

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No.10 *12 May, 2026*

Dear Community,

This year we have experienced an unprecedented level of interest in enrolments at our wonderful school, with 131 families expressing a desire to join the St. Mary MacKillop Primary School community. This extraordinary response reflects the strong trust and confidence families place in our school and in the work of our staff.

It has been many years since we have received such a significant number of applications for Prep enrolment.

Following consultation with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), we have determined the following process for enrolment interviews and offers.

Interviews will occur in two rounds. Priority in Round One will be given in accordance with the MACS Enrolment Policy to:

- Siblings of current students
- Catholic families residing within the parish boundary
- Families with established connections to our school community

Once enrolments from these priority categories have been confirmed, we will proceed to Round Two, which will include:

- Catholic families from outside the parish boundary
- Other applicants, subject to availability of places

At this stage, we anticipate accepting approximately 96 Prep students for 2027, forming four Prep classes of approximately 24 children in each class. Naturally, these numbers may change depending on a range of factors during the enrolment process; however, this is our current planning position.

We sincerely apologise to any family who may miss out on an enrolment place. However, we must ensure that our school remains sustainable in terms of student numbers, facilities, staffing and the quality of services we are able to provide for all children and families.

We sincerely thank families for the overwhelming interest in St. Mary MacKillop Primary School. We recognise the importance of choosing the right school for your child and consider it a privilege to walk alongside families in the education and formation of their children.

Anthony D'Amico, Jennie Monaghan and I will be engaged over this week in interviewing families and finalising enrolment numbers for Round One. As a result, our availability may be somewhat limited during this time.

Go well,

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

PRINCIPAL AWARD



Fluency Focus

This year, at SMMPS one of our Literacy focuses is around reading fluently and how it supports children's overall literacy development. Fluency is a key part of reading because it allows children to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression. When reading becomes more automatic, children can focus less on working out each word and more on understanding the meaning of the text. This leads to stronger comprehension, greater confidence, and a more enjoyable reading experience. Developing fluency helps set the foundation for success across all areas of learning.

This year our students in Years 3–6 have been participating in fluency partner sessions twice a week for ten minutes, where they work together to practise reading aloud, improve their expression and ultimately their understanding of the text. This practice strengthens our students' confidence and supports the development of strong, fluent readers.

Additionally, in our junior grades, children may bring home books that seem too easy. This is intentional, as reading familiar or simpler texts helps children build fluency. When a book is well within their ability, they can focus on reading smoothly, accurately, and with expression, rather than struggling to decode each word. Because of this, easier texts also provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen comprehension skills. You can support your child by asking thoughtful questions, encouraging them to retell the story, make connections, and discuss ideas in more depth. This helps build understanding and critical thinking while continuing to develop strong, fluent reading habits.

Jenny Melki, Literacy Leader

Mother's Day Breakfast

Thank you to the many mums and special women who joined us for our Mother's Day Breakfast last Friday morning. It was wonderful to see so many families gathering together in such a warm and joyful spirit. A sincere thank you to Kellie Doherty for all her hard work in organising and overseeing the breakfast and to our staff who generously gave their time and support to help prepare and run the breakfast so smoothly. On behalf of our school community, we wish all mums, grandmothers and those who are like a mum to others, a very happy Mother's Day. See photos on next page.

WINTER COAT DRIVE

We can all make a difference. Many families will have coats hanging in cupboards that are no longer needed; perhaps children have outgrown them, styles have changed, or they are simply no longer being used.

Our SRC is currently conducting a Winter Coat Drive and we are hoping to collect as many coats as possible, in all sizes, to donate to Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda.

Sadly, many people across Melbourne are doing it tough this winter, including individuals experiencing homelessness and families living in cars. Sacred Heart Mission will distribute these coats to those in need to help keep them warm during the colder months.

We encourage all families to support our SRC and those less fortunate than ourselves. In doing so, we live out the spirit of St Mary MacKillop:

"Never see a need without doing something about it."



Please bring all donations to the front office foyer

Mother's Day Breakfast



CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of our school community, we warmly congratulate our School Nurse, Erin Abson, on her recent sporting achievements. Erin's dedication, perseverance and commitment are truly inspiring, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate her success. We commend Erin for the outstanding example she sets for our students and community, and we wish her every continued success in the future. Well Done Erin!

Erin was awarded Gold in the Masters Swimming Australia , Australian National Championship Short Course Brisbane 2026.



100 Breaststroke Australian National Champion



200 Breaststroke Australian National Champion.



400 Free and 3.07 Second PB.



200 Free and 4.70 second PB.



800 Free and 20.08 second PB.



50m breaststroke

7th 100 m Free and 1.77 second PB.

10th 50m Free. A fantastic week.



YEAR ONE EXCURSION TO RIPPON LEA ESTATE

On Wednesday the 29th of April, the Year 1 students went on an excursion to Rippon Lea Estate. During their visit, they explored what life was like in the past and learned how family roles have changed over time.

Students went on a tour of the 1800s mansion at Rippon Lea.



Students explored the beautiful gardens and scenery at Rippon Lea Estate and took part in a fun hunt to find the creature stamps.

The Year 1s played 'Old Fashioned Games' such as croquet, quoits, skipping, sack races and more.



They took on the role of servants for the day and experienced washing clothes the old-fashioned way using a washboard and tub.

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Our Community Picnic in the last week of Term 1 was a wonderful celebration of togetherness, bringing many of our families onto the school grounds. The afternoon was filled with cheer, laughter, and plenty of smiling faces as our community connected in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. It was especially lovely to see so many families taking the opportunity to visit classrooms, giving children a chance to proudly share their learning spaces. Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts by grabbing a snag or an icy pole—your support is truly appreciated. A big shout-out also to a large number of our staff who were part of the organisation of this event. Events like this highlight the strong sense of community that makes our school so special.



EASTER CELEBRATION

We thank our school community for joining us in such large numbers to celebrate the great season of Easter! Thank you to all who helped make this a special day of celebration.

- The Faith and Mission Leaders led us in prayer and facilitated the Easter Parade
- The Choir led us in prayerful reflection with the song, “An Easter Hallelujah”
- The Prep children and Choir led us in celebration of the Easter Season with an upbeat “Hallelujah”
- Each year level showed off their marvellous hat, art and hair creations in the Easter Parade
- A lucky child from each class won the class raffle and got to take home a basket of Easter goodies, thanks to so many generous donations. More than \$1000 was raised in raffle ticket sales. Well done!



Easter Raffle Prizes and Winners



Thank you to all of our families who made it out to pray and celebrate with us!

EASTER CELEBRATION





MARIAN COLLEGE



Year 7, 2028 Enrolments Now Open

STRONG FUTURES

gentle hearts



03 9363 1711



mariancollegesw



Marian College
Sunshine West



196 Glengala Road,
Sunshine West, Vic, 3020



Mariansw.catholic.edu.au



@mariancollegesw

Please visit our website for
enrolment information or
scan the QR code



MARIAN COLLEGE

Twilight Open Evening

Thursday May 28

4:00 PM – 6:30PM



Join us for a tour, connect with our dedicated staff and students,
and experience the energy of our thriving learning community.
Discover the opportunities that make Marian College a place
where strong futures truly begin.

BOOK NOW



STRONG FUTURES
gentle hearts

FREE GYMNASTICS TRIAL

CLASSES AVAILABLE
FOR CHILDREN
AGED 2-14 YEARS
OLD



4/12 Malcom Court,
Kealba



Gymnastics Unlimited
Australia



Gymnastics Unlimited
Australia



vladgym1@gmail.com



0410 651 155



Free Kit valued at \$99 if signed
up before 30/5/26

FASTTRACK FOOTBALL

COACHING



Contact
Fasttrackfootballcoaching@gmail.com
www.Fasttrackfootballcoaching.com.au

Spring Side West
Secondary School
70 City Vista CRT
Fraser Rise

Term cost \$280

Coach Paul
0439895406

Coach Lloyd
0435710250



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 2

Monday 11 May

2027 Prep New Family Interviews commence

Wednesday 20 May

Holy Communion Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

Tuesday 26 May

School Review

Thursday 28 May

School Review

Friday 29 May

2027 Prep Letter of Acceptance due

Saturday 30 May

Sacrament of 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

TERM 3

Tuesday 15 July, Wednesday 16 July and Thursday 23 July

Teeth on Wheels-details soon

Monday 20 July

Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30pm to 6.00pm

Wednesday 22 July

Parent Teacher Conversations 1.00pm to 6.00pm

Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July

Book Fair

Monday 24 August to Monday 31 August

Book Week and Parade

Friday 18 September

End of Term 3 Students finish @ 1pm