

St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 9th April 2025 (Term 1, Week 11)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,



We are about to enter what is known in the Church as Holy Week. Holy Week commences on Sunday, 13th April, with Palm Sunday, however we have commenced our observance this week so that we can have this week at school concentrating on Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week will fall in the first week of the holidays however we will be observing it in Week 11, to fit this in before we go on holidays. The events of Holy Week are very much our focus during this week and we leave the Easter eggs and associated activities for the start of Term 2.

On Monday afternoon, the Reception and Year 6 class led us in a Liturgy that acted out the events of Palm Sunday: the time when Jesus left the desert to come into Jerusalem. It is called Palm Sunday because people pulled branches off trees and waved them in excitement as Jesus came into Jerusalem. They had not seen Jesus for 40 days and 40 nights so they were very excited.

This Friday we will remember through prayer, scripture, song, images and acting:

- Wednesday: In Jesus' absence from Jerusalem, the temple was turned into a market place; Jesus goes to the temple and shows his anger and disappointment, tipping over tables and stalls
- Holy Thursday: Jesus gathers with his friends, the disciples, for a meal (the meal is a Jewish tradition called the Passover meal), which becomes their last supper together. Judas betrays Jesus at the supper.
- Good Friday: Jesus is arrested, taken for trial, he is mocked and

IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAYS - Mini Macs Playgroup 9am

APRIL

Mon 7TH – Thu 10th - Parent/Teacher Interviews Yr 7-9

Thu 10th NYP District Athletics Carnival

Fri 11th Casual Day

SUBWAY lunches

Term 1 concludes 3.00pm

Fri 18th Good Friday

Sun 20th Easter Sunday

Mon 21st Easter Monday

Fri 25th ANZAC Day

Mon 28th **PUPIL FREE DAY** OSHC available

Tue 29th Term 2 commences

MAY

Fri 2nd Pop-Up Picnic 5.00pm

Mon 5th Parent Information Literacy session 6.30pm

Fri 9th Mother's Day Liturgy & Picnic 12.30pm

Wed 14th Middle School Information session 6.30pm

<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 - 6pm Saturday

St Margaret's, Port Broughton



RAISING **HEARTS** AND **MINDS**

made to carry a wooden cross through the streets, he is hung on a cross, crucified, and left to die. Jesus is taken from the cross and his body laid in a tomb.

• Easter Saturday: Jesus' body is in a tomb, this is the period of time between Jesus death and resurrection. It is a symbolic time of waiting for Jesus' resurrection.

When we return to school next term, we will remember:

• Easter Sunday: celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass is a special Mass held the week before Holy Week, for us in the Port Pirie Diocese, it is held at St Mark's Cathedral in Port Pirie. Today, our Year 6 class is representing our school at the Mass. At the Mass the oils that are used for blessings throughout the year are prepared, blessed and distributed to each parish. During the year these oils are used by the priests for blessing the sick, baptising, confirmation and other special times. Not many people get to attend the Chrism Mass so I hope this is a memorable occasion for our Year 6 students.

THANK YOU

Week 10 was another big week for our school. Thank you to:

- Reception and Year 1 for their Project Compassion fundraiser ice cream stall a treat much appreciated by everyone
 and they raised just over \$200.
- Lisa Caffyn for preparation and organisation and attending the Year 7-9 Adventure camp at Mylor. It was great to see students enjoying new experiences and, in some situations, stepping outside their comfort zone, giving things a go. There was such a great variety of activities for the students: team building, bridge building, canoeing, giant swing, night walks and games, bouldering (flat wall with hand and foot holds), fishing and yabbying, archery, army style obstacle course, time in the swimming pool. The accommodation was great, a large cottage with wood fire which was lit on Thursday night it was a bit chilly! The delicious food was a highlight, we were hungry after all of the great activities.
- Marcus Kerin and Paul Northeast for our boy's football team participation down at Maitland on Thursday, once again, great reports about student sportsmanship and teamwork. Well done to the team!
- Lucy Norton and Alex Wehr for organising and running the 2/3 sleepover at school and big thank you to them, and Lachlan Bates, Laura Kotz and Min Sawyer for supervising the sleepover on Friday night. They had it beautifully set up in the MPLA and classrooms. Thanks to teachers who provided their classrooms as areas for the students to sleep. The sleepover is an important step for the students building up to a night or two away from home for school camps in the future.
- Parent/Teacher interviews what a huge week for everyone involved and there are still some interviews to go. Thank
 you for your preparation and contribution to these important meeting times with parents and carers, such important
 two-way communication and relationship building. Rewarding and exhausting thank you!

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

The Feast of St Joseph The Worker will fall early in Term 2, Thursday 1st May (Week 1). The Feast honours St Joseph as a model of holiness for all workers and to emphasise the dignity and contribution of human labour.

Sister Shirley (past Principal and the last Sister of St Joseph to reside in Wallaroo) has sent a card to our school community, wishing us all an Easter Blessing. She enclosed \$150 to be used towards a treat for students and staff on the Feast of St Joseph The Worker.

Sr Shirley is very thoughtful and generous to our school community. Especially when she would live very humbly and not have a lot for herself, she shares what she does have with others. Thank you Sr Shirley.

PUPIL-FREE DAY - MONDAY, 28th APRIL

As covered in previous communications, Monday, Week 1, Term 2 will be a pupil-free day for teachers to engage in preparations, planning and professional learning. OSHC is available for students who have indicated they will be attending.

TERM 2

We commence Term 2 with students on Tuesday, 29th April.

MOTHERS' DAY CELEBRATION INVITATION

We want to say thank you to our Mums for all they do for us.

We will be holding a special celebration for our Mums on Friday, 9^{th} May.

You are invited to come to a prayerful Liturgy commencing at 12.30pm in the MPLA, then join the students for a picnic lunch 1.00-1.40pm.

You may bring a picnic lunch for your child/children or students can order their lunch through our usual Friday Lunches (student orders only please).

We hope you can come along so that we can say "thank you" to you.



ANZAC DAY - FRIDAY, 25th APRIL



In the second week of the school holidays we will commemorate ANZAC Day and will support the local Wallaroo community Dawn Service. Thank you to the St Mary MacKillop School Singers choir members, under the guidance of Laura Kotz, who will join with the community to sing the National Anthem and lay a wreath at the Dawn Service.

Anzac Day is a day of commemoration that marks the first major military battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War and is in remembrance of all those who have given their lives fighting for peace.

We continue to remember and pray for all people living with war, that they will know peace soon.

We will commemorate ANZAC Day at a school Assembly at the beginning of Term 2.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL THURSDAY

We will have a team of approximately 26 students in Years 4-6 attend the Sapsasa Athletics Carnival tomorrow in Kadina. Good luck to the team and thank you to staff accompanying the team: Marcus Kerin, Amie Price, Heather Griffits, Sue Wharton

and Paul Northeast our bus driver.

Our team: Year 4: Liam R, Izack K, Charlie D, Harriet, Ruby O,

Year 5: Isabella D, Miranda A, Scarlett R, Tate B, Natalie P, Piper H, Cody D, Jack O, Jhett G

Year 6: Amaya R, Armani D, Madison W, Rylee M, Isabelle C, Madeline D, Trinity M, Connor D, Trae W, Lachlan D, Jack R, Kye S

UNIFORM WEEK 11

Monday to Thursday – set class uniform.

Friday – Casual clothes: sunsmart clothing and closed in shoes (no thongs, sandals, crocs, Birkenstocks, sport shoes with sprigs), hair tied back, school hat or broad-brimmed hat is still to be worn (no caps).

STAFFING NEWS

CLEANING

Ronnie Donnellan has finished his cleaning contract with us. Thank you to Ronnie who has worked with us since July 2024 keeping our school looking smart and clean. We wish Ronnie all the best for the future.

TEACHING STAFF

Jane Owen will be taking Leave for Term 2, Jane has had responsibility for the MaqLit literacy programme for Year 3 upwards. Ali Ryan will be continuing in this role, taking over for Jane, for Week 1 and Weeks 4-10 of Term 2.

We wish Jane all the best for her time on Leave and thank Ali for being available to continue in this role for next term.

Bob Grant and Sue Grant have been staff members with us for Term 3-4 last year and Term 1 this year. Bob in a relief teaching capacity and Sue in the role of curriculum ESO. Bob and Sue are travelling around Australia and happened to arrive in Wallaroo, for which we are extremely thankful. Bob and Sue came to us with an incredible depth of experience and professional knowledge in education. They have built relationships with students and staff and very quickly become loved and appreciated members of our school community. They have been able to jump in to every role offered to them and have always been positive and very much a breath of fresh air. Bob and Sue will be very much missed. We wish them very safe and happy adventures as they head off on the road again.



DATE CLAIMER - INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS ON OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Wednesday 14th May at 6.30pm

we invite all parents to an information session about our middles school (Years 7-9)

This will be a great opportunity to come and be in the facilities, and hear about curriculum and extra-curricular activities that are offered.

We are also happy for specific questions to be forwarded so that we can address these. We want the session to suit the needs of parents and carers.

Thank you all for our term. We have covered so much, offered so many opportunities, to mention a few:

Parent/Teacher Meet and Greet Evening at the beginning of the term

Student Leadership elections

Sports Day

Catholic Schools Swimming carnival in Clare

Athletics carnivals: primary and secondary

Classes running fundraisers for Project Compassion

Holy Week remembrance

St Joseph's Feast day Mass and celebrations

Parent/Teacher interviews

AGMs for School Board and Parents and Friends

NAPLAN testing (national testing in literacy and numeracy) for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

Year 6 Aquatics camp

Year 7-9 Adventure camp

Year 2/3 Sleepover

We could not achieve all of this without each other, everyone contributing and supporting each other. And now it's almost time for a holiday break.

Rest allows our mind, body and soul to renew and start with even more strength and focus.

God is an endless source of peace and strength.

Take time to slow down and find rest, even for a moment, in God's presence.

Best wishes for a well-deserved, relaxing, restful, and safe holiday break.

"For anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his." Hebrews 4: 9-11

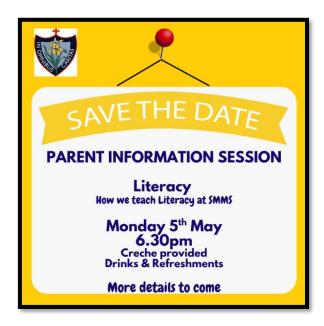


Thank you for the many ways that you have contributed to our school throughout this term.

I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday break. I hope you get the chance to rest, relax and refresh and I look forward to Term 2 after a good break.

Ms Michelle Miller PRINCIPAL

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS





CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

As we approach the very special days of Easter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their commitment and support throughout the first term of 2025.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our teachers, and all staff supporting those who teach, for their dedication to the students entrusted to our care. Your commitment to strengthening the faith, learning and wellbeing of our students provides inspiration for all.

To our families, thank you for your support and entrusting us to inspire the hearts and minds of your children, to know Christ, to love learning and to be the very best they can be. We take our responsibility seriously and will continue to do all we can to support you as the primary educator.

Term 1 is always busy starting with our Beginning of Year Mass, year 6 Aquatic Camp, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Year level fundraisers for Caritas, Sports Day, NAPLAN, NYP District sporting events, Parent/Teacher interviews and now Holy Week Liturgies.



This week we are remembering Holy Week as Holy Week is during the school holidays. On Monday, the Reception and Year 6 classes led us in the Palm Sunday liturgy. On Friday we will have our Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgy. After that, we will enjoy a Hot Cross Bun at recess.

Yesterday, the Reception class re-enacted the Bible stories of Jesus Washing the Disciples Feet, The Last Supper and Jesus Praying in the Garden. The students were reflective and respectful. They enjoyed learning about the Holy Week story by listening and re-enacting what happened.







Holy Week is the week before Easter, when Christians remember the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection, including Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and Good Friday, culminating in the celebration of Easter Sunday.

What is it?

Holy Week is a special time for Christians to remember the story of Jesus, especially the events that happened the week before he died and came back to life.

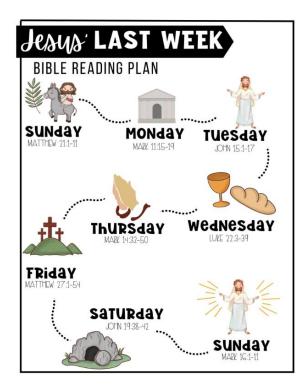
Palm Sunday:

It starts with Palm Sunday, where people remember when Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, and people waved palm branches to welcome him.

Holy Thursday:

Then comes Holy Thursday, where Jesus shared his last meal with his friends (disciples) called the Last Supper.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION



Good Friday:

Good Friday is a sad day because Christians remember when Jesus was put on a cross and died for everyone's sins.

Easter Sunday:

Finally, Easter Sunday is a happy day because Christians celebrate that Jesus came back to life, or resurrected, after three days.

Why is it important?

Christians believe that Jesus died and then came back to life to show everyone how much God loves them and to give them a chance to live forever with him.

May your Easter be filled with joy, hope, and the renewed spirit of spring, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life. Easter Mass times are below.



POP-UP PICNIC

The **Pop-Up Picnic** is set to be a lovely relaxed evening with live music and lawn games available. Don't forget to put the date in your calendar.



BOYS FOOTBALL LIGHTNING CARIVAL

On Thursday, 3rd April, the SMMS Football team participated in the Yorke Peninsula SAPSASA Lightning Football Carnival. Schools from all over the YP converged to Maitland to participate in football games against one another. Twelve of our year 5/6 boys participated with one student from Curramulka Primary School also joining our team. The boys showed great spirit and teamwork throughout the day which allowed each student to showcase their skills. A highlight of the day was seeing the ability of the more experienced football players to get their less experienced teammates involved in the game with every single player kicking at least one goal throughout the day.

Congratulations to the students who were chosen to train with the Northern Yorke Peninsula SAPSASA squad (Cody, Tate, Lachlan, Trae, Kye, Jhett, Connor, Bentley). Thank you to Mr Northeast for driving the team and the parent helpers who helped with goal umpiring.



SAPSASA SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Harriet, Trinity, Scarlett and Eloise who were selected to represent NYP at the SAPSASA Swimming Carnival in Adelaide on Monday, 7th April.

The girls all performed well in the pool. Well done to Harriet for receiving a bronze medal in breaststroke, and Eloise and Trinity a gold medal in the medley relay.





STORY DOGS

Last week we welcomed back the Story Dogs programme. Thank you to Chelsea and Louie, and Tania and Frankie who are volunteers who listen to students read. Students love reading to the dogs and the dogs love listening to them...even the dogs are smiling.





YEAR 7-9 CAMP

Wednesday, 9th April, our Middle School students set off on their 2025 adventure camp to Mylor in the Adelaide Hills. They arrived at camp and set up in the Riverview Cottage accommodation before starting the first activity.

Rotation 1 was the Challenge Course where students worked as a team to complete a series of army style challenges. The course began with a water slide into a pond, students then had to climb a wooden wall, army crawl under cargo nets through mud, and complete a series of balancing activities which required them to transport water in various containers. It was beautiful weather and the students had a great time completing the challenge, finishing very wet and muddy!

Back at their accommodation they took part in a series of team games which required the group to work together to complete the challenges. Free time in the swimming pool was next, where everyone had a great time splashing around. Fortunately the day was warm enough to be able to enjoy the water activities.

After dinner some more games of 'Ga Ga Ball' and Camouflage were played before going on night hike by torch light. The evening finished with a few more games (in the dark!) before supper and some time relaxing together before bed.













A slower start on day two, students enjoyed a relaxed breakfast before starting activities. The first activity of the day was archery. Students were quick to learn the skills of archery. They enjoyed hitting the target and playing games, seeing who could get the highest score.

After morning tea, the group went on the giant swing. This was a challenge for students who conquered fears of height with some being dropped from a height of about 8m. The group showed great encouragement and support for each other as they stepped outside their comfort zone.

After lunch, students completed a bridge building challenge course which required team work, problem solving and a lot of balance. They all did well and managed to build bridges across the designated area. The next activity was canoeing. The group was taught the skills of canoeing before being partnered up for the double canoes. It was so peaceful canoeing on the creek, punctuated with lots of laughs and funny moments. Once we were back on the banks, those who were brave enough did some creek jumping! So much fun!

Everyone enjoyed lasagna for dinner before doing some night activities. Students enjoyed a night walk before playing more Gaga Ball and Camouflage in the dark before heading back to the accommodation and competing in a quiz night. It was another fun action-packed day.

YEAR 7-9 CAMP













Day 3 began with breakfast followed by packing up our rooms and getting things tidy, ready for departure. Our first activity was fishing and yabbying which we found a lovely sport along the Onkaparinga river and our guide taught the students how to cast a hand reel. By the end, despite not catching any fish, they were all casting like pros! We checked the yabby nets and had caught 2 yabbies and a shrimp. The students all took turns holding the yabbies before releasing them back to the river.

Our last rotation after morning tea was bouldering. Students enjoyed practicing on the bouldering wall and taking part in the hanging challenge. All students displayed great skills and were able to manoeuvre around well. We enjoyed a tasty lunch before loading the bus and heading for home.







Miss Lisa Caffyn MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

YEAR 2 AND 3 SLEEPOVER

On Friday afternoon, students gathered at school for a fun-filled night of adventure, laughter, and plenty of treats.

After arriving and setting up for the night, students could choose from a range of different activities and games.

The evening kicked off with a delicious feast of pizza and chips. The students were able to enjoy their favorite foods while chatting with friends and relaxing. After dinner, it was time for an adventure! The students set off on an evening walk around the school. In groups they explored the school grounds and discovered hidden corners of their familiar surroundings.

Once back inside, the fun didn't stop. The students cozied up in their sleeping bags, ready for a movie night. With popcorn in hand, they watched a fun, family-friendly film. Laughter filled the room as they enjoyed the movie together, ending the evening with big smiles.

It was a night full of excitement, bonding, and new experiences. The Year 2 and 3 sleepover was not only a chance for the students to enjoy some time away from home, but it also helped them grow closer as a class. Special thanks to the staff who helped make this event such a success. We also extend a huge thanks to Min Sawyer for volunteering at the sleepover.















APRIL VACATION CARE PROGRAMME

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14 th April	15 th April	16 th April	17 th April	18 th April
All Around the World China ** ** ** Explore facts of China Taste Chinese foods Learn about Chinese zodiac animals Create a variety of Chinese crafts	The King of Kings Movie at Blyth Cinema Depart at 8:30am Approx. arrival back -3pm Extra Cost \$13	Wizbang Family Fun Centre Laser tag Laser tag Black Light Mini Golf Indoor play gym Please wear enclosed shoes with socks Depart: 8:30am Approx. arrival back: 5:30pm Extra Cost \$17	Easter Crafts Join us for a day filled with a variety of Easter crafts.	Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21 st April	22 nd April	23 rd April	24 th April	25 th April
Easter Monday Public Holiday	Make paper Clean up our yard and neighborhood Nature art	With permission from parents, you are permiteded to bring one electronic from home, this can be a Nintendo Switch, iPad, or Laptop. Other activities include: Arts and Crafts Outside group games	Make poppies Bake Anzac Biscuits Lest we Forget	Anzac Day Public Holiday

POLICE VISIT

On Friday, 4th April, our Reception and Year 1 students had an exciting visit from Sergeant Tristan of the South Australian Police. The students were eager to learn about the important role police officers play in keeping our community safe.

Sergeant Tristan spoke about the different ways police help people, answered lots of curious questions, and even let the children explore the inside of a real police car! The flashing lights and sirens were definitely a highlight of the visit.

It was a fantastic learning experience, and we are so grateful to Sergeant Tristan for taking the time to visit.



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!

Yesterday, the children enjoyed an end of term Easter themed party with egg craft and a shared morning tea of fruit and hot cross bus – plus a visit from the Easter Bunny!















HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Bryce – Reception H	7 th April
Ryker – Year 1WP	9 th April
Jack – Year 1WP	10 th April
Antonio – Year 2/3N	10 th April
Liam – Year 2/3W	11 th April
Jaeger – Year 4/5B	14 th April
Isabella – Year 4/5B	15 th April
Zaylin – Reception H	19 th April
Makai – Year 1WP	25 th April
Charlotte – Year 7-9CC	26 th April



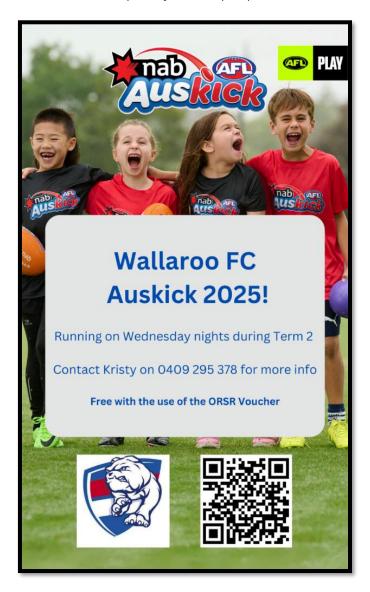
NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. Nil

If you have not received any of the above handouts, 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.





SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TIMETABLE

MONDAY 14/4	TUESDAY 15/4	WEDNESDAY 16/4	THURSDAY 17/4	FRIDAY 18/4
KINDERFUN 10.30-11.30 AGES 0-5 YEARS \$8.00 PER CHILD	SWIM AND PLAY 10.30-11.30 UNDER 5'S \$8.00 PER CHILD SWIM AND PLAY 11.30-12.30 OVER 5'S \$8.00 PER CHILD	SWIM AND PLAY 12.00-1.00PM ALL AGES \$8.00 PER CHILD	KIDS BOOTCAMP 11.00AM-12.00PM AGES 5-12 YEARS \$8.00 PER CHILD SHOOTING HOOPS- CASUAL \$3 PER PERSON ALL DAY	GOOD FRIDAY CENTRE CLOSED
MONDAY 21/4	TUESDAY 22/4	WEDNESDAY 23/4	THURSDAY 24/4	FRIDAY 25/4
EASTER MONDAY CENTRE CLOSED	SWIM AND PLAY 10.30-11.30 UNDER 5'S \$8.00 PER CHILD SWIM AND PLAY 11.30-12.30 OVER 5'S \$8.00 PER CHILD	SWIM AND PLAY 12.00-1.00PM ALL AGES \$8.00 PER CHILD	KIDS BOOTCAMP 11.00AM-12.00PM AGES 5-12 YEARS \$8.00 PER CHILD SHOOTING HOOPS- CASUAL \$3 PER PERSON ALL DAY	ANZAC DAY CENTRE CLOSED