Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

What another busy week it has been at SMMC. We are now in the Easter Octave and as Catholics it is a time for celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus – the cornerstone of our faith. I hope you all had a great Easter with your families.

We have been doing some work around our new school rules this week and talking about how they help us to respect ourselves, others and our environment. Following Directions, Speaking Appropriately, Keeping Hands, Feet and Objects to Ourselves, Taking Care of all Property, Listening to the Speaker and Moving Safely are what we have been working on and it is great to see so many of our students really taking these on board and contributing to a positive learning environment at Saint Mary MacKillop College. Well done everyone.

Athletics Sports – your help is needed!
Next Wednesday is shaping up to be a great day of Athletics at Alexandra Park. The kids are very excited and have been practising hard to hone their skills. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered their services already. We need more parents to get involved if possible, so please fill in the sheet sent home last week and send to the office. If the sheet has evaporated, then please just call the office and let Fiona know. Thank you for your support.

Year 7/8 TAS Market Day – you are invited!
Next Thursday 7th April the Year 7/8s will hold their Market Day under the covered area outside the 5/6 Classroom. The students have worked very hard to produce very professional looking business cards and flyers for marketing purposes. They are busy getting organised with all the necessary materials to bring their business idea to life next Thursday. Please come along and support our entrepreneurs in their business ventures. Check out their flyers on the display board near the school hall and bring along some money next Thursday. All profits are going to the SRC to support their school improvement ideas.

ICAS
Final call for ICAS Registrations. These are due back to the office by Tuesday 5th April.

Adoration, Confession and Benediction
Next Friday is the last day of school for Term 1. We will have Adoration and Confession from 10:30am – 12:30pm, with all classes being rostered on for a period of time. We will finish with Benediction at 12:30pm. You are all welcome to come and spend some time with Our Lord.

Another Priest for our Diocese
Rev Reece Beltrame will be ordained this coming Saturday 2nd April at St Michael’s Cathedral in Wagga. He will celebrate his first Mass at St Patrick’s on Sunday at 10:00am. Please keep him in your prayers.

Winter Uniform
Students wear their winter uniforms from Term 2. A reminder that Winter Uniform orders are due by the end of next week. Please be prompt in getting these in so that your orders can be filled during the holidays. Thank you.

Free Plants - http://wtlandcare.org/
Woolshed Thurgoona Landcare Group are giving away free plants to residents in the Table Top & Thurgoona area. Just go to the website above and place your order to be picked up in May. If you don’t need them for yourself, you might consider donating them to the school.

Netball News
Could all girls interested in playing netball next term on Saturday mornings give their names to the school office by Friday 8th at the latest. Parent helpers are also required for coaching.

One week to go until we have a break and reenergise, so hang in there. Have a terrific weekend.

God Bless

Luke Burton
Principal
Dates for your diary...

- **Saturday 2nd April - Rev Reece Beltrame Ordination**, St Michael’s Cathedral Wagga Wagga. An invite is extended to all the SMMC Community (see Week 2 Newsletter)
- **Sunday 3rd April 10am** – Fr Reece Beltrame’s First Mass at St Patrick’s Albury
- **Tuesday 5th April** – ICAS Registrations due
- **Wednesday 6th April - Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park 9:00am – 3:30pm**
- **Thursday 7th April 12:45 – 1:45pm** – Year 7/8 TAS Class ‘Market Day’ for their unit ‘Taking Care of Business’. Bring along some money to spend. All welcome.
- **Friday 8th April - Term One finishes**
  - Monday 25th April – ANZAC Day. Student Representatives will be needed. Information to come.
  - **Wednesday 27th April – Term Two Begins for students**
  - Saturday 30th April – SMMC Working Bee, 9:00am – 1:00pm
  - Saturday 7th May – Mother’s Day Cake Stall in Jindera
  - May 10, 11 and 12 – NAPLAN for Years 3,5,7 and 9.
  - Thursday 12th May 7:30pm – Parents and Friends Meeting
  - Sunday 22nd May – Lavington Parish Confirmation with Bishop Hanna
  - Tuesday 24th May – Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day
- **Friday 24th June – Term Two finishes**
- **Tuesday 19th July – Term Three begins for students**
- Thursday 21st July – BISSA Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park
- Saturday 6th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner at Commercial Club
- Monday 8th August – Saint Mary Mackillop Feast Day
- Thursday 11th August – BIPSA Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park
- Friday 12th August 7:30pm – Parent Evening with Dr Gerard O’Shea
- **Friday 23rd September – Term Three finishes**
- **Tuesday 11th October – Term Four begins for students**
- Saturday 22nd October – SMMC Fete
- Friday 11th November – Sunday 13th November - Father/Son Camp, Harrietville
- **Friday 9th December – Term Four finishes**

Kinder and Year 5/6 took a step back in time when they visited the Jindera Pioneer Museum yesterday as part of their history Units. Kinder have been learning about ‘Families: Past and Present’, while the 5/6s have been learning about the role of key events and characters in contributing to Australia’s Identity. The Kinder children were too busy exploring to have their photos taken, but the 5/6s didn’t mind posing for the camera. Lots of great learning took place and I think we can now appreciate how easy many aspects of our lives are nowadays. What an amazing resource to have on our doorstep!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/s</th>
<th>Business and Products</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Bell</td>
<td><em>The Ice Age</em> - icy poles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Chandrasegaran and Tim Mott</td>
<td><em>Amazing Aussie Ice-creams</em> – three flavours of ice cream in cones.</td>
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<td>Mikhail Firmager and Tom Woods</td>
<td><em>Sugar Bombs</em> – cup cakes, spiders and ice blocks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabel Perry</td>
<td><em>Izzy’s Fizzys</em> – three flavours of soft drinks</td>
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<td>Alice Stewart</td>
<td><em>Splat</em> - Face Painting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Wright</td>
<td><em>Ballistic Bats</em> - Mini Wooden Cricket Bats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel Buchanan and Matthew Woods</td>
<td><em>MacKillop’s Cheapest Chips</em> – Hot Chips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xavier Evans</td>
<td><em>Lolly World</em> – lolly bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Galvin</td>
<td><em>Lucky Dip</em> – various dips, vegetable sticks and biscuits</td>
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<td>Niahm Horsfall and Rachel Perry</td>
<td><em>Funky Frog Pond</em> – jelly cup and ice cream with lolly frog</td>
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<td>Tom Irwin</td>
<td><em>The Milkshake Man</em> – a variety of flavoursome milkshakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claire McCrohan and Lauchlan Morris</td>
<td><em>Fabulous Fries</em> – fries at their best</td>
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LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families - A Catholic perspective

Habit One – “Begin with the End in Mind”
Stephen Covey, a Mormon father of nine, is world famous for his works on the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”. He went on to produce a book that applied these seven “habits” to families. So what has a book written by a Mormon have to do with Catholics? Well although not Catholic, the message is still God centred and virtue based. With these last two points in mind let’s see what it has to offer Catholics.

Before launching into the first “habit”, Covey explains that anything worthwhile in life takes a lot of hard work and patience. Like Winston Churchill, we should “never, never, never give up”. Covey uses a beautiful image of the Chinese bamboo tree that for the first four years of its life puts down roots and has practically no foliage. In the fifth year following this “hidden growth” the bamboo tree grows up to eighty feet tall. Family life can be like that, where it takes a long time of daily grind in patiently loving and caring for your children before any real signs of progress appear. James Stenson says that for teenagers in particular the last place they show any virtue is in the home! Stephen Covey reminds parents that parenting, working for the good of your family, is worthwhile. We as parents do not work with marble or clay or some other perishable material. We work with our children, helping them to reach their greatest potential in this life and that their souls “shine like the stars” for all eternity in the next. Like any great project in life we have to “begin with the end in mind”, that we are working towards the sanctification of our children and our spouse and in so doing, we sanctify ourselves.

Habit Two – “Be Proactive”
Stephen Covey reminds us that we have the freedom to choose how to act in any given situation. “Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our happiness.” To be proactive means to decide consciously to act on “principles and values” rather than just responding to our emotion. It means making a choice to behave in particular ways and resist the temptation to just say, act and do whatever you feel like. He tells the story of a woman who worked in hospitality in a big hotel where the policy of the establishment was to always be polite and well mannered, treating their customers like ‘royalty’. The woman found the customers responded so well to their red carpet treatment that she began making an effort to behave like that in her home when interacting with her family, lifting the whole tone of family interaction from negative to positive.

To be proactive means to be an agent for change, changing firstly yourself and doing it on a day to day basis thus making it a habit.

To be proactive means to change the world you live in. We all only have a limited “circle of influence”, meaning those people around us who we may have some influence on. Our immediate family, extended family, friends, relations and people you work with or come across in your everyday life. Covey speaks of four unique human gifts: self-awareness; conscience; imagination; and independent will. Self-awareness is knowing yourself, your limitations and what you are capable of. It also means knowing that one of your children may really rub you the wrong way and deciding to be careful not to lash out, but act in some positive way, giving a physical or verbal hug. Conscience is knowing right from wrong. It is knowing that children are a gift from God and should be treated with love and respect. Imagination is that gift that enables us to come up with creative ways to show love, such as filling a child’s bedroom with helium balloons secretly before they wake up, or just taking someone for a walk with you. Independent will is the ability to choose to behave and act in certain ways. It is knowing that we have that freedom to act and to make conscious acts of the will to choose our actions. An example of this would be deciding to spread the message of Christ’s love by our acts of loving kindness. Kindness is love in action.

As Catholics, we know that a virtue is a good habit, so begin today to be proactive in fostering good habits in yourself and your family.

Virtue for the month of April- Fortitude
“Children either grow up to our expectations or down to them. So, your children need to hear from you, over and again: “You’re stronger than you think. I know you’re not a quitter. I have confidence in you. I’m proud of you.”

- James Stenson.