

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



Staying Connected No.15. 04 August 2026

Hello Everyone,

I trust everyone is going well.

Many of you may already know that our beloved Parish Priest; **Monsignor Portelli is leaving our parish after 26 years. Monsignor has been appointed to the senior position of Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral.** We are absolutely delighted for him and celebrate this well-deserved appointment.

In saying that; I will miss him deeply, as I am sure many of you will also miss him. He has been a great 'boss', colleague, support, pastoral minister and friend to many.

Monsignor Charles Portelli is an exceptional priest whose deep faith, pastoral wisdom and genuine love for people have enriched our parish and school community in countless ways. He celebrates the liturgy with reverence, grace and remarkable finesse; creating worship that is both prayerful and deeply engaging. Every Mass is prepared with care, dignity and attention to detail, drawing people into a meaningful encounter with Christ in the extraordinarily beautiful church which he created.

His warmth, humility and gentle manner enable people of all ages to feel welcome and valued. Whether celebrating the Eucharist, leading the Sacraments, or simply sharing time with parishioners and students; Monsignor has a unique gift for making each person feel seen and respected. His homilies are thoughtful, relevant and inspiring, bringing the Scriptures to life with wisdom, compassion and hope.

Our children especially benefit from his presence. His partnership with our school is one of our greatest blessings, strengthening the connection between parish, school and family.

Monsignor leads not only through his words but through his example. His quiet humility, unwavering commitment to the Gospel and genuine care for others, reflect the very heart of Christ's ministry. We are deeply grateful for his faithful service, leadership and for the blessing he has been to the St Mary MacKillop School Community and the Parish of St. Mary of the Assumption.

There will be opportunities to farewell Monsignor;

On **Friday 7 August**, the Feast of St. Mary MacKillop, Monsignor will celebrate his final school Mass with us at 12 Midday. All are welcome.

On **Sunday 23 August**, the parish will farewell Monsignor at the 5:30pm Mass followed by a gathering in the School Hall. All are welcome. See Flyer.

And Good Luck to our Girls Soccer Team who are playing in the District Finals today.

Have a great week one and all and remember,

‘God will take care of you.’ (St. Mary MacKillop 1874)

Anthony

PRINCIPAL AWARD



PBL Mascot Competition

Towards the end of Term 2, we began an exciting journey to find our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Mascot. Students from across the school were invited to design a mascot that reflected our four school values—Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Resilience—and represented the spirit of our St Mary MacKillop community.

It was wonderful to see so many students embrace the challenge, using their creativity and imagination to produce an incredible range of thoughtful and inspiring designs. We were thrilled by the enthusiasm shown and the high quality of the entries received.

At the end of Term 2, our Student Representative Council (SRC) and PBL Team had the difficult task of shortlisting the entries. To ensure every part of our school was represented, at least one design from each year level, from Prep to Grade 6, was included in the final selection.

At the beginning of this term, students, staff and families were invited to vote for the mascot they believed best represented Positive Behaviour for Learning at St Mary MacKillop Primary School. The response from our community was fantastic, and after all the votes were counted, we were delighted to announce the winning design at our school assembly on Monday morning.

Congratulations to **James Mifsud**, whose outstanding kookaburra design was selected as our official PBL Mascot. James' mascot will proudly represent our school's commitment to fostering a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment where our values of Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Resilience are taught, modelled and celebrated every day.

We extend our sincere congratulations to James on this wonderful achievement and thank every student who entered the competition. Your creativity, effort and school spirit made this such a memorable experience, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who participated.





We saw so many animals at Werribee zoo!

Prep Zoo excursion

Now we are wondering ...

What features do animals share?
What is in their habitat?
Why do we need to look after the animals?



WATERGARDENS SHOP FOR YOUR SCHOOL PROMOTION

Once again the Watergardens Shop For Your School Promotion is here!

Last year we managed to raise a substantial amount of money for our school, this year we hope to go even bigger! All funds raised will continue to contribute to our improvements and upgrades of our school grounds and facilities.

We want to win a share in the \$25,000 prize money on offer, and we need your help!

From the 3rd of August to the 13th of September, every purchase made at participating retailers in The Marketplace* Watergardens counts.

Please use the QR code here to register or else head to:

<https://watergardens.gicre.com/promotions/shop-for-your-school-2026/>



Enter your details and start uploading points directly to **St. Mary MacKillop PS**

Plus, to thank you for your support you'll go into the draw to win incredible prizes including a \$500 Watergardens gift card!



GRADE 5 IMMERSION PROGRAM TERM 3 @ CRCNK



Food Technology

Sport

Science

This fun and engaging program runs over 3 consecutive Thursdays:

 **27 August | 3 September | 10 September**

 **3:45pm – 5:00pm**

**Students must attend all 3 sessions. Parent/carer attendance required (includes Leadership presentations).*

- ✓ Hands-on sessions with our staff & student leaders
- ✓ Explore high school subjects in a fun, supportive environment
- ✓ Gain real insight into student life at CRCNK



Places are limited – register via our College website today!

 www.crcnk.vic.edu.au

 1C Santa Monica Drive North Keilor

 9361 5900

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 3

Tuesday 4 August

100 days of Prep 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Friday 7 August

St Mary MacKillop Feast Day Mass at 12pm

Friday 14 August

Feast of the Assumption-whole school Liturgy at 2.30pm

Monday 24 August to Monday 31 August

Book Week

Monday 31 August

Book Parade @ 9.00am in hall

Thursday 3 September

Father's Day Stall

Friday 4 September

Father's Day Stall and
Father's Day Breakfast-more details soon

Sunday 6 September

Father's Day

Friday 18 September

End of Term 3 Students finish @ 1pm

TERM 4

Monday 5 October

Term 4 commences

Monday 19 October

School Closure Day-Staff Faith Formation

Monday 26 October to Wednesday 28 October

Year 5 Camp

Tuesday 27 October to Thursday 29 October

Year 6 Camp

Monday 2 November

School Closure Day

Tuesday 3 November

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Wednesday 4 November and Thursday 5 November

Prep 2027 Stay and Play-Session 1 9.15am to 10.15am

Monday 9 November to Wednesday 11 November

Year 4 Camp

Wednesday 11 November and Thursday 12 November

Prep 2027 Stay and Play-Session 2 9.15am to 10.15am

Thursday 26 November

Prep 2027 Meet the Teacher 9.15am to 10.15am

More dates soon.....