

Tuesday 05 March, 2024

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

[www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)

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## *Staying Connected No. 2, 2024*

### **A Time of Gratitude and Reflection**

Dear School Community,

As the Principal of our wonderful school, I find myself in a space of deep reflection and immense gratitude. As I move forward, I look back with great pride at the collective achievements and progress of our staff, children and entire community. Our journey, inspired by the wisdom and charism of our patron Saint Mary MacKillop, has been one of faith, dedication, and continuous growth.

The outstanding learning environments and facilities we see today are a testament to our commitment to providing the best for our children. These investments in our school's future have not only enhanced the educational experience but have also fostered a sense of belonging and pride among our children and staff. I am deeply grateful for the hard work, creativity, and passion that have driven these projects to fruition.

Our school is blessed with wonderful children whose enthusiasm and curiosity make coming to work each day not just a job but a mission and a pleasure. Their bright faces and eager minds remind us of the importance of our work and the impact we have on shaping future generations. It is their spirit that fuels our commitment to excellence in education and personal development.

I must extend my heartfelt thanks to Monsignor Charles Portelli, whose religious leadership and wise counsel have been invaluable to me, personally. His support has been a guiding light, helping us navigate challenges and celebrate our achievements. Monsignor Portelli's dedication to our school and its values has enriched our community in countless ways.

The wisdom and charism of Saint Mary MacKillop, our patron saint, continue to inspire us daily. Her life's work and devotion to the education and care of children are at the heart of our school's ethos. We live by Saint Mary MacKillop's ethos.; **“Never see a need without doing something about it.”** Her legacy teaches us the power of perseverance, the importance of faith, and the value of compassionate service to others. Her guiding influence is a constant reminder that we, too, can make a difference in the world by following her example of kindness, courage, and unwavering faith.

**As we move further into the Lenten period**, it is a time for us to reflect on the core messages of the Catholic Church during this season. Lent calls us to introspection, prayer, fasting, and giving, urging us to consider how we can grow closer to God and serve those around us with greater love and generosity. It is a time to contemplate our spiritual journey and to renew our commitment to living out the values that define us as a Catholic community.

Let us embrace this Lenten season with open hearts, ready to reflect on our blessings and the ways we can contribute to a world in need of kindness and compassion. May we find strength in our faith, inspiration in the life of Saint Mary MacKillop, and joy in the vibrant spirit of our school community.

In closing, I extend my deepest appreciation to each and every member of our school community. Your dedication, support, and love for Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School are what make it such a special place. Together, we have built a community that not only excels in education but also in nurturing the moral and spiritual well-being of our children.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our school's mission. May we continue to grow in wisdom and love, guided by the example of Saint Mary MacKillop and strengthened by our shared faith.

With warmest regards,



**Anthony McCluskey**

**Principal**

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Anthony D'Amico has now signed his contract as Principal of our school through until the 27 January 2026.**

**Anthony has appointed Jennifer Monaghan and Aaron Kuras as his Deputy Principals.**

**Congratulations to Anthony, Jennifer and Aaron on their appointments. Our school is in good hands!**

Jennifer will also continue as the school Well-Being Leader and Aaron will also continue his role as Director of Learning and Teaching.

## INVITATION

I invite you to the Opening of St. Mary MacKillop Primary School's new school building, Tension Woods. The new building comprises a library space, art room, digital technologies studio and some allied health spaces. The building is largely constructed of rammed earth and timber with lots of glass and doors flowing out to beautiful native gardens surrounding the building.

As all of the buildings on our site are named after places or people of significance in Mary's story; we consider Tension Woods a perfect name for the building. The building itself is connected to nature and the earth, which were great 'loves' of Fr. Julian Tension Woods; priest, scientist, award winning botanist and perhaps most significantly co-founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph with St. Mary MacKillop.

**Monsignor Charles Portelli will be blessing and opening the building on the Feast of St. Joseph, Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 10:30 am in the Church followed by a tour of the building.**

**All welcome**

# Principal Awards



## Principal Awards Cont....



### 2024 SRC Representatives



# SRC REPRESENTATIVES 2024

<b>Year 3R</b>	Aaliyah Ibrahim
<b>Year 3B</b>	Harlequin Crisostomo-Seng
<b>Year 3Y</b>	Julianna Yarak
<b>Year 4R</b>	Joseph Saad
<b>Year 4B</b>	Savannah Micallef
<b>Year 4Y</b>	Hayley Veitch
<b>Year 5R</b>	Mietta Deluca
<b>Year 5B</b>	Elijah Taleb
<b>Year 5Y</b>	Maci Gambian-Lugli
<b>Year 6R</b>	Shaleni Siva
<b>Year 6B</b>	Claire Attard
<b>Year 6Y</b>	Nikisa Mikulic

# Launching Lent ✨

## Shrove Tuesday

*Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins. At St Mary MacKillop we celebrated with the tradition of making pancakes before a day of fasting from meat and animal products. Some classes enjoyed this tradition on Monday. A huge number of parents were on board to help. We thank all of the parents and staff members who helped over the two days!*



# Ash Wednesday Mass

The children in Years 3-6, along with their teachers and the parishioners, gathered together for mass to receive ashes on their foreheads with the blessing.

The Gospel reading and Father Martin's homily focused on charity, prayer and being in relationship with God.

For me Lent means to help every member people have what they need. Sometimes I give up something like meat or some type of food. When it is Lent we all go to church and after that I feel relaxed.

Wednesday 14th of February 2024: Lent  
I think Lent is when we give up something for 40 days and to make up for our sins.

# Year 1 and 2 Liturgy

The children in Year 1 and 2 gathered to explore the Lenten symbols of the prayer space. During the liturgy they received ashes, marked as a cross.

Wednesday 14th of February  
In church father Martin's words made me think of peacefulness. The true meaning of ash Wednesday for me is giving up something that distracts me from God.



# Prep Liturgy

The children in Prep gathered for a liturgy to receive ashes on Thursday. They explored the meaning of Lent and the significance of the colour purple in the Church.



# Caritas: Project Compassion

## Launch Day Excursion

By Amelia Clements



A small number of students from our parish were selected to go on a trip to learn about Caritas Australia with Mrs Taylor. 10 students from our school came and 5 from Saint Paul's. When we arrived we had a look at how beautiful the Academy of Mary Immaculate was. We found out the organisation (Caritas) was having its 60th anniversary and that its mission was to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity with a passion for action.

As we already know, every year for 6 weeks Caritas raises funds for those in need in this time of Lent. They also said that Almsgiving is justice and that during Lent we should give something up that could be simple or challenging.

A group of religious musicians that have performed in front of the Pope sang a song called "All are welcome." Afterwards, the Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter Andrew Comensoli, told the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Then the choir of The Academy of Mary Immaculate sang absolutely beautifully.

Ambassadors were called up to hold a candle. Matteo was our ambassador. Afterwards, we said a nice prayer and sang a song called "Send us out."

Caritas' theme for this year is "For all future generations".

We also heard the story of Exodus (3:15) and stories about women from across the world. The story that we heard most about was a story of a girl from Malawi named Memory who undertook a 3 year carpentry course and she became the first woman who worked as a carpenter in her village. This year Caritas are aiming to raise more than 10 million dollars, so we spoke about how we could contribute to this in our own schools.

In conclusion, we had a great day learning about a very special charity and we were very privileged to attend such an exceptional event.



# Caritas: Project Compassion

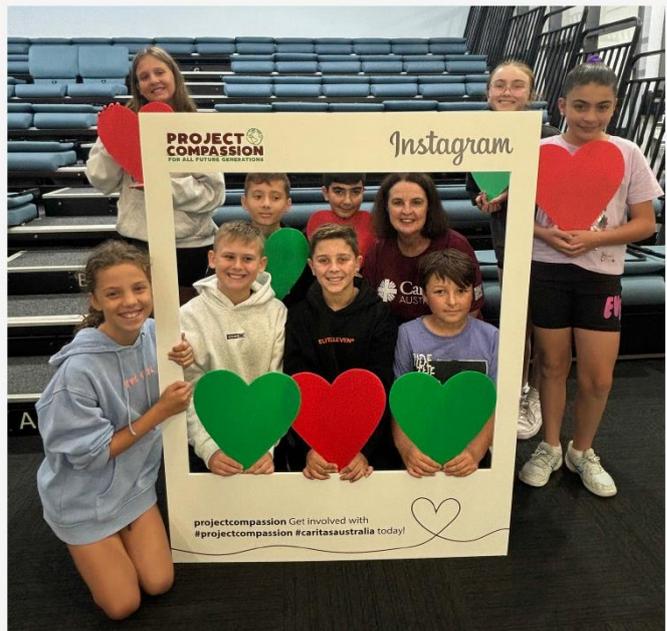


## Social Justice Teachings in Action



*The children in Years 4-6 joined Gwen from Caritas Australia to learn about Catholic Social Justice Teachings and explore how Caritas upholds these in their work with Project Compassion.*

*They learnt about the work Project Compassion does to support and build sustainable communities and had an opportunity to ask questions about the organisation.*



# LEARNING TO PRAY

## in Prep



## St. Patricks Day-Canteen Special

Order via the Qkr App



## School Photos 2024-Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

### **School Photos 2024 – Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School**

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken by Arthur Reed Photos on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**There is no need to return any forms or money to school.**

Unique image codes will be issued to all students on/after photo day so families can register online to view images when they become available in the webshop.

Registration is simple, just follow the 3 simple steps on your child's personalised flyer once you receive it and remember to add the codes for all your children attending this school.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do again this year using your child's 2024 image code to link their images for the current year with your contact details.

When images are ready to view and in the webshop, all parents who have registered will be notified by SMS and email.

**Once registered, please wait for notification that 2024 images are online to view before making your purchase.**

# SCHOOL PHOTOS 2024 - Important Registration Information



*School Photographs will be taken at*

**Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School**

Monday 25th & Wednesday 27th March 2024

**There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day**

**Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day**

**When you receive your child's 2024 image code**

***Follow these 3 simple steps -***

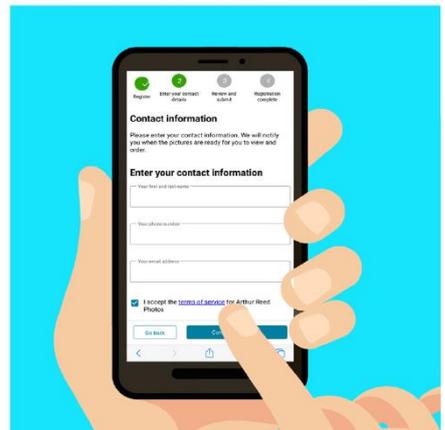
**1** Go to [order.arphotos.com.au](http://order.arphotos.com.au) and enter your child's **2024 image code**



**2** Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



**3** Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration\*



\*This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

***That's it!***

**It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details  
When 2024 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS**

- **Create photo packages with any layout & YOUR choice of images + Multiple Image Downloads**
- **Order on any mobile device**
- **Share the images with family & friends for FREE**

**\*\* Please wait to receive notifications that new images are online BEFORE ordering for 2024\*\***



**Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.**  
A.B.N 48 528 494 590  
(03) 5243 4390  
customerservice@arphotos.com.au



## 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](http://crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2026)



1C Santa Monica Drive  
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038  
9361 5900

[www.crcnk.com.au](http://www.crcnk.com.au)

*2024 Year of Compassion*

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





*Catholic Regional College  
Sydenham*

# 2024 COLLEGE TOURS WITH THE PRINCIPAL



## COLLEGE TOUR DATES

Tuesday 19 March - 11:00am  
Thursday 16 May - 9:30am  
Thursday 13 June - 4:00pm  
Tuesday 15 October - 11:00am

To register for a College Tour,  
scan the QR Code below.



Or visit our website:

[crcs.vic.edu.au](https://crcs.vic.edu.au)

and navigate to

'Join our Community' and  
'College Tours / Events'

*Every Student  
Every Pathway*

# Where will you go?

Explore your future at St Columba's College



**Book your tour today**  
[columba.vic.edu.au](http://columba.vic.edu.au)



St Columba's  
College



# Music & Picnic Day!

**Sunday March 24**

Taylors Creek Linear Park,  
Chichester Drive, Taylors Lakes

**10:30am - 3:30pm**

*Music*

*Food stalls*

*Kid's entertainment*

*Fun for all!*

*Featuring*

SIDETRAK  
DOUBLE LIFE  
MISS LOU'S BLUES  
TORK  
ELS ENTERTAINMENT

**FREE ENTRY**



# Upcoming Events 2024

## 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**

**Monday 4 March to Friday 8 March**

Year 5 Camp

**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**

End of Term Assembly 9am to Farewell Mr. McCluskey (Everyone Welcome)

**Monday 25 March and Wednesday 27 March**

School Photos

**Thursday 28 March**

Journey To The Cross

Last day of Term 1-Students finish at 1pm

**Guard of Honour in school ground to Farewell Mr McCluskey 12.30pm (Everyone Welcome)**