



St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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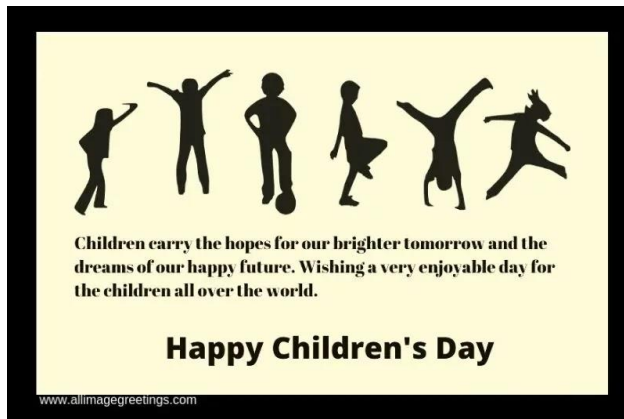
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Wednesday, 17th October, 2021 (Term 4, Week 3)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

**Today we celebrate Children's Day in Australia.
Happy Children's Day!**



We give thanks for all of the children in our lives. We give thanks for the privilege of parenting and educating them.

We pray for all children who have no-one to care for them and love them.

We follow the example of Jesus in welcoming and cherishing all children.



Mathew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

Thu 28th T1 2022 Reception students Transition
Visit 8.45-10.30am

NOVEMBER

Mon 1st ALL SAINTS DAY
BOOK FAIR WEEK
Whole School Mass 12 noon

Tue 2nd ALL SOULS DAY
P & F meeting 7.00pm

Thu 4th Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival
T1 2022 Reception students Transition
Visit 8.45-11.30am

Fri 5th Year 5/6 Assembly 9.00am

Parish Weekend Mass Times

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina
Saturday 8.30am
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am

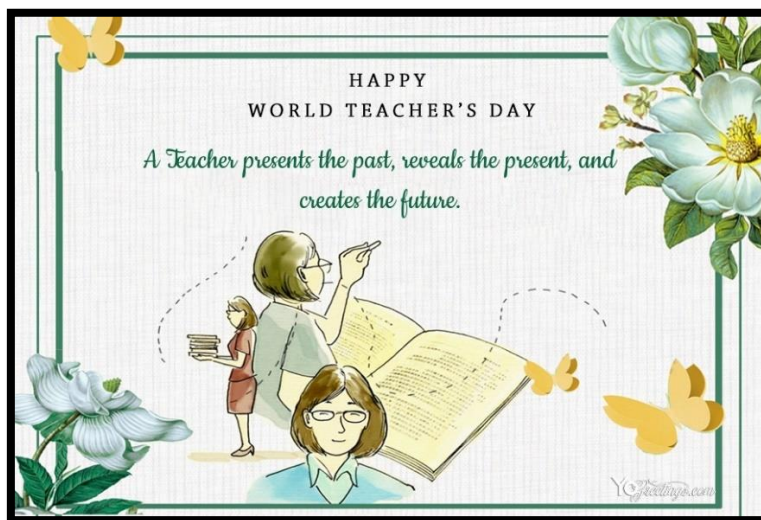


In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge Nharangga Country and Australia's First Peoples as traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On Friday we celebrate Teacher's Day in Australia.
Thank you and Happy Teacher's Day to all SMMS teachers!



STAFFING

From this week, Emily's time in the office will increase and Emily will be working Mondays as well as Wednesdays and Fridays, to assist with increasing demands in administration. Thank you Emily.

COVID UPDATE

1. Parents and visitors on site

Parents, volunteers and visitors are welcome in schools providing COVID safe measures are in place and followed. All parents and visitors are required to COVID-Safe check in when entering buildings and practise physical distancing from other adults.

It is recommended that parents and other visiting adults wear masks when entering school buildings. This includes volunteers.

Masks are not required outdoors if adults can physically distance. This is consistent with community mask use requirements.

2. Face mask use

Face mask use for students and staff, bus drivers, music instructors, Friday lunch volunteers is now optional.

Please remember that health advice and pandemic conditions can change at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

RECEPTION 2022 TRANSITION VISITS

The second transition visit will take place this Thursday between 8.50-10.30am. We loved welcoming the children last week. The visit will be facilitated by Lisa Hanson in her classroom, helped out by Karen McCulloch and Tania Nitschke.

All staff pitch in and help out and support our transition visits. Thank you to our staff, parents and students for welcoming the children to school.

PLAYING SAFELY

Following serious student accidents during soccer games, one last term and one last week, we have discussed and reviewed supervision and how students are playing. The accidents were the result of normal play and were certainly not targeted or malicious in any way.

We have, however reminded all students about playing safely: "hands-off and feet-off". All students know that tackling and rough physical contact, whether this be in football, soccer, or in any form is not acceptable. The consequence for inappropriate play, is to immediately sit out and miss out on play time, more serious contact is addressed by the Principal.

Sometimes the students in their enthusiasm and competitiveness forget that they are not playing a real competition game with umpires right there for the sole purpose of umpiring the game, they are supposed to be having a fun game in the school yard.

Staff continually reinforce this and we ask you to please follow this up with a discussion at home with your children too.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

CONGRATULATIONS JULIA AND MICK

We congratulate Julia Agnew and Mick Hammill on their recent engagement. We wish you all the very best for a wonderful future!

P & F MEETING

Our next P & F meeting will be held Tuesday, 2nd November at 7pm in the Meeting Room. All welcome to attend.

Everyone I am speaking with is saying the same thing, "I cannot believe October is nearly over, I cannot believe we are in Week 3 of Term 4!" Our Term 4 is well and truly up and running with students enjoying their classroom learning, students out and about for extra-curricular opportunities, preparations underway for camps and graduations.

Well done to our **girl's cricket** team who travelled to Stockwell on Monday. Miss Cotter, Fr Matthew, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Frost accompanied the team and Miss Cotter, Fr Matthew, Miss Caffyn, Ayden Giles and Riley Miller assisted with coaching and practise in preparation. Ayden and Riley gave up their lunch times to assist the team. Feedback about the girl's sporting attitude was overwhelmingly positive and they put in their very best effort.

Today Mathilda, Scarlett, Mia and Charlotte B have headed to Maitland with Mr Northeast to participate in a **girl's football carnival** organised by Adelaide Crows. Our girls are joining with Maitland Lutheran to form a team. Good luck!

On Thursday, 4th November we will have an **Athletics Team** heading off to Santos Stadium for Catholic Schools Athletics.

On Friday, 5th November 9.00am the Year 5/6 class will present their **Assembly**. One parent/carer per family is welcome to attend.

In Week 6, our R-5 students will participate in **swimming lessons**, consent forms for participation accompany today's Newsletter.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

DATE CLAIMERS

11-11-21 - Reception transition visit 4

12-11-21 – R/1Hanson Assembly

Week 6 - R-5 Swimming lessons

17-11-21 – Yr 6/7 Market Day

18-11-21 – Reception transition visit 5

19-11-21 – SMMS Yr 7 & 8 2022 transition retreat (Pt Pirie)

23-11-21 - P & F / School Board end of year dinner

25/26-11-21 – Year 2 & 3 camp

25-11-21 – SMMS and KMS Yr 7 & 8 transition

29/30-11 & 01-12-21 – Yr 6 & 7 camp

03-12-21 – Yr 2 Assembly

End Week 7 – Yr 6 Graduation dinner

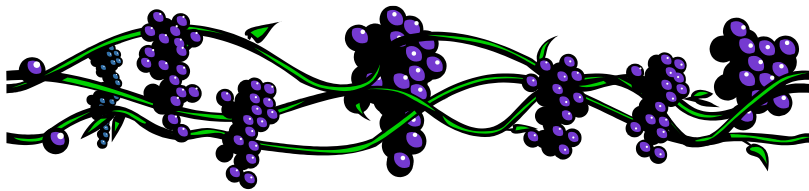
End Week 8 – Yr 7 Graduation dinner

07-12-21 – Yr 6 Graduation ceremony

08-12-21 – Yr 7 Graduation ceremony

09-12-21 – Thanksgiving Mass

10-12-21 – Pupil Free Day



The Vine

SOCIAL JUSTICE – CATHOLIC MISSION MONTH



ACT FOR JUSTICE: HAVE LESS; PLAIN BREAD ROLL DAY



Thank you to all families and students who supported, and participated in, our whole school social justice activities last Tuesday, 19th October- **Act for Justice: Have Less Day.**

This special day is the annual focus for the participation of St Mary MacKillop School on behalf of the Catholic Mission organization which promotes advocacy for people who live in poverty and have far less opportunities for living a better life than they currently have. Our students learned about the missionary work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand who, through their Kindergarten Centre, are bringing about generational change to some of the poorest communities in the slums of Bangkok. This Plain Bread Roll Day for Catholic Mission was an overall experience for our students

through praying; developing awareness of the needs of others; responding to that growing awareness.

Our whole school Prayer Gathering in the MPLA at 12:00pm led directly into the plain bread roll lunch. This Prayer Gathering was crafted in such a way as to invite the students to engage in a deeper spiritual understanding of authentic social justice action. Engaging with the gospel message and visually understanding some of the current challenges affecting the quality of life for many young Thai people living in slums, were all presented in a deeply prayerful and reflective way. The songs chosen complemented this message - our school community takes social justice action seriously.

Act for Justice, Have Less Lunch - A plain bread roll was supplied for lunch for everyone. Our students were encouraged to forgo their yummy snacks and big lunches and drinks on that day and instead have water and a lesser snack for recess and a bread roll for lunch. This was just a little taste of going without and standing in solidarity with those who have less.

In addition, our students were invited to wear coloured socks on this day as an extra fun way to trigger an awareness of this focus on the needs of others. Such a variety of socks arrived at school!

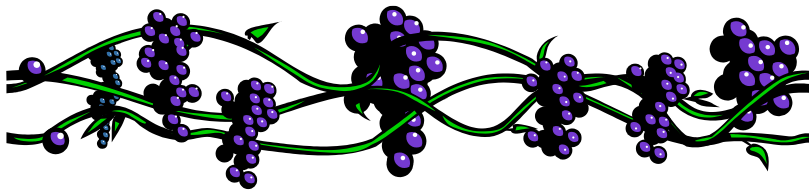
Gold coin donations - Thank you to all families who have donated gold coins in support of Catholic Mission and the work by Good Shepherd Sisters in the slums of Bangkok. \$253 has so far been raised. This is a marvellous result, for which Catholic Mission are so grateful.



FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Monday, 1st November, marks the Feast of All Saints. The student and staff community will celebrate this very important Feast of All Saints with Mass at 12pm in the MPLA on Monday. Feast of All Saints allows us time to remember with gratitude all those people whose goodness has inspired us in our faith beliefs and has given us the courage to act on what we believe. Saints are not perfect people, yet are people of integrity. Their love of God and the desire to actively live the message of Jesus has inspired them to live their life with a Christian foundation. We give thanks for those people, in past history and in our lives today, who have given us the example of a way to choose to live life in the love of God, a way which brings dignity and life-enhancing relationship to others. On All Saints Day we remember and honour, not only those saints with a special feast day during the year, but all those other people who have lived a saintly life following the message of Jesus, but who don't have a special feast day.

Tuesday, 2nd November is **the Feast of All Souls.** November is the month traditionally set aside by the Catholic Church to remember and pray for those who have passed away, especially family members and friends.



The Vine

HALLOWE'EN

Hallowe'en means "All Hallows' Eve", an old-fashioned way of saying "The Eve of All Saints Day". Hallows means honouring as holy. For many centuries, these few days have been a very important time in the Church year. All Saints Day is the entry into November, the month of the Holy Souls whom we remember and for whom we pray. The dates and celebrations of 31 October and 1 November are a combination of pagan and Christian spiritual and cultural ceremonies. The end of October and the beginning of November was the time when ancient Celtic tribes who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Brittany marked the end of summer with a Harvest Festival on 31 October. There was also a custom of remembering and celebrating the dead, Samhain (pronounced "Sah-win"). Celebrations continued on 1st November as the beginning of a new year and the coming of winter. The Church then brought a Christian meaning to this time, remembering those who lived before us by marking it as All Saints Day.

There is no one explanation of the origins of current "Halloween" activities. They are considered to have originated probably not only from Celtic Ireland and Scotland, but also from ancient European customs dedicated to praying for



the dead. The carved Jack-o-Lantern customs, which were originally carved turnips, and only later pumpkins, probably come from Irish folklore. From the English Catholics came the custom of children going about begging their neighbours for a "Soul Cake" for which they would say a prayer for those neighbours' families and friends who had died. This has evolved into today's practice of 'Trick or Treat'. For Christians, this special time of year definitely has a religious focus on those people who, in their own lives already lived, have shown us the way to live as a friend of Jesus, in our times.

The custom of celebrating Halloween as a party time was brought to America in the 1840s by Irish immigrants for whom it was, and still is, a strong part of their cultural context. They were fleeing their country's potato famine and the social and financial constraints of their British overlords.

Among all things that are lovable, there is one that is more lovable than the rest, and that most lovable of all things is - life. St Anthony of Padua

CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy programme, funded by the Federal Government has continued to provide daily, non-judgemental pastoral care support to the St Mary MacKillop School community over this challenging year. Unfortunately, COVID 19 resulted in the temporary suspension of Wednesday morning Breakfast Bites, but we are hopeful of it resuming in the new year. The students just know that if they require chill time, they are welcome to come into my little "yellow room" for safe, quiet and calming opportunities and where respect, friendship and conversation are implicit.

Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

Remembrance Day – St Mary MacKillop Singers

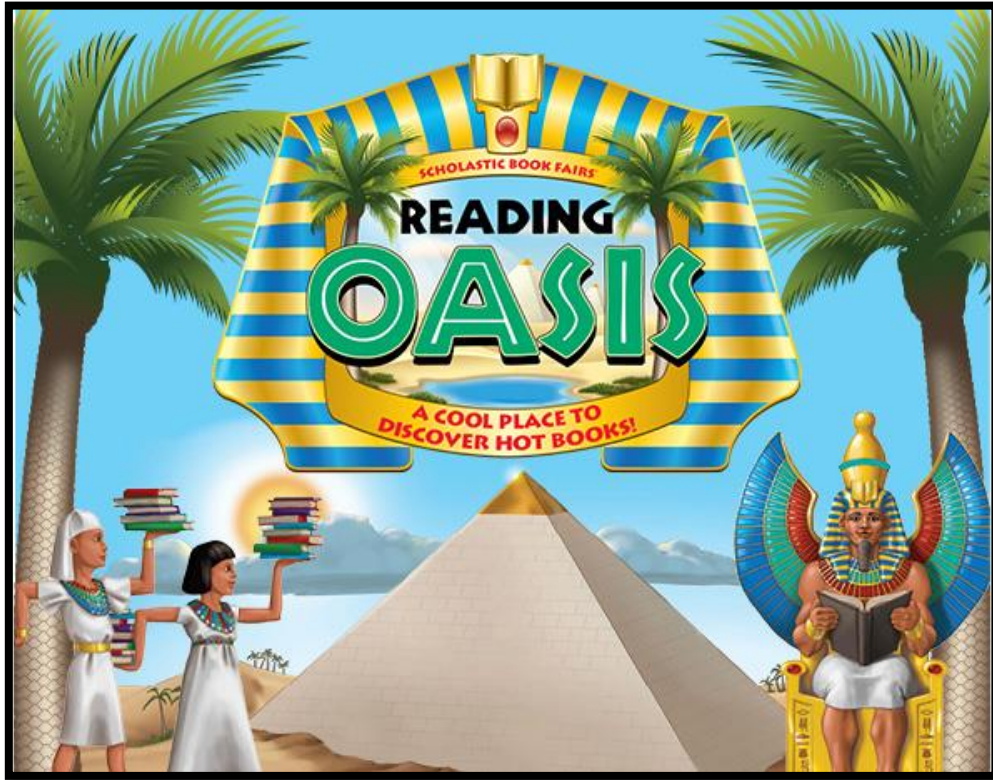


The Wallaroo RSL have already been in touch about our participation in the local community Remembrance Day Service, 11:00am, 11th November at the Memorial Arch, Wallaroo Town Hall. The RSL truly appreciate our continued involvement in this meaningful community gathering. Our SMM Singers will travel by bus to and from the Town Hall, accompanied by Mrs Thomson and one other staff member.

The Singers will present "In Flanders' Fields", based on the poem written by John McCrae, a Canadian army doctor in World War 1. It is a very moving song. The Singers have worked very hard to learn the lyrics and tune, keeping in mind that they are performing for the community. The

Singers are achieving success in the Arts area of the Australian Curriculum!

Library News



The theme of our Scholastic Book Fair this year is **Reading Oasis: A cool place to discover hot books!**

The Book Fair will commence Week 4, Monday 1st November to Friday 5th November. This year to spread the Book Fair and enable social distancing for adults, it will be held in the Library, corridor and MPLA.

Following our tradition, the first day of the fair is for viewing only. On Monday 1st November children will get the chance to view the Book Fair and complete a "wish-list" that they take home for discussion with their family.

The Fair will be open briefly Tuesday morning for purchases from 8:30 until 9:30 and then open daily for the rest of the week. Parents / caregivers are invited to come in (please follow the covid safe guidelines outlined in this Newsletter) and purchase, or you can send money with your child/children and with their wishlist they can make their own purchases.

It's a fun reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair dates: 1st – 5th November 2021

Shopping hours: 8:30 – 9:30 am Tuesday 2/11/21 and then 8.30am-3.30pm Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Special activities: Competition for each Year level with a chance to win \$10 to spend at the book fair

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

Sincerely,

Sharon Steer

Library Technician

Girls Knockout Cricket

On Monday, 25th October, the girls knock out cricket team drove to Stockwell to compete against Good Shepard Lutheran School from Angaston.

Lilly D was the captain and Sofia C was our vice-captain.

We made a total of 55 runs. Sofia C was our main wicket keeper and Mia D was our back up wicket keeper for the day. In the end we lost 55 runs to 97 runs.

The girls in the knock out team were Lilly D, Mathilda T, Sascha L, Mia F, Charli L, Mia D, Charlotte S, Scarlett M, Sofia C, Chelsea C and Charlotte B.

We thank Father Matthew, Miss Caffyn and Miss Cotter for taking us to the Wallaroo oval every lunch for the past two weeks so we can practice. Riley M and Ayden G for giving up their lunch time to help us and to Karren Dunstan for giving up her time to drive a few of us to Stockwell and to Kristy Frost for coming and supporting us.

Lilly D & Sofia C

Year 6/7



Reception/1 Hanson Class

R/1 H have continued to learn about and make their own bibles. Fr. Matthew visited them in the 7-9 building to talk about the bible and share the love of Jesus. Fr. Matthew said "when you open the bible, it is like Jesus giving you a big hug."



OSHC & Vacation Care News

VACATION CARE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY TIMES

Open – 13th – 17th December 2021

Closed – 20th December 2021 – 7th January 2022

(to allow our dedicated staff to have a well deserved break)

Reopen – 10th January 2022

OSHC Children have been having a blast with the warmer weather and being able to spend more time outside with daylight savings! We have had lots of chalk decorating which turned into a great sensory learning experience of what happens when you add water to chalk. We had a big box donated on Monday and the children spent hours playing in it.

Please check out the Early Works App to view photos of your child, their learning observations and our OSHC program. Children love being involved in the programming and having their photos taken using the App. Parents can view their own children's profiles anytime anywhere. If you need help logging in, please see Lisa.

If your child is booked into OSHC and then does not need to attend for some reason, or is absent from school, you need to inform OSHC staff before 1.00pm or you may be charged. This allows us time to offer bookings to other families and adjust our staffing. You can either call or send a TXT to 0437 659 137. Thank you.

Lisa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137

OSHC Pupil Free Day

Friday, 10th December, will be a Pupil Free Day. Outside School Hours Care will be available from 8.00am to 6.00pm. Light snacks are provided, children will need to bring packed recess and lunch. Child Care Benefits will be paid accordingly and the cost will be \$60.00 per child. Please return the reply slip by **Friday, 26th November**, if your child/ren will be attending.

OSHC BOOKING FORM – PUPIL FREE DAY – FRIDAY, 10th DECEMBER

Return by **Friday, 26th November**

Family Name: _____

Signed: _____

Children requiring OSHC _____ Year _____
_____ Year _____
_____ Year _____

Bookings

Priority 1 – Children who are permanent Friday after school.

Priority 2 – Children of parents/carers who work this day.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Noah – R/1 Hanson	27 th October
Ruby – R/1 Combe	28 th October
Eva – R/1 McCann	30 th October
Anastasia – Year 4/5	4 th November
William – Year 6/7	5 th November
Ava – R/1 McCann	6 th November



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. Year 6/7, Physical Education and Italian Curriculum letters
2. Water Safety consent form (Reception-Year 5 students)
3. Book Fair flyer

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.