



St Mary MacKillop School

NEWSLETTER

10 Bagot Street (PO Box 16), WALLAROO SA 5556

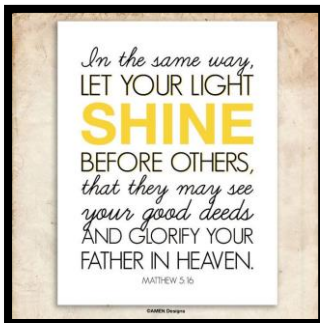
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Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 (Term 1, Week 7)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,



We are now in the fourth week of Lenten Reflection:

Lewis Smedes was a well-known Christian author of several books on forgiveness. In his writings, he shares that we forgive because we want to be healed. He identifies three ways to help us with forgiving others:

1. Instead of identifying the person totally with whatever they did to hurt me, I begin to see them as a person like me – imperfect but a child of God.
2. I give up my “right” to get even. Vengeful thoughts don’t make the other person suffer. They make me suffer. So I just plain let go of those kinds of thoughts.
3. I stand next to the Lord and together with him look at the other person. For sure, Jesus wants good things to happen to them. So, with the Lord’s help (and with some struggle), I begin to look at the other person the way the Lord does.

Take some time to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind someone you find hard to forgive. Now you understand why these three stages can’t be accomplished in one sitting or in one day. It might take the rest of Lent....or maybe this Lent can be the starting point. Forgiveness is an essential Christian practice.

(From The Little Black Book)

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- Wed 13th NAPLAN testing commences
 - Dolphins swimming team training
- Mon 18th St Patrick’s Day (wear a touch of green)
- Tue 19th St Joseph’s Day (wear House top)
 - Mini Macs Playgroup 9.00am
 - Liturgy 11.45am
 - School Board AGM 7.00pm
- Thu 21st Harmony Day (wear a touch of orange)
- Fri 22nd Ride 2 School Day
 - SACPSSA Swimming Carnival at Clare
- Sun 24th - Thu 28th Holy Week
- Fri 29th Good Friday
- Sun 31st Easter Sunday

APRIL

- Mon 1st Easter Monday

Parish Weekend Mass – for mass times, visit:

coppercoast@ppcatholic.org
St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta
Sacred Heart, Kadina
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wallaroo
St Margaret’s, Port Broughton



In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge Nharangga Country and Australia’s First Peoples as traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

SPORTS DAY 2024 – THANK YOU

Thank you everyone for our amazing Sports Day last Wednesday. We are so grateful to have snuck our day in before the heatwave hit. The day ran so smoothly and we have had wonderful positive feedback about the atmosphere and running of the day.

Sports Day is one of the biggest whole school events on our calendar and is about celebrating personal achievement and growth. It's not just about who runs the fastest or jumps the longest; it's about personal bests, overcoming nerves, and trying something new. Witnessing Housemates, Classmates and friends pushing their limits and enjoying themselves irrespective of winning or losing can be profoundly inspiring. It reinforces the idea that effort and participation are valuable, fostering a positive mindset towards physical activity and life challenges in general.

It's about finding joy in movement, embracing challenges, and celebrating the myriad ways our bodies can move and interact with the world around us. As a school community, you have enabled this all for our students. Thank you!

My highlights of the day were seeing the examples of such good sportsmanship: a student just missing the high jump with the biggest smile on their face; a parent coaching their child in the finer points of shotput; students shaking hands and cheering for their mates in other Houses, staff supporting a student to cross over the finish line of the 800 metres, House Captains supporting their House members, wonderful support from family members. This all contributed to such a memorable and successful day.

Our thanks to:

- Wallaroo Football Club for the use of the oval and facilities
- Wallaroo Primary for the use of their high jump mat
- Staff and parents for setting up and packing up on the day
- Scorers Karen Westlake, Liz Reid and Francesca Tully
- Our P & F for their refreshment stall and coordinating Subway lunches
- Volunteers of the Lions Club for the barbecue and Marie and Stephen Leighton with YP Donuts Van
- Graham Sobey for providing sound system
- Brett White our inspirational guest speaker with well chosen words
- Lisa Caffyn, Karen Westlake and Sue Wharton for all of their work behind the scenes with administration and preparations
- Paul Northeast, Ron Sherriff and Megan Liddy for transporting equipment to and from the oval and marking the oval
- Karen McCulloch for helping House Captains with March music and moves
- Parents, family members and friends for coming along to support the children
- Staff for their hours of support with practices, setting up and getting ready; providing encouragement and helping students achieve their best
- House Captains, for their organisation, enthusiasm and leadership
- All students for training, preparation and great participation and spirit on sports day

I especially thank Lisa Caffyn for her overall coordination and planning, as I mentioned at the Sports Day last week, this takes place over five weeks, along with everything else that continues to happen in our school.

Lisa worked with House Captains, organising marches, chants, teams and events, worked with staff and parents in planning and preparations behind the scenes for every aspect of sports day.

Thank you for our awesome Sports Day, our community can be proud of the day!

SPORTS DAY RESULTS - CONGRATULATIONS

**MacKillop House scooped the pool this year:
Championship Team Shield – MacKillop
Team Spirit Shield – MacKillop**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



MacKillop captains Kye, Jayden, Nevayah and Isabelle received the Championship and Team Spirit Shields from Tristan Graham, School Board Chairman.

Record Breakers and Setters

Congratulations to the following students for breaking existing records and setting new records:

Record Breaker:

Serena H - 14 year old girls long jump
Tate - 9 year old boys sprint
Isabella - 9 year old girls sprint
Serena - 14 year old girls sprint
Nevayah - 12 year old girls shot put
Trae - 11 year old boys discus
Sophia - 12 year old girls discus
Ryder - 14 year old boys high jump

Record Setter:

Logan - 15 year old boys long jump
- 15 year old boys shot put
- 15 year old boys discus
Imogen - 14 year old girls shot put



L-R: Isabella, Sophia, Nevayah, Tate, Trae, Serena
Absent: Imogen, Ryder, Logan

SPORTS DAY FEEDBACK

The Sports Day Committee have met and will be designing a survey which will be distributed to staff, students, families, asking for celebrations and constructive feedback/suggestions.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS – SEMESTER 1

Parents will receive a booking sheet today for interviews. Time slots are allocated as we receive forms. R-4 and Year 6-8 majority of interviews will be held Week 10 and Year 5 interviews will be offered in Week 9 due to their camp in Week 10.

Notification of the times booked will then be sent home as soon as possible.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS AGM

Thank you to Danie, Emily, Jody, Felicity, Taya, Sarah, Sharne and Tristan who attended our P & F AGM and March meeting last night.

We had an enjoyable meeting with a few drinks and nibbles, it really was a lovely atmosphere having fun and working together for our school.

We celebrated and reviewed Sports Day and made some good suggestions for improvements for next year. We discussed our P & F events for the remainder of the year and particularly Term 2; we will be holding another popular Blue Light Disco and a Subway lunch treat for the last day of Term 2.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Funds that were raised last year have been mainly designated to go towards new playground equipment and we discussed advancing plans for the design of new play equipment on the oval side of the school. We are looking to upgrade the playground in 3 or 4 phases as it is a very expensive exercise. Students will have the majority of input into the designs.

Thank you to those who have offered to continue in a P & F Executive role or have taken on the role for the first time, your contributions to our school are very much appreciated:

President:	Danie Miller
Vice-President:	Sarah Clifford
Treasurer:	Emily Donnell
Secretary:	Felicity Schulz
P & F rep for School Board:	Sarah Clifford



SCHOOL BOARD AGM

Our School Board Annual General meeting will be held next Tuesday, 19th March in the Sacred Heart Centre beginning at 7.00pm. This is a great opportunity for all parents and families to hear about the achievements of the past 12 months and the goals and future direction for the next 12 months. At the end of the meeting, everyone is welcome to stay for a chat, some snacks and drinks.

There are positions vacant for membership on the School Board. If this is an opportunity you would like to take up, or you know someone you think would make a good contribution, please fill in the nomination form with today's Newsletter.

NAPLAN 2024

Before we knew it, the time for NAPLAN testing arrived! A big thank you to Francesca Tully for all of the behind the scenes preparations that have been going on for the last five weeks; technical readiness and ensuring that all students are registered, have log-in etc is huge. Francesca has worked out the timetable for the testing and will have all of the follow up for catch-up testing.

We all contribute to and have responsibility for the student outcomes of NAPLAN testing and using the information from the testing to identify areas for teaching towards student improvement.

Good luck for the week to our Year 3, 5 and 7 students.

This morning students have completed the Writing test. Thursday will be a big morning with two tests: Reading and Conventions of Language, followed by Numeracy on Friday morning. Catch up testing will continue into next week as needed. Followed by a sigh of relief I am sure!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

STUDENT UNIFORM WEEK 8

In Week 8 we will observe a few special days:

- Monday, 18 March - St Patrick's Day – wear green (students are invited to wear green casual clothes or a touch of green with their usual uniform for the day)
- Tuesday, 19 March - St Joseph's Day – wear House top with sport shorts, sneakers
- Wednesday, 20 March – wear formal or sport (for Dance lesson classes only – Kotz and Norton)
- Thursday, 21 March - Harmony Day – wear orange (students are invited to wear orange casual clothes or a touch of orange with their usual uniform for the day)
- Friday, 22 March - wear formal or sport (for Dance lessons only – Hanson, Murphy/Geyser, Whitehead/Parker, Ryan/Price. Wehr)

SECONDHAND RIDE ON MOWER FOR SALE

We have purchased a new ride on mower for our school, therefore we have our secondhand mower available for sale. Anyone interested is welcome to come and have a look and make an offer.



WH&S

Congratulations and thank you to Emily Donnell for ensuring that our school received an overall excellent report from Lisa Nowak for our WHS audit which was conducted last Monday and Tuesday (it was a very busy week for us!). This does not just happen by chance. Emily's thorough, diligent approach to WHS matters for our school shone through. As you would all understand the compliance is high and ever-increasing in this area, therefore requiring constant follow up and keeping up with changes.

Congratulations and thank you to Sue Wharton for her support and thorough work in the Sacred Heart Centre which contributed to the excellent report.

The audit reiterated how important it is for everyone to support Emily and Sue in their work and for all of us to do our bit towards WHS and take it seriously, including staff, volunteers and visitors.

Thank you Emily also, for organising our staff First Aid training for last Friday when we had our pupil-free day. Jane Purdie our instructor did an excellent job as always, she is an excellent presenter of very important and potentially life-saving information. We managed to have fun and enjoy the training as well as appreciating the serious side (wrapping a colleague up in bandages or administering an epipen to them is usually fun).

As always, we pray we do not have to use what we learn very often.

A WARM ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL WELCOME

We have welcomed a new Year 8 student Imogen Foster-Horsell. Imogen commenced in the SHC last week, thank you to staff and students for welcoming her in what was a very busy week. Welcome to Imogen and her mother Rebecca.

In the last few weeks we have also welcomed two new relief teachers to our staff. Welcome Judith Barker and Nora Michalanney. Relief teachers are always very much welcomed and appreciated.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR PROJECT - PBIS

We will not introduce new Behaviour Procedures for the next two weeks. We are revising and practising the Procedures for expected behaviours around our school for respectful and safe behaviour:

- In the MPLA
- Bringing the white box to and collecting the white box from the office
- Visiting another classroom/office/area
- Whole class movement around the school
- Eating time
- Toilets
- Answering the classroom phone
- Garden beds
- Transition from the classroom to specialist teachers
- Indoor play
- Following instructions
- Bus

Students are reminded that we have same Procedures in all contexts, unfortunately we sometimes find that students think they can be less respectful towards ESO staff, new teachers, relief teachers and specialist teachers. Our mantra is “different teacher – same rules”. You can assist and support at home by speaking with your children about the Procedures they have been learning and practising and the consistent expectations that go with this.

Some underpinning principles of PBIS for us at our school are:

- ❖ Education today must include a balanced focus on both academic achievement and social competency.
- ❖ Students may not have had the opportunity to learn expected behaviour. We must not assume students know the behaviours and social skills that lead to success at school and in life.
- ❖ Behaviour is learned; therefore, responsible behaviour can be taught.
- ❖ Student discipline is best achieved through instruction rather than punishment.
- ❖ Student behaviour can be taught using the same strategies used to teach academics.
- ❖ For behaviour change to occur, we must use positive approaches that strengthen teacher-student relationships.
- ❖ Students need and want high standards for their behaviour. Maintaining high expectations does not require “get tough” or punitive approaches.
- ❖ Student discipline is a shared responsibility and requires a combined effort by all staff, working with families. We all “own” each and every student and are jointly committed to their success.
- ❖ Student discipline is a collaborative effort. All staff and families must work together, striving for consensus on procedures and consistent implementation.

*Parents are the ultimate
role models for children.
Every word, movement
and action has an effect.
No other person or outside
force has a greater
influence on a child than
the parent.*

- Bob Keeshan

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Ms Michelle Miller
PRINCIPAL



CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MISSION

Last Sunday was the 4th Sunday of Lent. Fr Chris wore a rose chasuble. The rose/pink symbolizes joy, hope and anticipation. It reminds the faithful that even during times of penance and preparation, there is always reason to rejoice and hope.

Fr Chris' chasuble was made by one of the parishioners. We now have a pink/rose coloured chasuble for our priest to wear on this day and on the third Sunday of Advent. The colour purple will continue to be the Lenten colour.

colour.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: SAINT JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO The Patron Saint of Exams (NAPLAN)

As this week and next are scheduled for NAPLAN, St. Joseph of Cupertino is the perfect Saint of the Week. He struggled with his studies. The best he could do was to learn a small portion of the material he was supposed to know, and then pray that he would be asked about the portion that he did know. He miraculously passed his exams and was able to become a priest.



He was called "The Flying Friar" because he often floated off the ground while deep in prayer. His gift of floating taught him to be humble and obedient.

A PRAYER:

St. Joseph of Cupertino,

You were helped by God in overcoming the difficulties of study and the worries of examinations. Please send the Holy Spirit onto the year 3,5,7 and 9 students during NAPLAN, to enlighten their minds and strengthen their memories in the search of His truth and wisdom.

May they succeed in offering God their finest work and may they grow in knowledge, understanding, humility, and charity.

May everything that they attempt to learn in life be offered in faithful service to God, from whom flows that wisdom which leads to eternal life.

St. Joseph of Cupertino pray with us.

Amen.

PRAYING TO A SAINT

When we pray to a saint, we ask that they pray *with us*. We often pray to a saint for a particular need. The saint becomes one more friend in that circle who will pray with us, asking God to hear us and help us to cope.

As our friend, St Mary MacKillop lends us encouragement and confidence because she has lived before us and now lives in the mystery of God. Next time you pray, you might consider using **St Mary MacKillop – pray with us**.

KEY DATES NEXT WEEK

Monday, 18th March is **St Patrick's Day**. We are invited to wear a touch of green.

Tuesday, 19th March is **St Joseph's Day**. We are invited to wear your house tops. At 11:45am, we will celebrate this special day with a liturgy. Everyone is welcome to celebrate with us.

Thursday, 21st March is **Harmony Day**. We are invited to wear a touch of orange. Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Friday, 22nd March is **Ride to School Day**. I wonder who will ride to school that day. Students are welcome and encouraged to ride their bike, scooter or skateboard to school.

FROM THE REC



CARITAS: Project Compassion fundraising so far...

Your generosity with our fundraising for Project Compassion is appreciated. The Year 6-8 students raised \$164.05 cooking pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. The Reception Hanson and Year 3/4 Kotz classes raised \$171.50 along with a donation of \$33.00.

The year 5 class is currently doing their guess the lolly jar and Zooper Dooper stall until Thursday.



On **Thursday, 11th April**, the **Year 1/2 Classes** are hosting a **Crazy Hair Day, lunch time movie and popcorn**. The movie will be finished on the Friday and is a gold coin donation.

Your Project Compassion boxes are due back by Week 10.

MARY MACKILLOP QUOTE: *Bear your little trials with patience and love. MM 1876*

We disappoint ourselves when we struggle to be loving and cheerful, and instead find ourselves grumpy and irritable. At such times, it might help is we can repeat in our hearts this prayer of Brother Roger of Taize:

Jesus, keep us in the spirit of the Beatitudes: joyful, simple and merciful.

Amen.

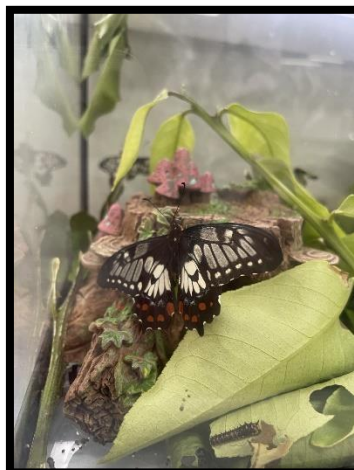
Wishing everyone a week filled with patience and love.

Mrs Francesca Tully
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Love is patient
1 Cor. 13:4

YEAR 1/2WP NEWS

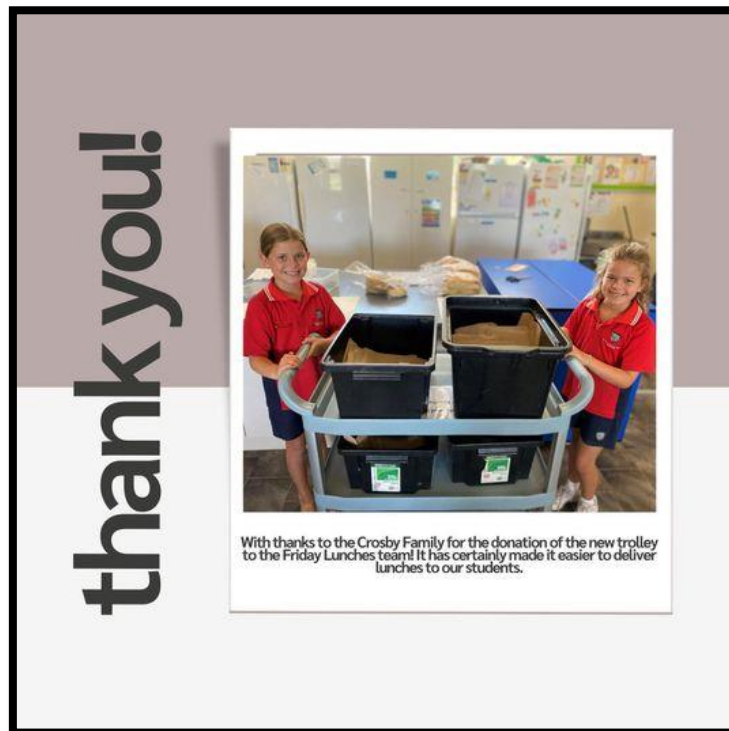
Liam, in 1/2 WP class, brought in some Dainty Swallowtail caterpillars from his lemon tree to show the class. The students were very interested and enjoyed listening to Liam share his knowledge about the caterpillars with us. We have kept the caterpillars in an aquarium in our classroom and have been watching and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. Everyone was so excited last Thursday as the chrysalis hatched into a butterfly. After some observations, we released the butterflies outside.



P & F LUNCHES THANK YOU

Our Friday Lunches volunteers collect up all of the class lunch boxes and freezer bags, collate orders into them and then deliver them back to classrooms. As you can imagine, this is a big job and a bit of a juggle.

We want to say a big "THANK YOU" to the Crosby family who donated a trolley to our P & F. The trolley has certainly made this job a whole lot easier and safer for our volunteers.



2023 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

IN OMNIBUS CARITAS

2023 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

2023 School Magazine
ST MARY MACKILLOP SCHOOL
CALLED TO COMMUNITY

PREPAID COPIES SENT HOME TODAY - EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE FOR \$25 FROM FRONT OFFICE

SPORTS DAY SNAPS



SPORTS DAY SNAPS



OSHC NEWS

Enclosed with today's Newsletter is a Vacation Care booking sheet for the April school holidays. If families with permanent bookings have already returned their forms, there is no need to complete another form.

We are on the hunt for more dress ups- we would love any donations of recycled dress ups that are in good used condition. If you have any you can donate please bring them into OSHC.

CANCELLATIONS

When cancellations are made at short notice this impacts on staffing, running costs and other families needing to use the service.

Any bookings for **OSHC** during the school term must be **cancelled seven school term days** in advance, thank you.

Any bookings for **Vacation Care** during the school holidays must be cancelled in advance **a minimum of fourteen days** during business hours.

Please phone or message the OSHC phone on 0437659137 for any bookings or cancellations. This helps immensely with knowing where students need to be and with planning staff.

Lisa Cooper

OSHC Director - 0437 659 137

MINI MACS PLAYGROUP

Our Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. The group caters for children birth-5 years for a weekly play and a lovely catch-up for the families! Thank you to Felicity Schulz for continuing to organise our Playgroup. All welcome. Below are some beautiful photos of children enjoying yesterday's session.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Madeline – Year 5	14 th March
Carter – Year 3/4K	17 th March
Miranda – Year 3/4W	18 th March
Adelaide – Year 6-9	19 th March
Ollie – Year 1/2WP	19 th March



NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

1. Parent/Teacher Interview forms
2. Vacation Care booking form

If you have not received any of the above hand-outs, please write a note in your child's diary for a copy to be sent home.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The services and events contained in Community News are in no way connected with the school and are included in this newsletter for your information only. Parents and caregivers need to make their own enquiries and assessments about the suitability of these events and services for their needs and those of their children. Notices will be placed if time and space permits.

MESSY CHURCH

Kadina Uniting Church Hall

Friday 15th March

3.15pm— 5.30pm



- Creative activities for Children
- Time for story and sharing what they have created
- Meal provided
- Donation towards costs appreciated

A time the Family
can spend together

*For more
information
call*

*Jane Gersch
0428 218 255*