



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday, 14th February, 2024 (Term 1, Week 3)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

I was sharing with staff yesterday morning some reflections on the time of Lent being a time for preparation and renewal. As Christians we have so many opportunities through the grace of God to start afresh, put the past behind us and resolve to do things differently or better. Lent is one of those opportunities. Most of us would have a file of resolutions in the back of our mind. These are the ones we usually pull out on New Year's Eve or when Lent begins. Sometimes we are very fixed on our intentions or resolutions, and it takes trust to leave this in God's hands and be open to listening to and finding out what God has in mind for us. There might be some surprises.

It is hard to find stillness and quiet moments, so we must make them. Our times for staff prayer, classroom prayer and whole school meditation times are the times in our school that we set aside to do this.

Jesus said to his apostles: "Come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place and rest a little." People were coming and going in great numbers, making it impossible for them to so much as eat. So Jesus and the apostles went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. (Mark 6:1-32).

While most of us are not able to leave everything behind and head off in a boat to a quiet place, I hope that you are able to find some moments of peace, quiet and stillness to listen to the whisperings in your heart of what God has in mind for you.



IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

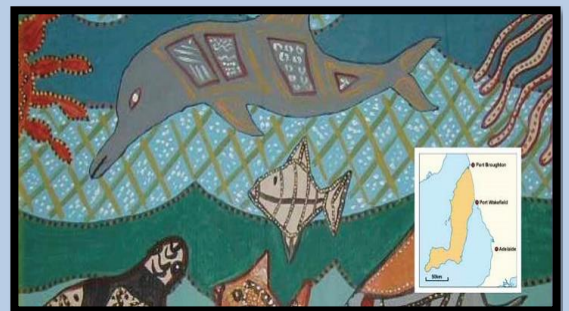
- Wed 14th Ash Wednesday
 - Meet & Greet evening 6.00pm
- Fri 16th Friday Lunches
- Tue 20th Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00am
 - Finance meeting 7.00pm
 - School Board meeting 7.30pm

MARCH

- Wed 6th Sports Day @ Wallaroo Oval
- Fri 8th Pupil Free Day (OSHC available)
- Mon 11th Public Holiday
- Tue 12th P & F AGM 7.00pm
- Tue 19th School Board AGM 7.00pm

Parish Weekend Mass – for mass times, visit:

- coppercoast@ppcatholic.org
- St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
- Sacred Heart, Kadina
- Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wallaroo
- St Margaret's, Port Broughton



In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge Nharangga Country and Australia's First Peoples as traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SPORTS DAY R-2 9.00AM – 12.40PM & 3-8 9.00AM – 2.00PM

The excitement is building towards our Sports Day which will be in three weeks time at the Wallaroo Football oval.

Included in today's Newsletter is a Sports Day Assistance, OSHC booking and Bus booking forms and some general Sports Day information. Please complete and return the forms to school no later than Friday, 23 February to assist us with our planning.

Our P & F will be selling drinks at Sports Day, volunteers to assist with selling the drinks (water, fruit box, cans) would be much appreciated.

We will have Subway lunch orders available for students (must be ordered prior to the day, order envelopes coming home later this week).

Food vans will be there on the day also selling hot foods (barbecue, donuts) and hot drinks (coffee, tea etc).

Families are most welcome to bring a picnic lunch as well.

SPORTS DAY R-2 STUDENTS DISMISSED AT LUNCH TIME (APPROX 12.40PM)

Please note that Reception – Year 2 students Sports Day events conclude at the time of the lunch break. At this time, the R-2 students are dismissed to parents or family members. They can remain at the oval, however supervision is the responsibility of the family.

This is in response to parent feedback on previous years that the whole day is too long for the younger students.

R-2 teachers will be required to assist at other events from lunch time onwards.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to House Captains who were elected by their House members:

Joseph: Mitchell and Adelaide

Tapeiner: Charlize, Trae, Eloise

MacKillop: Nevayah, Jayden, Isabelle C, Kye

Woods: Serena, Madison W, Lachlan, Bentley

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

We will have a special induction Assembly at 8.50am on Tuesday, 20th February for all students in leadership roles. This includes School Captain, House Captains and Class SRC representatives. The students will read a commitment statement, receive a commissioning blessing and their leadership badges. Parents and family members are welcome to attend the Tuesday morning Assembly.

SUPPORTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

In Week 4 on Monday, 19 February, we will host a visit by Dr Bill Rogers and Suzanne Drew.

Dr. Bill Rogers taught for many years before becoming an education consultant and author; he lectures widely on behaviour management, discipline, effective teaching, stress management and teacher welfare across the UK and Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Bill also works as a mentor-teacher, team-teaching in challenging schools. He is well aware of the challenges of teacher leadership in schools today.

Bill will be introduced to students and staff at Monday morning assembly, then throughout the day visit every classroom. Bill will spend some of break times in the yard with students.

Bill will be facilitating a staff PD session for our staff after school. This is an incredible opportunity for our school, from one of the best in this field of behaviour education.

This opportunity has been made possible through the funding Annette Morphett received with her Commonwealth Bank Teaching Award and the 12-month Teaching Fellowship. Thank you, Annette!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

NAPLAN

With today's Newsletter, parents of students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will receive a pamphlet produced by ACARA with information about the NAPLAN testing.

Students will have a practice test session on Tuesday, 27 February between 9-10am, this will include all Year 3, 5, 7 students. The practice test is an omnibus test, meaning it has samples of questions across all of the areas of testing: reading, language conventions and maths. The test is held in test conditions however teachers also have the flexibility in this time to explain to students the various tools on the computer they can use, how the questions are presented and ways they answer the questions (type in a response, choose an answer from multiple choice etc.). Teachers will continue to do writing practice in the genres of narrative and procedure with students. We do not receive any results from the practice test, the purpose is experience for the students.

The NAPLAN testing window is from 13-25 March. We have planned our main testing days for Wednesday 13, Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March with the following days available for catch up testing with students who are away.

If parents have any questions about the NAPLAN testing, I encourage you to have a conversation with your child's teacher.

Any requests for student withdrawal from NAPLAN testing are to be discussed prior to the testing commencing.

BUSES

Michael and Paul will be away towards the end of this week and Michael also beginning of next week. Following are bus driver arrangements:

Kadina - Thursday and Friday afternoons this week and Monday and Tuesday next week: James Costello

Moonta - Thursday afternoon; Friday morning and afternoon this week: Lisa Caffyn driving and Michelle navigating. Please contact the front office with any bus queries or out of hours Michelle on 0428 538 436.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Next week on Tuesday, 20th February we will have our Finance meeting at 7pm, followed by School Board at 7.30pm.

The School Board AGM which is a meeting open for all to attend, will be held on Tuesday, 19 March at 7pm.



P & F MEETINGS

Our next P & F meeting will be our AGM, this will be held on Tuesday, 12 March at 7pm in the Sacred Heart Centre. This is going to be the best meeting you have ever attended. There will be drinks and nibbles and laughter! Put aside the date, all welcome and we hope to see you there.

ICT USER AGREEMENT

At the beginning of the term, teachers have been explicitly going through the expectations around using ICT responsibly and safely with students. With the Newsletter today will be an agreement, we ask that you go through this carefully with your child/children, sign and return to commit to supporting this in our school. We are committed to providing good access to devices for students, and with this comes the responsibility to use the technology responsibly.

PERSONAL PLANS FOR LEARNING

As outlined last year, Personal Plans for Learning for students are in place for 12 months from the end of Term 1, 2023 until the end of Term 1, 2024. This is to ensure that there is not a period of time at the beginning of the year when there is not a revised plan in place. If your child was on a PPL last year in our school, this is the plan that is currently in place for your child. The only exception to this is students who are new enrolments, or they were not actually on a plan last year and the need has since evolved.

Teachers have begun the process of revising and writing new PPLs for students who require these. The aim will be to have these available for parents to discuss at the parent/teacher interviews to be held in Week 9 and 10 of this term.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PARKING

Nearby Young Street is one of the main areas for parking for school drop off and pick up. In consideration for the people who live in Young Street and everyone else who is trying to drop off and pick up children safely, please:

- Do not parallel park as this takes up much more space than is necessary
- Do not park across our neighbour's gateways and the laneway
- Do not park on the curbing where Young Street meets Bagot Street; this blocks the road and the footpath

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL

FROM THE REC



Yesterday we celebrated **Shrove Tuesday**. Shrove Tuesday is the day before the beginning of Lent – a period of around six weeks leading up to Easter. During Lent, Christians give up luxuries to remember when Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray. Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!

In the morning, we saw year 6-8 students, Ms Caffyn, Mrs Wharton, Mrs L Murphy, Mrs Smith and Mrs Griffiths shine their lights while cooking the lovely pancakes. From the photos, you can see everyone was enjoying them. Thank you again to those that donated toppings including Mrs Owen for the pancake mixture.



FROM THE REC

Today we celebrated **Ash Wednesday** at Star of the Sea church with families, parishioners and the community. We all received ashes on our forehead to remember that during Lent especially, we need to turn away from doing wrong and follow God's way.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, which also marks the beginning of the annual **Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal**. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This year, the theme is 'For All Future Generations'. This theme has been drawn from the story of the burning bush in Exodus 3:1-20.

One day, Moses's sheep wander off and he suddenly encounters a bush that is burning but not consumed. God tells Moses that he has heard the cry of his people. God responds to injustice and chooses Moses to speak to Pharaoh. Moses is scared but God promises 'I will be with you.' All the time, God remains a mystery. Moses wants more detail, so God simply says that this is the same God who has been longing for justice for the whole of history: 'By this name I shall be invoked for all future generations.'



As God called Moses, so now God calls us to work 'for all future generations.'

Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia CEO, said, "During Lent, we are invited to take up the call to fast, pray and give alms. From natural disasters to widespread conflict, the events of the past year mean that many communities need your support. Supporting Project Compassion is a way for us to proclaim the faith that is in our hearts and help our sisters and brothers in need."

Each family will receive a Project Compassion box today for their donations or you can donate online via the Caritas Australia website at: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

We ask that the Project Compassion boxes be returned in Week 10.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST SEBASTIAN

As it is sports day practices this week, learning about St Sebastian is the perfect fit.

Patron Saint: sport, athletes and soldiers

Feast Day: January 20th

Why is he a saint? Saint Sebastian shows us the power of perseverance and strength when faced with challenges. He was strong enough to recover from injuries and didn't let what happened change his faith.

During Sport Day practices and on the day, be like St Sebastian and show perseverance and strength with every event.



LITURGICAL COLOURS

If you visit a classroom or walk past the Sacred Space area, you will find the cloths have now changed to purple. The colour of the priest's vestments also change. This is because the Church uses different colours to indicate the season or feast that is being celebrated. The different colours are drawn from creation to remind those participating in a liturgy of the different blessings of God.

The following liturgical colours used in the Church's liturgy in different seasons:

- Green – Ordinary Time
- Purple – Advent and Lent



FROM THE REC

- Rose –Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Red – Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost; Feasts of Martyrs, Apostles, and Evangelists; the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Gold or White – Christmas and the Christmas Season; Holy Thursday; the Easter Season; Feasts of Our Lady; Feasts of saints who were not martyrs; Feasts of Our Lord which do not recall his Passion (Christ the King, Corpus Christi)

*As we journey through Lent with Jesus,
we can live like Jesus and get ready for his new life at Easter.*

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

LIBRARY NEWS

Student Borrowing

By now all students would have visited and borrowed from the library. Our school has a fabulous range of books and resources available to students and we encourage students borrow weekly. Please feel free to pop in and have a look around. I am always open to suggestions about books that interest the students and welcome any feedback or offers of assistance with book covering etc.

At St Mary Mackillop School we are strong supporters of the Premiers Reading Challenge and will be completing the challenge again this year. More news to follow in the coming weeks on this.

The school also has a collection of “Parent Help” Books from various authors which are available for parents / carers to borrow anytime. Parents / Carers may borrow the books under their child’s name for a two week period. A small display is located in the Atrium near the office reception desk.

Scholastic Book Club

Please find included in this week’s newsletter envelope, Issue 1 of the Scholastic Book Club Catalogue. All orders are very much appreciated as they earn reward points for the school and enable us to purchase new books for the library. If you would like to make an order please return with payment to the front office of school by Friday, 23rd February 2024, or you can order online by following the instructions on the order form.

Sharon Steer
LIBRARIAN

MINI MACS PLAYGROUP

Our Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. The group caters for children birth-5 years for a weekly play and a lovely catch-up for the families! Yesterday they joined us for Shrove Tuesday and enjoyed pancakes. Thank you to Felicity Schulz for continuing to organise our Playgroup. All welcome.



OSHC & VACATION CARE

VACATION CARE

December / January Vacation Care was filled with fun activities and excursions. The children enjoyed visiting the Blyth Cinema to watch movies, we also went to Port Pirie swimming pool where the children had hours of fun swimming and going on the water slide. We had incursion days with a biscuit decorating day and a silent Disco where the children all had headphones and danced for hours listening to a variety of music. We also had theme days at OSHC where the children joined in with the theme activities and games.

CANCELLATIONS

When cancellations are made at short notice this impacts on staffing, running costs and other families needing to use the service.

Any bookings for **OSHC** during the school term must be **cancelled seven school term days** in advance, thank you.

Any bookings for **Vacation Care** during the school holidays must be cancelled in advance **a minimum of fourteen days** during business hours.

Please phone or message the OSHC phone on 0437659137 for any bookings or cancellations. This helps immensely with knowing where students need to be and with planning staff.

Lisa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137



SCHOOL FEES

School fees are being sent today via Australia Post. Please be reminded that a 5% discount will be applied to your 2024 tuition fee if full payment is received by 1 March 2024.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Harlow – Year 1/2WP	15 th February
Armani – Year 5	18 th February
Xavier – Year 1/2WP	21 st February
Harriet – Year 3/4K	25 th February



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. ICT Agreement
2. Sports Day information
3. NAPLAN leaflets (Yr 3, 5 & 7)
4. Scholastic Book Club catalogue
5. Collection Notice for 2024 Student Residential Address and Other Information leaflet

If you have not received any of the above hand-outs, please write a note in your child's diary for a copy to be

COMMUNITY NEWS

The services and events contained in Community News are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children. Notices will be placed if time and space permits.

REGISTER for 2024

Book now

NEW Boys Only class!



**Ballet | Tap | Jazz | Creative
Musical Theatre and more...**

**Tiny Tots up to Adult Classes available
All ages welcome!**



Studio located at: 8 Taylor St Kadina

Contact us: klda@dodo.com.au

 @karen_lee_dance_academy
 Karen Lee Dance Academy

*Sports
vouchers
accepted*





Ages- from 5
up to 17

New Players
Always Welcome!

2024 SEASON STARTING SOON!

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH- REGISTRATIONS/COME AND TRY
SUNDAY 17TH MARCH- REGISTRATIONS/COME AND TRY
SUNDAY 24TH MARCH- SEASON STARTS

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/YPSOCCER
0447 231 083



Friday
16th Feb 2024

**Messy
Church**

Time:
3:15 pm - 5:30pm

A fun time
for
Families
to share
together

- Creative activities for all the family
- Meal provided
- All families Welcome
- Donation towards costs appreciated

Kadina
Uniting Church Hall

For more information
Ph 0428 218 255
Jane Gersch

WINTER COURT SPORTS



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- NOMINATIONS CLOSE 28TH MARCH
- COMPETITION STARTS WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL
- GRAND FINAL 11TH SEPTEMBER.



WINTER BASKETBALL

Interested in playing Winter Basketball at CCSLC? Why not get a team together and play this winter! If you have any questions, give us a call at the centre!

Nominations are open and forms are available from reception. All team nominations are required to be accompanied by an umpire nomination, umpires will go on our emergency umpire list. If no umpire is nominated we will not accept your nomination.

08 8821 3106
1 DOSWELL TCE KADINA
E: ccadmin@belgravialeisure.com.au
www.coppercoastslc.com.au



WINTER COURT SPORTS



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- NOMINATIONS CLOSE 28TH MARCH
- COMPETITION STARTS MONDAY 15TH APRIL
- NO GAMES 10TH JUNE.
- GRAND FINAL 9TH SEPTEMBER.



WINTER FUTSAL

Interested in playing Winter Futsal at CCSLC? Why not get a team together and play this winter! If you have any questions, give us a call at the centre!

Nominations are open and forms are available from reception. All team nominations are required to be accompanied by an umpire nomination, if you do not provide an umpire we will not accept your nomination.

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