



Week 8, Term 2 2025

Important Dates

Sunday Family Mass
Sunday 22 June 2025

Joey's Jumpstart
Tuesday 24 June 2025

**Mad Minute Grand
Challenge at
Lucindale**
Wednesday 25 June 2025

Grandbuddies
Wednesday 25 June 2025

**Crazy Hair Day
(Week 8)**
Thursday 26 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

Upcoming Events

Crazy Hair Day

Date: Thursday 26 June

Time: 12:00am

Venue: Mary MacKillop
Memorial School - PENOLA

Grandparents and Grandfriends Day

Date: Friday 25 July

Venue: Mary MacKillop
Memorial School - PENOLA

'A Hint of Snow White' MMMS School Musical 2025???

Date: Tuesday 16

September - Wednesday 17
September

Venue: Mary MacKillop
Memorial School - PENOLA

From the Principal



Dear family and friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

The way we are.... #wecare

Each individual's dignity and wellbeing is important at Mary MacKillop Memorial School, where we care. Respecting the desire and possibility for connection rather than disconnection in relationships is paramount. We do this through growth coaching conversations that strengthen the connections between relationships and learning.

The principle of resilient impact assists us to respect relationships and encourage personal accountability without 'shame and blame'. When the actions of a student or a group of students causes harm and upset, those involved in the particular problem are called to a process called a coaching conversation, where we focus on What's happened? What's important?, and How will we act? This conversation draws out people's stories surrounding the incident.

Students are given a voice and asked to accept responsibility for their actions, make things right and make agreements about how things will be in the future. This practice is our culture and encompasses our Catholic ethos and Mission, Vision statements and most

importantly our Josephite Values.

Pulse Check-In

Over week 5 and 6 our students have had the opportunity to take part in an online survey which is designed to provide feedback to their class teacher as to how their wellbeing is tracking. We have been implementing this process over the past 4 years at the mid point of each term, therefore collecting quite a lot of data. This is just one of the many indicators/measures of keeping our students “well”.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s wellbeing, please contact your child’s class teacher, Bec Baker (School Counsellor) or myself.

St Anthony’s Feast Day

On Friday last week Year 6 students, Miss Lusty and I were lucky enough to be invited to celebrate with St Anthonys Catholic Primary School for their Feast Day. We had a wonderful day, forming connections, engaging in lots of fun activities and enjoying learning about St Anthony’s patron saint.

We thank the St Anthony’s community for their generous hospitality and look forward to welcoming members of their community to our Feast Day celebrations next term. I would also like to say a special thank you to our Yr 6 students who represented our school with pride and maturity on the day. You are all super stars!

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 gathered in Penola for the annual Combined School Board dinner and meeting—an evening dedicated to celebrating Catholic education in the South-East.

Kim Wigg, Allied Health Manager at Catholic Education South Australia, as our guest speaker, shared valuable 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.

Reports

Teachers are currently finalising student reports. We use a range of accumulated assessments from the planned learning experiences taught throughout Term 1 and 2 to provide a summary achievement report for parents/caregivers. You will receive your child’s report on Monday 30th June.

Wishing all a wonderful weekend,

God Bless,

Nicole

Year 4/5 Class News

Mad Minute, Major Voices: Our Students Shine in the Lions Public Speaking Challenge

Last week, our Year 4/5 class took the stage – and the stopwatch – in the annual Lions Mad Minute competition. Organised by the Lions Club and open to Year 5 students across the Limestone Coast, this unique public speaking challenge encourages young speakers to develop their confidence, creativity, and ability to think on their feet.

The format is simple but thrilling: each participant draws a surprise topic from a hat – either a “Challenge” or “Super Challenge” – and has just one minute to deliver a compelling, entertaining, or thought-provoking speech. It’s a test of quick thinking, clear communication, and audience engagement, and our students rose to the occasion brilliantly.

All participants demonstrated fantastic growth in their public speaking skills, showing confidence, clarity, and the ability to expand on ideas using examples, personal experiences, and prior knowledge.

A big congratulations to our top three speakers who will now represent our school at the Grand Challenge event:

Eli, who placed first with a persuasive take on why we should have more school excursions,
Anna, who took second place arguing that trampolines are too dangerous, and
Max, who impressed the judges with his thoughtful reflections on the world, placing third.

Joining them will be Freya, our official event journalist, who will report on the Grand Challenge and capture all the highlights from the day.

Special category awards were also presented on the day:

Harry – Most Humorous

Grace – Best Opening

Oscar – Most Informative

Rylee – Best Closing

And in a surprise finale, Mrs Coote delighted the audience with a guest performance on the topic “Birds are annoying”, taking home the Best Gestures award for her animated delivery!

Congratulations to all our speakers for their courage and creativity. The Lions Mad Minute reminded us that a lot can happen in just sixty seconds – especially when young voices are given the chance to shine.



Catholic Identity



Family Mass – Sunday 22nd June 2025

This Sunday will be a family Mass at St Joseph Church, commencing at 9am. Thank you to those families who have indicated that their child is able to assist during the Mass. We extend an invitation to all families to attend.

St Anthony Feast Day

Last Friday our Year 6 students had the privilege of visiting St Anthony's Catholic Primary School in Millicent as part of their celebrations to commemorate the Feast of St Anthony. Upon arrival, we participated in a school-wide Mass dedicated to St Anthony.

Following the Mass, we returned to school and spent the remainder of the day immersed in activities alongside the St Anthony's community. For me, the most rewarding aspects of the day was witnessing the bonds and friendships formed and strengthened between our students and theirs. It was wonderful to see the St Anthony's students embrace ours in their classrooms and games, and equally gratifying to see our students take on leadership roles, offering support and guidance to their younger peers throughout the activities. We look forward to hosting St Anthony and Tenison Woods College students on our Feast Day on August 8th.

Upcoming Masses and Liturgies – All Are Welcome!

Join us for our upcoming celebrations of faith:

Friday 27 June @ 9:15am – Whole School Mass: Feast of the Sacred Heart

Tuesday 1 July @ 9:15am – Year 4/5 Class Mass

Tuesday 1 July @ 10:30am – Reception/Year 1 Liturgy

Stay tuned for Term 3 Mass and Liturgy dates in the Week 10 newsletter.

Penola Parish – Mass Times

Sunday 22 June @ 9:00am – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gospel: Luke 9:11b–17)

Saturday 28 June @ 4:30pm – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gospel: Matthew 16:13–19)

Fr Peter Zwaans, our Parish Priest, welcomes all to attend.

Community News



Bus Reminder

Families of bus students please note the following important points.

- If your family will be away for an extended period during term time and your child(ren) will not be travelling on their normal bus route, please make sure you notify the bus driver of the dates your child will be absent so the bus is not waiting at your stop unnecessarily.
- Also, as a courtesy, please keep your bus driver informed if your child(ren) will not be travelling on the bus on the afternoon run if they are attending after school commitments or the morning run if they are absent due to illness etc.
- Parents are reminded to please be at your stop at least 5 minutes before your allocated pick up time in the morning so that buses are not kept waiting and the timetable can run to time. **Drivers are not obliged to wait for students in the morning if they are not at their stop at their designated time.**

National Consistent Collection of Data

Every year all schools are required to collect data on students with a disability for whom the curriculum is adjusted in some way(s). The National Consistent Collection of Data on school students with disability reinforces the obligations schools have under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

It counts the number of students who are supported under these obligations based on the professional judgement of teacher and their knowledge and understanding of their students', consultation with leadership and outside agencies and professionals.

This also includes students with a Personalised Plan for Learning and individualised Education Plan. This is an anonymous process, and no student is identified by name or location of school. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

[Click here for more information on the NCCD website.](#)

Premier's Reading Challenge at Mary MacKillop Memorial School

The Premier's Reading Challenge runs from March until September and is designed to encourage students to read a variety of books to deepen their love of reading.

What do we need to do? Your child will have a PRC form to complete – they need to read 12 books between now and September. How do we know what books to read? You can use the handy PRC stickers to identify suitable books.

If you have any questions pop into the library and ask Mrs E or [click here to check out The Premier's Reading Challenge website](#)

Playgroup Information

Our community Playgroup takes place on a Friday morning from 9 – 10.30am. It is an opportunity for families to come together and play together, capably coordinated by our Playgroup coordinator Ebonie Moulton. Come and enjoy a cuppa and catch up, while your child has a number of playful learning activities to explore in a safe and welcoming environment.

For enquires/questions:

[Click here to email Mary MacKillop Memorial School](#)

[Click here to email Ebonie Moulton](#)

Early Learning at Mary Mac

Is your child 3, 4 or 5 years old and not at school yet? Our Early Learning Program is an opportunity for them to become familiar with the environment and how it operates. Hands-on structured learning experiences guided by the Early Years Learning Framework assist young children to explore and gain independence to prepare them for the future!

Children make many friends in these sessions. Enquiries welcome to learn more.

See gallery below for 2025 Early Learning so far!



Counsellor's Corner

Helping Kids Grow: Rigid vs. Flexible Thinking

As children grow and learn, they often encounter challenges that stretch their thinking. One important area of development is learning the difference between rigid and flexible thinking, it's something I chat regularly with students about.

Rigid thinking means sticking to one idea or way of doing something, even if it's not working. Children with rigid thinking may struggle when plans change, rules are bent, or things don't go as expected. You might hear them say, "That's not fair!" or "That's not how we always do it!"

Flexible thinking, on the other hand, helps children adapt, problem-solve, and consider other perspectives. A flexible thinker might say, "That's different, but I'll try it," or "I can handle this a new way."

How to support flexible thinking at home:

- Model calm responses when plans change.
- Praise problem-solving: "Great job thinking of another way!"
- Read stories and ask, "How else could the character have solved that?"
- Encourage trying new things, even if it's uncomfortable at first.

Supporting flexible thinking helps children become more resilient, confident, and ready for life's twists and turns.

Wishing all our families happy and adaptable weeks ahead! ☺

MMMS Sport: Basketball Sessions

Recently all classes have been enjoying fine tuning their basketball skills with Amy Beckett from the Millicent and District Basketball Association. There has been much fun and excitement as students have passed, dribbled, shot and defended all across the basketball court.



Week 7 Cooking Gallery



Week 8 Cooking Gallery



Year 4/5 Assembly Gallery





Toastie Tuesdays



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

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 introduce Toastie Tuesdays at Mary Mac each 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!

State Cross Country Championships



A huge congratulations to Charlie, Freya, and Otto for representing our school at the State Cross Country Championships held on June 6th at Oakbank.

Competing against over 100 students in each race, they demonstrated outstanding resilience and determination in true winter conditions — battling icy temperatures, wind, and rain.

A special shoutout to Otto, who achieved an impressive 29th place finish out of 191 competitors!

SAPSASA Netball



We wish Lola all the very best as she competes next week in Adelaide!

We know she will represent as a shining example of dedication, sportsmanship, and spirit.

MMMS Playgroup



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

PLAYGROUP

FRIDAY MORNINGS
9AM – 10:30AM



CONTACT US!



(08) 8737 2902



emoulton@mmms.catholic.edu.au



5 Portland St, Penola SA 5277

Text Absentee Number



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA

ABSENTEE NUMBER

update



Please note:
this number is
text only!



Type in 0488 280 771



Provide student's name
and reason of absence

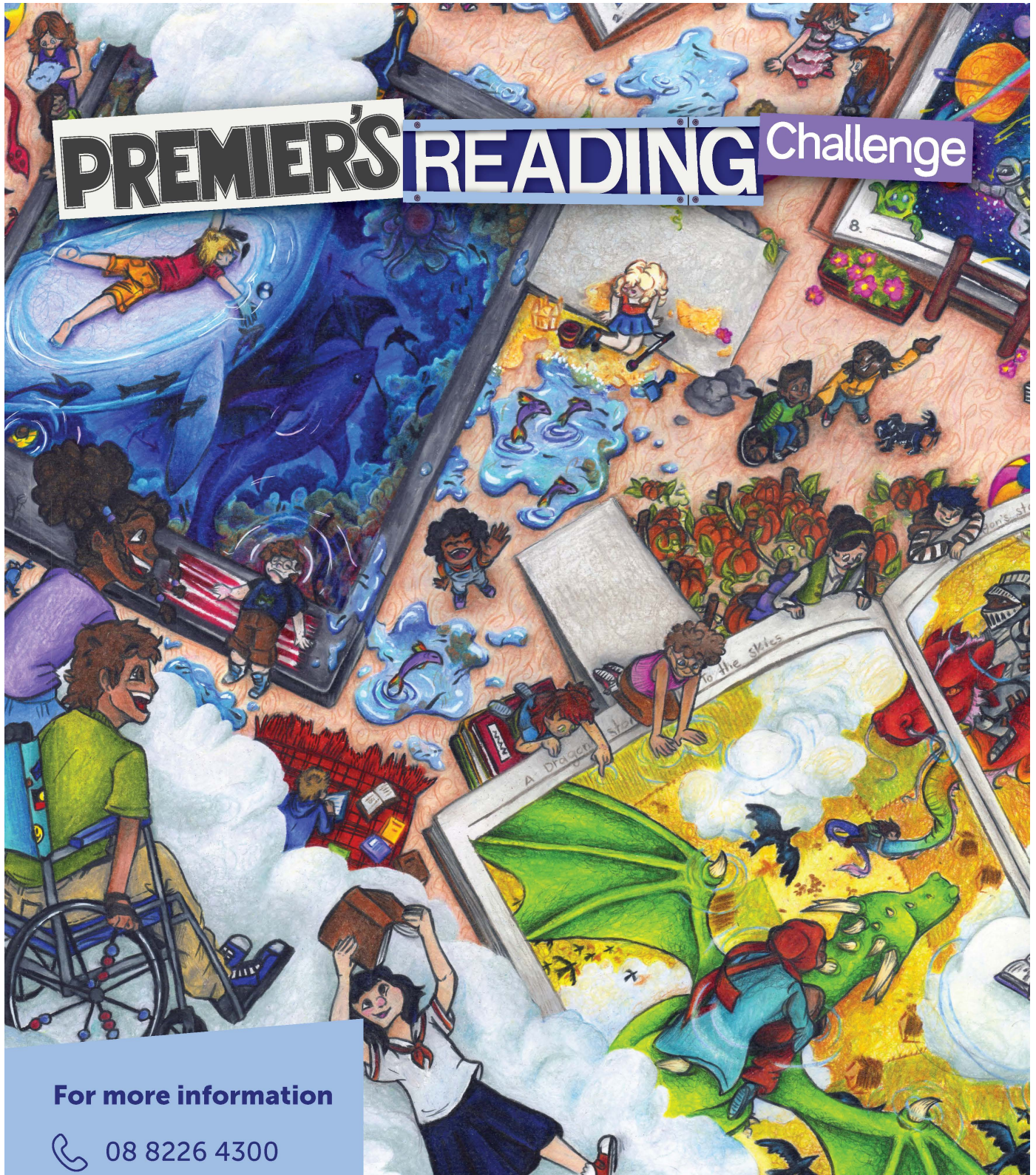


Hit send!

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 can be recorded properly.



PREMIER'S READING Challenge

For more information

☎ 08 8226 4300

✉ prc@sa.gov.au

🖱 prc.sa.edu.au



Reading for the Challenge finishes on
5 September 2025



Government of
South Australia



1 in 4

adolescents have a mental illness.

1 in 7

primary school children have a mental illness.

Over 50%

of students are at risk of a poor learning mindset (anxiety + disengagement).

65%

of adolescents do not seek help.

1 in 5

adults will experience mental illness.

Source: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australia's Youth: Mental Illness

WELCOME TO

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT.

Parents & Carers

Why?

About the program

TRP is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program to support positive mental health in the classroom, staffroom and wider community.

Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy, with regular opportunity for parent/carer involvement.

Get involved with TRP@HOME

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to find activities and resources to implement the GEM+EL principles at home.

Evidence-based

TRP's School Partnership Program has been independently evaluated by [The University of Adelaide](#) and [The University of Melbourne](#).

Scan the QR code to learn more about how the program is significantly lowering the risk of mental illness.

the imperfects

the imperfects is hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, celebrates just how imperfectly perfect we all are. Together, they chat to a variety of people who bravely share their struggles and imperfections alongside valuable learnings we can apply to our own lives and use to support the teachings of TRP in the classroom. Guests include Nathan Buckley, Grace Tame, Jack Steele, Zan Rowe, Michael Klim, Billy Slater, Lael Stone, Pat Cummins, Tim Minchin and many more.

the imperfects

(03) 9113 9302 theresilienceproject.com.au

RESILIENCE PROJECT.

19 / 23

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:



@theresilienceproject__



The Resilience Project



The Resilience Project



theresilienceproject.com.au

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



MARY MACKILLOP
PENOLA



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](#)

Catholic Education South Australia



**#ShineWith
OpenHearts**