

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 8

Friday, 22nd March 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](http://www.mmms.catholic.edu.au)



*go on with strength  
and courage*

### UPCOMING DATES

- March -

25 TWC Family Gathering (6:00pm)

Annunciation of the Lord

28 Holy Thursday

29 Project Compassion Ends

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

- April -

1 **EASTER MONDAY**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

2 SAPSASA District Golf Day  
(Penola)

5 Assembly Year 4

8 SAPSASA Swimming (Adelaide)  
Occasional Care

11 Cobb and Co Visit

12 **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**

Playgroup

End of Term Disco

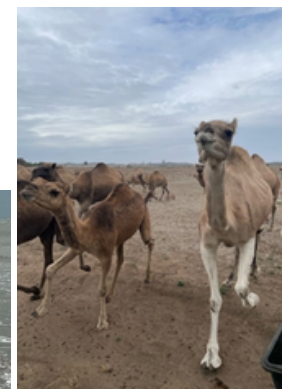
Opening and Blessing of New  
School Buildings

## Class News

### Year 4

In week 7, the Year 4 and 5 students went on their Robe camp for two nights. Here is what some of the students from year 4 have to say about the camp!

In week 7, the year 4/5s went on camp. On the first day, we went to Humpalicious safari and got to go in a mini bus and there were feeders on the side of the mini bus that the camels ate from. On the second day we went surfing and I stood up nearly every time and I started to turn in the last ten minutes. We made kites and I tested my kite and it got tangled in Abby's kite and then we un tangled them. It was so much fun. – Levi D



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go on with strength and courage*



# from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

'Go on with courage and strength.' (Mary MacKillop, 1873)

Lent is about opening ourselves to someone else, about stretching ourselves, so that we can become closer to God. I love Pope Francis' reframing of Lent which calls us from darkness into light. Pope Francis says "I invite every Christian community this Lent to set aside moments to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society, and the contribution they make to its betterment."

Pope Francis calls us to....

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope,  
Fast from worries and trust in God.  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.  
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.  
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.  
Fast from grudge and be reconciled.  
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

At this time, we consciously and deliberately renew our commitment to Christ and his way of life as we renew our Baptisms. I remind the school community that we are in the season of Lent right up until Easter Sunday (31 March) and as such we do not give out Easter Eggs prior to this time. From Easter Sunday we are in the season of Easter for 50 days which gives us more than enough time to hand out Easter Eggs and celebrate the joy of Easter.

## Celebration of our new and re-imagined learning spaces.

On Friday 12 April, 2024 we are extremely excited that Archbishop Patrick O'Regan will formally open and bless our Woods Learning Centre and Early Years Learning Spaces, including our outdoor play space. We invite our community to this wonderful celebration.

Formal proceedings will commence at 1.30pm in the St Mary of the Cross School Hall. This is the last day of term, and therefore there will be normal dismissal time of 3.10pm. **Please rsvp to Janice no later than Wednesday 27th March.**

PLEASE NOTE: no busses will be running for Mary MacKillop Memorial School on this day as the Department Schools will be having an early dismissal at 2.10pm.

## Harmony Week

This week, and particularly today we celebrate Harmony Week. As a school we wore a splash of orange and participated in a special Harmony Day liturgy. Being in harmony is part of our everyday values of living. We highlighted the cultural diversity of our nation and how to be inclusive to all. Money raised from the gold coin today will go towards Project Compassion, assisting those in developing countries.

## NAPLAN

Our Year 3 and 5 students have been tackling the NAPLAN tests predominantly online (with the exception of Year 3 writing), in Weeks 7 and 8 this term. NAPLAN is a window into how our students are achieving and even more of a window into how the school is succeeding in their implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

*go on with strength and courage*



# from the principal

As a school we rely on the data from other assessments that are conducted throughout the year, as well as NAPLAN, to guide our next steps in the teaching and learning for each individual child. I would like to congratulate all who contribute to the ongoing achievements of our students and our school, but particularly I would like to congratulate our students, who yearn for knowledge and learning. They rock positivity towards gaining greater knowledge about the world in which they live. The two pillars of a catholic school are faith and learning.

## Wellbeing at Mary Mac - #wecare

In the Week 6 newsletter I talked about wellbeing as an imperative at Mary Mac and the importance placed on making sure that our students are in a good place so that learning can take place.

Part of our continued work in this area has been to implement the beginning stages of The Resilience Project. If you have not ever read Hugh Van Cuylenburg's book, I strongly recommend that you do.

Our Yr 4 – 6s have their own wellbeing journal which they write in at the end of each day. Each day is centred around one of the three themes – gratitude, empathy or mindfulness. It helps us to stay grounded.

This initiative has come to fruition through a Commonwealth Grant received in June 2023. The Commonwealth Education Minister, Jason Clare announced that all schools in Australia would receive a one-off wellbeing 'boost' to support students' mental health and wellbeing. We are extremely excited that we have been able to use this funding to improve and help our student's wellbeing now and into the future.

## Student Safety, Child Protection and Wellbeing

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy can be found on our school website. This policy outlines key principles and responsibilities of Catholic schools to ensure a total community approach towards the protection of children and young people in their care. I encourage you to visit our website to view the full policy. As part of our duty of care and wellbeing of our students I want to assure all parents and carers of our absolute commitment to ensuring that Mary MacKillop Memorial School is a safe place for all. Our staff are committed and trained to protect the children and young people in our care. All staff and regular volunteers have current working with children checks. We teach our children age-appropriate strategies to keep themselves safe through South Australia's Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum. Staff complete certification and undertake regular updated training in Responding to Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care Settings.

We also promote strategies to minimise bullying and help students stay safe online. You can read more about our commitment to the wellbeing of your child on our website. Additional information about the broader protection policies of Catholic Education SA can be found on their website.

<http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/safeenvironments-for-all>

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, commemorating the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, during which palm branches were placed in Jesus' path before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent. May your weekend be a time to reflect on the week to come.

God Bless,

Nicole

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*go on with strength and courage*

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# Catholic Identity

## Veiled Images

If you enter a Catholic church this week you may notice that the images, crosses and crucifix's are covered or veiled in the Church. This is a tradition that is observed by many Catholics throughout the time of Passiontide, the last 2 weeks of lent. This act of veiling is 2 fold:

1. It heightens our awareness that we are close to the passion (the events from Jesus' agony in the garden through to His death on the cross) and that we should be looking closer at our Lenten journey and, for lack of a better term, ramp up our efforts in fasting, prayer and alms giving. When the veils are lifted on Good Friday (crucifix) and the Easter Vigil (images) it makes us notice these more closely.
2. It also signifies the fact that Jesus was now being searched for by the Jewish leaders. In the Gospel of John, 8:48-59 Jesus' teachings are found to be very confronting to the Jewish leaders and they went to take up stones to throw at him. Jesus then hid – this hiding is represented by the veiling.

*John 8:59*

*"So they picked up stones to throw at him, but a Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple."*



## Holy Triduum

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday are the three most mysterious and heart-breaking beautiful days in the Liturgical Calendar. The word "triduum" (pronounced "TRID-yoo-um") comes from the two latin words meaning "three" and "days".

## Lenten Prayer Resource

I encourage you to once again use the Family Prayer resource provided by The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide. Click the image to download your own copy.



## Project Compassion

Please keep those donations coming in to support those in need! Click or scan the link below to donate through our Mary MacKillop memorial School page.





# Community News

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to Max (2nd) and Angus (4th), who will be celebrating in April in week 10.

## House Points

Cameron	21
McCormack	21
Woods MacKillop	30

## Flourishing Awards

Last week we congratulated 8 students who received Flourishing Awards at Assembly. We congratulated Freya, Vinnie, Patrick, Matthew, Oscar, Niamh, Alice and Cameron.



## 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**

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH

PALM SUNDAY

GSOPEL: Mark 14:1 - 15:47

## Holy Week Liturgies

**HOLY WEEK - WEEK 9**

Monday 25th March: R/1

Palm Sunday

Liturgy at 8:45am

Tuesday 26th March

Stations of the Cross

(each class to organise their own)

Wednesday 27th March: Year 5/6

Last Supper Liturgy at 10:15am

Thursday 28th March: Year 4

The Passion Liturgy at 1:40pm

**EASTER - WEEK 10**

Monday 2nd April: Year 2/3

Easter Alleluia

Liturgy at 8:45am

## Reminders

A friendly reminder that this Thursday the 28th of March will be an early school dismissal at 2:10pm.



# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

Easter is nearly here!

As Easter draws near at our wonderful school, let's celebrate the special bond of family during this joyful time. Think about why Easter is important to us, like love, starting fresh, and being together with those we care about, ensuring everyone feels loved and included. Remember to be kind and forgive others, just like how God teaches us. Spend time with your family doing things you enjoy together, traditions like egg hunts and baking, and helping each other out. Talk openly with your family and be understanding of one another, making sure everyone feels loved and respected, and value spending quality time together. Easter is a time to be grateful for our families and grow closer to each other and God.

Wishing your families, a safe and happy Easter filled with love.

## 2024 Mid-Year Reception Enrolments - FREE FREE

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. If you have a child who is able to begin Reception in in Term 3 2024, 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 2024, please let them know about our mid-year fee free enrolment intake or alternatively, they can contact the school on 87372902 at any time. We welcome all new families!

## St Joseph's Feast Day

On Tuesday the 19th of March we celebrated the Feast of St Joseph by hosting a whole School Mass. Back at school, classes participated in a range of activities to deepen their knowledge and connection with St Joseph.



## Joey's Jumpstart Program

We are incredibly proud of our Joey's Jumpstart Program that assists students to move seamlessly into the school environment, while still respecting the importance of completing their Kindy journey. The Joey's Jumpstart Program will begin at the beginning of Term 2 for 7 weeks. We have available the Joey's Jumpstart Program flyer that you are able to access through the school on our school website.



# Community News

## Playgroup

The MMMS Playgroup now has their own Facebook Page and Group, run by our Playgroup coordinator Ebonie Moulton. Included in the Facebook Page is a link for expressions of interest. Check out the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/YfWqHpaNA6>

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.



## Occasional Care

### 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](mailto:lkuiper@mmms.catholic.edu.au)

Use the QR code for  
information and to book





# Community News



**FOOTBALL IN SCHOOLS**

FOOTBALL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**After school soccer in Penola**

Still suffering from football fever after the Women's World Cup?

Bring your mates and join Football South Australia's after school soccer program with Guy Detot at Mary MacKillop MS. This is a program for primary school kids from any school in Penola.

Registrations are now open for the term one program, which kicks off on Tuesdays (soon). Sign up today: <http://tinyurl.com/ysz76krx>.

**CONTACT US** >>> [footballinschools@footballsaustralia.com.au](mailto:footballinschools@footballsaustralia.com.au)  
[christian.fleetwood@footballsaustralia.com.au](mailto:christian.fleetwood@footballsaustralia.com.au)

Carls Jr. FOOTBALL SOUTH AUSTRALIA SPORTS VOUCHERS



**GATHER ROUND**  
A FESTIVAL OF FOOTY

ROUND 4 | APRIL 4-7

**Kids!** Celebrate Gather Round with a FREE junior footy clinic facilitated by SANFL Game Development staff.

**Includes a special display featuring the SANFL + 2024 AFL Premiership Cups!**

**All welcome.**

**Ages:** 5 – 12

**Date:** Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** Frew Park Oval

**Time:** Junior clinic from 4:30pm – 5:30pm, photos with the cups until 6pm.

Footy Clinic Registration:

[\[QR Code\]](#)

SANFL We love footy



Woolworths net set go

**REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!**

Woolworths NetSetGO

**IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR NETSETGO**

AGED 5-10 | TERM 2 THURSDAY 3:45 - 4:30PM

ANY QUESTIONS? CALL MEG REDMAN 0407 740 034



*Net Set Go*

Open for ages 5-10.

Thursdays 3.45-4.30pm (Term 2).

Contact Meg Redman for more info on 0407 740 034

Link to register:

<https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/451c5e>

## Gather Round Free Junior Footy Clinic at Frew Park

The AFL and SANFL are thrilled to announce the Gather Round Community Footy Roadshow in 2024! To kick things off with a bang, SANFL is hosting a FREE Junior Footy Clinic at Frew Park!

Plus, here's your chance to get up close and personal with the 2024 AFL, AFLW, SANFL & SANFLW premiership cups!

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity!

Register now:

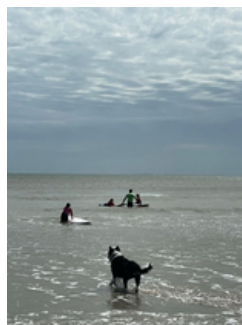
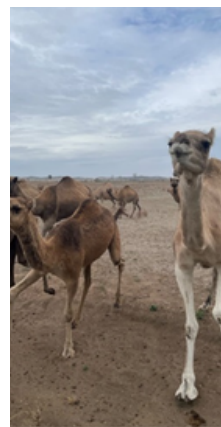
<https://forms.office.com/r/FDzd7gT8Eg>





# photo gallery

## 4/5 School Camp



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw





MARY MACKILLOP  
PENOLA

Please join us for the official  
**Opening and Blessing**  
of our new

# *Woods Learning Centre & Early Years Learning Spaces*

Friday 12th April 2024

Formal proceedings will commence at 1.30pm  
in the St Mary of the Cross School Hall.

Please RSVP by  
Wednesday March 27 2024  
to Janice Coote at  
[jcoote@mmms.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jcoote@mmms.catholic.edu.au)

*Go on with  
Courage and  
Strength*



Salt & Co Living & Stand Like Stone proudly presents

# Ladies on the Lawn



**Saturday 6th April | 2pm - 5pm**

**Penola Town Square**

**FOOD | FASHION | WINE**

**Come and enjoy an afternoon on the lawn  
with a curated fashion show of all the  
latest in-season trends from Salt & Co  
Living with 20% of ALL purchases from the  
day going to Stand Like Stone!**

**Wine + soft drink available for purchase  
along with bites from Cooney & Co**

**BOOK A TABLE NOW**



**Stand Like Stone**

Inspiring kindness and courage

**PENOLA COONAWARRA  
WELLBEING SUB FUND**

