquiry lessons for the rest of Term.

Kavla

We learnt different facts from different countries and people from around the world. We learnt about their immigration stories, their jobs and when they moved to Australia. We looked at rooms with passports, immigration stories, immigration facts and different artefacts from people's personal journeys.





At the Immigration Museum we had to find out about a certain person that fled a country to get to Australia. I found out about a person who was Russian. The Non-Jews were attacking people who were Jewish so this man fled to Australia. When he arrived a while after he made the store Myers (it is now called Myer).

Some people need to leave the country they live in because it is not safe. We went to the Immigration Museum and we watched a movie. It showed that some people had to leave their country and come to Australia because there was war in their country and it wasn't safe for them to stay. Lukas



Caitlyn

Did you know an example of Immigration is someone who moves from one country to another (for example from Italy to Australia). There could be many reasons why they left their country, for example gasism, war, how they are treated etc.

Chloe



Year Five Excursion to the Immigration Museum

Well first of all, everyone arrived at school excited to go to the immigration museum. We saw the bus and not short after we saw it, we hopped on the bus, on the not short but not long bus trip about halfway through we arrived at the city, everyone knew that we were definitely close, but with how big the magnificent city of Melbourne was, we weren't that close, so after a little while the two main groups arrived at the museum. We were all gathered into a room where we would be placed in tables of seven. In our small groups, we were given a timeline and some artefacts that we used to find out the immigration story about a specific person. Each table group shared the artefacts they used to discover the immigration story of their person. After the educational sessions, we went upstairs to explore artefacts. There were plenty of really interesting antiques, sculptures and photos. I even found something that stuck out to me, it was a airport border security badge through the years which I immediately recognised because my dad actually works at the airport as border security, and when I saw that I was stoked, what are the chances of that!

After that we went to this room which had this big screen which had this sort of immigration, and a refugee movie playing about all the international struggles of these refugees who struggled in their home country, with all sorts of problems such as war, poverty, politics, money and sometimes it was discrimination. It was really informational giving us the first hand experience of those who were struggling with all of those problems. You could identify how they felt about why they really wanted to migrate badly for their safety. It was actually empowering.

Max La Mendola



YEAR 5 AND 6 POLICE VISIT

Last Tuesday 2nd May, 2023, the Year 5 and 6 students had some local Police Officers come and visit our school.

We got to ask them questions about their job, their training and we even got an insight into some of the scariest and funniest situations they have encountered as a Police Officer. They talked about being safe and how students can do their best to stay safe online and out in the community.

During the visit we got to take a look at their Police Car. They even put on the sirens for us!

This visit from some of our local community members was very educational for all of us.

Jonah and Tiana

Local Police Visil Tuesday 2nd May, 2023 Last Tuesday we had a police incursion in the year six building. Some facts and things that the police told us were that they rarely pulled out their guns and their best tool was their words. The Police also said that the most common crime is burglary or stealing. Did you know that the police touch the back of the car that they stop for their safety so if the driver hurts them they can track them down from the fingerprint? Did you also know that the Police have a list of everyone that has a passport in Australia?

Next, the Police Officers showed us their tools, there was pepper spray, a camera so they could take a photo of the person's face, there was also a gun, handcuffs, and an I-Pad so they could take notes

Somotjesus

About our excursion-Year 4

By Amelia Clements and Violet Cobb (4 Blue)

The Year Fours got to go on an excursion to Nangak Tambooree Wildlife Sanctuary on Tuesday 2nd May. During the excursion the Year Fours got to participate in: Plants Up Close, Dip Netting, Close Encounters, Who Eats Who and, last but not least, a Wilderness Wander. On the excursion, we got to see some amazing things. For example, water bugs, a ring-tailed possum and much, much more. In the first activity, Plants Up Close, we learned that Aboriginal people used special mint leaves for eating, making tea and flavouring food.

In the next activity, Dip Netting, the year fours learned about water bugs, which are bugs that live in the water and don't like being out of the water.

In Close Encounters, we learned how to use microscopes and how to identify water bugs. In Who Eats Who, we learned about something called a food web and what animals eat. In the Wilderness Wander, we got to learn about the different animals that live in the reserve and we even got to see a possum that was asleep in a tree!

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary excursion

By Isabel Camilleri and Shiloh Causovski (4 Blue)

As part of the Year Four Inquiry unit, we got to go to the Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary. Here are the activities that we got to do on the day:

1)Plants up close: First we met the director who gave us a plant that we had to smell and identify. (The plant was mint.) Next, we went into a room with six boxes and six classmates had to put their hand in a box and describe what plant it felt like. Then they pulled the plant out and told us what it was.

2)Dip netting: We first got into groups of four. Two people in the group would grab a net and bucket and head to this tiny pond. One person would scoop the water with the net and the other person filled the bucket up with water ready to catch water bugs. When we caught some water bugs we brought them back to the other 2 people so they could look at them and then put them into ice cube containers.

3)Close Encounters: We got to take the bugs inside to take a better look at them with a microscope. We used charts to identify the water bugs we caught.

4)Who Eats Who: We were given a variety of pictures. Some were plants and others were animals. There was even a picture of a sun. Our task was to create a food web. We were then given a challenge and told if the tree was removed, how would the food web be affected?

5) Wilderness Wander: We explored the different animals that lived in the sanctuary and how they keep predators (like foxes and cats out). One of our classmates managed to spot a possum asleep in a tree!





St Mary MacKillop PS



Flex your **reading muscles**!

Increase your reading strength!

Build your reading **powers**



Your challenge is to read as many books as you can this term.

P-2s will track how many books they read

3-6s will track the number of pages they read



Students record their reading each day,

Teachers keep a tally of their students' reading for the week,

Year levels will keep a running, weekly total of BOOKS/PAGES READ and **display** them in their areas.

At the end of term we will celebrate!





SCR Meeting

We had an SRC meeting and Samuel Pollino from 4Y came to talk to us about his open heart surgery. He showed us his scar where his rib was cut open in a 5 hour operation to fix the holes in his heart. During this time Hearts Kids Foundation supported him and his family. So in return we thought it would be great to do a fundraiser towards them since they helped someone in our school community. We are going to dress up as a superhero/hero and bring a donation. We are aiming to raise \$1500 for this charity.

HeartKids is the only national not-for-profit organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for all people impacted by childhood heart disease, one of the largest causes of infant death in Australia. Its purpose is to make a real and lasting impact for the Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) community.

They seek to give every child, teenager, and adult in Australia with congenital or childhood acquired heart disease a fighting chance to live a long, healthy, and fulfilling life.

Our support is a commitment for life because there is no known cure. <u>People with</u> <u>congenital heart disease</u> face unique challenges for their entire life.

22 JUNE 2023 In honour of Samuel Pollino 4Y who recently had open heart surgery

Heart Kids is a organisation that helps kids with heart problems and their familes get through the hard and stressful times. They supply support to familes while their child is in hospital and they give kids entertainment to take their mind of the things they are going through.

Dress up as your favourite hero or superhero

SMMPS Upcoming Events.....

Term 2: 26 April-23 June 2023

Saturday 3 June

Year 3 Holy Communion 10am and 12pm

Wednesday 7 June

Prep 2024 Acceptance of offers due

Monday 12 June

King's Birthday- Public Holiday

Friday 23 June

End of Term 2-Students finish at 1.00pm

Term 3: 10 July-15 September 2023

Monday 10 July

First day of Term 3

Monday 17 July

School Closure-details soon

Monday 24 July to Friday 28 July

Prep 2024 Interviews-Existing Families

Tuesday 25 July and Wednesday 26 July

Parent Teacher Conversations

Tuesday 8 August

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Tuesday 15 August

Feast of the Assumption

Monday 21 August

Book Week Parade

Friday 15 September

End of Term 2-Students finish at 1.00pm