

St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Term 1 / Week 1 Wednesday, 29th January 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you for the welcome that I have received so far at St Mary MacKillop School! I have met so many of you already and look forward to continuing this. Welcome to all of you for the beginning of our new school year! Students, parents and caregivers and staff are happy to be back and that is a very good sign of an excellent school community.

We have had a smooth beginning and this is with thanks to staff and families for the planning and preparations towards this, it does not happen by chance but through a lot of commitment and dedication.

The school was a hive of activity during the holidays with moving and preparing classrooms, painting, installing TVs, building cupboards, setting up new computers and adding the ropes and scramble logs to the nature play area. So much was achieved! Thank you to everyone that was involved in any way with these plans, preparations and work.

Thank you to staff who have been very busy preparing yard and play areas; setting up learning areas and programming, all to make sure students have welcoming and interesting environments and engaging learning activities. For the first two weeks of Term 1 the teachers and support staff have an in-depth focus on social and emotional learning. This is consistent throughout the school and builds and develops relationships that will form a foundation for our whole year.

Thank you to all of you for your preparations towards the start of school too, for coming to our book-uniform sales day, having the gentle conversations with children, catching up with teachers before the start of school, getting back into good routines, this all supports your children for a good start.

Yesterday, our first day with students was just delightful (and I

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

Thu 30 Welcome Back Prayer Gathering in MPLA 9.00am

FEBRUARY

Tue 4 Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00-10.30am

Sun 9 Commissioning Mass at Moonta Church 8.30am

Wed 12 Meet and Greet Evening from 5.15pm

Thu 13 Opening School Mass at Star of the Sea Church
Wallaroo 9.30am. All welcome

Fri 14 Year 6/7 Assembly 9.00am

Fri 28 Year 5/6 Assembly 9.00am

MARCH

Mon 9 Public Holiday

Tue 17 Feast of St Patrick

Thu 19 Feast of St Joseph

Sat 20 Harmony Day

Wed 25 The Annunciation

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

St Margaret's, Port Broughton
Sunday 12.00 noon

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.*

From the Principal

am sure this will continue!), welcoming everyone back, children pleased to see their friends, parents and friends catching up on the holiday news. It is exciting to see students so full of hope and wonder at the start of the new year. I know that an education in our school will nurture students to take their place in the world as “thriving people, capable learners, for the world God desires.” We do this most successfully when we work in partnership with you all; the parents and caregivers of our students.

SMM WELCOME

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new students, families and staff who have commenced their association with St Mary MacKillop school.

In Reception we welcome 24 students:

Lucy, Charlie, Oliver B, Hannah, Scarlett, Olive, Macy, Miranda, Callen, Mia, Tate, Ajay, Isabella, Aria, Oliver MH, Clair, Jack, Benji, Maisey, Ruby, Cohen, Sienna, Zayne and Eamon.



In other year levels we welcome 14 new students:

Zain A (Yr 1 absent), Jaeger (Yr 1), Alexia (Yr 1), Edie (Yr 2), Elahni (Yr 2), Jayden (Yr 2), Alley (Yr 4), Brody (Yr 4), Heath (Yr 4), Archie (Yr 4), Harvie (Yr 4), Alexis (Yr 5), Blake (Yr 5), Luke (Yr 7).



From the Principal

We welcome staff: Miss Hayley Combe (Reception), Mrs Abbey Whitehead (Year 2/3) Miss Hannah Cotter (Year 5/6), Mrs Katherine Stringer (Friday in Year 1).



Michelle Miller



Hannah Cotter, Abbey Whitehead, Hayley Combe. (Absent Katherine Stringer)

May your time at our school be fulfilling and happy.

A new school year provides a great opportunity for children to have a fresh start. I would encourage all students to make the most of every opportunity they are given at school this year, so that they can be the best students they can possibly be. The small steps each student makes each day, makes a huge difference by the end of the year. The support they receive at home is very important and so I encourage you as parents to be positive about the new school year, ensure the children establish good routines with regard to attendance, sleep, arriving on time, reading and homework. It is the way we start the year that sets the tone for the rest of the year. If we want it to be a positive one, then we need to take positive steps to ensure this happens.

Our Meet and Greet Evening

Developing relationships and shared understandings is essential in setting up for success. Many teachers have sent home a newsletter to share some initial information with parents and caregivers, you are also invited to attend our 'Meet and Greet' evening to further build on our partnership. Our Meet and Greet Evening will be held on **Wednesday 12th February (Week 3)**. Following is the format for the evening:

5.15-5.30pm	Michelle welcome R, R/1 & 1 parents/caregivers (MPLA)
5.30-5.55pm	R, R/1 and 1 class sessions with teachers in classrooms
5.45-6.00pm	Michelle welcome 2/3 and 3/4 parents/caregivers (MPLA)
6.00-6.25pm	2/3 and 3/4 class sessions with teachers in classrooms
6.15-6.30pm	Michelle welcome 5/6 & 6/7 parents/caregivers
6.30-6.55pm	5/6 and 6/7 class sessions with teachers in classrooms

You will have the opportunity to meet the class teacher in the classroom, see how the learning environment has been set up, hear about class routines, practices and about the ways in which your children can best be supported at school.

Research the world over, confirms that when parents and the school are in partnership in a child's education, children stay at school longer, their wellbeing and achievement levels are improved. Be aware and interested in what your child is learning, what they are learning, what their projects are and how they are going with them and most importantly, how they feel about themselves as a learner.

Class teachers and myself are always available for a conversation, please do not hesitate to make a time to meet when needed. Good communication between home and the school is vital to create and sustain a relationship that supports excellent learning. Parents and caregivers, are the first educators and first source of their child's affirmation. Children will believe what the people they love and trust believe. Be positive about school and what happens here and always keep communication open.

From the Principal

We have a theme across all the Catholic schools in our Diocese and this year the theme is “Bring Fire To The Earth”. Given our current time and the bushfires that have ravaged our country, staff will sensitively mould this theme for our school. Bernie has opened up the theme for us as “From Spark to Flame; Fire The Spirit Within.” We will be focusing on what sparks passion and enthusiasm; what inspires us to do what we do, to do our best, to achieve things we never thought we could. Throughout this year there will be many opportunities in classes and as a whole school for all staff, students and families to be open to being touched and moved by the Holy Spirit. I hope you are able to join us this Thursday for our whole school Beginning of Year prayer gathering and on Thursday 13th February at 9.30am as we join with the Parish for our Beginning of Year whole school Mass. These celebrations will ground and centre us in God for our year ahead.

So, welcome to the commencement of another school year, when home, school and community come together to bring success to a new phase of development for your child.

I wish you all a fantastic start to our new school year. Blessings, Michelle

Michelle Miller - Principal

*“All depends on prayer.
Begin with it and end with it.”*
Mary MacKillop 14.12.1890

Hot Weather

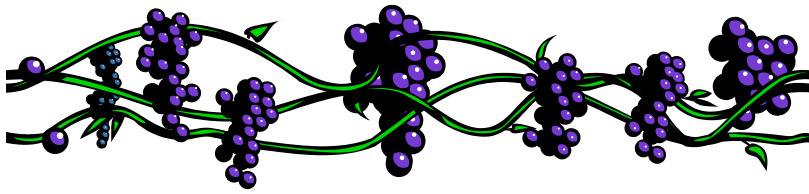
I am sure the hot weather has not completely passed us by and it will warm up again soon. Our school is completely air conditioned and on days when the temperature is 36* degrees or more our Extreme Weather Policy will be followed. Class activities and school events will be modified to suit the conditions. For example Physical Education, Outdoor Education and Dance activities may be cancelled, held indoors or shortened. Students are encouraged to drink water frequently. At both recess and lunchtimes students will remain indoors. Our Multi Purpose Building (MPLA) will provide an excellent area for the students at these times. Our MPLA has refrigerators and students are encouraged to store their recess, lunch or fruit in these. Staff make sure students apply sunscreen and wear their hats, keep hydrated and they make every effort to care for students on hot days.

Catastrophic Fire Rating Days

On days when there is a Catastrophic Fire rating, our school will remain open. We are deemed a safe haven on such days. However, school buses to and from Kadina and Moonta/ Moonta Bay/ Port Hughes WILL NOT run. The school will notify families who regularly catch the bus, on the evening before, by SMS messaging, advising them the buses will not run. Several other schools in the district which are susceptible to bushfires will close on catastrophic days.

Newsletter Copy

All families are receiving the newsletter this week in a hard copy. Families that have requested their newsletter electronically will receive it via email in Week 3.



The Vine



We welcome all of our school community to St Mary MacKillop School in 2020 but especially those families and staff new to our community. We hope that becoming an important part of our St Mary MacKillop School community may be life-giving for you and blessed with God's grace.

My name is Bernadette Thomson. My role in our school community is that of 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 usually in **Shalom**

(peace), the little room with the bright yellow carpets, opposite the work area of Karen Westlake in the Front Office. I am available for a chat at any time, unless I am in class! Just call in for quick conversation at your convenience.

From Spark to Flame – Fire the Spirit Within!

We are a proudly Catholic school. Our Mission, Vision and Values, displayed on the entrance wall of the MPLA, informs all parts of the culture of our faith and learning community. Nurturing the spiritual, true inner self of our students is an important part of the religious dimension of our school which is strongly grounded in the message of Jesus and the legacy of the tradition of the Sisters of St Joseph.

At the start of every year, as it is for the other Catholic schools in the Port Pirie Diocese, our whole school community gathers around a, common to all, strengthening and inspiring spiritual focus, with its foundation derived from Scripture: **From Spark to Flame – Fire the Spirit Within!**



For 2020, our spiritual living and learning focus is identifying what sparks our own personal and communal interest or passion, and then enhancing our deep inner response with passionate action. This focus includes igniting our deep inner response or "fire" to developing a deeper understanding of the presence of God in our daily activities and relationships.

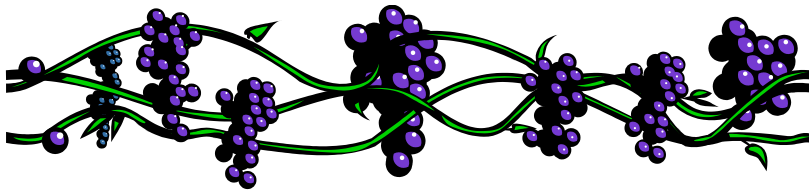
Our school community is most aware of the devastating effects of fire which the Australian community has endured over summer. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have suffered loss and trauma.

However, we intend that our students' perspective of fire develops and broadens through investigation of the dimensions of the natural element of fire and the natural purposes, uses and components of fire and its re-invigorating place in the living environment.

Parents meeting Parents

Yesterday morning, after leaving their children in their new classrooms, our parents gathered informally for coffee and a chat, sharing the hall and kitchen space with our Playgroup - Mini Macs. New friends were made, and comfortable friendships were renewed as the parent community re-connected after the break!





The Vine

Prayer Gathering –Tomorrow, Thursday 30th January

Our families are warmly invited to join us at the whole school's **Welcome Back Prayer Gathering** which takes place tomorrow at 9:00am in the MPLA. During this Prayer Gathering, every group which makes up our valued school community will share what they have identified as sparks contained within the hopes, dreams, values and "goals" for all relationships and learning within the school this year. How will our students respond to the sparks occurring during the year so that a personal inner flame will grow and flicker for each?



Each class and group of the school community will also 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.

Opening School Mass – **From Spark to Flame – Fire the Spirit Within!**

A prayerful start to every fresh year is an integral part of who we are as a Catholic school. 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, **Thursday 13th February at 9:30am** in Star of the Sea Church (diagonally opposite the school), on Irwin Street. Candles, presented at the

Welcome Prayer Gathering tomorrow and then decorated for 2020 by each class and group within the school community, will be blessed by Fr. Matthew. They will be re-presented to each group at this Whole School Mass. The groups in our school community which are acknowledged with a candle include each of our seven classes, Specialist Learning including Italian and Science, OSHC, Mini Macs Playgroup, Staff, Parents and Friends and the 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 9 February, at 8:30am Mass at St Francis of Assisi Church, **our staff will be commissioned** by Fr. Matthew Newman to fulfil their mission to bring the strong teaching of Jesus to all parts of our parish school community - for us all to live life to the full as thriving, capable learners and citizens. Once again, our families are warmly invited to attend this parish mass in support of our staff community.

Chaplaincy - Breakfast Bites

The Chaplaincy role (the National School Chaplaincy Programme funded by the Federal Government) within St Mary MacKillop School is a well - supported role and easily accessed by students and families. Connection with the Chaplaincy Network has affirmed for me the importance, in the school community, of a well-accepted pathway of non-judgemental listening and safe practices and spaces, which is true for our school environment. The practice of deep listening is so important for students who may be experiencing struggles and challenges. No one struggle of challenge is exactly the same – every child matters!

Weekly Breakfast Bites each Wednesday is well-loved by the students of our school! Cereal and toast are on offer for every child in the school if they wish to have a bite before the school day formally begins. When it is missing, for some reason, the students can't wait for it to return. There are always plenty of students willing to help every Wednesday morning. The breakfast items are funded from our recycling of 10 cent drink containers!



Bernie Thomson APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

The P and F Provider – “The place for all your P and F news!”

FRIDAY LUNCHES

Welcome back. Each Friday we have Friday Lunches prepared by volunteers in our hall kitchen. Students are able to order their lunches via an app named QKR. The menu is available on the app.

In order for the QKR app to run smoothly this year we require you to update your child's profile to their current classroom. Actions needed to be completed:

1. Sign into you QKR account
2. Select St Mary MacKillop school
3. Select profiles
4. Select child's name
5. Change year level to current class
6. Press update profile.
7. Repeat for additional children

Now you're all set up!

New families will find enclosed an 'How To Guide' to set up QKR on your phone.

Below are the dates we require volunteers for lunches this term. If you can spare just one hour on a Friday between 12.00pm-1.00pm, then **we need you!** You will be a support person in getting the lunches ready.

A police check clearance is required to assist with lunches. Please see Julia or Karen in the front office if you would like to complete a police check.

Tarnya Wilson Lunch Co-ordinator

PARENT AND FRIENDS - FRIDAY LUNCH VOLUNTEERS – TERM 1

Friday, 31 st January	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name.....
Friday, 7 th February	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name.....
Friday, 14 th February	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 21 st February	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 28 th February	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 6 th March	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 13 th March	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 20 th March	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 27 th March	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:
Friday, 3 rd April	Time 12pm – 1pm	Name:

Please return the reply slip by Friday, 31st January. Thank you for your support.



Mini Macs Playgroup



Pictured are “**Playgroupers**” enjoying their first play together for the year. 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! Thank you to Felicity Schulz for continuing to organise our Playgroup. Come along and try!

Fees & Finance News

2020 School Fees

Tax invoices for the yearly school fees will be raised and distributed to families via Australia Posit within the next fortnight. Please look out for this envelope in your letterbox/post box.

School Card

Applications for school card for 2020 are available from Julia Agnew. All application forms are to be completed and returned to the school prior to Friday, 7 February (end Week 2). The school will apply on behalf of families.

Payment Plan Families



A reminder to those families who have indicated **Option 3 (payment plan)** as their payment option for 2020, the payment schedule is to commence prior to/or on 10 February and must comply with the following conditions:

- *The first payment must be received by 10 February to avoid the plan being terminated*
- *Payments must be received on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly cycle as per the mutually agreed payment cycle*
- *Missed payments, without notification to the Bursar, may result in a termination of the payment plan and families automatically reverted to Option 2 payment (three instalment payments due before the end of March, June and September)*
- *Total charges for the 2020 school year must be finalised prior to the last school day in Term 4 (11 December)*

Failure to comply with the above conditions may result in refusal of future payment plan requests.

Those families who wish to commence with payment Option 3 (regular payment plan) but yet to put an arrangement in place should contact Julia Agnew (Bursar) within the next seven days.

Student Banking in 2020

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is back for 2020!

The Commonwealth School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Each 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 earned 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. This year, the program has introduced new eco-friendly and reusable reward with their 'Treetop' theme. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.



A Commonwealth Bank 'Youthsaver Account' can be opened online at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking or at any Commonwealth bank branch. Information packs are included with the newsletter today. Extra copies are available at the Front Office.

School Banking Day is Tuesday.

OSHC/ VACATION CARE

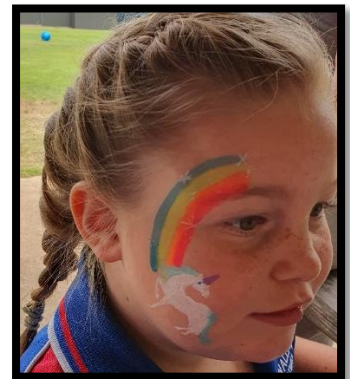


Vacation Care went well over the December and January Holidays. All the children enjoyed themselves with various activities and excursions. Our Mystery Excursion was fantastic. We went to an Adelaide Playground, had hot chips for lunch and then went to West Lakes cinema and enjoyed a movie on the big screen.

Please let Lisa know of any bookings you require for this term if you haven't already done so.

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 1.00pm or you may be charged. You can either call or send a TXT to 0437 659 137.

Lisa Cooper
OSHC Director





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jasmine – Year 6/7	3 rd January
Tate – Reception	3 rd January
Hannah – Reception/1	3 rd January
Macy – Reception/1	4 th January
Leo – Reception/1	8 th January
Miss Cotter	8 th January
Mrs Price	9 th January
Riley – Year 2/3	13 th January
Aria – Reception	13 th January
Kaysha – Year 3/4	14 th January
Emilie – Year 5/6	15 th January
Heath – Year 3/4	15 th January
Mrs Steer	18 th January
Jessica – Year 2/3	20 th January
Jayden – Year 6/7	23 rd January
Mason – Year 2/3	24 th January
Ms Miller	29 th January
Charli – Year 6/7	30 th January
Kolbi – Year 5/6	2 nd February
Mrs Griffiths	5 th February
Ryan – Year 6/7	6 th February
Mrs Hanson	7 th February
Madison – Year 6/7	8 th February
Hudson – Year 5/6	10 th February
Lisa Cooper	10 th February



NEWSLETTER INSERTS

1. Friday Lunches Qkr App – How to Guide new students)
2. Photograph Consent form (new students)
3. Headlice Consent form (new students)
4. Bus Application form (if applicable)
5. Reception/1 Class note

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

Karen Lee Dance Academy

25th year of dance classes on the YP

New students FREE Trial

Creative Dance, Tap
Classical Ballet, Contemporary

Kadina, Wallaroo, Moonta
Classes offered for age 2yrs & up

NEW CLASS - Adult Tap!!

Register Now!!

M: 0407 608 446

E: klda@dodo.com.au