



Important Dates

Public Holiday

Monday 9 June 2025

Occasional Care

Tuesday 10 June 2025

Playgroup

Friday 13 June 2025

Playgroup & Ready

Set Progress

Friday 20 June 2025

Sunday Family Mass

Sunday 22 June 2025

Crazy Hair Day (Week 8)

Wednesday 25 June 2025

Whole School Mass

Friday 27 June 2025

R/1 Assembly 2:30pm

Friday 27 June 2025

Yr 4/5 Class Mass 9.15am

Tuesday 1 July 2025

R/1 Liturgy 10.30am

Tuesday 1 July 2025

From the Principal



Dear Families and Friends,

It's hard to believe we're already in Week 6 and officially past the halfway point of Term 2! The term has been full of energy and enthusiasm, with a strong focus on literacy across all year levels. It's been wonderful to see students so engaged in their learning.

Staff Professional Learning

Our staff have been involved in valuable professional development this term. Yesterday we participated in the Made in the Image of God training, a key part of our commitment to Catholic education. We were pleased to welcome staff from St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Millicent, to join us for this important day of learning, led by Valeska Laity and Sue Coghlan: Education Advisors in Religious Education from the Catholic Education Office.

In addition, today our teachers are continuing to build consistency in literacy instruction through the Mary MacKillop Literacy Agreement. We're also exploring evidence-based strategies from Teach Well, which draws on cognitive science to support high-impact teaching. This part of the training was led by our Leader of Learning, Chloe Fry, and has already sparked great ideas for classroom practice.

Our Education Support Officers have also been busy, completing online training in Autism and the Disability Standards for Education. This learning helps ensure we're creating inclusive and supportive environments for all students.

Professional Learning Gallery



St Vinnies Winter Appeal

A heartfelt thank you to our students and families for your incredible support of our Coins & Cans for Casuals Day. Students wore casual clothes, brought in canned goods, and donated gold coins to support those in need. Your generosity and compassion are truly appreciated and reflect the spirit of our school community.

Mary MacKillop Memorial School 2026 Enrolments Now Open

Planning for 2026 is already underway! We are now accepting enrolments for Reception and other year levels. If you have a child starting next year and haven't yet submitted your enrolment form, please do so soon. And if you know of any families considering Mary MacKillop Memorial School, we'd love for you to encourage them to get in touch.

Mid-Year Intake 2025

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 and our popular Joey's Jumpstart Program is currently running on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Enjoy the Long Weekend!

We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming long weekend—whether you're heading away or enjoying some quiet time at home. May it be a time of rest, fun, and family connection. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday.

Warm regards,

Nicole

2/3 Class News

In Year 2/3, Miss Oneil's students are focusing on building our knowledge of multiplication and division facts! Our 2/3s are working hard to answer them quickly and in any order. In the gallery below, Year 2 students are practising their 5 times tables, while the Year 3 students are focusing on their 3 times tables. Through the use of flashcards, we are making great progress and developing confidence in our understanding of multiplication and division!



Community News



Updated Home Reading Program

Reading at home is crucial for literacy growth, so we've improved our Home Reading Program across all year levels.

Reception to Year 2: Students now bring home InitiaLit decodable readers—books carefully matched to what they learn in class. These help build key reading skills like decoding, blending sounds, and recognising common words, leading to confident, independent reading. Years 3 to 6: Older students pick books they enjoy and can read comfortably. This approach boosts fluency, comprehension, and a lifelong love of reading—whether it's fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, or chapter books.

Families play a key role in their child's reading journey. Daily reading—whether listening, sharing a story, or encouraging independent reading—builds skills, confidence, and a positive connection to books.

Together, through strong home-school partnerships, we are helping students become confident and engaged readers and writers.

Combined School Board Meeting

Celebrating Catholic Education in the South-East

On Wednesday, June 18, the School Boards of Mary MacKillop Memorial School, St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School, and Tenison Woods College will gather in Penola for the annual Combined School Board dinner and meeting—an evening dedicated to celebrating Catholic education in the South-East.

We are pleased to welcome Kim Wigg, Allied Health Manager at Catholic Education South Australia, as our guest speaker. Kim will share insights into the CESA Improved Learning through Allied Health (CILAH) program, which integrates allied health expertise into CESA schools, supporting inclusion and equity for students with disability.

We look forward to this special event and Kim's presentation on this important initiative.

Playgroup Information

Playgroup is held every Friday morning of the school term from 9am – 10.30am (unless advertised otherwise) and is capably coordinated by Ebonie Moultion. Our playgroup offers a variety of play-based learning experiences for children aged Birth - 5 years for you and your child to engage in. Mary MacKilop Memorial School Playgroup warmly invites all members of the Penola communty and surrounds.

For enquires/questions:

Click here to email Mary MacKillop Memorial School

Click here to email Ebonie Moulton

Early Learning at Mary Mac

Occasional Care is offered on Mondays and Tuesdays (morning and afternoon sessions available) Ebonie Moulton, our early learning educator, plans new and exciting experiences from the Early Years Framework for all children aged 3–5. We are proud of the caring and nurturing environment that we are able to provide for little ones.

Call the school today for further information of how to secure a spot for your child!

See gallery below for 2025 Early Learning so far!



Catholic Identity



Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centred community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish. Christ, as we know, was an inspiring and courageous leader. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop was a passionate, faithful and committed leader. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we display the qualities of leadership, where we flourish in our living and learning. We 'walk the walk' of trying to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and Mary as a Christ centred community.

Year 2/3 Liturgy Gallery

On Tuesday, the Year 2/3 students gathered for a special liturgy at St Joseph's Catholic Church, where they reflected on the theme of kindness. Fr Peter shared heartfelt messages about the importance of showing kindness in our words and actions every day. He encouraged the students to follow the example of Jesus by being caring, patient, and compassionate towards others, especially those in need. The students participated reverently in the readings, prayers, and singing, creating a warm and prayerful atmosphere. It was a beautiful reminder of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference in our school and wider community.



Coins, Cans and Casuals Day

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. Thank you to all of our amazing families for your support. The donated items will be taken to St Vincent de Paul in Mt 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 until Monday 30th June.



Our next event in support of Vinnies:

Crazy Hair Day – Wednesday 25th June

In exchange for a wearing crazy hair for a gold coin donation towards St Vinnies Winter Appeal. Please keep an eye out for more details to come from our SRC!

Pentecost

Pentecost occurs 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. Pentecost is celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, the 8th June. Pentecost and the ascension are linked:

While staying[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:4-6

The Most Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity Sunday is on 15th June – a feast day in the church dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

In Catholicism the Holy Trinity refers to the three persons of God, that is, the three separate parts of God (The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit) that make up the one God. This concept is quite difficult to wrap your head around, it is often referred to as the mystery of the Holy Trinity. It is faith that can help us to understand this in a deeper level.

Term 2 Mass and Liturgies

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

Class Masses/Liturgies

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

Sunday Family Mass Sunday 22nd June

Watch this space with more information regarding the Family Mass on 22nd June!

Counsellor's Corner

Positive vs. Negative Thinking: Helping Kids See the Bright Side

Our thoughts can have a big impact on how we feel and act. For children, learning to notice their thinking patterns, especially when they're feeling frustrated, disappointed, or unsure, can make a big difference in their confidence and wellbeing.

Children often fall into negative thinking traps, such as:

- "I'll never be good at this."
- "No one likes me."
- "I always get it wrong."

Over time, these thoughts can affect their self-esteem and willingness to try. Teaching children about positive thinking doesn't mean ignoring problems, it means helping them reframe their thoughts in a more helpful and hopeful way.

Examples of helpful thinking:

- "This is hard, but I can keep trying."
- "I made a mistake, but I can learn from it."
- "Not everyone has to like me—I have good friends."

How to encourage it at home:

- Help your child spot "unhelpful" thoughts and turn them into more balanced ones.
- Praise effort, not just success.
- Use phrases like "You can do hard things" and "Let's find a different way."

By building positive thinking habits early, we help children grow into resilient, confident learners who believe in themselves, no matter the challenge.

MMMS Sports News

State Cross Country Championships

Good Luck, Freya, Otto, and Charlie!

We were incredibly proud to cheer on Freya, Otto, and Charlie as they competed yesterday at the State Cross Country Championships in Oakbank! These talented young athletes earned their place on the Mid South East regional team by finishing in the top six of their age groups, competing against strong runners from across the district.

These students have shown outstanding determination, endurance, and sportsmanship throughout their training and competition journey. As they represented our region on the state stage, we encouraged them to run strong and enjoy every moment.

Occasional Care Week 6 Gallery

At Occasional Care on Monday, the kids practised letter matching, made nature people, created paper planes and had fun in the Autumn leaves. What a great day!



Reconciliation Art Occasional Care Gallery

Our little artists at Occasional Care celebrated Reconciliation Week with heart and creativity last week! Through dot painting, finger painting and more activities, Ebonie introduced the beauty of Indigenous art and culture — learning, connecting, and showing respect one colourful stroke at a time.



Occasional Care and Year 6 Afternoon

Last Monday, our Year 6 students spent some time with our Occasional Care kids! Making use of the cold, wintery weather, our older students made hot Milo's for the little ones before exploring Dreamtime Stories and having some free play.





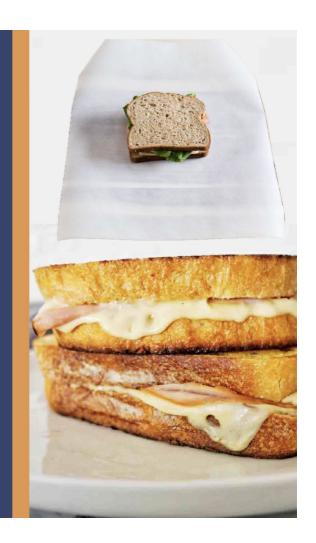
Special Lunch

TOASTIE TUESDAYS!

Tuesday Lunchtimes

We are introducing Toastie Tuesdays here at Mary Mac!

Students are to prepare their sandwiches that they wish to have toasted, packed in baking paper ready to be toasted by staff in the hall and delivered to classrooms at lunch.



We are excited to be introducing Toastie Tuesdays at Mary Mac next week!

Every Tuesday, students can enjoy their own custom-made toasted sandwiches for lunch. Here's how it works:

- 1. Prep Your Sandwich: Bring sandwich from home, made exactly how you like it.
- 2. Wrap It Right: Make sure it's wrapped in baking paper with student name written (no foil or plastic wrap, please it needs to go in the sandwich press!).
- 3. Drop It Off: In the morning, students head to breakfast club to hand in sandwich to the staff who'll take care of the toasting. This MUST be done straight away and before the bell.
- 4. Delivered to You: Student's freshly toasted sandwich will be delivered to their classroom at lunchtime ready to enjoy!

Penola High School Tours



1:00-1:45 Hillary Trotter, Student Representative

2:30-3:15 Rikki Helps, Student Representative

5:00-5:45 Steve Carli-Seebohm, Rikki Helps, Student Representative

Don't miss this year's Penola High School Tours – a unique opportunity to see classroom learning in action and experience our vibrant learning environment firsthand. Come and explore how we inspire curiosity, creativity, and academic success every day. Book your tour today and open the door to exciting educational opportunities for your student.

We welcome all members of our community – current and previous Penola families, past students, local residents, and families from surrounding district schools.

Come along and see the great things happening at Penola High School.

BOOK NOW 8737 0000



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Book now to explore how we inspire curiosity, creativity, and academic success every day.

Call Penola High School on: 8737 0000



Congratulations Lola!

We are so proud to announce that Lola has been selected to represent our school in Adelaide with the SAPSASA MSE Netball team!

We're sending her all the best wishes and luck as she prepares to take the courts in Week 9. We can't wait to hear all about her experience and achievements once the competition kicks off!

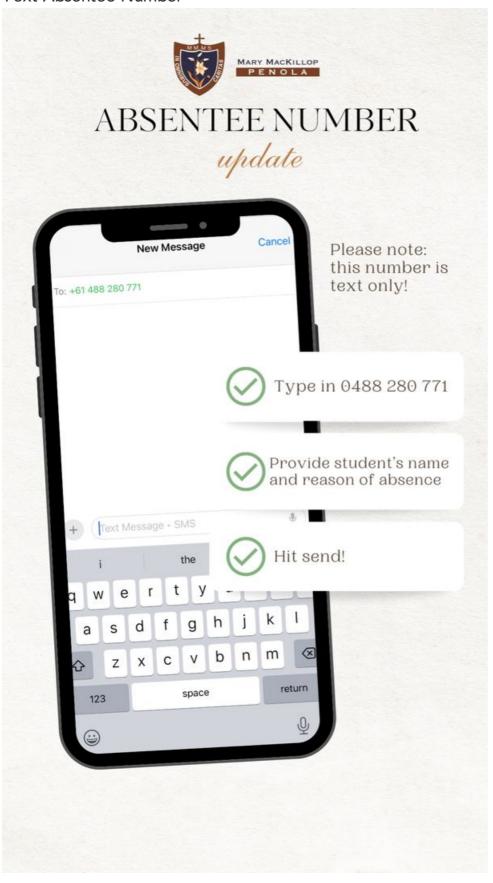


Well done Charlie!

Despite a wet and challenging start to the week, we were so excited to have Charlie back at school to hear all about the team's experience and results.



Text Absentee Number

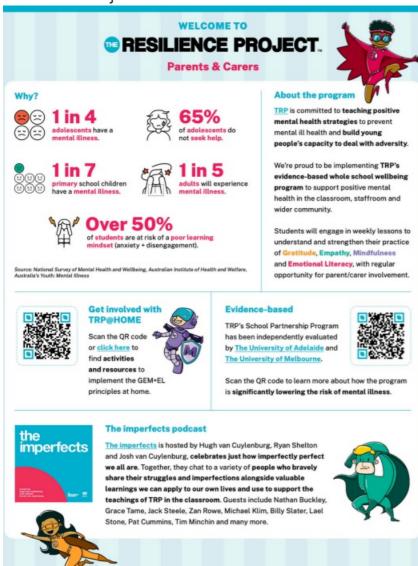


A reminder that if your child is absent from school, for any reason, it is important that this is communicated with the school. The Catholic Education system has advised all schools to follow up on unresolved absences with families. Your support and communication in this matter is greatly appreciated.

0488 280 771

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

Resilience Project



(03) 9113 9302 theresilienceproject.com.au

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RESILIENCE PROJECT...

We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy.

Gratitude



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

Empathy



Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.

Mindfulness



The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.

It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.

Emotional Literacy



Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:









Mary MacKillop Memorial School fosters a supportive and resilient learning community, with wellbeing at its core. By promoting confidence, resilience, and emotional intelligence, we empower students to excel academically, build strong relationships, and lead responsible, fulfilling lives. That's why this year we are engaging in The Resilience Project as one of our wellbeing initiatives!

For us, resilience is the ability to adapt and thrive when faced with challenges, adversity, trauma, or stress. It's not just about overcoming difficulties but also about developing the strength to grow and move forward with confidence.

Click here to learn more about the Resilience Project

NetSetGo!



Social Media



Stay Connected with Mary MacKillop Memorial School!

Want to stay in the loop with all the amazing things happening at our school? Follow us on our Social Media Platforms!

- See what's happening in the classroom and beyond
- · Celebrate our Students and Staff
- Stay updated on events, news, and important reminders
- Be part of our joyful, faith-filled community

Click here to view our Mary MacKillop Memorial School Facebook Page

Click here to view our Mary MacKillop Memorial School Instagram Page

Reconciliation Week (Week 5)



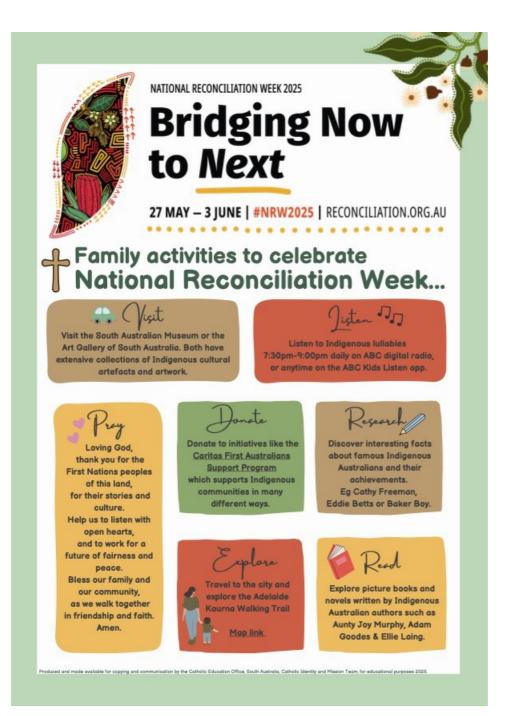
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025



Sorry Day was last Monday, 26th May, with Reconciliation Week following on.

This year at MMMS, we commemorated this week by engaging students in learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories, fostering respectful relationships, and encouraging discussions about reconciliation.

Reconciliation Week Activities



Activities suggestions above were provided for families to celebrate Reconciliation Week last week.

We encouraged our community to take a look and try to implement these ideas into their everyday lives.

Catholic Education South Australia



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