

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No.15, 10th October, 2025

Welcome back everybody,

As we begin a new term, our final term together for 2025, we look for inspiration from St. Mary MacKillop and Fr. Julian Tension Woods, who was a contemporary of Mary and co- founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

St Mary MacKillop on Beginning a New Term

As we begin a new school term, we are reminded of the wisdom of St Mary MacKillop, who often encouraged others to “take fresh courage.” Starting afresh gives us the opportunity to recommit ourselves to learning, to kindness, and to growing as a community.

Mary MacKillop faced many challenges in her time, yet she always placed her trust in God’s providence and encouraged those around her to approach each day with hope. Her words remind us that even small beginnings and simple acts of goodness can grow into something powerful.

A new term is not only a continuation of our learning journey but also a chance to begin again with renewed energy. Let us support one another, be patient with ourselves and others, and remain open to the blessings that come with new opportunities.

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop:

- Take fresh courage.
- Do your bit well and cheerfully.
- Trust in God’s care for each of us.

Together, let us make this term one of growth, respect, joy, and community.

Julian Tenison Woods on New Beginnings

As we step into a new school term, it is helpful to remember the words and example of Fr Julian Tenison Woods. He often encouraged others to look to the future with hope, no matter the challenges of the past.

Fr Julian believed that every new beginning was a gift from God – a chance to renew our trust in Him and to use our talents for the good of others. He once wrote of the importance of “faith to begin and courage to continue,” reminding us that the smallest steps taken with love can lead to great things.

In his spirit, this new term invites us to:

- See each day as a fresh opportunity.
- Begin our work with faith and determination.
- Encourage one another in kindness and perseverance.
- Place our trust in God’s guiding hand.

May we follow the example of Fr Julian and approach this term with courage, optimism, and a deep sense of purpose.

Have a happy term together, everyone.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anthony McCluskey'.

Anthony McCluskey

Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Tuesday 21 October to Thursday 23 October
Year 6 Trip to Sydney

Monday 27 October to Wednesday 29 October
Year 5 Camp to Lorne

Monday 3 November
School Closure Day

Tuesday 4 November
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Monday 10 November to Wednesday 12 November
Year 4 Camp to Mt Evelyn

Thursday 4 December
Christmas Carols @ 6:30pm on the Oval

Friday 5 December
School Closure Vision for Instruction:
Mathematics

Monday 8 December
School Closure: Planning for 2026

Friday 12 December
Final Day for Year 6 children
Year 6 Guard of Honour @ 12:45pm-1:00pm
Year 6 Graduation @ 7:00pm -8:00pm

Tuesday 16 December
Final Day for classes for Years Prep-Five.
School concludes for the year at 1;00pm.



Ave Maria College Presents

Ave Creates

The 2025 Arts and Technology Festival
Tuesday 14 October 5:30pm - 8:00pm



Ave Creates

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Exhibitions of student work in the Mary Centre and Helene Building.

5:30pm - 6:15pm

College Choir and Solo Music performances in Helene Atrium.

6:30pm - 7:30pm

VCE Product Design & Technology Fashion Parade and VCE Drama & Music Performances

Student Work including:

- Year 12 Art Making and Exhibiting/Visual Communication Design student showcase
- Year 12 Media film screenings
- Student works from Year 7-11 Art, Media, Textiles and Visual Communication Design
- Food Technology demonstrations and displays
- STEM display
- Live performances from Drama and Music students



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.