

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038

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Staying Connected No.13, 05 September, 2025

Hello Everyone,

A Reflection

We are blessed with an inspirational leader of our Church in Pope Leo XIV. Recently, he shared these powerful words:

“The human longing for love is not a sign of weakness but demonstrates that no one is completely self-sufficient and that salvation comes from letting oneself be loved and helped by God.”

This beautiful truth resonates deeply. To hand ourselves over to God in times of need brings not only support and confidence, but also a deep sense of calm.

Prayer is one of God’s greatest gifts. It carries us through, no matter the need and no matter the outcome. Often, we do not even know what we truly need. But I firmly believe God does.

The invitation is always there: to let ourselves be loved and helped by Him. May we each take a moment this week to rest in God’s love and allow His grace to strengthen us.

National Catholic Education Conference 2025

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the 2025 National Catholic Education Conference, where over 1,600 educators from across Australia gathered together. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn new ideas, gain valuable insights, and feel affirmed in the direction we are taking at St. Mary MacKillop Primary School as we continue to roll out **MACS’ Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement**.

The Conference reminded me that our journey is very much aligned with the national conversation in Catholic education. I am currently compiling my key findings from the sessions I attended and look forward to sharing these with our community in an upcoming newsletter.

Congratulations to Our Girls Soccer Team! 🏆👧

On Wednesday, 3 September, our Girls Soccer Team proudly represented St. Mary MacKillop Primary School in the State Finals. We are thrilled to share that they finished as Runners-Up in the State Competition - an incredible achievement!

To put this into perspective, more than 2,000 schools across Victoria - from the Public, Private, and Catholic sectors - began competing back in February. To finish No. 2 in the State is a truly remarkable effort.

Our girls played with determination, resilience, teamwork, and inspirational sportsmanship. They have done themselves, their families, and our school community extremely proud. Well done, girls!

We most sincerely thank the girls soccer coach, Bec Buhagiar (Mum of Scarlett 6Y) for her time and commitment in coaching our girls. We are grateful for Bec's support.

As a Catholic school we provide a holistic education. Physical Education and Sport are a major element of a holistic education. We offer our gratitude to Mr. Jason Maxwell, who as our Head of Sport and PE, a lecturer in Phys.Ed and Sport at RMIT and a regional coordinator of School Sport Victoria, ensures our children get the best education in Phys. Ed and Sport possible.

Have a great weekend everyone,

Best wishes,



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no School Assembly
next Monday 8 September

PRINCIPAL AWARD'S







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

Sunday 7 September

Father's Day

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

Monday 3 November

School Closure Day

Tuesday 4 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

More dates/details to come.....