

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 2 Week 2

Friday, 10th May 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 on with strength
and courage*

UPCOMING DATES

- May -

- 13 Catholic Education Week
Occasional Care
- 14 School Board Meeting (6:00pm)
The Frog and the Prince at PPS
- 17 Playgroup
Assembly 5/6
- 20 National Volunteers Week
Occasional Care
- 21 TWC Yr 7 Penola Gathering and
Parent Information Session
Pentecost Liturgy (11:30am in the
Hall)
- 22 National Simultaneous Story Time
- 24 Playgroup
Mary Help of Christians Feast Day
whole School Mass (9:15am)
- 27 Reconciliation Week
Occasional Care
- 31 Playgroup
Assembly Yr 4

- June -

- 3 Occasional Care
St Vinnie's Winter Appeal Begins
- 4 Joey's Jumpstart
Yr 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
- 5 Cans for Casuals Days
World Environment Day
- 6 **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
Staff Professional Learning Day
SAPSASA Cross Country
(Adelaide)
- 7 **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Class News

Year 5/6

Last term in our HASS, we delved into pivotal events that shaped Australia's history, like the Gold Rush, Eureka Stockade, and more. We explored their successes, challenges, and enduring impacts on our nation today. Students researched their chosen topics and then created captivating dioramas, showcasing their understanding and skills. As a culmination, students had the opportunity to share their learning and dioramas with other classes, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment while enriching the understanding of their peers. It was an engaging journey through our country's past, making history both educational and enjoyable for all involved.



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that you enjoyed some rest and relaxation with family and friends.

This term we look forward to authentic learning with a focus on student agency and co-construction. We revisit our school priorities for 2024:

- Every student has one years growth + for one year at school: data informed
- School values: communicated, identified and taught
- Literacy Block

Implementation of Mary MacKillop Memorial School Writing Agreement

Introduction and implementation of InitiaLit in literacy learning for Reception/Year 1 students.

- Numeracy Block

Review and update Mary MacKillop Memorial School Numeracy Agreement to align to current practises.

Overarching our priorities is a deliberate intention to be a high performing team!

Happy Mother's Day

This Sunday is a very important day - Mother's Day. It is a day when we can celebrate the special people in our lives. It may be our Mum, sister, cousin, aunty, grandma or a family friend. We take time to think about, honour, and let these important people know how much we love them and thank them for their unconditional love and support. May is also the month when we take time to think about Mary, Jesus's Mother and the very important role that she accepted without question from God. We are very grateful for all of the Mums and special people who joined us on Wednesday afternoon for a gathering, prayer, activities, food, fun and celebration. You all are no 1s in our eyes. We also pray for those women who are not longer with us, but are so special to us in our memories and our hearts.

Opening and Blessing

A wonderful afternoon took place on the last day of Term 1 with the Opening and Blessing of our renovated, refurbished and reimagined Early Years and Junior Primary Learning Spaces, outdoor play space and the Woods Learning Centre. Even though these amazing spaces have been in use for the past 18+ months, it was still an absolute honour to be able to acknowledge those who helped make it happen, particularly the Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board. The way in which these spaces are now appreciated and utilised has materialised as we all imagined and better. With so many special guests in attendance it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school, and all of the incredible learning experiences that the Mary Mac children are involved in and the environment that they get to do their learning in. I was incredibly proud of the student's engagement in the celebration, from the way in which they participated in the Liturgy and Blessing ceremony to the way in which our Yr 6s took our guests on tours and served afternoon tea. What a joyous celebration!

Anzac Day

Our School Captains and members of our Choir capably represented our school at Penola's Anzac Day service during the holidays. We are very proud of their outstanding singing and reverence at this significant event.

Thankyou to our families for supporting our students to participate.



go on with strength and courage

from the principal

The Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival

This is a fantastic initiative for the Penola-Coonawarra region and if you have not yet checked out the program, I strongly suggest you do.

The Kid's program will be held down Petticoat Lane on Sunday 19th May.

We will be opening up The MacKillop Markets, selling fresh produce and homemade goodies.

We will be also offering the free activity of magnet/badge making.

*Our veggie patch has had a refresh and is yet to be really producing a lot of produce. **We are in desperate need** of any surplus produce in families or grandparents/friend's veggie patches who would be able to donate it to The MacKillop Market for us to sell! Any donations can be dropped into school next week. Thankyou in advance!*

Mary MacKillop Memorial School will also be running the BBQ and we thank those who are on BBQ duty throughout the day. Unfortunately, a number of families who nominated to assist with the BBQ for the Penola - Coonawarra Arts Festival are no longer able to help out.

If you are able to help we are also extremely desperate for helpers.

A big thankyou to the staff at MMMS, who have rallied together to coordinate our part in the day. We look forward to a fantastic community event!

Wellbeing and Child Protection

As part of our duty of care and wellbeing of our students, we want to assure all parents and careers 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 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.

Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum is a mandated part of teaching and learning in Catholic schools, and staff are supported by professional learning and appropriate resources as we teach this curriculum. Parents are invited to speak with class teachers about this curriculum and how we can continue to work in partnership to develop an environment that promotes children's safety and well-being.

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/safe-environments-for-all>

Wishing all families a lovely weekend, and Happy Mother's Day to all the special women out there!

God bless,
Nicole.

go on with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

Ascension and Pentecost

Over the next 10 days we celebrate two very special occasions in the Catholic Church. The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost. The Ascension of Jesus ascends to heaven, body and soul, to join God in heaven. This marks Jesus last time with his disciples as he passes on his work to them. At Pentecost we remember the Holy Spirit coming down upon the disciples. After this the disciples went out to spread the word of Jesus. Pentecost is often referred to as the "birthday of the church", as it marks the start of the disciples building the church upon Jesus's teachings.

Altar Server Training

This week we started altar server training for 2024. Fr Olek led our servers in a session focussed on what the role of an altar server is, the two main parts of the mass, and then we participated in how servers process in holding the crucifix and candles. Any children that have completed their Sacraments are invited to join us. If you are interested, please contact Sam Baxter at sbaxter@mmms.catholic.edu.au

From the Parish

I would like to share the initiative below from Fr Peter. If you (or someone you know) is interested or you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact either myself (sbaxter@mmms.catholic.edu.au) or the Parish on either 08 8725 6566 or reception@mtgcatholic.org.au

The sessions will be livestreamed and recorded should the location and time be unsuitable for your schedule.

6 Week Book Study:

Fr Olek and Fr Peter will be leading a book study on "Opening to God," by Thomas Green SJ. We're very excited! Opening to God is a terrific introduction to prayer and growing in relationship with God.

7pm Thursdays, 23rd May - 27th June in Gathering Space in St Paul's.

Fr Olek and Fr Peter will give a presentation on the content of a chapter each week, which will then lead into questions and a discussion.

Masses and Liturgies for Term 2

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WEEK 4 Tuesday 21st May

Whole School Liturgy to celebrate Pentecost (19th May) at 11:30am

WEEK 4 Friday 24th May

Whole School Mass for Mary Help of Christians at 9:15am

WEEK 6 Tuesday 11th June

Year 4 Class Mass

WEEK 7 Tuesday 11th June

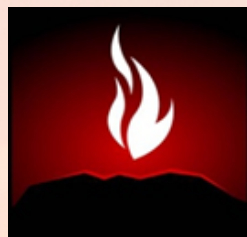
Whole School Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart (7th June) at 11:30am

WEEK 8 Tuesday 18th June

2/3 Class Liturgy

WEEK 8 Friday 21st June

Year 5/6 Class Mass



Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 12TH MAY

At 9:14am

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

GOSPEL: Mark 16: 15 - 20

SATURDAY 18TH MAY

At 4:30pm

PENTECOST SUNDAY

GOSPEL: John 20: 19 - 23

Community News

Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated in Week 10 of last term. Max (2nd) and Angus (4th).

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated in Weeks 1, 2, and to those who will be celebrating in Weeks 3 and 4. Levi (2nd), Robert (8th), Milly (16th), Will (17th), Darcy (18th), Jensen (20th), Anna (24th), Harley (25th), and Leila (26th).

House Points

Cameron 21

Woods MacKillop 21

McCormack 30

Flourishing Awards

Last term in Week 10 we congratulated 7 students who received Flourishing Awards at Assembly. We congratulated Winnie, Alfie, Will, Tait, Levi, Harley and Abby.



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

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week is being celebrated in Catholic schools throughout South Australia from the 13th - 19th of May.

The focus of Catholic Education Week is on taking the opportunity to celebrate the excellent teaching and learning that happens in Catholic schools everyday. It will be a time to reflect on and share all the things that we love about Mary MacKillop Memorial School and what makes our community special.

The theme for the week is **#LoveMyCatholicSchool**. Look out for some great little snippets that will be shared on social media this coming week. And to share about the reasons why you love our school and being part of our community, use the hashtag and share your reasons with us on social media.



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 goes 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

Counsellor's Corner

Hug Reminder! 🤗

The power of a hug, is so important in many ways, especially the following:

Bonding and Attachment: Hugging is important for building a strong emotional connection between parents and children. It helps create feelings of safety and trust, which are essential for a child's healthy growth and development.

Emotional Regulation: Hugs comfort children when they're stressed, sad, or anxious. Hugging releases oxytocin, a hormone that helps them relax and feel less stressed.

Self-Esteem: Regular hugs convey unconditional love and acceptance, which are essential for building a child's self-esteem and self-worth. Knowing they are loved and valued through physical affection helps children develop a positive self-image.

Communication: Hugs show love, empathy, and support without words. They strengthen the emotional bond between parent and child by expressing feelings that words might miss.

Physical Health: Hugs can improve physical health by lowering blood pressure and heart rate/ The oxytocin released during hugs also helps boost the immune system.

Brain Development: Positive physical touch, such as hugs, has been shown to stimulate the release of growth-promoting hormones, contributing to healthy brain development in children.

Social Skills: Hugging teaches children about appropriate physical boundaries and social norms regarding affection. It helps them understand the importance of physical closeness in relationships and how to express affection in healthy ways.

Trust and Security: Regular hugs make children feel safe and secure in their family, giving them confidence to explore the world around them.

Hugging your child is important not only for their emotional well-being, but also for their

- physical health
- social development
- and overall growth into happy and confident individuals

Give an extra hug today, it helps adults too.

SAPSASA Sport Swimming

During the final week of Term 1, a cohort of our exceptionally skilled students participated in the SAPSASA State Swimming carnival in Adelaide. Remarkably, each of our 7 students earned medals and the Mid South East team finished second place in division 2. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements. Please find the results below:

Firsts:

Oscar Rowland - 50m Breast Stroke
Chloe Bullock - 50m Back Stroke
Chloe Bullock - 200m Free Style Relay
Lilly Flint - 200m Free Style Relay
Juliet Rowland - 200m Free Style Relay

Seconds:

Lilly Flint - 50m Breast Stroke
Juliet Rowland - 50m Back Stroke
Tait Kidman - 100m Free Style
Tait Kidman - 50m Breast Stroke
Tait Kidman - 200m Free Style Relay
Cameron Barnes - 200m Free Style Relay
Oscar Rowland - 200m Free Style Relay

Thirds:

Oscar Rowland - 50m Free Style
Tess Wooding - 50m Back Stroke

Community News

Staff Achievements

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we celebrate the successes of our staff because we care.

This week we give a big shoutout to Miss Ansell (Beck) who attended her graduation last Friday.

Beck has officially graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours).

Congratulations to Beck. It has been her dream to be a teacher since Primary School!

When we asked Beck what inspired her to be a Primary School teacher, her response was that she had a wonderful primary school teacher, who taught her how to learn and cared for her. Her name was Mrs O'Connell!

We applaud Mrs Kathy O'Connell for inspiring Miss Ansell to her career choice of teaching.



YELP

The YELP Group, our Youth Environmental Leaders program Team, are excited to announce that they have made a start on their environmental project for the year.

The students will be working on the development of an Indigenous Garden in our school grounds. The YELP leaders are also looking forward to attending the Regional Earth keepers Camp later this term.

Mid-Year Intake 2024

We are currently accepting 2024 mid-year enrolments. If your child turns 5 on or before the 31st October, they are able to start mid-year. If you are interested in your child starting mid-year, please contact the school as soon as possible.

ALL RECEPTION MID-YEAR INTAKES ARE FEE FREE.



New Enrolments 2025

As planning begins for 2025, I strongly encourage all families considering Mary MacKillop Memorial School for their child's education for 2025 to contact the school today! you are able to book a tour to see how we go about our core business at Mary Mac.



Community News

Curriculum Corner

Hello families and welcome to the *Curriculum Corner*. The Curriculum Corner is a new addition to our newsletter and is a place to share new initiatives, focus areas, educational research and information with our wider school community. For my first ever Curriculum Corner article I want to explore **automaticity** in Mathematics.

We all know that to do something 'automatically' is to be able to complete a task or action without conscious thought. This is the same with automaticity in mathematics, it is the ability to 'deliver a correct answer immediately from memory without conscious thought, as opposed to relying on calculation' (Baker and Cuevas, 2018). Automaticity is a component of mathematical fluency (see next fortnights newsletter article for more fluency) and an important part in developing successful mathematicians.

One of the biggest benefits to automaticity in mathematics is the reduction in cognitive load on the child. When a 'fact' can be retrieved automatically it reduces the load on our working memory and therefore frees up space for more complex computations and problem solving. On the other hand, the more time dedicated to solving basic facts, the more our brain becomes overwhelmed, often resulting in a disengagement from mathematics.

At MMMS we develop automaticity through daily fluency sessions and targeted activities in Mathematics. These activities include warm up tasks, repetition and review of number facts, revision and game-based activities. The more exposure and practise our students have in automaticity the quicker their recall becomes.

The activities below are great ways to increase your child's automaticity at home:

Number Plates.

Equipment:

access to number plates (during car ride)

Players:

2 or more

Instructions:

Think of a number, see if you can see a number plate that you could use its numbers to equal that number.

ie. "the number is 10"

"I see a 5 and a 2 that multiplies to 10".

Card Wars.

Equipment:

deck of cards

Players:

2

Instructions:

Player 1 picks up 2 cards and places them either side of the deck. First player to call out of the correct answer (adds, multiplies, or subtracts the difference) earns a point. Next player takes turn and play continues.

Instructions:

Players one and two pick a card from the deck and hold their cards up to their forehead without looking at it first. Player 3 gives them a result of their cards combined together. This game can be adapted for addition, subtraction or multiplication.

Salute.

Equipment:

deck of cards

Players:

3

Bundle Drop.

Equipment:

timer

popsticks with 1 times tables facts written out on each
ie: $1 \times 1 = 1$

Players:

1

Instructions:

Player mixes up the bundle of popsticks and drops them from standing. Set timer and time how long it takes to put them back into order (saying them aloud). Try to beat your best time!

Really, any opportunity to develop automaticity in number facts is a winner. I would love to hear about more ways families develop this with their children. If you have any great activities or games please share!

Sam Baxter

Leader of Learning

Reference List:

Baker, Austin T. and Cuevas, Josh (2018) "The Importance of Automaticity Development in Mathematics," Georgia Educational Researcher: Vol. 14 : Iss. 2 , Article 2. DOI: 10.20429/ger.2018.140202

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.

Mary MacKillop Memorial School is helping local families address their childcare needs and add to the local offering with an early years Learning Program.

We know parents are looking for a range of options to engage their children in safe learning environments that also meet their child's and family's needs. That's why we have our popular Early Learning Program for a full school day, every Monday. The program, open to children aged 3 - 5 is an excellent 'first step' for pre-school aged children to engage with learning in a supported, nurturing environment.

Our Early Learning program is facilitated by our qualified educator, Leah Kuiper.

A flyer for Mary MacKillop Memorial School Occasional Care. The flyer has a colorful, playful design with a blue and yellow background. At the top, it says 'Mary MacKillop Memorial School' and 'OCCASIONAL CARE' in large, bold letters. Below that, it says 'An early years service for families of 3- 5 year olds' and 'Facilitated by a qualified educator Leah Kuiper'. There are three circular callouts: one for 'MONDAYS' with drop-off and pick-up times, one for 'Half Day \$15' and 'Full Day \$25', and one for 'ALL children within Penola and surrounds welcome.' At the bottom, there is a QR code and contact information for Leah Kuiper, including a phone number and an email address. The flyer also features several small photographs of children playing and learning.

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>.

Carl's Jr.

FOOTBALL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SPORTS VOUCHERS

CONTACT US >>> footballinschools@footballsaustralia.com.au
christian.fleetwood@footballsaustralia.com.au



RECYCLED FASHION POP-UP

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall

31 Arthur St, Penola

AMAZING PRE-LOVED & NEW CLOTHING

Sat 18th & Sun 19th May
9am - 3pm

Stand Like Stone
Empowering children and teenagers

PENOLA COONAWARRA Arts Festival 2024
16-19 MAY 2024



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>



#LoveMy CatholicSchool

Catholic Education Week
May 13-19 2024

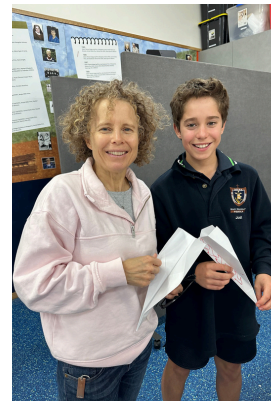
RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS





photo gallery

Mother's and Special Person's Afternoon



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw

Circle of Security Parenting

TERM 2, 2024

DELIVERED BY MEGAN HEFFERNAN,
PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AND
CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING FACILITATOR

DATES:

This group runs for 8 weeks - Thursdays
commencing Thursday 16th May 2024

TIME:

1 – 3pm

VENUE:

Naracoorte Showgrounds, Members
Boardroom

At times, as parents we may feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us, and making sense of what feels like challenging and baffling behaviours adds to the exhaustion.

Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. **The Circle of Security Parenting™** program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

To connect with some of the foundations of this program, please click the link below and scroll down to an introductory video.

<https://www.circleofsecurityinternational.com/resources-for-parents/>

Please also feel encouraged to explore the Circle of Security International website, in particular the [parent blog](#) which is something I find many parents relate to, and view Circle of Security International on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM:



Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read their emotional needs



Understand how your child may communicate these needs through their behaviour



Support your child's emotional regulation



Support the development of your child's self esteem



Experience more confidence and clarity in how to respond to your child's needs



Honor your innate wisdom and desire for your child to experience security in their relationship with you and others

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, EMAIL [MHEFFERNAN.OT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:mheffernan.ot@gmail.com)

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY (OR PRIOR IF ALL PLACES EXHAUSTED)