

Monday 11 December, 2023

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No.15, 2023

Greetings to Everyone.

"The days are growing longer; the sun is growing towards its full summer radiance. We find ourselves moving quickly toward our remembrance and celebration of the coming into the world of the One who is light. We are in Advent time, a time of waiting, hope and joyful expectation."
(Sr. Annie Bond rsm.)

Sr. Annie is a Sister of St. Joseph and a friend of our school. Each year, Sr. Annie welcomes our Year 6 children to Sydney and addresses them on some aspect of St. Mary MacKillop's life and her example to all of us.



Advent is centered on the working of God in the midst of human life. We hear the message of our loving God acting in the midst of a humbled, yet hopeful people, and draws possibility out of what seems impossible.

During this time of 'Mystery', we are invited to pause awhile and nurture the life within and to stand in the wonder at the God who is one of us. Advent is a time of looking forward with new hope to prepare our hearts, to hear God's invitation come into the light.

During this Advent, as we move towards the conclusion of the 2023 Academic year, we look back in gratitude for all that we have been gifted with and all that we have achieved this year.

THANK YOU

I personally acknowledge and thank our School Leadership Team, who work with me collaboratively in ensuring we are all working towards the very best outcomes for all of our children.

We say thank you to our staff, each of whom are teachers to our children, whether in the classroom or as role models to our children in the many roles they each undertake. Our wonderful staff are caring, attentive, generous and giving. We are truly blessed to have such a great staff team; who also care for each other in so many ways.

In thanking our staff, I must acknowledge in particular, **Anthony D'Amico, my Deputy Principal**. Anthony does so much of the behind-the-scenes management which is essential to the success of our school. His loyalty and support are second to none.

I also acknowledge in special way, **Joe and Kellie in Admin**. They are both my absolute rock in the day to day running of our school.

I also must thank Monsignor Portelli. Monsignor is a source of wisdom to me personally, in my role as leader of our school. I also acknowledge Monsignor's faith leadership of our children.

We say thank you to our absolutely wonderful children, who are bright, happy and full of kindness and generosity. Their greetings and smiles make the day shine!

We say thank you to our supportive parent body. I acknowledge how trusting and respectful our parent community is in their interactions with our school.

We say thank you to our inaugural School Advisory Council (SAC), who have supported me and advised me as we move forward with many decisions. We acknowledge and thank our parent reps: Emma Langoulant, Laura Sacchetta, Narelle Galea, Ana Iacobaccio and Michelle Nathanielz. I also thank Anthony D'Amico and Kirsten Mifsud who support the SAC as staff members.

FAREWELL

Good bye to our Year 6 Class of 2023. I have been proud to have witnessed many of these children grow from pre-schoolers to the fine young people they are today. One of my greatest joys in the week is working with them as their Faith and Life Coach. It really is a privilege to teach them as they are such warm, responsive and good young persons. We wish them every blessing and success as they start their journey in Secondary education and as they enter adulthood. We trust each of them will all lead a life of peace and happiness. We thank them for all they have offered to our school.

We farewell many children and families from our school. No matter what level these children are in or how long they have been at our school; we trust life will be good as they begin again elsewhere.

I know many families are finishing with us after a long time in our school. At this time, and I stand to be corrected, we have one family leaving us after 17 years and another after 16 years at our school. Whether it's more or less time, I wish each family moving on all the very best for life ahead.

We farewell some staff members:

Jenny Brittian (SMMPS 2008-2023) After 45 years in education (16 of those years with us); Jenny is retiring. **We acknowledge and thank Jenny for her lifetime of dedicated service.** Jenny would definitely rate as amongst the strongest and most respected teachers I have ever worked with in my career. We wish Jenny every blessing as she enters the next phase of her life. And knowing Jenny she will not be slowing down; just doing things differently!

Fiona Parnell (SMMPS 2013-2023)

Melanie Gallagher (SMMPS 2018-2023)

Kristy Minshall (SMMPS 2020-2023)

Dianne Evans (SMMPS 2022-2023)

Alyshia Crea (July 2022-2023) We wish Alyshia every blessing as she and her husband welcome their first-born next February. We pray their precious child is born strong and healthy and grows to know love and peace.

Kayla Saico (2023)

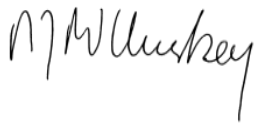
We thank each of these staff members for their service to our school. We wish them the very best of wishes as they take up their new appointments.



St. Joseph's Chapel, Nth Sydney with Mary MacKillop's tomb in the background.

And now, as we move towards Christmas; I wish each and every family a Happy Christmas and Safe New Year. Enjoy the change of pace over January and to the families who are returning in 2024; we look forward to welcoming you back in the year ahead.

Every blessing,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

Principal Awards



FEES & LEVIES 2024

School Fees

Family Fee: **\$2,600**

The Family Fee largely supports business administration costs, building and grounds maintenance, power and services costs and additional staffing costs.

Other School Charges

Curriculum Levy per child: **\$675**

The Curriculum Levy provides for all:

Student books, stationery, classroom supplies, library books and specialist supplies (e.g. Phys.Ed equipment), IT hardware, software, and licences, Excursions including transport (buses) and entrance costs,

Building Levy per family: **\$250 per year.**

This levy supports capital loan repayments which provide for the continual upgrade of buildings and facilities.

Year 5 and 6-Social Justice Actions at SMMPs

The children and families of the Year 5 and 6 children worked on their own social justice campaign, "Offerings of Hope." In response to a call out from the local organisation, Launch Housing, who work with women and children in need of support, the senior students and their families filled shoe boxes with essential personal items and small "pops of joy" for a more hopeful and joyful Christmas.

The spirit of God this Advent season, and living in action to bring hope, peace, joy and love to others has been truly alive at St Mary MacKillop School this term. We sincerely thank all students, families and staff who have made contributions to these campaigns and helped us to live the words of the Gospel to "Love one another" and carry on the legacy of St Mary MacKillop in "Find[ing] happiness in making others happy" and "Never see[ing] a need without doing something about it."

SEASON OF HOPE

ADVENT

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIONS

This term, our school community has been very busy in bringing the spirit of Advent and hope to others, through a number of social justice actions.

The children and families in **Prep to Year 3** collected donations of food, toys and books for our Keilor Downs community's St Vincent de Paul organisation. More than 15 huge baskets of goodies were donated to go towards children and families in our own community who will especially appreciate them on Christmas Day.

In **Year 4**, the children used their Inquiry learning to drive their social action: designing, producing and selling Christmas ornaments and goodies at their market stall. An enormous amount of effort over a number of weeks went into this project and their very generous families and our teaching staff had the opportunity to visit their market stalls and purchase their creations. All of their hard work amounted to more than \$2000 in profit. The Year 4s are using this money to purchase toys for children of all ages, to be donated to the K Mart Wishing Tree Foundation. Another fantastic, hope-giving action!



Literacy News

Students have done some amazing learning this year in reading, writing, speaking and listening. This was exemplified today when the year 6 students presented their buddies with a picture storybook they created in their writing time this term.

The process involved surveying their prep buddies to find out what kinds of stories they enjoyed reading. Then they drafted their stories using all of the skills they have built as writers. They chose their characters, the setting, and planned the narrative plot. They experimented with vocabulary and attention grabbing beginnings. Overseen by teachers, the year 6 students took responsibility for the revising and editing of their writing, which showed their knowledge of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In order to publish their books they worked on layout and illustration techniques.

Here is the result of all their hard work:



STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!

PMP SUCCESS 2023 @ SMMPS

What can I say! We have come to the end of another successful year of PMP which has been enjoyed by our Preps.

Great Program

The program concentrates on the development of perceptions and language through carefully planned and sequenced activities which children enjoy.

Great parents (and grandparents too!!)

You, our wonderful parents, have been vital to the success of the program. I thank you for all you have given to the children and to supporting the program. Some of the words that come to my mind when I think of you are; attentive, engaging, caring, positive, willing, committed, supportive, encouraging and wonderful.

Thankyou from myself and the Prep teachers to all our amazing helpers over the year.

Prep Blue

Kacie Camilleri, Kimberley Caruana, Vanessa Cassar, Dan Guiao, Danny Hanna, Monique Iapichello, Katia Morello, Natasha Raccosta, Jessica Stojanovski, Rosa Cullia, Melissa Vella, Chris and Richelle Zealley.

Prep Red

Snez Banovski, Marija Bourke, Natalie Failla, Suzi Ivanovski, Harj Kooner, Krystel Nield, Ashlea Virag, Liza Vasiagin, Jennifer DeLuca, Adriana Zuccara and Jinelle Borg.

Prep Yellow

Vinh Nguyen, Dani Dolic, Faye Laskaris, Lora Maglic, Crystal Maros, Catherine Micallef, Lucky Singh, Shirlene and Mark Theisinger.

To all our regulars and those who came whenever they could, your involvement was valued by all the children and teachers.

Great Teachers

I would like to thank my wonderful colleagues, Kimberley Siadis, Eileen Marner and Deana Cannatelli.

You have been an awesome team to work alongside. Your belief and total commitment to the program and all the children was amazing. Your help and positivity was truly noted and much appreciated by myself, parents and above all the children.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone in our school community a Holy Christmas and a peace filled New Year.

Have a great break everyone and hope to see you next year.

Connie Simiele

Carnevale Day 2023

STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF ITALY

On Friday 1st December our school community was given the opportunity to embrace the spirit of Italian culture for the day. Students and staff came together to participate, immerse and enjoy the many activities.



The children positively engaged themselves to give meaning and purpose to their learning of the Italian language and culture. Activities ranged from sport: soccer and bocce, to art: Mona Lisa designs, moka art, pasta jewellery and mask decorating and of course cooking: pasta, pizza, espresso coffee making and drinking and making Italian wafers/ 'pizzelle'.



Many thanks to students and parents who put in a great effort with their colourful display of costumes. We had a walking Italian food table and Nutella jar, a packet of Barilla pasta, the Mona Lisa, Michael Angelo, a gelato vendor, soccer players, Mario and Luigi characters, Italian chefs, Ferrari drivers, gondoliers, Pinocchio, colourful masks and many other creative costumes.





The Italian Photo Booth proved a success, with many students striking a pose and smile into the camera. Coaches from Melbourne Victory ran clinics with the years 4, 5 and 6 students. Whilst the Prep, year 1, 2 and 3 students watched an interactive theatre performance from Spectacular Spettacolo ensuring plenty of laughs and participation from the audience, whilst our star student John kicked a goal playing soccer for Roma and Elle enjoying a ride on Claudia's vespa. Then finally enjoying the flavoursome taste of gelato.



Grazie!

Signora [Sarina Commisso](#)

Parents and Friends

On behalf of Connie and myself, we would like to thank all the parents that have offered their time and support to help out in 2023.

From organising the raffles, Bunnings sausage sizzle, the colour run and all the other fundraisers we have had this year. We have raised over \$20,000.

To all the companies that have donated hampers, vouchers, food for all our fundraising events.

A big thank you.

Have a great Christmas and a restful New Year. Kellie Doherty and Connie Simiele

COLOUR RUN







GRADE 6 GAMES DAY

On Thursday 30th November the Grade 6 students hosted a Games Day for the Grade Prep, One and Two students. The games that children participated in were designed and created by the Grade 6 students as part of their Inquiry work. The Games Day was a huge hit, with Grade 6 students running their activities and the children participating having a heap of fun. There was a great range of activities including mini golf, arts and crafts, obstacle courses and much more. It was an amazing day and the pure enjoyment that the day brought made it memorable for all.



Grandparent's Day

On Monday December 4, the Grade 6 students celebrated Grandparent's Day. Students welcomed their grandparents or special person into the classroom where they shared some of their work with them. This was followed by a lovely morning tea together. This was a very special morning for everyone involved.





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.



Christmas Timetable 2023

Mass Times

Saturday 23rd December – 4th Sunday of Advent

5.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

6.30 pm St Paul's Church

Sunday 24th December Morning - 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am St Paul's Church (Maltese Mass)

9.00am St Mary MacKillop Church

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

5.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

6.30 pm St Paul's Church

7.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

9.00 pm St Mary MacKillop Church

Monday 25th December- Christmas Day

8.00 am St Paul's Church (Maltese Mass)

9.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church

10.00 am St Paul's Church

11.00 am St Mary MacKillop Church

There will be NO evening Mass on Christmas Day

Tuesday 26th December

9.30 am St Mary MacKillop Church

Monday 1st January 2024 – New year's Day

9.30 am St Mary MacKillop Church



2023 Christmas Confession Times

Tuesday 19th December 2023

10 am - 11 am

St Mary MacKillop Church

7 pm - 8 pm

St Mary MacKillop Church

Wednesday 20th December 2023

10 am - 11 am

St Paul's Church

7 pm - 8 pm

St Paul's Church

Thursday 21st December 2023

10 am - 11 am

St Paul's Church

7 pm - 8 pm

St Paul's Church

Friday 22nd December 2023

10 am - 11 am

St Mary MacKillop Church

7 pm - 8 pm

St Mary MacKillop Church



Term 4: 02 October-15 December 2023

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

2024 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-28 March 2024

(Good Friday 29 March-Easter Monday 01 April)

Term 2: 15 April-28 June 2024

Term 3: 15 July-20 September

Term 4: 7 October-17 December

(Year 6 finish Friday 13 December)

Term 1: 31 January-28 March 2024

Wednesday 31 January

Year 1 to Year 6 start school for 2024

Thursday 01 February

Prep start school for 2024

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass

Wednesday 21 February

Year 6 Confirmation Family Night

Monday 4 March

Year 5 Camp

Year 6 Confirmation Reflection Day

Reconciliation Family Faith Night

Monday 11 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 12 March

Full week of school for Preps

Saturday 16 March

Year 6 Confirmation

Monday 18 March to Monday 25 March

Year 3 and 5 Naplan Testing

Tuesday 19 March

Feast of St Joseph Celebration

Opening of Tenison Woods Building

Monday 25 March and Wednesday 27 March

School Photos

Thursday 28 March

Last day of Term 1-Students finish at 1pm