

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying."

-Saint Pope John Paul II

Week 3, Term 3

Friday 9th August, 2019

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Thanks to all who helped out at the working bee.

What a great effort made by the Fathers who came to lend some muscle and tools at the working bee on Saturday. Together with Paul McAlister and Paul McCormack they dug 16 holes (1m wide x 60cm deep) to plant 16 new deciduous trees which will provide needed shade in Jindera's summer and vibrant colour in Autumn. Children proved to be great diggers also. Paul had to collect another cubic metre of soil (4m³ in all) as we tried to break up the clay soil and give the trees a fighting chance. Added to this, many children filled never ending barrow loads of soil to fill the new brick garden bed where 6 roses have been planted. These roses begin the Rosary chain of roses which are planted in decades with two more decades to plant in future. Now the garden bed begins with the Creed (red rose), Our Father (gold), Three Hail Mary's (White) and a Glory be (gold). Mums, led by Clare Ryan, Mrs Tingle and Louise Wright aided by children, pruned the established roses ready for Spring.

Thanks to Simon Horsfall and Matt Darlow for fox proofing the chicken house. No fox will make it through the fortress they have reinforced!

Though we went overtime, the mood was one of satisfaction and now we await warmer days to enjoy the growth!

Gala Dinner

Our annual Gala Dinner is Tomorrow Night! Thank you to all who have booked a ticket and are able to come along. Also, a big thanks to all who have made generous donations of goods and services to be auctioned on the night. Cash and Credit Card facilities available on the night. Hope to see you there!

Head Lice

There has been a reported case of head lice within the school, so please be diligent in checking your children's hair and treating if necessary to prevent them spreading. Thank you!

Absences

Just a reminder to write or email the school if any of your children are away for any reason. It is also a good idea to include your child's teacher in on the email. A new updated staff directory is attached.

Enrolments for 2020

We are now starting to take kindergarten enrolments for next year. Please contact the school to organise an interview and tour.

SMMC Feast Day

A big Thank you to Mr Williams for suppling the school with some beautiful Paella for lunch, as well as Mrs Galvin and all other helpers who organised food for the feast day. The students all looked amazing in their multicultural dress. Well done to all the students who entered into our Mary MacKillop Feast day competition. The winner will be announced at Monday morning's assembly.

Snow Trip Yrs. 9-12

Our yr 9-12 Students will be heading off to the snow on **Friday 30th August**. Last week a note was sent home with all yr 9-12 students. If for any reason you have misplaced this note, spares are available in the office. Please ensure this note is returned by **Friday 16th August** with payment to the school office. Thank you.

Book Week

Book Week is coming up in Week 5. The theme for this year is "Reading is my Secret Power". There will be a dress up day on **Thursday 22nd August** for the Primary School students. Just as in previous years, there will be a Book Week Competition for families. Further details will be handed out next week.

Year 12 Exams

In week 5 we have our Year 12 class sitting their Trail Exams, please keep them in your prayers.

Father and Son Camp

Our Father and Son camp is on **Friday 20th September – Sunday 22nd September**. More information will be confirmed at a later date.

RAS Athletics

Congratulations to all the Students who went along on Tuesday and represented our school at the RAS Athletics Carnival.



Parent Evening Night

This Term our Parent Evening Night will be held on **Saturday 31st August**. Our guest speaker is Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers who will be speaking on Faith and Family in the Modern World. To help cover the costs we ask that everyone make a small \$10 donation. Please let us know if you are able to make it by emailing the school office: office@smmc.nsw.edu.au

2019 Dates for your diary...

Term 3 – Tuesday 23rd July – Friday 27th September (10 Weeks)

- Saturday 10th August – Gala Dinner
- Thursday 15th August – The Assumption
- Monday 19th August – Friday 23rd August – Year 12 Trail Exams
- Monday 19th August – Friday 23rd August - Book Week
- Thursday 22nd August - Book Week Dress up day.
- Thursday 22nd August - P&F meeting 7.00pm
- Friday 30th August – Yr 9-12 Snow Trip
- Saturday 31st August – Parent Evening Night
- Tuesday 3rd September – ICAS, Digital Technologies
- Wednesday 4th September – MacKillop Cup
- Thursday 5th September – ICAS - Science
- Tuesday 10th September – ICAS - Writing
- Thursday 12th September – ICAS – Spelling
- Monday 16th September- Thursday 19th September – Year 11 Exams
- Tuesday 17th September – ICAS - English
- Thursday 19th September – ICAS - Mathematics
- Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd September – Father and Son Camp
- Friday 27th September – Last Day of Term 3

Term 4 – Monday 14th October – Thursday 5th December (8 Weeks)

- Saturday 26th October – School Fete
- Friday 1st November – All Saints day
- Monday 18th – Friday 22nd November – Primary Intensive Swimming

Curriculum Corner – Mrs Therese Mott-Pekolj

The Year 9/10 Design and Technology Class were given the task of designing an animal house for a small animal. This was to be made primarily of timber and could be for a domestic animal such as a cat, dog, bunny or guinea pig or for a wild animal such as a bird or possum. The students had to research their chosen animal and come up with a suitable design to house their animal.



Lucy's Bird Feeder and Perch



Florence's Rabbit Hutch



Mikhail's Bird House



Anna's Cat House and Scratcher



Anthony's Guinea Pig Enclosure



Dominic's Cat House



Sam's Rabbit Hutch (Two story)



William's Bird House



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Love is a decision.

“Love is a decision”. It is for a Christian person a way of life. Feelings come and go but decisions remain. It requires a conscious effort to behave in a loving way towards those around us. It is to choose to help others at all times, knowing, as it says in the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi that, “in giving we receive”.

How is this “love as a decision” lived out in marriage? It is about getting up in the morning and choosing to love your spouse. You may have no loving feelings towards your spouse at times, even entering a time of the “dark night of the soul” within your marriage, where you seem to be giving and giving to your spouse and receiving nothing in return. Many Saints have written about this absence of feelings in the spiritual life but it can also apply to marriage. Maybe some habit of your spouse is annoying you. Anyone who has been married can usually tell you a dozen or so of their spouse’s annoying habits. For a spouse then it means rising above this lack of feeling or annoyance to behave in a cheerful way, doing small acts of loving service for your spouse. It also requires sacrifice.

I heard of a story of a woman who found out her husband had a serious moral problem and so for six weeks she prayed and fasted for him. Upon questioning him she found that in that time he was no longer tempted and had the strength to overcome the problem. This is truly love as a decision which God in his infinite mercy enriches with his grace.

Living out “love as a decision” for a parent means choosing to love and connect with your children. It means thinking about them when you are absent from them and reminding yourself how much they mean to you. For a Dad it is about choosing to arrive home cheerfully putting aside the problems and tiredness of the day. Being ready for some joy-filled rough play and sharing of the day’s activities. For a mother it means carefully and lovingly making the home a beautiful place to be. She can help to create a happy atmosphere within the home by smiling at the children. Children who have smiling parents usually smile also. It means expecting a lot of them but not reacting in anger to annoyances.

“Love as a decision” should flow out into the world where those around you are touched by your loving care for them as you see Christ in them.

“Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Thee O Lord.” - *Mother Teresa*

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST – FORTITUDE

*Fortitude is the marshal of thought, the armor of the will,
and the fort of reason.*

- *Francis Bacon*

TRAINING CHILDREN IN FORTITUDE

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!”

Virtues are good habits, and vices are bad habits. "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." ~ Aristotle. This formation of good habits begins in youth and stays with the person for the rest of their lives.

How do we train our children in the virtue of fortitude? Like any habit we have to give them plenty of instructions and opportunities to put these instructions into practice. It requires the formation of both the intellect and the will. Fortitude or courage can also be a passion. We can be passionate about a particular cause and fight for it.

The virtue of fortitude can be lived by giving up something as small as a piece of candy or waiting to open a card from a friend or as giving up one's life for God or another person, such as what St. Maximilian Kolbe did when he offered his life in exchange for the life of a husband and father. Each day when we force ourselves to do the little, difficult things out of love for God we grow in fortitude. It takes fortitude to get out of bed promptly in the morning. Fortitude helps us to make that phone call we detest making. Fortitude gets us to bed at night when a good book is more enticing. What we can, and must do is to transform the simple things of everyday into a chain of efforts, courageous acts, which may indeed become great and heroic writes Dr. Isaacs. This implies that anyone with a mean or petty outlook on life cannot practice or develop the virtue of courage. If we ignore or flee from these daily opportunities to grow in fortitude, we will never develop the courage to grow in fortitude, we will never develop the courage necessary to die for our God and our faith, should this be asked of us in the future. Recall the twelve apostles and how close they thought they were to Christ. Judas betrayed Him for money. St Peter couldn't even keep his eyes open in the Garden of Olives. When Christ was arrested, Peter and the rest kept at a distance - afraid to get too close to the Son of God for fear of losing their own lives. We cannot be cowardly in the face of little obstacles of each day then expect to have a burst of courage to die for the faith. It's not going to happen! (Mary Ann Budnik- Raise Happy Children..Teach them Virtues).

Train your children in virtue now so that they are able to face whatever challenges God will send them. They will have trials and suffering in their lives it is unavoidable. Work with them and train them so they have the fortitude needed for the crosses that lie ahead. Pray for them constantly, as saint Augustine says: Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you- St Augustine.