

# Newsletter

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 2

Friday, 7 February 2025

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)



*Inspired by Hope*

## Class News

Year R/1

In Storybook lessons, the Reception and Year One students have been reading the story *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. They explored the book's vocabulary and responded to the text creatively by painting pictures of how they would catch their very own star!



### UPCOMING DATES

#### February

- 10 Occasional Care
- 11 Occasional Care
- 17 Occasional Care
- 18 Occasional Care  
Year 4/5 Class Mass @ 9.15am  
2/3 Liturgy @ 10.30am
- 19 School Board AGM 6pm
- 21 Playgroup
- 24 Occasional Care
- 25 Year 6 Class Mass @ 9.15am  
Year R/1 Liturgy @ 10.30am
- 28 Playgroup  
Assembly Yr 6

#### March

- 3 Occasional Care
- 4 Occasional Care  
Shrove Tuesday
- 5 Ash Wednesday 9.15am Mass
- 6 Caritas K Day
- 7 Playgroup  
Assembly R/1
- 10 Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
- 11 Staff Professional Learning Day
- 14 Playgroup  
School Board Community  
Picnic/BBQ.
- 17 Occasional Care  
St Patrick's Day
- 18 Occasional Care  
Southeast Parenting Conference  
SAPSASA District Athletics Day  
(Millicent)

**RAISING HEARTS  
AND MINDS**

*go with strength and courage*

# From the principal

Dear Parents and Friends, Welcome to 2025!

The Mary MacKillop Memorial School community has had a fantastic start to the year, with staff and students returning refreshed and eager for new challenges.

A warm welcome to our new staff, students, and families—we know you'll feel at home and make lasting friendships here!

It's been wonderful to see happy faces sharing holiday stories and exploring their learning spaces. This year, we are 'Inspired by Hope' as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope.

In 2025, we continue to embrace our Josephite Values—service, presence, courage, and love—bringing them to life in our words and actions. We look forward to a year of learning, growth, leadership, and joy! With a whole school focus on achieving excellence and growth for each learner at Mary MacKillop Memorial School our priorities for 2025 are:

- To name and live our values in action
- Co-construct Mary Mac Reading Agreement
- Develop emotional literacy in all students through The Resilience Project and Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support (PBIS)
- Thriving Early Years program

Parents play an important part in a child's learning and wellbeing. We value and care about the partnership that we have with each family to ensure the best possible outcome for your child.

Important information is shared with the Mary MacKillop Memorial School community through

- The School Calendar
- The School Newsletter (fortnightly)
- Seesaw

## Welcome To Our Community

At the beginning of this year, we welcomed Otto, Isla, Ellis and Harvey. We also welcomed all of our returning staff, students and families

## Staffing

We congratulate Milla Vinko on being appointed as our Education Support Trainee. Milla will spend 12 months with us undertaking various duties in the classrooms and in the office. Please say Hi to Milla and introduce yourself next time you call into the office.

## Beginning of Year Mass

At our Beginning of Year Mass, Fr. Peter blessed our student leaders, including School Captains, House Captains, and SRC representatives. We prayed for their commitment to servant leadership, making it a wonderful community celebration.

## Gather and Grow Open Afternoon

Thank you to the many parents and students who attended the Gather and Grow Open Afternoon on Wednesday 5th February. Parents had a chance to meet our teachers, visit classrooms, learn about the teaching and learning at MMMS and classroom processes and all that ensures learning is achieved in the best possible way. Many thanks to those who helped on the BBQ who kept the hungry fed!

## Mary MacKillop Memorial School Board AGM

Join us for the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 19th Feb at 6pm in the School Hall. All families are welcome, and nominations for the School Board are encouraged—forms have been sent home and can be reissued if needed.

The School Board plays an advisory role, supporting the school's vision and parish goals. Members include the parish priest, principal, staff, elected parents, and a parish representative.

Key responsibilities:

- Policy & Budget
- School Facilities & Planning
- School-Parish Communication

The Board meets monthly on the third Wednesday during the school term, guided by reflection, discernment, and consensus.

Wishing all a wonderful weekend,

Nicole

*go with strength and courage*

# Catholic Identity

## Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year, a sacred time of renewal, forgiveness, and hope, observed every 25 years. Under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," we are called to deepen our faith and trust in God.

A key tradition is the opening of Holy Doors, symbolizing new beginnings. Pope Francis inaugurated this by opening doors at St. Peter's Basilica and a prison, emphasising hope for all.

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan has named three Holy Doors in our diocese:

- St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide
- Sevenhill Winery & Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Clare Valley
- St. Joseph's, Penola

Let us journey together in faith, hope, and love!



### What is a Pilgrim?

A pilgrim embarks on a meaningful journey. As Christians, we are all pilgrims, navigating life with faith and hope. Pilgrimages may be physical, like visiting a Holy Door, or spiritual, deepening our connection with God through prayer and kindness. As Mary MacKillop reminded us, "We are but travellers here."

### What is a Holy Door?

A Holy Door symbolises welcome and renewal, opened only during a Jubilee Year. Passing through it represents a fresh start, embracing God's grace and mercy.

Pope Francis has already opened Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica and a prison, highlighting that God's love is for all. Soon, a Holy Door will open in Penola, offering a local pilgrimage experience—a chance to reflect, pray, and embrace the hope of the Jubilee.

### Celebrating the Jubilee at Mary MacKillop Memorial School

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School, we will celebrate this special year with events and activities that deepen our faith journey together. As Pilgrims of Hope, let us embrace our school theme, "Inspired by Hope", and live by Romans 5:5—"Hope does not disappoint." May we share joy and love with others!

Follow the below links for more information on the Jubilee year:

[Letter From Archbishop Patrick O'Regan](#)  
[Resources and Information from the Archdiocese of Adelaide](#)

## Class Masses and Liturgies

**All School/Parish Masses will take place in St Joseph Church.**

Tuesday 18th February  
Year 4/5 Mass 9:15am  
Year 2/3 Liturgy 10:30am

Tuesday 25th February  
Year 6 Mass 9.15am  
R/1 Liturgy 10:30am

## School/Parish Masses

Wednesday 5th March  
Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass

Wednesday 19th March  
St Joseph Feast Day at 9.15am

Tuesday 25th March  
Annunciation of the Lord at 9.15am

This year we hope to have at least one – two family Masses per term.

The first Family Mass will be on 23rd March at 9:00am

# Community News

## Rest in Peace John Suclan

We offer our sincere condolences to Nena and Noah Suclan and the extended Suclan family on the sudden passing of Noah's father, John. Our sincere prayers and thoughts to all family and friends who knew and loved John. May God's love wrap around you and bring you some comfort at this most difficult time.

## Condolences

We give our prayers and heartfelt condolences to Roseeta and Aayla Dunn, whose mother and grandmother passed away over the holiday break.

## Birthdays

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who celebrated during January. Grace (8th), Noah (10th), Ruby (10th), Edward (12th), James (14th), Charlie (15th) and Will (24th).

We wish a Happy Birthday to those who will celebrate during Week 3 and Week 4. Rylee-J (18th), Elijah (23rd), Tess (23rd), Josh (24th) and Ted (25th)

## House Points

**Cameron 48**

**McCormack 48**

**Woods MacKillop 68**

## 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**

## 2025 House Captains

Congratulations to the following students who are our House Captains for 2025

MacKillop-Woods—Elizabeth and Ruby

Cameron—Alice

McCormack—Harley and Saige

We are very confident that this group will lead all students capably in 2025.



## Student Representative Council

Congratulations to our 2025 Student Representative Council! They will represent and support their peers with kindness and leadership.

Guided by Nicole Coote, they will soon begin planning for the year ahead. We look forward to their contributions and new initiatives!



# Community News

## Counsellor's Corner

Counsellor's Corner Welcome to our 2025 school year, and Week 2 already! Those that are starting fresh and those that are returning, we recognise that the transition from the holiday season back into school routines can be challenging for many families. The holidays can be a time of joy and connection, but they can also bring busyness, change, and, for some, even grief or hardship. Returning to structure after such a time can feel overwhelming for both children and parents alike. Starting strong with positive routines is always a helpful way to assist in transition. Here are some helpful tips:

Morning:

- Wake up at the same time daily
- Have a healthy breakfast
- Prepare school bags & clothes the night before
- Encourage kids to dress & pack their own bags

After School:

- Allow time to relax before any tasks.
- Chat about their day over a snack
- Set screen time limits

Evening:

- Follow a calm bedtime routine (bath/shower, story, quiet time)
  - Ensure enough sleep
- Best wishes for a happy and successful term. and remember to reach out to our staff if you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition 😊

Regards,

Bec Baker.

## Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is recognised next Tuesday the 11th February. It is a global day of action dedicated to raising awareness of online safety.

We can help our children safely navigate the online world by taking some basic steps to reduce the risks. Our support and guidance can give children the knowledge to make sound decisions online and the confidence to ask for help when they need it.

Three Key Strategies to consider:

Be engaged, open and supportive

Set some rules

Use safety features and settings

Good habits start young. Parents, carers and schools play an important role in helping children to develop digital intelligence – the social, emotional and practical skills needed to successfully navigate the digital world.

On Tuesday each class will delve deeper into being safe online and what it means to them. This teaching will be followed up in our Health lessons during the term, as how to use online platforms for students in a safe and respectful manner is ongoing learning as children grow and develop.

The following link has many fantastic resources for parents and carers.

Good habits start young | eSafety Commissioner:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/good-habits-start-young>

## School Fees

School fees have been significantly reduced, with a new structure starting in 2025. Families will receive an invoice for the full amount (excluding camps) at the start of the year and can pay in a way that suits them.

Please complete and return the Payment Plan Agreement Form. Our goal, inspired by Mary MacKillop's legacy, is to keep our school welcoming and affordable.

For questions, contact Janice Coote or Nicole Coote.

## Professional Learning/Student Free Days 2025

### Term 1

Tuesday 11th March

### Term 3

Friday 5th September

### Term 2

Thursday 5th June

Friday 6th June

### Term 4

Friday 24th October

Thursday 11th December

Friday 12th December



# Community News

## Playgroup

We are excited for a new year full of fun activities and experiences for your young ones. This year we welcome back Ebonie Moulton as our Playgroup Coordinator!

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.

### 5 tips for a safer internet

- 1 Create a kinder world**  
Practice respect, empathy, and kindness online.
- 2 Start the conversation**  
"So...how do you keep safe online?" ask your friends, family and community!
- 3 Be mindful**  
Balance your time online and be smart about the content you watch and share.
- 4 Speak up**  
Tell a trusted adult and report online abuse and harmful content.
- 5 Get support**  
There's a young people's section just for you. Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

Together, let's make the internet a safer, more positive place.

eSafety Commissioner | [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

## MMMS PLAYGROUP

Play Group Coordinator: Ebonie Moulton

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT THIS YEAR!**

- WHAT TIME? 9:30AM - 11AM EVERY FRIDAY MORNING
- DIFFERENT WEEKLY THEMES
- CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
- A HEALTHY SNACK
- A SAFE AND FUN SPACE TO PLAY AND ENGAGE WITH YOUR CHILD

ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME!  
 \$\$ GOLD COIN DONATION ON ARRIVAL

## Melody's Performing Arts

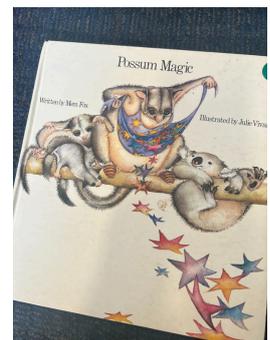
Beginner to advanced Tuesday Classes, 2025  
 Singing, Hip Hop, Tap Classes  
 For more information contact Melody:  
 Phone: 042392917  
 Email: [info@melodysperformingarts.com](mailto:info@melodysperformingarts.com)

**DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE THE X FACTOR?**

**\$10**

**Singing - Hip Hop - Tap IN PENOLA**

[www.melodysperformingarts.com](http://www.melodysperformingarts.com)





# photo gallery

## First Day Back



## Beginning of Year Mass





# photo gallery

## R/1 Art Classes



## Occasional Care

