

Thursday 09 November, 2023

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Staying Connected No. 14, 2023*

Greetings Everyone,

*What a great assortment of activities we have enjoyed so far this term. I have been delighted to witness the engagement of the children in their everyday lessons and have been excited to see a number of special events.*

**We welcomed the Grandparents of our Prep children on Grandparent's Day**, which is now an annual event for our Prep children. We look forward to welcoming the Grandparents of our Year 6 class, on Monday 4 December, as these young people say farewell to our school. We hope to make this an annual event also.

**We celebrated the Month of Mary, the mother of Jesus.** We reflected the Catholic identity of our school when the children from Years 3-6 gathered to pray the Rosary in our Church. We had planned a procession of the statue of Our Lady, which is very much within our Catholic tradition, however rain put a stop to the procession.

**The children in Year 5 visited the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne.** This visit is scheduled for Year 5 children each year, to give them the opportunity to grow in their understanding of Mary MacKillop, the person and saint of the Church.

I think this visit is particularly pertinent, as it gives the children the opportunity to place Mary MacKillop, as a daughter of Melbourne; born in Fitzroy. Mary was an ordinary woman from a somewhat dysfunctional family, struggling to make their way in poverty, yet Mary did extraordinary things. She knew 'brokenness' and was able to empathise with the 'broken'. As a result, she saw needs and did something about it.

This annual visit to Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre is followed up the next year, when the children in Year 6 visit Sydney and spend time at Mary MacKillop Place, where Mary lived the last years of her life, died and was buried. Her tomb is a sacred place for the children to visit and to grow in love and appreciation of this marvellous woman and Saint.

**Last week our Year 6 cohort of children visited Sydney for three days.** We have been making this trip for a number of years. In fact, Year 6 have been travelling interstate with the school for the past 16 years.

I need to acknowledge our wonderful children. The behaviour and engagement of each and every child on our trip to Sydney was outstanding. They were nothing short of an absolute delight to be around and made the trip to Sydney very enjoyable.

The kids remained patient, despite flight delays and managed their way through airport security well. Staff did a great job too, supporting 72 kids through security!

All of the experiences were very successful. The children engaged, listened, contributed and were most respectful.

I must sincerely thank the teachers who planned, organised, booked the many happenings and then attended the Year 6 Sydney trip. Thank you to Anthony D'Amico, Bree Artuso, Heath Thomas, Jennifer Brittain, Kellie Doherty, Kirsten Mifsud, Natalie Mulford, Ross Botoulas, and Stephanie Adam most sincerely for their time, generosity, effort, attentiveness and care given.

Our kids are blessed to have such teachers that give so much to them and to each other.

Their level of concern for the children's care and wellbeing and management skills kept the kids safe at all times.

*See below, a range of reports and photos covering these events. The Year 6 class are preparing a full report on their Sydney trip with photos, which will be forwarded home next week.*

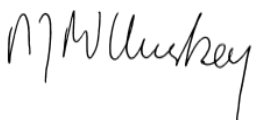
**We have now conducted 6 x Prep 2024 Orientation Sessions. We look forward to welcoming 75 Prep children to our school in 2024.**

**A big thanks to the wonderful team of mums who organised the Bunnings BBQ. Thank you also to the Mums and Dads who turned up to cook on the BBQ and sell the food and drinks. And also, thank you to all the families who donated goods and money so we could run the BBQ at a profit. THANK YOU!**

As you can see its full steam ahead as we work towards the end of our school year, which is fast approaching.

**As Principal of our school, I remain very proud of our staff and children and grateful to our parents and carers for their trust and generosity.**

**Go well everybody,**



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## Principal Awards-Monday 30 October



# Christmas Carols Catering

7th of December

**9 grazing boxes to choose from.**

Pre-order on the Qkr app 



 **ST.MARY MACKILLOP**  
Primary School Keilor Downs

The graphic features a festive background with green pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and musical notes. A central logo for 'QUEEN BAKER' is visible, featuring a crown and the letters 'Q' and 'B'.



# YEAR 5 AT MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE



On Wednesday 6th August, the Year 5 children spent a day immersing themselves in the life, charm and legacy of St Mary MacKillop.

They explored the Heritage Centre museum, visited the chapel and looked at relics. Whilst in the museum they explored and learnt about the social impact Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph had on the early Melbourne community, and still have today.







They walked to Mary's birthsite and her commemorative statue at ACU Square. They also investigated how they can encounter the Holy Spirit on their walk through the Fitzroy Gardens.







# Grandparent's Day

On Tuesday October 24, the Prep students celebrated Grandparent's Day. The students invited their grandparents and special people to enjoy a morning of prayer, activities and a delicious morning tea together. This was a very special morning for both our prep students and their grandparents.







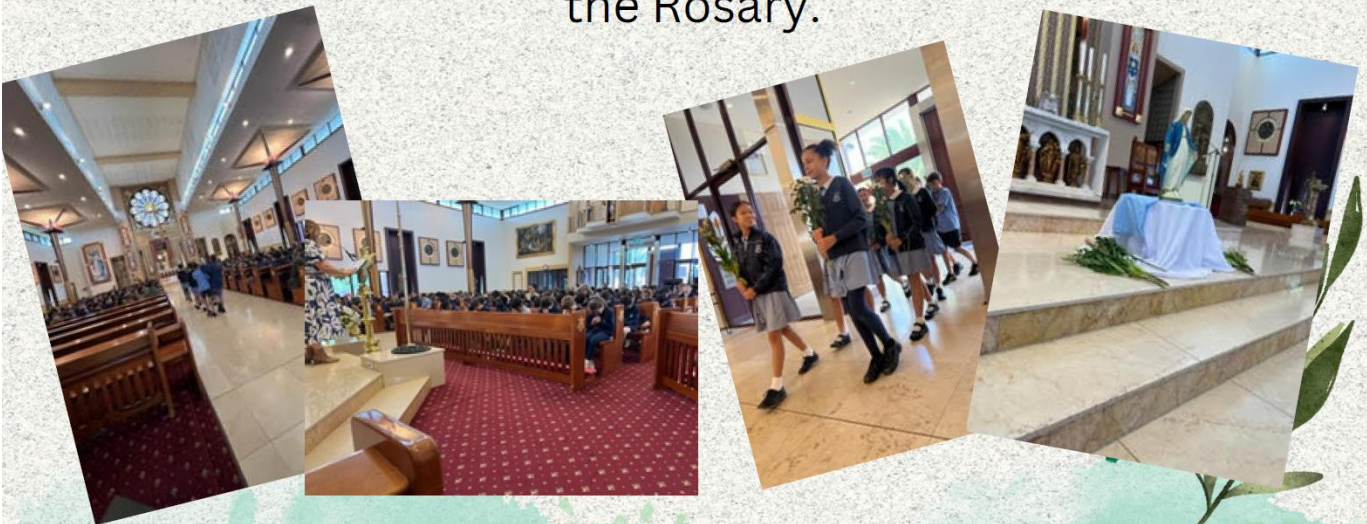
St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.





# Celebrating the Month of Mary

In the month of October, our Church celebrates the Month of Mary. On Thursday October 26, the students came together as a faith community to mark this celebration. The students from years prep-2 created flags to honour Mother Mary while the students from years 3-6 had been learning the prayers of the Rosary in preparation for this celebration. Although the procession could not go ahead due to the rain, the junior students celebrated a liturgy in their classrooms while the middle and senior students gathered in the church to pray the Rosary.



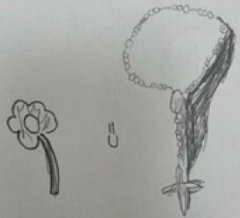




# Month of Mary Celebration Reflections

Spencer


So today we went to church to pray the rosary while praying I felt happy and relaxed after church I felt good with in me of telling me that he loved me and thought i did a good job in church



When I was praying the rosary it made me feel calm, relaxed and quiet. It was really quiet in the church and that made me feel calm and I was praying about stuff after the rosary. It was very easy and I could tell that everyone else was feeling relaxed as well.

From Dario written on the 26.10.2023.


pray to God



Milana


## The Rosary

the rosary all ways makes me feel calm and happy in side I get a calm feeling it helps me relax so I do it every night and it helps me control myself if im mdd.



Today in church I felt calm, reverent, and happy and the rosary reminds us about Mother Mary and reminds us of Jesus.

By: Fabiana Kaba  
From: 3B




26-10-2023

Today at the church I felt calm, happy, nice, amazing it felt so fantastic!!! I would LOVE to do it again. The Rosary pray was very fun, I loved how I felt Jesus, God and Mary in the church.

Dear God,  
I love you, your son Jesus is so kind and I wish I can be in your presence

Rosary Bead





# ITALIAN CARNEVALE DAY

Friday 1<sup>st</sup>

December

DRESS UP AS AN ITALIAN ICON  
OR IN ITALIAN COLOURS



GELATI

## FUN ACTIVITIES

Mask making, Costume parade, Quiz Competitions, Cooking, Bocce, Italian card games, photo booth, soccer, art/craft traditional Italian social dances and an interactive show performed by Spectacular Spettacolo.



# Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser-Sunday 29 October





# SMMPS Upcoming Events.....

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

**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

**Tuesday 28 November**

SMMPS Colour Run-details soon

**Friday 1 December**

Carnevale Day-see flyer

**Monday 4 December**

Year 6 Grandparents Day 9.00am to 10.30am-details soon

**Wednesday 6 December**

Whole school end of Year Thanksgiving Mass

Time to be confirmed

**Thursday 7 December**

Annual Christmas Carols @ 6.30pm-see flyer for catering

**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