

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury Newsletter

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197 Urana Street Jindera, NSW, 2642

Week 3, Term1, 2020
Friday 14th February



Dates for your Diary:

Term 1 2020

Wednesday 19th Feb –
SMMC Swimming
Carnival

Monday 24th – Thursday
28th Feb – School Smiles
Dental Visit

Tuesday 25th Feb –
Shrove Tuesday,
Pancake Breakfast, \$2

Friday 28th Feb – Whole
School Assembly

Wednesday 4th March –
RAS Swimming

Thursday 5th March –
BISSA Swimming

Saturday 14th March –
School Working Bee
10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 18th March –
SMMC Athletics Carnival

Friday 3rd April – Whole
School Assembly

Thursday 9th April – Last
Day of Term 1

Saturday 25th April –
ANZAC Day

Dear Parents,

“Meet them where they’re at” has been a common theme used in the formation of young people in recent years. It might be timely to assess just what meet-them-where-they’re-at means and whether it has got us anywhere.

It goes without saying that what we say should be heard and understood, and that messages are delivered with kindness. I get the impression, nonetheless, that meet them where they’re at often enough means, *leave them where they’re at*.

This is precisely what we must not do. The formation of young people necessarily guides them towards maturity and virtue, rather than stagnation.

Perhaps the new mantra should be “make them uncomfortable”. Sugar hits will not lead to meaningful progress and improvement. No one experiences conversion or a change of heart when they are at ease with the world; it comes initially through crisis and is fortified by discipline.

My thanks go to the families represented at this week’s Parent Night, where some of these issues were discussed. I am also deeply grateful for the support of teachers who attended and gave presentations in their classrooms. The addresses and presentations given at the plenary session are available on the College website, including the slides from Mr Carcarello’s excellent presentation on the SMMC approach to Character Education. I commend to you Rachel Perry’s College Captain’s address, which is attached to the newsletter.

Mr Ian Smith
Principal

Swimming Carnival

The SMMC Swimming Carnival is this coming **Wednesday 19th February**. **Permissions have been sent to your PAM accounts and need to be completed before the carnival**. The carnival will be held at the local Jindera Pool. Students need to be dropped off at the pool by **9:15am** and picked up from the pool at **3:20pm**. For students who catch the bus to school it has been arranged for buses to drop off students at the pool and to be picked up from Jindera Public Primary. For parents who are able to help on the day please fill out the attached volunteer form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you to those parents who have already volunteered to help on the day.

Kittens

The Green family have two very cute kittens looking for a new home. If you would like to adopt one, please contact Anna or Michael.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Bronagh Slee on receiving her First Holy Communion on Sunday 9th February. Through the many years that lie ahead, may God be by your side, to bless you with all His love and care.



Free Fabric

We have rolls of fabric to give away. If you think you may be able to put it to good use, please feel free to take some. The rolls are located in the college hall.

Lost Property

Lost property is located just inside the side entrance to the hall. If your family is missing any items, please check lost property. We strongly suggest that all uniform items, lunch boxes etc. be clearly labelled to assist in making the task of returning items to you easier. We plan to have a clear-out of the lost property in the next few weeks but would prefer that items are returned to their rightful owners.

Late Arrivals

Just a friendly reminder that any students who arrive to school after 9:20am or leave before 3:20pm are required to come into the school office to be signed in or out on the college attendance system. Students who are leaving early must be picked up from the front office by a parent or guardian. Please note that students are required to be marked on the roll before they attend Mass on Fridays. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

SMMC 2020 School Production

This year’s school production will be classic musical “The Sound of Music” (Junior Edition). Play rehearsals will be held in the college hall every Friday from 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Performance dates are Friday 31st July and Saturday 1st August. Rehearsal schedules will be sent home with the students.

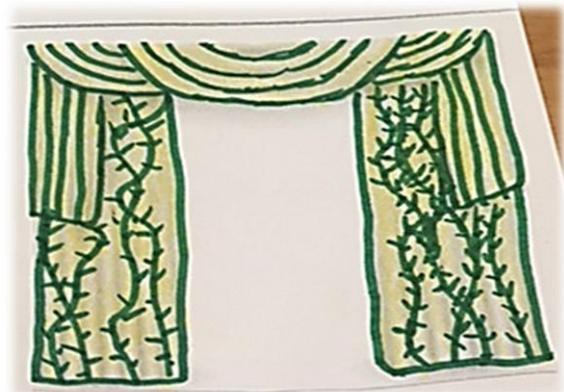
Shrove Tuesday Fundraiser

A pancake breakfast will be served before school from 8.30am on Shrove **Tuesday 25th February**. Pancakes and a drink of juice will cost **\$2 per student**.

School Assembly

Our first Whole School Assembly for 2020 will be on **Friday 28th February**. The Assembly is to be held in the college hall after the 9:20am Mass. All welcome.

Curriculum Corner - Mrs Lauren Graovac



For Creative Arts, the Year Five students are exploring botanical art. They have learnt the history and origin of botanical drawings and the important responsibility botanical artists had in recording newly discovered plant species in a time before cameras and technology. Shortly they will have a go at being a botanical explorer/artist themselves and attempt to record their new discoveries in their exact detail. The students have also looked at the ways we still make use of botanical art today and have practiced designing their own botanical illustrations on various household items.



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Lent: Joy in Suffering

True joy comes only from faithfully doing God's will in each moment and accepting suffering knowing that it comes from God and is for our good. This joy doesn't come easily and can be a constant struggle. John Paul II at World Youth day told young people, "True joy is a victory, something which cannot be obtained without a long and difficult struggle. Christ holds the secret of this victory."

True happiness is what every person longs for. This longing for happiness is really a longing for God and for heaven. We have truly only fleeting glimpses of this true happiness. We will only be perfectly happy when we are in heaven. This yearning is written on the heart of man by his Creator, as Saint Augustine says, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and we are restless until we rest in you." Dr Isaac, author of "Character Building", states that 'happiness in this world comes from a combination of pleasure and suffering.' Pleasure such as happy family times sweetens life whereas suffering matures us. In the same way pruning the rose bush brings forth beautiful roses and shapes the bush in the right direction, improving and enhancing the natural beauty of the plant.

True happiness also exists in the gift of self, "it is in giving that we receive". For us this means faithfully doing God's will in each moment. Cheerfulness is the virtue that enables us to give of ourselves to do God's will with a generous spirit even when it involves suffering. During Lent we take on extra suffering to purify ourselves and make ourselves more holy and pleasing to God. This gives us plenty of opportunity to practise the virtue of cheerfulness - still faithfully doing God's will despite the extra suffering. This Lent make a decision to banish sadness far from you, knowing that to give into it is to give into the evil one. Go into battle and conquer it with the virtue of cheerfulness.

This Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on your forehead to remind you that your body will one day turn to dust. Be filled with joy knowing that your eternal soul will one day be with God. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, the wonders that I have in store for those who love me." Lent is a time to turn joyfully back to God knowing that this life on earth is so brief compared to eternity. Lent prefigures the life of man on earth. The six weeks of Lent represent man's time of purification on earth, striving for perfection through the day, living out a life of virtue founded in penance and almsgiving. This time on earth, ending in bodily death, followed shortly afterwards with the resurrection when we, like Christ, see God face to face. The time Our Lord spent in the tomb prefiguring the time a soul spends in purgatory. The six weeks prefiguring eternity. This Lent turn back to God and joyfully serve him in everything you do, knowing that life is short and eternity goes on forever.

Be joy filled people, full of hope. Use this time given to us to examine our relationship with God and what we need to do to truly rid ourselves of sin and attachment to this world. True happiness and joy comes from faithfully doing God's will. "He who wills nothing but what God wills is always happy; for, as everything happens by the will of God, the soul has always that which it wills." (St Augustine)

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY-LOVE

"Only a deep, heartfelt personal love for God - God loved through and through in the family, God dwelling alive in the hearts of one's parents- will last your children a lifetime and direct their lives aright." James Stenson

Parent Night
12 February 2020
College Captain's Address
Rachel Perry

Good evening Mr Smith, parents and teachers. I have attended SMMC since its beginning in 2009 and throughout my time here I have seen the school grow from 14 students and three demountables to what you now see and are apart of. Something that I've grown to really appreciate within our school is how it promotes the virtues of truth, beauty and goodness and encourages the teachings of our faith in all we do. While the parents role is that of our first formators, SMMC has endeavoured to continue this formation.

Parents, as I said, are the first formators of children in the faith. You do this in the way you carefully prepare children for the sacraments and by encouraging your children and praying the family Rosary together, as the old saying goes "the family that prays together, stays together". Also attending Mass and going a step further to daily Mass which has been very important in my life.

The school then backs up the family and continues on the formation by encouraging attendance to Friday Mass as part of our school day. Religion is taught all the way from Kinder to Year 12, giving us the knowledge of the faith to head out into the world. But not only that, by having the Priests involved with the school, teaching religion, and having visits by seminarians which encourages the boys and fosters vocations. The same can be said with the girls by having visits by the nuns such as the Missionaries of Charity, the Dominicans and also the Immaculata Sisters, they are encouraging and inspiring and so vocations can be fostered. We've also had some inspirational speakers over the years, such as Sam Clear, who shared with us his experiences from his "Walk For One" which was a walk he did across the world to bring awareness to and to pray for the Unity of Christian Churches. All of these help students in some way or another to grow in their faith and to be able to realise the presence of God in their lives

Recently I went away overseas on a family Pilgrimage where I visited many inspiring places, and was able to learn more about the many different saints that lived there. The highlight of the trip for me was when we went to Lourdes. The simplicity in which Saint Bernadette lived her life and the message that Our Lady gave her of Prayer and Penance were a big inspiration for me. As my younger sister told me over there "you can't just pay to go to Heaven". At first I found it kind of funny that she would say something like that, but later while pondering over her words I realised that there was a lot of truth behind them. Heaven isn't something you can just get into by doing a few good deeds here and there, it's really something you've got to work hard for. As Bishop Umbers says "we all have to become canonisable saints" This means we have to not just know the saints but become them, after all isn't the goal everyone should be striving to reach is to become saints in Heaven with God? I believe that this is something my parents have instilled in me and the school helps promote this as it provides many occasions for students to find ways to become closer to God, through as I've said the visits by seminarians, nuns and different speakers. The school helps to lay the foundation through which students can become the saints God created them to be.

I just want to finish by saying this school has given a lot to me over the years and taught me so many valuable things that I will be able to use in my life outside of school. It really has been great to have been part of this Catholic environment where everyone can freely live out the faith and strive for our heavenly goal, without receiving criticism for it. I think we've been quite blessed to have a strong Catholic community that can gather together and be able to pray for those in need, but I also believe that we will be able to become stronger in our faith and closer to God if only we listen to his message and strive to become canonisable saints.

Thank you.