

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 4 Week 6

Friday, 22 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

- 25 Early Learning
Advent Liturgy (8:45am)
- 26 Early Learning
Year 4 Class Mass (9:15am)
R/1 Liturgy (10:30am)
Joey's Jumpstart
- 28 School Board Dinner
Children's University Graduation
- 29 Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day

December

- 2 Early Learning
Advent Liturgy (8:45am)
Year 7 2025 TWC Orientation Day
- 3 Early Learning
Year 7 2025 TWC Orientation Day
Joey's Jumpstart
- 4 Christmas Celebration and
Community BBQ (6:00pm)
Playgroup
- 5 Year 5/6 Class Mass (11:30am)
- 6 Early Learning
Advent Liturgy (8:45am)
Reports Go Home
- 9 Early Learning
End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy
Awards, Farewells and Graduation
- 10 Ceremony (5:30pm)
- 11 **LAST DAY OF TERM 4**
Assembly (2:30pm)

Class News

Year R/1 Class

Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed our Joeys as they transition into Reception. Together, we have enjoyed reading stories, completing fun craft activities, and spending time playing and building relationships.



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go on with strength and courage

from the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

This Sunday, the 24th November is the Feast of Christ the King. When Jesus was on earth, many of His followers thought that He was going to be a normal sort of King, with a kingdom and soldiers and everything. Before He died, Jesus said that His Kingdom was not in this world. The Kingdom of Heaven is in the soul of every person who follows Jesus.

Jesus, you are my King and my God, and I love you. Help me to be your good servant! Amen.

We are now moving into Year C of the Liturgical Year of the Church and next Sunday will mark the start of the Advent Season.

On Monday 25th November we will gather for Morning Gathering in the Hall where we will have a short liturgy for the First Week of Advent. Parents are welcome.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is ready for gifts to be placed beneath it. We ask that in lieu of students buying cards and candy canes or chocolate Santas for their friends they purchase a little gift for the Giving Tree. If students would like to do something for their friends, homemade cards are always a popular option.

Reports

Over the past couple of weeks children have been undertaking tests in literacy and numeracy to gauge their level of growth over the year. In 2024 Mary MacKillop Memorial School educators had a deliberate game plan, 'One year's growth for every child plus some.' The assessment analysis has been used by teachers to inform report writing, along with data collected from students over the course of the year.

House Week at Mary Mac

Next week we celebrate and learn more about the people who have helped to shape our community and our school, Irene McCormack, Fr Julian Tenison Woods and Alexander Cameron. Our House Captains, along with the assistance of our SRC leaders, will provide lunch time fun activities for all students that are related to the people our House Teams are named after. During the week all classes will learn more about these significant people, through special presentations. Thankyou to our SRC for the work that they do to bring to life special events for our student body.

We Look Forward To:

Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day (whole school excursion) Friday 29th November. It is a day that all children look forward to each year. Please ensure that all three notes are filled in and sent back to school.

Christmas Celebration and Community BBQ on Wednesday 4th December (6:00pm). All welcome.

Our End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy, Awards, Farewells and Graduation Ceremony (5:30pm) on Tuesday 10th December.

Wishing all a wonderful weekend.

God Bless,

Nicole.

go on with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King

On Sunday, November 24, the Catholic Church will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This significant feast holds two important meanings. Firstly, it marks the conclusion of the Church Year, leading us into the season of Advent and the start of a new liturgical cycle. Secondly, it serves as a powerful reminder that Jesus is the King of Heaven, reigning with love, compassion, and justice.

As we reflect on this feast, let us take time to honour Christ's kingship in our lives and prepare our hearts for the season of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation and preparation for the birth of our Savior.

Week 1 Advent Prayer: A Prayer for Hope

Loving God,
As we light the first candle on our Advent wreath,
We remember that You are the source of all hope.
Help us to prepare our hearts and our lives for the coming of Your Son, Jesus.

In this season of waiting, guide us to trust in Your promises.

Fill our days with peace and remind us to share Your light with others,
Especially those who feel lost or without hope.

May this time of Advent bring us closer to You,
And may our hearts be filled with joyful anticipation for the birth of Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Season of Advent: A Time of Joyful Preparation

The Sunday after the Feast of Christ the King (first Sunday of December) marks the beginning of Advent and the start of a new church year. Advent is a special season when we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent takes place over 4 Sunday's leading up to Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a time of both waiting and preparation.

Waiting can often feel challenging, especially as the excitement for Christmas builds. However, there is great joy to be found in the anticipation. Sometimes, the journey of waiting can be just as meaningful, if not more, than the event itself. By embracing the joy of waiting, we can fully experience the wonder and significance of Christmas.

Advent is also a time for preparation. One of the most recognized traditions during this season is the Advent wreath. Each week, a candle is lit, symbolizing hope, peace (or faith), joy, and love. The central white candle represents Christ Himself.

To honour this season, we will be holding a short but meaningful Advent liturgy every Monday morning for the remainder of the term. These gatherings will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the hall. We warmly invite all family and friends to join us as we come together in prayer and reflection.

May this Advent season be a time of joyful anticipation and meaningful preparation for us all.

Penola Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 24th November at 9:00am
FEAST OF CHRIST KING
GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

SATURDAY 30th November at 4:30pm
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

Community News

Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to Alice and Mika, who will be celebrating their birthdays in Week 8. Alice will be celebrating on the 2nd of December, and Mika on the 4th.

House Points

Cameron 8

McCormack 17

Woods MacKillop 9

Flourishing Awards

Today we congratulated 8 students who received Flourishing Awards. Well done to Fletcher, Fred, Tait, Micheal, Poppy, Bonnie, Eddie 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 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

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

ADVENT LITURGIES

WEEK 7 Monday 25th November
Advent Liturgy: Hope - 8:45am in the Hall

WEEK 8 Monday 2nd December
Advent Liturgy: Peace - 8:45am in the Hall

WEEK 9 Monday 9th December
Advent Liturgy: Joy and Love - 8:45am in the Hall

Christmas Items for Sale

At the Mary MacKillop Interpretative Centre, there are various Christmas items for sale. On the table are Nativity sets, Christmas cards and more! Come take a look.

Community News

Counsellor's Corner

Sport Cricket

Managing Emotions in Term 4

Term 4 always brings excitement and nerves, but it can also feel overwhelming. These emotions may cause some students to act out as they adjust to the idea of change for them for next year.

Here are some ways to support students through this transition.

Understanding why they may act out:

Students may feel anxious about unknown expectations or the increased academic pressure that comes with moving up a level. They may also feel torn between seeking independence and adhering to boundaries, leading to frustration or defiance.

How to support them:

- 1. Acknowledge Their Feelings:** Let them know it's normal to feel a mix of excitement and nerves. Create a safe space for them to share their thoughts.
- 2. Set Clear Expectations:** Talk about what the next year will involve, including challenges and opportunities, to reduce uncertainty.
- 3. Build Confidence:** Remind them of their strengths and how they've overcome challenges before.
- 4. Promote Healthy Routines:** Good sleep, a balanced diet, and regular exercise can help manage stress.
- 5. Teach Coping Strategies:** Introduce mindfulness, journaling, or talking to someone they trust.
- 6. Encourage Connection:** Help them bond with friends or peers who understand their feelings.

With support, students can navigate the transition confidently and feel ready for what lies ahead.

Regards,

Bec Baker.

Earlier this term, Camilla proudly represented the South East Zone team at the Girls SAPSASA Cricket Carnival, where she thrived in an all-girls environment, benefiting from expert coaching and forging lasting friendships. The team finished an impressive third overall, ranking as the highest placed country team. Camilla's bowling and fielding were standout, as she claimed four wickets and took a catch, but it was her development with the bat that she found most exciting. Camilla is now eager to put her newly honed skills to the test in the upcoming Penola Under 12 game.

Ben, Jim, Charlie, and Frank proudly represented the school as part of the Mid South East SAPSASA Cricket team. The boys relished the opportunity to showcase their skills, challenge themselves in higher levels of competition, and forge new friendships across the region.

Charlie was a standout performer, taking a wicket each day and growing both in confidence and the ability with the bat. Ben was flawless in the field, not dropping a single catch throughout the carnival, while also shining with the ball. Frank impressed as an opening batter, delivering solid performances at the crease. Jim, playing with leadership of a true captain, topped the team's batting, bowling, and catching stats. The team's efforts culminated in a well-deserved silver medal finish, after a hard-fought against a strong Mid North team.



Community News

Sports Day

Hot Shots

Last Friday we enjoyed a great Sports Day. The weather was perfect and fantastic sportsmanship was on display as well as healthy competition.

Congratulations to Cameron who won the Sports Shield and to McCormack who won the Gardiner Cup, which is contested between the three Houses over the school year for school service. Well done to Freya and Robert who were the Junior Champions on the day and to Charlie and Lilly, who took out the Senior Sports Champion.

The parent/student race was once again a highly contested event, which saw the students beat the parents!

A huge thankyou to all of the parent helpers. A day like Sports Day is not possible without volunteers to give their time, whether it was during the Junior Tabloid events, field and track events or at the BBQ - you are absolute superstars.

It was wonderful to see the family attendance and support from parents and extended family members. The encouragement was certainly appreciated by all participants.

Finally, we would like to express deep gratitude and thanks to Rachel Manninen and her committee who did hours of work behind the scenes organising the events, preparing the students, setting up and completing all relevant paperwork for the events and races. And a big thankyou to Justin McDonald who had our grounds looking amazing for the event! What a fabulous team effort!



Earlier this term, our Year 3, 4, and 5 students took part in the Hot Shots Tennis Carnival in Millicent. Throughout the event, they focused on developing their hand-eye coordination, sportsmanship, and rally skills. A special congratulations to Anais and Harry, the recipients of our Sportsmanship Awards. Anais demonstrated a consistently positive attitude, followed instructions diligently, and showed a noticeable improvement in her game over the course of the day. Harry was a true team player, offering constant encouragement to his teammates and stepping in to help when other teams were short on players. Well done to all our students for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Celebrations and Farewells

A reminder of the events for the end of the year.

Friday 29th November

Beachport Surf Lifesaving Day - whole school.

Wednesday 4th December

Christmas Celebration and Community BBQ, starting at 6:00pm (outdoor covered area or Hall if inclement weather).

Friday 6th December

Year 5/6 Class Mass, Year 6 lunch and pool fun.

Tuesday 10th December

Thanksgiving Whole School Liturgy, Awards, Farewells and Graduation Ceremony starting 5:30pm, St Joseph's Church

Wednesday 11 December

End of Year Assembly at 2:30pm followed by guard of honour farewell for Year 6s

Community News

Awards

Every year our community celebrates the success of each and every child. Part of our Thanksgiving Liturgy is the acknowledgement of students who have flourished in certain areas and therefore received special awards for their efforts. Please see below the awards that will be presented at the End of Year Thanksgiving Liturgy:

The RSL Young Achiever

The RSL Young Achiever is awarded to a student from Reception to Year 2 who displays the attributes of a successful learner.

The Lions Club Encouragement Award

The Lions Club Encouragement Award is awarded to a student from Reception to Year 6 who demonstrates persistence and the willingness to give of his or her best, even when the activity is challenging. The recipient has made a substantial improvement in his/her level of achievement.

Rita Mulligan Award

The Rita Mulligan Award is awarded to a student from Reception to Year 6 who has displayed attitudes of citizenship and demonstrated a growth mindset.

The Damian Flint Family Award

The Damian Flint Award is awarded to a student in Year 6. The student has displayed excellence in sporting achievement, attitude and leadership.

McPherson Family Award

The McPherson Family Award is presented to a student for living our school motto, "In Omnibus Caritas" (In all things Love) and applying the values of the Josephite Sisters; love, courage, presence and service.

Marjory Glynn Award

The Marjory Glynn Award is presented to a student in the Upper Primary Years who displays excellence in academic and/or artistic abilities.

MacKillop-Woods Award

The MacKillop-Woods Award is presented to two students, one in Upper Primary and one in Junior Primary, who have demonstrated attributes of being stewards of our common home.

Admin Trainee 2025

We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated and reliable person for a 12 month full time Certificate 3 Traineeship in Education Support.

This position involves classroom support, front reception and general administration duties. Applicants need to demonstrate competent writing skills and be willing to co-ordinate the School's media presence (newsletter, Facebook and Instagram posts and website). Applicants must display willingness to work with a team environment and the ability to use initiative and prioritise workloads to meet deadlines.

Applicants must have the ability to relate with children and adults in an educational setting, respond confidently, and have an understanding of the complexity of a school as an organisation. They must be prepared to support the Catholic ethos.

A current Working With Children Check is essential.

This would be an ideal position for a gap year student and is paid above the award rate.

Applications close Monday, 2nd December at 5:00pm.

Enquiries and Applications

Group Training Employment and be forwarded to:
Sarah McWaters

Group Training Employment

Phone: 8721 2345

Email: applications@gte.org.au



photo gallery

Hot Shots



Early Learning Week 5 ANZAC Biscuit Making



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw

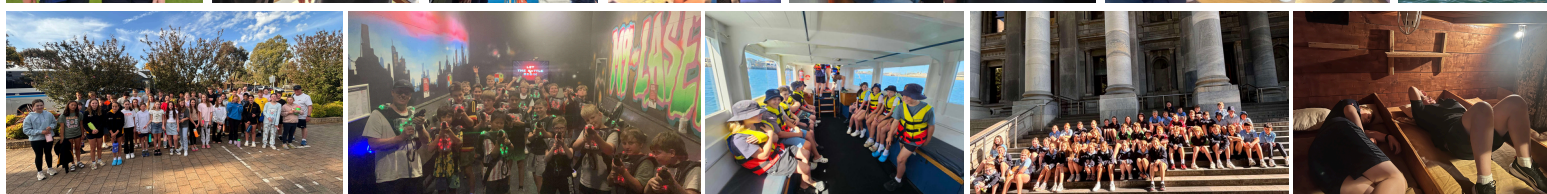




photo gallery

Sports Day



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Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw



photo gallery

Carnevale Day



Playgroup Week 6 Hello Summer!



@marymackillopmemorial



Mary MacKillop Memorial School



Class updates on Seesaw