

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury Newsletter

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Week 2, Term 1, 2021
Friday 5th February



Dates for your Diary:

Wed 10th Feb – 2021
SMMC Swimming
Carnival

Tuesday 16th Feb –
Shrove Tuesday

Wed 17th Feb – Ash
Wednesday

Wed 17th Feb –
Secondary Swimming

Thur 18th Feb –
Seminar and Serra
Club Visit

Fri 19th Feb – Year 12
Retreat

Tue 23rd Feb – School
Photos

Thur 25th Feb – Parent
Night

*Kinder Students will
continue to have
Wednesdays off from
school until week 8 of
school term.*

Dear Parents,

In the movie *Shadowlands*, CS Lewis quipped that one can always be more hospitable when people can't stay long. This proved not to be the case at the Welcome BBQ, held last Sunday. Under brilliantly blue skies and with unfailingly happy dispositions, the SMMC community welcomed families new and old in great numbers and good cheer. Perhaps it also signalled a return to normality after the torrid pandemic. Let's hope and pray it is so!

The involvement of parents in the daily life of the school is an indispensable component of the family/school partnership, adding to the range and richness of the students' experience. In particular, I welcome the presence of parents in the library and garden on Fridays. There are opportunities throughout the day to assist teachers for as long or short a time as is available. Students are comforted and encouraged by the sight of their parents and the whole community benefits when we all put our shoulders to the wheel. Please let the front office know of your interest.

I would like to congratulate Rachel Perry who, with an ATAR of 81.5, is the 2020 College dux. Rachel received the Reuben F. Scarf - Commitment to Studies Award at last year's presentation night, having been an exemplary student in her devotion to the pursuit of excellence. Congratulations also go to James O'Brien who achieved a Band 6 in Mathematics Advanced.

With every best wish for the year.

Warm regards,

Ian

Students Riding to School

Students are reminded that they are to dismount their bikes and walk them through the school carpark using the pedestrian crossing and are not to ride their bikes through the carpark. Thank you

Swimming Carnival

The SMMC Swimming Carnival will take place this coming **Wednesday 10th February** for the whole school day. There will be swimming races, fun games and activities as well as presentations at the end of the day.

Parents and family are very welcome to stay for the day to spectate. Please note that younger siblings not attending as students, must be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times. A flyer was sent home earlier in the week with further details.

Student Residential Address Collection

Attached is a letter to parents from the Australian Department of Education, Skills and Employment regarding the 2021 Address Collection for independent schools. ***We ask that all families please ensure that the school has your most current address details*** to ensure that our data for the collection is accurate. Please call or email the school office if you have recently moved or have changed your postal address. Thank you.

Student Absences

A friendly reminder that student absences can be lodged by parents through their PAM account before 10.30am on the day of absence. After that time, all absences must be notified to the office by email or telephone.

Absences of more than five consecutive days are not able to be lodged through PAM and must be notified by email or telephone and a supporting medical certificate must be supplied if the student is unwell. Planned absences of more than five consecutive days require an 'Application for Extended Leave Form' to be completed. These forms are available through the school office.

NSW School Vaccination Program

Each year the school is visited by NSW Health who offer vaccines for students in year 7 and 10 as part of their school vaccination program. Further information and consent forms for the program will be sent home to parents of year 7 and 10 students. For those parents who would like their child to be vaccinated, please note that consent forms are due back on Monday 15th Feb.

Around the School and Our Community

*Year Two Students
painting a cover for their
Creative and Performing
Art (CAPA) books with
Mrs McCrohan (Right & below)*



*Year Four students in Religion class with
Fr Heffernan and playing Tennis with
Mr Griffin (Below)*



Congratulations To

*Mathieu & Prudence
Couture on the arrival of
their baby boy, Theodore;*

*Brendan and Genevieve
Cattell on the arrival of their
baby boy, Tarcisus;*

*Marcus and Regina Shaw on
the arrival of their baby girl,
Felicity;*

*and Ross and Bridget
Hayward on the arrival of
their baby boy, Elijah*

*Our school community
continues to grow!*

*May God bless all your
families.*





2021 Class Parents

Class	Parents
Kinder	Carmen & Jason Price
Year 1	James & Catherine Stewart
Year 2	Esther & Daniel Clark
Year 3	TBC
Year 4	Michael & Anna Green
Year 5	Wassim & Marcia Saliba
Year 6	Michael & Maria Sparshott
Year 7	Ben and Tanya O'Brien
Year 8	TBC
Year 9	Peter & Susan Voskullen
Year 10	Louise & Joel Wright
Year 11	Tom & Cheradee Gillespie
Year 12	Tom & Clare Ryan

Some Key Tasks of Class Parents:

- To help every family materially whenever they have special needs such as illness, a new baby etc.
- Coordinate a phone tree to get messages out from the school
- Help new families settle in well
- Encourage friendships amongst the families in the classes
- Arrange small group dinners in the course of the year that everybody in the class would attend
- Hold at least one major gathering for the class each year, for example a picnic
- Help out with events within the school such as parent nights, working bees, fundraising events and other school social events. The Board and management of the school will support them in this role also.
- One parent from each couple will attend the School Advisory Council meeting, once per term.

Contact details and further information regarding the role of class parents will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

- HOPE -

Trusting in God's Loving Plan

"Hope is the *theological* virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. 'The Holy Spirit...He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life'" (CCC 1817). *Note: Theological means that this gift comes from God and leads us back to God. A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Supernatural means it is above our nature*

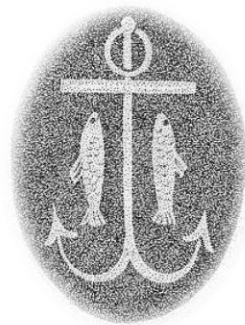
What is the supernatural virtue of hope?

The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person; it takes up the hopes that inspire our activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of Heaven. We receive the supernatural gift of hope from God in Baptism.

- The supernatural virtue of hope allows the possibility for Christians to trust in God. This grace is a gift of God, infused by Him.
- Hope has to do with things that seem difficult or impossible to receive, such as salvation. (See *John* 11:25-26)
- The gift of hope given by God never disappoints (cf. *Romans* 5:5).
- Hope tells us that God, Who promised us eternal salvation, will also give us the graces that we need for the journey to Heaven. He is faithful to His word, so we can put our trust in Him.
- Faith assists us to hope in God and His promise that He will always remain with us. Hope sustains us at all times, especially when feelings of discouragement or abandonment seem to overwhelm us.
- In addition, hope *keeps* us from discouragement.
- Hope opens up our heart in expectation of future blessings and eternal beatitude.
- Buoyed up by hope, we are preserved from turning inward in selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.

Why do we need the supernatural virtue of hope?

- God is almighty, merciful and good. The supernatural gift of hope helps us to trust in God's promises, opening our heart to His mercy.
- Hope ensures the desire written on our heart by God to attain the glory of Heaven promised by God to those who love Him and do His will. We trust that God will give the grace we need to attain it.
- Hope leads us to persevere in prayer, even when all reason for hope seems absent. (cf. *Romans* 4:18-21) • Hope offers to us joy and courage which sustains us in times of trial.
- Hope allows us to live, grow and persevere in faith.
- When we need the gift of hope, the most important thing we can do is ask for it: "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (*Psalms* 34:6).



Sacred Scripture

"For You O Lord are my Hope... my trust is in You. (*Psalms* 146:5)

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, to give you a future and a hope." (*Jeremiah* 29:11)

LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Parenting as an Adventure

Entering the Teen Years

As a parent, sometimes life can be fairly easy during the primary school years. Children are usually reasonably obedient, go to bed early and are generally a pleasure to have around. It is easy to become complacent and expect this gentle incline from babyhood into adult hood to remain the same. Generally, things change as young people enter the teen years. This is nothing new as this quote attributed to Socrates suggests:

“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers”. (469-399BC)

Kimberley Hahn in her book: *'Legacy of Love; Biblical Wisdom for Parenting Teens and Young Adults'* believes that these teen years are the best. They are some of the most challenging but fruitful and enjoyable years. It is a time when young people really look at the world around them and try to work out how they fit into it. “They discuss life, love, politics, philosophy, and theology. They share their thoughts if we listen. “This is one of the key aspects of parenting in this age group, being available to listen. Encourage your teens to talk about what is happening in their world. Just because you live under the same roof doesn't mean you know all about them. Take the time to ask open ended questions like: How is school going? Who do you sit with? What are your thoughts on the latest sport topic? What do you think you'll do when you finish school? What do you think of your religion classes? Sometimes it takes a while for the conversation to flow but it is well worth the effort.

Being available for your teens to talk is so important. Just as when they were young they came home in tears after some mishap they needed to tell you all about, teens still need you to be a sounding board for their day to day life. This can quite often mean them surfacing after 10pm at night with some problem they have to talk over with you. Not always the best time but sometimes all you need to do is acknowledge the problem and make a time- say in the morning when you are all a little fresher to talk it through- or maybe over a coffee date on the weekend depending on what the need is.

Even if you don't have teens, plan ahead that you want to develop a strong relationship with them now so that when they start developing their own independence they know you are someone they can turn to all their lives for emotional support. James Stenson in his book, *'Lifeline, The Religious Upbringing of Your Children'* stresses the importance of spending time with children when they are young to develop lifelong habits of virtue. You have to have a vision of what your children will be as adults and keep that as the framework for all of your parenting. Keep close to them and be the support they need so that they don't turn to whatever is out there in the secular culture to give them some support. Parents usually have the highest vision of what their children will be, so persevere.

Teenagers love rhetoric! Encourage them to argue about what their views for the world and the future are. Also enjoy engaging them in Apologetics, give them examples of challenging questions you have been posed with in the past. Ask them how they would have responded, maybe they would do a better job than you. Some teens love learning compelling arguments to defend the truth of the Catholic faith against other belief systems. Certainly arguments over boundaries and rules will happen but try to have a few hard and fast ones as well as a few that are flexible. The teen years certainly are an adventure. Enjoy the ride, once they have left home to spread their wings you don't have that time again.



February
Month of the Holy Family



*Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us more mindful of
the sacredness of the family
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Pray with us that
our families will be
places of communion
and prayer, authentic
schools of the Gospel.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.*

Burrumbuttock Tennis Club inc

OUTDOOR WORKS Junior Classic

Sunday March 07

9am Start - \$10/player - Boys & Girls Doubles, winners & runners up prizes

BBQ lunch - Complimentary Morning & Afternoon Tea

Entries: Ash Lindner 0458 293 328 (ages as of tournament day)

Sponsors: Burrumbuttock Tennis Club, Hume Country Tennis Assoc. Walla Post Office,
Sportspower, Maurice Tynan, Sportsmans Warehouse, Elders, On-The-Mark Painting

