

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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"Don't say: 'That's the way I'm made...it's my character.' It's your lack of character. Be a man – *Esto vir.*

Saint Josemaria Escriva

Week 5, Term 2

Thursday 25th May, 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

Yesterday we celebrated the great Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, patroness of Australia. We had a beautiful Mass and then processed to Our Lady's Shrine in the garden whilst praying the Rosary. Thank you to the SRC for their fine work on the cupcakes once again and to all those involved in cooking soup and coordinating a special lunch to celebrate the feast.

Gymnastics

Last week we began a four-week gymnastics program for our primary students thanks to receiving some funding from Sporting Schools. It looked like a lot of fun and the students learnt some nifty new skills. Thank you to Miss McCormack for organising Flyaway Gymnastics to run this program. I hope the students enjoy the next few sessions.



Bunnings BBQ

Well done to the P&F for a most successful day at the Bunnings BBQ last Saturday. We cooked up 575 sausages, 11kg of onions and went through 36 loaves of bread, which made for a busy day. A huge thanks to the parents, staff and students who manned the operation across the day. We made a profit of close to \$1300 which will go towards some great resources for our school across the year. We thank Bunnings for this fundraising opportunity and look forward to the next time we get drawn from the ballot.



P&F Raffles

The Mother's Day Raffle raised \$550! A super effort thanks everyone. The wood raffle has raised \$640 so far. Please sell the last of these tickets and have them in by Friday morning. We will draw the raffle at our Whole School Assembly after Mass on Friday.



ICAS Assessments

On Tuesday we held the first of the ICAS Assessments – Digital Technologies. These assessments will be conducted over the next few weeks and some into next term for those students who have chosen to take up the opportunity. All our Year 8s and 10s will complete the English and Mathematics Assessments next term.

P&F Subcommittee

Thank you to those who were able to make it to the P&F Subcommittee last Wednesday to discuss the upcoming Gala Dinner and Fete. Please have a read of attached letter and respond if you are able to assist with gathering donations for these fabulous events. We really need to keep the ball rolling, so please reply promptly.

Illness

There has been quite a lot of illness throughout the school this term. I ask that you please be vigilant with monitoring your children's health. Whilst missing school is never encouraged, sometimes a day or two at home to rest and get better is what is needed and it helps to prevent illness being passed on to others at the school also. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Last call for personalised winter scarves! Send \$5 in an envelope to the office by next Wednesday.

Our first Assembly for the term is this Friday, so please come along and enjoy the students sharing their learning.

God Bless

Luke Burton
(Principal)

Dates for your diary...

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Tuesday lunchtimes – Chess Club with Mr Couture and Mr Galvin
- Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes– Library Open for all students
- Wednesday lunchtimes – Martial Arts training in the Hall with Mr Williams
- Thursday Lunchtime – Primary Storytime with Mrs Mott & Secondary Reading Club with Miss Costello

Term 2 – Wednesday 26th April – Friday 23rd June

- Wednesdays 31st May and 7th June – Flyaway Gymnastics Program for K-6
- Friday 26th May – P&F Wood Raffle Drawn
- Tuesday 30th May – ICAS Science
- Tuesday 30th May – Level 2 Morning Tea
- Monday 12th June – **Labour Day Holiday**
- Tuesday 13th June – ICAS Writing
- Wednesday 14th June – ICAS Spelling
- Tuesday 20th June – 7.30pm Parent Information Evening with Guest Speaker: Sam Clear
- Wednesday 21st June – SRC Breakfast Club 8:30 – 9:15am
- Wednesday 21st June – Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews

Term 3 – Tuesday 18th July – Friday 22nd September

- Tuesday 25th July – Secondary Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Tuesday 1st August – ICAS English
- Tuesday 8th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Feast Day
- Thursday 10th August – Year 3-6 Eisteddfod Performance
- Thursday 10th August – RAS Primary Athletics at Alexandra Park
- Saturday 12th August – Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner
- Tuesday 15th August – ICAS Mathematics
- Monday 21st – Friday 25th – Book Week “*Escape to Everywhere*”

Term 4 – Tuesday 10th October – Thursday 7th December

- Saturday 21st October – SMMC Annual Fete
- Saturday 4th November 6pm– Yr.12 Graduation Dinner, Banksia Room @ Commercial Club
- Friday 10th – Sunday 12th November – Mothers and Daughters Camp at Howman’s Gap

Curriculum Corner – Mr Kevin Tingle



Health - Personal Development

Year 3-4 students have been learning about responsibilities at school and at home. Students related their responsibilities at school in terms of the school expectations - respect ourselves, respect others and respect our environment. It was pleasing to hear children list all the practical things they do at home to fulfill their responsibilities. There are lots of jobs to be done if you're part of a large family.



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 that the only thing that matters is having a good time and enjoying yourself as much as possible. This is total self-indulgence without thinking of the consequences. Anyone that has looked at a new home project lately would be amazed at the size of the parents' area. It usually takes up 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.

But what has all this to do with children? It is just as much part of the child 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 are 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 they are practising hedonism.

What is the solution? Perhaps hedonism isn't part of your home or lifestyle but because it is so prevalent in our culture as parents we have to foster the virtues our children will need to counter this plague. Temperance is the virtue required, 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 monitored and restricted to say no more than 30 minutes at a time unless for some 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 they end at some reasonable hour and everyone goes home. The food at parties needs to have some sort of limit also. Set a good example yourself of 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. Pray that God and his angels and saints will help you to be the parent that he knew you could be when he called you to the vocation of marriage.

Virtue for the Month of May- Faith

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

-unknown