



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

10 Bagot Street (PO Box 16), WALLAROO SA 5556

P: (08) 8823 2549 F: (08) 8823 2561

E: info@stmm.catholic.edu.au W: www.stmm.catholic.edu.au

Thursday, 10th December, 2020 (Term 4, Week 9)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The time of Advent offers us an invitation to change our lives. It is up to us whether we accept this invitation and really do make changes.

*Do we really want to "straighten our path?"
Let's open our hearts to allow the baby Jesus to
make a difference in our lives
and therefore the lives of others.*



We have been blessed to have a week of celebrating all that is good. One of our core school values is to "celebrate success" and that is what we have been doing well. All of our success comes from our God-given gifts and so we use them well and celebrate them well.

This has been an amazing week:

We have enjoyed the Year 7 Graduation Dinner, Graduation ceremony, morning tea in the staff room, and today our whole school End Of Year Mass.

Students have celebrated their year's learning with excursions, class parties, cooking and craft, final class buddy visits; students have

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Fri 11th Pupil Free Day

JANUARY 2021

Tue 19th Book & Uniform Collection Day

Family surname A-L only 8.30am-2pm

Wed 20th Book & Uniform Collection Day

Family surname M-Z only Noon-5pm

Wed 27th Term 1 commences

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, Kadina 6.00pm

Christmas Day, Moonta 8.30am

Christmas Day, Kadina 10.30am

New Year's Day, Kadina 10.00am

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Visited with their classmates and teacher for next year.

We have had past scholars Jayden and Taylor giving up their time to come along and help out with the many end of year jobs that we have in a school. Their help is much appreciated and it is so good that our past scholars want to return!



The following blessing is taken from the Year 7 Graduation Ceremony, bestowed by Fr Matthew upon the students:

BEST WISHES TO OUR YEAR 7 GRADUATES:

Jayden Blokpoel Lilly Cockshell Shann Hanson Aiden Hollands
Jack Mumford Harrison Northeast Ella Phelan Harry Rennie
Luke Russel Callum Sanders Hunter Wellgreen Ryan Zimmerman

*God of all goodness,
as they leave behind what has become familiar to them,
bless these graduates of St Mary MacKillop School as they navigate their way
through life.*

*Bestow the grace of courage and strength of the Holy Spirit upon them.
Guide them through the challenges, uncertainties, changes and successes ahead
of them.*

*May they always be a blessing to their families, their friends and their
communities.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANK YOU GEORGINA

It is a great tradition at St Mary MacKillop School that at each graduation ceremony a previous scholar is invited to deliver the Past Scholar Oration; an address to the current graduating students about their own time at St Mary MacKillop School and offering some words of advice and wisdom that they can take with them as they begin their pathway through High School. This year we were delighted to welcome back Georgina Morphett. Georgina commenced with us when she was in Reception in 2000, when our school was called Kalori Catholic School. Georgina has studied, travelled the world and reflected on her schooling and experiences with words of advice and wisdom for our Year 7 students, and in fact all who were present. Georgina showed that you can achieve anything you want to with determination, hard work and the right mindset and obviously she has strong principles and values based in social justice. Thank you Georgina.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At our End Of Year Mass today we celebrated the following:

ROWAN RAMSEY COMMUNITY AWARD

We presented this School Community Service award, donated by Mr Rowan Ramsey. The School Board discern and put forward the name of the nominated person to Mr Ramsey. The community award is presented each year to a member of our community who gives generously of their time, talents and resources for the benefit of our community and most importantly for the benefit of our students.

The recipient this year is Miranda Giles.

Miranda has been a parent at our school for 7 years and in this time has always been willing to help out with any class activities and excursions. She coordinated the school lunches for several years, this year cooked Father's day breakfast, organised Sports Day lunch helped out with organising our raffles and this week helped out with Graduation supper. These are just some examples of the many ways Miranda has helped out over the years.

Congratulations and thank you, Miranda.



Miranda Giles & Karen Miers (Chair of School Board)

YEAR 7 STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to our end of year award winners:

Lilly Cockshell

Harrison Northeast

Harrison Northeast

Citizenship Award (Donated by Fraser Ellis-presented by Paul Thomas)

Academic Award (Donated by Copper Coast Council-Presented by Rosalyn Talbot)

St Mary MacKillop School Spirit Award (Donated by Leading Edge Jewellers Kadina-Presented by Lisa Robertson)

Jayden Blokpoel

Hunter Wellgreen

Student Encouragement Award (Donated by Wallaroo Lions Club-Presented by-Barbara)

Student Encouragement Award (Donated by Wallaroo Lions Club-Presented by-Barbara)



Paul Thomas & Lilly Cockshell



Rosalyn Talbot & Harrison Northeast



Lisa Robertson & Harrison Northeast

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Barbara. Jayden Blokpoel & Hunter Wellgreen

FAREWELL STUDENTS, STAFF AND FAMILIES

At the end of this year, as well as farewelling our Year 7 graduates, we farewell staff and students in other year levels leaving us.

STUDENTS

We farewell: Macy Mumford, Hunter Mumford, Dane Walton and Zain Alsaeidy.

FAMILIES

Families who will conclude their association with us as their last child is leaving our school at this time are the following families: Mumford, Alsaeidy, Walton, Cockshell, Hanson, Hollands, Rennie, Russel

STAFF

We farewell the following staff:

Mr Carey has been with us Terms 2 to 4 this year teaching the 6/7 class, the 5/6 class and R-7 Science.

Mrs Stringer has been with us throughout the year, working Fridays with the Year 1 class.

Thank you Mr Carey and Mrs Stringer for joining us this year and for your contribution to our students and to our wider school community.

We wish these students, families and staff well, and God's blessings for the future.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2020 HOUSE POINTS SHIELD

Throughout the whole school year, students may earn points for their House. Students may receive House Points for going above and beyond what is usually expected in their application to their learning, effort and attitude in their learning, showing care for the environment that God has created for us, showing leadership, caring for others, showing respect and making the most of the opportunities offered to them.

House points accumulated over this year resulted in:

3rd place Woods on 664

2nd place Tenison on 773 points

Congratulations to MacKillop in 1st place with 793 points

MacKillop captains Ella Phelan and Shann Hanson received the House Points Shield on behalf of their team.

MacKillop House students received a special congratulations treat at recess time today.



OSHC AND VACATION CARE

As you know OSHC is being offered this Friday for our Pupil-Free day, then Vacation Care is offered next week, closed for three weeks then opens again on Monday, 11th January.

OSHC is closed for a three week break as this is the only opportunity for our wonderful OSHC and Vacation Care staff to have a good break. Lisa Cooper, our OSHC Director is essentially on duty for 49 weeks of the year and this is the only opportunity that she has an extended break.

Thank you for your understanding that Vacation Care is not available for this period.

ANNUAL SURVEYS

Thank you to all families who have taken the opportunity to provide feedback via the annual surveys. Friday is the last day to return these please.

7-9 DEVELOPMENT

Next week we will meet with the Project Team to view the tenders for our building project and make an informed decision as to the most suitable tender for our building. We look forward to letting you know the outcome. The expected date for building to commence is early January.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

THANK YOU FOR OUR YEAR

Thank you to:

*School Board and P & F
Support and Teaching Staff –
Students and families
The many community supporters of our school
Fr Matthew our Parish Priest
Thank you all for your amazing hard work and commitment to our student's wellbeing and learning*

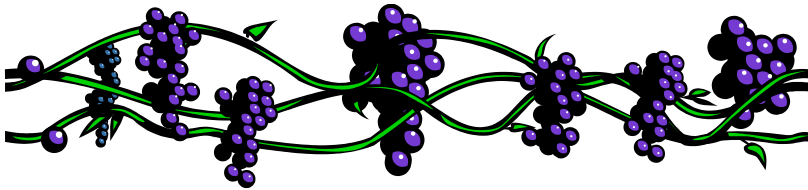
I would like to take this opportunity so say thank you to all of you for your positive support throughout this year. Positive support helps our school to thrive and grow. Any year is exciting and challenging and this one even more so due to the covid pandemic we have faced together. This really does make us stronger and this has been proven this year.

In this time of Advent when we are preparing for the birth of Jesus, let us focus on what we have to be grateful for in the year behind us and look forward full of hope. I wish you all a very blessed Christmas filled with the love and the hope of Jesus, and a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday break.

Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au



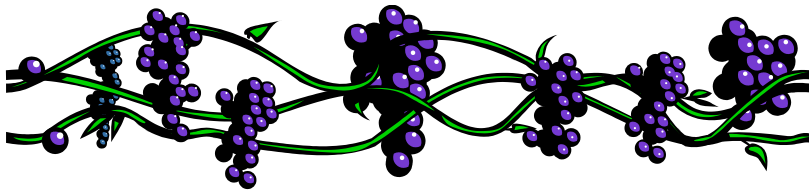
The Vine

Today, we brought closure to the school year as a connected, prayerful community. Newly installed Bishop Karol, who is formally from Poland but now is of the Port Pirie Diocese, concelebrated our special whole school Thanksgiving Mass today with Fr. Matthew. It was truly a whole school spiritual "heart and mind" experience.

For the last time as a school in 2020, we celebrated God's love through the Mass and gave thanks for the grace and blessings of our 2020 experiences and for our students, staff and families. Many deeply symbolic rituals concerning our community are an important part of our Whole School Thanksgiving Mass.



In one of the rituals, our Year 7 students passed stewardship of the leadership of St Mary MacKillop School for 2021 to our current Year 6 students. Ryan, Year 7 passed the school candle to Ayden, Year 6 symbolically passing on the leadership. Harry, Year 7 passed on some leadership wisdom, Tyrell, Year 6 made a commitment to uphold the expected leadership values and qualities within the community.



The Vine

CREATING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS

In all classrooms, and in the Reflection Spaces at the entrances to our school, the Nativity scene is the central focus, in addition to the Advent Wreath. In the MPLA the nativity scene characters are Mary and Joseph, shepherds, a village girl with water for Mary, assorted sheep and cattle and both an empty manger waiting for the birth of Jesus. The manger is really the feed box for the animals seeking shelter.

The Three Wise Men, also known as the Three Kings and astrologers from lands to the East of Israel, have been travelling around the school passage ways, and even the library, following the Eastern Star to the stable. They arrived today at the stable for a visit to the special new baby – Jesus – who is also now lying in the manger!



However, the story of the birth of Jesus more than 2000 years ago would be like any other cute baby story if it were not for the fact that the scene in the stable is directly linked to the cross of Jesus. It marks the entry of God right into the heart of the human condition through Jesus. God comes to be one of us – in the person of Jesus. The birth of this small baby changed the world and brought with him the message of love, compassion, justice and forgiveness which is indeed still deeply meaningful today. It is through this message that Jesus opens up for us the presence of God in our daily lives.

Christmas is such a bright celebration, full of hope for a grace-filled future!

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ADVENT

THANK YOU to all our families for the overwhelming and generous response to our *Vinnies Christmas Hampers* Social Justice Action in Advent.

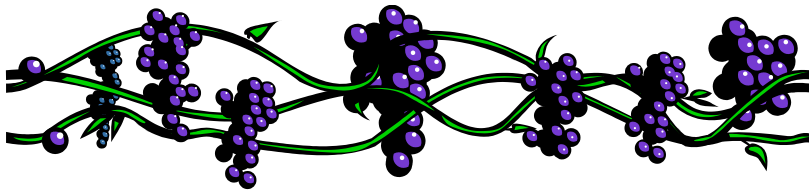


A very special thank you is offered to the Year 3/4 class who undertook a creative and delicious action to support our local Vinnies group. They created amazing “Christmas biscuit” houses and sold them to the school community. The supply sold out quickly! The class raised about \$280. With this amount the class bought required food and celebration products for *Vinnies Christmas Hampers*. All donations were presented to John Kayser of the St Vincent de Paul Conference of Wallaroo, Moonta and Kadina at our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass today. This food will be distributed to many local families in need.

Quite often this need is hidden but these gifts at this time of thinking about others, giving and fun can bring a sense of hope and a knowledge that someone cares.

CHAPLAINCY

The role of Pastoral Care Support, for our school community, in particular our students and families, has been a very busy one during 2020 and as the community lived out the emotional and social challenges of a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The disruption, through incredible restrictions to our personal freedoms, and to our own personal mental health and wellbeing has been particularly challenging. Maintaining a positive perspective in the face of great negativity



The Vine

The Chaplaincy role is supported by funding from the Federal Government which is distributed through the State Government. Students are increasingly seeking a listening ear and support for solving their own challenges. Awareness of the need to be in charge of one's own destiny is growing generally for our student body, as they independently seek more support for this. Informal and formal conversations have been very beneficial for building a personal sense of self and positive connections with others.

"Breakfast Bites" on the oval, Wednesday mornings before school, had a rather sad and sudden end in March 2020 – all because of COVID-19. We hope that "Breakfast Bites" will return next year in some form! Everyone is invited to have a piece of toast or fruit or a bowl of Weetbix or Nutri-Grain. In the past, some items were donated to help us keep this gift to our students in place.



*I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the growing of God's grace and presence within the community of St Mary MacKillop School in 2020, through relationships and action with each other. We have truly tried to visibly live our 2020 theme, **"From Spark to Flame – Fire the Spirit Within"**.*

In particular I would like to thank our Parish Priest, Fr Matthew Newman, our Principal Ms Michelle Miller, our deeply supportive staff, the commitment and connection of the families and friends of our school, and especially, the wonderful children of our school.

Merry Christmas! May the gift of the Christ Child bless this Christmas, for all our families, with hope, joy and love as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Enjoy the time and space of this long holiday break and may it renew you and energise you ready for all the experiences to come in 2021!



Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support



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

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our P & F Christmas raffle was drawn on Monday morning with the lucky winners being picked by Year 7 students.. A big thank you is extended to our families for selling raffle tickets and also donating prizes.

1st: Will Rogers

2nd: Agnes

3rd: Jhett Graham

4th: Tully family

5th: Aria Gearing

6th: Griffin Miers

7th: Sasha Simpson

8th: Hayley Rowan

9th: H White

10th: Luke Zimmermann

11th: Mel Oakley

12th: Alison Sanders

13th: Hunter Mumford

14th: Michelle Miller

15th: Taylor Hanson

16th: Ricky Depledge

17th: Lauren Donnellan



Quicksmart

Quicksmart is a Numeracy based program to help students improve on their strategies for problem solving. There are four sections of this program being Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division.

Students on this program this year have successfully improved their speed of recall and accuracy in numeracy.

Congratulations to Lilly, Hunter, Jack and Stella on completing this program.

Heather Griffiths

Quicksmart Co-ordinator



Year 3/4 Class – Our Environment Research

In our Integrated Studies lessons, we started learning about the ocean, it's animals and how we can protect it for future generations.

We learnt that we should protect our ocean by recycling as much as we can, not littering and using less plastic, reducing our landfill. We also learnt how plastic affects our ocean. Worldwide, over 8 million pieces of plastic are dumped into the ocean every single day! Sea birds have been found with more than 250 pieces of plastic in their stomach. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch covers an area 3 times the size of France. So what can we do to help?

The Year 3/4's has been surveying how much plastic we have in our lunchboxes. Every Monday, for 5 weeks, we took a count and the results were surprising! On Week 1 of our survey we counted a total of 51 pieces of plastic in our lunchboxes! This varied from biscuit and chip packets to juice box straws and yoghurt tubes. Over the following 5 weeks we have worked on reducing our plastic use by choosing nude foods and learnt more about what can be recycled. For example, did you know soft plastics like chip packets and even yoghurt tubes can be recycled in a special soft plastics recycling bin at your local Woolworths? And compostable sandwich bags are now available instead of plastic zip lock bags.

At the end of our term we have now nearly halved our lunchbox plastic! Especially in glad wrap, muesli bars wrappers and biscuit packets. We hope to continue our mission to reduce our plastic use at home over the holidays!

By Ari Schulz and Adelaide White



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Tyler – Year 2/3 | 9 th December |
| Lachlan – Reception/1 | 12 th December |
| Alley – Year 3/4 | 13 th December |
| Payton – Reception/1 | 13 th December |
| Scarlett – Year 4/5 | 14 th December |
| Mileah – Year 2/3 | 15 th December |
| Jack – Year 6/7 | 17 th December |
| Harvie – Year 3/4 | 17 th December |
| Connor – Year 1 | 18 th December |
| Mia – Reception | 19 th December |
| Edie – Year 3/4 | 20 th December |
| Mrs Morphett | 23 rd December |
| Benji – Reception | 28 th December |
| Liam – Year 5/6 | 30 th December |
| Peyton – Year 2/3 | 30 th December |
| Mr Carey | 31 st December |



NEWSLETTER INSERTS

1. Nil

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.

That's it! Mini Macs is finished for another year, but we went out with a bang! I'm so happy we got to have our end of year Christmas party.

Thank you to all the families for your support of our playgroup throughout the year - and what a unique year it has been! I hope you all have a restful break and a wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

Felicity Schulz

Mini Macs Playgroup Coordinator

