

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 2

Friday, 9th February 2024

Reception to Year 6 Co-Educational Catholic Primary School

5 Portland Street, Penola SA 5277

Telephone: (08) 8737 2902 www.mmms.catholic.edu.au



*go with strength
and courage*

UPCOMING DATES

- February -

- 12 Occasional Care
Staff Professional Learning Day
STUDENT FREE DAY
- 13 Shrove Tuesday
Project Compassion Begins
- 14 Ash Wednesday Mass (9:15am)
- 16 Swimming Carnival
No Playgroup
- 19 Occasional Care
Footsteps (all week)
- 21 Annual General Meeting (6:00pm)
- 23 Playgroup
SAPSASA District Swimming
- 26 Occasional Care
- 27 Year 5/6 Class Mass (9:15am)
Year 2/3 Liturgy (10:30am)

- March -

- 1 Playgroup
Clean up Aust Day
Assembly 5/6
- 4 Occasional Care
Caritas K Day
- 5 Year 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
Year R/1 Liturgy (10:30am)
- 6 Tennison Woods College Twilight
Tour
- 8 Playgroup
Assembly R/1
- 11 Adelaide Cup
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 12 Staff Learning Professional Day
STUDENT FREE DAY

Class News

Year R/1

Over the past 2 weeks, our Reception and Year One learners have been setting up for a successful year of learning. Students have spent time building connections with staff and peers and co-constructing class expectations and routines. Here's to a wonderful year of learning and growing!



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go with strength and courage

From the principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back for 2024! I was thrilled with the start the Mary MacKillop Memorial School Community made to the school year. Staff and students were looking refreshed and relaxed after the holiday break, ready to take on the challenges of the school year.

A very special welcome to our new staff members and new students and their families. I have no doubt that our school community will welcome you all with open arms! I hope you make many long-lasting friendships and enjoy your learning at Mary MacKillop Memorial School.

There were many happy faces and greetings to each other with stories of adventures over the break. It was wonderful to see and hear the children exploring their new learning environments, both inside and out.

I look forward to another year where each and every student is provided with opportunities to learn, grow, lead and have fun at our school with the support and care of the parents and the wider school community.

This year we aim to follow in St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's footsteps and seek inspiration about the way we go about our business remembering to 'Go on with courage and strength.' (Mary MacKillop, 1873)

In 2024 we are encouraging all to care for those around them, because at Mary MacKillop Memorial School – We Care!. We aim to be the best version of ourselves, in all aspects of our lives, each and every day.

This is our message today, tomorrow and into the future. As students express the best version of themselves, they will grow in confidence, resilience and flourish to be competent and capable in all they do.

With a whole school focus on achieving excellence and growth for each learner at Mary MacKillop Memorial School our priorities for 2024 are:

- Our school values inspired by the Josephite Sisters and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.
- Literacy Block, incorporating our writing agreement and explicit teaching and learning.
- Numeracy, review and update of Numeracy agreement aligning to our current practice.

Parents play an important part in a child's learning and wellbeing. We value and care about the partnership that we have with each family to ensure the best possible outcome for your child.

- Important information is shared with the Mary MacKillop Memorial School community through
- The School Calendar
- The School Newsletter (fortnightly)
- Seesaw

Rest in Peace Max Gartner

We offer condolences to the family of Max Gartner, a former student of Mary MacKillop Memorial School and much loved local lad. Our sincere prayer and thoughts to Angela and Greg and all family and friends who knew and loved Max. May God's love wrap around you and bring you some comfort.

Welcome To Our Community

At the beginning of this year, we welcomed Fletcher, Will, Brittany, Amber, Ted and Noah.

We also welcomed all of our returning staff, students and families.

Staffing

We congratulate Ainsley Gillings on being appointed as our Administration Trainee. Ainsley will spend 12 months with us undertaking various administration duties. Please say Hi to Ainsley and introduce yourself next time you call into the office. We wish Lauren all the very best as she begins her university studies and thank her for the comprehensive hand over that she has undertaken with Ainsley.

Beginning Of Year Mass

At our Beginning of Year Mass last Friday Fr Peter blessed our student leaders for the year to come. They included our School Captains, House Captains and SRC representatives from each class. We prayed that the students will be committed servant leaders of Mary MacKillop Memorial School and share their many gifts and talents with all. It was a wonderful celebration, bringing our school community together.

Gather And Grow Open Afternoon

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended the Gather and Grow Open Afternoon on Wednesday 7 February. Parents had a chance to meet our teachers, visit classrooms, learn about the teaching and learning at MMMS and classroom processes and all that ensures learning is achieved in the best possible way. Many thanks to Sam on the BBQ who kept the hungry fed!

go with strength and courage

From the principal

School Board AGM

The Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st Feb at 6pm in the school Hall.

We invite all families to attend and also to consider nominating for School Board. Nomination Forms have been sent home with all families, however, we are able to resend if you require one.

The Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board has an advisory role in our school. The Board functions within the general goals for the parish and the school's vision and mission statements. The board membership comprises the parish priest, school principal, one staff member, parent members elected by the parent body and a parish representative.

The five main areas of responsibility of the School Board are:

- Policy
- Budget
- Planning for the provision and maintenance of school buildings and equipment
- Communication between school and parish communities
- Curriculum policy

Mary MacKillop School Board meets on the third Wednesday of every month, during school term. Prayerful reflection, discernment and consensual decision making are the operating principles of the School Board.

Professional Learning Day

On February the 12th staff will be engaging in Professional Learning. This is a student free day.

We will be working with Heidi McGlashan from High Performing Teams- Flourishing Schools. HPT assists schools to build capacity and capability across teaching, non-teaching and leadership teams to enable all staff and students to flourish.

We aim to reduce our cognitive load to enable more time to spend on what is important – the children!

CESA COVID 19

With COVID-19 continuing to make its presence felt I remind all of the community of the CESA Covid 19 procedures:

- Schools should continue to emphasise that students, staff and site visitors who are showing COVID-19 symptoms should stay away from school until acute symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever) have cleared.
- Staff are required to notify the school if the return a positive COVID-19 test.
- Families are recommended to notify the school/centre if their child returns a positive COVID-19 test.

You are able to access RAT tests from the Penola and District Hospital.

Finally, I look forward to catching with families over the coming weeks.

God Bless

Nicole.

go with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Lent

This coming week the Catholic Church enters the Lenten journey. This is a time for Catholics to begin preparing ourselves for the death of Jesus on Good Friday and His triumphant resurrection on Easter. Please see below for some dot points and significant information for this special time.

- The dates for Easter, Lent, Ash Wednesday (and all events related to Easter) are known as moveable feasts. This is because there is no set date for Easter in the Catholic Church. It is all calculated from the Jewish Feast of Passover (it is more complicated than this, however, this is a good way to think about it). All other dates are then calculated back from this.

- Shrove Tuesday marks the day before Lent starts. Lent is considered a time of fasting in the Catholic church. Recently the fasting looks a little different, however, traditionally the fasting was a little more extreme. Fatty and rich foods were not eaten, nor was meat. This meant that a feast was held on the Tuesday before Lent to ensure food was not wasted. We celebrate this at school with our feast of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

- Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, continues to be recognised as a day of fasting for Catholics. This means that adult Catholics (or those confirmed) abstain from all red and white meat. In addition, Catholics eat only one full meal and two smaller meals which, would not equal a single normal meal. Some Catholics observe this tradition on Friday's during lent.

- Lent lasts for 40 days, not including Sundays.
- Lent is the time to prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus. One of the ways Catholics do this is through the acts of Fasting, Praying and Almsgiving.

Liturgies and Masses

TERM 1: Everyone is welcome!

WEEK 3 Wednesday 14th February
Whole School Ash Wednesday Mass at 9.15am

WEEK 5 Tuesday 27th February
Year 5/6 Class Mass at 9:15am
Year 2/3 Class Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 6 Tuesday 5th March
Year 4 Class Mass at 9:15am
Year R/1 Class Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 8 Tuesday 19th March
Whole School Feast of St Joseph Mass at 9:15am



Catholic Identity



Project Compassion Caritas Australia

This coming week please keep an eye out for information and boxes to support our Project Compassion appeal this lent. This year, along with Caritas Australia we are calling all parents to get involved.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

This year, we are **CALLING ALL PARENTS** to get involved with Project Compassion!

As we embrace the season of Lent, a time of reflection, sacrifice and giving, we invite you to join us in this special initiative that aligns with the spirit of the season. This year, we are reaching out to you, our wonderful parents, to get actively involved with Project Compassion! Your children will be actively participating in Project Compassion at school to make a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate, and this year, we would like to invite parents to jump on board too! We believe that together, as students, teachers and parents, we can help to encourage our kids and amplify their efforts.



Project Compassion

To get involved, scan the QR code above.

We believe that your participation as a parent is instrumental in fostering a spirit of compassion and unity within our school community. As Easter approaches, we encourage you to get involved by taking part in Give it up for Lent – whether you forgo your daily coffee, or indulge in a little less screen time, or give up your car during Lent – get sponsored for your efforts and contribute to brighter futures, for all generations.

Let's make this season of giving truly special by coming together as one supportive and compassionate school family. Let's stand together, create awareness and actively contribute to making the world a better place.

We will be kickstarting our Project Compassion efforts this coming Tuesday at our Shrove Tuesday celebrations and students will bring home their Project Compassion boxes on Wednesday.



Community News

Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated during January. Grace (8th), Noah (10th), Ruby (10th), Edward (12th), James (14th), Charlie (15th) and Will (24th).

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who will celebrate during Week 3 and Week 4. Rylee-J (18th), Elijah (23rd), Tess (23rd), Josh (24th) and Ted (25th)

House Points

Cameron	48
McCormack	48
Woods MacKillop	68

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

Reminders

A friendly reminder that this coming Monday the 12th of February is a Student Free Day, as Teachers and Staff are having a Staff Professional Learning Day. Playgroup will also not be taking place next Friday the 16th, as all Staff will be at the Swimming Carnival.

2024 House Captains

Congratulations to the following students who are our House Captains for 2024

Woods-MacKillop: Frank and Josh

McCormack: Tait and Cameron

Cameron: Jimmy and Chloe

We are very confident that this group will lead all students capably in 2024



Student Representative Council

We congratulate the students who will form part of this committee. They will have a voice for the student body and listen to their peers, assist their peers and be the kind friend that we all need.

In the weeks to come they will meet under the guidance of Sam Baxter and Nicole Coote to plan for 2024. We look forward to their work in this area and new initiatives that they will undertake as the year progresses.



Community News

Counsellor's Corner

Dealing with grief after a tragedy is never easy, especially for children and families in a close-knit community. It's important to acknowledge and express your emotions during these difficult times when they occur. Remember, it's okay to feel sad, angry, confused, or even numb.

For children, it's important to provide a safe space for them to talk about their feelings. Encourage them to express themselves through drawing, writing, or simply talking to a trusted adult. Reassure them that their emotions are valid and normal.

Families can support each other by spending quality time together, reminiscing about happier memories, and reaching out to each other for strength, and to feel heard. Empathy and understanding from loved ones are especially important when going through the grieving process.

In our small community, it's essential to come together and support one another through the grieving process when tragedies and deaths of loved ones happen. Reach out to neighbours, friends, and community resources for additional support. Together, within our school, and our local communities, we can navigate through this challenging time with love, empathy, and support for each other.

Don't hesitate to seek professional help if needed, such as counselling or therapy.

Lifeline 13 11 14

Griefline 1800 845 745

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636

Kidsline(for ages 5-25) 1800 551 800

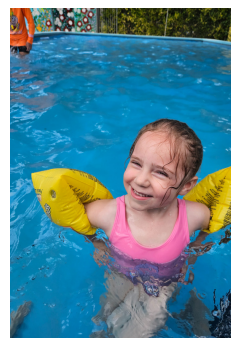
Regards,

Bec Baker.

Swimming

Swimming lessons were undertaken by the whole school this week. Every student demonstrated resilience, growth and enjoyment during this time, and the weather was perfect! Water safety is part of the Australian Curriculum and we are very fortunate to be able to offer such an intensive experience for our students, culminating in a whole school swimming carnival next Friday.

Thank you to our very able, enthusiastic and professional instructors, Hayley and Charlotte. Also thank you to the parents who walked with classes to the pool and helped with supervision. You are superstars!



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

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Community News

School Fees

You will receive an invoice for school fees next week. School Fees have remained the same in 2024. Families will be invoiced the whole amount at the beginning of the year (excluding camps) and you will be able to work towards paying off the full amount in whatever way works best for you. We ask each family to complete the Payment Plan Agreement Forms and return to school as soon as possible. Our aim, in alignment with Mary MacKillop's legacy, is to make our school a welcoming and affordable place for all. At the same time, we need to ensure that the school operates in a financially sustainable manner that provides the best learning opportunities for all students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Janice Coote or Nicole Coote.

Promoting Our School

Today with the newsletter there is a flyer about our school. In 2024 we are looking to grow our school. All current families are able to help by passing on to other potential families what makes learning at Mary Mac great. The flyer will assist all to pass on the same message.

School Card

School Card Applications for 2024 are available at the front office. If you think you might be eligible, please see Janice Coote as soon as possible.

Children's University

Our school is once again participating in the Children's University program. Children's University offers opportunities and recognition to children for completing and participating in beyond school learning. Our hope is that this encourages a love of learning in their pursuit of a future career. Children and young people can only aspire to what they know exists and Children's University provides them with a system to navigate potential future pathways through this learning.

Each member aged 5 to 14 receives a Passport to Learning where hours of extra-curricular activities are logged. Hours are accumulated and once the hours needed to graduate are achieved, members are presented with Children's University certificates at a formal graduation ceremony.

To register your child please see the QR Code below, or if you would like more information please contact Rachel at school or rmanninen@mmms.catholic.edu.au.

**RECYCLED
FASHION
POP-UP**
FRIDAY FEB 16TH, 4-8PM
SATURDAY 17TH, 9-12AM



**AMAZING PRELOVED
& NEW CLOTHING**

**Mary McKillop Memorial School Hall,
Penola**



Community News

Occasional Care

Playgroup

Occasional Care 2024

To book please follow the link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GBzjFsZsbi>

Come along to Occasional Care each Monday.

ALL families from the Penola and wider community are welcome to attend.

This year the Occasional Care program will be coordinated by qualified educator Leah Kuiper.

The Occasional Care Program is guided by the Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (EYLF). Each child's current knowledge, strengths, ideas and interests are foundational to our program. Educators actively engage with children in their play and facilitate and extend their learning and development. Flexible learning environments are designed as an invitation for learning, and our responsive routine enables children to make choices and decisions in their learning. Open ended experiences, child-initiated learning will be used to foster children's thinking and curiosity.



*An early years service for families of 3- 5 year olds
Facilitated by a qualified educator Leah Kuiper*

MONDAYS

Drop Off: 8:45 am
Pick up:
Half day: 11:45am
Full Day: 3:00pm

Half Day

\$15

Full Day

\$25

ALL children
within Penola
and surrounds
welcome.

For more information
8737 2902
lkuiper@mmms.catholic.edu.au
Use the QR code for
information and to book



We are excited for a new year full of fun activities and experiences for your young ones. This year we welcome Ebonie Moulton as our new Playgroup Coordinator!

Playgroup will be held every Friday from 9:30am - 11:00am with a gold coin donation on arrival. Every week is a different theme, and all family and friends of the community are welcome.



Movie Night Scrapper

Friday 15th March, 2025

Come join for their first official fundraiser to support the Penola Entrant for 'Swinging With The Stars' 2024 - Cory O'Conner.



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

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Community News

Life is mostly froth and bubble,
Two things stand like stone,
Kindness in another's trouble,
Courage in your own.

Stand Like Stone foundation

The Stand Like Stone Foundation, established in 2004, is a dynamic community foundation serving the Limestone Coast (in the South East of South Australia). Stand Like Stone offers individuals, families, groups, corporations and not-for-profit organizations an easy and satisfying way of giving something of real value back to the community that they care about. All donations to Stand Like Stone are pooled and invested. The income generated from this investment is used over time to support charitable projects and organizations and to give educational scholarships.



Stand Like Stone

Inspiring kindness and courage

PENOLA COONAWARRA
WELLBEING SUB FUND

Pop Up Shop

The Stand Like Stone Foundation will be holding their very popular **POP UP SHOP** in the Mary MacKillop Hall on Friday 16th February - Saturday 17th February. There are sure to be some fantastic bargains - Don't Miss Out!



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

Friday 9th February 2024 | Week 2 Term 1

Professional Learning/Student Free Days 2024

Term 1

Monday 12th February
Tuesday 12th March

Term 2

Thursday 6th June
Friday 7th June

Term 3

Friday 6th September

Term 4

Friday 25th October
Thursday 12th December
Friday 13th December

Under 10 Basketball



Our under 10's program is starting up again on Tuesday the 13th of February!

Game times and teams will be announced after registrations have closed.

Registrations are due Friday 9th of Feb!

The registration link can be found on the Millicent Basketball Association's facebook page.

School sports vouchers can be used. See Michelle on the first night to redeem.



Contact new U/10's coordinator Michelle Fleming for more information on

0401937319



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PENOLA



WE ARE GROWING - YOU CAN JOIN US

**School van available for
Nangwarry and
Kalangadoo.**



Phone: (08) 8737 2902
www.mmms.catholic.edu.au

VISIT US



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA



CARING MAKES LEARNING POSSIBLE

Learning cannot start until children feel safe and secure in their environment, which is why we say that caring makes learning possible.

We are blessed to see this care underpin transformations in academic results, social skills and sense of self that form the foundations of confident capable students ready for whatever the world may bring.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

As a school we believe and share St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's vision, that no child should be turned away for any reason, financial or otherwise, if they wish to attend our school.

OUR SCHOOL IS GROWING

Planned growth of our school has created available places in multiple year levels.

TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

A school van is available for families in Nangwarry and Kalangadoo

For more
information:

