

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"Without confidence and love, there can be no true education. If you want to be loved...you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them."

St John Bosco

Week 2, Term 1

Friday 10th February 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Well it's proper hot today! True Aussie Summer weather. I hope you have somewhere to escape the heat and stay cool.

Bus Passes

Forms are required to be filled in for ALL Kinder, Year 3 and Year 7 students and for any new students. All other students will have their existing bus passes renewed. Please get your form in ASAP if you haven't already. Thank you.

SMMC Welcome BBQ

Come along **this Sunday 12th February from noon** to bring in the new school year with a great Aussie BBQ at SMMC. Meat will be provided by the school as well as some beverages. Families are asked to bring along a salad and dessert to share. This is a great opportunity to meet with other families at the school and builds a sense of community. Hopefully see you there!

Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival will be held next **Wednesday 15th February**. Our House Captains are busily rallying their troops and it will no doubt be a great day of competition. All students are to meet at the pool by 9:15am. **Please DO NOT come to SMMC on this day. Bus travellers can get off at Jindera Public and walk up to the pool and also catch the bus home from Jindera Public in the afternoon.**

School Fees

Invoices will be sent out shortly for annual school fees. As an Independent School, fees are essential to us being able to run an effective school, so thank you. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if there is any difficulty in paying fees so we can work out the best way to support you.

Parent Evening

Our first parent evening will be held on Friday 24th February, so please mark the date in your diary. These evenings are an integral part of our school and we look forward to welcoming Paul and Angela Quinn to talk on 'Parenting for the Long Haul'.

Congratulations to Georgia Cattell who made her First Communion on 22nd January at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Walbundrie with Fr John Speekman.



Thank you

A huge thank you to Mel Murphy for making us a new lectern and statue stand. They are certainly impressive pieces of furniture. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Classroom Meetings

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, classroom meetings will be held this coming **Monday 13th February** Kinder to Yr.7 parents have the opportunity to come along and hear about the curriculum, routines and expectations of each class and to answer any queries you have. This will assist us in working together to help the children get the most out of their learning this year. We hope you find these meetings informative. Times are as follows: Kinder – 3:30 – 4:00; Gr.1/2 – 4:00 – 4:30; Gr.3/4 – 4:30 – 5:00 ; Gr.5/6 – 5:00 – 5:30; Yr.7 – 5:30 – 6:00

P&F Meeting – change of date

The first P&F Meeting for the year will now be held on **Thursday 23rd February at 7:30pm**. Please come along and help us get off to a great start to the year. The purpose of the P&F is to assist the school in providing a great learning environment for the students. This is done mainly through fundraising activities and money raised is put towards resources the school needs. Please note that the P&F is not a forum for discussing the curriculum or teaching staff. I look forward to seeing many parents at our first meeting and working together throughout 2017.

Extended absences from school

If you are taking your children out of school for more than ten consecutive days it is a requirement that you apply for Extended Leave, so I can issue an *Extended Leave Certificate* for the duration of your absence. Whilst I don't encourage holidays during term time, I understand that this is sometimes the only time parents can get away from their work responsibilities. Please inform the school as early as possible regarding your plans.

Safety

Please ensure you are entering and exiting the school via the gate on the corner of the hall and not through the double gates where buses drop off and pick up. Please also be mindful of where you park and ensure your children are taking a safe route to the car. We want to keep everyone safe and avoid any accidents.

Have an excellent weekend. Might see you on Sunday!

God Bless, Luke Burton (*Principal*)

Dates for your diary...

- EVERY TUESDAY 8:15 – 9:00am – Fun Secondary Maths Skills Classes with Mrs Horsfall in St Albert Room
- Tuesday lunchtimes – Chess Club for Secondary Students with Mr Couture and Mr Galvin. Begins next week.
- Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes – Library Open for all students

- **Term 1 – Tuesday 31st January – Friday 7th April**
- Sunday 12th February – Beginning of year BBQ at SMMC. Please bring salad and dessert to share
- Wednesday 15th February – SMMC Swimming Carnival at Jindera Pool 9:15am – 3:30pm
- Thursday 23rd February – Parents and Friends Meeting 7:30pm in the Library
- Secondary Swimming Program – Wednesdays 22nd February, 1st, 8th, 15th March
- Friday 24th February 7:30pm – Term 1 Parent Evening 'Parenting for the Long Haul'
- Wednesday 1st March – ASH WEDNESDAY – 12pm Mass St Mary's Jindera
- Friday 3rd March – Responsible Pet Education for K-2
- Friday 3rd March – School Assembly after Mass
- Friday 7th April – School Assembly after Mass
- **Term 2 – Wednesday 26th April – Friday 23rd June**
- Wednesday 3rd May – SMMC Cross Country at Jindera Golf Course 11:30am – 2:00pm
- Monday 15th May – SMMC Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park, Albury
- **Term 3 – Tuesday 18th July – Friday 22nd September**
- Saturday 5th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- **Term 4 – Tuesday 10th October – Thursday 7th December**
- Saturday 21st October – SMMC Annual Fete

Curriculum Corner – Mr Burton



Year 8 Maths

I have really enjoyed our first two weeks of learning in the Yr.8 Maths' Class. We have been working on our mental computation skills and learning about Pythagoras' Theorem. Pythagoras, who was a Greek Philosopher and Mathematician appears to have been an absolute Brainiac! He discovered that for every right angled triangle, the square of the hypotenuse (the longest side) is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides! The Yr.8s have been putting this theory to the test and were able to prove it is true using a few different methods. Apparently people with lots of time on their hands have found over 100 proofs for this theory! On the left, Lucy and Josh are using Pythagoras' Theorem to work out the length of the diagonal of different rectangular shapes without measuring it. On Wednesday the Yr.8s worked out the length of the diagonal of the new court without setting foot on it. Very clever! Keep up the great work team.



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Parenting as an Adventure- Entering the teen years.

As a parent, sometimes life can be fairly easy during the primary school years. Children are usually reasonably obedient, go to bed early and are generally a pleasure to have around. It is easy to become complacent and expect this gentle incline from babyhood into adult hood to remain the same. Generally things change as young people enter the teen years. This is nothing new as this quote attributed to Socrates suggests:

“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers”. (469-399BC)

Kimberley Hahn in her book: *'Legacy of Love; Biblical Wisdom For Parenting Teens and Young Adults'* believes that these teen years are the best. They are some of the most challenging but fruitful and enjoyable years. It is a time when young people really look at the world around them and try to work out how they fit into it. “They discuss life, love, politics, philosophy, and theology. They share their thoughts if we listen. “This is one of the key aspects of parenting in this age group, being available to listen. Encourage your teens to talk about what is happening in their world. Just because you live under the same roof doesn't mean you know all about them. Take the time to ask open ended questions like: How is school going? Who do you sit with? What are your thoughts on the latest sport topic? What do you think you'll do when you finish school? What do you think of your religion classes? Sometimes it takes a while for the conversation to flow but it is well worth the effort.

Being available for your teens to talk is so important. Just as when they were young they came home in tears after some mishap they needed to tell you all about, teens still need you to be a sounding board for their day to day life. This can quite often mean them surfacing after 10pm at night with some problem they have to talk over with you. Not always the best time but sometimes all you need to do is acknowledge the problem and make a time- say in the morning when you are all a little fresher to talk it through- or maybe over a coffee date on the weekend depending on what the need is.

Even if you don't have teens, plan ahead that you want to develop a strong relationship with them now so that when they start developing their own independence they know you are someone they can turn to all their lives for emotional support. James Stenson in his book, *“Lifeline, The Religious Upbringing of Your Children”* stresses the importance of spending time with children when they are young to develop lifelong habits of virtue. You have to have a vision of what your children will be as adults and keep that as the framework for all of your parenting. Keep close to them and be the support they need so that they don't turn to whatever is out there in the secular culture to give them some support. Parents usually have the highest vision of what their children will be so persevere.

Teenagers love rhetoric! Encourage them to argue about what their views for the world and the future are. Also enjoy engaging them in Apologetics, give them examples of challenging questions you have been posed with in the past. Ask them how they would have responded, maybe they would do a better job than you. Some teens love learning compelling arguments to defend the truth of the Catholic faith against other belief systems. Certainly arguments over boundaries and rules will happen but try to have a few hard and fast ones as well as a few that are flexible. The teen years certainly are an adventure. Enjoy the ride, once they have left home to spread their wings you don't have that time again.

Virtue for the Month of February-Temperance

This is the virtue of saying no to oneself. It is the ability to enjoy the good things in life in moderation. “We are what we repeatedly do, excellence then is not an act but a habit” *Aristotle*