

Thursday 03 August, 2023

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Staying Connected No.10, 2023*

Hello Everyone,

**I write in a spirit of gratitude as we have much to celebrate as we move further into our term.**

**Last night (Wednesday 2 August) ... a number of our children in Years 5 and 6 performed in Wakakirri; a Performing Arts Showcase for primary aged students. This performance was held at The Clocktower in Moonee Ponds.**

This year we reintroduced Performing Arts at SMMPs with the endorsement of our School Advisory Council. **Mrs. Laura Kandzidis**, our Performing Arts teacher is doing a marvellous job in developing the children's confidence and promoting their engagement as they learn to take on a character and act the character out in front of their peers and now in a national showcase.

**Last evening, we witnessed the spirit of our school, alive and pumping.** It's times like this that make all our work and efforts worthwhile.

**Wakakirri was a huge success. Congratulations to all the boys and girls from Years 5 and 6 who performed so successfully.** We were proud to be recognised with a number of awards.

Our performance- **A Star is Born: The Story of La Befana** tells the story of Befana being visited by the wise men, who invited her to join them on the way to Bethlehem. Befana loses her way and is refused help. After an act of kindness Befana leaves toys for the children.

The judge (Wakakirri Ambassador) liked "the way we presented a classic tale in a fun and modern way". We received **Notable Awards:**

- **Storytelling Drama Award**
- **Lead Cast for Dancing and Acting**
- **Set Movement and Staging**
- **Overall Costume Design and**
- **Stage Managers Award for Teamwork.**

A big congratulations to (Mia Mitrevski 6Y, Tia Naumovski 6B and Emily De Vellis 5R) who were outstanding when answering questions on stage about our performance. These three children received the **Best Public Speaking Award**.

**I am absolutely so proud of our school.**

**We sincerely acknowledge and thank Laura Kandzidis.** Laura scripted the story, selected the music, designed sets and costumes, directed and choreographed the performance and taught herself to learn Moviemaker! She also organised and managed endless rehearsals. Laura obviously put her heart and soul into making sure the performance was everything it could be. It was brilliant! Our success is Laura's success. **THANK YOU, LAURA!**

**Thank you also to Laura's support team; particularly Sarina Commisso and Fiona Parnell. Thank you to Josh who made the Props and came out late to collect them after the performance. Thank you to Loretta Pizzicarola (Emily 5R) and Angela Ferraro (Olivia 5R) who did a brilliant job with hair and makeup for the children. Thank you to the many staff who came along to support the children last evening. Thank you to the performer's parents who allowed their children to participate, supported them on their journey and were present last evening.**

**Mrs. Sarina Commisso**, our Italian teacher, supported Laura and the children. As the performance told an Italian story and much of the performance was in Italian, Sarina's input, advice and support was much appreciated. (I am also delighted to see the children's study of Italian, over their time at primary school, as their Language other than English, being made relevant and put to good practice.) **Thank you, Sarina!**

**Every time our school was mentioned, the screams and shouts from the auditorium, certainly out did all the other schools!** I was told our kids were in tears of pride and joy out back when they could hear us roar! **That's team spirit. This is our school!** I am very proud of everyone involved and privileged to be the Principal leader of our school.

**I am committed to our Performing Arts program.** Not all children are academic. Not all children can kick or throw a ball. Whilst these are important skills and we strive to teach them to the children; what we are offering through Performing Arts is another opportunity for children to shine and show their talents.

**I hope to publish a YouTube link of the performance in the coming week or so, when it is made available. Watch this space. It will also be on our website.**

The **Prep/One Backyard** the space behind the wall on Sunshine Avenue, is finally, all but complete. (We are finalising a number of smaller tidy ups and have ordered rubber strips to install, to ensure the edging is safe.) However, the children are now using this space. It's a great space for the children to play, learn and socialise. I note they are having great fun playing in the two 'forts' constructed on this space and also, some children are enjoying rolling down the hill! In the future, I hope to place some small pieces of play equipment on the hill. We are investigating options at the moment.

All and all it is about creating the best and safest places for the children of SMMPS.

**Tension Woods**, our new **Library, Digital Technologies Studio and Visual Arts Studio** is near complete. Landscaping should be completed today and there are just a few minor 'defects' that need to be addressed. We would expect the key, as soon as the Occupancy permit is granted. Of course, we also need to wait for the site sheds to be removed and the area around them cleaned up.

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St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

**Shade Sail.** During COVID, the State Government granted many schools \$25,000 to construct shade sails in their school yards under the **Victorian Government School Shade Sail Fund**. You can imagine demand and supply become an issue. However, more than twelve months later, our turn has come, and our shade sail is finally being installed. You will notice it being erected between John Paul 11 and Penola, giving the children in Years 5 and 6, an excellent outdoor learning space and also providing additional shade space during recesses. We are grateful to the Victorian State Government for this grant.

**We do have much to celebrate!**

**My concern is to ensure ongoing school improvement.**

I firmly believe, backed by research; if you provide an attractive learning environment, children will be proud of their school and more engaged, which ultimately will lead to higher student outcomes. And that is what we are here for; to ensure the children succeed and believe in themselves as learners.

On a personal note; I am very excited to welcome my fourth grandchild, Henry Mac Nave, who was born to my daughter Sarah and her partner Chris, on 17 July 2023. I take great pride in watching my family grow and I am grateful to God for his blessings.

Continue to have a wonderful term everyone!

Go well,



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

# Wakakirri Performance



## Prep/Year 1 Backyard



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# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

*Presented to*

ST MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

A STAR IS BORN: THE STORY OF LA BEFANA

Befana is visited by the wise men and invited to join them on their way to Bethlehem. She loses her way and is refused help. After an act of kindness Befana leaves toys for children.

*Great stories inspire change!*

**ADAM LOXLEY**  
Wakakirri Festival Director



McCusker  
Charitable  
Foundation

# BEST PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD

*Presented to*

*St Mary MacKillop Primary School*

*Congratulations!*

*Adam Loxley*

**ADAM LOXLEY**

Wakakirri Festival Director



McCusker  
Charitable  
Foundation

# Principal Awards





# YEAR 5 VISIT NGV

20th July 2023

Religious Education Excursion



## EXPLORING THE NGV

We launched our learning by considering our own view and image of God and then went on to explore how God, religious beliefs, symbols and tradition have been depicted in artwork through the ages, at the National Gallery of Victoria. We took along our notebooks and pencils and made notes and sketches to collect our ideas.



## IN OUR CLASSROOMS

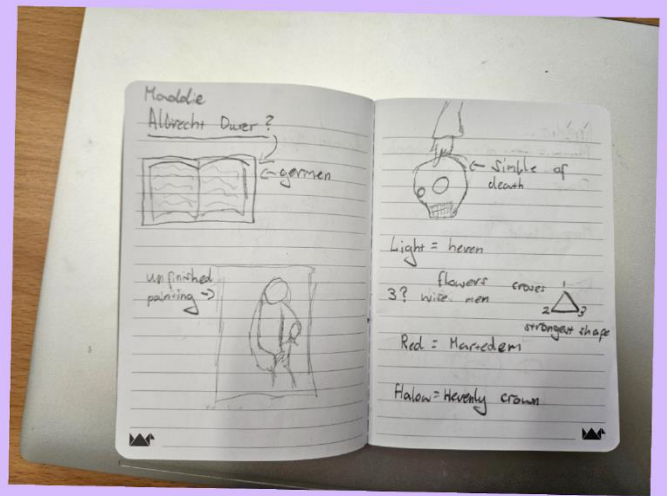
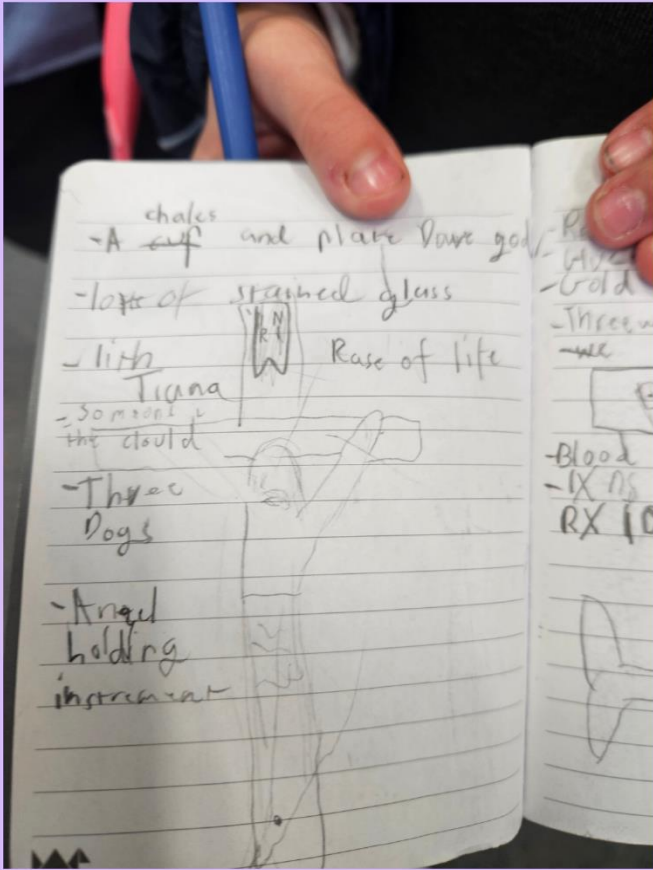
This term, the Year 5 students are using their Religious Education lessons to explore the question: How can I know God? We are going to be focusing on how the Sacred Scriptures teach us about how the people of the Old and New Testaments and the people of the Church today know God through imagery.



## WHAT DID WE FIND?

We discovered so many things!  
Here are some of the ideas we took away about how artists express their faith:

- tell stories of their understanding of scripture
- transport stories into their own time
- use colour as symbols, especially red, blue and gold
- the number 3 is important (trinity)
- stained glass was believed to let the light from the heavens illuminate the images
- Halos and crowns tell us who is part of the holy family or a saint
- angels
- doves, rays of light and fire symbolise God
- Mother Mary is often depicted with flowers
- IHS and YHS are the Greek letter for Jesus' name



# Readorama Results

I want to extend a very big thank you to all class teachers, parents and most importantly the students who have read so much over the Readorama period.

The idea behind Readorama is to build **Book Love** and our **reading stamina**.

Reading for 20 minutes outside of school time, results in better learning outcomes across the entire curriculum, according to research. Students need to be able to read to access all subject areas. This experience and confidence sets them up for success.

We have seen a significant increase in the amount of reading done by students compared to last year, which is wonderful.

## Congratulations to the following classes:

Prep Blue  
Year 1 Blue  
Year 2 Yellow  
Year 3 Yellow  
Year 4 Blue  
Year 5 Red  
Year 6 Red

**For reading most for their year level.**

In Prep/1/2-

**Readers read 9,000 books collectively!**

In Years 3/4/5/6-

**Readers read 500.000 pages collectively!**

## In the words of Dr Seuss:

*The more that you read, the more you will know.*

*The more that you read, the more places you'll go! Thank you and well done everyone!  
Ms Gale and Mrs Melki.*



# ST. MARY MACKILLOP HOMEWORK POLICY



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been working to create an updated Homework Policy. Through conversations with families, we understand that homework can sometimes be a battle and that it is just one small part of a rich and busy family life.

With that in mind, we have been working on finding a healthy balance between homework and the important time that families spend together. We understand that our students have busy lives outside of school with a range of responsibilities, hobbies and interests. We aspire to honour and respect those rich learning experiences because they add tremendous value to your children's lives.



The new policy aims to reduce the strain on families while still emphasising the importance of regular reading and practising key maths skills. We hope that this fresh approach to homework will create a more positive and enjoyable experience for both students and families.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we strive to provide the best education for your children.

**Please view this link to check out our new Homework Policy. This information is also available on our school website.**

<https://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au/smmps-homework-policy-2023/>



Catholic  
Regional College  
North Keilor

## Term 3 College Tours

Bring your child to a College Tour and:

- Meet the College Principal
- Visit Classes in Action
- Chat to Enrolment Staff
- Engage with Student Ambassadors
- Share Morning Tea

### Upcoming Tour Dates

Wednesday 19 July

Wednesday 26 July

Tuesday 1 August

Wednesday 16 August

Tours commence at 9.15am sharp and run for approximately 90 minutes. Online bookings are essential. Visit [crcnk.com.au/enrolment/college-tour](https://www.crcnk.com.au/enrolment/college-tour)



## YEAR 7 2025 APPLY NOW

VISIT THE WEBSITE TO COMPLETE AN ONLINE APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT FORM

### KEY DATES:

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST 2023 - APPLICATIONS CLOSE

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER 2023 - OFFERS OF ENROLMENT SENT TO FAMILIES

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023 - FINAL DATE TO ACCEPT OFFER

<https://www.crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2025>

## Mary MacKillop's Feast Day

Last week in the SRC meeting, we discussed celebrating St Mary MacKillop's feast day on 8th of August. We are having a uniform free day and we are encouraging students to wear a touch



of light blue/teal as the Sisters of St Joseph wore at St Mary MacKillop's canonization. We have a fun day of activities planned such as a sausage sizzle, St Mary MacKillop quiz, a netball game at break that will include the teachers and year 6 students, an art/writing competition and there will be a display in the John Paul 2 building. Students will be participating in a whole school mass at 12pm.

# SMMPS Upcoming Events.....

## **Term 3: 10 July-15 September 2023**

**Tuesday 8 August**

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

Whole School Mass @ 12pm

**Tuesday 15 August**

Feast of the Assumption

**Monday 21 August**

Book Week Parade

**Monday 28 August to Friday 1 September**

Book Fair

**Thursday 31 August and Friday 1 September**

Father's Day Stall

**Friday 1 September**

Father's Day Breakfast-details soon

**Friday 15 September**

End of Term 2-Students finish at 1.00pm

## **Term 4: 02 October-15 December 2023**