

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No.12, 22 August, 2025

Dear Community,

As we approach the end of August and the weather shows glimpses of warmth, it is heartening to see our school community filled with energy, compassion, and a love of learning.

As a school community, we continue to reflect on the life and legacy of St Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, whose words continue to inspire us in our mission. Her deep compassion, courage, and trust in God remain at the heart of everything we do here at St Mary MacKillop.

Her famous words "Never see a need without doing something about it" remind us that action, compassion, and responsibility go hand in hand with our faith. These values have been truly present in our school over the past week.

Book Parade – Monday 25th August

We are so excited for our annual Book Parade, taking place this coming Monday, 25th August at 9:00am in the school hall.

This year's theme is "Book an Adventure", and students are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. From classic fairy tales to modern-day heroes, we can't wait to see the imagination and creativity on display.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the parade and celebrate the magic of reading with us. Please encourage your child to bring their favourite book and dress up for the parade.

Staff First Aid Training

This week, all our teaching and support staff undertook First Aid training to ensure we are well-prepared to respond to emergencies and look after the wellbeing of every child in our care.

We are committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment at St Mary MacKillop. This training includes CPR, asthma and anaphylaxis management, and general first aid. We thank our dedicated staff for giving their time and attention to this vital work.

Important Dates to Remember:

-  **Book Parade:** Monday 25th August, 9:00am (School Hall)
-  **Book Fair:** Monday 25th – 29th August, (MPR)
-  **Father's Day Stall:** Thursday 4th September
-  **Father's Day Breakfast:** Friday 5th September (School Hall)

A Prayer Inspired by St Mary MacKillop;

Loving God,

Thank you for the life and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Help us to follow in her footsteps — to see the needs around us, to act with kindness, and to trust in You always.

Bless our school, our students, and our staff as we continue to learn, grow, and care for one another.

Amen.

St Mary MacKillop – Pray for us.

Wishing you all a joyful weekend, and we look forward to seeing you at the Book Parade on Monday!

Anthony D'Amico

PRINCIPAL AWARD'S



ST MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 2025



Mass

SRC Report

The SRC met on Wednesday 6th August. During our SRC meeting we talked about things we enjoyed, suggestions for future activities and ways we might improve the school.



Some things we are enjoying are:

- School sport activities (Athletics and Cross Country)
- The new shelter (the dome)
- Big Freeze Day
- Great sportsmanship at interschool sports
- The kids of our school using the values of St Mary Mackillop.

IMPROVEMENTS

- Only using good (appropriate) language on the yard
- Keeping the toilets clean
- Picking up rubbish to keep the school yard clean
- Only going to the toilets during class time if really needed.

SUGGESTIONS

Some things that the kids at St Mary Mackillop would like to see:

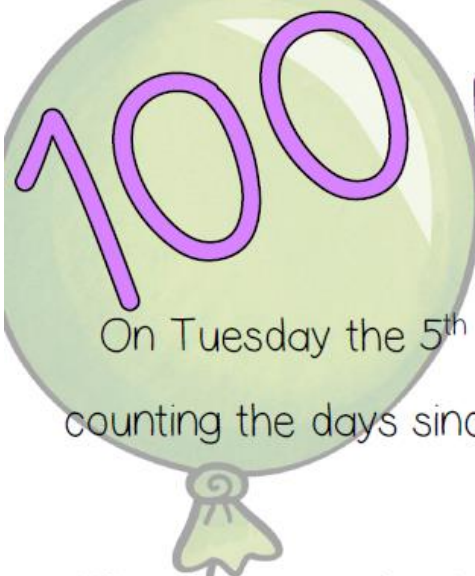
- New volleyball nets for interschool sport
- Quiet indoor spaces during breaks
- Basketball in the hall during a wet day program
- Private music lessons
- Our own school prayer and school mascot
- An 'amazing race' style activity.

FUNDRAISING

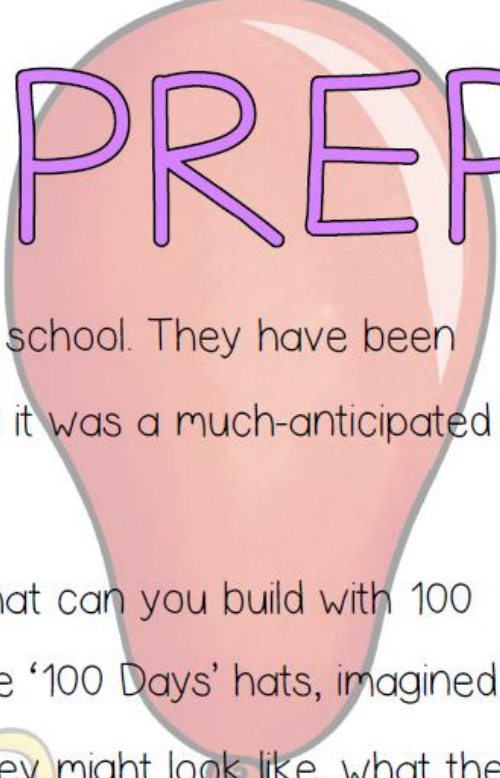
The SRC had an opportunity to begin thinking about a whole school social justice action for Term 3. We had a think about some of the actions we have done in the past, and some of the organisations we have worked with. We were tasked to go back to our classes and ask our peers:

- **What causes are important to us?**
- **What actions will bring our community together for fundraising and raising awareness?**

On Wednesday 13th August the SRC met again to bring their class' ideas together. Stay tuned for our next Social Justice Action.



100 DAYS OF PREP

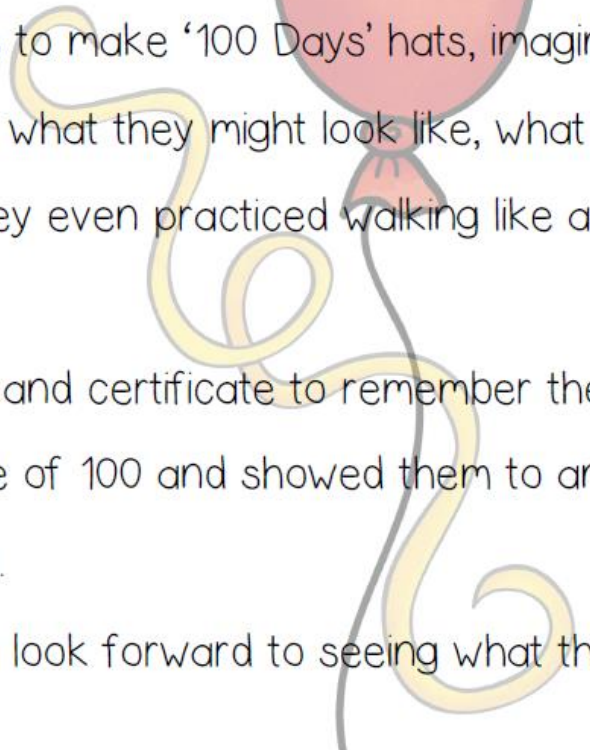
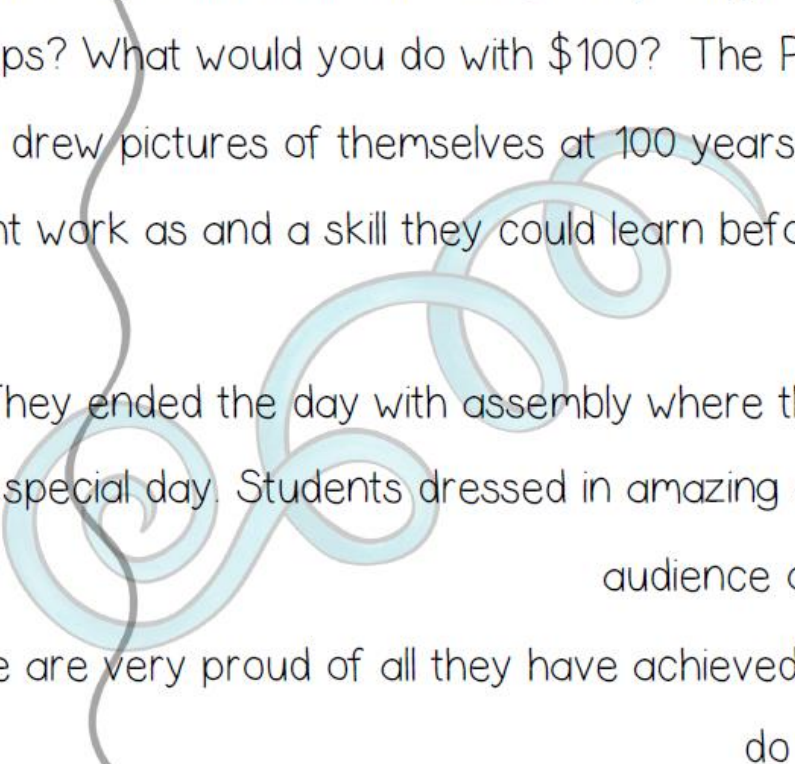


On Tuesday the 5th of August our Prep students celebrated 100 days of school. They have been counting the days since their very first day of school back in February and it was a much-anticipated day.

The day started with the Preps exploring '100' in Discovery Learning – What can you build with 100 cups? What would you do with \$100? The Preps had opportunities to make '100 Days' hats, imagined and drew pictures of themselves at 100 years old. They wrote about what they might look like, what they might work as and a skill they could learn before they reach 100. They even practiced walking like a 100-year-old!

They ended the day with assembly where they received a balloon and certificate to remember their special day. Students dressed in amazing costumes on the theme of 100 and showed them to an audience of well over 100 people.

We are very proud of all they have achieved in just 100 days – and look forward to seeing what they'll do in the next 100.



Bush Kinder

Last Thursday the Prep children participated in a session of Bush Kinder at Brimbank Park exploring Brimbank Park as a special place in our community. They participated in free nature play, went on a bush walk and explored how to share and care for our special places.





2025 is a milestone year for CBCA as they celebrate **80 years of Children's Book Week!** This year's celebration will run from Saturday 16 to Saturday 23 August and the theme is **'Book an Adventure.'** For 8 decades, CBCA has been dedicated to inspiring young minds to journey through the countless worlds that books offer. During this time schools and public libraries spend one glorious week celebrating books and Australian children's authors and illustrators.

At SMMPS we are planning to celebrate Book Week by having some Australian authors visiting, giving talks to the classes, exploring and studying the various shortlisted books and of course holding our annual book parade. **There is no pressure for families to purchase costumes.** (Time to get creative!!!!) We will be celebrating this special day on **Monday 25th August 2025.** The parade will begin at 9.10am- 10.00am in the hall. **Parents are welcome to attend.**

*Our aim at SMMPS is to grow a love of reading in all children. We want them to see **reading as a pleasure** and a skill that helps them unlock many aspects of life. We see the growth of book love as a responsibility of the whole school community. Beyond the classroom children need to experience the closeness of sharing reading with their family and discussing their enjoyment, wonderings, and opinions with others. During this reading journey, a way of moving forward could be for parents to discuss with their children memories of their own favourite books, characters and authors.*

Look forward to seeing you on Monday 25th August, dressed up as your favourite book character.

Jenny Melki
Literacy Leader

REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas. The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the **artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways**. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.
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- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
 - The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am.** If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
 - St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.'
Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds.

- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the school website.
- As there is no supervision on the playground area and the oval area in the morning, these areas are out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground or the oval before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must **use the back car park area.** There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.

2025 Term Dates

Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025
Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025
(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)

PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL – REMINDER

Please note that all of the Junior and Senior Adventure Playgrounds are **not to be used before school.**



This is the Junior Adventure playground.
It is only for use by students from Prep to Year 2.



The climbing frames can be used by all students.

This is the Senior Adventure Playground.
It is only for students in Years 3 – 6.



Parents are required to actively watch their children when using the equipment after school.

Upcoming Events 2025

Term 3: 22 July-19 September 2025

Book Parade-See information

Monday 25 August to Friday 29 August

Book Fair

Thursday 4 September and Friday 5 September

Father's Day Stall

Friday 5 September

Father's Day Breakfast

Friday 19 September

Last Day of Term 3

Students finish @ 1pm

Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025

Monday 6 October

First day of Term 4

Tuesday 21 October to Thursday 23 October

Year 6 Camp

Monday 27 October to Wednesday 29 October

Year 5 Camp

More dates/details to come.....