We welcome a new year with energy and enthusiasm, new students and families join our community, we unveil our 2017 Yearly theme and we invite parents to our first significant whole school event.

WELCOME BACK:
We have come back to school feeling refreshed, energised by new starts and new beginnings. 2017 has begun and we are very excited about what this year will bring. Welcome back!

We particularly welcome our new Reception students and their families and three other families new to our community. We are very excited to have you join us and to have chosen St Mary MacKillop School to help support and guide you and your child through their Primary years. We wish you a very blessed and life giving time with us.

We also welcome three staff. Casey Dolan has joined us as our Year 1/2 teacher for 2017. Casey has already brought a great passion and energy to our school. We welcome back both Agatka Murphy (Reception Monday-Thursday) and Annette Morphett (STEM Coordinator Thursday and Reception teacher Friday). Both have well and truly settled back in to our community after having 2016 off.

Our staff have been back at school since the beginning of last week preparing for the year ahead and undertaking some whole staff professional learning and development. Once again, the collaboration and dedication of our staff was outstanding. The year has started very smoothly and thus far the feedback from the students and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. This is in no small part due to the extensive and thorough planning and preparation that our staff undertake over their ‘holidays’.

**Parish Weekend Mass Times**
Star of the Sea, Wallaroo
Saturday 7.00pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina
Sunday 10.30am

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**Mission Statement**
Inspired by our Catholic faith and in partnership with families and our wider community, St Mary MacKillop School creates opportunities for encountering life in all its richness.
On Friday we will gather together for the first time as a whole school for our traditional Opening of the Year. We would dearly love to see as many parents and families join us for this gathering. We will begin at 9.00am in the School hall.

YEARY THEMES:
At our Prayer Gathering on Friday we will unveil our 2017 yearly themes. These are words and phrases which we will unpack and explain over the course of the year. They will form a focus for our conversations, learning and behaviour. This year our Yearly Theme is...

Honouring the Past...Creating the future (Diocesan theme)

Know Yourself and Be your Best.

We will:

Be grateful always

Discover our School Community

Dream! Fly High! Be Different!

Act in Love

MEET AND GREET NIGHT:
This year, unlike a number of previous years we have a number of teachers moving year levels. As such we only have a small number (6 year 5s) who have the same teacher as last year. Our Meet and Greet night this year therefore, is a very important one. This will take place next WEDNESDAY, 8th February, and is a great opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher and listen to a short introduction about who they are, their learning philosophies and some of the more important admin information about this year. The times for this year are:

5.00 – 5.20 – Reception Murphy and Morphett and Year 6/7 Bonney
5.20 – 5.40 – Year 1/2 Dolan
5.40 – 6.00 – Year 2/3 Owen
6.00 – 6.20 – Year 4/5 Rogers

While we understand how busy our lives are these days, it is important that at least one parent from each family attends their child’s Meet and Greet information session. We will have child care facilities available – please let Karen Westlake know via email or in person or a note in your child’s diary / take home book if you require child care.

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL LEARNING WEEKS:
We have deliberately set aside the majority of our first two weeks of school for what we call ‘Social and Emotional Learning Weeks’. These weeks are vital in setting up our year for success. Each class will develop strong codes of conduct that will guide how they work and operate this year, they will play games to connect and get to know others in the class, they will critique our Mission, Vision and Values statements and tell us what they will do to live these statements every day. This ‘learning’ although quite different to the traditional learning they will encounter through structured and timetabled lessons throughout the year, is as important as any learning they will do throughout the rest of the year. Research tells us that connected, happy and positive students grow at rates double and sometimes triple that of students who are experiencing difficulty socially and emotionally at school or home.

KIDS MATTER...FAMILIES MATTER AT ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL:
We hope that you received your ‘family homework’ task yesterday! As part of our ongoing work with the KidsMatter initiative, we are asking all families to complete a family A3 poster (provided) with details and information about who they are and what they like doing together. We will display these posters in the MPLA area as they start coming in. Thank you for taking the time to work together and complete these posters over the course of the next two weeks.
From the Principal

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN:
I hope by now you know how much I value the importance of positive family – school relationships. I have always held the opinion that when we work together in a positive way both to solve problems and help learning, then children flourish and grow. If you ever need to speak to me about any issues, concerns or questions you have or as importantly any celebrations about your child, please know I am always available for a chat, be it in person, email or via phone.

I look forward to a fantastic year together.

James Quigley

New Students

On Monday we welcomed new students in our Reception and Year 1/2 classes.

RECEPTION
Front: Jax Beal, Jordan Dunca, Eamon Chaplin, Peyton Groome, Connor Jorgensen, Swapno Das, Anatasia Banelis.

YEAR 1/2
L-R: Liam McKay, Ari Schulz, Kaysha Treacy

The St MM Parents and Friends want you!

First meeting – Tuesday, 21st February at 7.00pm in the Board room

An energetic, welcoming, fun committee which is always looking for new members. Not a lot of work – but great reward! Come along to our first meeting to find out more!

See anyone of our current committee members for more details:

Lauren Russack (Stella 2/3 and Emmett 1/2)
Sharon Steer (Jayden 6/7 and Brodie 2/3)
Kristy Frost (Connor 4/5, Mia 2/3 and Charlie 1/2)
Rachel Zimmerman (Ryan 4/5 and Brady 1/2)
Erin Blott (Charlotte 1/2 and Riley Reception)
Sam Iveson (Caitlin 1/2)
Jess Rennie (Noah 6/7 and Harry 4/5)
Jane Owen (Staff rep)
Bernie Thomson
James Quigley
Welcome to the new year at St Mary Mackillop School!

My name is Bernadette Thomson, APRIM (Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission) as well as Chaplain and Pastoral Care Support, and also a variety of other roles! I can be found in Shalom (peace), the busy little room opposite the Uniform Shop and I am available for a chat at any time of the day, unless I am in class!

We welcome back all of our school community but especially those families new to our community. We hope that joining our school community may be life-giving and blessed with God’s grace.

As a Catholic school, nurturing the spiritual, true inner self of our students is an important part of the religious dimension of our school. At the beginning of every year, there is an inspirational, spiritual focus upon which our whole school community can gather around as we become involved in developing a deeper understanding of the presence of God in our daily activities and relationships.

The major spiritual theme for our school community this year is Know Yourself – Be your Best. To deepen our understanding of and connection with this over-arching community gathering point during 2017, our point of focus, reflection and exploration for the duration of this year is...

* Be grateful always
* Discover our School Community
* Dream!
* Fly High!
* Be Different!
* Act in Love

On Tuesday morning we gathered at the far end of the MPLA for “Monday morning notices”. They will revert to Monday morning next week but remain in the new location. You might note that our positive whole school spiritual theme for 2017 is projected up on the wall so that it is in the awareness and sight of everyone.

Welcome Back Prayer Gathering and Whole School Mass:

Our families are warmly invited to join us at the Welcome Back Prayer Gathering which takes place in our hall on Friday, 3rd February at 9:00am. During this Prayer Gathering, every group which makes up our valued school community will receive a candle symbolising the light of Jesus in all aspects of our school community action. Each candle will be uniquely decorated by the class and group. This Prayer Gathering will conclude with another opportunity for a Coffee ‘n Chat to which all parents are invited - in the parent / OSHC room. Come and have a chat with our Principal, James Quigley, as well as renew old acquaintances or meet new people! Pictured are some of the families who enjoyed a coffee, chat and catch-up last Monday morning.
Also pictured are “Playgroupers” enjoying their first play together for the year. Playgroup caters for children birth-5 years for a weekly play and a lovely catch-up for the families! Everybody is welcome – come along and try!

Our first Whole School Mass, celebrating the opening of the school year while focussing on the above spiritual focus, will take place in Week 3 on Wednesday, 15th February at 9:30am in Star of the Sea Church (diagonally opposite the school), on Irwin Street. The candles which were presented to and then decorated for 2017 by each class and group within the school community will be blessed by Fr. Adrian and re-presented to each group at this Whole School Mass. The groups in our school community which are acknowledged with a candle include every class, OSHC, Playgroup, Staff, P&F and School Board. Our families, as an integral part of our school community, are warmly invited to attend.

Commissioning Mass
St Mary MacKillop School is an important part of the Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta Parish. On Sunday, 12th February, at 8:30am Mass, our staff will be commissioned by Fr. Adrian Noonan to fulfil their mission to bring the message of Jesus, the teacher of God’s love, to all parts of our parish school community at St Francis of Assisi Church, 1 Robert St Moonta, just up the hill opposite Moonta Area School! Once again, our families are warmly invited to attend the parish mass in support of our staff community.

Social and Emotional Learning – Mental Health and Wellbeing
The first two weeks of this term are devoted to the focussed development of Social and Emotional understandings, learning and practices. “We are starting the year as we intend to continue” (Mr Quigley) – as community members who know ourselves and endeavour to always do our best. This focussed learning is very closely connected with the Crossways Religious Education and the Made in the Image of God (MITIOG) curriculums which underpin the deep spiritual learning for the students – aware of God’s presence in their daily life and relationships and the deepening of awareness of who we really are as a unique person within a connected community. It also contributes to a better understanding of mental health and wellbeing. To support this intention we are an active part of KidsMatter, a government wellbeing initiative. Our current “Family Matters Wall” activity is also an important contribution to the above aims and knowing our families more deeply and sensitively.

Positive thinking, organisation and “getting along” skills are happening already. There are two soccer games successfully sharing our oval at recess and lunch! Is it because the two goalies, one for each game, are planning clever tactics?

“God’s goodness seems to speak in everything,” Mary MacKillop 1869

Best wishes for a most successful and rewarding year.

Bernie Thomson
APRIM and Chaplin (Pastoral Care Support)
Welcome to all our returning families to a new school year. And a very special warm welcome to our thirteen new families joining the St Mary MacKillop School community in 2017.

**School Fees – Term 1**

Invoices for Term 1 school fees will be **distributed in Week 2 via email** to the family email address as provided on the Student Information form. If any families would prefer invoices be sent to a different email address please advise in writing to jagnew@stmm.catholic.edu.au before Friday, 3rd February.

**Payment Terms and Payment Plans**

Payment terms are 30 days from the date of the invoice each term unless other payment arrangements have been agreed upon with the School. Families are welcome to establish a payment plan and we encourage this to commence as soon as possible to ensure all fees and levies are paid in full before the end of the school year. Please give me a call on 8823 2549 or email a request for a payment plan and I will be happy to help set up a payment schedule.

**Payment Options**

Fees can be paid via cash, cheque or directly into the school bank account:

- **BSB**: 105-020, **Account**: 102048240. Please use the unique family code (as shown in the top right corner of the invoice) if paying into the bank account.

**School Card Scheme**

Families wishing to apply for the School Card Scheme are to ensure application forms are returned to School by **Friday, 10th February (Week 3)**. Forms are available from the front office or at www.sa.gov.au. Families who qualify for the Scheme will receive a substantial reduction on the Curriculum Levy and Tuition Fees and will be exempt from the Pastoral Diocesan Formation Levy.

**Financial Difficulty**

We understand the financial pressures that families may experience. If for any reason families feel they are experiencing difficulty meeting the fee requirements of the School they are encouraged to promptly contact me or James Quigley for alternative payment arrangements, payment extension or the possibility of fee remission. Please remember we are here to support you and are more than happy to offer our assistance to work through any financial queries or issues.

*Julia Agnew*
*School Bursar*

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**Student Banking in 2017**

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is back for 2017!

The Commonwealth School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit into their Youthsaver account via School they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

A Commonwealth Bank ‘Youthsaver Account’ can be opened online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or at any Commonwealth bank branch. Information packs are also available from the Front Office.

**School Banking Day is Tuesday.**
**Vacation Care was Fantastic!**

The children had so much fun, some of the exciting days we had were, Magic Mike, Santa's Magical Village, New Year's Party, Board Games, Aqua Dome, Ice Skatina, and Colour Fun Run.

**OSHC Fundraiser**

'Stick on you' has a large range of products that you can personalise with your child's name. Great idea to label school clothing, stationery, drink bottles etc.

When at the online checkout use the code **STMARYMACKILLOPOSHC** in the fundraiser section.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask or call Lisa on 0437659137.

**OSHC hours**

3pm-6pm

**Vacation Care hours**

8am-6pm

Thank you to the families who donated toys to OSHC that they no longer needed at home. They are very much loved here at OSHC.

OSHC Committee meetings will be held twice a year in Term 1 and Term 3 on Wednesday of Week 5 at 6pm.

We are seeking new members to join us. Dinner will be provided and children are welcome. Please advise us if you can attend for catering purposes.

Thanks,
Lisa Cooper

Just a reminder if your child is booked into OSHC and not attending or is absent from school, you need to inform OSHC staff before 1pm or you may be charged. You can either call or send a TXT to 0437 659 137.
**Community News**

**THE YORKE PENINSULA VOLUNTEER BRANCH OF MAKE-A-WISH AUSTRALIA** presents **QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER** on Saturday, 11th February, from 7.00pm, at the Ardrossan Town Hall. Tickets $20.00 per person (please book in teams of 10). BYO supper. Bar available. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Jess on 0401 885 247 or our Facebook page @YPbranchmakeawish.

**WALLAROO NETBALL CLUB – 2017 REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN.** Register your interest to play for the Wallaroo Netball Club today. All players welcome for ALL grades. Interested in coaching or umpiring? Give us a call WE NEED YOU. Club House Registrations Wednesday, 15th February. 4.00pm-6.00pm Junior Grades. 6.30pm-8.00pm Senior Grades. **SENIOR TRIALS:** 1st Trial – Thursday, 21st February 6.00pm-8.00pm. 2nd Trial - Thursday, 2nd March 6.00pm-8.00pm

Contact Lyndall Neill on 0408 283 816 or email lyndave27@gmail.com

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**What's happening on the Northern Yorke Peninsula for 0-5 y.o.?**
Includes activities in Kadina, Wallaroo, Moonta, Port Broughton, Bute & Kulpara

**TERM 1 2017**

Please email bridgetjohn@bigpond.com to update or add your information.

**Monday**
- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs Ph 0419 962 968 [$]
  - St Mary Magdalen School 0-3yrs 7.30am - 8.30am
  - Fitness Class 2-4yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 688 464 [$]

- **Kadina**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Wallaroo**
  - Miners P5 Playgroup 4-9yrs 7.30am Ph 0419 245 245 [$]
  - Knitting Group 10am-11am Ph 0419 245 245 [$]

- **Moonta**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

**Tuesday**
- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Wallaroo**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Moonta**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

**Wednesday**
- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Wallaroo**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Moonta**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

**Thursday**
- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Wallaroo**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Moonta**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

**Friday**
- **Port Broughton**
  - Kindergarten Playgroup 9-2.00pm Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Wallaroo**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

- **Moonta**
  - Mini Macs Playgroup 0-3yrs 9.30am Ph 0419 962 968 [$]

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**NEWSLETTER INSERTS**

1. Consent to Use Images, Recordings, Document and/or Artwork form
2. Consent to Inspect For Head Lice form
3. Computer Use Agreement form
4. P & F Friday Lunch Menu
5. Bus Application form (if applicable)
6. Year 4/5 class note (if applicable)

If you have not received any of the above handouts, please write a note in your child’s diary for a copy to be sent home.