

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 6

March, 10th February 2023

Reception to Year 6 Co-Educational Catholic Primary School

5 Portland Street, Penola SA 5277

Telephone: (08) 8737 2902 [www.mmms.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mmms.catholic.edu.au)



*in all things love*

### UPCOMING DATES

- March -

- 06 Occasional Care (8.45am)  
Caritas K Day
- 08 Year 4/5 Mass (9.15am)  
Year 2/3 Liturgy (10.30am)
- 10 Playgroup (9.30am)  
Year 2/3 Assembly (2.30pm)
- 13 Adelaide Cup  
**Public Holiday**
- 14 **Student Free Day**
- 17 National Day of Action Against  
Bullying  
St. Joseph Feast Day  
Mass (9.15am)
- 20 Occasional Care (8.45am)
- 21 Harmony Day
- 24 Playgroup (9.30am)  
Ride 2 School Day  
Assembly R/1 (2.30pm)
- 27 Occasional Care (8.45am)  
SAPSASA District Golf Day  
(Penola)
- 28 TWC Family gathering (6.00pm)  
TWC 2023 Middle School  
Information Evening (7.15pm)
- 31 Playgroup (9.30am)  
- April -
- 03 Occasional Care (8.45am)  
SAPSASA Softball (3rd to the 5th)
- 06 Holy Thursday
- 07 Good Friday  
**Public Holiday**

**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

## Class News

### Year 4/5

Did you know that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is estimated to be larger than the state of New South Wales? With Clean-up Australia Day on Friday the 4/5 class investigated the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the size of the garbage patch was just one of the research investigations that the 4/5 class undertook. The students were engaged in a maths-based investigation which involved them researching, estimating, and thinking critically and thoughtfully about the environmental issue of plastic waste and rubbish and the impacts it is having on our waterways as well as the impacts it is having on animals, their homes, and our world. The centre point of this investigation was the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The students created posters and lists on the information they collected. The students then applied their understandings in our school clean up after lunch.





# From the principal

Dear Parents and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

It has been lovely to once again have the opportunity to lead our school in Nicole's absence. I would like to thank everyone for your support over the past two weeks. Nicole will be back next week, and I will be happy to hand the keys back over to her!

## Learning Conversations

Thank you to all of the families that attended the Learning Conversations over the past week. These conversations are a crucial part of the learning process here at Mary MacKillop Memorial School as they help to foster the relationships between teacher, parent and student. I would like to thank our teaching staff for their preparations for these interviews.

If you were unable to attend your interview, please make a time with your child's teacher for this important conversation.

## Student Led Goal Setting

This year we are having a focus on student goal setting with our learners here at Mary Mac's. Over the past several weeks teachers have been working with students to help them plan and set individual learning goals for the year ahead. Each child was given time to work with their teacher, look at their current learning, and from this, set a goal that they would like to see themselves achieve. I encourage you to talk with your child about their goal and ask them how you can help them be successful.

## Clean up Australia Day

Last Friday our school participated in Clean Up Australia Day. Our students cleaned up rubbish from the school yard and surrounding streets. We were able to take several bags of rubbish off the streets! Initiatives like this are a fantastic opportunity to share the importance of correct waste disposal and landcare with our children.

## Caritas K's Day

Our Caritas K's day was hampered by some unkind weather which has resulted in the 'k's' component being postponed. We did however raise over \$120 dollars for Project Compassion through the donations for casuals and the sales of fried rice.

Well done all  
Sam Baxter



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*in all things love*

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# Community News

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to Belle (19th) . We hope you will all have a wonderful day.

## Flourishing Awards

Congratulations to Annabelle, Sydney, Frank, Eddie , Leila, Rylee, Sophie and Darcy who received Flourishing awards at assembly this week.



## House Points

**Cameron** ★ 108

**McCormack** 69

**Woods MacKillop** 78

## Absentees

A reminder that if your child is absent from school, for any reason, it is important that this is communicated with the school. The Catholic Education system has advised all schools to follow up on unresolved absences with families. Your support and communication in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## Text Absentee Number

When texting the Absentee Line to explain your child's absence from school please make sure you put both their name **and reason** so it can be recorded properly.

**0459 799 596**

## Professional Learning Day

A reminder that on March the 14th staff will be engaging in Professional Learning as a region. They will be:

- Exploring contemporary assessment in RE
- Unpacking the Crossways Performance Standards
- Writing rich assessment tasks
- Utilising the Crossways Website learning design builder

Staff will also have the opportunity to work with their colleagues from TWC and St Anthony's to build their Learning Designs and Assessment tasks ready to use in the classroom.

Please mark this date as student free in your diaries.

## 2023 Mid-Year Reception Enrolments - No Fees

Mid year enrolments are now open for all children who turn 5 on or before the 31st October.

The fees for mid-year Reception enrolments will be free for the two terms of schooling, as advised by Catholic Education South Australia. If you have a child who is to begin Reception in Term 3 2023, please complete an enrolment form and return it to the front office. If you know of any families who are thinking about enrolling their child at Mary MacKillop Memorial School for Term 3 2023, please let them know about our mid-year enrolment intake or alternatively, they can contact the school on 8737 3902 at any time. We welcome all new families!

## Joey's Jumpstart Program

The Joey's Jumpstart Program will begin at the beginning of Term 2 for 7 weeks. We have available the Joey Jumpstart Program flyer that you are able to access through the school or our website.

# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner Developing Empathy

Our recent spotlight on the Caritas "Project Compassion" provides a great opportunity to discuss with your child/ren the virtue of empathy. Empathy is the ability to understand how another person is feeling in a particular situation and then to respond with the appropriate care. Empathy, like most virtues, is one that needs to be learnt and developed. Showing the appropriate care in situations helps children to form stronger bonds with the social relationships around them. Here are a few tips on how to walk with your child/ren as they learn this important life skill learning empathy:

### 1. Use everyday situations as teachable moments.

Use a common situation to discuss emotions felt with your child/ren. Asking "How do you think that person is feeling?... Why?" can be asked when watching a movie or when seeing a child wave goodbye to their parent etc.

### 2. Draw children's attention to body language.

What is their body language telling you? Is a helpful question to ask children at a supermarket, or even when observing others whilst driving or walking down the street together. This enhances children's abilities to notice the unspoken language of their peers and to react accordingly.

### 3. Role model empathy.

Showing appropriate empathy to our children and others around us is a brilliant way for children to see how to respond in tender situations. It also helps them feel less awkward when the need arises for them to be a comfort to their friends.

### 4. Use "I'm sorry" constructively.

The words "I'm sorry" can often be misunderstood,

especially amongst younger children who often say this to satisfy others' expectations. "Perhaps the phrase "I'm sorry for..." could be followed by "Could I help you by..." , I'm sorry for knocking over your block tower, could I help you rebuild it?" This not only practically demonstrates empathy to the receiver, but gives the child an opportunity to rectify the situation and move forward.

### 5. Pick a cause.

It can be valuable to pick a cause that the entire family is going to contribute towards. This helps children to learn that empathy is needed across all ages. This does not have to be a financial contribution e.g Offering to walk the neighbour's dog as a family, or, as a family baking for someone you know who may be going through a difficult time.

Lastly, patience is key, our children might not get it right the first few times, but as they develop these skills, empathy will start to become a natural response to tender situations.

Regards,  
Dale Domleo.



**Penola Football Club Under 14's  
training commences at:**

**4:30pm on the 16th of March**

**All are welcome.  
B.B.Q. to follow Training**



# Community News

## NAPLAN Online

Next week our Year 3 and 5 students will begin their NAPLAN testing for 2023. This is the first time that NAPLAN has been held in March.

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year. The information that we get from NAPLAN, along with other assessments, helps us to tailor our teaching and learning programs to individuals and cohorts of students.

Our students have been familiarising themselves with the testing format over the past several weeks. Should you wish to have a look at the platform, or even try some of the testing at home,

you can visit the NAPLAN demonstration site linked below.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site>

Please see the schedule for our testing below. Should your child be absent on any given test day, they will be provided with the opportunity of a catch up session throughout weeks 7 and 8.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or Sam Baxter (sbaxter@mmms.catholic.edu.au) prior to the testing day.

	Writing	Reading	Conventions of Learning (spelling and Grammar etc.)	Numeracy
Year 3	Wednesday 15/3 9:00am	Thursday 16/3 9:00am	Monday 20/3 11:30am	Tuesday 21/3 9:00am
Year 5	Wednesday 15/3 11:30am	Thursday 16/3 11:30am	Monday 20/3 9:00am	Tuesday 21/3 11:30am

## Tenison Woods College 2023 Year 7 Information Evening

We TWC look forward to sharing with you the exciting things happening in their Middle School. Tenison Woods College also invites you to join them for their Twilight Tour which will be held on 30th March.

For further information please contact Tracey Davey on [davet@tenison.catholic.edu.au](mailto:davet@tenison.catholic.edu.au).

## Library Lovers Lane

This month the students at Mary Mac's have received a new reading challenge. The R-1 students will continue their focus on Aaron Blabey books whilst the 3-6 students are encouraged to read the Tashi books. We encourage you to talk with your children about this challenge and support them in reading as many books as they can throughout the month of March.



# Catholic Identity

## Project Compassion

We are now entering the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Priscilla, who lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and two of their grandchildren. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

During times of intense drought and food shortages, Priscilla had to commute to the town centre and wait in long queues to collect food.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising in conservation farming. Priscilla also used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the techniques, tools and resources she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

Watch a short film about Priscilla's story [here](#). Please support Project Compassion, Let's aim to reach our target of \$500 by the end of Lent! You can donate by following the link below.

<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/o/mary-mackillop-memorial-school>

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Dev

**SUNDAY 12th MARCH**

**3rd SUNDAY IN OF LENT**

Gospel:

John 4: 5 -42

## Prayer for the Week

God of all generations, We thank you for those who have gone before us, especially those who have cared for your earth and who inspire us to help respect your creation and contribute to its healing.

We thank you for those with whom we share our lives today, especially those who work for justice and peace. May we welcome the opportunity that Lent brings to walk more closely with you, especially through fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

We thank you for the challenge of the future. May the cross of Jesus remind us that only love finds the way forward. As we work with big hearts, may we join with Mary in her hope that from now on all generations will experience the great things you will do through us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



## Liturgies and Masses

### Term 1

WEEK 7 (FRIDAY 17/3)

St Joseph Feast Day Mass 9:15am

WEEK 10 (MONDAY 3/4 - FRIDAY 7/4)

Holy Week





# photo gallery

## Clean Up Australia Day



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw



# COONAWARRA

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 7.00PM

In 1961, 60-year-old Kempton Bunton stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the government invested more in care for the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legend. An uplifting true story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage.

## THE DUKE

A PRICELESS TRUE STORY



JIM  
BROADBENT

HELEN  
MIRREN

"A RIDICULOUSLY CHARMING  
BRITISH COMEDY"

THE PLAYLIST



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

DAILY MAIL

THE GUARDIAN

"THE DUKE WILL STEAL  
YOUR HEART"

DAILY MAIL



THE TIMES

FINANCIAL TIMES

THE I

"JIM BROADBENT  
IS ASTOUNDING"

THE TIMES

"HELEN MIRREN  
IS MARVELLOUS"

THE I

IN CINEMAS 2021

COONAWARRA HALL, 11 MEMORIAL DRIVE

TICKETS: \$10 ADULT, \$5 CHILDREN - AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR



This Fundraiser is in support of Stand Like Stone.

Money raised will solely target charitable projects that benefit Penola Coonawarra.