

Thursday 8 February, 2024

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au

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Staying Connected No.1, 2024

Warm Greetings to each member of our community and friends of our school,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2024 Academic Year. We welcome back all of our children and families and we offer a warm welcome to the children and families starting with us this year. This year we welcomed 73 Prep children. I am pleased to say they have all settled in quite well under the care of their wonderful teachers.

2024 is truly a year of celebration. St. Mary Mackillop Primary School is celebrating 40 years of operation, having been opened on the oval at Sacred Heart, St. Albans in 1984.

We have certainly come a long way from a couple of relocatable classrooms to the state-of-the-art facilities and resources we have now in Keilor Downs. Our school is an attractive facility of which we take great pride and one which we continue to improve.



Day 1 - Feb 1st 1984
A spare portable at the back
of Sacred Heart. We welcomed
Grades 1-5 (No Grade 6 in
1984)



We will recognise our 40th Anniversary on Tuesday 19 March, the Feast of St. Joseph. On this day we will be holding the official opening of the Tenison Woods Building which houses our Library, Digital Technologies Studio, Art Room and some allied health spaces.



These wonderful facilities certainly pay testament to the school we are today! There will be more details in an upcoming *Staying Connected*.

Over the years we have had much to celebrate. We remember and with pride the day, on Sunday 17 October 2010, that Mary MacKillop was recognised and canonized by Pope Benedict, as Australia's First Saint.

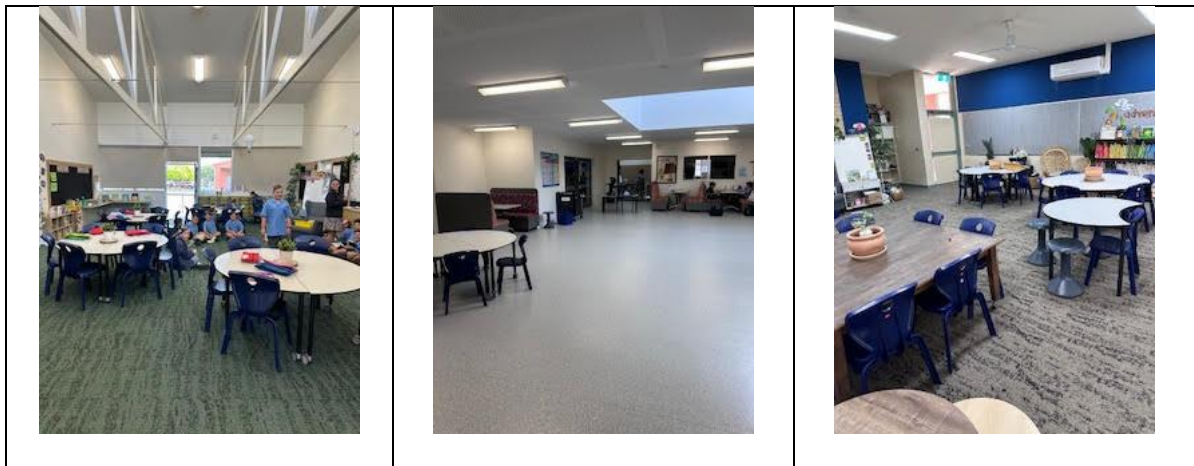
We are certainly proud of the fact that we are a school in her name and under her care. Thus, on 17 October 2010, our school's name was officially changed to St. Mary MacKillop Primary School.

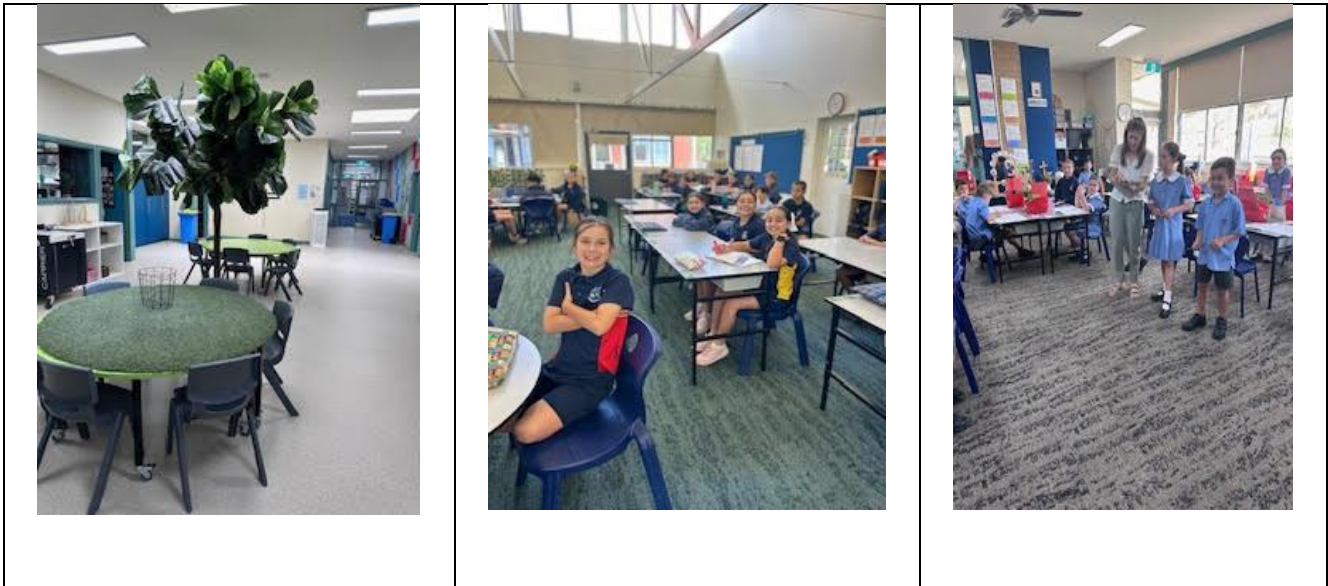


The school community of 2010 gathered, with Monsignor Portelli and the then Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, celebrating Mary's canonisation; at which time we unveiled the statue on the front path.

I am proud to have led this school, as Principal, for 17 years, together with a wonderful team of staff, parents and children supporting our efforts to create the best learning and teaching environment possible for all our children.

To enhance and improve our school environment; we had work completed over January. We have recarpeted Fitzroy and John Paul 11. New carpets promote pride and provide the children with a cleaner and more attractive classrooms. We have also installed vinyl in common areas of these areas. This floor surface is so much more practical for a wide variety of activities.





We have also artificially turfed over the asphalt adjacent to the new building. This is a much cleaner and safer surface for the children to sit on for Assembly. It is also an ideal surface for Phys. Ed lessons to occur on and other outdoor lessons. I also notice the kids really enjoy playing on this surface at recesses.



There is more artificial turf to be laid behind Tension Woods, to alleviate a problem area where grass will not grow.

OSHC is now located in the double portable. It is an excellent facility, providing the children with indoor and outdoor spaces, all within line of sight, making for a safer and more engaging program.

Our school comprises a wonderful staff from a wide and varied background of experiences and time in education. We welcome to our school:

- **Julia Maio** who is teaching Year 4
- **Laura Sacchetta** who is teaching Year 5
- **Francine Smart** who is joining our Learning Support Team
- **Tamara Crisostomo** who is also on our Learning Support Team
- **Peter Forlitis** who is our School Counsellor (2 days per week).

We welcome back from Parental Leave:

- **Samantha Bartolo** who is teaching Year 5
- **Rebecca Micallef** who is teaching Year 3

We congratulate and celebrate with **Deana Cannatelli** on her marriage to **Aaron Notarfrancesco** and **Stephanie Adam** on her marriage to **Michael Nicholson**.

In acknowledging our staff; ranging from graduates to very experienced teachers we recognise **Connie Simiele and Sandra Lind, who together with me, each celebrate 40 years of teaching this year**. Our professional experience and life experience only go to enhancing the school and our understanding of children and families and the diversity we all face in life.

There is much planned for this year. Please check *Upcoming Events* on the back page of this *Staying Connected*.

St. Mary MacKillop will always inspire and motivate us to be more Christ like in all of our interactions and experiences in life. We move into 2024, confident that no matter what, as Mary Mackillop wrote,

“God will provide for the future.” SMM 1907.

Have a wonderful year everybody.



Anthony McCluskey

Principal

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)

The Sacred Space

We have created a new Sacred Space for the school, in the John Paul II building. The space is well on its way to being complete, with the arrival of our new materials imminent.

In the meantime, Godly Play lessons have been taking place with the Year 6 students, and all other year levels are booked for their first sessions in the coming weeks!

The Vision

- A place to experience the sacred in different ways
- A place to immerse ourselves in Tradition
- A place to encounter the Word of God through play
- A place to not only hear, but feel the Word of God



A Godly Play Lesson involves:

- An invitation and preparation to enter the space,
- Building a circle,
- Immersion into a story based on Scripture, deeply rooted in Tradition, Sign and Symbol,
- Wondering and connecting ideas
- Responding to our experience, “The Work” the story calls us to do.

LENTEN CELEBRATIONS AT ST. MARY MAC KILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

The season of Lent approaches us. In our Catholic faith, this is a time of preparation for Easter, with service, prayer and fasting being the centre of our actions to grow closer to God. As a school, we will be celebrating Lent in many ways, and we invite you to join us when you can.

Throughout the term, students in all year levels will learn about how Catholic people celebrate Lent and prepare for Easter. They will make connections with their learning about God's love through the Sacraments and celebrations of the Church; Easter being our biggest one.

Tuesday 14th February

Shrove Tuesday

- Pancake making and activities
- Student Leaders to attend Project Compassion Launch with St Paul's

Wednesday 14th February

Ash Wednesday

- Years 3-6 Caritas Launch presentation
- Years 3-6 Parish Mass 12pm
- Junior school Liturgy and Ashes
- Wear Purple
- Gold coin donation (Project Compassion)

Thursday 28th March

Journey of the Cross

Invitation to families to Journey from 10am



PURPLE DAY!

Wear purple on
Ash Wednesday,
14th of February.

Please bring a
gold coin to donate
to Caritas'
Project Compassion.

Caritas is an Australian
Catholic humanitarian
organization, helping to reach
those around the world in most
need.

Lent is a time for almsgiving
and helping those in need.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA



Catholic Regional College North Keilor



YEAR 7 2026 Information Evening Wednesday 6 March at 7pm

Discover

*What Our School
Has to Offer!*

We invite families to join us for an information session with our College Principal Mr Tullio Zavattiero and members of our College Leadership Team to learn about:

- **Our Vision and Mission**
- **Curriculum Offerings**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Enrichment & Immersion Opportunities**
- **The Enrolment Process**
- **Year 7 2026 Enrolment Timeline**



Our vision

We are a school where every learner can become who God calls them to be.

Our mission

To do this we take the time to know our students, their needs and aspirations. Every student achieves success through a personal pathway. We engage students by differentiating learning and offering a wide range of cultural and faith-based programs and immersions. We equip young people to become peacebuilders

**Register
Now**

Register online via the enrolments page on our College website

crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2026



1C Santa Monica Drive
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900

www.crcnk.com.au

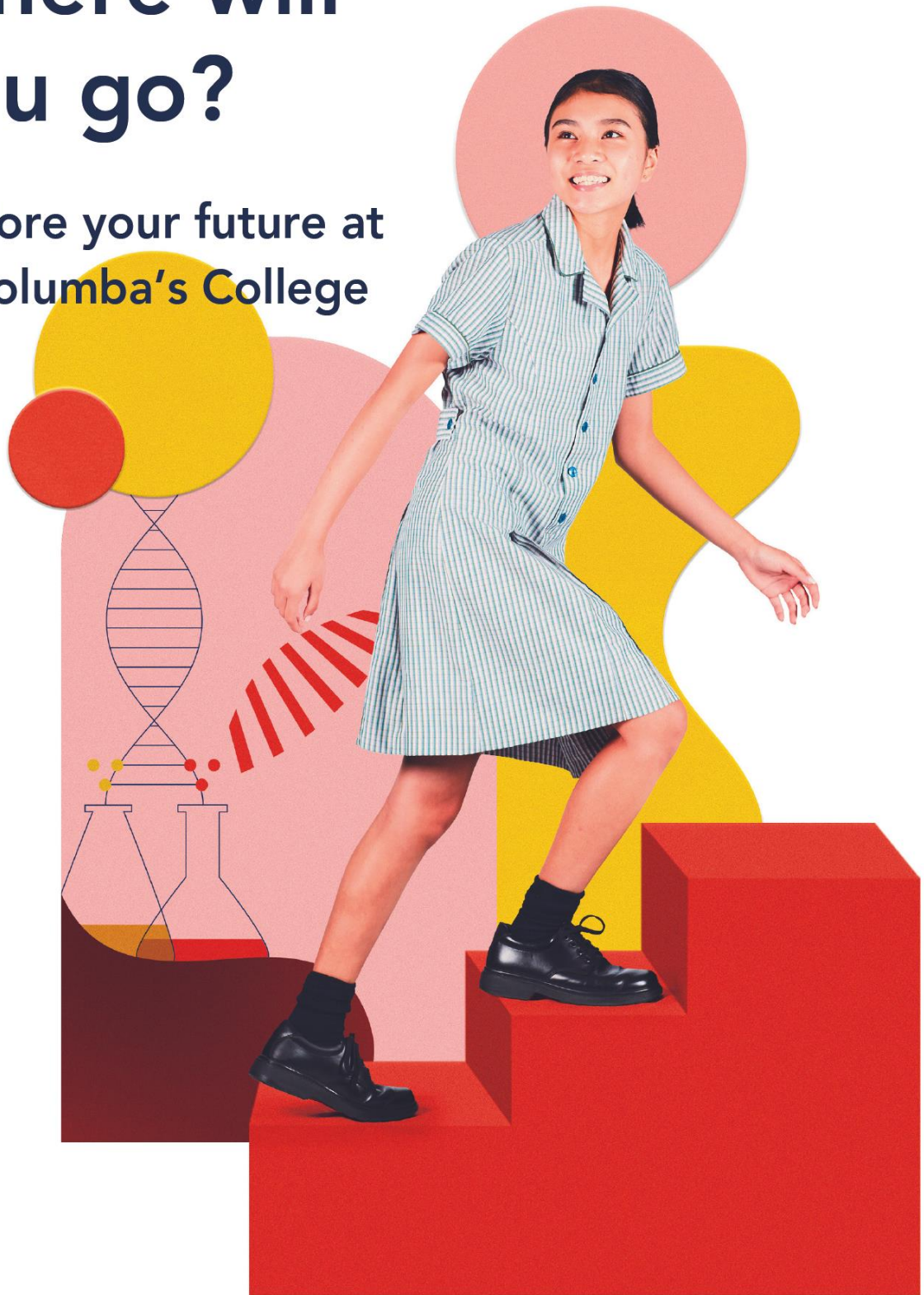
2024 Year of Compassion

*The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
[World Religions]*



Where will you go?

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St Columba's College



Book your tour today
columba.vic.edu.au



St Columba's
College

St Mary MacKillop Staff List 2024

Leadership.

Principal
Anthony McCluskey

Deputy Principal/Child Protection Officer
Anthony D'Amico

Wellbeing/Child Protection Officer
Jennifer Monaghan

Director of Learning and Teaching/ Math's Leader 4-6/Data Coordinator
Aaron Kuras

Learning Diversity Leader: Sandra Lind

Curriculum.

Director of Learning and Teaching/ Math's Leader P-6/Data Coordinator
Aaron Kuras

Religious Education Leader
Natalie Mulford

Literacy
Jenny Melki & Andrea Gale

Math's Leader P-3
Kirsten Mifsud

Digital Technologies Coordinator
James Quinn

Year Levels.

Prep Red: Eileen Marnier
Prep Blue: Kimberley Siadis
Prep Yellow: Stephanie Nicholson

Year 4 Red: Matt Saxon
Year 4 Blue: Angela Amato
Year 4 Yellow: Madison Barlow / Julia Maio

Year 1 Red: Erin Cultrera
Year 1 Blue: Shannon Lange
Year 1 Yellow: Brooke Dohmen

Year 5 Red: Laura Sacchetta
Year 5 Blue: Jasmine McIlvena
Year 5 Yellow: Samantha Bartolo / Stephanie Taylor

Year 2 Red: Danielle Camerota / Yolanda Bezera
Year 2 Blue: Deana Cannatelli
Year 2 Yellow: Alana Muscat

Year 6 Red: Ross Botoulos
Year 6 Blue: Bree Artuso
Year 6 Yellow: Georgia Widdop

Year 3 Red: Elyse Whitfield
Year 3 Blue: Laura Barui
Year 3 Yellow: Linda Marino / Rebecca Micallef

Specialist Team.

LOTE (Italian) – Sarina Commisso Yrs. 3-6
Linda Marino Yrs. 1-2
Vicki Himmelreich Prep

Performing Arts – Laura Kandzidis

Library Media – Samantha Kelly

PE / Sport - Jason Maxwell / Sarah Higgins

ICT- James Quinn

Prep PMP/NCCD - Connie Simiele

Support - Sarah Groves / Leah Butterick

Upcoming Events 2024.....

Term 1: 31 January-28 March 2024

Tuesday 13 February

Shrove Tuesday

Parent Teacher Conversations-12.30pm to 6.00pm

School finishes at 12.00pm

Wednesday 14 February

Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass at 12.00pm

Thursday 15 February

Parent Teacher Conversations-3.45pm to 6.00pm

Normal school day

Wednesday 21 February

Year 6 Confirmation Family Night at 7.00pm

Monday 4 March to Friday 8 March

Year 5 Camp

Monday 4 March

Year 6 Confirmation Reflection Day

Reconciliation Family Faith Night at 7.00pm

Upcoming Events 2024 continued.....

Monday 11 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 12 March

Full week of school for Preps

Saturday 16 March

Year 6 Confirmation at 10.00am and 12.00pm

Wednesday 13 March to Monday 25 March

Year 3 and 5 Naplan Testing

Tuesday 19 March

Opening of Tenison Woods Building at 10.30am

Monday 25 March and Wednesday 27 March

School Photos

Thursday 28 March

Journey of the Cross (see flyer)

Last day of Term 1-Students finish at 1pm