



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 29th January 2025 (Term 1, Week 1)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

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.

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 and capable learners”. 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. School is quite unique in the way we almost have a complete turnover from year to year. New teachers, new classrooms, new friendships, new opportunities. I encourage all students to make the most of the fresh start and every opportunity they are given at school this year to develop their potential.

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. The way we begin the year 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 OSHC open, preparing classrooms, cleaning, 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. Thank you to staff who have been very busy preparing yard and play areas; setting up learning areas and programming, all to make sure students have welcoming and interesting environments and engaging learning activities.

IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAYS - Mini Macs Playgroup 9am

FEBRUARY

Fri 7th Beginning of Year Mass 11.45am

Wed 12th Meet and Greet

Tue 18th School Board meeting 7.00pm

Wed 19th – Fri 21st Year 6 Aquatics Camp

MARCH

Fri 7th Sports Day

Mon 10th Public Holiday

Parish Weekend Mass – for mass times, visit:

coppercoast@ppcatholic.org

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta

Sacred Heart, Kadina

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wallaroo - 6pm Saturday

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

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SMM 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 twelve new Reception students and four 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:

Wednesday 12th February (Week 3)

6.00-6.30pm	Reception and Year 1
6.30-7.00pm	Year 2/3 and Year 4/5
7.00-7.30	Year 6 and Year 7-9

Supervision of children will be provided in the playground (school side) from 5.50-7.30pm to enable parents to attend sessions.

We understand that holding some class sessions at the same time may be difficult for parents who have children in two or three different classes but also hope that you are able to work out a compromise and sit in on part sessions and meet teachers. We welcome your feedback on this format following the evening.

You will have the opportunity to meet the class teacher/s, 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 you can work with the class teacher/s to support your child/children 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.

TEACHING STAFF 2025

Following is our class structure and teaching staff for 2025.

We welcome new teaching staff: Mr Lachlan Bates and Mr Joshua Champion and ESO Susan Grant.

Reception:	Mrs Lisa Hanson
Year 1 :	Mrs Abbey Whitehead (Mon, Tue) and Mrs Sophie Parker (Wed, Thu, Fri)
Year 2/3:	Miss Lucy Norton
Year 2/3:	Miss Alex Wehr
Year 4/5:	Mr Lachlan Bates
Year 4/5:	Mr Marcus Kerin (Mon, Tue, Wed) and Mrs Amie Price (Thu, Fri)
Year 6:	Mrs Fiona Piscioneri
Year 7-9:	Miss Lisa Caffyn and Mr Joshua Champion

Specialist Teachers

Italian:	Mrs Francesca Tully
PE:	Mr Marcus Kerin and Miss Lisa Caffyn
The Arts:	Miss Laura Kotz
Choir:	Miss Laura Kotz
Student Support:	Mrs Jane Owen, Mrs Annette Morphet and Miss Laura Kotz

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Leadership Team

Principal:	Ms Michelle Miller
Religious Education Coordinator:	Mrs Francesca Tully
R-9 Leader Of Learning:	Dr Annette Morphet
Middle School Coordinator:	Miss Lisa Caffyn

ESO (Education Support Officer) STAFF 2025

Administration	Mrs Karen Westlake
Administration/Finance	Mrs Emily Donnell
Finance:	Mrs Liz Reid
Bus/Grounds & Maintenance:	Paul Northeast
Bus:	Mr Michael Dennis
Mini Macs Playgroup:	Mrs Felicity Schulz
Reception class:	Mrs Jody Duif
Year 1 class:	Mrs Lisa Murphy
Year 2/3 Wehr:	Mrs Tania Nitschke
Year 2/3 Norton:	Mrs Karen McCulloch and Mrs Tania Nitschke
Year 4/5 Bates:	Mrs Kristy Smith
Year 4/5 Kerin/Price:	Miss Lisa Cooper and Mrs Sue Grant
Year 6 class:	Mrs carol Burford and Mrs Heather Griffiths
Year 7-9 class:	Mrs Sue Wharton

Our team of wonderful staff look forward to working with you this year.

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 over the December/January holiday break. They did have a lot of fun with themes for every day and great excursions. Thank you Lisa, Mackenzie, Amy, Jayden, Ben, Sophie, Amy, Georgia, Carol, Bernie and Paul.

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 2025.

The staff reflected on our theme for the year 'Seeds of Hope' and what this asks of us. When we share our time, our gifts, our talents with others, we are sowing seeds of hope.

These days are important for a positive start to the new year and bring staff together in a collaborative, supportive way focussed on our mission to provide excellent learning and pastoral care for your children.

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.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Our staff are invested in whole school improvement. One of our focus areas this year is positive behaviour. Annette, Francesca and myself commenced training last year in implementing Positive Behaviour strategies. Following training days, information was shared with staff in meetings. Specific areas for improved student behaviour were identified and a school matrix was developed to identify our focus areas. Following this, explicit Procedures have been written up to introduce students to the expected behaviours and staff are then practising this with students.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We often assume students will automatically know how to behave appropriately in various situations or that they will just pick it up from others around them. This is not always the case, therefore explicit teaching and practice is required. Our goals are clear and with high expectations of student behaviour, this is being taught explicitly and practised regularly.

This week our Positive Behaviour education has been on:

- Taking the white box from the classroom to the office
- Visiting other classrooms and offices
- Library
- Arriving and exiting school safely and respectfully
- Moving with the whole class safely and respectfully around the school
- Eating time and Library

An example of the Procedure for visiting another classroom or office is:

- Knock
- Wait to be invited in
- Move close to staff member
- Say "hello"
- Explain your reason for visit
- Say "thankyou"
- Leave quietly and quickly

All students who catch the bus to/from school and all students who attend OSHC/Vacation Care, attended a meeting Tuesday afternoon where we went through high expectations of student behaviour when travelling on the bus and when they are in OSHC. It was explained to students that consequences of behaviour that is not safe and respectful can result in not being able to access these services.

We are also having a strong emphasis on using manners and being polite:

- Greeting and responding to greetings
- Saying "thankyou", "please", "excuse me"
- Taking turns
- Lining up safely and respectfully

We are aiming for consistency and clarity for expected behaviours around our school. The overarching, simple message is students are expected to behave in a safe and respectful manner. We will keep you informed about the implementation of the Positive Behaviour strategies in our school and encourage you to support this with your children at home.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Even when we have Positive Behaviours embedded, things will still go wrong, we are human, there will be disagreements and times when behaviour choices are not positive. That's when Restorative Practices come in.

Restorative Practice is a value-based approach to transforming wrongdoing by healing the harm, particularly to relationships.

Being in a Catholic school this is based on our Christian values and the role-modelling of Jesus. This is to be our response and way of healing relationships with students, parents and with each other.

When there has been a situation where there is a breakdown in a relationship, a restorative conversation is facilitated by a staff member. Students reflect on their behaviour, take responsibility and appropriate consequences are discussed and put in place.

PG MOVIES

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 (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

ICT / EXCURSIONS / VIEWING

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:

- 2025 Consent form for local school bus excursions (up to 10kms) for regional schools – this must be completed separately for each child in the family
- 2025 Bus Application form (if applicable)
- 2025 ICT Agreement will be sent home next week

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS AND SUPPORT

All of our specialist teaching areas and lessons are up and running as of this week. This includes: Dance, PE, Music, Drama and Italian lessons.

Therapists who work with students have also been welcomed back, including our school counsellor Kris Strauss-Scott.

Music tutor, piano Mrs Michele Giesecke, will commence as of Week 3.

We are off to a positive start.

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.

SCHOOL TIMES

Our school times are:

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

We welcome parents coming in to say “hi” and catch up with the teacher, morning and afternoon. Teachers of our younger students will walk them to the MPLA gates at the end of the school day to meet you, once again, encouraging independence. I ask that parents do not congregate in the MPLA at the beginning and end of the school day right on 8.50am and 3.00pm. Parents are most welcome to catch up with teachers before and after these times but we need to keep the MPLA as clear and calm as possible. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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 about our school will be shared gradually with you through Newsletters, Seesaw, letters, diaries, communication books, your children, over the coming weeks. Please make sure you ask if you have any questions at all.

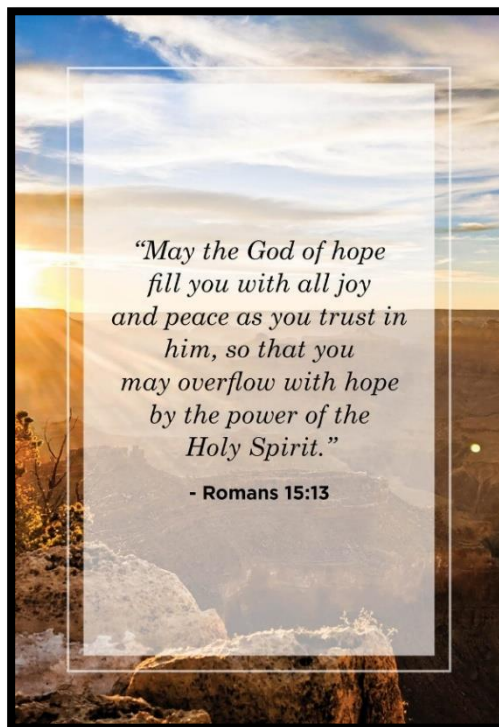
ST MARY MACKILLOP

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 know that your children already have the Christian Value of wanting to "do good for others" and this is the way they can sow seeds of hope. 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.



BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chloe and Josiah Bacher who welcomed their baby boy Kiah on 10th January.

Congratulations to Veneesh, Leena, Aarvin and Ava Kochupurackal-Veneesh on the arrival of daughter and sister, Ana.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

At the start of our new school year, we welcome new Reception students:

Luca, Knox, Edhen, Meg, Greta, Ruby, Spencer, Macie, Isabelle, Zaylin, Bryce, Romy, Maiken, Lucy, Claire and Archie

We also welcome new students in other year levels:

Antonio Walker: Year 2

Welcome, we wish you all the best for your time with us.



Reception class



Antonio

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This week I am meeting with our Year 6-9 students inviting them to consider standing for a Leadership role: School Captain, School Vice Captain, House Captain.

Priority for these roles will be given to Year 7-9 students. If the roles are not filled by our Year 7-9 students, then roles will be offered to interested Year 6 students.

Speeches will be presented this Friday, 31st January, 8.50am in the MPLA (straight in following morning play).

Our Student Leadership structure for this year will be:

1 x School Captain (male or female, can be re-elected if role held previously)

1 x School Vice Captain (male or female, can be re-elected if role held previously)

House Captains per House (male and female, can be re-elected if role held previously, number to be determined after School Captain roles)

2 x Student Class Reps per class per semester (preferably male and female, cannot be re-elected for a year unless no other students interested in the role, therefore any students who were a Class Rep last year not eligible this year).

We look forward to sharing our elected Student Leaders with you.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS

Thank you to Francesca and Fr Steve Ardill (our new Parish Priest commencing 1st February) who will be planning our Beginning Of Year Mass that will be on Friday, 7th February, 11.45am at Star of the Sea Church, Irwin St, Wallaroo.

Student leaders – School Captain and Vice Captain, House Captains and R-6 SRC will be inducted at the conclusion of the Mass. The parishioners have been invited and families are invited; it will be lovely to have as many of you as possible to come and celebrate with us.

UNIFORM FOR WEEK 1

Students have commenced wearing formal (regular) uniform and sport uniform (dance and PE days) as of this week.

All students are to wear formal uniform on Friday, 7th February for our Beginning Of Year Mass. As our formal uniform is also designed for students to be very comfortably active they will be fine wearing this if it is their Dance lesson day.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HOT WEATHER

I am sure the hot weather has not completely passed us by and it will warm up again soon. Our school is completely air conditioned and on days when the temperature is 35 degrees or more our Extreme Weather Policy will be followed. Class activities and school events will be modified to suit the conditions. For example Physical Education, Outdoor Education and Dance activities may be cancelled, held indoors or shortened. Students are encouraged to drink water frequently. At both recess and lunchtimes students will remain indoors. Our Multi Purpose Building (MPLA) will provide an excellent area for the students at these times. Our MPLA has refrigerators and students are encouraged to store their recess, lunch or fruit in these.

Staff make sure students apply sunscreen and wear their hats, keep hydrated and they make every effort to care for students on hot days.

TERM 1 DATE CLAIMERS

Please find a copy of the Term 1 calendar with this Newsletter.

The Dance Concert will be held in Term 3, Week 9, Thursday 19th September. The Concert is a highlight of our school year. I am already excited about it!

CLEANING CONTRACT

We are seeking Tenders for our school cleaning contract. Please contact our front office for more details about the Cleaning Contract requirements if you are interested.

GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE

We are also seeking a Grounds and Maintenance person to join our team, 9 hours a week for 48 weeks of the year. Please contact the front office for more details about the position and application.

FRIDAY LUNCHES

Taya Dennis has stepped down from the Friday Lunches Coordinator role, a role that she has volunteered in for the past five years. This has taken considerable time and effort and Taya has been tireless and dedicated to the role. This has entailed doing the weekly shopping and working out the volunteer rosters.

It has come time for Taya to be able to volunteer her time in other areas and we are very blessed to have had her in this role for as long as we have had.

Therefore, we are looking for a new Friday Lunches Coordinator. This can be one person or there may be two or three people that would like to take on the role together and lighten the load.

Friday Lunches will not be able to operate unless we have a new Coordinator and weekly volunteers.

Best wishes for 2025.

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL



OSHC/VACATION CARE NEWS

VACATION CARE

December / January Vacation Care was filled with fun activities and excursions. The children enjoyed visiting the Blyth Cinema to watch Moana 2. We also went to Port Pirie swimming pool where the children had hours of fun swimming and going on the water slide. We had incursion days with a biscuit decorating day, Wet N Wild water fun at OSHC, Mosaic crafts and many other fun themed days where the children joined in with the theme activities and games.



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

Lisa Cooper

OSHC DIRECTOR – 0437 659 137

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! The first session will be on Tuesday, 4th February.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ruby - Year 1WP	1 st January
Holly – Year 4/5KP	2 nd January
Tate – Year 4/5KP	3 rd January
Archie – ReceptionH	8 th January
Maiken – ReceptionH	10 th January
Travis – Year 2/3W	16 th January
Nate – Year 4/5B	21 st January
Isabelle – ReceptionH	23 rd January
Henley – Year 2/3W	23 rd January
Amaya – Year 6P	23 rd January
Macie – ReceptionH	25 th January
Arden – Year 2/3N	27 th January
Ruby – Reception	2 nd February
Ava – Year 2/3N	2 nd February
Arlo – Year 2/3N	7 th February



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Term 1 Calendar
2. Consent form for Local School Bus Excursions
3. Moonta & Kadina Bus Application form (if applicable)

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.



Karen Lee
Dance Academy

Dance Education on the Yorke Peninsula

REGISTER NOW

Term 1 starts 3rd February

Cecchetti Ballet | Tap
Creative | BoyZonly
and more...

Tiny Tots up to Adult Classes available
All ages welcome!

Classes in Moonta and Kadina | Contact us: klda@dodo.com.au

@karen_lee_dance_academy Karen Lee Dance Academy



Girls , Ladies , Women , Mums , Aunties , Sisters , Nanas , Wives , Girlfriends, Daughters ... whatever it is... WE WANT YOU.. Wallaroo Cricket Club will be hosting a "come and try" cricket session for the female gender from all over the YP .. no pressure , any skill level , open age , social cricket only to start. Firstly looking at how many are interested in getting into cricket , then further down the track we will look at trying to form a team to start to develop Womens/Girls cricket on the York Peninsular... NO date has been set yet (try feb 2025) to start but we would love some ladies input . Volunteers to help will be crucial and very much appreciated. please make contact if you would like to help out in some way, either to play , coach , manage or volunteer administration... Thankyou Wallaroo Cricket Club . Grant Hodder 0400974680



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT WORKER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

VOLUNTEERS WANTED =)

**THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION KADINA OFFICE ARE
LOOKING FOR RESPONSIBLE, FRIENDLY AND CARING PEOPLE
FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS TO SHARE THEIR TIME,
EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.**

SOME OF THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- Driving a child to a family visit, school, or to medical appointments
- Attending community events
- Supporting a child to learn a new skill or hobby you have experience in
- Assisting a child to develop 'life-skills'; such as budgeting, shopping for food, cooking, support with obtaining their probationary licence

AS A VOLUNTEER YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH:

- Orientation, training and ongoing support
- Annual reviews and reappointments to ensure you are supported whilst volunteering with us
- Reimbursement for mileage to and from the office
- Use of government vehicles whilst transporting children.

**WE WILL CONDUCT A WORKING WITH
CHILDREN CHECK AT NO COST TO YOU.
YOU NEED TO BE 18 YEARS AND OVER,
HOWEVER NO QUALIFICATIONS ARE NEEDED.
IF YOU EXPRESS PATIENCE AND KINDNESS,
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Interested?

Please contact the Kadina
office on

(08) 8828 0400