



St Mary MacKillop School

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Mini-Newlsetter

Term 1, Week 10, Wednesday, 1st April 2020

Holy Week Prayer

*Lord God, we thank you for the coming of Christ into the world
and sharing our troubles.*

We rejoice in your love and in the promise of eternal life.

We pray for all who walk the way of the cross with Jesus.

We ask you blessing upon all who are facing challenges and difficulties at this time.

May we be people of hope, may we be Easter people!

Amen.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Our term concludes in very challenging and uncertain times for us all but be assured that we are here for you and your family. Staff are working overtime to ensure that this happens.

I sincerely thank all of our school staff for their commitment and professionalism to ensure that our school has continued to run smoothly and calmly throughout this term. They have ensured educational, spiritual and pastoral support for every child and family in our school.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

Teachers have ensured continuity of learning offering a full program of face-to-face teaching every day for students at school; developing and delivering online learning; as well as developing and delivering hard copy learning packs for students at home.

Teachers have also been writing Personal Plans for Learning (formerly known as Individual Education Plans) for students and preparing for parent-teacher interviews. I have had some inquiries about our school online learning in comparison to what is happening in other schools. We are doing our best with the human and physical resources as well as the time that we have to prepare for the full delivery of online learning as of the start of Term 2. We look forward to making the very most of the four planning days that we will have next week.

We fully understand the complexity too for families who have had to perhaps make significant changes: working from home, having children at home to help with their schooling all amongst uncertainty. Your communication around this is appreciated and helps us to understand how to help you in the best way possible, so please keep the connection and communication.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for your patience, support and understanding and also your good wishes to all of our staff for their health and wellbeing at this time.

CONCLUDING TERM 1

This Friday, 3rd April, will be the last day of term 1 for our students. Dismissal will be at the usual time of 3pm. The learning provided by teachers in other formats for students who have been learning at home (online, packs) will also conclude this Friday.

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY – FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL

Students are invited to wear casual clothes this Friday for a bit of fun. Keep in mind that students will be active at recess, lunch and during Dance lessons. Casual clothes must be sun smart (e.g. no singlet tops) and footwear must be safe and sturdy (e.g. no thongs). If they do not wish to wear casual clothes they may wear their sport uniform.

PUPIL FREE DAYS – WEEK 11

The four days of next week, Week 11, have been declared Pupil Free days. Staff will continue to be at work here at school preparing for online learning that will continue in Term 2.

ONLINE LEARNING

After staff have had time to meet, plan and prepare next week, we will communicate with parents more about online learning, how this will continue to be developed, set up and delivered. There are developments in this area daily. The platform we are learning about is Microsoft Teams and we will share more information with you next week about setting this up at home.

No students will be disadvantaged by not having access to a computer or internet connection. Please keep in touch with us and if you have not already, let us know if your family does not have this access. Please fill in the Return Slip with this newsletter.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

The School Board welcomes Debbie Venning as the P & F representative and Jane Owen as the staff representative. Thank you Debbie and Jane for taking on these roles, we look forward to working with you.

The School Board meeting that was scheduled for next Tuesday, 7th April, at 7.30pm has been cancelled. We will meet again in Term 2.

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for demonstrating our school values: respectful relationships; commitment to working hard; Christian leadership:



Benji, Trae, Jack and Isabella



Brody and Jeddah



Edie



William



Jack and Harry

WHO IS THE NEW BUS DRIVER?

A big thank you to Fr Matthew who has been our relief bus driver this week!

BEST WISHES AGATKA

Agatka Murphy will commence maternity leave at the end of this term. A big thank you to Agatka for her gentle, calm presence amongst us all and for her teaching commitment and professionalism. We will miss having Agatka here at school with us, however know she has another place to be – at home with her new baby and family! We wish Agatka the best of health for these last weeks and all the very best for the birth of their baby. Love and best wishes from us all Agatka.



JESUS' HOLY WEEK AND EASTER JOURNEY

Tomorrow our staff and students will participate in our whole school Holy Week reflection. There will be a different physical focus for each of the main events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane; Good Friday-The Journey of the Cross. We will move around to each focus and stop to share songs, scripture readings, personal reflection and prayer. Usually we would leave observance of Easter Sunday-The Resurrection until we return to school after Easter, however this year we will include this in our reflection. The students and the staff will walk the way of the cross with Jesus and celebrate his joyful resurrection – The Easter Story.

It has been a pleasure to visit the Year 1 classroom this week and be a part of their Holy Week play. The children are telling us the story of Jesus' last days on earth. Yesterday they acted out Palm Sunday and today The Last Supper. Students have been dressed up in costumes as Jesus and his friends, we even had a donkey, we prayed and sang together. What a wonderful way to lead into our whole school reflection tomorrow and the Liturgical time of Holy Week commencing this Sunday April 5th when the Church celebrates Palm Sunday.



HAPPY EASTER AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for Term 1. As we move towards Holy Week and Easter, I pray that you all and your families have a very blessed and hope-filled Easter. I hope that the school holidays can be a time of rest, relaxation and treasured family time.

John Mula who is the newly appointed Assistant Director of Catholic Education SA shared a thought with Principals yesterday: “buildings may close, but our schools don’t”. I look forward to our school opening again in Term 2, Monday, 27th April and continuing to work with you all as we continue our mission of providing and excellent Catholic education for you all.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all to keep hopeful, keep safe and keep healthy.

Michelle Miller – Principal

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LIBRARY NEWS



The Premier's Reading Challenge plays an important role in promoting the love of reading and this year more than any other, students will find joy, continuity and comfort in books! With your continued support, our students will keep reading and participating in the Challenge!

It is clear though, this year is going to be nothing like the previous years. COVID-19 is affecting all of us and the Premier's Reading Challenge is not immune.

It is with this in mind that the Challenge rules have been relaxed to include as many “free choice” books as you need to complete the Challenge.

Some students have already borrowed “extra books” from the school library, as the maximum amount they can borrow has been increased to 16 books per student. If your child would like to take advantage of this and borrow some extra books then please make contact with your teacher and we can arrange for a library pack to be collected from the school.

If you or your child has an existing library card at the Copper Coast Library they can also access e-books online. Visit www.coppercoast.sa.gov.au

Reading Rocks!!.....So please continue to encourage your child to read their way through the holidays and beyond!



Sharon Steer
Library Technician

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

We want to work with families to provide support for students who will be learning at home next term. We have caught up individually with many families about the level of Technology access you have in your home, it would be very helpful to have this information across our whole school.

The feasibility of school devices being used at home is being looked into and the following information will help with working this out.

Please complete the following return slip, you can do this in whatever way suits you best: return it as a hardcopy, take a photo of the slip and send it to info@stmm.catholic.edu.au or email it.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL RETURN SLIP – RETURN BY FRIDY, 3RD APRIL 2020

IT ACCESS FOR FAMILIES

FAMILY NAME:

PARENT/CAREGIVER SIGNATURE:.....

YES / NO We have reliable internet connection in our home.

YES / NO Students in our home have access to devices.

Number of devices at home that are suitable for students to access online learning:

Any other relevant information:

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