Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Welcome back to Term 3. I hope you enjoyed the break with your children and were able to spend some quality time with each one of them. It has been a really positive start to the term and it is great to have the students walking back through the gate each day!

Welcome to our new students!
I am pleased to welcome two new students who started with us this week; Emilie-Kate Maslak into Year 3 and Max Clarke into Year 8. Please join me in making our new families feel a very welcome part of our school.

Working Bee
Thank you so much to all those families who came along and helped at our working bee last Saturday. We achieved a lot in the few hours we were here, including: weeding all the front garden beds; pruning and cleaning up the amazing vege garden; digging out dirt and creating a garden bed outside the 1/2 Room ready for pouring a concrete slab this coming Saturday; further clean out of the shed; cleaning windows; filling in pot holes on the driveway; cleaning computers; putting library furniture back after it was painted during the holidays; cobwebbing; mowing; and many other jobs that helped get our school ready to start the term. Thank you to everyone for their generosity and hard work!

Service Project
Thank you to Mrs Horsfall and the girls who took part in the Service Project during the holidays. They got in, rolled their sleeves up and gave our Library a new lease of life with a fresh coat of paint. Well done and thank you!

Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner – 6th August
It is very exciting to have the Gala Dinner just around the corner. All proceeds from the dinner will go towards the new sports court, so please rally up as many people as you can to come along to this night.

Parent Information Evening
We are very privileged to have Dr Gerard O’Shea coming to present at our Term 3 Parent Evening on Friday 12th August at 7:30pm. Gerard will present on a Christian Approach to Human Sexuality. He is a very knowledgeable and experienced presenter on this topic and it is a night not to be missed. These evenings are an integral part of our school, so please make every effort to be there. As always, if babysitting is preventing you from being here, get in touch so we can assist you. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Fete Subcommittee
Thank you to the parents who came along to our meeting in the Library yesterday. Lots of great donations have been chased up for the prize wheel and I thank the volunteers for their efforts! A sheet will come home with next week’s newsletter which you can fill in to indicate where you might be able to contribute to our fete. This is one of the major fundraisers for the year and we have an impending sports court to pay for, so thanks in advance for getting in behind this great community event.

Primary School Eisteddfod
Next Wednesday 27th July the students in Years 1-6 will be performing in the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod at the Albury Entertainment Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity for these students to represent our school at such a public event. A permission note will be sent home with the eldest child in Years 1-6, so please get this back to the office ASAP. Thank you to Mr Flores for all his time and effort in preparing these children.

Secondary School P/T Interviews
Next Tuesday evening from 7-8:30pm, we will be holding Secondary School Parent Teacher Interviews in the SMMC Hall. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the school office.

Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day – 8th August
We are looking forward to celebrating our school’s feast day on Monday 8th August. We are running a Saint Mary MacKillop Competition. Have a look at the flyer attached and get working on your masterpiece! Looking forward to seeing lots of entries. We will be displaying all entries at the Gala Dinner on Saturday 6th August.

God Bless

Luke Burton (Principal)
Dates for your diary...

- Tuesday 26th July – Secondary School Parent/Teacher Interviews 7:00-8:30pm in the SMMC Hall.
- Thursday 4th August – Parents and Friends Meeting 7:00pm
- Saturday 6th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner at Commercial Club
- Monday 8th August – Saint Mary Mackillop Feast Day – Mass at 12.15pm
- Thursday 11th August – BIPSA Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park
- Friday 12th August 7:30pm – Parent Evening with Dr Gerard O’Shea
- Saturday 13th August – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser for SMMC, 9am – 4pm. Volunteers needed please.
- Monday 15th August – Feast of the Assumption – Mass at 12.15pm
- Friday 19th August – School Assembly after 9:20am Mass
- Monday 22nd – Friday 26th August – BOOK WEEK
- Friday 2nd September 7:00pm – School Concert in the SMMC Hall
- Saturday 17th September – SMMC Cake Stall in Jindera
- Friday 23rd September – Assembly after 9:20am Mass and Term Three finishes

- Monday 10th October – Term Four begins for students
- Saturday 22nd October – SMMC Fete
- Friday 11th November – Sunday 13th November - Father/Son Camp, Harrietville
- Thursday 8th December – Term Four finishes

~ CURRICULUM CORNER ~ Mr Andrew Flores

The students in the Year 1/2 classroom have been hard at work, learning the phonograms and how they are used to form words and sentences. Literacy sessions are comprised of a variety of activities such as phonogram recognition, finger spelling (breaking words into phonograms), letter formation, word building, word bingo, group and individual reading, sentence writing and dictation. A class favourite is Word Bingo, where students look for the given word on their card to link three in a row and win the round. Here you can see one of the literacy groups working hard on their sentence writing. Great work 1/2!
Training children in the service of others.

“Train up a child in the way he should go and he will not stray from it.” As a parent it is easy to lose sight of the goals of parenting; Where we are headed and how we are to get there. Our children need to be brought up not just to look after themselves but to care for others. They need to be able to serve others in the way God is calling them- in their vocation. Vocation comes from the Latin word “voca”, meaning to call. Who is calling us to our vocation? God is calling us to serve him through serving others, usually through marriage, the priesthood or the single life. Children first learn to serve others by serving those in their own family.

In family life children need to be trained to serve others, it doesn’t usually happen automatically. I read a story once about a woman who insisted her young teenage daughters clean the house before some visitors arrived while she completed some other urgent business. The girls turned to her and said, “No, that's your job”. The wise mother then replied to her daughters, “This is where you are wrong, it is my job to teach you how to do it, so get on with it!” It is easy for our children to get used to the generosity of their parents and somehow feel entitled to it.

Put in the time now to train your children in serving others and you will help them develop virtues to draw on for the rest of their lives. Having rosters and lists of jobs with appropriate rewards can help. A four-year-old is capable of making a simple bed (pulling up the doona) and helping clear the table (e.g. Clearing away the salt and pepper). A six-year-old is able to wash up after a small meal such as breakfast (try Saturday morning). They can also collect dirty clothes baskets from around the house and empty them in the laundry. A seven or eight-year-old is capable of making their own lunch, feeding the pets and keeping their room tidy (at least most of the time). A ten-year-old is capable of changing their sheets and vacuuming their room once a week as well as cleaning a bathroom. By about the age of 12 children should be able to do almost all household jobs as well as helping out to care for younger siblings by bathing or helping them dress. These are just a few ideas to get you started.

Pray to Our Lord for the help and direction in training your children in the way He wants them to go.

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY - GRATITUDE

“There is a line of development that begins with recognition and proceeds to appreciation and then culminates in gratitude. The first is the mere acknowledgment that something is good, the second is the positive impact that good has on the moral sensibilities, the third is a rational and emotional expression of thanks.”

- De Marco- The Heart of Virtue