

# Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury Newsletter

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197 Urana Street Jindera, NSW, 2642

Week 4, Term 1, 2021

Friday 19th February



## Dates for your Diary:

**Thur 25<sup>th</sup> Feb –**  
Parent Night

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar –**  
RAS Swimming

**Thur 4<sup>th</sup> Mar – BISSA**  
Swimming

**Thur 11<sup>th</sup> Mar – School**  
Photos  
(note new date)

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Mar –**  
Year 7 & 10  
Vaccination Clinic Visit

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Mar – Working**  
Bee

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Mar**  
Mother & Daughter  
Camp

**Tue 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar – SMMC**  
Cross Country Run

*Kinder students will  
continue to have  
Wednesdays off from  
school until week 7  
(inclusive) of school  
term.*

Dear parents,

It was Pope Paul VI who said, in his letter *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, that the world needs witnesses even more than teachers. The witnesses came to the fore yesterday, with the visit yesterday of seminarians and vice rector, Fr Sean Byrnes, of Vianney College, Wagga Wagga.

A signal day in the SMMC calendar, the priests and seminarians demonstrate a willingness to give their all for Christ. Their generosity of spirit and openness to God's call were on display at Mass, in classroom visits and on the sporting field.

Not all of our children will be priests! But keeping the faith and following God's call wherever He may lead are things we want for each of them. Next week's Parent Night will equip parents with new insights, tools and strategies to assist in our children's formation. I'm looking forward to meeting each of you.

Teachers will be available to meet parents in the classrooms from 7.00pm, prior to Dr Andy Mullins' presentation, which starts at 7.30pm. Primary teachers will have work samples of your children on display and secondary staff will be on hand to answer questions. I encourage parents to take the opportunity to learn more about what their children are learning and how they are progressing.

Warm regards,  
Ian

## School Discipline Policy

Please see attached a letter from the Principal with regards to the school's revised discipline policy



## Diary Date Changes

Please note that dates for school photos, the Mother & Daughter Camp and Cross Country have changed. The new dates are listed under 'Dates for your Diary' on this page.

## Mother & Daughter Camp

The SMMC Mother and Daughter Camp is finally on again! Please see attached a camp information sheet and booking form. **All bookings must be finalised by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March.** Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.

## Pancake Breakfast Thank You

A big thank you to Vera Galvin and Kieran Williams who organised and cooked pancakes for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast. Thank you also to the year 12 students for providing pancake batter and to all other students who helped on the day. The breakfast raised \$600 in total, which is a fantastic effort. Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the Byrnes family.

## Lost Property

The lost property has suddenly grown from items left behind at the Swimming Carnival. Please check the lost property baskets in the Hall hallway if you are missing any items.

## Legion of Mary

A friendly reminder to parents whose children attend Legion of Mary on Tuesdays to please ensure your children are picked up in a timely manner. Please note that the school office is officially closed from 4.30pm. Thank you.

## School Fee Invoices

School fee invoices have been posted out to families this week.

(Left – Seminary visit on Thursday)

## CURRICULUM CORNER

Mr Gary Carcarello

### Year 9/10 Girls English

In Year our Year 9/10 girls English class, we've been studying Robert Bolt's wonderful play, *A Man for All Seasons*, chronicling the mind and martyrdom of St Thomas More, under the reign of King Henry VIII. Critical to our study has been the discernment of the moral position of the text, evident in the dialogue and stage directions that capture More's unflinching integrity and intellectual capacity.

We've searched for the symbolism evident in the text, and analysed the characterisation, with a particular focus on finding direct evidence from the text to support our claims. The culmination of our study will be an essay on the text in which we incorporate a clear thesis statement, supporting ideas, and supporting evidence in both quotation and stage direction.

St Thomas More is perhaps now, more than ever, a fine example of how we should live out our faith in shifting and fickle political and social spheres, reminded of our ultimate duty by his dying statement: "I die as the King's true servant, but God's first."



# 2021 SMMC

## Swimming Carnival

*It was perfect weather for this year's swimming carnival! The competition was fierce with Saint Francis of Assisi winning this year's carnival. Well done to all participants, especially our age champions and our top record breaker, Xander Saliba, who broke four SMMC swimming race records in his age group. A big thank you also goes to the organiser of the day, Mr Paul Griffin, as well as our parent volunteers who helped make the event a great success.*



### 2021 SMMC Swimming Carnival first place age champions

Age	Boys	Girls
Open	Joshua Wright	Lucy Ryan
16	Samuel Perry	Lucy Wright
15	Peter Wright	Sarah O'Brien
14	Xandar Saliba	Jacinta Irwin
13	Thomas Wright	Celine Chandrasegaran
12	Peter Sparshott	Georgia Cattell
11	Angelus Saliba	Anna Sparshott
10	Oscar Darlow	Lucia Wall
9	Logan Blood + Julius Price	Sarah Irwin + Eleora Saliba
8	Ambrose Wall	Valentina Evans
7	Patrick Bell	

### 2021 SMMC Swimming Records Set

**\*Xander Saliba** (SFA) 15y/o male 100m freestyle; 1m 6s 50ms **\*Valentina Evans** (SFA) 9y/o female 25m breaststroke; 0m 40s 4ms **\*Sarah Irwin** (SJB) 10y/o female 25m breaststroke; 0m 30s 75ms **\*Xander Saliba** (SFA) 15y/o male 50m breast stroke; 0m 41s 88ms **\*Peter Wright** (SFA) 16y/o male 50m breast stroke; 0m 46s 9ms **\*Xander Saliba** (SFA) 15y/o male 50m butterfly; 0m 34s 23ms **\*Bethany Wright** (SFA) 11y/o female 50m back stroke; 1m 6s 35ms **\*Xander Saliba** (SFA) 15y/o male 50m back stroke; 0m 37s 94ms **\*Peter Wright** (SFA) 16y/o male 50m back stroke; 0m 47s 47ms **\*Lucia Wall** (SJB) 11y/o female 50m breast stroke; 1m 8s 7ms **\*Joshua Wright** (SFA) open male 50 m freestyle; 0m 29s 50ms **\*Eleora Saliba** (SFA) 10y/o female 50m freestyle; 0m 41s 44ms



# 2021 SMMC

## Swimming Carnival Cont.



Create. Share. Encounter.

Dear Ladies,

Please join me for the first Maker's Table for 2021.

We will be dabbling with watercolour under the generous direction of Peta Evans. Peta will guide us through basic brush strokes and techniques, with plenty of opportunity to 'play' before finishing by creating a beautiful dust jacket for a lined prayer journal - the perfect accompaniment for your Lenten journey. This workshop is suitable for every ability, even those who have never held a paintbrush before!

**Date:** Saturday 20th February

**Time:** 1pm

**Address:** 65 Mulgrave Rd, Jindera

**Cost:** \$25

For last minute bookings please call 0451 786 471 before 10.00am on the day.



"Give thanks to God for the gift of sport, in which the human person exercises his body, intellect and will, recognising these abilities as so many gifts of his Creator." - Saint Pope John Paul II

# Virtue of the Month

## - HOPE -

### *Trusting in God's Loving Plan*

*"It is important to know that I can always continue to hope, even if in my own life, or the historical period in which I am living, there seems to be nothing left to hope for. Only the certitude of hope that my own life and history in general, despite all failures, are held firm by the indestructible power of God's Love, and that this gives them their meaning and importance, only this kind of hope can give the courage to act and to persevere."*  
(Pope Benedict XVI)

#### Practices to foster the virtue of hope at home

- **Pray the Act of Hope each morning**

#### **Act of Hope**

*O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.*

- **Read a Scripture passage about hope.** Re-read it and choose a word or phrase that stand out.

Psalm 62:1-8

Wisdom 1:16 –3:4

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Matthew 12:15-21

Romans 5:1-5

Romans 8:20-30

Romans 15:4-13

Ephesians 1:11-23

- **Talk about a TV program that you watch where the virtue of hope is practiced.** Example: A character in the program never gives up despite difficult circumstances.
- **Read about saints that model the virtue of hope.** St. John Vianney, St. Teresa Benedicta, St. Josephine of Bakhita, St. Padre Pio, who famously said "Pray, Hope, Don't Worry."
- **Discuss what it means to have hope in the future.** Do you have a vision for the future based upon the fact that God has a plan for your life?
- **Instil good habits that encourage growth in trust of God's love and His plan for each of us.** e.g. Pray, read Scripture, receive the Sacraments, reach out to others, be part of Christian fellowship.





# LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

## *Encouraging Our Children to be Saints*

Our Lord wants our children to be saints with Him one day in Heaven. This saintliness doesn't happen by accident. It requires three basic elements; the desire, the struggle, and God's grace make it possible. God has made our children filled with the desire to be one with Him, we just have to lead them to Him. As Saint Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You". God gives all of us a longing for Him that only He alone can satisfy. Your children have that longing also.

By our children becoming saints living in the world, they give a strong witness to Him and to His message, and also give God great glory. When Our Lady appeared to the three children of Fatima she asked them to live good and holy lives, to pray much and offer sacrifices to God. Both Jacinta and Francisco died whilst still children and are now declared saints by the church. Francisco wasn't quite 11 and Jacinta wasn't quite 10 when they died. Even young children can be great saints. Reading stories of saints like these can help your children learn the recipe and desire for holiness. February 20<sup>th</sup> is the feast of these saints. Remind your children to ask for their help to be saints as on feast days extra graces are offered.

Saint Dominic Savio was another child saint. He was a student of Saint John Bosco. He made a promise when making his first Holy Communion that he would rather die than commit a sin. He only lived until he was fifteen years of age but all who came in contact with him were touched by his deep holiness. Shortly after his death he appeared to his father to tell him he was in Heaven. One of Saint John Bosco's secrets for holiness in children was to encourage them to frequent the sacraments as much as possible. "How can a boy not become a gentleman if he keeps company with the greatest Gentleman the world has ever seen - Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament". Like St John Bosco, we can keep our children close to Jesus and bring them frequently to the sacraments.

With Lent soon here, it is a time to remember we are God's creatures and that we will not live on Earth forever. "Remember man that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return." Now is the time to take a fresh look at the life we live and do penance for past sins. We can focus on working on some of our vices by practicing the opposite virtues and strive for perfection on a day to day basis. Our Lord desires our children to be holy now. A pure child's soul gives great glory to God and a great witness to the Faith.

***Words of St Pope John Paul II to children at the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta Marto, Saturday, 13 May 2000.***

"Ask your parents and teachers to enrol you in the 'school' of Our Lady, so that she can teach you to be like the little shepherds, who tried to do whatever she asked them. I tell you that **"one makes more progress in a short time of submission and dependence on Mary than during entire years of personal initiatives, relying on oneself alone"** (St Louis de Montfort, *The True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, n. 155). This was how the little shepherds became saints so quickly. A woman who gave hospitality to Jacinta in Lisbon, on hearing the very beautiful and wise advice that the little girl gave, asked who taught it to her. "It was Our Lady", she replied. Devoting themselves with total generosity to the direction of such a good Teacher, Jacinta and Francisco soon reached the heights of perfection.

