

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"Listen to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." Proverbs 1:8-9

Week 1, Term 3

Wednesday 19th July 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Welcome back to school for Term 3. I trust you had a nice break with your children and are ready for the term ahead.

It was nice to have the students back with us yesterday and to hear all about the wonderful holidays they enjoyed. They have all made a terrific start to the term and it was great to walk around to rooms yesterday and see them working hard and keen about their learning.

Our Year 12 students have begun their final term of schooling, which I'm sure brings mixed emotions. The HSC is quite a marathon and we encourage them as they approach the final stages. The students will sit the Trial Exams in Week 5 of this term. Attached to this newsletter is a prayer for these students. It would be a real blessing for them if you can display somewhere prominent at home and keep them in your daily prayers.

Thank you

To the wonderful families who trimmed the roses, cut the grass and gave the grounds a general tidy up during the holidays. Your efforts and generosity are very much appreciated.

Years 7-11 P/T Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews for Years 7-11 will be held from **7:00-8:30pm next Tuesday 25th July**. For all parents of these students please see attached note, fill it in and get back to the office as soon as possible. These meetings are an important part of the assessment and reporting process, so I hope you are able to make it to discuss your child's progress.

Parent Evening

This term's parent evening will be held on Thursday 31st August, with Mary Louise Fowler coming to talk on 'The Family in Society'. She has vast experience in this area and has been a staunch defender of the family, so please put the date in your diaries. These parent evenings are an integral aspect of our school.

School Fees

School Fee Statements are being sent out this week. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues or concerns or are needing some support.

Gala Dinner and Fete

If you haven't already please send in the form indicating any businesses you may be able to approach to seek donations for either the silent auction at the Gala Dinner or the infamous 'Chocolate Wheel' at the Fete. If you need a form, please get in touch with Fiona in the office. It is important we keep the ball rolling in order to be ready to go for each of these major school fundraisers. Thank you for all your efforts!

A google doc has been sent to all families seeking your own personal donations, which may be in the form of skilled labour or a suitable physical item. If you are able to contribute, please fill in the electronic form ASAP.

The Gala Dinner Flyer is attached to this newsletter and is coming up very quickly on **Saturday 12th August**. It is always a wonderful evening, so I hope you are able to be there. Please tell everyone you know (and even those you don't) about the dinner and get a few tables together.

Congratulations

Two of our families were blessed with new babies during the holidays! Congratulations to the Byrnes family who welcomed Raphael Michael and the Price family who welcomed Elias Jason. We hope all is going well and we look forward to meeting them both soon. No doubt you have lots of willing helping hands to lighten your workload.

Enjoy the remainder of the week. We look forward to working with all our families again this term.

God Bless,

Luke Burton
(Principal)

Dates for your diary...

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Tuesday lunchtimes – Chess Club with Mr Couture and Mr Galvin
- Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes– Library Open for all students
- Wednesday lunchtimes – Martial Arts training in the Hall with Mr Williams
- Thursday Lunchtime – Primary Storytime with Mrs Mott & Secondary Reading Club with Miss Costello

Term 3 – Tuesday 18th July – Friday 22nd September

- Tuesday 25th July – Years 7-11 Parent/Teacher Interviews 7:00 – 8:30pm
- Wednesday 26th July 2:30pm – Fete/Gala Dinner Committee Meeting in the Library
- Tuesday 1st August – ICAS English
- Thursday 3rd August 7:30pm – P&F Meeting in the Library
- Tuesday 8th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day. 12:15pm Mass and Paella lunch
- Thursday 10th August – RAS Primary Athletics at Alexandra Park
- Friday 11th August – Year 2-6 Eisteddfod Performance @ Albury Entertainment Centre
- Saturday 12th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- Tuesday 15th August – Feast of the Assumption 12:15pm Mass
- Tuesday 15th August – ICAS Mathematics
- Monday 21st – Friday 25th – Book Week “*Escape to Everywhere*”
- Thursday 31st August 7:30pm – Parent Evening with Mary Louise Fowler
- Wednesday 20th September – SRC Breakfast from 8:30am

Term 4 – Tuesday 10th October – Thursday 7th December

- Saturday 21st October – SMMC Annual Fete
- Saturday 4th November 6pm– Yr.12 Graduation Dinner, Banksia Room @ Commercial Club
- Friday 10th – Sunday 12th November – Mothers and Daughters Camp at Howman’s Gap

Legionaries’ Junior Fun Day



The older legionaries took a trip to Melbourne last Saturday for the Junior Fun Day. The boys served for Fr Heffernan at the beautiful Star of the Sea Church in West Melbourne. They had lunch and activities at the Legion of Mary Headquarters and then had a guided tour of St Patrick’s Cathedral. Here are the legionaries pictured with the statue of St Francis of Assisi outside the cathedral.



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

“The family that prays together stays together”. I think it also true that the family that eats together stays together. Family meals are a quiet (or not so quiet) joy amidst the 'busy-ness' of family life. It is a time to nourish your children physically with food and also spiritually with a loving family life. It is a time that begins with grace before meals and a sharing of what everyone has been doing during the day. Even if Dad is away a lot, don't give up on this precious tradition. “Perhaps it's in the genes, or perhaps it is that kitchen table. That magical simple place where I learned responsibility and felt love and security.” (Marianne Jennings, Professor of Legal Studies, Arizona University). Parents can cultivate pleasant conversation with topics such as: “What was the best thing that happened today?” The children then take turns providing their answers. Stories of family history, about persevering through difficulties like the Wars or the Depression fascinate children. Family meal times are food for the soul for children.

Children learn about life at the dinner table. They learn to be polite and well mannered, serving one another, passing the salt and pepper etc. Some children might seem to be forever in trouble at the table, but eventually they do learn. We try to minimise discipline (sending a hungry but disobedient child away from the table for one minute seems to work well). Children learn at the table to listen to what other people have to say. They learn at the table that when Mum and Dad are speaking they have to listen without interrupting. One little boy I know, after hearing his parents share some of their concerns about an electricity bill which had arrived, gave them the contents of his piggy bank. Having all the kids together is a great time to teach them. Some families use this as an opportunity to read and examine a small section of the Bible together or some other family enriching study. We recently went through a book on manners. The kids all made a joke about it and thought it was hilarious but I know they still learnt a lot. Many of life's lessons are learnt at the family table.

Put the time in now to create lasting memories for your children of sharing joy in family togetherness. “We all have to eat. The way to the heart, mind and soul is often through the stomach. It takes careful thought and determination, but it is possible to organise meaningful mealtimes without television and without gulping something down on the run. It doesn't have to take forever, either, particularly if everyone does some part of the preparation and cleanup.” - S Corvey- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective families*

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Fidelity

“God does not ask us to be successful but to be faithful”-Mother Teresa