



St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 30th April 2025 (Term 2, Week 1)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

I hope that you were all able to enjoy the holiday break and had time to do what you needed to do, whether that was rest and relax, jobs around the home, time with friends and family, sports and energising activities.

Welcome back to the start of Term 2, I hope that is an enjoyable and successful one for you. I thank you all in anticipation of the contribution you will make to our school this coming term.

Best wishes everyone for the term ahead.

Dear Lord,

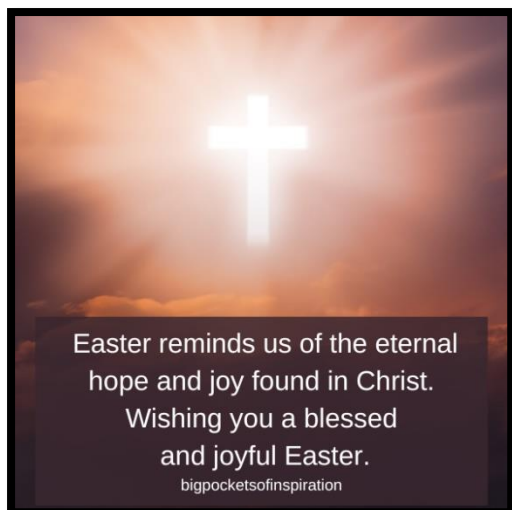
**As we begin this new school term, we gather as a
community, a school family.**

**We thank you for the renewal of the holiday break
and our safe return to this place.**

**We thank you for the promise of the days ahead
and for the blessing of you being with us.**

Be with us this term.

Amen



IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAYS - Mini Macs Playgroup 9am

MAY

Fri 2nd Beginning Term Mass 11.45am
Pop-Up Picnic 5.00-7.00pm

Mon 5th Parent Information Literacy session 6.30pm

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

Sun 11th Mother's Day

Mon 12th – Fri 16th CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK &
KERNEWEK LOWENDER

Wed 14th Middle School Information session 6.30pm
School Board meeting 7.30pm

Fri 16th Maypole & Furry Dance at Moonta
Walk Safely to School Day

Tue 20th 7-9 Career Expo

Wed 21st P & F meeting 6.30pm

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

EASTER SEASON

We are now in the Church season of Easter. Even though the public holidays, chocolate and hot cross buns may be behind us, Easter most definitely isn't. The Catholic Church celebrates Easter from Easter Sunday for the next 50 days up until Pentecost Sunday. This is a season of joy and reflection on Jesus' triumph over death.

Yesterday afternoon we had our school observance of The Resurrection of Jesus, led by the Year 1 class, and we focus on the joyful resurrection of Jesus in our prayers over the coming weeks.

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated annually on May 1st. It honours St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and a carpenter, as a model of holiness in the world of work. The feast day, coincides with International Workers' Day and aims to promote the dignity of labour.

Given our close relationship with St Joseph, our school honours this feast day. Sr Shirley (Sister of St Joseph), sent us \$150 to be used to provide a treat for all students and staff on the feast day. Thank you St Joseph and thank you Sr Shirley!



POPE FRANCIS

The death of Pope Francis is of great significance in the Catholic Church and also in other world spheres. There has been much said and written about his progressive approach, welcomed by some and not by others. His wisdom, intimately personal manner, love for the poor and marginalised and embrace of simplicity in life has touched people all over the world.

We will have various ways over the coming days and weeks to acknowledge and pray for the soul of Pope Francis.

We also pray for the Cardinals who will be undertaking the important job of electing the new Pope, that they will be blessed with wisdom for this role.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE RENDELL FAMILY

It is with sadness that we heard of the passing of Stephen Rendell. Stephen worked here last year as an Education Support Officer and he is grandfather to Mia and Harry. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Nick, Kara, Mia, Harry and the Rendell family at this time.

VACATION CARE – THANK YOU

Thank you to all staff who worked during our school holidays in Vacation Care: care and supervision of children and bus driving. Thank you for providing this much appreciated service for our families and keeping this important contact with our families during the break time.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS

On Tuesday 25th April, we commemorated ANZAC Day.

Thank you to Laura Kotz for her preparations and coordination of the group of students from St Mary MacKillop School Singers who sang at the Wallaroo community ANZAC Dawn Service.

The Singers is made up of the younger students in our school and a loyal group of students did a marvellous job singing the National Anthem along with everyone gathered at the Wallaroo Town Hall Memorial Arch.

Arden Roberts and Liam Whelan laid a wreath on behalf of our school community.

Thank you Laura and the Singers Choir: Addy, Alexa, Harley, Natalie, Arden and Liam W.

We pray and give thanks for all who have given and continue to give their lives in service for our country so that we may know peace.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



MOTHERS' DAY CELEBRATION INVITATION

We will be holding a special celebration for our Mums and mother figures on Friday, 9th May. You are invited to our Mother's Day celebrations:

- Liturgy which will be held in the MPLA starting at 12.30pm
- Picnic lunch and play time 1.00-1.40pm in the grounds. You may bring picnic lunch for your child as well or they can order their lunch through our usual Friday Lunches (student orders only please).

Families are welcome to visit their child's classroom with them following the Liturgy and during the lunch time.

If the weather is not suitable for outdoors, families will be invited to lunch and games in the MPLA, Hall and Sacred Heart Centre.



ABSENTEEISM AND LATE ARRIVAL

In the event of planned absence from school, parents are asked to send prior notice by email/Seesaw, a note in the student's diary/communication book or give verbal advice to the teacher of the child's absence.

Unexpected absence (usually due to illness), may be notified on the day by ringing our front office. Office staff will inform teachers of any messages.

Attendance is recorded in SEQTA (Catholic Education student information system) by 9.00am daily, therefore students who arrive at school after 9.00am need to be signed in at the front office.

If a student is absent for more than 2 days without explanation, the class teacher will contact the parents enquiring about the absence and if any assistance or support can be offered.

A note to the child's teacher or phone call to the office will suffice if a student is required to attend an appointment (doctor, dentist or such) within school hours on the day concerned. Students must be collected from the front office (not the classroom), signed out by a parent or guardian as they leave, and signed back in by a parent or guardian upon return.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Permission for extraordinary absence for family holidays, other commitments, etc., should be discussed with the Principal and any leave over 3 days requires an official form to be filled in. These forms may be requested from Karen Westlake in the front office.

Our staff are very concerned about the rate of absenteeism amongst some of our students. This is only because we are concerned about student wellbeing and the socialising and learning that they miss out on when they are away. It is challenging for class teachers to be continually catching up with students who are habitually away. While we fully understand legitimate absenteeism for illness, unexpected family events, however, we cannot stress enough how important it is to set good attendance and punctuality habits when children are young.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection is a priority for us and we work hard to comply with all requirements to ensure this through the following:

- Staff and volunteers must hold a Working With Children Check (previously known as Police Check)
- Staff must undertake a 7-hour course followed by every 3 year refresher course in Responding to Harm Abuse and Neglect (known as RRHAN training) and Site Induction
- Volunteers must undertake a Volunteer RAN training and Volunteer Site Induction

Any parents or volunteers must have a Working With Children Check to:

- hear reading
- go on excursions or camps
- assist with cooking, craft, electives
- be on our School Board or P & F
- assist with sporting activities (including transport, scoring, marshalling etc)
- transport children to and from events
- assist with our Dance Concert

This list is by no means exhaustive and there are so many more ways our parents and volunteers help us out. We really appreciate your help and we can't do it without you!

It is much easier to have your Working With Children Check in place so that when opportunities come up to assist you are ready to go. We don't want any parents, volunteers or children to be disappointed if someone is not able to help out because they do not have the right checks in place.

Please see Karen Westlake for more details.

COMMUNICATION

We trust that the majority of the time our communication with families is clear, timely and useful, however from time to time our communication does not work quite as well as it should. Respectful feedback is appreciated at these times. Following are the main methods of communication we currently use:

- **CONVERSATIONS IN PERSON** – The favoured way of communicating, however we know realistically this is not always possible and so we have many other ways of communicating as well.
- **NEWSLETTER** – All important whole school news, updates, reminders, return slips, celebrations.
- **SMS** – Student attendance and brief urgent messages
- **PHONE CALL** – When you want to ensure you can speak with someone and that your message is conveyed, or information received.
- **FACEBOOK** – For easily updated brief news, messages and reminders.
- **SEESAW / DIARY / COMMUNICATION BOOK** – For communication about children's wellbeing and learning. This will come from the class teacher and will be directly related to an individual child, the class events and activities. Responses to Seesaw posts will be between 8am and 5pm, however keep in mind that teachers are not always able to respond to Seesaw posts between 8.20am and 3.00pm as they are with students.
- **EMAIL** – For communication of a more confidential nature, email staff member (eg behaviour, wellbeing).
- **WEBSITE** – General whole school information for school families and public.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE (near oval)

Our school drop off/pick up zone is exactly as the name implies, it is for drop off and pick up of students only during the periods of 8.20-8.50am and 3.00-3.15pm. The area is not for parking your vehicle and walking into school with your child.

When you use the drop off/pick up zone, in courtesy to other drivers, please pull in as far up into the zone as possible, allowing cars to pull in behind you and drop their children off. This keeps the traffic flowing.

Thank you again, for your cooperation with this.

P & F MEETING

Our next P & F meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 21st May. We will have a light supper with our meeting. Please come along – you are welcome!

POP-UP PICNIC

The P & F are organising a Pop-Up Picnic school community social event for Friday, 2nd May 5-7pm. The picnic will be held on the lawns on the playground side. This is a school community event, aiming to bring families and staff together socially. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic rug, chairs, picnic tea and drinks, lawn games. There will be live music and some lawn games set up for us all to enjoy.

All welcome, we hope you can come.



STAFFING TERM 2

Annette Morphet will be taking Long Service Leave Weeks 4-10 inclusive. Sophie Parker will pick up some aspects of the Literacy role in this time, working as many Mondays as available.

Heather Griffiths is taking Long Service Leave Week 3-6 inclusive. Bec Venning will be increasing her support time in replacement. Lisa Hanson is taking leave Week 8. Replacement will be Amy Sparks (Mon-Wed) and Judith Barker (Thu). Friday yet to be confirmed.

Kristy Smith is taking Leave Week 5 and Tue/Wed Week 6.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We wish all staff who are taking some Leave this term, an enjoyable break and thank all staff who are helping out in replacement roles.

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS

Next week we will welcome Mitchell Webb and Chelsea Crawford for a week of Work Experience. Mitchell will be hosted in 4/5 Kerin/Price and Chelsea will be hosted in Reception Hanson. Welcome Mitchell and Chelsea.

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS ON LITERACY AT OUR SCHOOL

6.30pm on Monday, 5th May


We are offering an information session on Literacy, for parents of children of all ages.

We will explore:

- **how children learn to read**
- **the important components of reading**
- **how to help your child at home with reading and literacy**
- **Literacy programs we run at our school**

The session will be facilitated by Dr Annette Morphett and Jayne Browne (CESA Literacy Advisor)

We think you will find the session very interesting and useful. We hope to see you there.



PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

How we teach Literacy at SMMS

**Monday 5th May
6.30pm
MPLA**

**Creche provided (bookings essential)
Drinks & Refreshments**

**We look forward to seeing you for an interactive and
informative session appropriate for parents of R – 9 students**

RSVP by Thursday 1st May
[Click here to register](#)
or email info@stmm.catholic.edu.au

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS ON OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Wednesday, 14th May at 6.30pm

In the Sacred Heart Centre

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

This will be a great opportunity to come and be in the facilities,
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.

All welcome, we hope to see you there.



Blessings for the week ahead,

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

I hope that you had a lovely Easter, a time for renewal, hope and reflection and were able to spend time with your loved ones.

Easter, for me, isn't just about chocolate eggs and bunny rabbits. Don't get me wrong, I do love a chocolate Easter egg, but it is also a time that holds a deeper meaning—one of renewal, hope, and reflection.

The Easter season lasts for 50 days. It begins on Easter Sunday and concludes on Pentecost Sunday. This period is celebrated as a time of joy and reflection on Jesus' resurrection. Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter.

Jesus is not dead, he has risen, he is alive! He does not simply return to life; rather, he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God (see Num. 14:21–28; Deut. 5:26; Josh. 3:10). Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting “today” of God.

Pope Francis in The Joy of Discipleship

Peace to you this Easter season!

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis was a special leader in our Church.

He didn't wear a crown or live like a king.

He smiled a lot, rode in a little car, and loved meeting people – especially the poor, the sick, and children just like you.

He told us that being kind is more important than being important.

He reminded us to care for our Earth – because it's our home, and God made it.

He showed us that we should never ignore someone who's hurting, and we should always choose love.

Pope Francis believed in young people.

He believed you can do great things, even small things, to make the world better.

Things like saying sorry, helping a friend, or standing up for someone who's left out.

Now Pope Francis is with God in heaven.

But we can keep his mission going – by being kind, brave, joyful, and full of love, just like he was.

Let's remember: Big hearts change the world.

And you've got one, too.



The Pope Who Chose Simplicity

He could've had gold shoes.

He chose black ones – worn, practical, and ordinary.

He could've lived in a palace.

He chose a small apartment, ate in the staff dining room, and carried his own bag.

He could've stayed behind the scenes.

He stepped into prisons, refugee camps, and slums.

He bent low to wash feet – of the poor, of women, of people society forgets.

Pope Francis showed the world that leadership is service.

That faith is action.

That the Church is most alive when it moves beyond comfort and into courage.

BEGINNING OF TERM MASS, FRIDAY 2ND MAY, 11:45am AT STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

At our Beginning of term mass, it will be a prayerful celebration of the life and legacy of Pope Francis and for the feast day of Saint Joseph the Worker.

Through scripture, prayer and reflection, the ritual encourages us to reflect on their example and challenges us to carry their messages of mercy, justice and hope into our lives and communities.

It's a moment to honour, remember and be inspired.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

Thursday, 1st May, marks the celebration of Saint Joseph the Worker, the patron saint of workers. His feast day is a powerful reminder of the diligent and patient worker he was, as well as the provider for the Holy Family. This beloved saint is an inspiration to lead lives of virtue and holiness, and stands as a symbol of strength, patience and perseverance.



"St. Joseph the Worker reminds us that work is a gift from God, an opportunity to serve others, and a means to sanctify ourselves." - Pope Francis

Saint Joseph the Worker's Feast Day is all about honouring the dignity of work. As we start this new month, it's only fitting to pause and reflect on all the work you've accomplished this year (both personally and professionally).

Josephite quote of the week from Fr Julian Tenison Woods 1887

***Bear in mind what struggles our life has come through
and what opposition it has had.***

Rejoicing in Hope,

Mrs Francesca Tully

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

P & F NEWS

FRIDAY LUNCHES

Friday Lunches cannot continue without volunteers from our school community. If you can spare some time on Friday to assist, please indicate on the roster or email emily.donnell@stmm.catholic.edu.au

New volunteers welcome – please drop past the office or phone to get started.

If we are unable to get enough volunteers Friday Lunches will not run on those weeks.

Week #	Date	2 X Volunteers Required
1	Friday 2 nd May	Sarah C & Gemma O
2	Friday 9 th May	
3	Friday 16 th May	
4 (Kernewek Dance Day)	Friday 23 rd May	Hot Dog Day (2 hr shift) Danie M & Phil M
5	Friday 30 th May	
6	Friday 6 th June	Pastry Day (2 hr shift)
7	Friday 13 th June	
8	Friday 20 th June	
9	Friday 27 th June	Pizza Day (2 hr shift)
10	Friday 4 th July	SUBWAY

NYP ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Thursday, 10th April, our Athletics team travelled to Kadina to compete in the Northern Yorke Peninsula Athletics carnival. Students competed in a number of track and field events against other schools in the region on a beautiful sunny day.

The day culminated with the relay race for each age group which for the first time was a mixed relay with our 10 year old boys/girls coming first in their race.

Special mention to Isabella D who equalled the carnival record for the 10 year-old girls High Jump.

Students competed their hearts out and showed a lot of team spirit.

We were lucky enough to end the day with the most points accumulated and took home the pennant which was awarded for the first time.

Congratulations to Liam R, Tate B, Jhett G, Isabella D, Amaya R, Trae W & Trinity M who have been invited to represent NYP at the SAPSASA Athletics Carnival in Adelaide in Term 3.

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who attended to support students and those who volunteered their time to assist on events.

Mr Marcus Kerin
ATHLETICS COORDINATOR



PREMIER'S BE ACTIVE CHALLENGE



The Premier's Be Active Challenge:

- The Challenge requires students to do at least **60 minutes** of physical activity on at least **5 days of the week** for at least **4 weeks** until the end of term 3.
- Students must record their physical activity on the booklet attached.
- A parent/carer must endorse the student physical activity record to indicate that the student has met the participation requirements.
- Please return these forms by Friday 19th September (Term 3, Week 9).

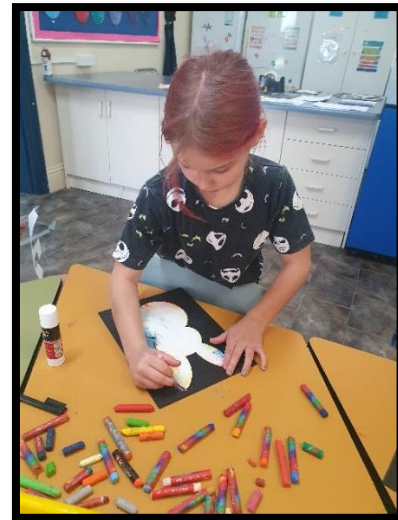
APRIL VACATION CARE

We began our school holidays off with an Around the World theme day looking at China. The children enjoyed crafts, looking at famous Chinese destinations and learning about their Chinese Zodiac sign and tried some Chinese food for afternoon snack.

We had two excursions, one to Blyth Cinema to watch the 'The King of Kings' the children loved this movie. We also went on an excursion to Wizbang at Modbury, here the children worked their way through mini golf and enjoyed two rounds of laser tag working together as a team to get to the other teams base.

We ended our first week with Easter craft and hot cross buns. Our second week we made our own paper using recycled paper on Earth day and had a big easter egg hunt. We also had an electronics day and ended our week with an Anzac themed day where we made Anzac biscuits, learnt what ANZAC means and the symbols used for Anzac day. We have created a lovely display of the children art work from our Anzac Day.

Miss Lisa Cooper
OSHC DIRECTOR



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.

playgroup



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Aston – Year 1WP	2 nd May
Emilie – Year 6P	3 rd May
Nicholas – Year 4/5KP	6 th May
Trinity – Year 6P	11 th May



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025 Term 2 Calendar
2. T2 Curriculum letters
3. Premier's Be Active Challenge leaflet
4. Reception & Year 1 excursion note
5. Catholic School Parents flyer

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.



Why MyTime?

MyTime is for parents and carers of a child with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs including developmental delay.

FIND US AT:

Kadina Uniting Church Hall
Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30am
6 sessions per school term
(dates on next page)

CONTACT:

Facilitator: Georgina Weissmann
Phone: 0466 427 633
Email: Georgina.Weissmann@sa.gov.au
Facebook: MyTime Copper Coast



mytime.net.au

MyTime term plan

mytime.net.au



DATES	GROUP ACTIVITY	CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY
(School week)		
1/5/2025 (Week 1)	Coffee and chat: welcome to Term 2	
8/5/2025 (Week 2)	Board games fun	
22/5/2025 (Week 4)	Guest speaker: Steph March – consumer advocacy	Children's activities are planned according to the age and needs of children booked in with the Play Helper. Some activities include puzzles, vehicles, blocks, balls, drawing and other games.
29/5/2025 (Week 5)	Guest speaker – Tim Knott – Carer's SA. What support can you access as a carer?	
12/6/2025 (Week 7)	Self-care: Craft time! (Supplies provided). Details TBC	
19/6/2025 (Week 8)	End of term celebration	