



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday, 14th October 2020 (Term 4, Week 1)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Luke 18:16

“And Jesus called the children to him and said:
‘Let the children come to me and do not hinder
them,

for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these’ ”.

Welcome everyone to the beginning of our new term. We had a smooth start to the term, again, thanks to the great preparation of families and staff. It has been great catching up with students and their holiday news. We are here first and foremost for the children in our school and this scripture reading reminds us beautifully of this. The way Jesus welcomed children is the way that we need to welcome all children as well. I hope that all of our students feel welcomed back for the start of Term 4.

I hope that you have all managed to have a very relaxing and energising break, ready for our final term. It will be a busy, exciting and rewarding one.

VACATION CARE

Thanks to our Vacation Care staff for their work throughout the holiday break, while the rest of us were having a break they continued to provide holiday fun for the children and a much appreciated service for our families. They went to the Adelaide Zoo and on a playground crawl; they explored space and nature, and for a sweet treat made candylicious blooms! Just to mention some of the fun activities!

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL BISHOP GREGORY O’KELLY

As Bishop Greg prepares to step aside from the role of being our Bishop, we wish to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of Bishop Greg to our school and our Diocese.

Bishop Greg has beautiful qualities which have endeared him to us all; he has given so much of himself to us and our Diocese.

We know that while Bishop Greg is leaving us to retire as Bishop of

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

- Tue 20th Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00am
Year 7 students KMS Parent Information Session 6.30pm
- Wed 21st Act For Justice – Bread roll lunch.
Gold coin donation to Catholic Mission
- Thu 22nd T1 2021 Reception students Transition Visit 8.30-10.30am
- Thu 29th T1 2021 Reception students Transition Visit 8.30-10.30am
- Fri 30th Dance Concert

NOVEMBER

- Thu 5th T1 2021 Reception students Transition Visit 8.30-1.00pm

PARISH WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart, Kadina
Saturday 6.00pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina
Sunday 10.00am

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

the Port Pirie Diocese, he will not doubt find new ways to be of service to God's people.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for your passion for rural education. You know the difficulties and challenges we face, you know how hard our job can be in the country.

You have shown us how important Catholic Education in the country is – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for your willingness to come to the many events to which we have invited you, and for the thousands of kilometres you have travelled over the years.

You have supported us in coming to: Dance concerts, farewells, Confirmations, Commissioning Masses, 150 birthday celebrations, and class Masses.

You have shown us that you care about St Mary MacKillop School – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for your passion for our Port Pirie Diocese. Your leadership in this area has inspired us to see God's face in all that we do and all that we are. You have an amazing love and faith in God and you will take this into your new adventures.

You have shown us how important God is in our lives – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for example and encouraging us to have a loving relationship with Jesus.

You have shown us how important it is to have place in our lives for Jesus – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for having the courage to bring your real self to your service as our Bishop. You are compassionate, approachable and genuine, and a wonderful sense of humour!

You have shown us the importance of choosing to live your inner passion with courage and faith – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we know that your life has been devoted to education. You have been a Principal of schools. In this time you have touched thousands of lives and changed thousands of lives.

You have shown us the importance of education for all – and we thank you.

Bishop Greg, we thank you for the many celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation. You have confirmed many children in our Parish.

You have supported them in saying "Yes" to God.

You have shown us the importance of saying "Yes" to God in our lives – and we thank you.

Dear Lord,

We give thanks for our friend in Jesus, Bishop Greg O'Kelly.

We give thanks for the way he has shared his love of Jesus with us.

We give thanks for his passion for education and for his love and care of all students in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Port Pirie.

We ask that your grace blesses Bishop Greg in his new directions.

We ask that your grace renews Bishop Greg after years of tireless service to the people of God.

We ask that you bless Bishop Greg with good health to enjoy the years ahead, at what we hope is a slower pace for him.

We ask that your grace blesses Bishop Greg with knowing that he has touched the lives of so many in his tireless service to the people of the Church.

Amen

This Thursday afternoon/evening there will a Farewell Mass and Meal to be held in Pt Pirie for Bishop Greg, to be attended by the Principals of the school in the PP Diocese.

On Friday morning there will be a Catholic Education Farewell Assembly for Bishop Greg, which will be held at St Mark's College. Principals and representative students of each school will attend. I will attend with Jack Northeast and Carlos Cabrera.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Each school has been asked to contribute to a gift hamper for Bishop Greg which will contain produce/items representative of the various regions we all represent. This gift hamper will be presented to Bishop Greg at the Assembly on Friday morning. Our contribution to the hamper from Catholic Education in our Diocese will be local: Geraldton Hill chocolates, SMMS wine glasses, Sunny Hill sanitiser, Red Wing Farm honey and fruit pastes, bottle of Bond Store gin.

Our own school gift to Bishop Greg will be a gift voucher for two nights accommodation at The Wallaroo Customs House and a \$100 gift meal voucher for The Bellagio Restaurant in Kadina – hopefully this will provide a much-deserved relaxing local experience for Bishop Greg.



*Bishop Greg with Hunter, Sascha, Ella and Fr Matthew
at the 6/7 class Mass in Kadina in Term 3.*

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONISATION OF ST MARY MACKILLOP

Ten years ago on Saturday 17th October, 2010, Mary MacKillop became a Saint. There was a special Mass and ceremony in Rome where Mary was 'canonised'.

Mary MacKillop is the first Australian to be canonised as a Saint. Mary loved God very much. She always prayed to God. Everything she did was for God.

Mary helped people just like Jesus did. She helped sick, lonely and sad people, people who were in trouble, and people that no-one else wanted to be with.

She did all of this because she loved God and saw God in everyone.

The 10th anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop is an important celebration for:

- Our school – St Mary MacKillop School
- Our parish – St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish
- Our diocese – St Mary Of The Cross MacKillop is Patron Saint of our Diocese



All of the Sisters of St Joseph – along with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Mary MacKillop established the order of sisters. At this time, we especially give thanks and pray for all the sisters of St Joseph who have served in our school and parish.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of St Mary's canonisation, Eloise and Isabelle (Year 1) created posters and have placed them in the prayer space in the MPLA.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY



Our Deepest Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to families who have experienced the loss of loved ones recently:

Blackwood family on the loss of their brother/brother-in-law and uncle Ty

Dennis family on the loss of their grandma/great-grandma

Bourke family on the loss of their grandma/great-grandma

Depledge family on the loss of their mother/mother-in-law and grandmother
Cabrera family on the loss of their father/father-in-law and Poppa

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

*Congratulations to
Skyanne Jansen and Mathew Whitehead on
the birth of Abel, a baby brother for Alexia in
Year 1.*



PARENT REPRESENTATION IN OUR SCHOOL

Meaningful parent engagement in our school community is essential and very much valued. We have the two main parent bodies of the P & F and School Board which are avenues for parent voice. There are also many other ways that we remain connected with and communicate with our parents and carers such as meetings, phone calls, written communications, Newsletters, informal catch ups, assemblies, concerts, social events – just to mention a few. While this year has been somewhat different with some restrictions, these are all valued opportunities for us all to keep communicating and connected.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PARENTS & FRIENDS

Our P & F meetings are well advertised and are open for any parents and carers to attend. They are a great way of meeting with each other, having a say about what is happening, contributing in many ways to events around our school and keeping in touch with what is happening.

OUR SCHOOL BOARD

Our School Board meetings are attended by the members and the AGM is always an open meeting and an opportunity for anyone else to attend.

Our Board members represent the dimensions of our school: families, staff and Parish. The members of our School Board are:

Michelle Miller - Principal

Fr Matthew Newman – Parish Priest

Bernie Thomson - APRIM

Karen Miers – Chair

Julia Agnew – Treasurer

Debbie Venning – P & F Rep

Jane Owen – Staff Rep

Katie Crawford, Leon Schulz, John Iveson, Lauren Donnellan, Lisa Hawson, Mandie Malone – elected parent representatives

At our Board meetings this year we have discussed ways of strengthening the awareness of the role of the Board as your representatives. We have discussed new ways of maintaining connection and communication and one way we would like to encourage this is to assign families with a 'School Board Buddy'.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDDY

The 'School Board Buddy' system will be implemented gradually as we have over 110 families in our school (which is fantastic!). This year we have welcomed over 30 new families to our school community and so this term we will begin this implementation and we will focus on the families who are new to our school in 2020.

The 'elected parent reps' on our Board: Karen, Katie, Leon, John, Lauren, Lisa and Mandie will each have a group of families who they will Buddy.

The role of the Buddy will be to contact the parent or carer, introduce themselves and their role and offer to be their contact in regards to school matters.

Parent or Carer contact details (mobile phone number) will be given to the School Board Buddy so that they can make contact. This will take place over the next month.

If there is any parent or carer who does not wish to take part in the Board Buddy system and have their contact passed onto a Board member, please complete the return slip in this Newsletter.

Board members will treat any contact details with the highest of respect and confidentiality and this information will only be used for this purpose and not be passed on to anyone else in any circumstances.

SCHOOL CROSSING MONITORS

Many of you will have noticed our 'new look' Crossing Monitors this term! Bringing back many fond memories for parents and staff of their own days of the important job of being Crossing Monitors.

Last term staff received training from SA Police in Crossing Monitor requirements and hence the change. We have always worked to ensure that the road crossing is as safe as possible for our students and this is going to help even more with this.

The two Crossing Monitors will be present in the mornings when foot and road traffic is at its busiest and there is heavy crossing from both sides of the road.

Staff have received training initially with the intention to get this system up and running and then students (10 and over) will be invited to undergo training (hopefully later this term) and join a roster to become Crossing Monitors. I have already had at least 10 students indicate their interest which is fantastic. This indicates the capabilities of our students to be willing to volunteer and contribute to community – what a wonderful sign for our future!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

ROAD LINE MARKINGS – A FRESHER LOOK

During the holidays some new school zone signs were installed and lines were re-painted along Bagot Street. This is to highlight the presence of our school to passing motorists. Thank you to Julia and our local council for making sure this has happened. We want motorists to be well aware that they are approaching a school and children are present.

Please note where solid yellow lines are painted and remember that these areas are NO PARKING areas. In particular, the area in front of the double gates and cement apron. These gates are for emergency access and must be kept clear at all times. Thank you



Jhett and Ollie displaying no parking signs

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent-teacher interviews were very well attended in Week 8, 9, 10 of Term 3. Thank you to staff and parents/carers for their time, efforts and commitment to this important communication process.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to the 2/3 and Year 1 classes for their Assemblies last term, they were a great showcase and sharing of student learning. Presenting at Assembly an important part of development of whole child, great for developing confidence and celebrating success.

This term, Hayley Combe's R class and Lisa Hanson's R/1 class will combine to present Assembly on Friday, 27th November at 9.00am. Parents of both of these classes will be welcome to attend.

SMMS SCHOOL MAGAZINE

There is definitely a 2019 School Magazine, being prepared for printing, we apologise that this has taken longer than usual to have published, however this has been an unusual year. We are hoping to have the magazine published as soon as possible now.

Our plans and preparations are well underway for our 2020 School Magazine.

RECEPTION 2021

I have had the pleasure of meeting with new families and children who will be commencing in 2021 Term 1 with us in Reception. At this stage we have 29 students commencing with us in Reception at the beginning of next year. The transition visits for these children will take place on Thursdays for five weeks Weeks 2-6 inclusive. The first two visits will be for 2 hours, the third for 3 hours and the final two visits for two full days.

We look forward to welcoming all children for their transition visits.

HATS AND SUNSCREEN

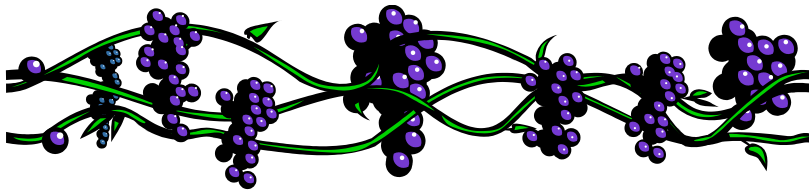
Hats and sunscreen are to be worn for all outside activities.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au



The Vine

Welcome back to an active last term! We hope that your holidays were most restful and enjoyable.

MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is the Month of the Rosary - the beautiful prayer of Mary the Mother of God. The “Hail Mary” is the central prayer of the Rosary. It is very heavily based in the early chapters of Luke’s Gospel. Through this prayer, we express praise of the mother of Jesus, the woman who brought him up, who taught him how to relate to others, who educated his heart to become so compassionate and who was the first one to talk to him about God and prayer. Many other religions, such as Buddhism, also use prayer beads to help with focussing on prayer.



ST MARY MACKILLOP

The 10th anniversary of the **Canonization of St Mary MacKillop** occurs on Saturday, 17th October. St Mary MacKillop continues to have relevance in our lives, inspiring us to new ways of following Jesus and loving God. St Mary MacKillop was passionate about bringing fairness to those in need in a gentle and caring way so it is appropriate that, during October, there is a world-wide focus on compassionate justice. October is traditionally observed as Mission Month in the Catholic Liturgical Year.

“Act for Justice, Have Less Day” - Plain Bread Roll Day for Catholic Mission

Wednesday, 21st October



In his World Mission Day Message 2020 Pope Francis urges us to continue Jesus’ mission:

“.... the mission of Jesus in history sends us everywhere so that, through our witness of faith and the proclamation of the Gospel, God may continue to manifest God’s love and in this way touch and transform hearts, minds, bodies, societies and cultures in every place and time.”

Catholic Mission, the official *mission aid agency* of the Catholic Church, is compelled by the message, life and love of Jesus Christ to **reach out, give life and call people to act for justice and love.**

Our active response to the needs and focus of Catholic Mission Month will take place next Wednesday – **Act for Justice, Have Less Day.**

*** Act for Justice, Have Less Recess**

We are asking ***all*** of our students to participate, to forgo their yummy snacks and big lunches and drinks on that day. The students are encouraged to drink water and have less food just for this day. Bring fruit as a small recess snack, in solidarity with those children in Cambodia who are living with disability and /or in poverty, with much less access to fruit and no access to processed or “junk” food. This may in some small way help our students to be attentively aware of acting justly in our world; to acknowledge and act on the human dignity of those in need; to help others to a better life by being generous and standing together with them, in solidarity.

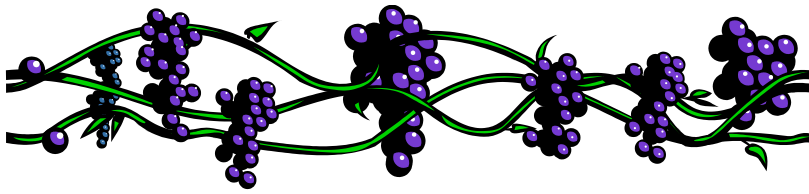
*** Act for Justice, Have Less Lunch**

A plain bread roll will be supplied for lunch for everyone. All that is asked is a **gold coin donation** which will be directed to Catholic Mission in support of their work for providing life-saving care to children with a disability and fostering their personal development for a brighter future – an overall experience for our students.



In this small way we can at least acknowledge the many children of Cambodia who struggle through life with disabilities which can often not be locally supported or helped because of endemic poverty. We can visibly and physically stand in solidarity with these marginalised children. We are hoping to enable the growth of advocacy from our students, gained through greater wisdom and understanding of authentic social action to bring about change.





The Vine

There will be a whole school Prayer Gathering just prior to lunch time, where the students will be invited to engage in a deeper spiritual understanding of social justice action.

Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

UP Choir

UP Choir achieved something in Week 10 of last term that we thought was just not possible a few months ago. We travelled to Sacred Heart College in Adelaide for the filming of a performance which eventually will be distributed digitally. There was no audience present during the filming production. However, it was still a great experience and a fitting reward for resilience and persistence to maintain focus, enthusiasm and practice even when there was uncertainty about the possibility of some type of Catholic Schools Festival.

After such an intense morning, our choir enjoyed a fun afternoon of a movie and lunch at McDonalds! Congratulations to Jasmine, Lilly D, Mia D, Mia F, Ayden, Charli, Sascha, Jack, Stella, Mathilda, Alexis, Chelsea, Scarlett and Charlotte!



Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

Dance Concert – Friday 30th October, Wallaroo Town Hall

As has been mentioned, our Dance Concert is going ahead this year; performances will be on Friday, 30th October (Term 4 Week 3). As Covid restrictions have relaxed we have been able to move from having no audience at all to having Year 7 parent audience only, to being able to offer limited audience attendance to R-7 families.

At this late stage, it is not possible to make major changes to the venue, times of performances and the format of our concert, however we are delighted that more parents and carers will be able to attend.

To cater for two members from each family to attend a performance, we will offer three performances during the day on Friday 30th October. We have not had a full run-through of all of the dances together so we are not able to give a definite length of time for the performance, however are anticipating 45-60 minutes.

The performance will still be filmed and DVDs available afterwards.

There will be no tickets sold prior to the performance, however it is essential that you return the slip in today's Newsletter to indicate if you (2 family members only) would like to attend. This will enable me to gauge predicted audience numbers and plan to meet Covid requirements.

Thank you very much to all parents who have provided costume items for students, this is very much appreciated.

OSHC & Vacation Care News

OSHC

OSHC/Vacation Care will be closed for three weeks over the December/January school holidays from Monday, 21st December, to Friday, 8th January. Vacation Care will recommence on Monday, 11th January 2021.

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.

VACATION CARE

Vacation Care was a blast! Our first excursion for some months went well even though we got rained on for the last hour at the Adelaide Zoo. Each day we had different themed activities which the kids thoroughly enjoyed.

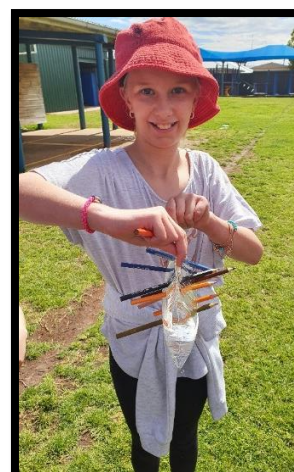
We welcomed Luke Agnew, Maddison Benn and Clare Owen during Vacation Care and the students enjoyed getting to know and play games with them.

Lisa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137



Vacation Care Photos



St Mary MacKillop Singers

St Mary MacKillop Singers will be reforming this term. Students from all classes are invited to join. There will be no outside community performances this term because of COVID restrictions. We will still prepare musically for Remembrance Day Commemoration for our school community and Christmas carols. We shall also learn to perform that contemporary favourite – ***You Raise Me Up***.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Isabelle – Year 1	15 th October
Sienna – Reception	16 th October
Charlotte – Year 3/4	19 th October
Mrs Nitschke	19 th October
Caitlin – Year 3/4	21 st October



NEWSLETTER INSERTS

1. Fee Assistance COVID-19 Term 4 letter
2. School Fee letter
3. Year 3/4 Curriculum letter
4. Year 3/4 Excursion consent forms

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

KADINA TENNIS CLUB Hotshots Program - Starts Thursday 22nd October. Time – 4.00pm (45mins per session). Suitable for ages 5-12. Contact Jane Oster, 0438 316 211, for registration info/further details.

Return Slips

BOARD BUDDY

PLEASE ONLY RETURN THIS SLIP IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE CONTACTED BY A BOARD BUDDY

I DO NOT WISH TO TAKE PART IN THE SCHOOL BOARD BUDDY CONTACT.

I DO NOT GIVE CONSENT FOR MY CONTACT TO BE PASSED ON TO A BOARD MEMBER.

Name:.....

Signature:.....Date:.....

.....

DANCE CONCERT – FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Please indicate the time that you would like to attend the Dance Concert performance

Family Name:.....

9.30am

11.45am.....

2.00pm.....

Two family members per family may attend and may attend only one session each.
Seats will not be numbered or allocated and will be on a first come/first seated basis.