ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 20, 06 November 2026

The Value of School Camps

Last week, our Year 5 and Year 6 students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in their respective school camps, with Year 5 travelling to Lorne and Year 6 making the journey to Sydney. From all reports, both camps were a tremendous success, providing our children with experiences, opportunities and memories that will remain with them for many years to come.

School camps and the enormous benefits they bring to the lives of young people; particularly those in the senior classes. While learning in the classroom is critically important, there is something quite special about learning beyond the school gates. Camps provide opportunities for children to develop **independence, resilience, confidence, friendships and a greater sense of responsibility.** They learn to look after themselves, support one another, overcome challenges and, importantly, appreciate the value of being part of a community.

For some children, being away from home and familiar routines can be quite challenging. Yet it is often through these experiences that we see the greatest personal growth. We see children step outside their comfort zones, try something new, overcome their fears and discover that they are capable of more than they imagined. We also see wonderful acts of kindness, encouragement and friendship that reflect so much of what we value at St Mary MacKillop Primary School.

I also acknowledge our parents for placing their trust in us and supporting these opportunities. We never take lightly the responsibility of caring for your children away from home.

At St Mary MacKillop, we often speak about the importance of **relationships, care and love** being at the heart of all that we do. School camps are a wonderful example of these values in action. They remind us that education is about far more than academic achievement. It is about helping young people grow into confident, compassionate and capable individuals who care for themselves, for others and for the world around them.

Our school theme this year, **'Pray, Trust, Act,'** is also beautifully reflected in these experiences. Our children learn to trust in themselves, place their trust in others and act with kindness, courage and consideration.

I trust our children will look back on these experiences with great affection in the years ahead. They are an important part of what makes school life so special.

Having accompanied our Year 6 students to Sydney, I witnessed firsthand the joy, excitement and enthusiasm of our children as they experienced so much together. It was a privilege to share this journey with them. These are the experiences that help shape childhood and create lasting memories.

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

Next week, our Year 4 students will have their turn to experience the excitement and adventure of school camp as they head off to Mt Evelyn. For many of these children, this will be an important opportunity to develop greater independence, build confidence, strengthen friendships and experience the joys and challenges of being away from home. I trust they will embrace the many opportunities that camp provides, try new things, support one another and, above all, have a wonderful time. I am sure there will be plenty of stories to share when they return! We wish everyone a safe, enjoyable and memorable camp.

I particularly want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the teachers and staff who accompanied our children on both camps and will accompany the Year 4 children next week. School camps simply would not happen without their generosity, commitment and goodwill. It is important that parents understand that attending camp is far more than simply accompanying children on an excursion. Our teachers take on a responsibility that is effectively **24 hours a day**, caring for the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of every child in their care. There are long days, interrupted nights, homesick children, and unexpected challenges. It can be demanding and exhausting work, yet our staff willingly undertake this responsibility because they recognise the value of these experiences for our children.
Go well,

Anthony

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

2027

We are busy planning for 2027. We need to know if any families in Prep-Year 5 are leaving us as at the end of this school year.
Could you please email Anthony D'Amico @ adamico@mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au
as soon as possible as the teachers are busy working on classes for next year. Thank you for your support.

Any unwanted picture story books looking for a new home?

A catholic primary school in Papua New Guinea lost all but 10 books due to a recent flood which caused considerable damage to the town. If you would like to contribute any picture story books or a novel or two for these students to use, I will ensure that they are delivered to the school before early December. A box will be left in the foyer for all donations. Thanks very much to those who have already contributed. **Thanks Jennie Monaghan**



PBL News!

This term, we are introducing a new **Acknowledgement System** at St Mary MacKillop! This is a way for us to notice, celebrate and reward students who are showing our school values and demonstrating the expected behaviours from our PBL Matrix. When students show Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Resilience, teachers and staff may acknowledge them for making a great choice!

Students might be recognised for:

- ⭐ Showing kindness and respect to others
- ⭐ Taking responsibility for their learning and belongings
- ⭐ Making safe choices
- ⭐ Staying calm and trying their best when things are tricky

We want to catch students doing the right thing and celebrate the positive choices they make each day!

Acknowledgement Cards

When students show a PBL expectation, a staff member may notice and acknowledge them. They may then receive an Acknowledgement Card which has their name, class and the PBL expectation they showed. They then take this card and place it into the PBL Box in their classroom.



PBL Weekly Rewards



At the end of each week, two students from each class are randomly picked from the PBL Tub. They will get a PBL certificate and be able to select a prize from the prize grid. All tickets will also go into the draw to win a special lunch with the Principal in Week 10. Two students from each year level will receive this prize.

PBL Whole School Reward



At the beginning of each term, the SRC and PBL Leader will work together to decide on a whole school reward. Everyone will be told what the whole-school reward is that we are working towards. At the end of each week all PBL Acknowledgement Cards are brought to the front office and are added to the whole school reward container. As a school, students will work together towards a goal. When we reach our goal, the whole school will be rewarded.

Celebrating Our Positive Behaviour

At St Mary MacKillop, we are committed to recognising and celebrating students who demonstrate our school values of **Respect, Responsibility, Safety** and **Resilience.**

Through our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) acknowledgement system, staff will recognise students who demonstrate the expected behaviours outlined in our PBL Matrix. This provides opportunities to celebrate positive choices, reinforce our shared expectations and encourage students to consistently demonstrate these values in their everyday interactions and learning.

By recognising and acknowledging positive behaviours, we aim to foster a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment where every student feels valued and encouraged to do their best.



SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER

Wearing the correct school uniform helps students show pride in St Mary MacKillop and feel a sense of belonging to our school community. It promotes a sense of equality, minimises distractions and helps students focus on learning. Wearing the correct uniform also supports student safety, as students can be easily identified as members of our school.

By ensuring children wear their uniform correctly each day, families help reinforce our school value of Responsibility and support students to be ready for learning and actively participate in our school community.

Please see below some images of students in the correct summer uniform, Sports uniform and some general reminders about our Unifrom Poilcy.

I wear my summer uniform in Term 1 and 4.

School dress

White socks

Black shoes





Short sleeve blue shirt

Grey shorts

Grey socks

Black shoes



Sports Uniform:
School polo top with house colour strips
- red
- yellow
- blue
- green

Navy blue school shorts or navy tracksuit pants

Sneakers



I wear my sports uniform on Sports and Performing Arts day.

UNIFORM POLICY REMINDER

Hats: As part of our Sunsmart Policy all students are required to wear a school hat during Term 1 & 4.

Jewellery: The only permissible ear jewellery is a single stud or sleeper in pierced ears. This applies to both girls and boys and will be strictly enforced. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, plus watches are the only acceptable jewellery (as well as jewellery of religious or cultural significance).

Bike Shorts / Leggings: Bike shorts may be worn underneath school dresses or shorts for comfort and coverage but are not part of the official school uniform and should not be visible. Leggings are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school.

Nails and Makeup: For student safety, nails must be kept short. Only clear nail polish is permitted; press-on nails, nail extensions and makeup are not allowed at school. We also encourage families to apply sunscreen to help protect students' skin.


VICTORIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAGUE
TERM 4 2026
PLAY WITH YOUR SCHOOL PLAYERS IN TERM 4!
JOIN OUR FUN & COMPETITIVE SATURDAY LEAGUE COMPETITION
More Than A Game
Three Skill Divisions
Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced divisions for every experience level
Competitive Matches
Weekly matches with professional referees and match management
Term 4 Season
Saturday matches at Manningham Reserve throughout Term 4
Finals for All
Every team plays at least one final, ensuring all players receive medals
Choose Your Division
Three divisions designed for every skill level, from brand new players to experienced competitors.
B
Beginner
Prep, Grade 1
Finals: 2 × 20 min halves
I
Intermediate
Grade 2 & 3
Finals: 2 × 20 min halves
A
Advanced
Grade 4, 5 & 6
Finals: 2 × 20 min halves
Match Location
Manningham Reserve, 80 Manningham St, Parkville, VIC, 3052
Every Saturday during Term 4
VICTORIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAGUE
MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION VIA THE QR CODE. ONCE REGISTERED, WE WILL CREATE AND ORGANISE YOUR TEAM!
School Players Stronger Together


TAYLORS LAKES CRICKET CLUB
GIRLS CRICKET!
HAVE A GO. MAKE FRIENDS. HAVE FUN!
Taylors Lakes Cricket Club is calling out girls aged 9-12 who are interested in playing cricket!
Whether you're new to the game or have played before, come and be part of a supportive and welcoming club.
A GREAT ENVIRONMENT BUILDING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE
WHY PLAY AT TLCC?
DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS
Coaching and support to help you learn and grow.
MAKE FRIENDS
Be part of a fun, inclusive and team-focused environment.
BUILD CONFIDENCE
Encouraging girls to challenge themselves and try something new.
PATHWAYS TO PLAY
Opportunities to continue and progress in cricket.
TEAM SPIRIT. GREAT MEMORIES. PLAY CRICKET!
WHO?
Girls aged 9-12
WHEN?
Season commences October 2026
WHERE?
Taylors Lakes Cricket Club
Lionheart Reserve,
36 Lionheart Avenue
Taylors Lakes Vic 3038
COME GIVE CRICKET A GO!
FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIPS FOR LIFE
INTERESTED?
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
tlccjuniors@tlsc.asn.au
www.taylorslakescricketclub.com.au
Taylors Lakes Cricket Club
CLUB
FAMILY
PURPOSE

KEILOR PARK DEVILS JUNIOR FOOTBALL

EST. 1975 DEVILS KEILOR PARK

UNDER 8s REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2027!

REGISTER NOW

ONLY

$49

ONE LOW PRICE

BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL



WHY JOIN KEILOR PARK DEVILS?

- AUSKICK TO JUNIOR FOOTBALL PATHWAY
- FUN, SAFE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY CLUB
- QUALIFIED & SUPPORTIVE COACHES
- MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- GREAT COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE

QUESTIONS?
juniors@keilorparkfc.com.au

COME JOIN THE DEVILS!

OR SPEAK WITH US AT OUR AUSKICK SESSIONS

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

KEILOR HOTEL
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 120 YEARS

Club Italia EST 1974

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MARIAN COLLEGE

YEAR 7 2027 INFORMATION EVENING

Join us to learn about next year's curriculum, activities and student support, meet our educators and ask any questions.

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2026
7:00PM – 8:00PM
MARIAN COLLEGE, 196 GLENGALA ROAD, SUNSHINE WEST, VIC 3020



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

TERM 4

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 19 November
Multicultural Day

Thursday 26 November
Prep 2027 Meet the Teacher- 9.15am to 10.15am

Thursday 3 December
Annual Christmas Carols @ 6.30pm

Friday 4 December
School Closure-2027 Planning Day

Friday 11 December
Year 6 guard of honour @ 12.45pm
Year 6 finish @ 1pm
Year 6 Graduation @ 7pm in the church

Tuesday 15 December
Last day of the year for Prep to Year 5-students finish @ 1pm