



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

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Wednesday 11th June 2025 (Term 2, Week 7)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

What Is Pentecost?

Last Sunday in the Catholic Church was Pentecost. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter Sunday (in Greek, *pentekoste* means fiftieth) and is the beginning of the Church Ordinary Time. Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

The Story of Pentecost

The story is set in Jerusalem and can be found in a section of the Bible called the Acts of the Apostles.

In the story of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples when they were together in a house.

Next, a violent sound of blowing wind from heaven was heard.

Then, they each saw small flames of fire resting on each of them. This led them to be filled with the Holy Spirit, which enabled them to speak in many different languages. The disciples then went out and spread the Word of God to many people.

They also baptised thousands of people, receiving them into the new Christian church.



IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAYS - Mini Macs Playgroup 9am

JUNE

Tue 17th Mid-year Reception transition visit
8.45-11.00am

School Board meeting 7.00pm

Wed 18th Crossing Monitor training

Thu 19th RAA Streetsmart Road Safety (R-6)

Tue 24th Mid-year Reception transition visit
8.45-11.00am

Boy's KO Soccer @ Kadina

Mon 30th – Tue 1st July 4/5 Classes Camp

JULY

Tue 1st Mid-year Reception transition visit
8.45am-12.00pm

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – OSHC CLOSED

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



RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

What Is the Purpose of Pentecost?

Pentecost teaches people about living in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps people to pray, serve God, and guides people into helping others and living like Jesus did. It is known as “the birthday of the Christian church,” and it is a time when Christians reflect on the church’s mission.

The Reception class celebrated Pentecost and the Church’s birthday. They celebrated with a birthday cake and singing Happy Birthday to the church.



What Symbols Are Associated with Pentecost?



Dove - This represents the Holy Spirit.

Water - This represents new life.

Oil – Anointing with oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit uniting us with Jesus.

Wind - This represents God’s breath of love.

Fire - This represents the tongues of fire that came to rest on the disciple’s heads.

Red - This is the liturgical colour of Pentecost.

Cloud – The cloud is a symbol of the Holy Spirit because clouds provide life-giving water.

REMEMBERING FLORA MACDONALD



Today, Wednesday, 11th June, we remember the birth of Flora MacDonald in 1816 in Roybridge, Scotland.

Flora Macdonald (the historical figure) was a Scottish heroine, and mother of Mary MacKillop. Flora married Alexander MacKillop in July 1840 in Melbourne.

Flora MacKillop gave birth to eight children. Three she gave to God in the priesthood and religious life. She mourned five who were lost before they turned thirty, one while still a baby.

Flora displayed great qualities of motherhood and she was a stoic woman who devoted her whole life to God, her family, and to the sisters who joined St Mary MacKillop in her work.

Flora travelled widely after Mary had established her new congregation, sometimes taking another daughter Annie. On her travels she would stay with relations and family friends in different parts of western Victoria, as well as Melbourne.

In 1886, Flora decided to travel by ship to Sydney to help Mary with a fundraising bazaar. Mary was expecting Flora’s arrival, but tragedy struck. Seventy-one passengers drowned when the ship Ly-ee-moon was dashed against a reef.

Hoping your week is filled with happiness and good health.

Mrs Francesca Tully

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Science News

This term, our focus in Science has been on Chemical Science. All students have refreshed their skills in using Bunsen burners safely and are now confidently switching between the safety flame and the heat flame.

Year 7 students recently had fun making Oobleck—a fascinating substance that challenged them to consider whether it behaves like a solid, a liquid, or perhaps both! They have also been learning about the particle model and exploring the properties of solids, liquids, and gases.

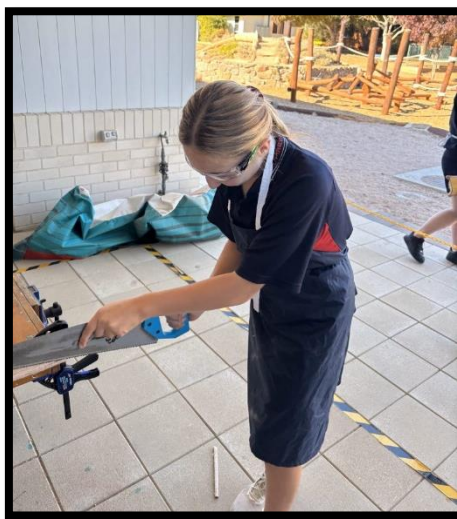
Year 8 students have been delving into elements, compounds, and the periodic table. They've been investigating how new substances form through chemical reactions, including a practical experiment where they heated magnesium to observe the changes.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students are diving deeper into atomic structure, gaining a more advanced understanding of the building blocks of matter.



Wood Technology

In Wood Technology, students have begun designing and constructing wooden storage boxes with sliding lids. For some, this is their second or third year in the subject, and they are working on refining their craftsmanship with a focus on precision in cutting and joining. We are excited to see their projects take shape and look forward to showcasing their finished work.



IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Physical Education

This term in Middle School Physical Education, students have been focusing on striking and fielding skills. They've shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm while developing and refining these skills through fun, game-based activities like kickball and cricket. It's been great to see their progress and teamwork in action! We're now moving on to T-ball, where students will continue building on what they've learned in new and exciting ways.

Health

In Health this term, students have been working hard to explore important topics around health and wellbeing. A key focus has been on Respect, Power, and Stereotypes—helping students understand how these concepts shape our relationships and community. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, they've been learning how to promote a positive, inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

Miss Lisa Caffyn & Mr Joshua Champion

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALLERS MAKE THEIR MARK IN MAITLAND

On June 3rd, four middle school students had the exciting opportunity to participate in the 9-side secondary football competition at Maitland, joining forces with players from Moonta, Harvest, and Pt Broughton. The competition featured fast-paced matches, strong teamwork, and incredible displays of skill, as students worked together to achieve success on the field.

Throughout the day, both the boy's and girl's teams put forth commendable efforts. The boys played with great determination, earning victories in the early rounds and securing 3rd place in their pool division. Their impressive performance led them to finish 5th overall, a fantastic achievement in a highly competitive tournament.



Meanwhile, the girls demonstrated outstanding teamwork and resilience, producing a series of fabulous wins that propelled them into the finals. Their ability to coordinate plays, anticipate movements, and capitalise on scoring opportunities showcased their dedication to the sport.

Beyond the competition itself, the event provided an excellent chance for students to refine their football skills, build new friendships, and represent their schools with pride. Every player contributed to the team's success, showing the power of collaboration and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to all students involved for their hard work and achievements! Their dedication and effort have left a lasting impression, and we look forward to seeing them continue to shine in future competitions.

SUBWAY LUNCHES – FRIDAY, 4TH JULY (WEEK 10)

Envelopes are included with today's newsletter. Orders are to be placed no later the Wednesday, 25th June.



UNDER 12 SAPSASA GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, 2nd June, Eloise, Isabelle, Zara and Harriet competed in the Under 12 SAPSASA Golf Tournament at the Port Hughes Copper Club golf course. We started with a skill session which went for an hour and a half. The skills that we did were Putting, Chipping and practising all of our other sticks at the driving range. After the skill session was finished, we had to go back out to the driving range and picked up all of the balls that we hit. Once we had picked up at least a bucket or two we were allowed to go back to the club house where we had a free sausage roll before we started to play 9-10 holes of golf. We then were split up into our groups and went to the holes that we were starting at and luckily, we got to ride in the golf carts, which were really fun. Once we got to our starting holes, we teed up and were ready to start. Kevin, the golf organizer, shortened the holes so everyone got to finish in time. We zoomed through the 9-10 holes and had a lot of FUN!!!! After our groups were finished, we went back in the golf carts to go back to the club house. We all played very well and when we got back it was time to do the presentations. Eloise got a trophy for nearest to the pin on hole 8-9. After that Kevin announced the people that had made it into SAPSASA, only 9 people could make it with a minimum of 2 girls. Well done to Eloise, Isabelle, Zara and Harriet who made it to SAPSASA and very well deserved it. It was a very fun day and it is sad we can't do it next year, but luckily Harriet can still do it.

Zara- My favourite part was doing the skill challenges because they were really fun!

Isabelle- My favourite part was almost getting a hole in one on the 7th hole but then sadly it didn't. I also really enjoyed doing the Ambrose on hole 2.

Written By Isabelle C and Zara C



FOOTBALL CLINIC

On Thursday, our primary students were lucky enough to participate in a football clinic organised by the Woodville-West Torrens Football Club. The clinic was facilitated by old scholar Will Schultz, who works for the SANFL.

Students participated in a range of different games centred around teaching the skills of Australian Rules football.

The students had a wonderful experience, and we thank Will for sharing his knowledge with us.



ICAS COMPETITONS

Included with the Week 5 newsletter for Year 2–9 students was a letter inviting parents to register their children for ICAS competitions. The competitions will be held here at school during August.

If you wish for your child to participate in ICAS this year, please go to the Parent Portal to register for your chosen subjects.

You can do this in one of two ways:

1. Direct login link – faster!

Use this link to log directly into the shop and start registering:

<https://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/parent-payment/NRJ747>

2. Log in using the PPS code

Visit their shop and use our PPS code to log in:

Shop link: <https://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/pps>

PPS code: NRJ747

We encourage you to consider entering your child. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mrs Karen Westlake

ICAS COORDINATOR

Join the ICAS 2025 Academic Competition.

The fun and inspiring challenge for bright young minds.

We're proud to offer ICAS 2025 to our students—a national competition that challenges their thinking, motivates them to excel, and celebrates their academic skills.

How ICAS helps our students succeed

- Develops critical thinking and problem solving through fun academic challenges
- Recognises academic achievement like we do in sport and the arts
- Provides insights that help educators and parents identify strengths and areas of growth.

Who can participate in ICAS?

ICAS offers a comprehensive suite of subjects for Year 2 to 12 students.

Dates and pricing

Each subject costs \$20.95 per student, except Writing which is \$24.95

 Digital Technologies 4 – 8 August	 Science 18 – 22 August
 Writing 4 – 8 August	 Spelling Bee 18 – 22 August
 English 11 – 15 August	 Mathematics 25 – 29 August



If your child is interested in taking part, speak with their teacher to find out how they can get involved.
[icasassessments.com](https://shop.icasassessments.com)



Janison
Assessments.



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



Piper – Year 4/5KP	11 th June
Imogen – Year 7-9	16 th June
Serena – Year 7-9	18 th June
Mia – Year 2/3W	19 th June
Kobi – Year 2/3N	21 st June
Lailah – Year 1WP	22 nd June
Harry – Year 1WP	22 nd June



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. Subway envelopes

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.