

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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“Christians must close the doors to the jealousies, envy and gossip that divide and destroy our communities. (Pope Francis I)

Week 11, Term 1

Friday 13th April 2018

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

This week brings us to the end of a long first term. I want to congratulate the students on all their achievements across the term and thank the staff for their dedication to the students' learning. We were able to celebrate a snapshot of the learning around the classrooms at this morning's assembly and I have had the privilege of visiting and working with many of the students across the school over the past couple of weeks, witnessing some powerful learning taking place.

Fathers and Sons Camp

What a wonderful experience we had away at Howmans Gap near Falls Creek last weekend. Thank you to all the Dads and Sons who came along and made it such an enjoyable weekend. Thank you also to Fr Heffernan who was our spiritual leader (and Giant Swing enthusiast) and Andy Mullins who travelled all the way from Melbourne to give talks to the Fathers and Sons. A special mention to Michael Suttie for taking on the role of chef for the weekend and to all the dads and sons for their help in making the weekend such a success.



Yr.7/8 Market Day

Congratulations to the Yr.7/8 TAS Class for running a very successful Market Day on Monday and a big thank you to their parents for supporting this venture. The students certainly learnt a lot from the experience. The businesses

raised a whopping \$800! \$400 has been donated to Caritas Australia (to go along with the \$221.20 from St Joseph's Feast Day) and \$400 to the SRC. Well done everyone!

Safety Concern

Some people are driving much too fast along the school driveway and carpark. I ask for your cooperation in observing the speed limit and ensuring the safety of the students and other pedestrians and drivers. Thank you.

Trivia Time!

Attention trivia buffs!! Our school has been challenged to a trivia challenge and we need you to get involved. As part of the Jindera 150th Celebrations they are holding a trivia night at the School of Arts on Saturday 21st April at 7:30pm. If you can get together a table of 10, head into the Post Office to register. Cost is \$12/head. If you need to join a table, feel free to email myself or Vera Galvin. Go SMMC!

Raffle tickets

Please keep on selling the Mother's Day and Wood Raffle Tickets! You can get more from the office if needed. Please return unsold raffle tickets before the due date so others can sell them and a huge thank you to those who have already been selling.

Garage Sale

The Jindera Community Garage Sale is on again this Sunday 15th April from 8am. For more details please contact Leeny Mason on 0419 605 566 or Greg Mason on 0400 257 000.

ANZAC Day

The community of Jindera together with St John's Lutheran Primary School are presenting the 2018 Anzac Day Service at Jindera War Memorial Park at 10:30am. Each year we have a great representation of students and their families at the service in Jindera, so hopefully you are able to make it this year. Students are to wear full winter uniform including blazers. Our school captains will lay a wreath on our behalf.

I take this opportunity to thank the whole school community for all your efforts across the term. When we return next term, the five portable classrooms will have been relocated to their new home behind the Church, so things will look a little different at SMMC! Have a terrific holiday break with your families and we shall see you all back at school rested and ready for learning on Tuesday 1st May.

God Bless, Luke Burton (Principal)

2018 Dates for your diary...

Term 2 – Tuesday 1st May – Friday 29th June

- Friday 4th May – SMMC Cross Country at Jindera Golf Course 11:30am – 2:00pm
- Tuesday 8th May – ICAS Digital Technologies
- Friday 11th May – RAS Primary Cross Country at Jindera Golf Course, Responsible Pet Ownership visit for K-2 and Mother's Day Raffle drawn
- Monday 14th May – BISSA Cross Country
- Tuesday 15th - Thursday 17th May – NAPLAN
- Thursday 17th May – P&F Meeting 7:30pm
- Friday 18th May – Road Safety Talk for K-2 @ 1:45pm
- Tuesday 29th May – ICAS Science
- Friday 1st June – Whole School Assembly and Wood Raffle drawn
- Wednesday 13th June – ICA Spelling
- Thursday 14th June – ICAS Writing
- Thursday 21st June – BISSA Athletics at Alexandra Park

Term 3 – Tuesday 24th July – Friday 28th September

- Saturday 11th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- Thursday 9th August – RAS Primary Athletics at Alexandra Park
- Friday 24th August – Yr.9-12 Snow Trip
- Wednesday 5th September – The MacKillop Cup. Held at Saint Mary MacKillop College Wagga

Term 4 – Monday 15th October – Thursday 6th December

- Saturday 27th October – SMMC Annual Fete

Curriculum Corner – Miss Victoria Kirley



Over the past few weeks the children in Year 1/2 have been engaging in atrium presentations to reflect on the Paschal Mystery. The City of Jerusalem allowed the children to reflect in a simple way on the arrest, trial, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Origin of the Eucharist focused on the Last Supper being the time when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, His Presence with us, and the Mass we celebrate today.

Last week the children participated a beautiful presentation on the Light of Christ and how this Light was shared with them on the day of their baptism. In addition to the Light the children also reflected on the pouring of water, the anointing with the oil of catechumens and the oil of chrism as well as the white garment that they were clothed with. Children enjoyed singing joyful Easter songs and decorating a paper candle with the date of their baptism which will be displayed around a Paschal Candle in the classroom. This week we will meditate on the Empty Tomb.

Year 1/2 students have also been enjoying a variety of paper art activities. Look at our great peacocks and flowers!



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

How do we maintain our Christian focus in a hedonistic society?

Hedonism is total unbridled pleasure seeking. This notion is prevalent in our society is that the only thing that matters is having a good time, enjoying yourself as much as possible and totally self-indulging without thinking of the consequences. Anyone that has looked at a new project home lately would be amazed at the size of the parents' area. It usually takes one third of the house and is right at the other end of the home away from the children's bedrooms. It has the essential enormous spa bath located in the ensuite which generally isn't separated from the parents' bedroom. No expense or luxurious appointment is spared. There are lots of other examples of this excessive pleasure seeking, everywhere from monstrous plasma screen televisions to overeating.

But what has all this got to do with children? It is just as much part of the child's culture as well. Children quite often in modern society are allowed to play whatever they like on the computer and for as long as they like. One mother told me she eventually had to limit her son's computer time to 3-4 hours per day! What ever happened to kids playing outside? Other hedonistic child culture features can be children's birthday parties, where because it is their birthday they can eat or have whatever they like. Some have parties with friends staying over where they stay up all night at the other end of the house so as not to disturb anyone. Any time kids are allowed to have or do anything they like with the pleasurable things of life, without some sort of moderation, they are practising hedonism.

What is the solution? Perhaps hedonism isn't part of your home or lifestyle, however because it is so prevalent in our culture, we have to foster the virtues our children will need to counteract this lifestyle. Temperance is the virtue required, which is enjoying the good things in life in moderation. As a parent give children limits on pleasures. With food, have a rule of no unauthorised snacks and no dessert until dinner is finished. Computer time needs to be monitored and restricted to say no more than 30 minutes at a time unless it is a school project. Have Fridays as a day "on guard" where the children make food sacrifices, such as the traditional no meat and maybe no sweets or no snacking at all. Birthday parties should be lots of fun, but with limits, such as ending at a reasonable hour. The food at parties needs to have some sort of limit also. Set a good example yourself by enjoying alcohol and other adult pleasures in moderation. Always remember as a parent that you are bringing up your children to be fine upstanding men and women and try to keep this vision in the forefront of your parenting.

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL **Fortitude**

"In situations which make it difficult to improve, courageous people resist harmful influences, withstand difficulties and strive to act positively to overcome obstacles and undertake great deeds."

-David Isaacs-Character Building