



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday, 19th October, 2022 (Term 4, Week 1)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It is wonderful to be back at SMMS!

I thoroughly enjoyed my long service leave. I am very fortunate to have had the amount of time that I did to relax (in lovely Wallaroo) and travel (to sunny Broome and cold Melbourne!).

I also had time for leadership studies, it is a professional and personal commitment to continue to learn and develop, just as we encourage our students to be lifelong learners. I have one essay for the semester to go and I can certainly identify with students when they have those writer's block days!

I appreciated every moment and now I am glad to be back with you all.

I am very grateful to Sheri Bonney our APRIM, Kerri Dent our Acting Principal and all of our staff for the many ways they kept things running smoothly and picked up extra while I was on leave.

So much was achieved in a term and a half and it is quite amazing to observe it all from a bit of a distance. The middle school students kicked off their 'In The Middle Café', I enjoyed my first delicious hot chocolate from them yesterday. I have heard glowing reports about the Dance Concert, always a highlight for our school. The Learning Expo was a wonderful success with students having the opportunity to proudly share their learning with their families.

Students, staff and parents can be so proud of our beautiful school.

OSHC THANK YOU

A big thank you to our OSHC staff: educators - Lisa, Maddi, Tamika, Jayden and Alain; and our bus driver Paul, who worked over the holidays providing care and fun for our students.

(We continue to look for a qualified OSHC educator so if you hear of anyone you think may be suitable, please let Michelle Miller or Lisa Cooper know).

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER

- Thu 20th Coin Mosaic Fundraiser/House tops
- Fri 21st Knockout Cricket
- Tue 25th Mini Macs Playgroup
- Thu 27th Whole School Mass- Star of the Sea Church 11.45am
- Fri 28th Year 3 Hamra Assembly 9.00am
Year 2 Owen/Kerin sleepover at school
- Mon 31st Book Fair commences

NOVEMBER

- Tue 1st Music Recital 6.30pm
P & F meeting 7.00pm
- Wed 2nd – Fri 4th Year 4 & 5 Camp
Year 7/8 Camp
- Tue 8th Finance/School Board meeting 7pm/7.30pm
- Fri 18th Twilight Market 5.00-8.00pm

Parish Weekend Mass Times

- St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta:
Sunday 8.30am
- Sacred Heart, Kadina:
Saturday 8.30am Sunday 10.00am
- Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wallaroo:
Saturday 6.00pm



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

WELCOME

We welcome Corey White as teacher of the 4/5 class Monday – Thursday of Term 4. Corey will also be available on Fridays for relief days in other classes in the school. Welcome Corey and we hope you have a great term with us.

We welcome new students: Amani Summerton (Year 4 - White/Price) and Alyvia Summerton (Year 1 - R/1Hanson) and their parents Sam and Dale Summerton.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to our beloved Julia (Agnew) and Michael Hammill who were married on Saturday, 8th October! We wish Julia and Mick all the very best for their future together.

ENJOY YOUR LEAVE

We wish Ali Ryan a very happy Term 4 for her long service leave.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Bernie Thomson and Michele Giesecke for preparation of the students for the Catholic Schools Music Festival: Mileah, Amelia, Adelaide, Riley D, Charley C. The choir performed at the Festival Theatre in Week 10 of last term, following three terms of dedicated training and preparation. Well done to our UP Choir!

PLANNING FOR 2023

Our planning and preparation is well underway for 2023.

This week and next week I am enjoying enrolment meetings and tours of the school for families and children commencing in Reception Term 1, 2023. We are expecting 22 children at this stage (23 for transition visits) for our Term 1 Reception intake. The children will have their transition visits on Thursdays of Weeks 3 to 6. We are really excited about welcoming these children and their families.

Enrolment enquiries are most welcome for other year levels as well.

We are employing staff and working out class structures and student placements for next year.

Please use the slip in this Newsletter to inform us if your child/children will not be attending SMMS next year. Alternatively, send a confidential email to michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

When we are informed of students leaving, this assists greatly with all of our planning.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Thankfully, things have certainly changed for the positive from this time last year or even last term, in regards to COVID.

- From 14th October, it is no longer mandatory for those who test positive to COVID-19 to self-isolate at home. Students are encouraged to stay away from school if symptoms are displayed as this is the most effective control of an outbreak of COVID-19, however as stated, this is not mandatory.
- I am still required to record student cases so please notify our school office of any student cases of COVID-19.
- Some more RAT tests are being sent home for families today. Please see the attached letter for more information.
- Mask wearing is only required in specific instances (5 or more cases in one classroom over 7 days), however mask wearing is supported for those who wish to do so.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection is everyone's responsibility. Our staff receive training and have recently received extensive resources outlining guidelines and procedures in regards to *Children and young people's sexual behaviour in education and care settings*.

We support children in healthy sexual, social and emotional development through explicit teaching, the learning and care environment we provide, and partnering with other agencies. In responding to sexual behaviour, we consider at all times, what is in the best interests of all children and young people involved.

A pamphlet is being distributed to each family with today's Newsletter with some supportive information.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"GET OFF THAT COMPUTER NOW!" - PARENT EVENING

On our facebook page you will see a Parent Engagement Evening presented by Mark Le Messurier advertised. Mark Le Messurier is an experienced, entertaining presenter. He is a teacher, counsellor, author, public speaker. He is passionate about young people's social and emotional development and coaching parents and teachers in this.

I highly recommend committing the time to join the online session as detailed on our facebook page and in the Community News of this Newsletter. If anyone is not able to access this at home, the session will be offered here at school, I would be happy for you to join me. Please contact our front office on 8821 5800 or by email info@stmm.catholic.edu.au to register your interest if you wish to join here at school.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Michelle Miller

Principal

michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au

FROM THE APRIM

Beginning of Term Mass

All families are welcome to join us for our Whole School Mass on Thursday, 27th October, at Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Wallaroo. Mass will commence at 11:45am. We will be celebrating our diocesan theme of 'Who is Our Neighbour?' Our students have lots of exciting things planned for this celebration and would love to share this with you.

Coin Fundraiser for Catholic Mission

A reminder that we have our Coin Mosaic Fundraiser tomorrow. All proceeds will go to Catholic Mission. Our Year 2, Year 2/3 and Year 3 classes have done a fantastic job organising this.

All students are invited to wear their House tops or sport tops (and sport shorts/shoes) and to bring in any coins to add to the mosaics in support of this great cause.

Catholic Mission is the Australian agency of the international Pontifical Mission Societies. As the Pope's official mission agency, Catholic Mission contributes funding and provides project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania and South America, as well as remote dioceses within Australia.



Piper, Clair, Isabelle and Eloise spread the news about our Coin Mosaic Fundraiser

Prayer Book

Our Prayer book orders arrived over the holidays and have been distributed to those who ordered a copy via the students on Monday. Please contact the school if you did not receive yours.

Christian Meditation

During our Pupil Free Day last term, staff took part in a Christian Meditation day. Many of our Catholic Schools around Australia have implemented meditation into their school experience. Research indicated that meditation can be effective in helping students to pay attention and concentrate. Studies have also shown that meditation helps people feel healed, integrated and more in harmony with themselves and God. Just as it is important to rest our bodies, it is important to learn how to rest our brains.

We will be practising meditation on Mondays and Wednesdays for 10 minutes straight after recess. All staff members and students will be involved in this process. A pamphlet is coming home today explaining how we will be incorporating Christian Meditation into our week here at St Mary MacKillop school.

Student Leadership Meeting

Our Student Leaders met this week and continued their discussion of how we can build community amongst our student body. They are working on organising a Table Tennis Competition at lunch times. They have organised to split the school into age brackets with commentating and fun table tennis activities.

They will also be a significant part of our Whole School Mass in Week 2 where they have organised a role play and neighbourly message for our community.

Dance Concert- Videography

We are very excited to have received the footage from our Dance Concert. Each family will receive an email with a link and password so you can access and download the concert onto your own device. We hope you enjoy reminiscing on a spectacular performance from our talented students.



Prayer of the Week

Dear Lord,

We ask that you be present in this space. Lord, as we prepare for the coming of a new term make us ready, attentive and available to hear you.

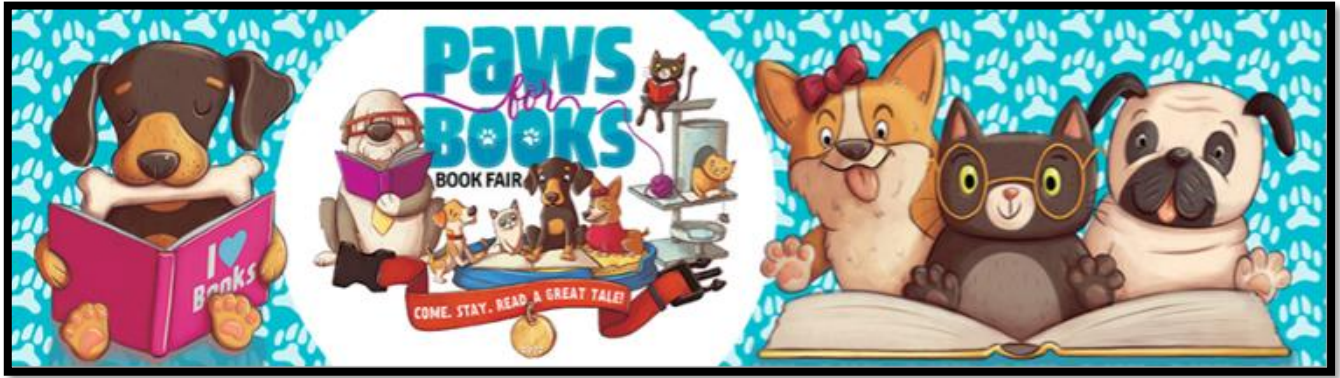
Thank You for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance that You walk through it with us.

Amen.

Sheridan Bonney

APRIM

Library News



The Scholastic Book Fair is Here!!

Theme: Paws for Books: Come, Stay, and read a great Tale!

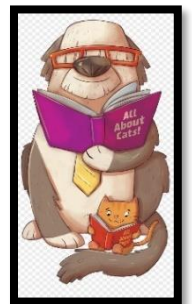
The Book Fair will commence Week 3 – Monday, 31st October to Friday, 4th November and will be held in the Atrium, near the front reception area.

Traditionally the first day of the fair is for viewing only. On Monday, 31st October, children will get the chance to view the Book Fair and complete a “wish-list” to take home for discussion with their family.

The Book Fair will be open Tuesday to Friday mornings for purchases from 8:30-9:30am.

Parents and caregivers are invited to come along and make purchases, or they can send money with their child and their “wish-list” to do their own purchasing. The Book Fair is a fun reading event that brings books kids want to read right into our school! There is 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.

From Monday 31st October, students are invited to bring along a soft toy animal that might relate to the theme of our Book Fair. They can “dress it up” or bring a book from home that relates to the toy and we will put them on display in the library. There will be a \$10 prize for the best dressed toy! (make sure you put your name on them)



Book Fair dates: 31st October – 4th November 2022

Shopping hours: 8:30–9:30 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Special activities: There will also be a Competition for each Year level with a chance to win \$10 to spend at the book fair. More details to come!!

System Upgrade

The library is undergoing a change to a new Library management System called Accessit. This process begins in Week 3 and requires a two week changeover period followed by some staff training.

Given the change over coincides with our Book Fair, it has been decided that there will be no student borrowing that week. A temporary system will be installed for the changeover period and we are hopeful that the new system will not cause any further disruptions and borrowing can resume as normal in Week 4. (finger crossed).

We appreciate your patience and support during this time.

Sharon Steer
Library Technician

Nature Play Resources – Loose parts play

We are looking for donations of items for our loose parts play. Below are some examples of items we require. Please contact the front office on 8821 5800 to arrange delivery if you are able to assist. More photos are in the OSHC/Vacation Care article. Thank you

- ☐ Crates
- ☐ Large blue drums
- ☐ Go Kart tyres
- ☐ Small off cuts of rope (approximately 70cm long)
- ☐ Tarps
- ☐ PVC pipes
- ☐ Black bendy tube (check photos)
- ☐ Large Log/Sticks (must be smooth and splinter-free)



Milo and Muffin Day

On Wednesday, 28th September, Year 7 students Chelsea and Mia organised a Milo and Muffin Day fundraiser. The girls did a fantastic job organising the day. \$327.65 was raised to go towards playground equipment for the oval. Thank you to families for supporting the fundraiser and staff and parents who assisted the girls.



OSHC & Vacation Care News

OCTOBER VACATION CARE

Over the holidays we had many planned activities which all involved various learning opportunities.

- Science experiments where the children had to predict what would happen. One experiment had them questioning why it went like it did and raised lots of conversations.
- Junk Yard play at Moonta OSHC was a favourite for most children with endless hours of creating/building, using imaginations and problem solving with lots of loose parts equipment.

The weather was not good for our Yorke Peninsula playground crawl so we quickly made the decision to change the day and headed off to Croc's Indoor Play Centre in Adelaide. The kids loved the playground and had hours of endless fun.

DECEMBER/JANUARY VACATION CARE

The next school holidays will be here before we know it. Please see the dates below for when we are open and closed over the December/January school holidays. The Vacation Care booking sheet will go out in Week 5. If you have permanent bookings, please let us know before Week 3 if you need to cancel any dates to free them up for other families.

Open 19th - 23rd December

Closed 26th December - 13th January

Parents were surveyed earlier this year to gauge interest in OSHC being available 9th - 13th January. Thank you for your feedback. Unfortunately, due to staff shortage we are unable to offer the extra week. We will keep working on this and notify families if this changes.

Open 16th - 20th January

Open 23rd - 27th January (Closed Thursday, 26th January, Public Holiday)

CANCELLATIONS

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

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 in advance a minimum of fourteen days during business hours.

Lisa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137



OSHC & Vacation Care News



Return Slip

2023 Enrolment

We are planning now for our finances, staffing and enrolments for our 2023 school year.

To assist with our forward planning it is very helpful to know if your child/children will be leaving us at the end of this school year. If we are not informed, this can impact significantly on class structures and student placement.

Please indicate if it is your intention for your child/children to be leaving our school at the end of 2022.

RETURN SLIP

My child/children: _____

WILL NOT be attending St Mary MacKillop School in 2023.

Parent name: _____

Signature: _____



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Caitlin – Year 5/6	21 st October
Zeb – Reception	23 rd October
Noah – Reception/1	27 th October
Ruby – Year 2/3	28 th October
Eva- Reception/1	30 th October



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. Christian Meditation pamphlet
2. Rapid Antigen Tests and letter
3. Year 2 Sleepover information
4. Letter to Year 6 parents and students
5. Children and young people's sexual behaviour in education and care settings brochure

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.



Catholic School Parents SA is pleased to present:

Get off that Computer NOW!

presented by Mark Le Messurier

Wednesday November 2 2022
6pm - 8pm (in person or online)

McAuley Community School
51a King George Avenue, Hove

This Parent Engagement Evening is hosted by Catholic School Parents SA.

This is more than a workshop on "cyber safety" – it addresses the delicate balance required to support kids to manage real life responsibilities, screens, social media and video games. Mark will take attendees down a road that creates a balance between screens and other aspects of living a real life. Capturing a balance is a healthier approach than endlessly fighting, banning and being the controller of screens and devices... **You need to be empowered – not scared off.**

Mark Le Messurier is a teacher, counsellor, author and public speaker. He works in private practice as a mentor to children and adolescents, and as coach to parents.

Register via the [CESA Registration Centre](#) or go to the [Events page](#) on the [CSPSA Website](#)

cspsa.catholic.edu.au