

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038
www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au
T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected No. 2 10 February, 2026

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all well and that your children are settling happily into their new classes and routines.

I am incredibly proud of our school community and the joy evident among the children. I am also deeply appreciative of our teachers, whose care, dedication and attentiveness ensure that every child is known, supported and okay.

VISION FOR ENGAGEMENT

I commend our teachers on their commitment to the MACS mandated policy; **Vision for Engagement**. This policy is about maintaining a clear and deliberate focus on ensuring classroom practice consistently aligns with the spirit, language and expectations of the **Vision for Engagement**. The six engagement practices include:

- teaching respectful behaviour (not simply expecting it; but explicitly teaching it!)
- fostering belonging (inclusion is of absolute paramount importance)
- focusing on attendance
- promoting mental health and wellbeing
- enabling motivation
- targeting individual learning needs

VISION AND MISSION

School Vision Statements are a shared expression of who we are as a Catholic learning community, the direction we are heading, and what we collectively aspire to for our students. Aligned to the **MACS vision of Forming Lives to Enrich the World**, they provide clarity of purpose and a shared moral direction for our work.

In the spirit of **St Mary MacKillop**, our Vision is not intended to be an exercise in words, but a living statement – one that calls us to notice the needs before us, to act with courage and compassion, and to ensure that our beliefs are made visible through our daily practice, decisions and relationships.

For many years now, we have deliberately called on the spirit of **St Mary MacKillop** to guide our work. Her vision was simple, yet profoundly demanding:

“Never see a need without doing something about it.” (1871)

As a school community; staff, parents and children, we share this vision. It is lived in our classrooms, our relationships, and our daily decisions.

This vision is timeless. It was first articulated by Mary and **Fr. Julian Tenison Woods**, co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, **155 years ago**, and it continues to speak with clarity and authority today.

Therefore, we are confident in proclaiming this as our Vision as a school; holding steadfast to the wisdom of ages, and committing ourselves anew to see the needs before us and to act with courage, compassion and purpose.

What this means for our school can be described in our **Mission**.

Our Vision calls us to be attentive to the needs of our students, our community and our environment. It asks us to move beyond good intentions and respond with care, responsibility and purpose.

Living this vision means:

- noticing when something is not working or needs improvement,
- responding with compassion, courage and common sense, and
- acting together in ways that support child-safety, wellbeing and learning.

This reflects Mary MacKillop's belief in practical faith, faith that is lived through action rather than words alone.

VISION IN PRACTICE

Putting this Vision into action means we live and celebrate our Catholic faith. We respond to real needs by making thoughtful changes. All decisions are guided by the best interests of students and require ongoing adjustments and flexibility to respond to their needs.

In practice, this looks like:

- engaging in prayer, liturgy and formation
- implementing current research-informed teaching pedagogy within a learning environment that is student centred, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of all learners (i.e. Vision for Instruction)
- responding proactively to student-safety and wellbeing concerns, and
- setting clear expectations that support consistency and care.

**Remember: Pray, Trust, Act, and
"Never see a need without doing something about it." (1871)**

Go well, everybody and have a positive week.



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2026

Last week, fourteen outstanding students from our Year 6 cohort applied for the limited positions of School Captain for 2026.

Each candidate presented a thoughtful and sincere case as to why they would serve our school well as a leader. In the spirit of **St Mary MacKillop**, leadership is not about status or recognition, but about service, responsibility and care for others. I am very proud of every student who had the courage to nominate themselves and who demonstrated a genuine desire to contribute to the good of our community.

Importantly, this process also reflects our strong commitment to **student voice**. By putting themselves forward, each candidate showed a willingness to speak with honesty, to be heard, and to take responsibility for representing the views and needs of others; an essential part of authentic leadership.

Following a careful process, and in consultation with the Year 6 teachers and Senior School Leaders, who know the students well, three School Captains and three Vice-Captains have been selected. Their badges will be formally presented at a whole-school assembly in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all candidates for stepping forward in the spirit of service, and congratulations to the six students selected for these leadership roles. As St Mary MacKillop reminds us, *“Never see a need without doing something about it.”*

We look forward to seeing all of our Year 6 students continue to lead by example — through kindness, humility, responsibility and action.

CONGRATULATIONS

School Captains 2026-See Photo

- Scarlett Tartaglia
- Sofia Banovski
- Lara Kvesic

Vice Captains 2026-See Photo

- John Toth
- Vi Nguyen
- Shariah Calleja

2026 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Friday 30 January - Thursday 02 April (Good Friday 03 April)

TERM 2: Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June

TERM 3: Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September

TERM 4: Monday 05 October - Tuesday 15 December
(Year 6 finish Friday 11 Dec)

PRINCIPAL AWARD



YEAR 6 CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 1

Monday 9 February

2027 Prep 2027 Enrolments open

Wednesday 11 February

No school for Prep students

Tuesday 17 February

Parent Teacher Conversations 1pm to 6pm-more details to come

School Advisory Council Meeting @ 6pm

Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday Mass @ 12pm-Year 2 to 6

Parent Teacher Conversations 3.45pm to 6pm-more details to come

Tuesday 24 February

2027 Prep Information and Tour @ 9.30am

Wednesday 4 March

2027 Prep Information and Tour @ 9.30am

Friday 6 March

School Closure for MACS Review 2026-just added to the calendar

Monday 9 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 10 March

Reconciliation Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Thursday 12 March

2027 Prep Information and Tour @ 9.30am

Wednesday 11 March to Monday 23 March

Naplan for Years 3 and 5

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March

School Photos

Thursday 26 March

Year 3 First Reconciliation @ 12pm

Thursday 2 April

End of Term 1: Students finish @ 1pm

TERM 2

Monday 20 April

School Closure for MACS Review 2026

Friday 1 May

2027 Prep Enrolments Due

Wednesday 6 May

Wonder of Life Ed-Year 5 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

Thursday 7 May

Wonder of Life Ed-Year 6 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

Monday 11 May

2027 Prep New Family Interviews commence

Monday 18 May

2027 Prep Letter of offer issued

Wednesday 20 May

Holy Communion Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Friday 29 May

2027 Prep Letter of Acceptance due

Saturday 30 May

Sacraments of the Holy Communion @ 10.30am and 12.30pm

Monday 8 June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 10 June

Confirmation Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Monday 15 June

2027 Prep Existing Family Interviews commence

Saturday 20 June

Sacrament of Confirmation @ 10am and 12pm

Friday 26 June

End of Term 2 Students finish @ 1pm



EXPERIENCE CRC NORTH KEILOR

GRADE 5 IMMERSION PROGRAM

CRCNK are running a Grade 5 Immersion Program throughout Terms 2 & 3. Students engage directly with our inspiring staff and our Year 10 student leaders for an exciting & fun hands-on Immersion program.

From interactive projects to collaborative activities, this unique experience provides Grade 5 students with an opportunity to explore high school subjects in a safe and supportive environment and gain invaluable insight into what student life is like at CRCNK.

- Sessions run from 3:45pm – 5pm
- Students are required to attend in their school uniform
- A parent/carer is required to attend for the duration of each session and are invited to attend presentations by members of our Leadership Team.

Each program will run on a Thursday after school for 3 consecutive weeks. The dates for the Term 2 programs are as follows –

Term 2: 14th May, 21st May, 28th May 2026.

Dates for Term 3 will be released closer to the time.

Students will be required to attend all 3 sessions in one program. Places are limited so register online via our College website using the link below.

SCAN ME



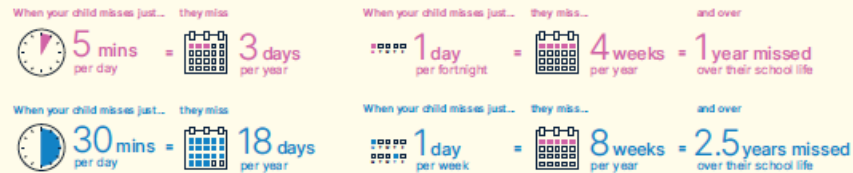
www.crcnk.vic.edu.au

1C Santa Monica Drive
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900

School is better when your child is here

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day.

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and parental involvement can support your child's regular school attendance and prevent chronic absence patterns.



Adapted from material © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023

1. Establish positive habits to promote attendance

- Set good bedtime and morning routines to make the process of getting to school smoother for everyone. Try to prepare as much as possible the night before, e.g. school uniform, school bag packed.
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep and exercise to support their physical and mental health.
- Talk positively about the importance of school attendance with your child. Explain that it is an important part of growing up, a legal obligation and that you expect them to attend every day.
- Show an interest in your child's school and become involved where possible. Keep notes, newsletters, etc. in a place where they are visible reminders of school news for the whole family. Talk about school activities in a positive manner.
- Discuss any changes to usual routines in advance with your child, such as alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements, to ensure clarity and minimise anxiety.

2. Changes in your child's attitude towards school

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your child needs support. Early intervention is vital to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school avoidance before it progresses to chronic absence problems and on to school refusal.

Signs of school avoidance to look out for

- feeling sick before school, e.g. waking up with a headache, stomach-ache or sore throat
- tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school – struggling to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car
- complaints about attending school and reluctance to talk about school
- missing classes and being late for class.

What is happening at school?

Early signs of school avoidance may be identified at school through observations and insights by your child's teachers. Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance and wellbeing.

3. What can you do when you see the signs?

- Work with your child to understand what is happening and so that they feel supported and empowered. Listen with compassion but be consistent in expectations.
- Speak with your child's teacher(s) about your concerns.
- Consider taking your child to the GP to rule out or address any physical or emotional health problems.
- Request and attend school meetings with your child and their teacher to develop strategies to support increased attendance.

Further Resources

[Anxiety about going to school](#) – Victorian Government

[Attendance and missing school](#) – Victorian Government

[How can I get my teenager to school?](#) – Victorian Government

[Early Signs of School Avoidance/Refusal](#) – Travancore School

[Tips for Promoting School Attendance](#) – Travancore School

[Understanding School Avoidance and School Refusal](#) – Travancore School

[School refusal: children and teenagers](#) – Raising Children Network

[Understanding school refusal](#) – Headspace

[School refusal](#) – Be You
[Everything you need to know about school refusal](#) – ReachOut



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

ST. AUGUSTINE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

FAIR EXTRAORDINAIRE

FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026

4.00PM - 8.30PM



RIDES, CARNIVAL AMUSEMENTS, FOOD
TRUCKS, MARKET STALLS, DJ AND MUCH MORE!



SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS!



STAUGUSTINESKEILOR_FAIR

NATIONWIDE
SECURITY SERVICES

PBS
PRECISE BUILDING SUPPORT

big
CHILDCARE

BFT
KEILOR

CSM ADVISORS

RADOS BROS
MEMBERS & TRUSSES
9311 2333

Make the
Connection

CDF

Carbone's

SOURCE CENTRAL
ELS
SCHOOLS OF DANCE

KEILOR HEALTH

BROADSCOPE
ELECTRICAL

Major Movement
Health • Pilates

SLICES

Forza Wealth
WESTERN DISTRIBUTORS
WD
SPECIALIST WHOLESALE SUPPLIES



Monday April 13th - Friday April 17th

Bookings

www.illustrating-man.com.au

- Click the **Cartoon Workshops** button in the middle of our home page
- Select: **Melbourne**
- Check your junk, spam folders for the confirmation
- If using PayPal - we will write to your PayPal email
- For children aged 4-15 years
- Juniors: 4-6
- Intermediates: 8-10
- Seniors: 11-15

\$60 Short Day
\$65 Long Day
\$30 Thursday night

9.30am - 3.30pm
8am - 6pm (part thereof)
6pm - 9pm



Early Bird Discounts

School Holiday 5 Day Programs

Book 4 Long Days Monday to Thursday **NOT** Friday - don't select Friday by 4.30pm Friday March 6th & we'll give you the Friday for FREE.
Your child will be added to the Friday list

Saving \$65



Note: The Melbourne programs always fill up quickly with limited spots available. Please try to book ASAP.

Melbourne 5 Day Program

Monday April 13th - Friday April 17th
1a Birch Street, Caulfield South (Princess Park)

Weekend Victorian Programs

Geelong
Saturday February 28th - Sunday March 1st
33b Myers Street, Geelong

Bendigo
Saturday March 7th - Sunday March 8th
47 Simpson Road, Eaglehawk

Ballarat
Saturday March 14th - Sunday March 15th
684 Huntly Street South, Golden Point

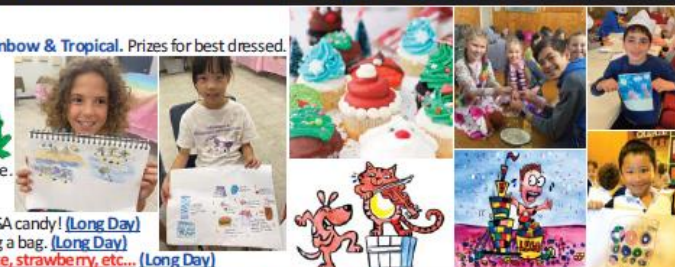
Bacchus Marsh - Melton
Saturday March 28th - Sunday March 29th
88 Wittick Street, Darby

Enquiries: 8.30am - 4.30pm (EST)
Cats outside of these times will be returned the following day

02 9343 0833
bookings@cartoonkingdom.com.au
www.illustrating-man.com.au
Mail: Suite 2, 29 Newland Street
Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Monday

- Theme:** Colourful, Hawaiian, Rainbow & Tropical. Prizes for best dressed.
- Draw:** A volcanic island.
- Build:** A tower with Lego™.
- Draw:** Cute manga animals.
- Play:** The game 'Charge'.
- Draw:** Sea life in the tropics.
- Enjoy:** Decorate & eat cakes.
- Squishies:** Play the squishy game.
- Play:** The paper mummy game.
- Draw:** A frog, snake & a crocodile.
- Competition:** Design candy. Win USA candy! (Long Day)
- Play:** Gold coin treasure hunt. Bring a bag. (Long Day)
- Enjoy:** Make milk shakes (chocolate, strawberry, etc...) (Long Day)



Tuesday

- Theme:** Sporting & Olympic characters. Prizes for best dressed.
- Kids on wheels:** Bring your scooters.
- Draw:** Australian animals.
- Explore:** The secret park.
- Draw:** Kuromi™, Spongebob™.
- Flour fight:** Join in the fun.
- Slime:** Make oobleck slime!
- Play:** Shaving cream battle.
- Draw:** African animals.
- Enjoy:** The Kit Kat™ challenge. Guess the flavours blind folded.
- Make:** Edible art out of snacks then eat your creations. (Long Day)
- Pokemon™:** Draw them & bring your cards to trade. (Long Day)
- Play:** Capture the flag, Soccer, Red Rover Run Over & Murder Wink. (Long Day)



Wednesday

- Theme:** Korean & Japanese. Prizes for best dressed.
- Draw:** Kawaii cute insects.
- Draw:** Hello Kitty™.
- Draw:** Anime & Manga.
- Draw:** Sonic™ & Yoshi™.
- Draw:** Animated fruit & veggies.
- Pocky Sticks™:** Guess the flavours blind folded.
- Crowning ceremony:** Everyone gets a crown.
- Waterfight:** Bring in your waterguns if you want to.
- Perform:** K-Pop™, Gangnam Style™ & APT™ for prizes.
- Play:** Capture the 'squishy' in teams. (Long Day)
- Old school competitions:** Best Dabber, Flosser, Orange Justice & 6-7 performers. (Long Day)
- Secret Code:** Find the treasure & golden ticket jackpot by working out the secret code. (Long Day)



Thursday

- Theme:** Secret Agents & Spies. Prizes for best dressed.
- Competition:** Design & win a watch.
- Make:** Clay mini food.
- Draw:** Garfield™ & Odie.
- Draw:** Mario™ & Toad™.
- Play:** Human O's & X's.
- Enjoy:** Hit & miss jelly.
- Draw:** Farm animals.
- Make:** Rainbow biscuits.
- Draw:** Roblox™ & a 3D landscape.
- Face painting:** Be creative. (Long Day)
- Design:** T-Shirts - we'll provide. (Long Day)
- Make-over:** Get your hair styled, coloured & nails painted. (Long Day)



Thursday (night) 6pm - 9pm

- Theme:** Black-dark clothes.
- Enjoy:** Margherita pizzas.
- Nerf gun disco:** Bring your kit.
- Play:** The custard game.
- Play:** Indiana Jones™ game.
- Play:** Murder in the dark!
- Play:** Sock wrestling Nerf gun style.
- Draw:** Dragons, Among Us™ & Minecraft™.



Friday Market Day - BEST day of the week!

- Theme:** P's & Super Heros. Dress for prizes. Bring a pillow & teddy bear.
- Draw:** Cartoon birds.
- Draw:** Hogwarts™ castle.
- Draw:** Ginnamorol™.
- Draw:** Looney Tunes™.
- Play:** The Singapore caterpillar game. An exciting fun team game!
- Enjoy:** Cookies & cream, vanilla or mint choc chip icecream.
- Play:** The Waterbattle - bring in your waterguns for a safe battle.
- Kingdom Markets:** Everyone needs to prepare a shop for Market Day. Buy & sell using Kingdom money. We'll also give you \$100 Kingdom dollars.
- Talent show:** Singing, dancing, comedy, etc... Perform for prizes. (Long Day)
- Computer gaming:** Bring in your devices for a gaming session. (Long Day)

