

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 2 Week 6

Friday, 7th June 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

- June -

- 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
- 21 Playgroup  
SACPPA  
Year 5/6 Class Mass
- 24 Occasional Care  
Nativity of John the Baptist
- 25 Joey's Jumpstart
- 26 Combined School Board Meeting  
at TWC
- 27 Basketball Session 3  
Playgroup  
Winter Warmers Day  
Assembly R/1

- July -

- 1 Occasional Care
- 2 Joey's Jumpstart
- 5 **LAST DAY OF TERM 2**  
Playgroup

## Class News

### Year 2/3

This term in the Year 2/3 classes, we have been delving into the unit "Getting Closer to God." We read "God's Paintbrush" by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and reflected on several thought-provoking questions: What colour would you paint the world? What makes you feel better? What do you think makes God laugh or cry? What does God call us to do? How can your hands help God's hands? Where would you look for God? What kind of words and music does God's breath make? How can you help God touch the world? If you saw the world through God's eyes, what would you see?

After contemplating these questions, students created watercolour paintings to illustrate how they believe God sees the world, using various colours to represent positivity and negativity. Their work was outstanding.



#### Freya's Paintbrush

On my painting I painted a field because they are peaceful and calm, and I think that God would like somewhere peaceful and quiet. In the field, I painted an oak tree to represent growing and flourishing. I painted a big rainbow to represent happiness, such as making friends and laughter. I also included two llamas, a big one and a baby, they show good friendship. I painted some rabbits to represent hard work, they are digging burrows, and are hard at work.

**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go on with strength and courage*

# from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

We are already at Week 6 and officially over halfway through Term 2. The learning taking place this term has been fantastic, with a focus on Explicit Instruction and teaching foundational elements of new concepts.

## Uniform Policy

It is time for our Uniform Policy to be reviewed. If you are interested in being part a sub-committee made up of children, staff, board members and parents, please let me know. As we work through this process, CESA School Uniform Policy and Procedures and Gender Equality Policy will shape the body of this work.

Recently it has come to my attention that there is a variety of combinations of uniform being worn.

Every Tuesday every child needs to wear their PE uniform. All classes have one other day when they wear their PE uniform, this day being Thursday. Leggings are not part of the PE uniform. Blue tracksuit pants or blue PE shorts are to be worn and are able to be purchased from the front office or you are able to buy kids Brilliant Basic track pants in navy from Big W for \$8.00. The rugby jumper is only to be worn with the PE uniform and the knit jumper with the other uniform.

Both girls and boys may wear shorts as this is a year-round option.

If girls are wearing the pinafore or skirt they must wear navy or white socks or navy tights - not leggings.

Wearing the uniform is crucial for several reasons. It promotes a sense of unity and equality among students, fostering positive school culture. It also instils discipline, teaches respect for rules, and prepares students for the future. By following the uniform policy, students demonstrate their commitment to representing their school with pride and dignity. Our current policy is able to be viewed on the school website.

## Professional Learning Days

During our staff Professional Learning days, we will have the opportunity to unpack how we teach children to help each other to be grounded, be side by side with each other and to work through the What-What-How coaching conversations when the need arises. Our intent is for this way of being in relationship with each other is able to be communicated to our families and there is the opportunity for parents to use this language, strategies and approach with their children at home. Every child comes with a different experience of life and the challenges that it has for them, and what we are committed to being able to upskill each child in the area of being resilient of what life throws at them and how to deal with situations that are not easy for their relationships. This work will be facilitated by David Kelly from the Life Buoyancy Institute and will help all staff to assist our students to build their capacity in this area. It complements our wellbeing programs for students. We will also further engage in the area of Numeracy as we work towards Mary MacKillop Numeracy Agreement. Teachers will have the opportunity to work with colleagues from St Anthony's to design units of work, and rich assessment tasks.

## School Values

Our focus on the Josephite values and which ones we see acted out in our school continues with all classes gathering how they see, feel and hear the value of courage in our school. Mary MacKillop was a woman of courage, who was determined to do what was right for those in need. As we unpack our values, each term, we learn more about Mary MacKillop, and also about ourselves and the way in which we help others and are in relationship with others to be the best version of ourselves.

*go on with strength and courage*

# from the principal

## St Vinnies Winter Appeal 2024

The start of our St Vinnies Winter Appeal at our school was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support and generosity of our students. On Wednesday we held a Coins, Cans for Casuals Day, and our compassionate students went above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. They wore casual clothes and brought in cans of food to donate to those in need. In addition, each student donated their empathy and willingness to help others during the colder months. We are incredibly proud of their kindness and commitment to making a positive impact in our community.

## Combined School Board Meeting - Celebrating Catholic Education in the Limestone Coast

On Wednesday, June 26th, the School Boards of Mary MacKillop Memorial School, and Tenison Woods College will gather at Tenison Woods College for the annual Combined School Board dinner and meeting. This is an evening when Catholic Education in the Limestone Coast will be celebrated. We are fortunate to have Fr Peter Zwaans and Uby Faddoul, Manager Strategy and Growth, Catholic Education as our guest speakers.

## Parent Information Session

A parent information session will be held on Tuesday June 18th. This session is for prospective families to gain an understanding of what is on offer for their children at Mary MacKillop Memorial School as their school of choice in Penola. I encourage you to invite prospective families to the evening. (see flyer attached to Newsletter).

## Jackets

The last day to try on the jackets for sizing is Tuesday the 11th of June. If you would still like your kids to try on a jacket for sizing, please visit us in the front office throughout Tuesday to do so.

## Enrolments

We are taking enrolments for children commencing Reception in 2025 and beyond and for any other families who are considering enrolling their child at Mary MacKillop Memorial School in 2025.

While it seems a little way off at this point, we have begun planning for 2025. It is important that we know of any changes to student enrolments as soon as possible. If you have a child starting with us next year, we would ask that if you have not yet completed your enrolment form please do as soon as possible and if you know anyone who is interested in beginning with us next year, that you let them know to contact us as soon as possible.

Wishing everyone a wonderful long weekend, whether you are camping or staying home and enjoying some quite family time, may it be a time of rest and relaxation.

We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday.

God bless,

Nicole.

go on with strength and courage

# Catholic Identity

## Coins, Cans and Casuals

This week we kick started our Vinnies Winter Appeal with our annual coins, cans and casuals day. It was fantastic to see so many of our students participating in this worthy cause. Thankyou to all of our amazing families for your support. The donated items will be taken to St Vincent De Paul in Mount Gambier in the coming weeks where they will be divided up to support local families and individuals doing it tough this winter. Should you wish to contribute more to this worthy cause, donations can be made via the front office or your child's class up until Friday the 28th of June.

Our next event in support of Vinnies:

### **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 our winter warmers day.



Well, it is similar within the church. The church has its own seasons. Ordinary Time, Lent, Advent, Easter and Christmas are the main seasons, each bringing with it its own set of learnings and foci. Within each of these seasons, there are days and months of focus. Currently we are in Ordinary Time, a time for growing in faith, but we are also in June which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus refers to the heart of Jesus and reminds us of the Love that Jesus has for us all. Images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus are usually depicted with Jesus pointing to His heart that is encircled by the crown of thorns, has a wound/gash, contains droplets of blood, flames, a cross of rays of light (as shown below). In this time of growing, I think it fitting this June to look at the sacred Heart of Jesus and ask ourselves how we can be more loving to those around us.



## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

'Seasons' have always been a big part of my life and have helped me to understand the order of things. When I was younger it was the seasons that helped me understand the passing of time. I knew that my birthday happened in winter and that Christmas was in summer. I didn't know exactly where these fit but I knew that when winter started it wasn't too much longer until I got those much anticipated presents. As I got a little bit older, I was able to connect more to each season, winter equalled football and summer meant it was time for cricket. Fast forward a few years and I was able to break this down further and I knew that the last weekend of September was the AFL Grand Final, work back a few weeks and there was the start of finals.



# Community News

## Birthdays

In week 7 we wish Oscar a Happy Birthday for the 11th of June, and both Cameron and Laura for the 13th.

## 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** 173

**Woods MacKillop** 177

**McCormack** 190

## Flourishing Awards

Last Friday we congratulated 6 students who received Flourishing Awards at Assembly. We congratulated James, Darcy, Tessa, Lola, Henry and Milly. Well done!



## 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.

## 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**.

## Masses and Liturgies for Term 2

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

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 at 10:30am

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

## Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

Sunday 9TH JUNE

At 9:00am

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME

GOSPEL: Mark 3:20 - 35

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

At 4:30pm

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY  
TIME

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26 - 34

# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

### What is Bullying?

Over the next few weeks, I'm hoping to broach the subject on bullying and what it is, opposed to other behaviours such as being rude, and conflict, such as having a disagreement with a friend.

Bullying is when someone repeatedly behaves aggressively, unkindly, or meanly on purpose, with a power imbalance present. This means the person being bullied and the bully are not seen as equals, such as when older or more "popular" individuals target younger or who they see as "less popular", or a bigger person picking on a smaller person. It's not the same as being rude, being mean once or twice, having a conflict, receiving respectful feedback, setting boundaries, or facing natural consequences.

If you are being bullied, here's what you can do:

- Stay calm and avoid reacting emotionally, as bullies often seek to provoke a reaction.
- Report the bullying to trustworthy adults and keep communicating until it stops. Reporting helps keep everyone safe and is not about getting someone in trouble over nothing.
- Seek support from family, friends, teachers, or professionals to address the impact on your mental health and self-worth.

Next time we will look at different types of bullying, and how to cope if being bullied. Remember the staff at our school are supportive and willing to assist with any corners you may have for your child.

## SAPSASA Sport Football

Congratulations to Jimmy and Charlie on a successful SAPSASA Football week.

## SAPSASA Netball

Congratulations to Lilly and Lola who have all made the netball team that will compete in Adelaide in Week 9.

Wonderful achievements by all!

## Staff Professional Learning Day

On Thursday the 6th of June, staff from Mary MacKillop Memorial School and St Anthony's Catholic Primary School gathered in Penola for a day of professional learning. The focus for the day was Purpose and Principles of Assessment and Assessment Task Design through the lens of the Mathematics curriculum. This has been an ongoing focus for both schools, linking in with professional learning from earlier this year.

The day was broken up into two parts. The morning was focused on deepening staff understanding of assessment. In the afternoon staff spent time on creating rich assessment tasks. There was much buzz around the room as staff collaborated to both understand and create assessments that will challenge and extend the thinking of students from both schools.

We were luckily enough to have representation from Catholic Education through our school system coaches, Carla and Kirsten. Teachers were able to benefit from their knowledge and expertise and we thank them for being a part of this day.

# Community News

## Curriculum Corner

Hello families and welcome back to the *Curriculum Corner*. So far we have looked at automaticity, the importance of developing automaticity and its effect on the cognitive load and then scratched the surface on Cognitive Load Theory (CLT). This week, as promised in Week 2, I want to shed some light on fluency.

To be fluent in something is to have mastery in a particular skill or to be able to move and act in a smooth and effortless way (*Definition of FLUENT n.d.*). When we think of fluency in the primary school years it is very much about carrying our procedure flexibly, accurately, efficiently and appropriately; and recalling factual knowledge and concepts readily ([www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au), *n.d.*). Fluency is not just about speed and accuracy but also about the ability to choose appropriate strategies to solve a range of problems. When reading, fluency comes from being able to tap into your knowledge of graphemes (letters and letter groups), phonemes (sounds) and orthographically mapped words (words stored in our long-term memory) as well as attending punctuation. This is a lot! Fluency comes from the ability to accurately and efficiently tap into one's knowledge in order to decode the words in a fluent manner. A fluency reader both *knows* the words and knows *how* to decode the words.

Fluency in mathematics is also an area of development at MMMS. Staff have made a commitment to begin each Maths lesson with a warmup/review and/or fluency task. These tasks are designed to encourage flexible thinking that allow students to tap into their already factual knowledge. These activities serve as a vehicle for students to focus on the *strategies* of problem solving where the final answer is not always the purpose of the activity. The struggle and strategising are the main goal. An important aspect of these activities is the sharing of what, how and why upon the completion of the tasks.

When children are asked to share their strategies, they must articulate what they did and *why*. This also exposes others in class to a variety of skills and strategies that they can then use.

I have attached links/images below that contain excellent activities aimed at developing fluency through problem solving. I encourage you to have a go with your own family as you are solving to think about what mathematical knowledge you need to tap into and what strategies you used to solve each problem.



<https://nrich.maths.org/7233>  
<https://nrich.maths.org/6589>  
<https://nrich.maths.org/1216>  
<https://nrich.maths.org/5714>  
<https://nrich.maths.org/1070>

## Reference List

"Fluent." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fluent>.

[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au). (n.d.). Fluency. [online] Available at: <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources/mathematics-proficiencies/portfolios/fluency/#:~:text=and%20concepts%20readily.->.

## Further Reading

McClure, L. (2014). Developing Number Fluency - What, Why and How. [online] Available at: <https://nrich.maths.org/content/id/10624/Developing%20Number%20Fluency%20-%20What%2C%20Why%20and%20How.pdf>.

# 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 2902

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

Use the QR code for  
information and to book



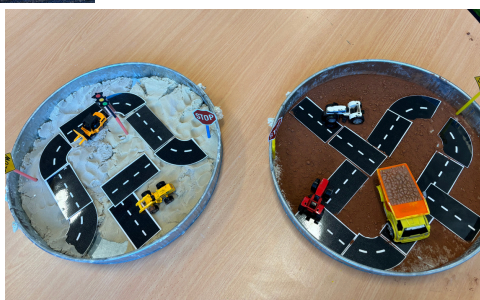


# photo gallery

## Occasional Care week 5



## Playgroup week 5 Cars & Construction



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw



# photo gallery

## YELP Camp





# photo gallery

## Visual Arts with the R/1s



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School

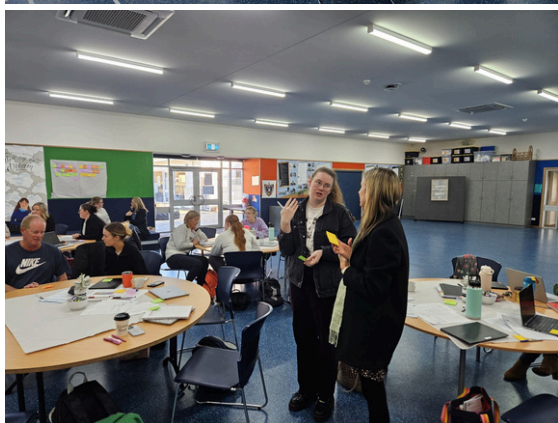


Class updates on Seesaw



# photo gallery

## Staff Professional Learning Days



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw