

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 4 Week 4

Friday, 8th November 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

November

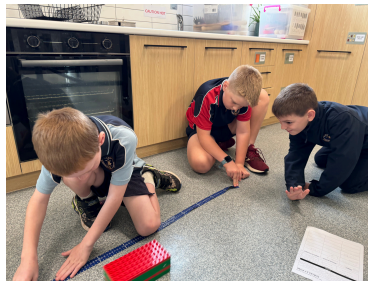
- 11 Early Learning
Remembrance Day - Choir/Liturgy
- 12 Early Learning
Finance Meeting
YELP EXPO (Robe)
- 13 Joey's Jumpstart
- 15 Playgroup
Sport's Day
- 18 Early Learning
- 19 Early Learning
- 20 Joey's Jumpstart
School Board Meeting (7:00pm)
- 21 Carnevale Day
- 22 Playgroup
5/6 Assembly
- 25 Early Learning
Advent Liturgy (8:45am)
- 26 Early Learning
Year 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
R/1 Liturgy (10:30am)
- 27 Joey's Jumpstart
School Board Dinner
- 28 Children's University Graduation
- 29 Playgroup
Year 2/3 Assembly

December

- 2 Early Learning
Advent Calendar (8:45am)
Year 7 2025 TWC Orientation Day
- 3 Early Learning
Year 7 2025 TWC Orientation Day

Class News

Year 4 Class



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

Strategic Planning Towards 2029

Recently I have had the pleasure of working with staff, School Board and students asking and gaining insights into the future of our school. Some of the provocations were; What do we keep doing? What should we continue to improve in? What have we already accomplished? What new initiatives could we begin? These questions assisted our thinking under the quadrants of the Catholic Education South Australia Living Learning Leading Standards: Catholic Identity, Curriculum and Co-constructed learning and assessment design, Student agency, identity, learning and leadership, Community engagement and Resources. The data gathered from the different stakeholders will be collated and then with assistance from Heidi Glashan from High Performing Schools, we will formulate our new strategic plan - Towards 2029. This is exciting work for the future of our school, families and students.

Camps

Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Year 6 group on camp in Adelaide. Our joint camp with St Anthony's Year 6s is a highlight of the year for our senior students.

While in Adelaide we stayed at the Warradale Urban Camp and from there we took in many experiences that Adelaide has to offer. Some of the most favourite were AFL Max and the Beach House, the Adelaide Zoo, Bounce, and laser tag! At the South Australian Art Gallery, we saw some amazing exhibits and enjoyed the incredible experiences of kayaking along the Port River, through mangroves. The week was action packed! It was an absolute privilege to spend time with the outstanding group of Year 6 students from both schools.

I would like to thank Rob Francis from St Anthony's and Amy Boyd for their organisation of the camp experiences, with attention to detail. I would particularly like to thank Jen Eckermann, Sam Baxter and Justin Kain for accompanying our group, caring for them and making sure all students got the most out of their camp experience.

A camp is a unique experience for children where not only are they able to build on specific skills, but also socialise with their friends (and new friends) in a very different environment. Camps build resilience, independence and risk taking, and to top it off they are so much fun!

The Penola Show

Mary MacKillop Memorial School prides itself on being a community of learning where every child's achievements are celebrated and every child is encouraged and supported to stretch themselves to be the best in everything that they do. We place students at the heart of learning, focusing on delivering educational excellence and creating environments where young people thrive as capable, engaged learners. By co-constructing learning with students, we help them develop a strong sense of agency and purpose. At the Penola Show last weekend this was truly evident as we proudly showcased some of these exceptional learning opportunities at our display. Show goers had the chance to view a selection of student work that beautifully represents the creativity, skills, and knowledge fostered within our classrooms. The display highlighted the sensational learning that occurs at Mary MacKillop Memorial School and the dedication of our teachers to nurturing each student's unique abilities. I would particularly like to thank Miss Kaitlyn Lusty for her ability to put together our show display each year so that it reflects the pride that we have in all of our students in what they are able to achieve.

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

Key Dates

Key Dates for Term 4 2024

Friday 15th November - Sports Day

Friday 29th November - Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day - whole school excursion

Wednesday 4th December - Christmas Celebration and Community BBQ (6:00pm)

Friday 6th December - Year 5/6 Class Mass and Year 6 Luncheon

Tuesday 10th December - End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy, Awards and Farewells (5:30pm)

Wednesday 11th December - Last Day of School: Final Assembly and Guard Honour (2:45pm) - Early Dismissal (3:10pm)

Enrolments 2025

Enrolments at Mary MacKillop Memorial School are welcome at any time. If you are interested or know of someone considering Mary Mac in 2025, we would love to show them around our beautiful school and share with them our excellent teaching and learning programs and specialist areas.

Early Arrivals

Please ensure that your child does not arrive prior to 8:25am, when yard supervision begins. There is a significant number of children arriving before this time and this is causing a challenge with our duty of care requirements and the front office. If, at times, you do need to drop your child to school earlier than 8:25am, please contact the school office to arrange this.

Positive Behaviour Intervention Support and The Resilience Project

We are excited for 2025 as Mary MacKillop Memorial school takes on two new initiatives to improve and enhance our wellbeing programs for students and positive behaviours. PBIS will see the school implement consistency across all aspects of school life and expectations. TRP will aid the increasing complexities of student's wellbeing, with a focus on gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. How lucky are we!

Enjoy your weekend!

God Bless,

Nicole.

Masses and Liturgies for Term 4

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

WEEK 7 Tuesday 26th November
Year 4 Class Mass at 9:15am

WEEK 7 Tuesday 26th November
R/1 Liturgy at 10:30am

WEEK 8 Friday 6th December
Year 5/6 Class Mass at 11:30am

WEEK 9 Wednesday 11th December
End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy at 5:30pm



go on with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

Remembrance Day: Saturday 11th November

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, communities around the world come together in a minute of silence to honour the men and women who served their country. Over the past century, this moment of remembrance has grown to be a significant observance worldwide, honouring all who have given service. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School, we participate by laying a wreath at the War Memorial in the park, paying tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in our defence forces. On each Remembrance Day, we are called to remember those who have fallen. Next week, students will show their respect for those that have served through their learning, in prayer and in reflection. On Monday our 5/6 class will join our school leaders at the Remembrance Day service.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left to grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

All Saints Day

Last Friday our students led the school in a Mass to celebrate All Saints Day. Together, we reflected on the Saints who serve as role models in our lives, with St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, as a guiding inspiration. I would like to thank our students for their respectful participation, which was especially appreciated by parishioners and visitors to our parish.

Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 10th November at 9:00am
THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

SATURDAY 16th November at 4:30pm
THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-32

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Christmas can be an especially difficult time for our families in need, especially those facing poverty or hardship. This year, your support can bring comfort to families seeking help from St Vincent de Paul during the festive season. Once again, our school is honoured to participate in the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by collecting toys and non-perishable food items. Contributions can be placed under the Giving Tree in the front office, which will be set up next week.

Together, we can share hope with those who need it most. In the words of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, "Never see a need without doing something about it."

November - The Month of the Holy Souls

November, beginning with All Saints and All Souls Days, in the Catholic Church is a month dedicated to praying for those that have died in the hope that they will enter heaven and be with God.

In November we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us, family and friends. However it does not end there for we are asked also to pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. In this way we are joined to others in the Christian family and reminded that we are a wide community united in our belief in Jesus and his Resurrection. Those in purgatory cannot pray for themselves but one day they may not be able to pray for us when we are in the same position. Perhaps this is why Pope St John XXIII wrote "The devotion to the memory of the dead is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Catholic spirit."

God Bless,

Sam Baxter

REC

Community News

Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to Fletcher, who will be celebrating on the 14th of November in Week 5.

House Points

Cameron 651

McCormack 655

Woods MacKillop 650

Flourishing Awards

Last Friday in Week 2 we congratulated 6 students who achieved Flourishing Awards. We congratulated Darcy, Freya, Eli, Grace, Lizzy and Ayla. Well done!



This week we congratulated 4 students who achieved Flourishing Awards. We congratulated Leila, Riley, Harley and Louis. Well done!



Text Absentee Number New Phone 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.

0488 280 771

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.



Community News

Counsellor's Corner

Free Questacon Pop-Up Science Centre

Encouraging Flexible Thinking to Help Your Child Build Friendships

As children grow, they encounter situations where their friends may have different ideas or preferences. These moments are ideal opportunities to teach *flexible thinking*, an important skill for building strong friendships!

What's the Difference Between Rigid and Flexible Thinking?

Rigid thinking is when a child gets "stuck" on their own way of doing things. For example, if your child really wants to play soccer but their friends suggest hide-and-seek, rigid thinking may lead to frustration or even refusal to play. This can make friendships difficult because friends might feel that their ideas aren't valued.

Flexible thinking, however, is the ability to adapt and consider other's perspectives. If your child is flexible, they might respond with, "Let's play hide-and-seek first, and maybe soccer later!"

Flexible thinking not only helps children feel calmer when plans change but also shows friends that they're open to collaboration and compromise.

How to Support Flexible Thinking:

Help your child develop this skill by encouraging them to:

- Take a deep breath to manage disappointment
- Ask questions about their friend's ideas to show interest
- Suggest taking turns or trying new activities

Teaching your child flexible thinking can make a big difference in their social skills and friendships 😊.

Regards,

Bec Baker.

Join the Questacon Science Circus for a FREE pop-up science centre experience like no other!

Come along and explore the mechanics of balance, uncover the mysteries of illusions, and watch some of our spectacular science shows.

With interactive exhibits, the *Science Circus* pop-up is a fantastic STEM day out for the whole family. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to ignite your curiosity!

- This is a FREE event, but bookings are essential
- most people spend 1-2 hours at our pop-up
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times

Event Details:

Mount Gambier

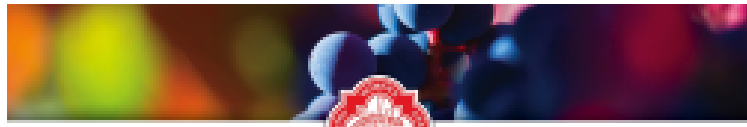
Saturday 23rd November, 10:00am - 4:00pm
Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre
7 Margaret street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Naracoorte

Tuesday 26th November, 3:30pm - 6:30pm
Naracoorte Showgrounds
Cartwright Pavilion Smith St, Naracoorte SA 5271



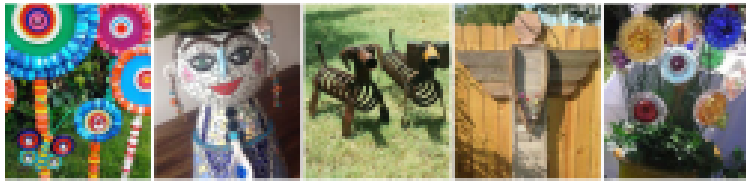
Community News



Penola Terra Rossa

SACWA BRANCH PENOLA

Recycled Garden Art Competition for Women



Ladies! Show us your creative talents and construct some amazing garden art from any recycled materials for the next Penola Show.

**Wood, plastic, glass, ceramics, metal...
Welding is NOT a requisite for entries.**

Entries to be staged by 12:00pm Friday 1st November at the Penola Show Grounds. The winner will be announced at Rymill Hall, Saturday afternoon at 3:00pm. For further details and entries, please see the Penola Terra Rossa CWA Facebook page or contact Janet Brodie on 0400 028 566.

Cash prizes generously sponsored by Deland Engineering.
Open Section: Winner \$250. Novice Section: First \$250, Second \$100, Third \$50.
People's Choice Award kindly sponsored by Gallery 54. \$50 Gallery 54 Voucher.



MOUNT GAMBIER CHESS CLUB

ANNUAL JUNIOR SWISS TOURNAMENT

Sunday 10 November 2024
10:00am - 2:00pm
Mount Gambier Library
Free entry

Format: 7 rounds Blitz, 10 minutes + 2 second increments per move.
Trophies will be awarded and free refreshments available.

Register via Val Pylypenko 0419 957 470 by Thursday 7 November 2024.



REGISTER NOW

visit littleathletics.com.au to find out more



visit littleathletics.com.au to find out more



Questacon Science Circus

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FREE!

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