

St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday, 15th November, 2023 (Term 4, Week 5)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,



Commencing next week, as a school, we will observe the time of Advent. A time of preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus at Christmas time.

I also think of Advent as a time of preparation for giving, giving of ourselves and what we have, to others.

We hold our Vinnie's Christmas Appeal during this time as well, so that we can focus on compassion and kindness for others at a time when it can be all too easy to be consumed by being busy and the commercialism of Christmas time.

Advent and our Christmas Appeal invite us to think differently during this time leading up to Christmas.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

Thu 16th T1 2024 Reception students Transition Visit 8.20am-3.00pm

Year 2/3N Redwing Farm excursion

Mon 20th – Fri 24th Water Safety Lessons R-5

Thu 23rd T1 2024 Reception students Transition

Visit 8.20am-3.00pm

T1 2024 Reception Parent Information session 9.00am

Fri 24th Colour Explosion Fun Run 5.00pm

DECEMBER

Wed 6th – Fri 9th Year 6 Camp

Thu 7th Reception & Year 1 Splash Town excursion Sun 10th Year 6 & 9 Graduation Dinner 6.00pm Wed 13th End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 11.45am

<u>Parish Weekend Mass</u> – for mass times, visit: coppercoast@ppcatholic.org

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta

Sacred Heart, Kadina

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wallaroo

St Margaret's, Port Broughton



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**

The Scripture reading Luke 21:1-4 is a lesson about giving whatever we can and whenever we can:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Jesus uses this story to simply teach us about giving. In a community, this is what we are called to do. However, Jesus challenges us to go even more deeply and reflect:

Do I give what I have left over – to God and to others?

Or do I go beyond and give wholeheartedly and generously of myself and what I have?

Happy giving for this Advent season!

2023 CANBERRA TRIP

Recently our Middle School Year 8 and 9 students and staff including myself, Lisa Caffyn and Hannah Cotter were fortunate to attend The Canberra Trip for Schools. We combined with St Joseph's School Peterborough and St Columba's School Yorketown. Combining with the two other schools helped to make the trip more financially viable as well as adding to social interaction and networking for our students and staff.

As you can imagine, such a trip is an amazing experience of Australia's national capital. To make this available for as many students as possible the Australian Government offers a rebate per student to reduce the cost to schools and families.

The Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program is an Australian Government initiative that provides financial assistance to support students' on-site learning about national democratic, historical and cultural institutions in Canberra. The Pacer Rebate contributed \$270 per student for us this year.

The institutions we visited on our trip to Canberra included:

- Flags of the Commonwealth
- Australian War Memorial
- Mount Ainslie Lookout
- Deep Space Communication Complex
- Questacon: National Science and Technology Centre
- Museum of Australian Democracy
- Australian Institute of Sport and Sportex
- Parliament House
- National Portrait Gallery
- National Capital Exhibition
- National Arboretum
- Government House
- National Gallery of Australia

As you can see it was an incredible experience packed with once in a lifetime experiences that we hope to replicate in the future.

STUDENT PULSE SURVEY

Our students participate in the student pulse surveys over the next two weeks. The surveys allow the students to voice their thoughts and responses to various questions about their wellbeing, their learning, whether they feel they have a say in their learning, whether they feel safe at school. We use the results to identify areas for improvement.

WATER SAFETY LESSONS

Water Safety lessons for R-5 students will be held next week (Week 6) at the Sailing Club beach. The emphasis for these lessons is on water safety given our context and proximity to the beach.

Parents may visit their child at the Water Safety lesson and/or assist their own child with changing before and after lessons (check this with your child's class teacher). Parents must not take photographs of children at the swimming lessons or in their swimming gear, other than their own child/children

Following are the times for the sessions. The students will be transported to the lessons on our school bus, this takes 15 minutes either side of their specified lesson time.

9.15-10.00am
 Rec M/P and Rec H

10.00-11.00am 1 Bacher
 11.00am-12.00pm 2/3 N
 12.30-1.30pm 2/3 W

1.30-2.30pm
 3-4 K and 4/5 R/P

Students are asked to:

- wear their sport uniform for the week
- wear their bathers underneath their uniform
- older students may change here at school before their lesson later in the day
- have a rashie top to wear over their bathers
- bring a pair of thongs/slip-ons that may be worn to the beach.
- have a plastic bag or beach bag for belongings
- bring a towel
- have all belongings labelled

There has been discussion and decisions around ocean-based activities and these being suspended because of safety concerns with recent shark attacks in South Australia coastal waters.

Our lessons are going ahead however, time and activity in the water will be adjusted to meet the highest safety standards for children and instructors.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

Thank you to Francesca, Laura and the 3 / 4 students for our Remembrance Day prayer service last Friday morning, incorporated into the 3 / 4 class Assembly. The following research that the students presented on animals which served in various capacities in the World Wars was an interesting focus.

Thank you to Bernie and the loyal SMMS Singers (Matilda, Harriet, Eva, Olive, Aarvin, Cameron, Scarlett, Clair, Harper, Henley, Alexis, Isla P, Holly) who attended the community service in Wallaroo on Saturday morning. The students opened the Remembrance Day service by singing the song 'In Flanders Field', which they did beautifully. Matilda and Harriet lay a wreath on behalf of our school.





3 / 4 CLASS ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Laura and class for hosting our final class assembly for the year. All of the class Assemblies have been a wonderful celebration and sharing of student learning and recognition of achievement with the presentation of the school value awards. A big thank you to all family and friends who have supported all of our class Assemblies throughout this year. We look forward to having you join us next year.

ATHLETICS – THANK YOU

Thank you to Lisa Caffyn, Marcus, Sue and Alex who took the team of Athletes to Santos for the Catholic Schools carnival last Thursday. Students came home with ribbons and smiles. Congratulations to Nevayah who won her age championship. Well done to the team on what was a very big and successful day.

STAFFING

The following staff are currently taking Leave or are about to commence Leave:

Sue Wharton is on Leave this week and next week, spending time with family

Ron Sherriff is on Leave for four weeks

Lisa Caffyn commences four weeks Leave as of next week.

We wish Sue, Ron and Lisa a safe and enjoyable break.

Lisa Caffyn's teaching load will be taken by Marcus Kerin and Jenny Geyser will be taking on some of Marcus' teaching load, particularly Science with R-5 classes. Thank you to Marcus and Jenny for taking on these roles.

COLUR RUN

Thank you to our P & F for organising the Colour Run which will be held on Friday, 24th November. This is a fundraiser and most definitely a FUNRAISER. The excitement is building thanks to the slime-off last week with Jody Duif and Marcus Kerin taking one for the team. Next Wednesday there will be another staff slime-off, wonder who the recipients of the slime will be next week???

Thank you everyone for your support so far, we are raising funds for new playground equipment which will be fantastic for our students!





END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING MASS

Our whole school end of year Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 14th December at 11.45am in the Wallaroo Catholic Church. Family members are invited to join us for the Mass.

GRADUATION

There will be a Graduation ceremony as part of our Thanksgiving Mass for our Year 6 and 9 students as they celebrate the milestones of finishing primary school and middle school. We will be acknowledging the students and celebrating their achievements.

The Year 6 and 9 students will also be enjoying a Graduation Dinner with their families in the last week of the school year.

SEMESTER 2 REPORTS

Semester 2 reports will be coming home on Wednesday of Week 9, allowing 2 days to have follow up interviews with teachers if required.

PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that we have a pupil free day on the last day of this term Friday, 15th December; staff will be involved in planning and handover of student information in preparation for a smooth start to 2024. OSHC is available on this day.



PLANNING AHEAD 2024

We are well underway planning for 2024. Following are some dates that you may find helpful to add to your calendar:

OSHC will commence Monday 15th January 2024 (available for students attending SMMS only)

The staff days for Week 0 of 2024 will be:

- Tuesday 23rd January
- Wednesday 24th January
- Thursday 25th January

Uniform and book sales days will be:

A-L surnames: 12-5pm Tuesday 23rd January

M-Z surnames: 8am-1pm Wednesday 24th January

Students commence school Term 1, 2024, on Monday, 29th January.

PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2024

Last night at our School Board meeting the Board approved our Pupil Free days for 2024, this may assist you with your forward planning:

Term 1: Week 6 – Friday, 8th March (leading into long weekend): First Aid training for staff

Term 2: Week 1 – Monday, 29th April: Staff Professional Learning

Term 3: Week 1 – Monday, 22nd July: Staff Professional Learning

Term 3: Week 9 – Friday, 20th September: Staff Reflection (No OSHC-day after Concert)

Term 4: Week 9 – Friday, 13th December: Staff Professional Learning/2025 preparations

SCHOOL FEES

School fees for 2024 will remain the same as this year. The 2024 School Fee schedule is included with the newsletter today. Please take the time to read the Schedule as it outlines the fees for R-6 and 7-9 students; Bus Levy and other charges; payment plan options; information on our Book & Uniform Collection Days in January 2024; and a Payment Plan Agreement Form which **MUST BE completed by ALL families** and returned to us.

2024

We have been working on preparations for 2024; finalising staffing, class structures and placement of students. Of course, I am hoping that all students are staying with us, however if you know that your children will not be attending our school next year, please let me know as soon as possible. Thank you.

MOONTA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – SCHOOL FLOAT

We have been invited to enter a school float in the Moonta Christmas Pageant. We would love to have as many students as possible join us on our school float. The Pageant will be held on Sunday 17th December. We would need students taking part to meet our bus at 3.30pm and the Pageant starts at 4.30pm.

We will have a Nativity and Christmas Colours theme, more details will be given to students who participate.

If your child/children would like to join our Moonta Christmas Pageant Float, please fill in the return slip in this Newsletter or contact the front office. Thank you.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Ms Michel	le Miller
PRINCIPAL	

MOONTA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2023 ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL FLOAT - RETURN SLIP

My child/children would like to participate in the St Mary MacKillop School, Moonta Christmas Pageant Float:	
Name/s:	
Parent Name and Signature:	

SCHOOL VALUE AWARDS

Congratulations to students who were recipients of the School Value Award at assembly last Friday morning. The awards include RESPECT, TEAM WORK, TRUST, COURAGE and COMMITMENT.



FROM THE REC

WORLD KINDNESS DAY



Monday, 13th November was World Kindness Day. Why would we need a day to remind us to be kind? Well, we have Christmas Day to remind us about Jesus joining our humanity, Good Friday to remind us about Jesus' death in love and Easter Sunday to remind us about Jesus Rising from the Dead and bringing us with him. We have Valentine's Day to remind us to tell a person we love them, and ANZAC Day to remember the courage of many.

Of course, there's nothing new in this. Almost all world religions promote kindness. Love is mentioned more than any other word in the New Testament and Jesus' central message is to love God and love each other as we love ourselves. (Matt 22: 37-39). In the early Scriptures, we are told that the pagans commented, "See how these Christians love one another." (1Peter

1:22) And from Tertullian, "It is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us." (The Apology, ch. 39, 197 AD)

Being kind to ourselves and to one another is important in maintaining our health and wellbeing. Long before the sciences proved this, the wisdom traditions knew this and taught the importance of compassion and connection for a meaningful life. A rich, full, and meaningful life can be achieved even in the context of great suffering if we can act according to our deepest values as human beings.

Reaching out in kindness gives the giver and receiver a boost of oxytocin, serotonin, dopamine, endorphins and reduces cortisol, thus building feelings of safety and connection. Whether from science, spirituality, or our vocation, supporting World Kindness Day is another way to infuse the world with the power of love.

As members of the St Mary MacKillop School community, we commit ourselves to continue God's mission by immersing ourselves during life to empower others and bring hope. As Jesus said: "I have come that you may have life. (Jn 10:10)

Even though World Kindness Day was on Monday, we can still do random acts of kindness for those around us and remember to speak to and treat ourselves kindly too. Confident that the power of Love in each of us will do this.

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation highlights and promotes the healing power of kindness by promoting World Kindness

Day and Random Acts of Kindness (RAK). https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/ and https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

DESIGN THE ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS CARD



Over the last two weeks, students have had the opportunity to design the Archbishop's Christmas Card. Students can hand draw or design on the computer. The winning entry for each category, Reception to Year 2, Years 3-5, Years 6-8 and Years 9-12, will be printed for Archbishop Patrick to use and put on the Archdiocesan website. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Your child still has time to enter this. Pictures need to be handed to me by **3:00pm this Friday afternoon**.

VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Next week will be the beginning of our observance of Advent. We start a week earlier than the church so we can have the 4 weeks within the school term. It is also the beginning of the Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. This will be launched at next Monday's Morning Assembly. Families will be asked to donate goods that



people less fortunate will be able to enjoy at Christmas time. At our week 9 Monday Morning Assembly, some representatives from the local Vinnie's group will come to pick up our donations.

For some families, the festive season will be a time of uncertainty and anxiety because this year, Christmas is something some simply can't afford. Not when they can't even afford to put food on the table each day. Can you help? Please donate to provide much-needed items to put into Christmas hampers. Help vulnerable people make it through this Christmas without going hungry.

FROM THE REC

Each year group is allocated a particular category of items to bring in. You may wish to donate other items.

Reception	Year 1	Year 2 and Year 3	Year 4 and 5	Years 6 – 9
Canned Goods	Desserts	Snacks	Drinks	Essentials
Tinned Fruit	Christmas Puddings	Sweet Biscuits	Long-life Milk	Cereal
Tinned ham (not	Christmas Cake	Savoury Biscuits	Long-life juice/pop	Spreads
SPAM)	Jelly	Chips	tops	Pancake Mix
Tuna	Custard	Lollies	Cordial	Rice
Tinned Veggies	Cake Mix	Nuts	Milo/Tea/Coffee	Pasta
	Slices		Soft drinks	Pasta Sauce
	Fruit Mince Pies			

Remember – it's Christmas, buy the treats – make it special. Throw in some bon-bons or Christmas decorations too.

All donations can be placed in the baskets in the Sacred Space area in the MPLA. Thank you very much for your generosity this Christmas.

PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

At our Parish Christmas Eve Mass, Fr Chris is inviting students to join our parish children to perform the Nativity story according to Luke's Gospel. We are looking for some angels and shepherds. Two of the angels have speaking roles and the shepherds will be acting only – no speaking.

If you are interested in your child joining the parish children at our Christmas Eve Mass,24th December, 6.00pm in Wallaroo, please let me know as soon as possible.



Mass times for our parish are:

24th December, Christmas Vigil

Wallaroo 6:00pm Moonta 8:30am

Kadina 8:00pm Kadina 10:30am

Port Broughton 6:00pm



BRAIN BREAK BOPS

In August, I was asked whether St Mary MacKillop School would like to be a part of Education Services Australia's Brain Break Bops Pilot. I decided to sign up to it. We were one of the 7 educational settings that took part in this Pilot Program in all of Australia. Brain break bops are interoception activities for pre-school and primary school students.

25th December, Christmas Day

Building interoceptive awareness (feeling more connected with your body and your bodily signals) requires students to actively notice changes in their body state. To do this, students complete a movement for thirty seconds, and pause to reflect, before completing it for a second time. Each activity has been timed to support this structure in an engaging way.

The animated videos are two-minutes long. They all feature an interoception movement, plus other fun dance moves and memorable song lyrics.

Some of the videos are calming and relaxing, while others are more energising. They include a range of positions, such as sitting, lying down, or standing up, and can be adapted to suit your classroom (for example, sitting on either a mat or a chair).



I am using these videos with students who visit my office and also whey they are transitioning from the classroom into Italian lessons.

FROM THE REC

Last week I found out that the Australian Department of Education have approved these to be on the Student Wellbeing Hub. Visit the Brain Break Bops and have a go at the different videos. https://studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/educators/topics/brain-break-bops

Children have enjoyed the different videos.











Rocket Launch

Beach Walk

Rocking Bugs

Happy Band Hands

Deep Breathing

2024 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The St Mary MacKillop Parish of the Copper Coast invites families to join our 2024 Sacramental Programme. This programme prepares children to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation.

The St Mary MacKillop Parish of the Copper Coast Sacramental Programme is based on the guidelines of the Port Pirie diocese, and therefore takes place primarily in the family. However, our parish supports the family with a Parish

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based preparation programme. We believe it will be a richly blessed time in your family life.

I am the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator, and I will support you and your child on this Sacramental journey. Fr Chris will also be available to meet with you if you feel you require further assistance during this special time. This is an excellent opportunity for your family to become involved in and support your child in their religious development.

If you would like your child to receive any Sacrament in 2024, please contact me.

To finish off, a quote by Aesop: "No act of kindness, no mater how small, is ever wasted."

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

P & F COLOUR EXPLOSION FUN RUN



Last chance to make a difference! This is your LAST week to collect donations for our Colour Explosion School Run 4 Fun. Fundraising closes on Wednesday, 22nd November.

There is still time to score some fantastic incentive prizes and raise more to help our school fundraise towards upgrading outdoor play areas.

Don't give up just yet! Do you think you can top our leader board? Do you want a chance to slime a teacher? Receive a \$10 donation in the final week to go into the draw!

WHAT'S UP DOC



Sport

We love to see our old scholars come back and visit us. Over the past few weeks we have had the pleasure of welcoming old scholar Sam Clayson back to spend time coaching our students in tennis. It was lovely to welcome you back, Sam. You can read more about Sam's profile below.

Sport is such a large part of our national identity. 97% of Australians believe sport and physical activity are good for health and wellbeing, and 88% of Australians believe sport is good for bringing their communities together.[1]

Sport has many benefits including:

- improved resilience
- improved mental health
- positive role models
- social connectedness
- higher likelihood of meeting physical activity guidelines and continuing physical activity long term.

Playing sport during childhood is critical for developing a life-long habit of being physically active. Children who play sport:

- have improved cognitive development
- are better at learning and retaining information
- and stay in school longer.[3]

Additionally, young people who are members of a local sporting club are more likely to:

- demonstrate greater trust in other people
- possess a stronger sense of belonging to their community
- · form more close friendships.
- achieve greater levels of life satisfaction, happiness and health
- possess a greater desire to give back to their community through volunteering.[4]
- 1. Community Perceptions Monitor Annual Report 2022-2023, Australian Sports Commission, (September 2023).
- 2. Value of Sport: Preventive health, Clearinghouse for Sport, (accessed 11 May 2023).
- 3. Intergenerational Review of Australian Sport, BCG Consulting for the Australian Sports Commission, (2017).
- 4. https://www.clearinghouseforsport.gov.au/the-value-and-benefits-of-sport

Dr Annette Morphett LEADER OF LEARNING

2023 SCHOOL MAGAZINE



PAST SCHOLAR NEWS

Sam Clayson

Class of 2008 (Year 7)

What ignited your passion for your career choice?

I grew up in a tennis household and, although getting into my preferred uni degree, I wanted to have a gap year to try out tennis coaching. I didn't think it'd be as successful as it has been.

I started my career at Prince Alfred College before coming back to the YP to start my own business. I was offered the opportunity to be Head Coach of Clare Tennis Club which opened a lot of doors. This year I won the coaching

excellence award at the Tennis SA Awards and have now been nominated for coaching excellence nationally.



What have been some defining moments in your career and life?

My grandfather (Mum's Dad) was one of the biggest influences in my life. I lived off his every word and he often encouraged me to go and take my work into schools which I now do. His passing last year was devastating but I replay his advice to myself every day.

What is your favourite memory of your time at Kalori Catholic/St Mary MacKillop School?

My favourite memory at Kalori was the twilight sports day on the Kalori oval. The oval would be packed with spectators and screaming kids. They were amazing. Also crab soccer in the hall. Great game.

What advice would you give our current students?

Advice I'd give: cherish relationships. With family, friends, acquaintances and strangers. Networking is key in developing yourself professionally.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Thursday, 8th November, our athletics team went to Adelaide to compete at the Catholic Primary Schools Athletics Carnival held at SANTOS stadium.

All of our students did an amazing job competing with some filling in for events in the last minute. Our boys came 4th overall and our girls finished 5th. Well done to Nevayah who won the age level champion for year girls. Lots of our students were successful in their events and everyone had a great day.

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers Taya Dennis and Jenny Davey for helping us with our duties and to our staff Marcus, Alex, Sue and Lisa for helping get the day organised, supporting students and officiating events.



Vacation Care

Please find enclosed with today's newsletter the Vacation Care booking slip. Families who are leaving St Mary Mackillop School at the end of the 2023 school year are not eligible to access our OSHC as of January 2024. The children of families who are leaving our school may access our OSHC for the week of 18-22 December, however priority booking will be given to SMM School families continuing with us in 2024.

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 <u>seven</u> school term days in advance, thank you.

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 0437 659 137 for any bookings or cancellations. This helps immensely with knowing where students need to be and with planning staff.

Miss Lisa Cooper
OSHC Director

OSHC PUPIL FREE DAY

Friday, 15th **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, 1**st **December**, if your child/ren will be attending.

OSHC BOOKING FORM - PUPIL FREE DAY - FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER

Return by Friday, 1st December

Family Name:	Sign	ed:
Children requiring OSHC	Ye	ear ear
Daalinaa	Ye	ear

Bookings

Priority 1 – Children who are permanent Friday after school.

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

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Included with today's newsletter are the school photos (student and family) ordered by families.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Savanna – Year 3/4	15 th November
Jordy – Year 2/3W	16 th November
Zarah – Year 3/4	18 th November
Madalynn – Year 1	21 st November
Callen – Year 3/4	22 nd November
Isabelle – Year 4/5	25 th November
Ryda – Year 4/5	28 th November



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

- 1. School photos
- 2. Reception & Year 1 classes excursion note and consent form
- 3. 2024 School Fee schedule
- 4. Vacation Care booking form
- 5. 2023 School Magazine order form

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.



