



St Mary MacKillop School

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Mini-Newsletter

Wednesday, 19th May 2021 (Term 2, Week 4)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,



The Ascension of Jesus-Sunday 16th May

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, also called Ascension Day, commemorates the Christian belief that Jesus fully ascended into heaven. After Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, he appeared for 40 days prior to his Ascension.

Luke 24:5:

Jesus leads the eleven remaining disciples to Bethany, a village on the Mount of Olives, and instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until the coming of the Holy Spirit:

"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

Thank you to everyone who intended to participate in and support Walk Safely To School Day. Apologies that this did not go ahead due to uncertainty about the weather conditions. As it turned out we would have made it without getting wet but needed to make the call earlier when it actually was raining!

ALEX WEHR – CURRICULUM ESO

We welcome Alex Wehr this week. Alex commences with us this week in the role of Curriculum ESO (reading and numeracy groups). Alex's regular days with us will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm. This week Alex has been meeting students and staff and becoming familiar with our school. Welcome Alex.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PLACEMENT – GEORGINA BOUCHER

This is Georgina's final week of placement with Ali and the 4/5 class. Thank you for choosing our school Georgina, thank you Ali for your support of Georgina. We wish Georgina all the very best for the future.

WALLAROO CHURCH

Fr Matthew has shared the wonderful news with us that the Wallaroo Catholic Church (Star of the Sea) is going to re-open. As you will be aware it has been closed since COVID impacted last year.

We will have a whole school Mass next Monday at 10.00am for Pentecost, the Feast of Our Lady Help Of Christians and celebration of 200 years of Catholic Education. This Mass will be the first to be celebrated in the Wallaroo Church since being able to re-open.

Due to COVID protocols, unfortunately the school Mass will not be open to our wider school community of parents and family members or Parishioners.

Thank you to Fr Matthew and staff at Star of the Sea for working together to enable this to happen.

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE COPPER COAST IS A HIGHLIGHT FOR US AT THIS TIME

THE SMELL OF CORNISH PASTIES COOKING!

Some of our classes have been involved in making Cornish pasties with the help of wonderful volunteers. I was lucky enough to score a pasty for lunch on Monday and it was delicious – thank you Mrs Hanson's R/1 class!

SMM SINGERS – DRESSING OF THE GRAVES

Thank you to Bernie for preparing the St Mary MacKillop Singers (the choir made up of our younger students) for their participation in the Dressing of the Graves. This ceremony involved a visit to the Wallaroo cemetery and acknowledgement of people who have gone before us. The students sang and placed floral tributes on grave sites. The Singers made the floral tributes the day before with the assistance of Bernie and Karyn Pridham.

MAYPOLE AND FURRY DANCES

Thank you to Francesca who has coordinated our participation in the Maypole and Furry dances. The students were not able to perform for Star of The Sea last Friday, however we are hoping this will be able to go ahead today. The students will travel to Moonta to take part in the dances for the Festival, this Friday afternoon and also on Saturday. Good luck everyone! I can't wait to see you all in your traditional costumes performing the dances after all of your preparation and commitment.



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

You will most likely be aware that there is heightened attention to the requirements for Contact Tracing, to either check in manually or check in using the QR check-in whenever you enter businesses and organisations, our school site is no exception.

Spot-checks are being conducted and we as the organisation, and the individual, can be fined if it is discovered that this is not happening.

When you enter the school for any reason, no matter the length of time (to drop children off, pick children up, meet with a staff member, buy uniform, volunteer in any way at our school, etc), you must check in for Contact Tracing purposes.

When you are entering the school for purposes that will require you to stay for more than 5-10 minutes you must sign in at the Front Office as well, for our own regular site monitoring purposes.

All of these requirements are ultimately to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your positive support of this.

ASSESSING WELLBEING AND LEARNING

There are some significant assessments, data collections and surveys that our staff and students will be involved in over the coming weeks, in addition to the NAPLAN testing we have just had.

Hayley, Charlotte and Lisa H will be released from their R/1 classes during the weeks to come for our participation in the Early Years Of School testing (for CESA and our own school records) and also in the AEDC (national government assessment of children in their first year of school) which takes place every three years.

All teachers are involved in the NCCD (national data collection) for all students with a disability. Teachers are also involved in writing Semester 1 reports. During Week 5 and 6 students will take part in the Student Pulse Survey. Students take part in this survey Week 5/6 of every term. The results of the survey are used to monitor student wellbeing. This is an extremely busy time for everyone. I am thankful as always to staff and students for all of their efforts towards this.

R/1 MCCANN ASSEMBLY THIS FRIDAY

Charlotte's R/1 class will present their Assembly this Friday at 9.00am. Parents and family of the students in R/1 McCann are invited to attend and stay on for a light morning tea following Assembly.

KISS AND DROP ZONE

To contribute to safety and traffic flow we are introducing a 'Kiss and Drop' zone at our school. Recommendations and advice for the zone have been appreciated from Sergeant Tristan Graham (Supervisor Highway Patrol SAPOL) and also members of our local Council.

The Kiss and Drop zone will commence as of Monday, 24th May, between 8.15-8.45am. The Kiss and Drop zone will be clearly highlighted with fence banners and will be in the area of the parking bays along the oval fenceline.

People who want to do a quick morning drop off for school in the morning are asked to park, assist children out of the car and to collect bags (if necessary, some children will be able to do this independently) and drive off, taking no more than 2 minutes.

People who wish to park and come into the school for longer periods of time are asked to park in Young Street, along Bagot Street out of the school zone, or in other nearby streets.

We are introducing the morning time slot to begin with, and will monitor the introduction. Please pass on any feedback. We will phase in the afternoon time slot before the end of this term.



Blessings for the week ahead,

Michelle Miller

Principal

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