

Wednesday 12 July, 2023

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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## *Staying Connected No. 9, 2023*

Hello Everyone,

**Welcome back to Term 3 at SMMPS!**

*We have a busy term ahead...*

**Firstly, I remind you of the School Closure, next Monday 17 July 2023.** Our school review which was completed last year, identified the teaching of Scripture in the classroom, as a necessary component of our planning as we move forward. Already we have undertaken a number of staff meetings where we have examined how we teach Scripture. Fr. Elio Capra, a renowned scholar and theologian will be leading us in full day professional learning next Monday, to further this learning.

I understand the inconvenience this day maybe to some families, however the current Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) industrial agreement allows 4 days of school closure per year for professional learning. I sincerely appreciate your support as we implement this aspect of our agreement.

Ultimately the children benefit and the effective teaching of Scripture is essential to ensuring the authentic Catholic context of our school.

*Other happenings this term...*

- **Tuesday 25 July and Wednesday 26 July:** Parent, Child, Teacher Conversations
- **Wednesday 2 August:** Wakakiri Performance (Performing Arts spectacular with children from Years 5 and 6 performing in Moonee Ponds.) Simply, it is like a Primary School Gala Performance
- **Tuesday 8 August:** St. Mary MacKillop Feast Day
- **Tuesday 15 August:** Parish Feast Day of St. Mary of the Assumption
- **Monday 21 August:** Annual Book Parade
- **Monday 28 August:** Book Fair begins, and

- **We take possession of our new building; hopefully in Week 3** of this term. It is getting close. The inside is all but complete, (The carpet is even laid.) Outside concrete paths are being laid today and landscaping is then to be finished. A few touch ups and an exterior wall need to be painted and it is done! We have much to look forward to, in getting such a wonderful building for the school community to utilise.

This week, at long last, the artificial turf is to be laid in the Prep/One play space (along Sunshine Avenue) We hope to have full access to this space in a week or so.

We are also relocating the OSHC program to the Performing Arts space. Making for a much more conducive space for the care and engagement of the children.

And to top it all off, we hope to lay artificial turf over the large expanse of asphalt between the new building and the Performing Arts space, making for a safer place for children to run and play. It will be an ideal space for Phys. Ed lessons and as an outdoor space for recesses and OSHC. Also, it will be much more comfortable and clean for children to sit during Assembly.

**As Principal leader of our school, my commitment remains to school improvement, all for the children of our school.**

As a reflection, I leave you with the following, which I have asked all staff at SMMPS to prioritise when dealing with children...

*Teach them to be kind.*

*Teach them to love.*

*Teach them to accept.*

*Teach them to listen.*

*Teach them to be patient.*

*Teach them to be grateful.*

*Teach them to value growth.*

*Teach them to work together.*

*Teach them to share*

*Teach them to protect each other*

*Teach them goodness.*

I am confident that is what you desire to teach your children; so in partnership with you, that is also our desire.

We look to the wisdom of St. Mary MacKillop who wrote,

***"We must teach more by example than by word."***

Quite simply, that is your challenge, as it is, your challenge. Only then will we teach our children to be all of the above.

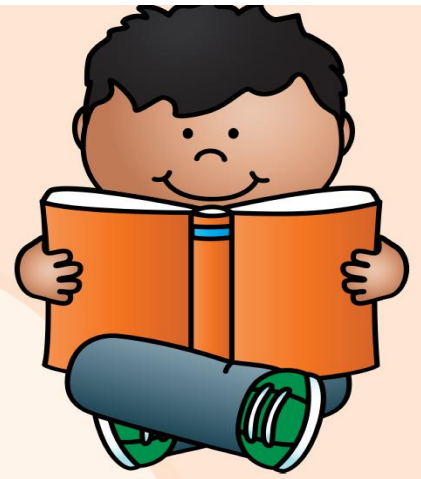
Here is to an exciting term ahead.



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

# 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/>

## Welcome Back...

We welcome back from Parental Leave:

**Mrs. Stephanie Taylor**, returning two days a week to support the teaching of Religious Education in our school.

**Mrs. Sarah Groves**, returning one day a week, undertaking a variety of support tasks.

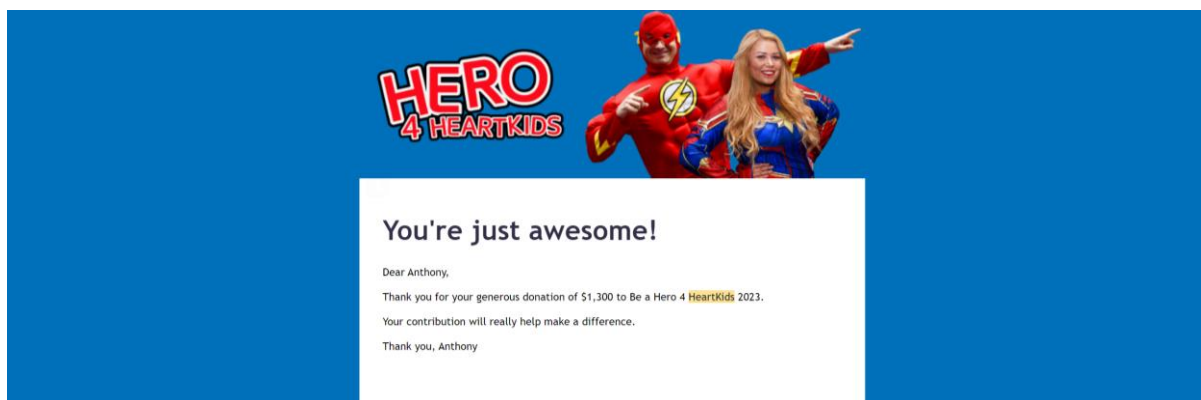
We are delighted to have two such strong teachers and lovely people returning to our school community.

## Farewell

We say farewell for now to **Mr. Heath Thomas**, our Property and Services Manager, who is taking Long Service Leave for this term. We wish him well.

## Hero 4 Heartkids-Casual Clothes Day

We are proud to announce that in term two SMMPS has managed to raise \$1300 to go to the Heart Kids Foundation. A student from 4Y, Samuel Pollino came to talk to the SRC about his open-heart surgery, and about an amazing organisation that has changed many families' lives called Heart Kids. Each student got to dress up as their favourite superhero or someone who they look up to. Whether it was a soccer player or a superhero the children got to show who inspires them. We hope that we have created a big difference in someone's life who has Congenital Heart Disease through this donation and we call for everyone else to do the same.





# THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH ALIVE AT SMMPs



## COLLECTION DAY

- Remah visited the SRC and SJL to speak with them about how much our school community's donation was greatly needed.
- She told us about the families, children and individuals that would benefit from our collective effort.
- She was blown away by the generosity of our community and hoped to see us again soon.

In Term Two the Social Justice Leaders called upon our school community to live Jesus' commandment to 'love one another' and work together in the spirit of St. Mary MacKillop, to 'never see a need without doing something about it'. And boy did we come together!

Over a number of weeks our families gathered an astounding amount of much needed resources for those in need in our city of Melbourne. On the last day of Term Two, the Prep children created an almighty tower of nappies with all they had collected, and what a sight it was to see! The children of Year 4 Red also worked hard, collecting and sorting items from across the school, ready for Remah from The Humble Mission to pick up with her van.

## THE SPIRIT LIVES ON

In Terms Three and Four, the SJL and SRC will work together to fundraise, in order to be able to support The Humble Mission with their meals service. More on this to follow.





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>



## TWILIGHT OPEN EVENT *at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College*

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College invites families to join us for our Twilight Open Event

**Thursday, 20 July 2023**

Join tours of all three campuses, enjoy a coffee and a sausage sizzle, and hear from our Principal about all things enrolment related.

### Schedule of Events

**4pm - 6pm**

Christ the King (last tour leaves at 5:15pm)

**4pm - 7pm**

St John's/Sacred Heart (last tour leaves at 6:15pm)

**5pm - 7pm**

Sausage sizzle - 204 Churchill Ave only

Gold coin donation toward our Vinnies Winter Appeal

Parent Information Night focusing on enrolments

**7pm - 8pm**



Scan the QR code to register your attendance today or visit [ccc.vic.edu.au](https://ccc.vic.edu.au).



# SMMPS Upcoming Events.....

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

**Monday 17 July**

School Closure-see details

**Monday 24 July to Friday 28 July**

Prep 2024 Interviews-Existing Families

**Tuesday 25 July (school concludes 12pm) and**

**Wednesday 26 July (school concludes normal time)**

Parent Teacher Conversations

**Tuesday 8 August**

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day

**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