

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 2 Week 4

Friday, 24th 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](http://www.mmms.catholic.edu.au)



*go on with strength  
and courage*

### UPCOMING DATES

- May -

- 27 Reconciliation Week  
Occasional Care  
SAPSASA Football (Adelaide)

- 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 Staff Professional Learning Day  
**STUDENT FREE DAY**

- SAPSASA Cross Country  
(Adelaide)
- 7 Staff Professional Learning Day  
**STUDENT FREE DAY**

- 10 **PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
- 11 Joey's Jumpstart  
Feast of the Sacred Heart Whole  
School Mass (11:30am)

- Basketball Session 1

- 13 TWC Yr 7 Interviews

- 14 Playgroup  
Assembly 2/3

- 17 Occasional Care

- 18 Joey's Jumpstart

- Yr 2/3 Liturgy

- 19 St Anthony's Feast Day  
School Board Meeting (6:00pm)

- 20 Basketball Session 2

## Class News

### Year R/1

In recent weeks, the Reception and Year One class have enjoyed reading "The Potato People" by Pamela Allen and exploring the vocabulary throughout the story. The book tells the story of Grandma and Jack, who make two people out of potatoes. When Jack moves away, Grandma misses him, and the potato people droop. She buries them in the garden, and a huge potato plant grows. When Jack returns, the plant has died, but underneath it, they discover hundreds of new potatoes.

After reading the story, the children explored the lifecycles of potatoes and made their very own potato people. They plan to watch their potatoes droop and grow before planting them in the garden to grow even more potatoes.



**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go on with strength and courage*



# from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

What a wonderful weekend was had by all. The Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival was a terrific success. A huge thank you to the staff for outstanding efforts in the lead up to the Festival and for helping out on Sunday. I especially would like to acknowledge our parents who assisted with the BBQ and also to the many students who served and organised the MacKillop Markets and helped many children make special magnets to keep! A fantastic team effort by Mary Mac!

## Catholic Education Week

All Catholic Schools across South Australia celebrated Catholic Education Week last week. We were very proud to name what we love about our Catholic School and share our thoughts with others.

## Volunteers Week

This week we recognised the people in our community and thanked them for the vital role that they play in our lives. Our helpers in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen, volunteers to supervise excursions, to coach teams, to score for sports games, to assist at sporting events, to cook BBQs and to assist at special events at school and in the community. Plus, our wider Penola Community volunteers who co-ordinate events, volunteer with the CFS, ambulance service and other important services to our community. You are something to everyone and one in a million.

We also recognise our hard-working staff who are also something for everyone and willingly volunteer to many extra activities of our school life. They put in the extra effort behind the scenes so that we are all able to enjoy unique and fantastic experiences. Their actions show that they truly care for every student at MMMS.

All parents and friends of the school community are welcome to become involved in the Mary MacKillop Memorial School community. The following steps are to be completed to become a volunteer.

- Obtain a working with children's check
- Complete the personal information form, available at the front office
- Complete the Reporting to Abuse and Neglect Training for Volunteers online.

## National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday we came together for National Simultaneous Storytime. The book this year was Bowerbird Blue by Aura Parker. Aura Parker picture books are joyful, playful, with a sense of humour. This book tells the story both through word and pictures and inspires the imagination of children. It develops a love, curiosity and passion for nature. The children were truly engaged with this story that was shared across the nation.

## National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week begins on 27th May and will go until June 3rd. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements and a time for us to actively engage in the process of reconciliation in Australia. This year's theme is "Now More Than Ever." Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians - as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and we encourage everyone to be a part of this journey.

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*go on with strength and courage*

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# from the principal

During the week, classes will discover more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and shared history by exploring the Indigenous heritage. Children's learning will focus on the understanding that as people of faith, reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Professional Learning Days - Student Free

Thursday 6th June and Friday 7th June are Professional Learning Days for staff. This year we will engage in two different areas. Firstly, Mathematics, focusing on task design and assessment, building capacity of Explicit Instruction in this area. Staff will then engage with David Kelly from the Life Buoyancy Institute, with a particular focus on developing the language of Resilient Impact, our Personal Responsibility and Wellbeing Policy with our students. In this session we aim to elevate the charism and values of our school in our policy that reflects a growth-action approach.

We look forward to these important days as a region to build our capacity as educators.

## Leader of Learning Day: Explicit Instruction

Last week Sam Baxter (Leader of Learning) and I attended the Leader of Learning professional learning day. One of the guest presenters, Dr Lorraine Hammond focused on the Science of Learning and Explicit Instruction, presenting the evidence behind high impact instruction and why it is effective for learning growth. The Science of Learning refers to current research on effective teaching.

Our school, along with many schools across Australia, are aligning our instruction with the evidence presented by Lorrain and AERO - Australia Education Research Organisation and as we have seen, and other schools who are adopting this approach have seen, an improvement in student's growth and outcomes. This is an exciting time for education. I would like to acknowledge the work of both Amy Boyd and Danni Heazlewood, who are working with their classes in the area of Explicit Instruction, paving the way for all educators to implement this approach to teaching and learning.

Today we celebrated a whole school Mass for the Feast Day of Mary, Help of Christians. This feast day is of particular importance to us here in Australia because Our Lady, under the title 'Help of Christians,' is a particular importance to us here in Australia, along with St Mary of the Cross. This means that Mary holds a special place for all Australians.

Enjoy your weekend and God bless,

Nicole.

## Mission Statement

***Spirited by our Founders, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, our community is a place of welcome, inclusion and kindness as we live out the Josephite Motto,  
In all Things Love***

## Vision Statement

***Children, educators, families and the parish work in partnership to advance each individuals love of life to experience learning through curiosity, discernment and endeavour and support them as they are, Learn to Flourish.***

***"Find happiness in making others happy"  
(St Mary of the Cross MacKillop)***

*go on with strength and courage*



# Catholic Identity

## Values and Courage

Last term I shared with you all the work we are doing around 'values' in our school. These values, based on the teachings of Jesus and the Gospels. The life and work of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the continued work of the Sisters of St Joseph are to reflect what it is we, as a community stand for. The current focus with students is the value of courage.

Already classes have spent time unpacking what it means to have courage and what courage looks like. Some of the reflections from our students have been that courage:

Looks like:

- Standing up to people
- Facing your fears
- Being honest
- Giving things a go

Sounds like:

- "I can be brave"
- "I can't do this yet, but I can try my best"
- "We can do this together"

Feels like:

- Being worried
- Scary
- Feeling proud
- Joyful

Classes have also been unpacking the value of courage in their Religious Education classes. They have been looking at the courage shown by Mary as she agreed to be the mother of Jesus and the courage needed throughout Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The courage of Jesus's disciples after the death of Jesus in the post resurrection stories and their journey through Pentecost and beyond. Classes are also looking at the courage that it takes to live a moral life and how standing up to people and wrongs takes courage.

## Vinnies Winter Appeal

In week 6 we will be kicking off our Vinnies Winter Appeal for 2024. Right now there are over 1,600 people in Australia that are being forced into homelessness every single month. The work of the St Vincent de Paul society aims to support these people in finding new homes and safe spaces to live. Winter is a particularly difficult time for these people as life becomes increasingly more difficult in the harsh conditions. Here at Mary MacKillop Memorial School, we aim to support these people where we can. Our values of love and service encourage us to help where we can.

This term we will be holding two very special fundraisers to support the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

- **Cans for Casual Day: Wednesday 5th June**

Students to bring in cans of unperishable goods and a gold coin to support the works of St Vincent de Paul in Mount Gambier. Students are able to wear casual clothes on this day.

- **Winter Warmers Day: Friday 28th June**

In exchange for a 'winter warmer' (socks, scarves, gloves, etc) students are able to wear their own winter warmers to school.

Please keep an eye out for detailed information regarding these two important events over the next few weeks.

## Masses and Liturgies for Term 2

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

WEEK 6 Tuesday 4th June  
Year 4 Class Mass at 9:15am

WEEK 7 Tuesday 11th June  
Whole School Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart (7th June) at 11:45am

WEEK 8 Tuesday 18th June  
2/3 Class Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 8 Friday 21st June  
Year 5/6 Class Mass 9:15am



# Community News

## Birthdays

In week 6 we wish Patrick a very Happy Birthday on the 9th of June.

## 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**

## House Points

**Cameron** 53

**Woods MacKillop** 63

**McCormack** 70

## Flourishing Awards

Last Friday we congratulated 6 students who received Flourishing Awards at Assembly. we congratulated Max, Frank, Jett, Levi, Anna and Fletcher.



## 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.

## 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 with either the Principal, Nicole Coote or with our school captains, Laura and Ben.

## Mid-Year Intake 2024

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**.

## 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.

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 26TH MAY

At 9:00am

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

GOSPEL: Mark 16: 15 - 20

SATURDAY 1ST JUNE

At 4:30pm

CORPUS CHRISTI

GOSPEL: Mark 14: 12 - 16, 22 - 26



# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

Building resilience in Children.

Building resilience in our children is crucial for their emotional and psychological development.

Resilience helps children navigate challenges, develop problem-solving skills, and maintain a positive outlook. Here are key strategies to foster resilience in young children:

**Encourage Positive Relationships:** Supportive relationships with family, teachers, and peers provide children with a sense of security and belonging, foundational for resilience.

**Promote a Growth Mindset:** Teach children that abilities can be developed through effort. Praise their efforts to help them view challenges as growth opportunities.

**Develop Problem-Solving Skills:** Encourage children to solve problems independently, building confidence and competence over time.

**Teach Emotional Regulation:** Help children understand and manage their emotions, using techniques like deep breathing or drawing to express themselves.

**Set Realistic Goals:** Guide children in setting and achieving small goals, celebrating their successes to build a sense of accomplishment.

**Model Resilience:** Demonstrate resilience through your actions, showing healthy ways to handle stress and setbacks.

**Encourage Independence:** Allow children to make age-appropriate decisions, fostering a sense of empowerment.

**Promote Physical Well-Being:** Ensure children get regular exercise, sufficient sleep, and a balanced diet to support their emotional well-being.

By fostering supportive relationships, promoting a growth mindset, and encouraging problem-solving and independence, parents and educators can equip children to thrive in adversity.

## Student Achievement

Last weekend our year 3 student Robert competed in his first ever chess tournament in Port MacDonnell, placing third in A Division.

Robert started learning chess 6 months ago and loves the "strategies and tactics."

Over eight hours, he competed against six adults, some of whom were seven times his own age, as well as two under 16 juniors on his way to third place.

Competitors travelled from Portland, Mount Gambier and Millicent for the tournament.

Well done Robert!





# Community News

## Curriculum Corner

Hello families and welcome back to the *Curriculum Corner*. Last week I promised that I would write an article about fluency. Well, I am not. But don't worry, it is still coming. Instead, this week I want to expand on something that I touched on last week. In my article on automaticity, I touched on cognitive load, more specifically, the role in automaticity in lessening the load on working memory. This is what I want to expand on today.

As Nicole mentioned earlier in the Newsletter, she and I attended a Leader of Learning professional learning day last week. Nicole touched on the work presented by Dr Lorraine Hammond on explicit instruction. We were also treated to a presentation on Cognitive Load Theory - a collection of instructional recommendations based on the science of how humans learn, led by an outstanding educator, Ollie Lovell. Ollie's presentation focused on the role of working memory in education and how lessening work works seamlessly with explicit instruction. We are very excited to implement more of the strategies associated with both Cognitive Load Theory and Explicit Instruction into our teaching at Mary Mac.

I have summarised a few key takeaways below, some of which may be beneficial with your own children at home.

### The 7 + -2 Rule:

On average humans can only process, or hold, 7 pieces of new information (plus or minus 2) in our working memory. When providing new information, we must be mindful to not overwork the 'memory-slots' or we run the risk of overloading, resulting in forgetting or inattention.

### Working Memory is the Bottleneck of our Thinking (from Ollie's Book - Sweller's Cognitive Theory in Action):

"Because the environment is effectively limitless in scope, and our long-term memory is effectively limitless in its capacity, working memory - the only limited component of our memory system - acts as a bottleneck. Whenever we get confused or feel like our head is going to explode from too many ideas, or struggle to follow along when we're reading something or someone is explaining it to us, it's because the limited capacity of our working memory is being overloaded." (Lovell, 2020 p19-20)

**Lovell, O. (2020). *Sweller's Cognitive Load Theory in Action*.  
John Catt Educational**





# 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 is held every Friday morning from 9:30am - 11:00am. All you need is yourself, our children and a gold coin donation. Come and enjoy the inviting learning environment where experiences are set up for you to engage in with your child.



## 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.

Early Learning takes place on a Monday with the option of a half or full day. Leah Kuiper, a qualified educator, plans new and exciting experiences from the Early Years Framework for all children aged 3 - 5.

A full day begins at 8:45am with pick up at 3:00pm and only costs \$25.00. Half day is \$15.00, with pick up or drop off at 11:45am - 12:00pm. Children need to bring a water bottle, morning and afternoon snack, lunch and a hat.

Call the school today to secure your child's spot next week. seven is our current capacity, and we have recently been at that number.



*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 1902

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

Use the QR code for  
information and to book







# photo gallery

## Catholic Education Week



## The Frog and the Prince Performance



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw





# photo gallery

## Playgroup Week 3



## Kitchen Garden Week 3



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw





# photo gallery

## Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival



## Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival



@marymackillopmemorial



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Class updates on Seesaw