

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 14, 19 September, 2025

Hello Everyone,

As we close out Term Three, I want to offer my sincere thanks to all of our staff for their dedication and commitment to our school. Their care for your children is outstanding, and I am both grateful and proud to serve as their Principal.

Our children continue to show a wonderful spirit of joy, learning, and community. For this, I am equally proud and deeply thankful.

Many wonderful events have taken place this term, strengthening our school spirit and deepening the community's participation in the life of our school.

- ▶ Boys playing off in District Soccer Finals
- ▶ Girls running up as State Champions in State Soccer Finals
- ▶ SSV Athletics Carnival
- ▶ Father's Day Breakfast
- ▶ Bunnings BBQ
- ▶ Gen Bryant Concert
- ▶ School Disco.

Thank you to the many staff and parents who have supported us with these events. I am personally very grateful.

Whilst we have enjoyed these events; the learning focus at our school grows stronger and more rigorous as we roll out **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Vision for Instruction**.

The **MACS Vision for Instruction** is a shared approach to teaching and learning across all Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools. It sets out **what great teaching looks like** and ensures that every child is given the best opportunity to learn and succeed.

At its heart, the Vision focuses on:

- ▶ **Explicit teaching** - lessons that are clear, structured and purposeful.
- ▶ **High expectations** - believing every child can learn and make progress.
- ▶ **Evidence-based practice** - using proven strategies that help students grow in literacy, numeracy, and across all areas of learning.
- ▶ **Engagement and support** - making sure children are actively involved in their learning and supported at the level they need.

For our school, this means that your child's teachers are working from a common, evidence-based framework designed to help every student flourish and reach their full potential.

MACS Vision for Instruction is a change in direction of travel. We are on a bold and transformative journey together with all MACS schools. It is about clarity and consistency, holding fast to the belief that every learner can flourish.

■ MACS Vision for Instruction at SMMPS

Strengthening Literacy & Numeracy through Explicit Instruction

- 🧑‍🎓 Prep - Year 2: InitialLit Literacy program
- ✍️ Years 3 - 6: OCHRE Grammar & Spelling
- ✚ Prep - Year 6: OCHRE Daily Maths Reviews
- 📊 Year 4: MACS Maths Fluency Project (pilot program)

Looking Ahead to 2026

✚ Prep - Year 6: *POCHRE Maths* (trial units to be implemented across the school)

🌐 **Science & Humanities: Knowledge-Rich Curriculum**

We are very excited about the direction we are taking in learning and look forward to seeing the results.

Have a wonderful term break everybody,

Best wishes,



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

PRINCIPAL AWARD'S



SMMPS Soccer 2025

Wow, what a year it has been for Mary Mac Soccer! We fielded four teams in total, two boys teams and two girls teams. Soccer is an unbelievably popular sport at our school, and we have some amazingly talented students! Our teams began the year as part of the Sydenham District, which is the base stage of the School Sport Victoria (SSV) pathway for interschool sport. All teams did extremely well, but we just wanted to make special mention of our two BLUE teams below:

Boys BLUE Team

Our Boys Blue team had a rough start to their season, going down to Overnewton 3-0. From here we regrouped, worked hard, and developed a successful gameplan. The boys showed great sportsmanship and commitment to each other both on and off the field. They continued the rest of the season undefeated. This booked them a rematch with Overnewton in the Grand Final. This time the boys were ready! They came out firing, they were determined and energetic and in the end they took home the prize beating Overnewton 5-0.

This qualified the boys to the SSV Division Level of competition where they faced the winners of the other districts within the Keilor Division. The boys stood out on the day and managed to again go undefeated, and win the Keilor Division Championship.

The next stage of the competition pathway was the Western Metropolitan Region Finals (WMR). Here the boys faced their toughest opponents yet. The best teams from the west of Victoria. Teams travelled as far as Ocean Grove and Ballarat to face our boys. Again the boys were undefeated, but unfortunately were eliminated via goal difference after a draw with St Monicas. (St Monica's then went on to win the State Finals). Reaching this level of competition is a great achievement, and one we are very proud of! Congratulations boys on your efforts, achievements and most importantly the way you carried yourselves throughout the entire competition. Well Done

Team list:

Edison S, Isaac T, Nolan A, Alex K, Vitale O, Elias H, Peta B, Ashton J, Joseph B, Angelo D & Lucas P



Girls BLUE Team

It's hard to put words together that justify the achievements of this legendary group of girls. What started as a fun loving, energetic and friendly group of girls playing soccer quickly turned into a Football Powerhouse. The likes of which we have not seen here at Mary Mac for many years! These girls powered through the District Level of competition to make the Grand Final against Cana PS. This match was EPIC - our girls fought back from 3-1 down late in the second half to send the game into a penalty shoot out. Lucky enough we have a specialist goal keeper who jumped straight in and took over the situation. Our girls managed to kick straight, and took out the premiership!

Just like the boys, this booked them a spot at the Keilor Division Finals. Here they were the bench mark in skill and determination. They finished undefeated, and took out the Keilor Division Championship. It was commented many times by SSV officials how great our girls are, and how respectful they play the game!

The WMR Finals were next. It was a long day of competition at George Cross. But we had our super coach Bec on board, and determined to win! With several sick girls trying to push through, we were really up against it. But the grit of our Year 6 girls was unstoppable, their 'never day die' attitude shone out, and they qualified for the WMR Final against St Patricks Geelong. Here we faced illness, cramps, bumped legs, and sprained wrists, but the girls hung on to take the WMR Finals 1-0. This qualified our team (for the very first time) to the SSV STATE FINALS.

The STATE Finals were our next stop. We travelled to the Darebin International Sports Centre to compete against the best 8 teams from around the State. We knew we would face some tough competition here, but we felt ready for the challenge. We began our day with a 0-0 draw then followed up with two really good wins. Thanks to some amazing shot placements and hard running, we waited on other results to see if we qualified for the STATE Grand Final.

When we received the news, our girls were PUMPED! We were set to face St Francis of Assisi (Mill Park) in the SSV Football State Finals. Although very tired and sore, we knew we were in with a good chance. We had Mr McCluskey and Mr D'Amico supporting us from the sideline, as well as our families cheering us on! Unfortunately we suffered a few early injuries, and the game didn't go our way. We certainly did not give up, and our girls represented themselves and our school to the most amazing level. We are SO PROUD of you! To finish 2nd out of more than 2000 schools across the State is such a great achievement! Thank you so much Bec for coaching the girls. Well done LEGENDS!

2025 Girls BLUE - SSV STATE FINALS RUNNERS UP

Scarlette Buhagiar, Tea' Zealley, Laura Mihaljevic,
Angelina Daw, Savannah Micallef, Mariam Oliha,
Sierra Borg, Harlequinn Crisostomo Seng,
Alexis Georgiou, Alyssa Georgiou, Nada Milicevic,
Katalaya Crisostomo Seng





Hope is Alive! Celebration Day

with the **Gen Bryant
Team**



Yesterday we celebrated a term of learning about the Jubilee Year and how Jesus and our Catholic Tradition call us to live as people of **HOPE** and be people of **HOPE** for each other.

Our Student Jubilee Ambassador Sierra, and her crew of friends worked for weeks to prepare Luce badges and bag tags for the children, teachers and LSOs to wear on this celebration day. Thank you for your dedication, girls!

Throughout the day, Gen and the team worked with the children to learn songs that inspire hope and teach us to live in faith. We ended our day with a school concert, with many families coming along, sharing some of the songs each cohort had worked on in their session.

The choir were fortunate to spend a lot of time with Gen and the team, where they were given a singing lesson and worked on supporting the band in their sessions. This was an incredible opportunity for the choir, who had been working all term on these songs.



2025

Parent Group Disco



St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.



RELAUNCHING JUNIORS AT KEILOR PARK FOOTBALL CLUB

KEILOR PARK FOOTBALL CLUB IS EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE THE RELAUNCH OF OUR JUNIOR
FOOTBALL PROGRAM!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR PASSIONATE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE
PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL AND HELP GROW THE NEXT
GENERATION OF FOOTBALLERS.

WE ARE NOW CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR:

JUNIOR DIRECTOR
JUNIOR COORDINATORS
COACHES (UNDER 8S & UNDER 10S)
PLAYERS (ALL AGES, WITH A FOCUS ON U8S & U10S)

Don't pay up to \$500 at other clubs - our memberships are:

Under 8s & Under 10s:
ONLY \$99

✨ All home games will be played under lights on Friday nights -
giving you the weekends free! ✨

✉ Send your queries to: Juniors@keilorparkfc.com.au or follow
the QR code to register your interest



BE A PART OF THE JOURNEY.
BE A PART OF THE PARK.



3 DAY - HOLIDAY BASKETBALL CAMP



*Dribble, shoot, and score! Learn
basketball fundamentals, teamwork,
and discipline from our pro-level
coaches.*

Coached by: Stu Hooper and
NBL1 players

- ✓ ALL SKILL LEVELS
- ✓ BOYS AND GIRLS
- ✓ AGES 7 - 14YO



29/9 - 1/10
10AM-1PM



Caroline Springs Leisure
Centre

**SLOTS ARE LIMITED!
GET IN QUICK**



SCAN HERE

OR

Click [here](#) to register



**\$80PP- 1 DAY
\$100PP- 2 DAY
\$120PP- 3 DAY**

\$30 EXTRA PER SIBLING

For more information:
CALL STU : 0422 623 755

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 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

Thursday 6 November

Prep 2026 Play and Stay-Session 1

9.15am to 10.15am

Friday 5 December & Monday 8 December

School Closure Days

More dates/details to come.....