

# St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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# Wednesdayday, 9th February, 2022 (Term 1, Week 2)

# "Who is My Neighbour?"



<u>Scripture</u>

Mark 12: 30-31

Jesus tells us:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

The second commandment is this:

'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

There is no commandment greater than these."

Each year we have a theme across all of the schools in the Port Pirie Diocese. This year the theme is "Who is my neighbour?" We will be reflecting on who our neighbours are, at school, at home, in our local and wider community and indeed the world. This is a perfect theme for the beginning of the year when we extend a neighbourly 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 at a time to be notified. The theme will be explored in depth with students in their classes throughout the year.

# **IMPORTANT DATES**

# **FEBRUARY**

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Friday Lunches

Mon 14th All students face-to-face learning

#### **MARCH**

Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Shrove Tuesday

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday

Wed 9th Opening of Sacred Heart Centre

Mon 14th PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tue 15th PUPIL FREE DAY

Thu 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day

Sat 19th St Joseph's Day

Mon 21st Harmony Day

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation

Tue 29th Sports Day

# **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.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the beginning of our new school year! A beginning with a difference with students engaged in face-to-face learning at school or remote learning at home. We are very much looking forward to next week when all year levels R-9 will be at school.

We have had a smooth beginning, albeit different, 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, maintenance, cleaning, 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 were very busy preparing yard and play areas; setting up learning areas and programming, all to make sure students have welcoming and interesting environments and engaging learning activities.

For the first 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.

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 learners they can possibly be. The small steps each student makes each day, makes a huge difference by the end of the year.

The support students 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 year, then we need to take positive steps to ensure this happens.

#### **WELCOME**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new students, families and staff who have commenced their association with us.

In Reception we welcome 21 students:

## Reception Murphy/Parker:

Sophie B, Nate D, Addyson L, Madalynn M-H, Leevi N, Harper N, Morgan O-H, Noah R, Zeb S, Bella S, Alexa T, Oliver T, Harlow T and Fynn Z.

# Reception/Year 1 Hanson

Patrick K, Henley M, Xavier M, Cameron S, Ava S, Isla S and Alexis W

# In other year levels we welcome:

Maddalyn C, Lachlan H, Isla P, Daisy H, Skye J, Tate I and Max R.

I know everyone will welcome these children and their families.





This year we are creating history with the beginning of our secondary school. As of this year we are a Reception – Year 8 school and as of next year will be Reception – Year 9. We welcome our first class of secondary students and our appointed 7-9 staff and wish them well as they help to create history. We look forward to sharing with you the continuing development and growth of our secondary school.

## **MEET OUR STAFF**

# Leadership Team:

Michelle Miller Principal

Sheridan Bonney APRIM (Assistant Principal Religious Identity & Mission),
Lisa Caffyn 7-9 Secondary School Leader, Sport/PE Coordinator

Annette Morphett R-9 Leader of Learning
Ali Ryan General/Key Capabilities

Francesca Tully IT, Data collection/analysis, SEQTA

Bernie Thomson Chaplain

## **Professional Teams:**

R-1 Team: Agatka Murphy and Sophie Parker (Rec), Lisa Hanson (R/1), Chloe Bacher (1)

2-3 Team: Jane Owen and Marcus Kerin (2), Abbey Whitehead (2/3); Year 3 teacher to be appointed

4-6 Team: Ali Ryan and Amie Price (4/5), Hannah Cotter (5/6)

7-8 Team: Lisa Caffyn, Sheridan Bonney, Masha Sudareva (7-9 teachers)

Specialist Teachers: Francesca Tully (Italian, Student Support); Annette Morphett ( 3-6 Health; Student Support); Bernie Thomson (Choir Coordinator, Aboriginal Education Focus teacher, R-2/3 Health); George Hamra (R-6 Science); Marcus Kerin (R-3 PE)

# **Education Support Officers Team:**

Karen Westlake Administration

Julia Agnew Finance, Administration

Emily Donnell Administration (on leave Term 1)
Felicity Schulz Mini Macs playgroup coordinator

Sharon Steer Library coordinator

Lisa Cooper OSHC coordinator and Curriculum
Sue Wharton 7-9 Curriculum and Administration
Heather Griffits Curriculum, Quicksmart Maths

Tania Nitschke Curriculum, OSHC Karen McCulloch Curriculum, Dance

Lisa Murphy Curriculum
Jody Duif Curriculum
Kelly Richardson Curriculum

Carol Burford OSHC Admin, Curriculum, Administration

Gary Whitford IT coordinator
Michael Dennis Bus driver

Ron Sherriff Grounds and maintenance

Paul Northeast Bus driver, grounds and maintenance, Curriculum

# OSHC/Vacation Care Team:

Lisa Cooper, Tania Nitschke, Clare Owen, Tallara Miller, Alex Wehr, Maddison Benn

Richard and Kate Johns Cleaning

Kris Strauss-Scott Student Counsellor (Centacare)

Fr Matthew Newman, our Parish Priest, is a wonderful supporter of our school, nurturing our faith development, celebrating Masses and Liturgies, volunteering with mentoring, sports and bus driving.

What an amazing staff team we have here at SMMS. We look forward to working with you throughout this year.

# 7-9 SECONDARY SCHOOL – SACRED HEART CENTRE

It gives me pleasure to announce that our purpose-built secondary facility has been named as the **Sacred Heart Centre.** Thank you to everyone who put in nominations for the naming of the facility, these were all considered.

St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods founded and named their order of sisters in 1866 as the *Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*. We know them more often as the Sisters of St Joseph, however this is their full and honourable title.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart was integral to the spirituality of both Fr Julian Tenison Woods and St Mary MacKillop. Mary MacKillop wrote to the Sisters in 1907 a reflection on the Sacred Heart. In it she reflects upon the special relationship that she has with the Sacred Heart. She wrote:

When storms rage, when persecutions or dangers threaten, I quietly creep into the deep abyss of the Sacred Heart; and securely sheltered there, my soul is in peace, though my body is tossed upon the stormy waves of a cold and selfish world.

Mary MacKillop 1907

The Catholic Church in Kadina is named as the Sacred Heart Church. Also, the Catholic school that was established in Kadina by the Sisters in 1869 was named Sacred Heart School.

We have these beautiful links with the sacred heart of Jesus and therefore believe this is a very fitting name for our new facility.

The official blessing and opening of our Sacred Heart Centre will be on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022.

## **NEW SMMS HOUSE – JOSEPH**

Given that our school is growing and we believe in structures that will give more students more opportunities for leadership and participation, last year we announced that a fourth House would be created. Once again, thank you to everyone who put in nominations for the naming of the House and also the colour, these were all considered.

It gives me pleasure to announce that our new House will be named Joseph, and the colour will be yellow.

The name of Joseph was chosen combining the reasons that people gave for their suggestions: the people whom the other Houses are named after, all followed St Joseph; Joseph acknowledges the legacy, contribution and deep connection we have with the Sisters of St Joseph who established our school in 1869.

The House colour of yellow was chosen from the nominations and the reasoning is that this completes the representation of the colours that appear in our school emblem; we now have the yellow of the lily.

Thank you to the members of our School Board who assisted with the decision making for the name of our Secondary facility and our new House.

Thank you to students and staff who have made the courageous move to join Joseph House. Their first win in their first year may come to fruition!

# **SPORTS DAY**

Our Sports Day will be held this term at Wallaroo Football Club oval on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Week 9 Term 1). Our House shirts are:

Tappeiner (bright red)
Woods (forest green)
MacKillop (royal blue)
Joseph (yellow)

# **GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START**

Developing relationships and shared understandings is essential in setting up for success. Many teachers have sent home a newsletter to introduce themselves and share some initial information with you.

With the Week 3 Newsletter class and specialist teachers will send home a Term 1 Curriculum letter which will outline their learning intentions for the term and give you an overview of what your child/children will be experiencing.

We would usually have a Meet and Greet evening where parents come into school and meet the teachers and join them for class information, we will be sharing this information with you in other ways this year to ensure that this communication still takes place.

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 (currently by phone and face-to face as of Week 5), 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 meant 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.

## **ROAD SAFETY**

In the interests of everyone's safety and wellbeing, following are some reminders and requests:

- Please remember to always use the school crossing in the morning and afternoon should you need to cross the road.
   This is the 'safest' spot to cross the road and the area cars EXPECT you to cross at even if you do need to back track a little. Crossing at other points can cause confusion and be a dangerous option. Please do not cross the road in front of our parked buses
- When parking cars, please be aware of our neighbours and ensure that you have not parked in a spot which would
  make it difficult for them to drive out of their driveway. Parking over driveways even if it is for just 30 seconds is
  both unhelpful and illegal
- Please ensure that your child always exits the car on the footpath side of the road. A number of students get out of the car on the road side of the car, this is a safety risk, especially if they are doing this on their own
- We do have staff on crossing duty; however this is also a great opportunity for you to take the time to teach your child about crossing the road safely. Ensure they stop and look both ways, are not running and are focussed on crossing the road safely. We are here to support you with this important life lesson
- Please do not stop in the middle of the road to pick up your child/children
- Please check carefully when reversing
- Please do not do U-turns in the school zone during school hours

#### **KISS AND DROP ZONE**

The Kiss and Drop zone is available between 8.15-8.45am and 2.45-3.15pm. The Kiss and Drop zone is clearly highlighted with fence banners in the parking bays along the oval fenceline.

People who want to do a quick morning drop off for school in the morning or pick up in the afternoon are asked to park, assist children out or into the car (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.



# **STUDENT ABSENCE**

In the case of planned absence, a note in the diary, personal notification to the teacher or front office or phone call, prior to the absence is required.

In all other cases of absence, parents and carers are asked to notify the school by 9.15am via phone call to 8821 5800 when their child/children are absent from school. Please do not use Seesaw to communicate absence directly to the class teacher, this needs to go through the front office.

For Pastoral Care and legal reasons, we require an explanation for all student absence. In the event that notification has not been received a SMS message will be sent to parents asking for an explanation. We appreciate your prompt reply.

If there is a planned absence of more than 4 school days (ie family holiday) a form must be filled in approved and signed by the Principal. Please see Karen Westlake for the forms. In these cases of planned absence for holidays in term time, where parents choose to take their children out of school, separate work, homework or projects will not be set by the class teacher.

# **MONDAY ASSEMBLY R-6 / THURSDAY MEETING 7-8**

We will commence our Monday Morning Assemblies next week when all students return. The Monday Morning Assemblies will be for our R-6 students, with 7-8 students joining us on some special occasions.

Our Year 7-8 students will have their own secondary version for information sharing and celebrations.

# **SCHOOL TIMES**

Our school times are:

8.20 – 8.50	School drop off, buses arrive. Students unpack their bags and cross to the oval for supervised morning play;
	7-8 students have option to stay in Sacred Heart Centre
8.50-11.00	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 8.20-8.50am, teachers may be involved in preparation, meetings and yard duties, therefore students unpack their bags and go over to the oval for play.

#### **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, parents 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. This will be easier and more convenient than returning a paper slip.

#### **NUT-FREE**

We have a number of students at our school and OSHC who have various serious allergies. One of the allergens is nuts, meaning if the child comes into contact with nut or nut based products, this can result in very serious and life threatening reaction (anaphylaxis). As such, our policy states that NO NUTS and NO NUT based products are to be brought to school. This includes nut bars, Nutella / peanut paste in sandwiches and mixed nuts for fruit snacks.

# **SMOKE-FREE**

An adult's decision to smoke is respected, however I reiterate that our school is a Smoke-Free zone and respectfully ask that there is no smoking in or around our school buildings and school buses.

In South Australia, it is illegal to smoke in cars while children (under 16) are passengers.

# **OSHC INFORMATION**

Last year an OSHC committee was formed consisting of Lisa Cooper, Lisa Hawson, Tristan Graham and myself to ensure parent voice is represented in reviewing our OSHC procedures. With today's Newsletter is OSHC information that we worked on and clarified for the new year.

We understand that not all families may currently use OSHC, however at some time in the future you may and so we hope you find this helpful.

"Begin once more in real earnestness."

Mary MacKillop 1881

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

Blessings for the week ahead,

Michelle Miller

**Principal** 

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

# **Date Claimers**

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr Daylight Savings ends

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Apr Year 7-8 to Pt Pirie for Chrism Mass

Week 11 Holy Week

Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> Apr Last day of Term 1



# FROM THE APRIM

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends of the SMMS school community,

This is a great opportunity to personally introduce myself to the school community. I am incredibly excited to be working in such a welcoming school environment. It has been lovely to meet many of the students, staff and parents so far.

In 2013, 2014 and 2015, I was lucky enough to teach here at SMMS in the Year 6/7 class as my first teaching appointment. This was an amazing experience and a central reason why I am so delighted to be back.

Throughout the past few years, I have gained more experience working at St Francis Primary School, Adelaide and following this Nazareth Catholic College, Adelaide in a teaching and leadership capacity.

I grew up in the Riverland town of Barmera and love country living. My interests include my faith, family, friends, sport and music.

Please feel free to contact me via the details below if you have any queries or questions:

Email: <a href="mailto:sheridan.bonney@stmm.catholic.edu.au">sheridan.bonney@stmm.catholic.edu.au</a>

Phone: 8821 5800

Sheridan Bonney

APRIM

# **PRAYER OF THE WEEK:** A Blessing for Students

May the Lord bless you in the years ahead and inspire you to be positive in your attitude, faithful in loving and generous in the service of others.

May you learn from the difficulties that you will face, and so grow in wisdom and understanding and in compassion for others.

May you be patient and forgiving in your relationships.

May you retain a sense of wonder and awe, and may you grow as the person God calls you to be.

Amen

# WEEK 2

Theme: Who is my neighbour?

Each year, our Catholic Schools in the Port Pirie Diocese have a theme. This year our theme is- 'Who is our neighbour.' This theme will be intertwined throughout the year in a variety of ways. Updates will be shared with you throughout the year. This term, we will be focusing on being a good neighbour to others and ourselves.

# **Class Blessing**

Due to COVID, we have been unable to celebrate our usual Beginning of Year Mass with Fr Matthew Newman in the Church. Instead, each class will be given a blessing for 2022 along with a candle presentation. This ceremony has already occurred for the Reception, Year 1 and Year 7/8 students and staff. We thank Fr Matthew for taking the time to bless our students, staff and school.



# Hot Weather

We have not had a lot of very hot days this summer, however when we do, our school is well equipped to ensure students and staff can be kept as comfortable as possible. 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 Kalori Multi-Purpose Building (MPLA), Hall and Sacred Heart Centre provide excellent areas for the students at these times. Our classrooms have refrigerators and students are encouraged to store their recess, lunch or fruit in these. Students do not need to stay home on hot-weather days as 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

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.

# Mini Macs Playgroup

Our Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. We will commence again as of next week – Week 3. 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!



# **OSHC** Pupil Free Day

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 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, 4<sup>th</sup> March**, if your child/ren will be attending.

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# OSHC BOOKING FORM - PUPIL FREE DAY - TUESDAY, 15th MARCH

Return by Friday, 26th November

Family Name:	Signed:
Children requiring OSHC	Year
	Year
	Year
n !:	

#### Bookings

Priority 1 – Children who are permanent Friday after school.

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

# **OSHC & Vacation Care News**

# **VACATION CARE**

December and January Vacation Care went well. Children were lucky enough to go on an excursion in December to Adelaide Aquatic Centre before more Covid-19 restrictions came in place for OSHC services not allowing us to have excursions or incursions. Children adapted well to the changes in the program.

# **OSHC**

OSHC has been very busy already for the beginning of year return. Children have been having fun engaging in various activities like musical group games, imaginative play, construction and more. Children got crafty last week with making Chinese New Year themed crafts – Year of the Tiger.

This week our craft focus is on basic learn to draw activities following on from children's interest of drawing.

# **CANCELLATIONS**

When cancellations are made at short notice this impacts on staffing, running costs and other families needing to use the service.

Families must cancel permanent bookings if not required for Vacation Care, by Week 3 of the school term.

Any bookings for OSHC during the school term must be cancelled seven school term days in advance.

Any bookings for Vacation Care during the school holidays must be cancelled two weeks in advance.

Lísa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137























# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Holly – Year 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Abigail – Year 2/3	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Tate – Year 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Hannah – Year 2/3	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Macy – Year 2	4 <sup>th</sup> January
Leo – Year 3	8 <sup>th</sup> January
Aria – Year 2/3	13 <sup>th</sup> January
Kaysha – Year 5/6	14 <sup>th</sup> January
Emilie – Year 7/8	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Heath – Year 5/6	15 <sup>th</sup> January
Tia – Year 1	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Leevi – Reception	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Jessica – Year 4/5	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Addison – Year 1	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Bronik – Year 1	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Nate – Year 1	21 <sup>st</sup> January
Oliver – Year 1	22 <sup>nd</sup> January
Amaya – Year 2/3	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Henley – Reception/1	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Ava – Reception/1	2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Hudson – Year 7/8	10 <sup>th</sup> February
Harper – Reception	13 <sup>th</sup> February
Harlow – Reception	15 <sup>th</sup> February



# NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

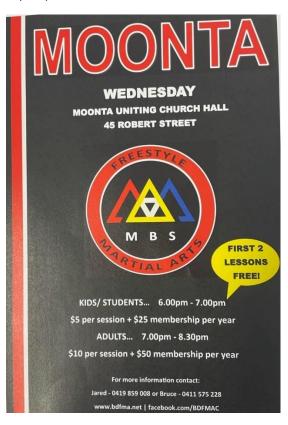
- 1. OSHC/Vacation Care letter
- 2. ICT Agreement (Year 2, Year 2/3 and Year 3 students)

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**

The services and events contained in Community News are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children. Notices will be placed if time and space permits.









# **YPFLW**

# **Expression of Interest**

The YPFLW is looking for females to participate in local football in 2022!

U11, U14, U17 age groups



Scan QR code to register!