



# St Mary MacKillop School

## NEWSLETTER

10 Bagot Street (PO Box 16), WALLAROO SA 5556

P: (08) 8821 5800

E: [info@stmm.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmm.catholic.edu.au)

W: [www.stmm.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmm.catholic.edu.au)

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023 (Term 1, Week 1)**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to the beginning of our new school year! Students, families and staff are happy to be back and that is a very good sign of an excellent school community. We have had a smooth beginning and it has been a very different beginning to last year when we had the staggered return of classes to school, and home learning was in place due to the COVID pandemic. We had many restrictions and requirements in place. It has been wonderful to welcome parents into the school again.

Thank you to all of our staff and families for your commitment and positive support in ensuring a smooth start to the school year. It is exciting to see students so full of hope and wonder at the start of the new year. I know that an education in our school will nurture students to take their place in the world as "thriving people, capable learners, for the world God desires." We do this most successfully when we work in partnership with you all; the parents and caregivers of our students.

A new school year provides a great opportunity for children to have a fresh start. I 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, make 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, allowing time and space for 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 one, then we need to take positive steps to ensure this happens.

The school was still a hive of activity during the holidays with moving and preparing classrooms, painting, cleaning, getting our buses ready, maintaining our grounds and environment, getting books and uniforms ready. So much was achieved! Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way with these plans, preparations and work.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### FEBRUARY

- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Beginning of Year Welcome Mass, 9.30am  
Star of the Sea Church, Wallaroo.  
ALL WELCOME
- Tue 14<sup>th</sup> 1-9 Meet and Greet Evening
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Reception Meet and Greet Morning
- Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Shrove Tuesday / Pancakes (gold coin)
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday  
Ash Wednesday Mass, 11.45am – Star of the Sea Church, Wallaroo. ALL WELCOME

#### 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

---

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)**

For the first two 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.

## **SMMS WELCOME**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new students, families and staff who have commenced their association with St Mary MacKillop school. We have welcomed 24 new Reception students and six students in other year levels.

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

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

You are invited to attend our 'Meet and Greet' (parents and teachers) sessions:

*Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February (Week 3):*

6.00-6.45pm      Year 1 Bacher, Year 2/3 Wehr and Year 2/3 Norton – parents meet in the MPLA 6pm  
6.45-7.30pm      Year 3/4 and Year 4/5 – parents meet in the MPLA 6.45pm  
Year 6, 7, 8 – parents meet in the Sacred Heart Centre at 6.45pm

\* Supervision of children will be provided on the school oval from 5.50-7.30pm. We hope that this will enable you to attend the evening sessions.

*Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February (Week 3):*

8.50-10.30am      Reception Hanson and Reception Parker/Murphy – parents meet at the classrooms

\* We have allowed a different and longer time for the Reception classes so that we can cover more information about helping your child in the early stages of literacy development

You will have the opportunity to meet the class teacher, visit your child's classroom, see how the learning environment has been set up, hear about class routines, practices and about the ways in which your children can best be supported at school.

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, 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.

## **ICT / EXCURSIONS / PG MOVIES**

At the beginning of each school year there is much information to collect to ensure that we are able to provide the best care for all students.

Thank you for your patience and support in filling in and returning the flurry of paperwork.

Today you will receive:

- 2023 ICT Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement form – all children in one family can be included on the same form.
- 2023 Consent form for local school bus excursions (up to 10kms) for regional schools – this must be completed separately for each child in the family.
- From time-to-time teachers may choose a movie or film clip for the students to view that is related to class learning, this viewing will generally have a G rating. If a relevant movie is chosen that has a PG rating, parents will be notified by (usually by Seesaw). This will eliminate the need to return a slip of paper every time this occurs. We will keep you informed.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

---

### VACATION CARE FUN - THANK YOU

Thank you to our Vacation Care staff who offered much appreciated care for our children and families, OSHC administration and transport since 16<sup>th</sup> January. They did have a lot of fun with themes for every day and two great excursions. Thank you Lisa, Maddi, Tamika, Alain, Jayden, Paul and Carol.

### STAFF FORMATION DAYS

At the beginning of each year, prior to students starting, staff attend and are engaged in staff formation days where we prepare for the year ahead. We meet and make plans for student learning, wellbeing and extra-curricular activities. As well as these plans, we take time for the spiritual and personal formation of our staff. Francesca Tully led this formation for our staff. Our time together was important, it was very meaningful, thought and action provoking, and will have very relevant application to our every day life and work throughout 2023. The staff reflected on our theme for the year "Called To Community" and what this asks of us. We shared our hopes, dreams and intentions for the year ahead.

### SPECIALIST SUBJECTS FOR WEEK 1

All of our specialist teaching areas and lessons are up and running as of this week. This includes: Choir, Dance, PE, Science, Health and Italian lessons. Therapists who work with students have also been welcomed back, including our school counsellor Kris Strauss-Scott. We are off to a positive start.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

Thankfully the parameters around COVID-19 management have changed significantly however we remain vigilant in ensuring the health and safety of everyone. Following is an update on our situation.

#### COVID-19 Management Plan

**COVID-19 continues to affect the community and we all have a part to play in keeping our school community safe and minimising the disruption to learning that can occur when illness circulates at school.**

#### Covid-19 Management Plan 2023

The management of COVID-19 in education settings in Term 1 2023, is similar to that of Term 4, 2022.

**Students who are unwell should stay home if they have cold or flu-like symptoms and get tested for COVID-19.**

**If students have COVID-19, families are required to advise the school as soon as possible, and stay at home until all acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever) have cleared. Our school is still required to submit a weekly report of COVID-19 positive cases.**

**Schools are not required to send classroom contact notifications in response to individual cases being reported to our school. In the situation of five or more COVID-19 positive students in one classroom, across a seven-day period, a letter will be sent to families to be alert to symptoms.**

**Where an ESO works 1:1 with a student indoors for a cumulative period of 4 hours in one day (where the student was not wearing a mask) and the ESO subsequently tests positive, an ESO 1:1 contact notification letter will be sent to the family of the student.**

**Mask wearing is optional, however, in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak a letter will be sent recommending mask wearing for 14 days.**

**As part of the sign-in process, all visitors/volunteers to our school will be required to confirm the following COVID-19 symptom questions:**

- I confirm that I am free from cold/flu/COVID-19-like symptoms at this time.
- I confirm that I will adhere to any COVID-19 protocols that I am directed to follow by authorised school personnel.

#### Cessation of the RATS for Regional School Students Plan

In 2022, in response to the lack of PCR testing facilities in the regions, a specific plan was resolved for CESA regional schools and RATs were distributed to families to hold at home and utilise if notified of their child becoming a classroom contact.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

---

The *RATs for Regional School Students Plan* no longer applies, as testing of asymptomatic contacts is no longer required.

**If you have questions or particular concerns relating to COVID-19 management at our school site, please do not hesitate to phone, email or make a time to meet with me.**

### 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 mean 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.

### MORNING NOTICES

We usually commence the week with Monday Morning Notices, however given this was the very first day of term, it was important for students and staff to settle straight into their classrooms. We will commence our Monday Morning Notices next Monday, Week 2.

### SCHOOL TIMES

Our school times are:

8.20 – 8.50am	School drop off, buses arrive. Students unpack their bags and cross to the oval for supervised morning play.
8.50-11.00am	Lessons
11.00-11.30am	Supervised eating from 11.00-11.10, supervised play 11.10-11.30
11.30am-1.00pm	Lessons
1.00-1.40pm	Supervised eating from 1.00-1.10, supervised play 1.10-1.40
1.40-3.00pm	Lessons
3.00pm	Dismissal, <b>pick up from MPLA gates</b> , 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.

Parents are encouraged to let their children be independent. Let your school-age child/children walk into school on their own, carry and unpack their own bag. Say goodbye and let your child head across the road with friends for morning play.

Parents are asked to not congregate in the corridors and MPLA at the beginning and end of the school day. We welcome parents coming in to say “hi” catch up with the teacher, say “bye” to their child, then head off. Having many people congregating outside the classrooms can be overwhelming and distracting for many of our children. Teachers will walk younger students to the MPLA gates at the end of the school day to meet you, once again, encouraging independence. We understand that the first day or week for new students it is nice to bring them in, from then onwards, work towards independence.

### BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Sheridan and Justin Bonney welcomed a baby boy, William, in January. William is Sheridan and Justin’s second child, a baby brother for Eliza.

Abbey and Alex Whitehead welcomed a baby boy, Fletcher, in January (an early arrival). Fletcher is Abbey and Alex’s first child.

Congratulations to these families, we wish them all the very best for a happy future.



### MORE INFORMATION TO COME

There is always so much information to share at the beginning of the new school year, however we also do not want information overload! Further information will be shared gradually with you through Newsletters, Seesaw, letters, diaries, communication books, your children, over the coming weeks about our school. Please make sure you ask if you have any questions at all.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

---

### ST MARY MACKILLOP

St Mary MacKillop was an incredibly reflective and prayerful woman. She expressed her ideas, thoughts and vision through her actions and her words. Mary wrote letters frequently to her family, friends and to the Sisters of St Joseph (which she formed with Fr Julian Tenison Woods). Her words of wisdom are relevant across time and can inspire us for the start of our new year. Mary MacKillop wrote the following:

*"Let us pray that the spirit of St Joseph will accompany his children,  
and that they do much good for themselves and others. "*

1.4.1890

I have been in classrooms for prayer and reflection times this week and hearing the students share their hopes and dreams for the year ahead, I know that your children already have the Christian Value of wanting to "do good for others". You can feel very proud of your children and we look forward to continuing to nurture their development in all areas over the weeks and terms ahead.

Best wishes for 2023.

*Michelle Miller*

PRINCIPAL

[michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au](mailto:michelle.miller@stmm.catholic.edu.au)

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

---

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

Welcome to all in our St Mary MacKillop School community as we commence our new school year. I trust you had a rest-filled holiday break, spending time with family and friends. It has been wonderful seeing the students start back at school these past two days. We are blessed to be part of a lively school community.

We look forward to the year in hope, as we continue to celebrate our Catholic faith and spirituality, which is an important facet of our school community. Part of our core work as educators in Catholic schools is to work in partnership with you in educating the whole person. We look forward to doing that through our Religious Education programs and through our faith experiences such as prayer, liturgical celebrations and fundraising for Caritas, Project Compassion and Vinnies.

### CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Every year, the Diocese of Port Pirie chooses a theme that is used by the 14 Catholic schools in the diocese. This year's theme is *Called to Community*. Last November, the APRIMs and RECs from schools came together in Port Pirie to share knowledge and thoughts about what *Called to Community* means for our school, our wider community and within the Port Pirie diocese.



This theme was used in the staff Faith Formation Day last Friday. We shared our ideas on what a community is, what called us to our present community, the difference between a group/team/community and a Christian community. We also looked at the elements of Unity, Good News, Celebration and Service and how they are expressed in our Catholic Christian community.

While at the conference last year, the APRIMs and RECs wrote down their dreams for 2023. From these dreams, a Diocesan prayer was written. Last Friday, the staff wrote down their dreams for 2023 and in a few weeks, we will be looking at how we can





## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

action these throughout the year. This week all students are writing down their dreams for 2023 and these will be presented at Mass on Friday

### ***CALLED FOR COMMUNITY DIOCESAN PRAYER***

*Loving God,*

*We are called to community, as part of God's family and bound by God's love.*

*Open our hearts and minds to share your love through compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness.*

*Open our hearts and hands to serve others.*

*Help us to devote ourselves to living in communion with each other and all of creation.*

*Enable us to build a community where individuals feel they belong and are deeply known and loved.*

*May we be dedicated to living grateful lives, where we celebrate and share our giftedness with others.*

*Guide us to follow Jesus in the call to community.*

*Amen*

### **SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

Last Sunday's Gospel, from Matthew, fits into the *Called to Community* theme. Jesus teaches us about the true nature of happiness and holiness. In unobtrusive but significant ways, we can bring holiness to our world and so work to bring his kingdom to fruition.

The qualities which Jesus highlights in the *Beatitudes* can seem almost too ordinary when compared to the strategies for survival recommended by worldly sources of wisdom. Nevertheless, Jesus reminds us that it is precisely in our poverty of spirit, in our being gentle, merciful, and humble, and in seeing God's presence in the ordinary, unremarkable, and even tragic circumstances of our lives, that we grow in holiness and embody his presence in the world.



### **BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS**

**This Friday**, we will be celebrating our **Beginning of Year Mass at Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Cnr Elizabeth and Irwine St, Wallaroo at 9:30am**. At this mass, the classes will share their hopes and dreams for the year. Families and parishioners are welcome to attend.

### **COMMISSIONING MASS**

On **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**, we will be celebrating our staff **Commissioning Mass at Star of the Sea Catholic Church, at 6:00pm**. Again, we would love the students, families, and parishioners to support us at the special mass.

## FROM THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February is Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter – was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Christians went to confession and were forgiven for their sins.

Shrove Tuesday was the last opportunity to use up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

The Year 6-8 students will be preparing and cooking pancakes for us all on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February. If you are able to donate a condiment such as strawberry jam, apricot jam, maple syrup, lemons etc, it would be greatly appreciated. I have a collection box outside my office.

Students are asked to contribute a gold coin for their pancakes. All of the money collected will go towards our fundraising for the Caritas Catholic Charity, Project Compassion.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February** is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is one of the most WELL KNOWN and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter.

We will be celebrating the **Ash Wednesday Mass, at Star of the Sea Catholic Church at 11:45am**. During the Mass, people will receive ashes on the forehead. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Again, we would love to see families and parishioners at the Mass.

**LENT**

Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter. It is one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world. Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, as a wedding, or birthday; a commencement, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death, and body resurrection.

***May God bless you in every way in this new week. I pray that you have peace of mind and good health. Have a great week ahead.***

Francesca Tully

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

[francesca.tully@stmm.catholic.edu.au](mailto:francesca.tully@stmm.catholic.edu.au)



# Friday Lunches

---

Welcome back!

Each Friday we have Friday Lunches prepared by volunteers in our hall kitchen. Students are able to order their lunches via an app named QKR. The menu is available on the app.

In order for the QKR app to run smoothly this year we require you to update your child's profile to their current classroom.

Actions needed to be completed:

1. Sign into your QKR account
2. Select St Mary MacKillop school
3. Select profiles
4. Select child's name
5. Change year level to current class
6. Press update profile.
7. Repeat for additional children

Now you're all set up!

We would love more volunteers to assist with lunches. If you are free on a Friday (does not have to be every Friday, any Friday is appreciated), please let Karen in the front office know to pass on your details to me.

A Working With Children Check and Covid vaccination certificate is required to assist with lunches. Please see Karen, Emily or Julia in the front office if you would like to complete a Working With Children Check.

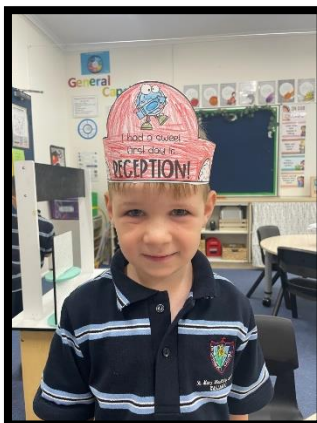
*Taya Dennis*

**FRIDAY LUNCHES COORDINATOR**

## Junior Primary Photos

---

The Reception and Year 1 classes have enjoyed getting to know each other the past few days with fun and engaging activities.





# OSHC & Vacation Care News

---

## VACATION CARE

December and January Vacation Care went well, the children enjoyed several excursions. In December we went to Port Pirie swimming pool and in January we enjoyed the Blyth Cinema and went to the Port Adelaide Football Club and Museum. We had many other exciting planned rogrammed activities including Silent Disco (the kids have requested this again), MasterChef Junior, Wet N Wild and more.

## OSHC

OSHC has been busy already for the beginning of year return. The children have been enjoying various activities and group games inside and outside and helping water the OSHC garden and lawn.

During the holidays we bought an OSHC pet. OSHC now has a Green Tree Frog. The children have been enjoying looking for his new hiding spot each day and learning different things about green tree frogs. Some children have been researching Green Tree Frogs to make posters.

## 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.

Please phone or message the OSHC phone on 0437659137 for any bookings or cancellations. This helps to keep track of who is or isn't booked into OSHC.

*Lisa Cooper*

OSHC Director – 0437 659 137

## PHOTOS FROM VACATION CARE



# Mini Macs Playgroup

Our Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. 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!



PHOTOS FROM MINI MACS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ruby – Reception/H	1 <sup>st</sup> January
Holly – Year 2/3W	2 <sup>nd</sup> January
Abigail – Year 2/3W	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Tate – Year 2/3W	3 <sup>rd</sup> January
Macy – Year 2/3W	4 <sup>th</sup> January
Hayley – Reception/H	10 <sup>th</sup> January
Travis – Reception/H	16 <sup>th</sup> January
Leevi – Year 1	18 <sup>th</sup> January
Addison – Year 2/3N	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Bronik – Year 2/3N	20 <sup>th</sup> January
Nate – Year 2/3W	21 <sup>st</sup> January
Oliver – Year 2/3W	22 <sup>nd</sup> January
Amaya – Year 4/5	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Henley – Year 1	23 <sup>rd</sup> January
Arden – Reception/H	27 <sup>th</sup> January
Ava – Year 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Arlo – Reception/H	7 <sup>th</sup> February
Amani – Year 4/5	11 <sup>th</sup> February
Keaton – Reception/H	12 <sup>th</sup> February
Harper – Year 1	13 <sup>th</sup> February



## NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 ICT Agreement
2. Local School Bus Excursion consent form
3. Letter from Chaplain, Bernadette Thomson
4. Collection Notice for parents/guardians – 2023 Student Residential Address and Other Information

*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.



## Wallaroo Netball Club NEEDS YOU!!

Wallaroo Netball Club is in need of JUNIOR players (E grade is full) for the 2023 season!

Players needed for H grade (born 2014/15), G grade (2012/13) and F grade (2010/11).

If you can help call or text Lynelle Bodie on 0417 884 474 or email [wallaroonetball@gmail.com](mailto:wallaroonetball@gmail.com)

**nab AFL Auskick**

**KICKS OFF SOON!**

**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER NOW**

For more information visit [play.afl/auskick](http://play.afl/auskick)

**NYP All Girls Auskick Centre**  
Friday 24th Feb - 31st Mar  
5pm - 6pm  
Moonta Oval

*Karen Lee Dance Academy*


# REGISTER *for 2023*


Ballet | Tap | Jazz | Creative Musical Theatre and more...  
Tiny Tots up to Adult Classes available  
All ages welcome!

**Book in a trial lesson now**

*dance is our passion*

@karen\_lee\_dance\_academy  
 Karen Lee Dance Academy

 *Karen Lee Dance Academy*  
Dance Education on the Yorke Peninsula



Studio located at: 8 Taylor St Kadina  
Contact us: [kllda@dodo.com.au](mailto:kllda@dodo.com.au)

