
Tuesday 05 March, 2024

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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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.

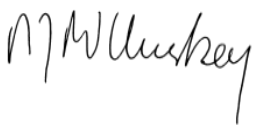
As we move further into the Lenten period, it is a time for us to reflect on the core messages of the Catholic Church during this season. Lent calls us to introspection, prayer, fasting, and giving, urging us to consider how we can grow closer to God and serve those around us with greater love and generosity. 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

Year 3R	Aaliyah Ibrahim
Year 3B	Harlequin Crisostomo-Seng
Year 3Y	Julianna Yarak
Year 4R	Joseph Saad
Year 4B	Savannah Micallef
Year 4Y	Hayley Veitch
Year 5R	Mietta Deluca
Year 5B	Elijah Taleb
Year 5Y	Maci Gambian-Lugli
Year 6R	Shaleni Siva
Year 6B	Claire Attard
Year 6Y	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 ~~neighbour~~ people have what they ~~are~~ need. Sometimes I give up something like meat or some ~~kind~~ 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. ~~high~~ ~~travelling~~ ~~at~~ 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 25th March and Wednesday 27th March

School Photos 2024 – Saint Mary MacKillop Primary School

Annual school photos including sibling photos will be taken by Arthur Reed Photos on Monday 25th & Wednesday 27th 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

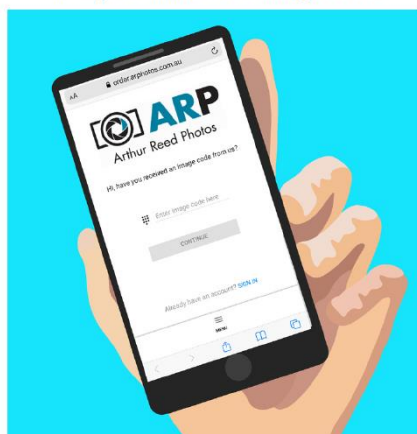
**There is no need to return any forms or payment
to school before photo day**

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

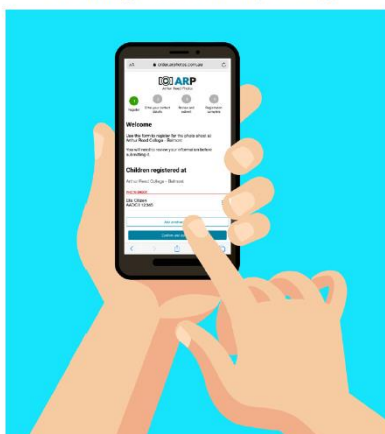
When you receive your child's 2024 image code

Follow these 3 simple steps -

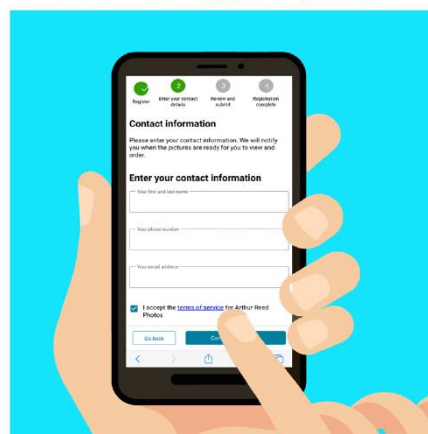
1 Go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your child's 2024 image code



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

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**



YEAR 7 2026
Information Evening
Wednesday 6 March at 7pm



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]*





*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

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



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)