

Tuesday 10 October, 2023

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 13, 2023

Greetings!

This week Australians over the age of 18 are being asked to make a major decision when voting in the referendum. Democracy is a wonderful thing, in so far as it gives us the absolute right to vote as we believe.

Whatever the outcome, as Christians, we must respect people's right to vote as they believe and we must above all things treat all people as equal; no matter their race, nationality, colour, religion, gender, lifestyle or personal beliefs. This was the command of Jesus, himself:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

The Gospel of John 13:34

Last Sunday at Mass in my parish, we prayed some prayers that have led me to reflect on the decision to be made next Saturday:

That the Church in Australia will work together to bring to reality the aspirations of the Uluru Statement of the Heart, endorsed by the Australian Bishops in 2021.

That all in Australia will join with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and honour their Elders who hold the treasure of their peoples' knowledge of the environment, their history and spiritual insights, and who have the wisdom to guide their youth.

That all who vote in the approaching referendum on a place for First nations people in our Constitution, will do so thoughtfully, guided by a commitment to justice and reconciliation.

That inspired by Jesus to welcome and share with simplicity what others need, our governments, together with all citizens, will put aside all prejudice and work to improve health care, education, employment, housing and inclusion of our First Nations People wherever they suffer disadvantage.

God, whose spirit has guided peoples, ancient and new in this land, grant us all the wisdom which rights past wrongs, restores what is lost, and unites again those estranged, so that we all live in peace and harmony.

Mary MacKillop herself possessed a quiet, determined courage and a strong belief in the dignity and equality of each person. She certainly lived this commandment of Jesus. Mary's insight led her beyond social mores to a recognition of human deprivation with a great tenderness and compassion. Mary continues to be an exemplar of fearless action and a strong protector of the weak and marginalised. Perhaps we can imbibe some of this fearlessness and generate change.

TENISON WOODS

Our new building, which houses our Library, Visual Arts Studio, Digital Technology Studio and some meeting spaces, is named after **Fr. Julian Tenison Woods**, who cofounded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephite Sisters) with Mary MacKillop in Penola SA in 1866



Born in London in 1832, he served in Australia as a priest and geologist. His scientific work earned him a reputation as a fine geologist, having given many lectures and publishing many writings, for which he won significant recognition.

Yet Julian Tenison Woods was first and foremost a priest who cared for his people. When he saw the needs of the children in Penola, where he was Parish Priest, he called on Mary, who was working as a Governess in Penola at the time, to ensure the children received an education. She responded to the need and together, led by the Holy Spirit, they did much good work together.

We choose to name the building **Tenison Woods** to continue our theme of naming buildings around our school, connecting them to Mary MacKillop.

Also, you will note, the natural gardens surrounding the building and the stone and timber of which the building is constructed. We recognise the connection to Tenison Woods the geologist and a man with a deep appreciation of all things in nature.

Julian Tenison Woods died in Sydney in 1889 at 56 years of age.

Tenison Woods is now up and running. See some photos below.



Looking towards Tenison Woods



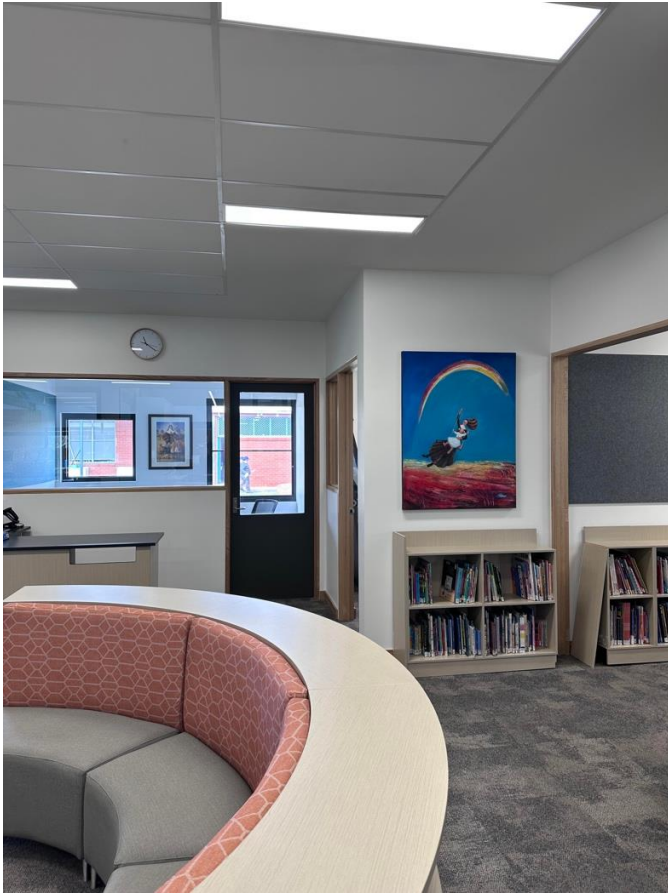
Digital Technologies Studio



Library Space



Circulation Space



Looking towards Meeting Rooms



Book Space (still under construction)



Visual Arts Studio

We have much to celebrate.

Go well everybody and enjoy the term ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony McCluskey'.

Anthony McCluskey

Principal

Are You Leaving Us????

It is that time of the year when we are finalising classes and enrolments for 2024.

If you will not be returning to SMMPS in 2024, could you please email Anthony D'Amico as soon as possible at adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au if you have not already done so.

Summer Uniform

Now that we are in Term 4 and the weather is warming up, we ask that all children wear their Summer Uniform as of Week 3 (next week).

As we are a SunSmart School all children must wear their hats during break times. If you require a new hat they can be purchased from our uniform supplier Academy Uniforms.

Hats can be ordered online and delivered to the school for your convenience.

Principal Awards



A Message from the School Nurse

Allergy season is fast approaching and it is a timely reminder to update your child's allergy and/or Hay fever Action plan along with their medication.

This year, experts are saying allergy season will start early and it is expected to see many days of high to extreme pollen count. High pollen days trigger allergies and hay fever symptoms. These high and extreme pollen count days can also lead to thunderstorm Asthma.

If your child **has a current** Action plan for Allergies and/or Hay Fever already, please make sure it is up to date.

Medication can be kept at school in the first aid room, and will be administered if your child requires it during the school day, provided they have a current Allergy/Hay fever action plan.

Thank you, Erin

Wild & Wonderful



On Tuesday last week **Wild Action Zoo** came to visit **Year 2** as part of our Inquiry Unit – How can we help animals to survive?

The students were amazed by some of the Australian animals they had never witnessed before, like the Tawny Frogmouth.

They were especially excited to meet 'Chuck' the koala who was a very big boy that enjoyed climbing and sniffing around the room.



Fundraising at



We are looking for volunteers and donations

St Mary Mackillop have been lucky enough to have been given a day at Taylors Lakes Bunnings to help raise funds for our kids.

We are kindly asking for people who are able to make a donation to contribute to the day. There are a lot of sausages to be sold and a lot of drinks to be drank. So what we really need are cash donations to go towards our supplies likes plates, napkins, onions, drinks, sauces and of course sausages etc.

Please forward donations to the office

Alternatively, if you would love to donate your time we are seeking parents to come down on the day to help cook and sell. Now we understand weekends are precious so all we ask for is 2 hours of your day and if you could do more, fantastic!

Below is the roster set for the day, if you could please email

adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

Your availability that you be greatly appreciated

SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER

6am - 8am (includes setting up) 3 volunteers

8am - 10am 5 volunteers

10am - 12pm 5 volunteers

12pm - 2pm 5 volunteers

2pm - 4pm 5 volunteers

4pm - 6pm (includes close down) 3 volunteers

Fundraising and Fun

MUMS OF

POSTPONED

MARY MAC

*You are invited to a night of canapés, cocktails,
entertainment and mingling. With lots of fun games,
prizes and giveaways.*

Friday 20th October @ 7pm

Westwaters Entertainment complex.

Tickets: \$60 incl unlimited soft drinks and an alcoholic
beverage on arrival along with plenty of finger food.

Forward Payment to: Mary Mac Fundraiser

bsb: 083-832 acc: 170355007

SMMPS Upcoming Events.....

Term 4: 02 October-15 December 2023

Tuesday 24 October

Prep-Grandparents Day

Wednesday 25 October

Prep 2024 Orientation-Session 1

9.15am to 10.00am and 10.15am to 11.00am

Thursday 26 October

Prep 2024 Orientation-Session 1

9.15am to 10.00am and 10.15am to 11.00am

Tuesday 31 October to Thursday 2 November

Year 6 Camp to Sydney

Monday 6 November

School Closure Day

Tuesday 7 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Wednesday 8 November

Prep 2024 Orientation-Session 2

9.15am to 10.00am and 10.15am to 11.00am

Thursday 9 November

Prep 2024 Orientation-Session 2

9.15am to 10.00am and 10.15am to 11.00am

Tuesday 21 November to Wednesday 22 November

Year 4 Camp-Mt Evelyn

Thursday 30 November

Prep 2024-Meet the Teacher

9.30am to 10.30am

Friday 1 December

Carnevale Day

Wednesday 6 December

Whole school end of Year Thanksgiving Mass

Time to be confirmed

Thursday 7 December

Annual Christmas Carols @ 6.30pm

Friday 8 December

School Closure Day-details to come

Wednesday 13 December

Year 6 finish for 2023 1pm

Guard of Honour @ 12.45pm

Year 6 Graduation @ 7.00pm

Friday 15 December

Prep to Year 5 finish for 2023 @ 1.00pm