

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Vic 3038  
[www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au)  
T: 03 9367 6199



## *Staying Connected No. 11* *25 May, 2026*

Dear Community,

Yesterday we celebrated the great **Feast of Pentecost**; we are reminded of the moment the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, filling them with courage, hope, and the strength to go out and change the world in the name of Jesus.

We are also called to go out with hope, courage and strength and change the lives of those around us in the name of Jesus.

Recently, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that **“the Holy Spirit calls us not to live in fear, but to become people of hope, compassion, and action for others.”** These words echo beautifully the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop, who lived her life guided by faith and trust in God’s presence, especially during challenging times. Mary’s famous words, **“Never see a need without doing something about it,”** continue to inspire our community to live the message of Pentecost each day; opening our hearts to others, acting with courage, and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide all we do.

This week, St. Mary MacKillop Primary School will participate in our Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Review process. School Reviews take place every four years and provide an important opportunity to reflect on our strengths, celebrate the wonderful work happening across our school, and identify opportunities for continued growth and improvement. Throughout the week, our reviewer, Mr. Stephen Russell will spend time visiting classrooms, speaking with staff, students, and members of our community, and learning more about the vibrant culture of faith, learning, and wellbeing that exists at St. Mary MacKillop. We thank our staff, students, and families for their ongoing support and commitment to making our school such a positive and flourishing community.

Have a great week everybody.

**Anthony McCluskey**  
**Principal**

## PARENT TEACHER CHILD CONVERSATIONS

We have been reflecting on the way we currently conduct Parent Teacher Conversations and considering how we might further strengthen the process for students, families, and staff.

To this end, we are proposing that Parent Teacher Child Conversations will be held on **Monday 20 July, between 8:30 am-6:00 pm, as a student-free day.** We will be offering a hybrid model, allowing families to choose between attending conversations in person or online.

This approach would provide families with greater flexibility to engage in conversations at a time most convenient to them, whilst also enabling teachers to meet with families across the course of the day in a more flexible, purposeful, and meaningful manner. We believe this model has the potential to strengthen engagement, improve accessibility, and support more authentic partnerships between home and school.

Our intention is to create conversations that more actively involve students in discussing their learning, progress, strengths, and future goals.

Teachers may invite students into the conversation through reflective prompts such as:

- What is something you are proud of learning this year, and why?
- What helps you learn best in the classroom?
- What is something you would like to improve in or learn more about next?

We believe this approach has the potential to strengthen student voice, deepen family engagement, and make the conversations more authentic and learning-focused.

**Reports will be forwarded home on Friday 26 June and the Parent Teacher Child Conversations will take place on Monday 20 July, between 8:30 am-6:00 pm.**

## PRINCIPAL AWARD



## WINTER COAT DRIVE

There is no exact live figure for how many families are currently living in cars across Melbourne, because many cases are part of what agencies call “hidden homelessness.” However, homelessness organisations and Victorian housing agencies report that the number is growing significantly due to the housing and rental crisis.

Recent Victorian data suggests more than 30,000 Victorians are experiencing homelessness on any given night, with many families sleeping in cars, couch surfing, or living in temporary accommodation.

The City of Melbourne has acknowledged that many women, children, and families are now “sleeping in their cars” as part of the hidden homelessness crisis.

National homelessness agencies also report that requests for help have risen sharply in recent years, driven by soaring rents, family violence, and cost-of-living pressures.

SO...

**A heartfelt thank you** to all the families who have already supported our Winter Coat Drive by donating coats and jackets. Your generosity and kindness will make a real difference to people doing it tough during the cold winter months. We have been overwhelmed by the response so far; however, we are still hoping to collect even more coats in all sizes, especially adult sizes, for those in need through Sacred Heart Mission. If you have any spare coats at home that are no longer needed, please consider donating them. Together, we are truly living the spirit of Saint Mary MacKillop by *seeing “a need and doing something about it”*.



Please bring all donations to the front office foyer

# Exciting News!



## Dental visits coming to our school!



**TeethOnWheels®**  
a positive dental experience

### Oral Health Educational Program!

We're excited to share that Teeth on Wheels will be visiting your school. They'll be providing on-site dental education along with complete dental care for our students, including check-ups, cleans and all required treatment during the school day.

**With government assistance, your child may qualify for FREE DENTAL CARE.**

Sign up today to find out more!

We are committed to making oral health education both accessible and enjoyable for everyone involved!

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**2027**

## **Academic Scholarship Program**

*Year 10 students are encouraged to apply  
for a 2027 Academic Scholarship.*

*Examinations will be held on  
Saturday 13 June 2026, 8:30am  
at Catholic Regional College Sydenham*



ENROL NOW



REGISTER NOW FOR A 2027  
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



BOOK A  
COLLEGE TOUR

*Every Student  
Every Pathway*

**Catholic and  
Non-Catholic  
places available**



# 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**  
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0410 651 155



Free Kit valued at \$99 if signed  
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# FASTTRACK FOOTBALL

## COACHING

Contact  
[Fasttrackfootballcoaching@gmail.com](mailto:Fasttrackfootballcoaching@gmail.com)  
[www.Fasttrackfootballcoaching.com.au](http://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

**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 - SCHOOL CLOSURE**

Parent Teacher Conversations-8.30am 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