



## Mini-Newsletter – Week 10

### Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

#### THANK YOU

I'm not sure where to begin the enormity of saying thank you and congratulations to all of our students and staff for our Dance Concert. The performances on Thursday were just amazing and a credit to the students and all of the staff. I know we always say the students will rise to the occasion and they truly did!

I was speaking with Ken, one of the men working on the sound for us, he was saying that he has worked on audio for many, many school productions and this was one of the best he has seen! Wow! That is huge praise.

As I mentioned in my thanks at the end, there are just so many elements that came together and the attention to detail and high expectation of performance was all obvious. Backstage is a privilege, seeing staff and students work so well together behind the scenes. Costumes, props, pep talks, keeping occupied and quiet in change rooms, backdrops, front of house, dance routines, knowing the lines, all working together to bring about the magic of the performance. The concert doesn't just end, the pack up and clean up always follows and I thank everyone who helped out on Thursday evening with this.

Thank you and congratulations to all students and staff on an absolutely fantastic Dance Concert.

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The momentum continued this week with our UP Choir students: Adelaide, Charlize, Nevayah, Zarah, Madeline and Amaya, and Choir Coordinator/Trainers: Bernie and Michele preparing for their performance as part of the Catholic Schools Music Festival last night. Tuesday was a very full day of rehearsal on stage, followed by a few hours of down time, then the evening performance at the Adelaide Festival Theatre. It was a huge and amazing day. I had the privilege of attending the concert last night and was blown away by the talent of our young people.

We are able to offer incredible opportunities for our students to participate in and excel in The Arts. This is simply not possible without all of the commitment, hard work, selfless sharing of gifts and skills of all staff. Thank you Bernie and Michele and students and congratulations!



## STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Amie our 4/5 teacher, and students: Eloise, Isabelle C, Madi W, Amani S and Haliah on their Arludo National Game Design Challenge entry. They have made it to the finals in Sydney on 10<sup>th</sup> October!!! An amazing effort. Thanks to everyone who voted for them. Thanks to Amie who is now working out the logistics of which students can get there and how they can get there. Mostly families are supportive and making this part of a family holiday. Good luck to the team for the 10<sup>th</sup> October!



## STAFF REFLECTION DAY

Last Friday on the Pupil Free Day, staff gathered first thing to tidy and clean the Town Hall following the concert. There were a lot of items to be brought back to school and stored away, then a final tidy up of the Hall.

Following this the staff gathered at the Wallaroo Sailing Club for our Reflection Day which was facilitated by Lillian Van Brussell who is a spiritual director. The theme of the day was 'Called To Community' and allowed staff to reflect on their own relationship with God and how important it is to be able to have quiet, peaceful time to nurture this relationship so that we are then renewed to be able to continue this with the students in our care.

Thank you to Francesca for organising our Staff Reflection Day on Friday, and to our facilitator Lillian. For me it reinforced how beneficial the meditation times that we have built into the school day on Mondays and Wednesdays are. It is important for us to be still, quiet and peaceful during our day. Many classes recognise the importance of this for students and continue this on other days of the week as well.

## PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT

There are works on the oval side playground to install a swing and re-model the sandpit and long jump pit area. We are excited to add to, and improve, our playground area for the students to enjoy.

We recently had a swing installed in the JP playground which has been very popular with students.



## VISITING DOMINICAN SISTERS

Three Dominican Sisters from New South Wales are visiting our Diocese for youth ministry and school visits and they visited our school on Monday. Sister Cecilia, Sister Anastasia and Sister Joanna joined staff for morning tea and then worked with the 6-9 students leading them in games, reflecting on their spirituality and inviting them to prayer and to ask any questions of them. Thank you to our 6-9 students for working so well with the sisters.

## DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Deepest sympathy to Michael, Francesca and Maggie Tully, on the passing of their loved family member Doug (Francesca's step father-in-law and Maggie's step grandpa). Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

## TERM DATES

### FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – LAST DAY OF TERM 3

This Friday, our last day of term will be 3.00pm dismissal.

The student leaders invite all students to wear casual clothes with the theme of 'Pyjama Day' on our last day of school. Students may wear their favourite comfortable PJs or come in casual clothes for a bit of fun on our last day.

We also have Subway Lunch, with a reminder that there will be no P & F Friday Lunches on the day.

### TERM 4 COMMENCES ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

## THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Thank you very much for our Term 3, I cannot believe how quickly it has flown by. Congratulations to you all: students, families and staff on all you have achieved throughout this term.

I wish you all a very happy and restful holiday break.

## FAREWELL JULIA HAMMILL

Today our school community have said thank you and farewell to Julia Hammill. We have enjoyed a special Assembly, prayer time, presentations and lunch.

Following are our words of thanks and best wishes on behalf of our school:

*I have been fortunate to know Mrs Hammill and work with her for nearly four years. Almost all of you will have known Mrs Hammill for all the years you have been at St Mary MacKillop School.*

*Mrs Hammill is leaving our school to live in Crystal Brook with Mr Hammill and find new life opportunities together. As I mentioned on Monday, Mrs Hammill has been on Leave for the past seven weeks and even in this time, Mrs Hammill has come into our school still to work with and hand over to our new Finance Officer. This is a reflection of Mrs Hammill's selfless dedication and commitment.*

*The time has come though, to say thank you to Mrs Hammill and acknowledge her incredible contribution to our school community as parent, staff member, friend over 20 years.*

*Mrs Hammill, who we knew as Mrs Agnew before she married Mr Hammill last year (almost 12 months to the day!) is the lady in the front office, always there and ready to help out.*

*When Mrs Hammill started at our school, our school was called Kalori, and back then her own son Luke came to our school. Many of you will know Luke as he came to coach tennis at our school, many of you had tennis lessons with Luke and he also worked in our OSHC during the holidays.*

*Mrs Hammill's main job was in Finance, that's everything to do with money! Mrs Hammill paid all of the bills, paid all of the staff, she helped with building projects such as the MPLA, the front offices, the Sacred Heart Centre. She organized all of the painting and works around our school during school holidays. All of the advertisements, banners, promotions you see for our school, are thanks to Mrs Hammill. She worked out how much your excursions cost and bought all of our school buses.*

## FAREWELL JULIA HAMMILL

*Mrs Hammill probably ordered all of the furniture that you see around you and she definitely ordered the furniture that you have in your classrooms. Mrs Hammill met, greeted and welcomed people when they arrived at the front office of our school. She answered phone calls, and she helped children in the First Aid room when they were sick or hurt.*

*It's hard to describe Mrs Hammill's job as there is so much that she has done for the students, the families and the staff of our school and she has always done this with dedication, respect and love.*

*Mrs Hammill has helped many families during very tough times, always showing compassion and care for others.*

*Mrs Hammill has thrived and done an amazing job over twenty years. She has been the strong, steady constant, holding everything together during major times of change and transition. Mrs Hammill has worked with three different Principals, several Acting Principals, hundreds of staff and hundreds of students over the twenty years she has been here. In this time, she has touched the lives of hundreds of students, parents, staff and visitors to our school.*

*We are blessed to have had Mrs Hammill in our community for as long as we have, however she is not ours to keep and a gem like Mrs Hammill must be shared.*

*Mrs Hammill, you have touched our lives with your compassion, joy for life, listening ear, attention to detail, answer to every question.*

*In life we meet many people, who come and go, however you will always stay. You will stay within the lives and hearts of us all because of who you are for all of us.*

*Mrs Hammill, take our thanks, our gratitude our best wishes and our blessing with you, wherever you go.*

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and best wishes for the future.*

**Michelle Miller**  
PRINCIPAL

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

### SCHOOL PHOTOS – THURSDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Our annual school photo day is tomorrow!

**This year all orders are online. Instructions are below. All orders are to be placed by this evening.**

Students having a family photo are required to be at school by 8.25am, as the family photos are scheduled for 8.30am.

**CORRECT SUMMER SCHOOL UNIFORM IS TO BE WORN: SHORT SLEEVE STRIPED POLO, NAVY GABARDINE SHORTS, NAVY SOCKS WITH BLACK SCHOOL SHOES AND COLLAR-LENGTH HAIR TIED BACK. NO PE UNIFORM OR SANDSHOES.**

**PHOTO  
DAY IS  
COMING**

Your School Photo Day is on

Thursday 28  
September 2023

  
msp  
photography  
MSP PHOTOGRAPHY COUNTRY SA  
E: admin.countrysa@msp.com.au  
T: 08 8523 4480  
www.msp.com.au

**St Marys Mackillop School**

**HOW TO ORDER**

Ordering online is quick and easy using the steps below!

Step 1.  
Click here or go to our ordering portal  
<https://stmarysmackillop-sa.msp.photos/>

Step 2.  
Click 'Sign in with Student Details'

Online ordering closes  
**Thursday 28 September 2023**  
An archive fee applies after this date

Enter your child's surname and birthdate and you are ready to start ordering. Once logged in, you can also order for siblings and family photos.

Please note Sibling Photo orders must be placed **BEFORE** your last photo day.





## SHREK DANCE CONCERT PHOTOS



Reception MP



Reception H



Year 1



## SHREK DANCE CONCERT PHOTOS

Year 2/3N



Year 2/3W



Year 3/4



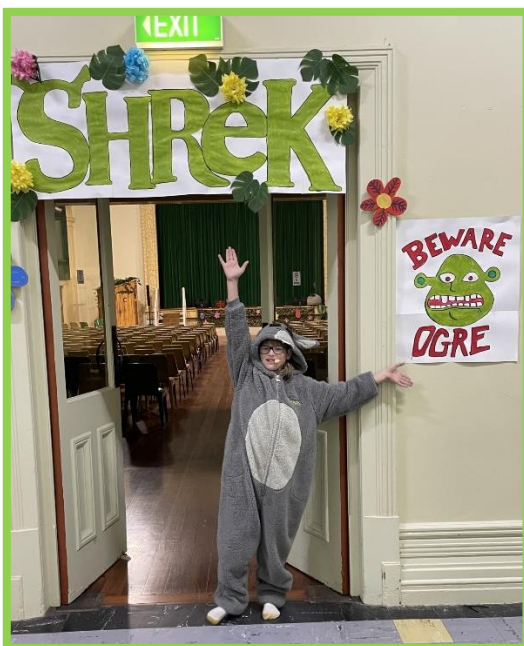


## SHREK DANCE CONCERT PHOTOS



Year 4/5

Middle School





## Achievement at SMMS

Whenever I am asked about St Mary MacKillop School, it is with pride that I explain how we are a wonderful small, rural school achieving great things for our students. For such a small school, our students achieve so much, and I believe we 'punch above our weight' as the saying goes.

Rural schools are often depicted in the media in a deficit way. However, research suggests the prevalence of a 'small rural school effect' (Corbett 2014) whereby small rural schools are in fact performing better than urban schools when they are controlled for some factors such as low SES (Webber 2003; Hoy, Tarter & Hoy 2006; Willms 2010; Corbett & Roberts 2017). Further, in a comparison of NAPLAN scores from 2008 to 2011, Jorgensen and Lowrie (2015) found when controlled for location, rural Year 5 mathematics students achieved higher scores than Year 5 urban students. Similarly, in the Canadian context, Corbett (2014) showed that PISA and census data reveal small remote schools perform well despite economic conditions.

We continue to hold high expectations of achievement for all of our students. But what does achievement look like at our school? There are always the standardised assessments for Literacy and Numeracy, such as Naplan, where our students have performed so well in comparison to other schools on Yorke Peninsula. But there are many other achievements at our school we like to celebrate. For example, our school concert last week was testament to how wonderful our school is. We have received such lovely messages of congratulations and comments about how brilliant our students were. Of course, we agree! The concert truly showcased the many and varied talents of our students, and their ability to work together to achieve a shared goal that was the concert. Our Arts programme, taught by our very talented teachers, offers so many opportunities for our students to shine!

In the past few weeks, we have seen student achievements in individual sporting pursuits and team sports. For example, four students competed in SAPSASA athletics in Adelaide, and several students competed in the state final golf tournament for age 12 and under.

In the area of STEM, we are very excited to see our team of five students from the year 4/5 class reach the final of the national Arludo Game Design Challenge. This is a fabulous achievement which will see the team travel to Sydney next month to work with scientists and science communicators. What a well-deserved experience! This follows last year's Year 7/8 students who won the STEM XR Challenge where they selected real-world issues related to sustainability and used a design thinking framework to develop ideas and design solutions. What wonderful opportunities on offer to our students.

We always strive for the best for our students.

Also, as a side-note, you may like to ask your child/ren if they can find the appositive I used in this week's column. Many of our students will be able to do this as a result of our targeted work on writing this year. We like to celebrate not only the daily learnings of our students, the little wins, but also the larger achievements our students make. Impressive for a small, rural school!

Corbett, M 2014, Toward a geography of rural education in Canada, *Canadian Journal of Education*, vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 3-23.

Corbett, M & Roberts, P 2017, A small place: education in rural Tasmania, *Australian and International Journal of Rural Education*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 1-8.

Hoy, W, Tarter, C & Hoy, A 2006, Academic optimism of schools: a force for student achievement, *American Educational Research Journal*, vol. 43, no. 3, pp. 425-446.

Webber, M 2003, Understanding the rural-urban reading gap, *Education Quarterly Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 9-18.

Willms, J 2010, School composition and contextual effects on student outcomes, *Teachers College Record*, vol. 112, no. 4, pp. 1008-1037.

***Dr Annette Morphet***  
**LEADER OF LEARNING**





Get your colour on, St Mary MacKillop School is hosting a Colour Explosion School Fun Run fundraiser in Term 4!

The Colour Explosion School Fun Run will be on **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November from 5 – 7pm.**

Not only are we hosting an awesome explosion event, students can win up to 15 awesome automated incentive prizes by fundraising via online sponsorship donations.

Students have received a sponsorship book with today's newsletter with instructions on setting up their cybersafe, online fundraising profile at [www.australianfundraising.com.au](http://www.australianfundraising.com.au). This is an entirely online fundraiser; all cash donations must be converted to online donations to redeem your prizes.

For more information, please contact Emily Donnell on 08 8821 5800 or [emily.donnell@stmm.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emily.donnell@stmm.catholic.edu.au)

Happy fundraising!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Thank you to families and businesses who have sold chocolates for the Middle School. Please return any outstanding chocolates and money by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September.

We have four boxes of Caramello Koalas available to sell if anyone would like to sell them over the holidays. Please let the front office know and we will send them home.

