

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary." – Saint Francis de Sales

Week 1, Term 4

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Welcome back to school for Term 4. It was wonderful to have the enthusiastic buzz of the students back with us yesterday and to bring the school to life again. I thank them and our staff for a calm and productive start. This term will be as busy and productive as ever and with only nine weeks, it will be more like a sprint than a marathon. At yesterday's assembly, I spoke to the students about the importance of respect and courtesy between all members of our community and ensuring we continue to build a positive culture here at SMMC. The little things such as saying good morning and using manners make a huge difference. We are all looking forward to working with your children again this term. They have been encouraged as always to work hard at their studies and to really enjoy the challenge of learning.

Welcome

A special welcome to the McFarlane family who join the Saint Mary MacKillop College Community this term. Caitlin is in Yr.3 and enjoyed her first day with us yesterday. We hope you are settling in well to the local area and we look forward to your involvement with the SMMC Community.

Our family was very blessed last Friday with the arrival of a beautiful daughter. She was keen to meet us all, arriving 11 days early! We have named her Lucy Catherine and she and mum are going really well. For those who like stats, she weighed 3.55kg (7lb 13oz) and was 50cm long. We are very happy to have her home and thank God for his great blessings. Hopefully she'll be feeling social enough to come and visit the school in the next couple of weeks.

P&F

Please come along to our **P&F meeting tomorrow evening (Thursday) from 7pm**. We will be talking all things Fete and ensuring we are ready to go for a successful day on the 21st. Please keep the success of this event in your prayers (especially for good weather!). There is a page in this newsletter with reminders, so have a close look and see if there is any way for you to help out. The day is looming, so now is the time to band together and make this fete our most successful yet!

Uniforms

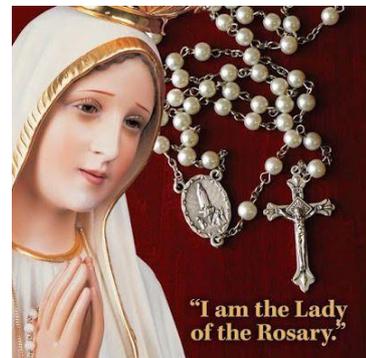
Don't forget to get in touch with Anastasia Byrnes if you require any **Summer Uniform** items, including hats, which are required to be worn during Term 4. No Hat, No Play!

Working Bee – 2-5pm this Saturday

This Saturday 14th October we are holding a combined working Bee with St Mary's Parish. There will be plenty of jobs on offer as we prepare our grounds and buildings for our annual fete. A BBQ will follow at around 5pm once the hard work is done. Meat will be provided but please bring a salad and dessert to share with others.

Month of the Rosary

October is a special month dedicated to the Rosary. I know many families already pray this prayer each evening with their families, but it is always a great time to renew our commitment to praying together as a family. Throughout the month of October, different year levels will go to the church each day to pray the rosary.



In this week's newsletter we move onto Part 3 of the Developmental Stages. I hope you are enjoying the information being provided. If you would like a copy of the full version of this publication please let me know.

Just a reminder that the Parish have an 8:30am Mass each Wednesday morning here at St Mary's Jindera, which is a great opportunity for families to attend an extra Mass each week. I encourage you to come along if you can.

The Yr.12 students begin their HSC Examinations next Monday 16th October. Please remember to keep them in your daily prayers during this time.

God Bless, Luke Burton (Principal)

2017 Dates for your diary...

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes– Library Open for all students
- Wednesday lunchtimes – Martial Arts training in the Hall with Mr Williams
- Thursday Lunchtime –Secondary Reading Club with Miss Costello
- **Term 4 – Tuesday 10th October – Thursday 7th December**
- Thursday 12th October – P&F Meeting 7:00pm
- Saturday 14th October – combined School and Parish Working Bee (2-5pm) with BBQ Dinner
- Saturday 21st October – SMMC Annual Fete 10am – 1pm
- Wednesday 1st November – All Saints Day. Student Dress Up and Salad Roll Lunch
- Thursday 2nd November – All Souls Day. Mass and Procession to the Cemetery
- Saturday 4th November 6pm– Yr.12 Graduation Dinner, Banksia Room @ Commercial Club
- Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November and 6th December – Secondary Swimming 1:45 – 2:45pm
- Monday 6th November – Thursday 9th November – EXAM WEEK for Yr.7-10
- Friday 10th – Sunday 12th November – Mothers and Daughters Camp at Howman’s Gap
- Monday 13th November – Friday 17th November – Work Experience for Yr.9/10 students Age16+
- Tuesday 14th November 6pm – 2018 Kinder Information Session
- Fridays 17th, 24th Nov and 1st December – 2018 Kinder Orientation 9:15am – 12:00pm
- Monday 20th November – Friday 24th November – Primary Swimming Program
- Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November – SMMC Production of Fiddler on the Roof @ St John’s Jindera

Curriculum Corner – Mr Luke Burton



“Savouring the Faith”

In Year 7/8 TAS last term we embarked on a cooking unit called *Savouring the Faith*. Having done a baking trade back when I was a little younger I decided to teach the students the craft of bread making. The students were excellent apprentices and I was very impressed at their ability to listen and apply their knowledge to the practical activity of baking. We made savoury breads, sweet breads, scones (with jam and cream). Each Thursday the amazing smells would waft out of the SMMC Bakery, tempting all who those passing by. The students had lots of friends after school as they were able to take their goods home with them! The unit finished with an assessment that required the students to design create and evaluate their own bread. Three of the samples are in the pictures above. Well done to all the Yr.7/8s, I thoroughly enjoyed working with them during this unit. They were definitely very successful and I know many have been baking at home for their families as well. We came up with our own saying: “Give a man some bread and he’ll eat for a day; teach a man to bake and he’ll eat for a lifetime”.

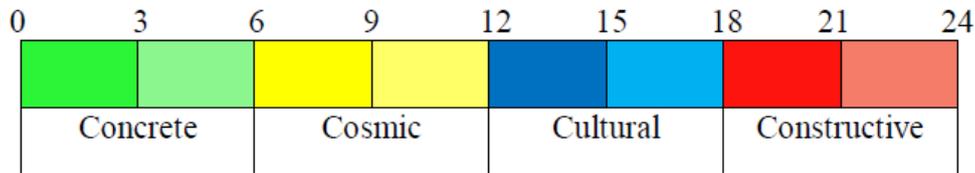


LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Human Developmental Stages: Montessori/ Cavalletti

by Dr Gerard O'Shea

PART 3



Those who have been involved in education will find themselves in ready agreement with Montessori's observations about the dramatic changes that seem to accompany the movement to a new sub-plane of development every three years or so. Obviously, there is no "set date" on which these changes occur; they are gradual but there is a predictable sequence. Each new stage is characterised by a growing independence and typical set of interests. A quick survey of these "switch-points" will illustrate this. Human beings become more "difficult" to deal with at these ages: two-three years of age; six years; nine years; twelve years; fourteen – fifteen years; eighteen years; twenty-one years; twenty-four years. At these ages, they become less predictable as they move to a new stage of development and those dealing with them have to work out different ways of approaching them.

For those who are used to seeing these changes, it does not come as a surprise; teachers working at a particular level for an extended period or parents who have dealt with a number of children come to see it as a normal part of human development. It is clearly more difficult for parents, however, since they are generally very emotionally invested in their own children and can often be too close to a situation to look at it objectively. It can be perplexing and challenging because they are called on to have to change their way of relating to a child who has suddenly become unresponsive in terms of strategies that worked with them before. In some ways, parents almost need to go through a process whereby they grieve the loss of the person their child used to be and come to terms with a new one! If parents do not accept these natural developments, they can set up conflicts with the child in order to preserve the status quo. There are two possible outcomes to this. In the first case, the parent may succeed in frightening the child back into former patterns of "acceptable" but childish behaviour and in this way damage the child by causing developmental delay. Alternatively, the unbending parent can provoke such a strong reaction that the only way for the child to grow is to defy and confront the parents in an exaggerated and unhealthy way simply in order to attain the normal developmental level. It is therefore essential for those who want to encourage the healthy development of children (both parents and teachers) to recognise what is likely to be happening at each stage of development and adjust their approach accordingly.

SMMC FETE 2017

Our school fete is almost upon us so here are some reminders:

- Keep those **bric-a-brac** items coming in. Thank you to those who have already contributed.
- Please return all sold and unsold **raffle tickets** by Wednesday 18th October.
- **Mystery bottles** need to be at school by Wednesday 18th October (Icy Pole Day!)
- Any potted **plants** can be dropped off at school next week.
- Donations for the **cake stall** need to be packaged ready to sell and labelled with a list of ingredients. At past fetes, large cakes have sold well, so please consider making one or two for the cake stall. Donations of slices, biscuits and cupcakes would also be very much appreciated.
- A huge thank you to those who have approached businesses and collected donations for the Chocolate Wheel. We would be very grateful for any more donations for our top money earner on fete day. If there are any more businesses you can approach, especially ones that you patronise on a regular basis, please go ahead as soon as possible. There is a letter available to take with you when asking for a donation. Alternatively, if you have a new item, still in its packaging, that you may not want or need, please consider donating it. Another way to contribute would be to donate a meat tray. These are very popular prizes. **Don't forget to volunteer to sell tickets for the wheel spins if you have some free time on fete day.**

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.