



St Mary MacKillop School

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Mini-Newsletter

Wednesday, 28th July 2021 (Term 3, Week 2)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

St Mary MacKillop certainly knew tough times and yet she never lost her faith and her hope that everything would turn out okay. St Mary MacKillop was a prolific writer and there is so much wisdom in her words; wisdom for all time. I have been thinking a lot about Mary MacKillop over this last week.

St Mary MacKillop, who knew many difficult and challenging times, wrote in 1890 ***“Keep your mind in peace whatever happens”***.

What can we take from Mary MacKillop’s wisdom for these unpredictable times we find ourselves in?

Our good God sees the heart (1871).

Mary MacKillop reminds us to slow down in our minds and be in peace there. If only we could keep our mind in peace we would not miss the ordinary.

Slowing down in the time of lockdown perhaps offers the opportunity to take in more of the ‘extraordinary, ordinary’ things in our lives, that in busyness we can overlook.

The ordinary has so much to offer if we are in tune and have a feeling for what is going on around us. A hug from someone who means a lot to us, a delicious meal, the sound of birds, a beautiful sunset, a child sleeping, the presence of someone we love.

Thank God for all His love (Mary MacKillop 1873)

The Lord is my pacesetter...I shall not rush.

My peace I leave with you (John 14:27)



Today it has been great to welcome the wider community of students and staff back to school following our seven-day lockdown in SA. Our lockdowns have been so much briefer than those experienced by people interstate and it certainly deepens an understanding and compassion for them and what they have and are experiencing. Some of my key reflections from this most recent experience are to not take anything for granted, appreciate what you have, remain hopeful, be amazed at the resilience and goodness of those around me.

As we transition from lockdown there are restrictions in place for the next seven days - 28th July – Tuesday 3rd August inclusive.

As always, students should not attend school if they are unwell or are required to self-isolate/quarantine by SA Health. Please let us know if this is the case. Students in directed quarantine, will be provided with learning support.

We will not be offering an alternative home-based learning program unless your child is impacted by SA Health quarantine orders.

Please note that some government restrictions in place at present mean normal access to the school site by parents will not be possible during this time. I therefore ask you to follow the following guidelines if you are dropping your child off at school:

- Please use the drive-in Kiss and Go Zone or walk your child to the MPLA gates and Kiss and Go. Pick up at the end of the day follows these same guidelines.

Primary students are not required to wear masks, however may do so if they wish.

All adults coming into our school are asked to do so via the Front Office and wear a mask. Staff will not wear masks when engaged in face-to-face teaching of students.

- Speech Pathologists, OTs, Counsellor services commenced today.

As we transition back to schooling it will take time for all of us to adjust to the new requirements stipulated by the health authorities.

Our school photos have been postponed from Thursday 29th July to Thursday 9th September.

We will not have our usual P & F Friday lunches this Friday 30th July – thank you to our wonderful coordinators Taya and Krystle. Please ensure you send your child/children's lunch this Friday.

Many school events and activities have been postponed and we will share new dates with you as soon as possible.

STUDENT-FREE DAYS

Our student free days for the remainder of this year will be:

TERM 3 - Friday 10th September (OSHC closed)

TERM 4 – Friday 10th December (OSHC available)

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

We are constantly sharing information and reporting to our school community on many different areas. Every year we produce an Annual Report (based on the previous school year) which is available for all parents and the wider community. The Annual Report celebrates the achievements of the previous year and sets goals for the coming year. Much of the information is also presented at the School Board AGM (held in March of this year). The 2020 Annual School Report can be found on our school website – Our School – Our School & Employment Information. Parents are able to request a hard copy of the Annual School Report if not able to access it on our website.

TERM 3 CURRICULUM LETTERS

With the Newsletter today you will receive Curriculum letters relating to your child's learning. Teachers have outlined the learning that is planned and will take place in all curriculum areas. All of the teachers invite you to contact them if you have any questions about the curriculum outlines for this term. We have so much planned for a busy, exciting, and fulfilling term ahead.

REPORTING TERM 3

Previously our formal reporting to parents and caregivers for Term 3 has taken the form of parent – teacher interviews. We are keen to provide this reporting in a way that is more engaging and gives students more voice or agency and therefore developing personal responsibility. You received your child's Semester One report last week and this should provide a detailed summary of their progress, we want to provide you with a complementary experience to this towards the end of this term.

In Week 8 of this term we ask all families to attend our compulsory Learning Expo.

The Learning Expo will be on Wednesday 8th September between 3.30-7.00pm.

All classrooms will be open with student learning and work samples displayed.

R-3 students will take their family to their classroom and proudly share their work and learning. Class teachers and specialist teachers will be circulating and available to chat with you.

Year 4-7 students will engage their parents and caregivers in a conference where they will share a prepared reflection on their goals, what they have achieved, what they are going to continue to work on. Your Year 4-7 child will have some questions to ask of you as well.

On the same evening (all going well for completion!), we will have the 7-9 facility open for you to have a walk through.

There will be a sausage sizzle available between 5.00-6.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming you – put the date in your diary!

YEAR 7-9 DEVELOPMENT

Despite a few days hold-up with lockdown, the 7-9 building is due for completion on 2nd August. Then we look forward to the furniture and equipment arriving.

As mentioned, we have another Middle School (Years 7-9) information opportunity coming up very soon. Adam Cibich is our Project Lead and has been assisting us along the way with all aspects of the project. Adam visited us last term and offered two information sessions and will be joining us again. We are pleased to be able to offer the following:

Wednesday 11th August

Walk through our new Year 7-9 facility

Information session for Year 4-7 students 2.00-2.45pm

Information session for parents/carers 6.30-7.15pm

This opportunity is for all interested to see and hear about what we will be able to offer

All welcome!

LIVING LEARNING LEADING SURVEY

The Living Learning Leading (LLL) Framework guides us in all that we do to help drive excellence in Catholic schools, and give life to the vision, values and mission of Catholic Education.

Students, Staff, Parents and Caregivers are invited to contribute via a survey that will help find out about the performance of this school.

Taking part in the survey offers an opportunity to tell the school staff how things are going for you and your children.

Your feedback is valued and every attempt will be made to try to respond to the information you provide.

The feedback does not include the data of individuals, rather the feedback involves graphs based on the collective feedback from all parents and caregivers.

It is your first impressions that we are seeking and there are no right or wrong answers. The response format requires you to consider the school's performance for each statement on a scale from 1-6 (with 1 being the lowest or worst score and 6 being the highest or best score).

Further information is provided in an accompanying flyer and the flyer includes the web address for the survey and the code to enter the survey.

The same opportunity is being offered to students in Years 2-7 in school and teaching staff.

2021 DANCE CONCERT

The excitement is building! Students have been busily learning their dances in Dance lessons under the guidance of Karen McCulloch. Talented staff have been writing and adding final touches to our script. Artistic individuals have been creating, drawing, painting backdrops. Excited Year 6 and 7 students have been auditioning for acting roles and putting their names down for support roles.

Yes! It's Dance Concert term. We won't give too much away at this stage other than there is a theme of ancient Greece – Greek Gods and Goddesses.

We will share the performance dates with you too so that you can start to plan ahead and we will let you know when tickets are ready for sale:

Wednesday 15th September 10.30am – full dress rehearsal (no tickets sold for this performance)

Thursday 16th September 10.30am and 7.00pm

Friday 17th September 10.30am

More information to come soon about costume requirements for each class too.

BOOK WEEK 2021

We will celebrate Book Week this term from **Saturday 21st until Friday 27th August** (Week 6). The theme for Book Week this year is 'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'.

Thank you to Sharon Steer who has come up with many creative ideas for us to be involved in during the week to celebrate books and the enjoyment and learning we can get from them.

Our whole school dress up day will be Wednesday, 25.

We will commence the day with a parade, enjoying the costumes that have been put together.

We will have a free sausage sizzle lunch. If you are available to help cook/serve the BBQ please let Karen or Emily in the office know by email or phone call.

Start thinking about costumes related to the theme of 'Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds'.

We invite all students to participate positively in the day and that everyone dresses in some way according to the theme or any other costume related to a book character.

A few ideas: unicorn, dinosaur, astronaut, Minecraft, Harry Potter, Captain Underpants, Princess, Prince. If you need any help at all with ideas or costumes, please let us know, we would love all children to have the opportunity to be involved.

Other activities that we will be involved in will be:

- Visits to Old Worlds, New Worlds and Other Worlds
- Reading and listening to the shortlisted books for the Book Week 2021 awards
- Visit our own fantastic school library



ICAS ASSESSMENTS

Earlier this year (12th May) we sent home a detailed letter advertising participation in the optional ICAS Assessments that will begin in August. We had Monday 26th July as the closure date for registrations, however are extending this until the end of this week Friday 30th July. If any students are still interested, please contact Karen in the office before the end of this week for details.

Blessings for the week ahead,

Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

STUDENT BANKING DAY (CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY)

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program is back for Term 3.

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 Dollarmites 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 Dollarmites reward item. This year, the program has introduced new eco-friendly and reusable reward 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 or at any Commonwealth bank branch. Information packs are available at the Front Office.

School Banking Day is now Wednesday.

LIBRARY NEWS

Included in this weeks mini newsletter is Issue 5 of the Scholastic Book Club Catalogue.

Please return your orders with payment by Friday 6th August.



