

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



Staying Connected No.12, 05 June, 2026

Celebrating Our School Community

As a school community, we have much for which to be grateful.

Over the past few weeks, St Mary MacKillop Primary School has participated in a Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) School Improvement Framework Review. This review occurs every four years and provides an opportunity to reflect on our strengths, celebrate our achievements and identify opportunities for continued growth.

I am delighted to share that the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.

Our reviewer, Stephen Russell, spent time in classrooms, met with staff, students and parents, and examined a wide range of evidence relating to teaching, learning, wellbeing, leadership and faith formation. Following this process, he assessed our school more highly than we had assessed ourselves. He noted that the evidence supporting our work was clearly visible and described St Mary MacKillop as a high-performing school.

Among the many positive observations made during the review, three words stood out:

Relationships • Care • Love

These words were consistently raised by parents, staff and students during focus groups and conversations. More importantly, the reviewer witnessed these qualities in action throughout the school. As a Catholic community inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop, this affirmation is particularly meaningful.

The review identified many strengths within our school, including:

- A positive and engaging learning culture.
- Strong and respectful relationships between students, families and staff.
- A safe, calm and orderly learning environment.
- High-quality teaching and learning programs that are improving student outcomes.
- An inclusive and welcoming community where every child is known and valued.
- A strong Catholic identity, guided by the charism of Saint Mary MacKillop and our school values.
- A deliberate focus on student wellbeing and engagement.

Effective support structures that cater for the diverse needs of learners.
A commitment to continually improving teaching practice through professional learning and collaboration.

We are immensely proud of these findings, as they reflect the collective efforts of our staff, students and families. The review confirmed that St Mary MacKillop is a place where children are encouraged to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

While the final report is still being prepared, the recommendations provided thus far focus largely on continuing to build upon the many strengths already evident in our school. This is encouraging feedback and affirms that we are heading in the right direction.

I would like to sincerely thank our parents and carers who participated in the review process. Your feedback, support and partnership play a vital role in shaping our school community. I am deeply appreciative.

Sharing Our Practice

Last week, we were also proud to host teachers, Principals and MACS staff from across the region as part of the Flourishing Learners Improvement Network (FLIN). Visitors spent time in classrooms observing Mathematics teaching and learning practices.

The feedback received was extremely positive, with many visitors commenting on the quality of teaching, the engagement of our students and the welcoming culture of our school. We are grateful to our staff and students who proudly showcased the wonderful learning taking place each day.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our Year 3 students who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday.

This is a significant milestone in the faith journey of our children and families. We thank Natalie Mulford, Monsignor Portelli, Fr. Vin and Fr. James, our Year 3 teachers, school staff and families for their support and preparation of the children for this special sacrament.

The reverence, enthusiasm and joy shown by the children were wonderful to witness, and we congratulate them on this important step in their faith development.

As we reflect on these recent events, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to belong to such a caring, faith-filled and supportive community. Together, we continue to live our school theme of "**Pray, Trust, Act**", ensuring that every child is known, valued and inspired to flourish.

We really do, "***Never see a need without do something about it.***"

Go well 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



Grade 2's

Werribee Zoo Adventure



Our Grade 2 students had such an exciting day at the Werribee Zoo! The students enjoyed exploring the open range zoo and learning about many amazing animals from Australia and around the world.

We had a chance to see some kangaroos, wallabies, giraffes, zebras, emu's, gazelles and lots of other Australian animals. The students loved getting up close to the animals and discovering interesting facts about them.

We even had a chance to jump on the safari bus where we saw so many more amazing animals up close.

It was a fantastic day filled with learning, fun and lots of smiles.



Preps First Visit to Mass with their Buddies



YEAR 5 SACRAMENT REFLECTION DAY

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE



The children spent the day exploring how we can be Eucharist people.

At the Heritage Centre, they listened to the story of Mary MacKillop and how she came to love the Eucharist through her family. They engaged in tasks related to the Eucharist, handling sacred objects related to Eucharist, and recognising and naming symbols of the Eucharist. Children also participated in a tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Museum, where they learned of the lived experience of Gospel values of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph.



They engaged in a Godly Play lesson, considering how Jesus calls us to feed our souls through the Eucharist. They also tried the unconsecrated host for the first time.



The children explored St Patrick's Cathedral, looking at its structure, significance to the Church in Melbourne, its sculptures, and impressive craft and artwork. 3 Yellow were fortunate enough to attend Mass!

Have a look at our pictures!



YEAR 5 SACRAMENT REFLECTION DAY ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



YEAR 5 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS!



The Bishop Visits Year 6

On Tuesday, 2 June, Bishop Martin Ashe visited the Year 6 students as part of their learning about and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

During his conversation with the students, Bishop Martin spoke about God the Father, the Creator; Jesus, the Son, who was sent to dwell among us; and the Holy Spirit, the love shared between God and Jesus and given to all people.

Through stories of Jesus' ministry and service, Bishop Martin highlighted how Jesus shared God's love with others and fulfilled His mission of proclaiming the Word of God through both words and actions.

The students discussed how the Fruits of the Holy Spirit help them to live as Jesus taught us to live. They learned that Confirmation is a celebration of the Holy Spirit becoming more deeply present in their lives and that the Holy Spirit can guide and strengthen them to make a positive difference in the world.

The students were excited to ask Bishop Martin many thoughtful questions. He was impressed by their depth of thinking and genuine interest in living a life of faith. Some of the questions they asked included:

- What made you want God in your life?
- Who was your Confirmation saint?
- What is your favourite parable?
- What is your favourite book of the Bible?
- What is your favourite passage or verse from the Bible?
- What is your favourite prayer?



SRC Initiative

Thursday 11th June



Wear red to support children of war!



Bring a generous donation for

Caritas Emergency Action Alliance

Don't Miss Out



Complete your form today!



TeethOnWheels®
a positive dental experience

The Importance of Early Dental Visits

Regular 6-monthly dental check-ups play a big role in keeping children's teeth and gums healthy as they grow. These visits help children stay familiar with the dental environment, build confidence, and reduce anxiety over time. Checking in twice a year also means we can catch any concerns early, provide personalised care, and guide children in developing strong, long-term oral health habits. Keeping up with 6-monthly visits is one of the simplest and most effective ways to support your child's healthy smile.

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

Our Dental Services Include:

- ✓ Check up
- ✓ Professional Cleans
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Fluoride Treatments
- ✓ Preventative Sealants
- ✓ Fillings



Phone : (03) 93381191 **Email:** info@teethonwheels.com.au

2026 HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Tuesday 5 May, the years 4, 5, and 6 students travelled to Keilor Athletics Track to compete for House Points at the House Athletics Carnival.

Students competed in their age groups for points at events including hurdles, 100m sprint, 200m sprint, discus, shot put, high jump, and long jump. There were also bonus points given out for the best team spirit, cleanest house area, and best dressed.

The students showed amazing sportsmanship and team work throughout the day, impressing the teachers and parent helpers.

Thank you to all the staff and parent helpers who made the day run smoothly.

Thank you to the House Leaders for your leadership and inspiration on the day.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BLUE HOUSE who won the trophy on the day!



Choose
Great

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE SYDENHAM
The Senior Secondary Specialists



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**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 2

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

Monday 13 July

Term 3 commences

Tuesday 15 July, Wednesday 16 July and Thursday 23 July

Teeth on Wheels

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