



Mini-Newsletter – Week 4

Wednesday, 21st May, 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK



The theme for National Volunteer Week 2025 is 'Connecting Communities.'

Volunteering in our school context, creates lasting relationships that enrich lives and strengthens our school community.

We want to say THANK YOU to all of the volunteers past and present for their contributions to our school community and wider community.

Thank you to our volunteers who contribute to:

Hearing reading, helping with cooking, attending camps and sporting events, take new books home to cover them, assist with art and craft activities, work at Busy Bees come to Parents & Friends and School Board meetings. We appreciate all that you do!



Our School Board is a wonderful example of dedicated volunteers.



Volunteers help with cooking

At our Assembly on Monday we reflected on the Kernewek Lowender, the community event would simply not be able to happen if it was not for the hundreds of hours put in by volunteers.

Today is known as "Orange Day". It is a day to show appreciation for State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers (who usually wear high vis orange clothing). We acknowledge their dedication in helping communities during emergencies like floods and storms.

LAUDATO SI WEEK

Laudato si' is the second encyclical (article) of Pope Francis. In the encyclical, Pope Francis implores us to "care for our common home", the earth.

We need to seriously reflect on consumerism, impacts of development upon the environment, the effects of global warming.

Pope Francis, even though he is no longer with us in person, calls us all to take "swift and unified global action" to care for the earth.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

VINNIE'S WINTER APPEAL

As well as caring for our environment we are called to care for the poor and this fits in well with our Vinnie's Winter Appeal.

We are accepting donations for the Winter Appeal of any items of non-perishable foods that would be especially enjoyed during the colder months of autumn and winter:

cans of soup and baked beans, pasta and sauces, long-life milk and juices. Anything you would enjoy on a cold winter night would probably be enjoyed and appreciated by others. Thank you to everyone who has donated items already.



THANK YOU

There is so much to be thankful for:

- Thank you to Laura Kotz for coordinating our participation in Kernewek Lowender, this was a work in progress since the beginning of the year and came to fruition last week with Singers choir at the Dressing Of The Graves then the Furry and Maypole Dances on Friday and Saturday. The Maypole dancers also performed for the residents of Star Of The Sea on Monday of this week. Laura was helped throughout by Kristy Smith, Carol Burford and Lisa Cooper, and Paul Northeast helping out with transport. We received some very lovely feedback about the students performances at all of the events and this is a credit to them and the staff involved.
- Thank you to Francesca Tully for coordinating the Catholic Education Week activities in our school and our celebration of our wonderful ESO staff across Thursday and Friday for ESO Appreciation Day.
- Thank you to Amie Price and Sue Wharton for taking away our Cross Country team last Wednesday, there were so many stories of resilience and students giving it their best go, with five of our students making it through to the finals at Oakbank later this year which is a great result.
- Thank you to all parents and staff who attended and supported the Middle School Parent information meeting last Wednesday evening and especially to Lisa Caffyn who spoke so knowledgeably and beautifully about the middle school offerings. We encourage parents to continue to make any enquiries about our middle school and welcome anyone who would like to come and visit when the students are in action during the school day.

NEXT WEEK.....

Monday 26th May – Sorry Day

National Sorry Day or the National Day of Healing is an annual event held annually in Australia on 26th May commemorating the Stolen Generations. It is part of the ongoing efforts towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

27th May – 3rd June – National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

National Reconciliation Week follows on from Sorry Day.

We will acknowledge Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week at our beginning of week Assembly next Monday and in our classrooms during Week 5.

Blessings for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller

PRINCIPAL

KERNEWEK LOWENDER

Dressing of the Graves- Tuesday, 13th May

Last Tuesday, the Singers Choir, Mrs Smith and Miss Kotz went to the Wallaroo Cemetery for the Dressing of the Graves ceremony. The hot weather made it difficult at times, but for a young choir they showed great resilience and represented our school with pride. We were honoured to be able to sing the 'Song of Australia' at the grave of the song writer, Caroline Carleton. This was a very moving moment, and we hope we have made Caroline proud. We finished the afternoon with a performance of 'Advance Australia Fair' to the crowd to close the ceremony.



Rehearsal and performance to the school- Thursday, 15th May

On Thursday, the Maypole and Furry Dance students performed to SMMS staff and students. This was a rehearsal for the students in front of their first audience as well as a chance to showcase their hard work to their classmates and teachers. For our younger students in the audience who had never experienced a Kernewek before, there were lots of smiles and amazed looks on their faces.



Kernewek Lowender Day in Moonta- Friday, 16th May

On Friday, 36 students ranging from Reception to Year 6, Mrs Smith, Miss Cooper, Mrs Burford, Mr Northeast, Mrs Duif and Miss Kotz went to the Kernewek Lowender day in Moonta. This is one of the biggest days of the festival bringing in hundreds of people. Students looked lovely in their Kernewek outfits and their styled hair. It was a day of all seasons with one Maypole performance in cloudy weather, Furry Dance in the heat and the final Maypole performance in the pouring rain. Hats off to our Maypolers, as dancing in these conditions is very difficult and yet they were still able to showcase two perfect performances with a smile.

Our young Furry Dancers with 21 students ranging from Reception to Year 3 were an energetic audience for the Maypole performance. Then when it came to their turn, showed courage and resilience to perform to such a large group of people. Along with the Maypole students who joined in, we had one of the larger school groups which showcased our enthusiasm for the festival. Weeks of practices and learning our lefts and rights had really paid off. All students showed respect and resilience throughout the day. Well done everyone.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER



Wallaroo Maypole performance- Saturday, 17th May

To finish the Kernewek week the Maypolers had a performance to our local Wallaroo community at the Town Hall grass area. The Wallaroo Primary/Wallaroo Mines Schools students joined us with a second pole. With a very wet, cold and windy start to the day students arrived in coats and umbrellas. But with a brief clearing in the sky, it was time to perform. Once again our students performed to a high standard, even with the wind. We were lucky enough to have our local May Princess dance with us.

KERNEWEK LOWENDER



Star of the Sea Nursing Home Maypole performance- Tuesday, 20th May

To finish our Maypole dancing for 2025 we had a final performance to Star of the Sea Nursing Home residents. With the students wearing their House tops it was a great way to showcase SMMS connection to the Church and Nursing Home. With much nicer weather, students and even Miss Kotz, danced to a delighted crowd of on lookers. A great way to finish the Kernewek season.



Celebration Lunch- Tuesday, 20th May

After two months of practices, rehearsals and performances it was time to celebrate. Our school Kernewek Lowender Committee put on a lunch of hot chips, fruit boxes and Zooper Doopers. Children were able to celebrate together all that they had achieved and say thank you.

Thank you

A special shout out goes to our school Kernewek Lowender Committee members; Kristy Smith, Lisa Cooper, Carol Burford and Paul Northeast. Without their time, commitment and support we would not have had such a successful Kernewek Lowender for 2025. A thank you also to Jody Duif for accompanying us on the Friday.

In speaking with the students, we have a lot of children who are keen to be involved in 2027. As the older Year 6 students finish their Kernewek journey we look to the younger generation who will be moving up in their primary years to commit and ensure we have a large number of students involved for the festival in two years time.

Thank you to the parents and families for sourcing costumes, learning to curl hair, styling hair for multiple performances and allowing your child to be a part of such an important community event. Put those costumes and rags away for now in a safe place ready to do it all again in 2027!

Miss Laura Kotz

KERNEWEK LOWENDER CO-ORDINATOR

SAPSASA AND SECONDARY CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, 15th May, 14 students from St Mary MacKillop School attended the YP SAPSASA and Secondary Cross Country Carnival in Ardrossan.

After a walk-through of the course, it was time for the age-groups to begin lining up ready to race.

The 10-year-old girls and boys had to run 2km and the 11 year olds and up had to run 3km.

A huge congratulations to Izack, who placed 1st, and Curtis, who placed 2nd, for NYP 10-year-old boys and Trinity, who placed 2nd, in 12-year-old girls. These three students, along with Nevayah, Scarlett and Miranda, made great times and have been selected to compete at the state carnival at Oakbank later this term.

The conditions were perfect and students enjoyed a well-deserved play on the Ardrossan foreshore before heading back to school.

Thank you to Mrs Price and Ms Wharton for taking the students, Mr Kerin and Ms Caffyn for organising, and the parents who attended to support.



DANCE CONCERT ASSISTANCE

We are looking forward to our Dance Concert in Term 3.

We would love some parent volunteers to assist with props. If you are able to help, please contact Sharon Steer on 0408 848 064 with the time you are available. Thank you.

