

Saint Mary MacKillop College

197 Urana Street Jindera 2642

Phone: 02 6026 3733

Website: <http://smmc.nsw.edu.au>

Email: office@smmc.nsw.edu.au



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.

Isaiah 55:8

Week 2, Term 3

Thursday 28th July, 2016

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Well, I am about to make gumboots standard issue on the uniform list! What a wet and muddy week it has been. One student walked out onto our playground earlier in the week and came back with a two-word report. "Pure Mud!" I congratulate our students for getting through the week so far and showing flexibility and patience with the majority of our playground unusable. Thank you to the senior students who took on some supervision duties in the hall the other day. 'Dead Fish' was a great choice.

Legion Junior Fun Day – report from Mrs Tingle

The older legionaries, Queen of Confessors Praesidium, attended the Junior Fun Day at the Legion of Mary Headquarters, Magnificat House, in Melbourne during the holidays. A highlight for the boys was serving at the Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Everyone also walked through the Holy Door of Mercy at this beautiful church. After lunch at Magnificat House legionaries enjoyed the fun activities organised by the seminarians and performed a round of Dona Nobis Pacem for everyone. A tram ride on the City Circle around the major tourist attractions of the CBD was a great way to finish the day. Legionaries would like to thank our wonderful drivers Mr Bell, Mr Mahoni and Br Brian Hessian.



Parent Information Evening

We are very privileged to have Gerard O'Shea coming to present at our **Term 3 Parent Evening on Friday 12th August**. Gerard will present on a Christian Approach to Human Sexuality. A night not to be missed!

Primary School Eisteddfod

Well done to our Yr 1-6 Students who took part in the Eisteddfod yesterday. We were very proud of the way the students conducted themselves. Their uniforms were immaculate and they sang beautifully. Thank you to Mr Flores for his preparation of these children for the event. We await the final results, but it is a great experience regardless of the outcome.

Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner – 6th August

Only a week to go and we need your help and support. It is very exciting to have the Gala Dinner just around the corner. All proceeds from the dinner will go towards the new sports court, which is much needed!! ("Pure Mud" remember) Please rally up as many people as you can! Any donations of new items or services that could be auctioned would be greatly appreciated. Please leave them at the school office. **Deadline for bookings is 10am THIS WEDNESDAY. Call Fiona with your names and table bookings asap please.**

Secondary School P/T Interviews

Thank you to the parents who were able to come along to meetings on Tuesday evening. These meetings give us a great opportunity to talk about your children and their strengths and challenges. The insights you are able to give us about your children really help us to work together in doing what is best for them, so thank you. If you have any feedback about the interview process, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

BISSA Report from Mr Couture

The 2016 BISSA Athletics Carnival was a great success for our school. Running with perseverance, Johanna Ryan placed third in the 1500m. Tom Van Der Horst displayed Herculean might in his second place finish in the javelin. Both of these exemplary students have the privilege to compete at the state level in Sydney in September. Another notable performance was Tom Irwin with a 5th place finish in the 1500m. Congratulations to all students for their efforts and success!

It is a very busy time at the moment. Gala Dinner, Fete preparations, Book Week, Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day amongst many other things. Many people put in hours and hours of work to ensure we can provide these great events for our school community. I want to thank all of you for your generous contributions to our school, whether that be through donations to the building fund, working bees or the various other volunteer jobs you take on – many of these are unseen. You are much appreciated.

God Bless

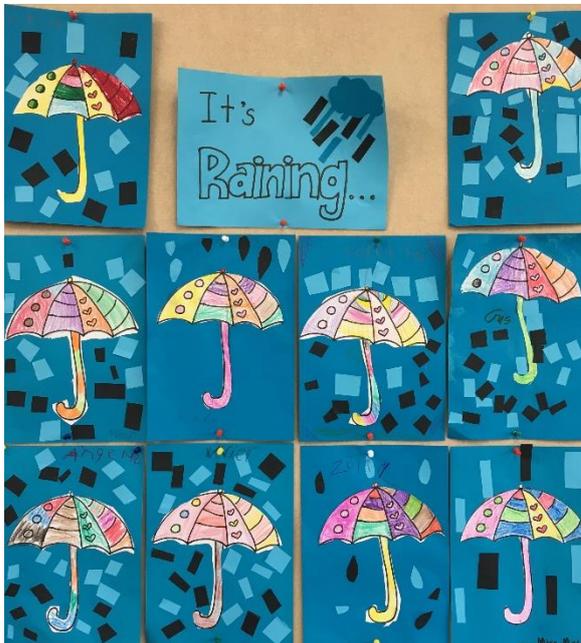
Luke Burton (Principal)

Dates for your diary...

- Thursday 4th August – Parents and Friends Meeting 7:00pm
- Thursday 4th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day Competition entries due.
- Saturday 6th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner at Commercial Club 6:30pm
- Monday 8th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day - 12:15pm Mass.
- Thursday 11th August – BIPSA Athletics Carnival at Alexandra Park
- Friday 12th August 7:30pm – Parent Evening with Dr Gerard O'Shea
- Saturday 13th August – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser for SMMC, 9am – 4pm. Volunteers needed please.
- Monday 15th August – Feast of the Assumption – 12:15pm Mass
- Friday 19th August – School Assembly after 9:20am Mass
- Monday 22nd – Friday 26th August – BOOK WEEK
- Friday 2nd September 7:00pm – School Concert
- **Friday 23rd September – Assembly after 9:20am Mass and Term Three finishes**

- **Monday 10th October – Term Four begins for students**
- Saturday 22nd October – SMMC Fete
- Friday 11th November – Sunday 13th November - *Father/Son Camp, Harrierville*
- **Thursday 8th December – Term Four finishes**

~ CURRICULUM CORNER ~ Miss Tania MacLean (Kinder)



During our Science unit we have been learning about 'Needs' and how God has provided us with them. With the wet weather it has also been a good time to discuss the need for water and rain. The children made Umbrella pictures using a pattern stencil for the umbrella and practised cutting out raindrops. They did a great Job!



Since returning to school Kinder have been very busy revising their single phonograms and learning new multiple phonograms. This week we have learnt au, ng and oo. Students have been learning to sound out words phonetically using their new sounds. It's very tricky!



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

“The family that prays together stays together”.

Perhaps we could also say that the family that eats together stays together.

Family meals are a quiet (or not so quiet) joy amidst the busyness of family life. It is a time to nourish them physically with food and also spiritually with loving family life. It is a time that begins with grace before meals and a sharing of what everyone has been doing during the day. Even if Dad is away a lot, don't give up on this precious tradition. Parents can cultivate pleasant conversation with topics such as: “What was the best thing that happened today?” The children then take turns providing their answers. Stories of family history, about persevering through difficulties like the Wars or the Depression fascinate children. Family meal times are food for the soul for children.

Children learn about life at the dinner table. They learn to be polite and well mannered. Serving one another, passing the salt and pepper etc. Some children seem to be forever in trouble at the table, but eventually they do learn. We try to minimise discipline (sending a hungry but disobedient child away from the table for one minute seems to work well). Children learn at the table to listen to what other people have to say. They learn at the table that when Mum and Dad are speaking they have to listen without interrupting. One little boy I know after hearing his parents share some of their concerns about an electricity bill, gave them the contents of his piggy bank. Having all the kids together is a great time to teach them. Some families use this as an opportunity to read and examine a small section of the Bible together or some other family enriching study. We recently went through a book on manners. The kids all made a joke about it and thought it was hilarious, but I know they still learnt a lot. Many of life's lessons are learnt at the family table.

Stephen Covey, the writer of “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Families”, speaks of the importance of family mealtimes and creating a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere at these times. In the busyness of life quite often mealtimes are the only time we get together as a family. “It is well worth the careful planning and considerable discipline it takes to preserve the happiness and pleasantness of mealtimes and to make dinner a time when family members enjoy one another and feel relaxed and emotionally safe.” (p.231)

One lawyer shares her fond memories of family life around the dinner table: “Perhaps it's in the genes or perhaps it is that kitchen table. That magical simple place where I learned responsibility and felt love and security. As I struggle each night to get dinner on my kitchen table and round up my children from the four corners of our neighbourhood, I wonder why I just don't send them to their rooms with a chicken hot pot and Wheel of Fortune. I don't because I am giving them the gift of the kitchen table...There's something about a kitchen table.” (Marianne Jennings, “Kitchen Table Vital to Family Life,” Deseret News 1997)

While the winter months keep us all in doors, plan great family meals. Put the time in now to create lasting memories for your children of the joy in family togetherness.

VIRTUE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY-GRATITUDE

“There is a line of development that begins with recognition and proceeds to appreciation and then culminates in gratitude. The first is the mere acknowledgment that something is good, the second is the positive impact that good has on the moral sensibilities, the third is a rational and emotional expression of thanks.”

De Marco- The Heart of Virtue