



# St Mary MacKillop School

## NEWSLETTER

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**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 (Term 1, Week 1)**

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*"Come and Stay"*



#### Scripture

Matthew 25:35

"...I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me..."

Each year we have a theme across all of the schools in the Port Pirie Diocese. This year the theme is about hospitality with the words "Come and Stay". This is a perfect theme for the beginning of the year too when we extend a warm welcome to all students, their families, our staff, volunteers and visitors. This theme will be expanded upon during the year and will be the theme for our Beginning of Year School Mass which will be held next Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9.30am. Parents are welcome to attend. The "Come and Stay" theme was the focus of our staff preparation days last week and will be explored in depth with students in their classes throughout the year.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### JANUARY

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly in the Hall  
Friday Lunches

#### FEBRUARY

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00am  
Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Opening School Mass 9.30am  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioning Mass  
Tue 9<sup>th</sup> P & F Meeting 7.00pm  
Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Meet and Greet evening

#### Parish Weekend Mass Times

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta  
Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina  
Sunday 10.30am

St Margaret's, Port Broughton  
Sunday 12.00 noon

## RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

Welcome to 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, landscaping the nature play hill, setting up new furniture. So much was achieved! Thank you to everyone who 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 programing, 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.

This morning, welcoming students, families and staff has been a pleasure. 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.

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 people 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.

### **SMMS 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 29 students:

R/1M: Lilah Butler, Eva Clifford, Nate Clifford, Matilda Davey, Charlie Donnell, Tyler Leigep, Ruby O’Brien, Jack Venning, Carter Weight, Holly Wyatt

R/1H: Noah Donald, Curtis Duncan, Triss Gummow, Jai Harris, Aubree Marchetto, Ava Marchetto, Xavier Masters, Marley McCracken, Archer Robinson,

R/1C: Addison Carter, Bronik Carter, Kade Chapman, Tia Chapman, Annabel Clark, Harriett Crosby, Jordy Graham, Rafter Murphy, Liam Rowan, Oliver Tetlow

I know everyone will welcome these children and their families.

**WELCOME NEW STAFF** – Charlotte McCann (R/1), Madeline Woodforde (Science and 6/7 Class), Jenny Davey, Jody Duif and Kelly Richardson (ESOs in curriculum)

**WELCOME BACK** – Agatka Murphy (Year 2 Class and Science), Katherine Stringer (5/6 Class 1-day week for Week 1-5), Rachael Zimmermann(ESO curriculum)

We hope you feel most welcome, have a fantastic year with us.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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### OUR MEET AND GREET EVENING

Developing relationships and shared understandings is essential in setting up for success. Teachers will send home a newsletters 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 12<sup>th</sup> February (Week 3).

5.15-5.30pm	Michelle welcome all R/1 class parents/caregivers (MPLA)
5.30-5.55pm	R/1 class sessions with individual teachers in classrooms
5.50-6.00pm	Michelle welcome 2 & 2/3 class parents/caregivers (MPLA)
6.00-6.25pm	2 & 2/3 class sessions with teachers in classrooms
6.20-6.30pm	Michelle welcome 4/5, 5/6 & 6/7 class parents/caregivers
6.30-6.55pm	4/5, 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.

### CHILD PROTECTION



Child protection and safety is extremely important. As mentioned, we have a focus on relationships and social and emotional learning at the beginning of our new year. Returning to school, for all of us after our holiday break, means returning to routine, stability, consistency. For all of our students returning to school should mean that they are returning to a safe place where they matter, they thrive, and they are nurtured. As well as our social and emotional learning focus, all students will be engaged in the Child Protection curriculum, taught in all classes throughout the year, learning about strategies to keep themselves well and safe.

### ISABELLE MILLER

Isabelle Miller (Year 2) had successful heart surgery early January and she has been making a steady recovery. Isabelle and big brother Riley (Year 7) are back at school with us and it is wonderful to have their family back, meeting up with friends, classmates and staff again. We continue to keep Isabelle in our prayers.

### PG MOVIES

From time to time teachers may choose a movie related to class learning, these movies will generally have a G rating. If a relevant movie is chosen that has a PG rating, you will be notified by email sent from the school, letting you know the title of the movie and when it is to be viewed. Parents and Carers will need to respond Yes / No to the email giving required consent to view. We hope that this will be easier and more convenient than returning a paper slip.

### FURNITURE

Several classrooms and areas have new furniture. Thank you to Julia for coordinating the ordering and placement of all of the new furniture which has certainly lifted our environment. It looks fantastic. Furniture we do not need will be offered for sale. Next week we will be offering various tables, chairs and computer desks for sale at very reasonable prices. We will have some photos on facebook later this week.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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### MORNING NOTICES

We usually commence the week with Monday Morning Notices, however given this was the very first day of term, it was important for students and staff to settle straight into their classrooms. We will commence our Monday Morning Notices next Monday Week 2.

### SCHOOL TIMES

Our school times are:

8.20 – 8.48	School drop off, buses arrive. Students unpack their bags and cross to the oval for supervised morning play.
8.48-11.00	Lessons
11.00-11.30	Supervised eating from 11.00-11.10, supervised play 11.10-11.30
11.30-1.00	Lessons
1.00-1.40	Supervised eating from 1.00-1.10, supervised play 1.10-1.40
1.40-3.00	Lessons
3.00	Dismissal, pick up from MPLA gates, students catch buses

Please note that students are not to arrive before 8.20am as supervision is not provided. Between 8.20-8.48am, teachers may be involved in preparation, meetings and yard duties, therefore students unpack their bags and go over to the oval for play.

*“Begin once more in real earnestness.”*

**Mary MacKillop 1881**

**I wish you all a fantastic start to our new school year.**

*Blessings, Michelle*

## Hot Weather

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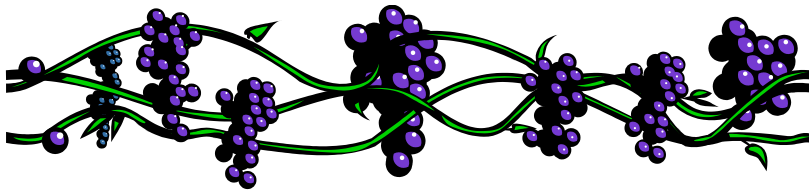
I am sure there will be hot weather to come and it will warm up again soon. Our school is completely air conditioned and on days when the temperature is 36\* degrees or more our Extreme Weather Policy will be followed. Class activities and school events will be modified to suit the conditions. For example 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) and Hall will provide excellent areas 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

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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.





# The Vine

## Hospitality of Open Hearts – Come and Stay



**Welcome** to 2021 at St Mary MacKillop School!

My name is Bernadette Thomson. My role is that of APRIM (Assistant to the Principal Religious Identity and Mission) as well as Chaplain and Pastoral Care Support, and also a variety of other roles! We believe that the wellbeing of each person of our community is vital for our students to become thriving people, for themselves and in society, and that that they will eventually be able to identify what is nourishing for them in the area of personal spiritual connection.

I can be found in **Shalom** (peace), the busy little room opposite the Uniform Shop and I am available for a chat at any time of the day, unless I am in class!



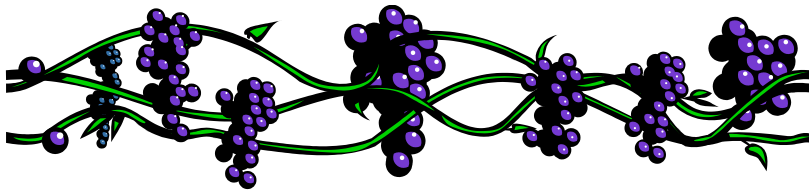
This morning it was wonderful to welcome back all of our school community but especially those families new to our community. We hope that becoming an important part of our school community may be life-giving for you and through which you may experience God's grace.

We do hope that the families, who came together for morning tea in the school hall this morning, after the children were settled into class, enjoyed the conversation, companionship and connection.

### OPENING SCHOOL MASS

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 our spiritual focus for 2021, **Hospitality of Heart – Come and Stay** as all thirteen Port Pirie Diocese schools are doing this year, will take place in next week on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9:30am** in our MPLA.





## The Vine

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Class and community group candles, symbolising the light of Jesus shining in each other, in our school community, in our lives, will be decorated for 2021 by each class and group within the school community. The candles will be blessed by Fr. Matthew and presented to each group at the Whole School Mass. The groups in our school community which are acknowledged with a candle include every class, OSHC, Mini Macs Playgroup, Staff, Parents and Friends and the School Board.

### COMMISSIONING MASS

St Mary MacKillop School is an important part of the Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta Parish. On Sunday 7 February, at 10am Mass in Sacred Heart Church Kadina, **our staff will be commissioned, during Mass**, by Fr. Matthew to fulfil their mission to bring the message of Jesus, who is the teacher of God's love, the teacher of life, to all parts of our school community; the message of living life to the full. Our families are warmly invited to attend this parish mass in support of our staff community.



**May our school community, while living 2021 together, experience the movement of God's spirit, very gentle, very soft. But may we all be blessed with that same movement of God's spirit which is very persistent, strong and deep.**

*Bernie Thomson*

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

## School Card & Lower Income Fee 2021

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To be eligible for our Lower Income Fee, families need to qualify as a low income family. This is determined by the family's combined gross income and is a dollar (\$) value set by the Government.

In 2021, the family's combined gross income needs to be below approximately \$60,264 for a family with one school-age child. (The limit will vary depending on the number of dependent children per family.)

School Card applications forms are included with today's newsletter for all families who indicated their interest in applying for this Scheme on the Book & Uniform Collection Day last week. Please look for a separate named envelope.

*Forms are to be completed and returned to Julia Agnew prior to Friday, 12 February (Week 3).*

If you are a new family in 2021 and would like more information on the School Card Scheme please contact Julia Agnew on 8823 2549 or visit the 'School Fees' page on the school website at <https://www.stmm.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/school-fee>



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

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## P & F MEETING

Our first meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, at 7pm in the Meeting Room. Please come along – all welcome. It's a great way to learn about our school and ways that you can contribute.

## 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 your 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!

We would love more volunteers to assist with lunches. If you are free on a Friday (does not have to be every Friday, any Friday is appreciated), please let Karen in the front office know to pass on your details to me.

A Working With Children Check 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*

**Friday Lunches Coordinator**

## Student Banking in 2021

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The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is back for 2021!

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 Dollarmite 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 Dollarmite reward item. This year, the program has introduced new eco-friendly and reusable rewards 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](http://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.**



## Mini Macs Playgroup



Our Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. We will commence next week – Week 2. 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!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Holly – Rec/1	2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Jasmine – Year 6/7	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Tate – Rec/1	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Hannah – Rec/1	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Macy – Rec/1	4 <sup>th</sup> January
Leo – Year 2	8 <sup>th</sup> January
Miss Cotter	8 <sup>th</sup> January
Riley – Year 4/5	13 <sup>th</sup> January
Aria – Rec/1	13 <sup>th</sup> January
Kaysha – Year 5/6	14 <sup>th</sup> January
Emilie – Year 5/6	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Heath – Year 4/5	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Tia – Rec/1	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Mrs Steer	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Jessica – Year 2/3	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Addison – Rec/1	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Bronik – Rec/1	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Nate – Rec/1	21 <sup>st</sup> January
Oliver – Rec/1	22 <sup>nd</sup> January
Amaya – Year 2	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Mason – Year 2/3	24 <sup>th</sup> January
Ms Miller	29 <sup>th</sup> January
Charli – Year 6/7	30 <sup>th</sup> January
Cloe Bowman – OSHC	1 <sup>st</sup> February
Kolbi – Year 6/7	2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Mrs Griffiths	5 <sup>th</sup> February
Mrs Hanson	7 <sup>th</sup> February



### NEWSLETTER INSERTS

1. Collection Notice for parents/guardians 2021 Student Residential Address and Other Information
2. Year 4/5 class letter
3. Year 4/5 Seesaw invite

*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

**WALLAROO NETBALL CLUB NEEDS YOU:** WANTED: Coaches and players for the 2021 season. REGISTRATION DAY (at the clubrooms) Thursday, 4<sup>TH</sup> February, 4.30pm-6.30pm. If unable to attend contact Lynelle Bodie – 0417 884 474 or wallaroonetball@gmail.com