

St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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

P: (08) 8821 5800

E: info@stmm.catholic.edu.au W: www.stmm.catholic.edu.au

Thursday, 14th December, 2023 (Term 4, Week 9)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

The time of Advent offers us an invitation to change our lives.

It is up to us whether we accept this invitation and really do make changes.

Do we really want to "straighten our path?"

Let's open our hearts to allow the baby Jesus to

make a difference in our lives

and therefore the lives of others.



We have been blessed to have a week of celebrating all that is good in our school. One of our core school values is to "celebrate success" and that is what we have been doing so well. All of our success comes from our God-given gifts and so we use them well and celebrate them well as a community.

This has been an amazing week:

Last Sunday evening, we enjoyed the Year 6 Graduation Dinner, attended by students and their families. We enjoyed a lovely meal together at the Angler's Inn. There was a presentation with individual words for each student highlighting their gifts to our community.

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Fri 15th PUPIL FREE DAY – OSHC AVAILABLE Mon 18th – Fri 22nd Vacation Care

DECEMBER

Mon 15th Vacation Care commences
Tue 23rd Book Collection & Uniform Sales
(A-L families) 12.00-5.00pm
Wed 24th Book Collection & Uniform Sales
(M-Z families) 8.00am-1.00pm
Mon 29th Term 1 commences

<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.

The students received a special book that they enjoyed signing for each other, school pen, graduation mug and printed Year 6 class jumper/shirt. We hope that in years to come, the students will cherish these symbols of their Year 6 graduation.



















Yesterday we celebrated our Thanksgiving Mass. We were thankful to parents, family, friends and parishioners for attending, to Bishop Karol for celebrating the Mass and to Mrs Tully and helpers for all of the planning and preparations.



Students have celebrated their year's learning with excursions, class parties, cooking and craft and final class buddy visits.

Teachers have worked hard on writing reports which were sent home yesterday afternoon, a celebration and summary of each child's learning and achievements for the year.

Today students have visited with their classmates and teacher for next year so that they can go into the holiday break knowing who they will be with next year.

2024 CLASS STRUCTURES AND TEACHERS

Following are our class teacher allocations for 2024. Further staffing will be announced Term 1.

Reception Agatka Murphy and Jenny Geyser

Reception Lisa Hanson

Year 1/2 Abbey Whitehead and Sophie Parker

Year 1/2 Lucy Norton Year 3/4 Alex Wehr Year 3/4 Laura Kotz

Year 5 Ali Ryan and Amie Price
Year 6/7/8 Lisa Caffyn and Marcus Kerin

FAREWELL STAFF, STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

At this time of year, we are farewelling staff, students and families leaving us. I wish all students and families moving on, all the very best for the future.

At Mass yesterday, we farewelled staff leaving us and thanked them for our contribution to our school community:

Bernie Thomson: Taking Leave for Term 1 and 2 2024. We wish Bernie a wonderful time enjoying being with family and friends and very happy, safe travels for her trip overseas.

Hannah Cotter: Sadly for us Hannah is leaving us but we wish her well to follow her dreams to move to Adelaide where she has won a teaching position at St Joseph's School Tranmere. Hannah will be closer to her family and friends.

Hannah moved to the country to take on a teaching position and we have been blessed to have her here with us for four years. In her four years here she taught the Year 5/6 class for three years and the Year 6-9 class this year.

Hannah is an exemplary classroom teacher, providing excellent learning opportunities for students. She has taken students to sporting events, on camps and this year in particular did an amzing job this year coordinating our Dance Concert.

Relationships grounded in trust and respect with the students in her care, has been an outstanding quality of Hannah's.

We wish Hannah all the very best for the future.

God of all goodness,

as they leave behind what has become familiar to them,

bless all who are leaving our school community.

Bestow the grace of courage and strength of the Holy Spirit upon them.

Guide them through the challenges, uncertainties, changes and successes ahead of them.

May they always be a blessing to their families, their friends and their communities.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AWARDS PRESENTED

The following awards were presented at our Mass yesterday:

ROWAN RAMSEY COMMUNITY AWARD

Thank you to Rowan Ramsey MP, Member for Grey, who donates this award each year.

The community award is presented each year to a member of our community who gives generously of their time, talents and resources for the benefit of our community and most importantly for the benefit of our students.

The recipient this year was Julia Hammill. Julia was a parent and staff member at our school for 20 years. As a parent, always willing to help out with any whole school and classroom activities. As a staff member, Julia gave generously of her time and talents, going above and beyond in her role as Bursar Extraordinaire for our school.

Thank you and congratulations Julia!



ST MRY MACKILLOP SCHOOL COMMUNITY AWARD

This award was instigated by our School Board in 2021.

The award acknowledges the selfless contribution of parent, Taya Dennis, to our school community. Taya is a committed member of our P & F committee, rarely missing a meeting. She helps out with classroom activities and excursions whenever possible. Taya has been committed to coordinating the Friday Lunches for three years, giving of her own time for the shopping, planning the volunteer roster, filling in when necessary and doing all of the hours of work behind the scenes and always with a smile.

Thank you and congratulations Taya!



STUDENT AWARDS

FRASER ELLIS AWARD

Thank you to Fraser Ellis MP, Member for Narungga who donates this award each year for a Year 6 student.

The award was presented to a student who throughout the school year applied themselves diligently to their studies and made a significant positive contribution to her school and community.

The award was presented to a student who exemplifies the qualities of a good citizen and our patron Saint, St Mary MacKillop. The recipient of the 2023 Fraser Ellis award is Year 6 student Adelaide White.

Congratulations Adelaide!



STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Thank you to the Wallaroo Lions Club which presents a Student Encouragement Award. The presentation goes towards assisting students specifically from Wallaroo with their transition to Year 7 secondary schooling at KMS. There are expenses involved in starting at a new school such as new uniform and books and this Award goes towards some of those costs. Thank you to Wallaroo Lions Club rep Peter Hatcher who attended the Mass to present the award to Year 6 student Riley Davey.

Congratulations Riley!



ATTENDANCE AWARD

This award is a new one for our school. Attending school is not only a requirement, most importantly it has long-term benefits for learning and wellbeing. This year, in our whole school, we have one student who has attended every single school day of the year. This calls for commitment and resilience and this student's excellent attendance needs to be celebrated. The deserving recipient of the excellent Attendance Award was presented to Reception student Kieran Gilfillan.

Congratulations Kieran!



HOUSE POINTS SHIELD

Throughout the whole school year, students may earn points for their House for going above and beyond what is usually expected in their application to their learning, effort and attitude in their learning, showing care for the environment that God has created for us, showing leadership, caring for others, showing respect and making the most of the opportunities offered to them.

Congratulations to MacKillop students who accumulated the most House Points!

House Captains, Jordy and Luke accepted the shield and presented a thank you speech. MacKillop House students will receive a treat to say congratulations.



FINANCE OFFICER

It is with pleasure, we welcome our new Finance Officer, Elizabeth (Liz) Reid.

Liz has commenced this last two weeks, getting to know the role and our school. Liz will join us next year from 'Week 0' on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I am sure staff, students and families will enjoy getting to know Liz and she will be a wonderful support to us all in her new role.

Welcome Liz!

PUPIL FREE DAY

A reminder that we have a pupil free day tomorrow, 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

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

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 was included in the Week 5 Newsletter, pleae contact our office if you need another copy. 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.

THANK YOU FOR OUR YEAR

Thank you to:

Teaching and Support staff
School Board and P & F
Students, families and friends of our school
The many community supporters of our school
Fr Chris our Parish Priest and Parishioners

Thank you all for your amazing hard work and commitment to our student's wellbeing and learning

I would like to take this opportunity so say thank you to all of you for your positive support throughout this year. Positive support helps our school to thrive and grow. Our year has been exciting and challenging and it has been wonderful to journey this together.

In this time of Advent when we are preparing for the birth of Jesus, let us focus on what we have to be grateful for in the year behind us and look forward to the year ahead, full of hope.

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas filled with the love and the hope of Jesus, and a very relaxing and enjoyable holiday break.

Ms Michelle Miller PRINCIPAL

FROM THE REC

Our lives are often on repeat. We wake up, go to school or work, go home, relax, sleep and then repeat until the weekend. Most of us enjoy the constant patterns of our lives and can find joy and security in the 'ordinariness' of life.

As a school we also experience an annual cycle that begins at the end of January and then concludes in December, we know the rhythm of the year and all of the events that faithfully reappear in due course. This week is the last of week of Primary School for our Year 6 students and last week of Middle School for our Year 9 student, thus ending one of the 'seasons' of our school year. Yesterday we celebrated the End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation Ceremony.

Last Sunday, these students celebrated their schooling with a Graduation Dinner. The Graduation dinner is a fantastic conclusion to a year that for many has been the 'biggest' of their lives so far. The preparation for this final gathering held much excitement and tremendous anticipation of that final chance to celebrate not only this year but in fact all of their schooling so far.

This time of waiting is mirrored in our liturgical year. The shops have had Christmas decorations on display for a while already and within days they will be transformed along with public areas through our region. The APEX Christmas tree, in Kadina, has been re-launched, bunting will soon be hung on streetlights and we may even see some radiant Christmas lights on the houses around the community. Children young and old will very soon become focused on the big day! This waiting is what the season of Advent actually is about.

We often frame the birth of Jesus, Christ, as Christmas. The family get together, gifts and gastronomic bliss. Children rightly get caught up in what presents they will get from Fr Christmas, family and friends. As adults we however shift our focus slightly. Whilst enjoying the excitement of gift giving and receiving, we also focus on the wholeness of this time. We wait for Christ. It is a reminder of the great joy that came into the world so many years ago, with the birth of a child to parents who had little but faith in God and his promise to a young unwedded woman and her fiancé.

The synoptic Gospels offer us an illustration of John the Baptist. John was prophesized hundreds of years before by Isaiah, who proclaimed "prepare the way of the Lord, make his ways straight". Just as John called for people to repent and be baptized, we also evangelise and spread the Good News.

FROM THE REC

Throughout the weeks of Advent, we are invited to prepare ourselves and renew our commitment to others and our relationship with our God. We might be encouraged to seize the day and make the time to be with those we love now, rather than wait for the big Christmas gathering. We might make good relationships that have not been nourished or reach out to those in our lives whom we need to walk more closely with. We may commit to spending more time connecting with God or seeking him in all we meet and in everything we experience.

Sometimes God can be found in the most unlikely places. Many years ago, He came to us as a baby, born into a world not ready for him, in a barn not fit for you or I; let alone the Messiah, Immanuel, God who is with us.

As we congratulate graduating students, we do so with the hope that their lives will be filled with great success and much joy. We pray that they enjoy this period of waiting before they move on to their next great schooling journey.

I hope that you rejoice in the season of Advent and waiting also. The reward surely is just as exciting no matter what stage of life you are passing through.

During this busy season, our Christmas To-Do lists are so important, so I thought you'd like this one.

Our Christmas Trees are a symbol that Christmas is getting near and remind us



To be a light in the darkness.

We all fall over sometimes.

You can never wear too much glitter.

Bring joy to others.

Sparkle and twinkle as often as possible.

It's okay to be a little tilted.



This Christmas, please spare a thought for those who ..



Are feeling overwhelmed and burned out.

Are feeling the pressures of the season.

Are feeling lonely.

Are spending their last Christmas with a loved one.

Are grieving the loss of someone special.

Are experiencing poor mental or physical health.

I look forward to seeing you all next year.

VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you everyone for your donations of food and items during the Christmas Vinnie's Christmas appeal.

Wishing you all a safe and blessed Christmas.

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

OSHC & VACATION CARE

Please ensure your child/ren bring their red OSHC hat during Vacation Care. These are essential for outside play during this time of year. If your child/ren have lost their red OSHC hat you can purchase a new hat through the front office.

Merry Christmas and we wish you a happy and safe new year!

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, 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 0437659137 for any bookings or cancellations. This helps immensely with knowing where students need to be and with planning staff.

Lísa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137

VACATION CARE- DECEMBER/JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER 2023	TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023	WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2023	THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER 2023	FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2023
WET N WILD Water fun day at school.	Movie at Blyth	CHRISTMAS COOKING & CRAFTS	Gingerbread House Decorating	Christmas Fun!
Please bring: Bathers Towel Sun smart clothing Change of clothes Water guns (optional)	Cinema Depart: 9am Approx arrival: 3pm Extra Cost \$13	-Paint your own biscuits pack to take home -Reindeer biscuits Christmas Crafts	Build and design your own gingerbread house to take home.	Secret Santa Christmas Crafts CHRISTMAS LUNCH Roast chicken & veggies with gravy Christmas movie & popcorn afternoon
		-Reindeer food -salt dough ornaments -Painting Extra Cost \$12	Decorate Gingerbread Men to enjoy for afternoon snack.	"Come dressed Christmassy"

Merry Christmas to our OSHC and Vacation Care families

VACATION CARE SERVICE CLOSED

26th DECEMBER 2023 – 12th JANUARY 2024



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
15 JANUARY 2024	16 JANUARY 2024	17 JANUARY 2024	18 JANUARY 2024	19 JANUARY 2024
Shared party afternoon tea Face painting Party games	WET N WILD at OSHC Please bring: Bathers Towel Sun smart clothing Change of clothes Water guns (optional)	Tumble Clinic AT Kadina Gym Tumble clinics teach floor skills such as handstands, rolls, cartwheels, and more advanced skills Extra Cost \$10	Port Pirie Aquatic Centre Depart: 8:30 Extra Cost \$5	FRISASI Bring along your electronics Water balloon games (bring a towel)
MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024	TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024	WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2024	THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024	FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024
		24 JANUART 2024		20 JANUART 2024
Movie at Blyth Cinema Depart: 9am Approx arrival: 3pm Extra Cost \$13	Come along to a fun filled blue day being a Smurf. Come dressed in blue, like a Smurf	Silent Disco The children requested we have another Silent Disco! Lots of dancing and fun games listening to music. Extra Cost \$12	Celebrations Sausage sizzle lunch Zinc sunscreen fun Lamingtons and pavlova afternoon tea Australian themed crafts	Australia Day Public Holiday





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charlie – Year 2/3N 13th December Payton – Year 3/4 13th December Mileah – Year 6-9 15th December Connor – Year 4/5 18th December Benji – Year 2/3W 28th December



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

Semester 2 Reports

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.

ROYAL LIFE SAVING - SWIM AND SURVIVE

It's that time of year again when Holiday Swim Enrolments are running. Less than a month to go for the annual Royal Life Saving South Australia Holiday Swim program held at Wallaroo Sailing Club Beach. The Holiday Swim program runs the first week after school finishes and before Christmas, 18th-22nd December.

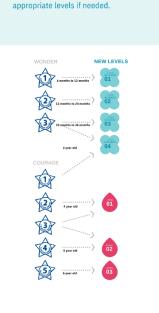
I have been running this program for a few years now and would love as many numbers as possible to add higher levels, hopefully in the near future.

If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me on the mobile number attached to the flyer or contact Royal Life Saving SA directly....

Below is the link for the Wallaroo Beach enrolment for the Holiday Swim Program.

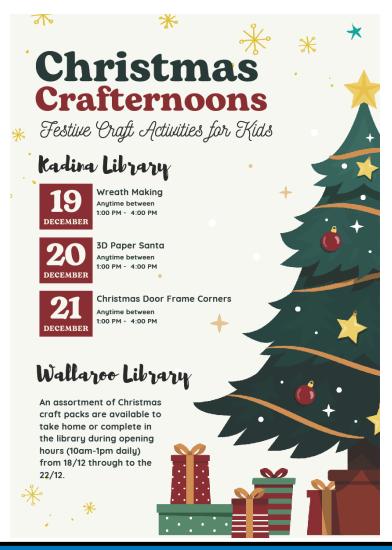
https://e.mybookingmanager.com/attendee register input B.asp?hdnPar=0%5E%5E0&DAEC=E71822598209881





Ages are guides only, all participants will be assessed on day 1 and moved to







SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TIMETABLE



MONDAY 18/12	TUESDAY 19/12	WEDNESDAY 20/12	THURSDAY 21/12	FRIDAY 22/12
KINDERFUN CHRISTMAS	SWIM AND PLAY	SWIM AND PLAY	PICKLEBALL SESSION	SWIM AND PLAY
PARTY!	10.30-11.30AM	12.00-1.00PM	10.30AM-11.30AM	2-3PM
10.30AM-11.30AM 0-5 YEARS	UNDER 5'S	UNDER 5'S	AGES 5-12 YEARS	ALL AGES
	SWIM AND PLAY	SWIM AND PLAY	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER
DRESS IN YOUR	11.30-12.30PM	1.00-2.00PM	SESSION	SESSION
CHRISTMAS BEST AND DANCE TO CHRISTMAS	ALL AGES	ALL AGES		
MUSIC!	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER		
	SESSION	SESSION		
\$7.50 PER CHILD				
Christm	as/New Year Break	Monday 25 Decemb	er to Tuesday 2nd	January
MONDAY 1/1	TUESDAY 2/1	WEDNESDAY 3/1	THURSDAY 4/1	FRIDAY 5/1
PUBLIC HOLIDAY	SWIM AND PLAY	SWIM AND PLAY	PICKLEBALL SESSION	SWIM AND PLAY
CENTRE CLOSED	10.30-11.30AM	12.00-1.00PM	10.30AM-11.30AM	2-3PM
	UNDER 5'S	UNDER 5'S	AGES 5-12 YEARS	ALL AGES
	SWIM AND PLAY	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER
	11.30-12.30PM	SESSION	SESSION	SESSION
	I and the second se			
	ALL AGES			
	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER			

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL PROGRAMS - PLEASE CALL 88213106 TO BOOK- PLACES ARE LIMITED! \$7.50 cost for all sessions.

SWIM AND PLAY - UNDER 5'S MUST HAVE A PARENT IN THE WATER WITHIN ARM'S REACH AT ALL TIMES. OVER 5'S MUST HAVE A PARENT IN THE WATER AT ALL TIMES UNLESS THE CHILD CAN SWIM INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT A FLOTATION AID.

MONDAY 8/1	TUESDAY 9/1	WEDNESDAY 10/1	THURSDAY 11/1	FRIDAY 12/1
	SWIM AND PLAY 10.30-11.30AM UNDER 5'S	SWIM AND PLAY 12.00-1.00PM UNDER 5'S	PICKLEBALL SESSION 10.30AM-11.30AM AGES 5-12 YEARS	SWIM AND PLAY 2-3PM ALL AGES
	SWIM AND PLAY 11.30-12.30PM ALL AGES	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION
	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION			
MONDAY 15/1	TUESDAY 16/1	WEDNESDAY 17/1	THURSDAY 18/1	FRIDAY 19/1
	SWIM AND PLAY 10.30-11.30AM UNDER 5'S	SWIM AND PLAY 12.00-1.00PM UNDER 5'S	PICKLEBALL SESSION 10.30AM-11.30AM AGES 5-12 YEARS	SWIM AND PLAY 2-3PM ALL AGES
	SWIM AND PLAY 11.30-12.30PM ALL AGES	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION
	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION			
MONDAY 22/1	TUESDAY 23/1	WEDNESDAY 24/1	THURSDAY 25/1	FRIDAY 26/1
	SWIM AND PLAY 10.30-11.30AM UNDER 5'S	SWIM AND PLAY 12.00-1.00PM UNDER 5'S	PICKLEBALL SESSION 10.30AM-11.30AM AGES 5-12 YEARS	PUBLIC HOLIDAY CENTRE CLOSED
	SWIM AND PLAY 11.30-12.30PM ALL AGES	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION	
	\$7.50 PER CHILD PER SESSION			



Tuesday 2nd Jan: 2024 Calendar

Wednesday 3rd Jan: Frisbee Fun! Design a frisbee

Thursday 3rd Jan: Jigdraws

WEEK 2

Tuesday 9th Jan: Make a Windchime Wednesday 10th Jan: Cellophane Art Thursday 11th Jan: Foam Glider Planes

Tuesday 16th Jan: Design a Flowerpot Wednesday 17th Jan: Sticker by Number Art Thursday 18th Jan: Make a Model Clay Wind-up Toy

WEEK 4

Tuesday 23rd Jan: Amazing Maize Craft Wednesday 24th Jan: Koala Creations

Thursday 25th Jan: Dioramas

All of the activities at Kadina Library are walk in between 1pm and 4pm.

Wallaroo Library

An assortment of craft packs are available to collect or complete at Wallaroo Library during opening hours (10am-1pm Mon-Fri excluding public holidays) throughout the school holidays .