



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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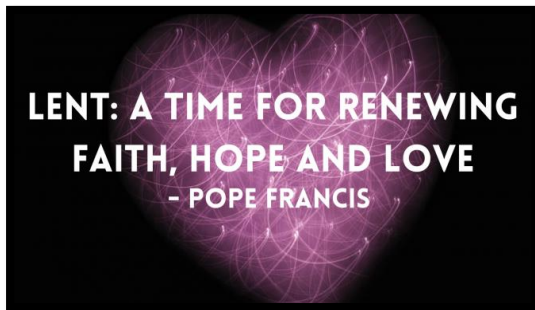
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Monday, 4th March, 2024 (Term 1, Week 6)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,



Lenten Reflection:

Religion is more about God loving me than me loving God, or loving others.

The first thing I should know is that God loves me, now, as I am.

Before doing anything else, I need simply to let myself be on the receiving end of the goodness of God.

Where in my life right now do I most need the gentle, healing touch of Jesus?

(From 'The Little Black Book')

Psalm 86:15

"But you, my Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy; you are very patient and full of faithful love."

SPORTS DAY

We have a big and exciting week coming up! Thank you in advance everyone for the way I know you will all chip in and contribute. We are looking forward to a fantastic Sports Day on Wednesday at Wallaroo Football Club oval.

Students are involved in final House meetings to practice their chant and march and organise students into their events.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- Tue 5th Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00am
- Wed 6th Sports Day @ Wallaroo Oval
- Fri 8th Pupil Free Day (OSHC available)
- Mon 11th Public Holiday
- Tue 12th P & F drinks and nibbles 6.30pm
P & F AGM 7.00pm
- Wed 13th NAPLAN testing commences
Dolphins swimming team training
- Mon 18th St Patrick's Day (wear green)
- Tue 19th St Joseph's Day (wear House top)
Mass 11.45am
School Board AGM 7.00pm
- Thu 21st Harmony Day (wear orange)
- Fri 29th Good Friday
- Sun 31st Easter Sunday

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

Today we have the long jump championship 'jump-off' at school. This championship event needs to be held here at school where we have our long jump pit. We look forward to sharing the results with you.

Please let us know if you have any questions at all about Sports Day.

Sports Day in brief:

- Students to arrive at the Wallaroo Football Club oval (between 8:35-8.45am), meet the class teacher at the House tents. Parents are to leave children at the tent and find a place to sit so that teachers are able to start getting students organised.
- Programme starts at 9.00am with House march followed by the official opening.
- 800m run is the first formal event; girls and boys will be run together, running times recorded separately.
- R-2 tabloid events are novelty games that are based on fundamental movement skills in the Australian PE curriculum.
- R-2 students will be in class groupings for tabloids.
- Year 3-8 students will be split into age groups: 9 Years, 10 Years, 11 Years, 12 Years, 13 Years, 14 Years.
- 9 Years and older tabloid events are athletic skill based and will combine tabloid style and championship events.
- There will be a shorter lunch break as the championship high jump is now part of the tabloid event structure.
- A recess break has been built into the program (tabloid events); students need to have recess with them.
- R-2 students (junior primary) will be dismissed at lunch time. Students must be dismissed by the class teacher into the care of a parent; the class teacher must complete a dismissal role.
- Year 3-8 student events continue into afternoon.
- Students MUST have their water bottles and recess on the day. Students will be advised by their teacher if they are to bring their school bags with them.
- HATS will be collected by classroom teachers on Tuesday afternoon and taken to the oval for Wednesday morning.
- Programmes sent home with this Newsletter.
- Drinks will also be available for purchase on the day; support our P & F drinks stall.
- Subway lunches for families who have pre-ordered. Kadina Lions Club will be cooking steak and onion sandwiches and sausages throughout the day. YP Donuts will also be providing food and coffee. Please bring your own lunch if you prefer.
- **Reception – Year 2 students will be dismissed to their family at 12.40pm.**
- The day will conclude at 2.00pm.

FAQS

My child is in Reception – Year 2: do they need to stay for the presentations?

No, R-2 children are dismissed into the care of their parents at lunch time. If you have a child in an older year level you may wish to stay until the end but it is your choice to stay. There is no expectation for R-2 student to be present for the presentations.

My child is in Reception – Year 2: will they still get to be part of a team game like last year?

The team game format has changed for this year. All R-2 students will take part in at least one team game (*some may be placed in more than one if team numbers are lower e.g. Joseph or if students are absent on the day another student replaces them).

All Year 3-8 students will take part in separate team games after lunch.

My child won a sprint and did not receive a ribbon – how is that fair?

In age groups where there is more than 8 boys or girls, run-offs take place prior to sports day. All students then run in a sprint race on sports day in their 'heat groupings'. We think it is important that every child gets to run a race in front of their families and peers; they run a 'fun' race with the crowd cheering them on. Students who achieve fastest times in the run-offs run in the 'championship sprints' and these championship races are timed and placegetters receive ribbons.

This is modelled on typical athletic meets that we compete in with other schools. Heats are commonplace in athletic meets as a means of determining who will run in the final. Our championship races are our finals where students are competing to break records.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

How will I know if my child is competing in a championship event such as high jump or discus?

All championship events (except for the sprints) are run for 10-year-old and up.

The 9-year-old grouping events are not championship events, once again this is modelled on athletic meets. The 9-year-old group get to build up their experience in these events.

Long jump championship is held at school prior to sports day. This is due to no long jump pit available at the Football oval.

Will the school bus run on sports day?

The Moonta and Kadina buses will not run on sports day as there were not sufficient numbers.

Will OSHC still run on sports day?

No, there were not a sufficient number of bookings to be able to offer OSHC on Wednesday afternoon.

Please remember we are a school sports day, we do our very best to run to the times in the programme, however, please allow a margin of 5-10 minutes either side of the times in the programme. We appreciate your understanding with this.

We are looking forward to a great family day!

Thank you to all volunteers who have offered their time and support on the day. Following is our list of helpers

SET UP OVAL – MORNING – 7.30am

Depledge

Maris

Crosby

More volunteers greatly appreciated

PACK UP OVAL – AFTERNOON 2.00pm

Clifford S

Maris

Liddy/Wellgreen

Miller

Wall A

Donnellan

Dennis

SERVING DRINKS

10-10.30am Crosby, Adams, Robinson

10.30-11am J Davey, Kochupurackal-Veneesh

11-11.30am Depledge, Schulz

11.30-12pm Whelan, Crawford

12-12.30pm S Clifford, Rooney/Pligl

12.30-1pm Burnell, A Wall

1-1.30pm Miller, O'Brien

1.30-2pm Rowan

SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

We have vacancies on our School Board this year. We encourage parents to consider joining the School Board. If you wish to nominate someone for School Board you must have had a conversation with them, they must be willing and available to commit and they must sign the nomination form as well.

The School Board meets twice a term, Teams is available for the occasions when members are not able to attend in person. We report on and discuss matters under Catholic Identity, Teaching and Learning, Operations and Management, Finance, ratify Policy and Procedure and continually strive for school improvement in all areas.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Following is a brief outline of what is required:

- Be available for two meetings per term (usually second Tuesday of the month)
- Be willing to contribute to the roles such as: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
- Be willing to contact school families and offer your support as a Board member (Board Buddy)
- Be willing to represent our school positively within our community and in the wider community
- Be willing to share your expertise and skills (the different skillsets parents bring enriches our Board)

I am happy to chat with anyone considering nomination for School Board, as I am sure our current Board members would be.

With today's Newsletter there is a nomination slip. Returns by Tuesday, 12th March

UNIFORM FOR WEEK 6

Monday – sport

Tuesday – formal

Wednesday – sport

Thursday – formal / sport (Rec H, Yr 1 / 2 N, Yr 5, Yr 3 / 4 W only)

REMINDER – PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that we have a pupil-free day this Friday, 8 March, to enable staff training.

P & F SOCIAL MEETING

You are invited to our next P & F meeting which will be held in the Sacred Heart Centre.

Starting at 6.30pm join us for nibbles and drinks.

We will then move into our meeting which will include the AGM at 7.00pm.

Everyone welcome, come along and enjoy a social evening.

BREAKFAST BITES

Our much beloved Breakfast Bites will return on Wednesday mornings 8.20-8.45am, with thanks to Jane Owen. I am sure students will be looking forward to BB again!

NAPLAN TESTING

NAPLAN testing commences next week on 13th March and will continue through until 25th March. We have planned testing to take place as follows:

Wednesday 13th March: Writing

Thursday 14th March: Reading and Conventions of Language

Friday 15th March: Numeracy

This will leave 18th - 22nd March for catch-up testing with students who are away on the testing days.

We wish all of our Year 3, 5 and 7 students all the best and all we ask is that they try their best!

HAPPY LONG WEEKEND

Enjoy the break over the long weekend everyone. Halfway through the term, the extra day will enable some rest, relaxation, time to get away, time with friends and family. Enjoy!

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL



FROM THE REC

On Saturday, I attended a teacher professional development looking at the Catholic Identity; Exploring the Spirit of St Mary MacKillop and the Josephite Tradition - knowledge and action for teaching today. It was at the Mary MacKillop Precinct in Kensington. Paul Murphy, the author of the book, Head, Heart, Hands, the blue book about St Mary MacKillop that we purchased last year for the staff. We looked at the book and then I had to continue reading it, making notes and ideas coming left, right and centre. Throughout the year, I will be referring to this book with staff and in the school newsletters.

This Friday is International Women's Day (8 March) and what better way to share some information about St Mary MacKillop. International Women's Day is a day for women around the globe to creatively and courageously encourage further, the growing surge for progress in the tussle for recognition and equality.

Mary MacKillop was a woman ahead of her time in caring for and promoting the care and protection of women. She continues to be an exemplar of fearless action and a strong protector of the welfare of women.

On page 53 of the book, there is a quote from Samela Harris which was in The Southern Cross in December, 2018.

Mary MacKillop, aka St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, is not just a saint, she is a feminist icon.

She was out there setting up women's refuges a century before the #metoo movement.

She was a woman who stood up for women when women were oppressed or victims of domestic violence.

She was a woman who educated girls when the system discriminated against them. She educated them in science as well as the Word of her God. She was a woman who stood up against the bullying patriarchy of the bishops and who was excommunicated for it. She was a woman who dared to go to Rome to put her cause to the Pope in person. She was a woman who rounded up other women, be they educated or lost souls, and gave them a purpose. She was a woman who wished to leave no child without an education.

While Mary MacKillop, as a social activist and inspired leader had the courage to challenge what society and the congregation in colonial Australia. Perhaps we can absorb some of this fearlessness and generate change in small ways.

Mary MacKillop possessed a quiet, determined courage and a strong belief in the dignity and equality of each person.

Mary's insight led her to a recognition of human deprivation with a great tenderness and compassion.

Women in need were dear to her heart and she fought with determination to give them a new and vital existence.

How would Mary MacKillop celebrate International Women's Day this year?

OUR SCHOOL LOGO



Did you know that our school logo is based on the original school emblem that Sr Fergus designed in 1926 for the borders and day students at St Joseph's School, Port Lincoln?

The emblem was adopted more broadly by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in other schools from then and is still used in some form with many Josephite schools today.



FROM THE REC

The emblem uses the Latin words to make a unique statement about the school's culture: In omnibus caritas: Love in everything.

The colour scheme was also significant in the design.

Gold: the Divine and human love referred to in the motto.

Blue: symbolic of Mary, the Mother of God and husband of St Joseph.

Brown: symbolises St Joseph. The word Joseph means 'growth'. The lily is often used in the emblems and in images of St Joseph, which represents integrity in life and character.

The three points at the top of the shield may be reference to St Joseph, Jesus at the centre and St John the Baptist.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST CHRISTOPHER

We looked at St Christopher a few weeks ago and as it is Sports Day on Wednesday, this is a prayer your students may want to say before the big day!

God, let me play well but fairly on Sports Day.

Help me to learn something that matters

once the game is over.

Let competition make me strong but never unfriendly.

Always let me help my opponent up.

If I know victory, allow me to be happy; if I am denied, keep me from jealousy.

Remind me that sports are just games.

If through athletics I set an example,

let it be a good one. Amen

Saint Sebastian, Patron Saint of Athletes, pray for us.

PROJECT COMPASSION

On my office window, there is a display of a tap and raindrops. These raindrops represent the money raised from the donations on Shrove Tuesday and through the Project Compassion donation boxes. The raindrops remind us, that we have clean, fresh water every day. We are fortunate to be able to turn on a tap and enjoy a drink of clean, fresh water. We can take a shower when we want and use clean water to cook with. Unfortunately, life with clean water is only a dream for some. The money we raise for Project Compassion will help some communities buy tanks so that they can collect and enjoy fresh water.



FROM THE REC

MINDFUL MARCH 2024: ACTION FOR KINDNESS CALENDAR

In the today's newsletter folder is a copy of the March copy of Action for Kindness calendar. I hope that during March, you are able to do some of these suggestions.

Fr Tenison Woods wrote in 1870 *"I see God in the flowers, in the insects, in the birds as they fly."*

When we awaken to the beauty of the world, there is a shift within us. Beauty feels contemplation. We will discover that beauty takes us beyond the ordinary to the mystical.

Give praise to the Beloved, all the earth, all that swim in the deep, and all the winged ones in the air!

Psalm 148:7,10

Have a wonderful week,

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR



MUSIC

In a world of endless distractions, how can young children learn to focus their attention? Music might hold the answer.

Have you ever been "in the zone" when you are working on something and you are so focused you lose track of everything else. Distractions are minimised and attention is maximised. This can happen when playing an instrument or singing. Being in the moment and absorbed by a task happens less in our society with so many micro-distractors.

"Music activities were found to improve children's hearing in noise as well" (Slater et al., 2015). This ability to focus has some transfer effect to other tasks. Parents, we should remember this the next time we are feeling frustrated with instrument practice at home – we are giving our children a gift of focus. Read more here - <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/feduc.2018.00074/full>

Mrs Chloe Bacher
MUSIC TEACHER



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

On Monday of Week 5, our Senior Students and House Captains participated in an excursion to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre for a leadership day run by GRIP (Generosity, Responsibility, Integrity, People).

Several sessions were run where students learnt how everyone can step forward and lead, the sacrifices of a student leader, how to come to the fore with new ideas and the extra steps a leader must take.

The students revelled in the opportunity to developing their leadership skills and participate in fun and engaging activities.

Some students were given the opportunity to showcase their unique talents and knowledge on stage. They also had numerous opportunities to talk with students from other schools and listen to their understandings of what makes a good leader as well as share their own.

My favourite part was having the chance to make loud noises! – Lucas

The presenters were very crazy and entertaining. – Jayden

I liked meeting new people from other schools and finding out things about their schools. – Neveyah

I enjoyed learning more about leadership and how to be a responsible leader in my school. – Serena



VISIT BY DR BILL ROGERS

We are fortunate to be engaging the services of Dr Bill Rogers, Education consultant, in 2024. Last Monday, Bill visited us at school and spent the day visiting teachers and students in classrooms to learn about our school and local context. At staff meeting, Bill provided staff with feedback from his observations, and presented information around the most effective behaviour management practices. We look forward to working with Dr Rogers for the remainder of this year.



OSHC NEWS

At OSHC, the children have been enjoying role playing with dress ups, babies, doctors, hairdressers, and shops. The children have been creating their own little community within the hall. Role playing has great learning opportunities for the children to extend their knowledge, have meaningful conversations with each other and have a sense of belonging with sharing and turn taking.

We are on the hunt for more dress ups- we would love any donations of recycled dress ups that are in good used condition. If you have any you can donate please bring them into OSHC.

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

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. Below are some gorgeous photos of last Tuesday's session.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Eamon – Year 3/4K	2 nd March
Eloise – Year 3/4K	6 th March
Jayden – Year 6-9	8 th March
Clair – Year 3/4K	8 th March
Mitchell – Year 6-9	12 th March



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

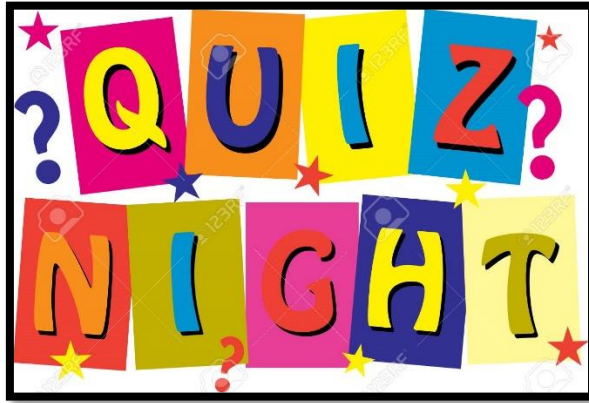
1. Sports Day Program
2. Legislative Changes to Smoke & Vape-Free Outdoor Areas
3. Mindful March 2024 calendar
4. School Board Nomination form

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 sent home.

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.

Copper Coast Table Tennis Club are seeking junior and senior players for their winter competition which starts on wed 3rd April. Table tennis is a sport that is suitable for everyone regardless of age or ability. If you are interested in playing this fast paced, vibrant and family friendly sport the club is holding free Come N Try nights on Wed 20th and 27th of March from 7pm at the Kadina Showgrounds off Agery Road. The club has bats available if you do not have one. Enquiries to Lyndon 0427892054.



Presented by
**Walloo Community Sports Club &
Neverfail Springwater**

**Saturday, 20th April
6.30pm for 6.45pm start
Teams of 10**

**Earn \$ for your nominated Club or Charity
"Your Cause – Your Quiz"**

Bring the following: Friends, pencils, brains, nibbles

No BYO – Bar open

Enquiries & Bookings: John Jaensch 0400 230 029 or bigsaltymax@yahoo.com.au

HOW IT WORKS:

Open to all non-profit organizations.

Tables of maximum 10 people.

To confirm table booking, I ask for 1 or more prizes totalling the value of approx. \$25.00 which will be won on the night (I can pick these up), and a coordinator's name and contact details.

Limit of 4 tables each until the end of February. If room left will let you know.

All bookings are paid and booked through your charity/club and you can charge whatever you like (suggestion \$15-\$20 p/p = \$150-\$200 table. You keep this money.

This cost will cover all games excluding the coin slide and raffles.

All raffle money collected will be given out various charities via raffles at the end of the night.

The winning and runner-up tables will win prizes and also money for their charity.

Tables are limited, so book soon.

Ring or SMS John Jaensch on 0400 230 029 or email bigsaltymax@yahoo.com.au

If any families would like to participate on behalf of St Mary MacKillop School, please let us know.