

Newsletter

Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Term 1 Week 10

Friday, 4th April 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



Inspired by Hope

UPCOMING DATES

April

- 7 SAPSASA State Swimming (Adel)
Occasional Care
Palm Sunday Liturgy
- 8 Occasional Care
The Last Supper
- 9 The Passion
- 11 Playgroup
Term 1 Ends 2:15pm
- 28 First Day Term 2
Occasional Care
- 29 Occasional Care

May

- 1 St Joseph the Worker
- 2 Playgroup
- 5 Occasional Care
- 6 Occasional Care
- 7 Mother's and Special Person
Afternoon Tea
- 9 Regional Cross Country
(Naracoorte)
Playgroup
- 12 Occasional Care
- 13 Occasional Care
- 16 Year 6 Assembly
Playgroup
- 19 Occasional Care
- 20 Occasional Care
Joey's Jumpstart
- 21 National Simultaneous Story Time
School Board Meeting 6pm
- 23 Playgroup
Ladies Dinner Night
Year 4/5 Assembly

Visual Arts



**RAISING HEARTS
AND MINDS**

go with strength and courage

From the principal

Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

Sports Day



Last Friday we were blessed with an amazing day, enjoyed by all, Sports Day. The weather was perfect (just!) and fantastic encouragement of others was on display as well as healthy competition.

Congratulations to McCormack who won the Sports Day Shield. Well done to Isla and Vinnie who were the Junior Sports Champions on the day and to Charlie, Harry and Camilla, who took out the Senior Sports Champions. (please see our photo gallery)

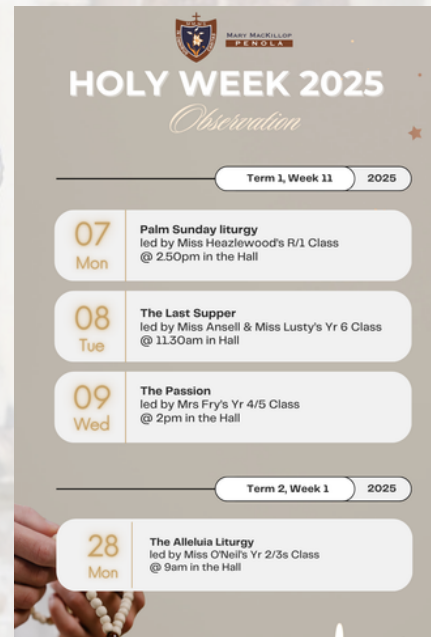
An enormous thank you to all of the parent helpers. A day like Sports Day is not possible without volunteers to give of their time, whether it was during the Junior Tabloid events, field and track events or at the BBQ – you are absolute superstars. It was wonderful to see the family attendance and support from parents and extended family members. The constant cheering and encouragement was certainly appreciated by all participants.

Finally, I would like to express deep gratitude and thanks to Rachel Manninen and her committee and the staff 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 thank you to Justin McDonald who had our grounds looking amazing for the day! What a fabulous team effort!

Holy Week

This coming Sunday will mark the beginning of Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is when Catholics remember Jesus entering into Jerusalem to the crowds cheering and welcoming Him as 'King'.

Holy Week then helps us to prepare for the events of Holy Thursday and Good Friday. We remember the Last Supper and the events of Good Friday, culminating in the Passion and crucifixion of Christ.



As Holy Week falls in the first week of the school holidays as a school we will observe Holy Week this coming week through our prayer reflections, and liturgies. In this way we are able to explore in more detail the love and compassion that Jesus has for us all.

Caritas K Walk Day

As we conclude our focus on alms giving during Lent this week, we will hold our Caritas K Walk Day on Friday.

All children are invited to wear casual clothes for a gold coin donation. This money will go towards our Project Compassion appeal. We are hoping that Fr Olek will be able to join us after Recess to lead our procession around the oval. While walking students will carry buckets of water, and/or bags of rice (sand). We do this in solidarity with those in developing countries who have to walk a long way for fresh water.

go with strength and courage

From the principal

Communication is Key

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we are always looking at different ways to improve to provide the best outcomes for our students and communication is one of them. As part of our Loop of Assessment teachers are committed to co-constructing learning goals with students, communicating the learning goals with parents through learning conversations and uploading evidence of assessment and feedback to Seesaw. Seesaw is also a key communication tool allowing parents and caregivers to stay connected with their child's teacher and view daily updates on the activities their child is involved in. If you are not linked into Seesaw, please see your child's classroom teacher.

The Mary MacKillop Memorial School newsletter is published fortnightly on Fridays of even weeks. It provides an overview of the upcoming events and learning happening at school. We are excited to announce that as a school we are moving towards an e-newsletter and 'live' calendar on our website. Keep a look out for the launch of these new forms of communication – we are anticipating this to be in the first half of Term 2. We encourage all families to engage with these communication platforms to stay informed and involved in their child's education.

Setting students up for success

The beginning of the school day is very important. As part of setting students up for success, they should be at school before the first bell which rings at 8:45am. However, not before 8.25am. School supervision begins at 8.25am and not before. If a student happens to be at school before this time, they must wait in the front office.

As we conclude this term....

Life is busy, we always seem to have problems or things that need to be fixed. As we head towards the end of a busy and hectic term, there seems to be things coming at us from all angles. Too often in our days we tend to look for complex solutions to life's problems. The following thoughts are constant reminders that might help us keep things in perspective and bring a sense of peace to our busy lives.

We find what we look for in people. If we look for God, we find God. If we look for bad qualities, we find them. We, in a sense, select what we expect and we receive it.

A life without challenges would be like going to school without lessons to learn. Challenges come not to depress or get us down, but to master and to help us to grow.

In God's wise and loving plan for us, no burden can fall upon us, no emergency can arise, no grief can overtake us, before we are given the grace and strength to meet them.

We are happy or unhappy because of what we think and feel.

During our last week of Term 1, let's be about living and responding to the moment. We are who we are, and we are defined by the way we respond to those around us, especially those closest to us.

As this is the last newsletter for the term, I take this opportunity to thank all of our community, students, parents and staff for a wonderful start to the 2025 school year. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support throughout Term 1.

Term 2 will begin on Monday 28th April. The Term 2 Updated Parent Calendar will be available at the end of the term and distributed to families.

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing holiday break.

God Bless,

Nicole Coote

A reminder that there will be an early holiday dismissal. Dismissal will be at 2.15pm.

go with strength and courage

Catholic Identity

As we enter Holy Week this coming Sunday, we reflect on it as a most solemn week in the Catholic tradition commemorating Jesus' last week on earth and the events leading up to his resurrection on Easter Sunday.



Since the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians have made pilgrimages to Jerusalem in order to retrace the steps of Jesus during his suffering, death and resurrection. Around the fifteenth century, Christians began the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Passion of Christ by reproducing that pilgrimage in miniature in what eventually became known as the Stations of the Cross. This week each class have recreated this 'mini pilgrimage' prayerfully reflecting on the Passion of Christ. By walking with Jesus, we join our suffering to His, knowing that He will lead us through it into the new life of the Resurrection.

EASTER EGGS

The Easter egg is a popular and much-loved symbol of Easter, the celebration of the resurrected Christ. So what is the connection? The Easter egg, being a hollow egg is reminiscent of the tomb that Jesus was placed in after His death on the Cross. This tomb was found empty by His disciples on the Sunday morning. The opening of the empty egg and the cracking of the outer 'shell' is much like the opening of the empty tomb, revealing the resurrection of Jesus on the morning of Easter Sunday.

Due to this connection, we ask that before Easter Sunday, no easter eggs are sent in or brought to school.



Leading into Holy Week

If you enter a Catholic church after this weekend, you may notice that the images, crosses and crucifixes are covered or veiled in the Church. This is a tradition that is observed by many Catholics throughout the time of Passiontide, the last 2 weeks of Lent. This act of veiling is 2 fold: It heightens our awareness that we are close to the passion (the events from Jesus' agony in the garden through to His death on the cross) and that we should be looking closer at our Lenten journey and, for lack of a better term, ramp up our efforts in fasting, prayer and alms giving. When the veils are lifted on Good Friday (crucifix) and the Easter Vigil (images) it makes us notice these more closely.



Catholic Identity

Project Compassion

During Lent, we are invited to reflect on the impact of our support for Project Compassion. We are able to do this while viewing and reflecting on the inspiring stories on the Caritas website.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/cst-toolkit/>

I invite you to click on the link and read and discuss the Project Compassion Stories with your family– stories of hope. Stories of how our generosity has an impact on others.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION
Unite Against Poverty this Lent

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Gospel – John 8:1-11: At the temple, Jesus encountered a woman accused of adultery, brought by scribes and Pharisees seeking to trap him. He responded wisely, suggesting only a sinless person should cast the first stone. This led her accusers to depart, and Jesus, left alone with the woman, chose not to condemn her, advising her to abandon her sinful life.

Whole School Masses Term One & Two

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

Everyone is welcome!

TERM TWO

Please mark these dates in your personal calendars.

Friday 23rd May @ 9.15am – Mary Help of Christians

Friday 27th June @ 9.15am – Feast of the Sacred Heart

Sunday Family Masses

Sunday 25th May
Sunday 22nd June

Class Masses/Liturgies

Tuesday 3rd June
Yr 6 Class Mass at 9.15am
Yr 2/3 Class liturgy at 10.30am

Tuesday 1st July
Yr 4/5 Class Mass at 9.15am
R/1 Liturgy at 10.30am

Community News

Counsellor's Corner

Congratulations

Holiday time is near!

As we approach the final two weeks of Term 1, it's natural for both students and parents to feel a bit worn out. Here are some tips to help you support your child during this busy time:

1. **Check In on Their Feelings:** Take a moment to ask your child how they're feeling about school and their workload. Open, honest conversations can help them express any worries or concerns.
2. **Help Them Stay Organized:** Encourage your child to use a simple checklist or calendar to manage tasks. This can help them stay on track and avoid last-minute stress.
3. **Encourage Regular Breaks:** Make sure they take time to unwind—whether it's through play, creative activities, or reading. These breaks will help them recharge and stay focused.
4. **Stay Positive and Calm:** Remind your child to focus on the positives. Praise their effort and progress, and reassure them that mistakes are part of the learning process. It's the effort that counts, not perfection.
5. **Maintain Consistent Routines:** Try to stick to regular bedtimes, meals, and activities. A consistent routine can provide a sense of stability and help reduce stress during these final weeks.

I hope all families have a relaxing and enjoyable Term 1 holiday, with plenty of time to unwind and create wonderful memories together over the Easter break 😊

Regards,

Bec Baker

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.

0488 280 771

We congratulate Robert who won the South West Zone Chess Tournament on Thursday, at Bayview College in Portland.

He represented Mary MacKillop Memorial School as the youngest player in the competition. Robert played 8 games, won 7 and drew one, against 36 mostly senior students in years 7-12 from six schools in SW Victoria.



He will now be invited to attend the Victorian junior chess championships later this year in Melbourne!

Professional Learning/Student Free Days 2025

Term 2

Thursday 5th June
Friday 6th June

Term 3

Friday 5th September

Term 4

Friday 24th October
Thursday 11th December
Friday 12th December

House Points

Cameron	551
McCormack	451
Woods MacKillop	432

Birthdays

We wish a happy birthday to Max who celebrated on the 2nd and Angus on the 4th of last week!

Community News

Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival

We are looking forward to the Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival, which will be taking place from Thursday May 15 – Sunday May 18. The Kids Program will be down Petticoat Lane.

On the Sunday our school will be hosting a BBQ, selling steaks, sausages and drinks. We will also run a free activity, which will be magnet making. The MacKillop Market will be selling homemade wares and produce, including an op shop style clothing stall, organised by the Yr 6 group. Early next term we will be on the lookout for helpers to assist in different ways, whether it is donating some produce to sell at the MacKillop Market stall or helping with the BBQ. Many hands make light work. requirements before the school holidays.

Easter Egg Foil Challenge

At MMMS we aim to reduce, reuse and recycle.

This Easter we are asking everyone to be a part of the Easter Egg Foil Challenge. At the beginning of next term each class will make as many golf ball size balls, which will be weighed to award to the winning class the Sustainability Challenge. The golf ball size aluminium balls will then be able to be put into the recycling bins.

Don't forget to keep those wrappers.

Scouts SA - Penola Open Day

Open Day: Saturday 5th April 2025 11:00am - 2pm

Join us for an open day to discover how you can get involved, meet our volunteer leaders and learn how your child can be part of the adventure.

Contact: dl.limestonecoast@sa.scouts.com.au for more info



School Uniform Term 2

The 'Uniform Shop' at school is open every day except Wednesdays. A reminder that with the holidays approaching and moving into Term 2 all students need to change over to their winter uniform – this may not require anything to change! I strongly suggest a winter uniform try on, particularly if your child needs a new girls skirt or pinafore as these are becoming increasingly difficult to source. Please let Janice know your requirements before the school holidays.

2025 Mid - Year Reception

Mid-year enrolments are now open for all children who turn 5 on or before the 31st October. The fees for mid-year Reception enrolments will be free for the two terms of schooling. If you have a child who is able to begin Reception in in Term 3 2025, please complete an enrolment form and return it to the front office as soon as possible. If you know of any families who are thinking about enrolling their child at Mary MacKillop Memorial School for Term 3 2025, or in the future, please let them know about our mid-year fee free enrolment intake or alternatively, they can contact the school on 87372902 at any time. We welcome all new families!

NetSetGo!

Register now for NetSetGo!

3.45-4.30pm Thursdays during Term 2 at the Mac Park netball courts. Sports Vouchers can be used when you register here; <https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/58c21d>

Call Meg Redman for more info 0407740034



Community News

Early Learning at Mary Mac

Playgroup

We are very lucky to be able to run a vibrant Playgroup on Friday mornings from 9am – 10.30am. The Mary Mac playgroup is for all Penola families and is capably co-ordinated by Ebonie Moulton. Please come along and enjoy a morning of organised play and learning experiences with your child in our Early Learning Space. Playgroup is for all little ones, birth to school age with their Mums, Dads, Grannies or any other family member.

Contact the school for further details.



ABOUT US

Our supported playgroup facility offers intentional play based learning for all families with children aged birth – 4 years.

- Open every Friday morning of the school term from 9:30am – 11am.
- All families of the local community and surrounds are warmly welcomed to join.
- Gold coin donation upon arrival.
- Coffee and tea available!



"MMMS Supported playgroup is more than just a play space"

Our space is a safe, respectful environment that prioritises the core developmental growth of your child from the age of birth to 4 through intentional play.



WHAT IS INTENTIONAL PLAY?

Our intentional play based learning ensures all activities your child immerses themselves in, thoughtfully and purposefully extends their individual thinking and learning.

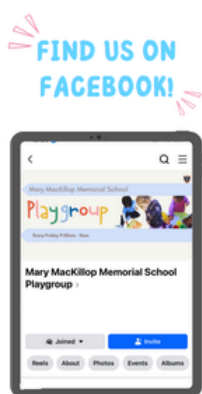
All play is child-led and driven by their ideas, interests, abilities and curiosity, whilst parents are encouraged to imagine and discover alongside their little ones.

Occasional Care

Mary MacKillop Memorial School is proud of its Occasional Care program for 3 – 5 year olds. There are four sessions that families are able to access over a Monday and Tuesday each week. Our Occasional Care is on a weekly booking system, with bookings opening every Thursday afternoon for the following week. Ebonie Moulton enthusiastically co-ordinates, plans and implements play-based learning experiences for children in a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment. Should you wish to access the Mary Mac Occasional Care service, please contact the school as places are limited and book out very quickly on a weekly basis. This service is for all families in the Penola and surrounding district.



A GLIMPSE OF WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT!



LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH



For more information such as our coordinator's profile, supported programs and more, please scan QR code
08 8737 2902
emoulton@mmms.catholic.sa.edu.au



Early Dismissal

The last day of term, Friday 14th April dismissal will be at 2.15pm.



photo gallery

Caritas K Lunch





photo gallery

Sports Day

