

Saint Mary MacKillop College

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“Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.”

Saint John Paul II

Week 7, Term 2

Friday 9th June 2017

Dear Members of our Community of Faith,

I hope you are surviving the winter weather. Whilst the mornings have been a bit icy, the beautiful sunny days that unfold afterwards are quite magnificent and a real signature of the wonderful area we live in.

P&F Subcommittee

The next subcommittee meeting for the Gala Dinner and Fete will be held next Wednesday 14th June at 2:30pm. Just a reminder to please return the form indicating if you are able to assist with approaching businesses to seek donations for these two big fundraisers. We will need to get underway with this in the very near future.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

We will hold Primary Parent/Teacher interviews on Wednesday 21st June from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. Please fill in the attached form to indicate your preferred times. If these times do not suit, please contact the classroom teacher to organise an alternative time.

Term 2 Parent Evening

Please mark Tuesday 20th June down for our Term 2 Parent Evening beginning at 7:30pm. Sam Clear will be our guest speaker.

Uniform

Just a reminder that the Lost Uniform bin is full! Please check that your children have all their uniform items. Please also check that your children do not have another child's uniform item as we have had a number of jumpers and the like disappear. Thank you for your assistance.

Can you help?

I am seeking assistance in making Religious Education materials for Primary Classrooms in line with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of teaching. The main areas looked at are scripture, the sacraments and moral formation. Being both spiritual and concrete beings, we use what is concrete to access what is spiritual. First we must use our senses to try and understand it (BODY), then we must be won over by it (HEART) and finally commit it to memory and integrate

with what we know already (MIND). The Year 7/8 TAS Class made some very impressive materials last term to get us started, but there is still much to do. If you are able to help out with any of the following sorts of tasks please let me know: laminating, painting of wooden figures, timber construction and sewing. Many of these tasks can be undertaken at home if that is more feasible for you. Just send me an email at principal@smmc.nsw.edu.au to let me know and I'll get in touch with you. Below are some examples of materials made by the Year 7/8s in TAS during Term One. The first is the City of Jerusalem made by Mikhail Firmager and Sam Irwin and the second is the Empty Tomb made by Anna Bell.



Long Weekend!

Thanks to the Queen, this coming weekend is a long one, so there will be **no school on Monday 12th June**. A nice little breather before tackling the last two weeks of term together. Have a wonderful long weekend!

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

- **Monday 12th June – Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday**
- Tuesday 13th June – ICAS Writing
- Wednesday 14th June – ICAS Spelling
- Wednesday 14th June 2:30pm – P&F Subcommittee Meeting – Gala Dinner and Fete preparation
- Tuesday 20th June – Parent Evening with Sam Clear. Wine and Cheese provided.
- Wednesday 21st June – SRC Breakfast Club 8:30 – 9:15am
- Wednesday 21st June – Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.30pm – 6.30pm

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*”
- Thursday 31st August 7:30pm – Parent Evening with Mary Louise Fowler

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 Andrew Flores



Over the past few weeks students in the 1/2 Class have been hard at work busily learning and sharing knowledge in all subject areas. With cross curricular links being shared between Religion and Creative Arts, we learnt about and made our own stained glass windows. We hope you like them!



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Training Children in the Virtue of Gratitude

Children need to be trained from a very young age to show appreciation for all that others do for them. The adult / child relationship is marked by one of generosity on the part of adults and gratitude on the part of children. Quite often it is not until you are a parent yourself that you realise how much your parents have done for you. Gratitude is one of the key virtues to instill in your children.

DeMarco in his book, "The Heart of Virtue", claims that gratitude comes from the Greek word 'charis' which means the "release of loveliness". Hence there is a beauty in this virtue of gratitude, a gift of 'loveliness'. He then goes on to say that the virtue can be broken up into parts. The virtue develops, "beginning with recognition and proceeds to appreciation and then culminates in gratitude". Just as a child learns to read and write by learning to form the letters before they fully comprehend the meaning, going on to reading, so it is with the virtue of gratitude. A child is taught they must say thank you for small services done by adults for them. They go on to write notes of appreciation for gifts received. They may not fully comprehend the importance of this but if you explain that someone has lovingly gone out of their way to purchase a gift especially for them and so they should put some effort in also. Eventually they will learn what true gratitude is.

We live in a very materialistic society where children are given far too many material things. Beware, this is very dangerous for their spiritual well-being. The more children are given the less likely they are to be appreciative. Make a decision to not give them too much and "spoil" them, making them very selfish individuals. For an older child if they are not showing enough appreciation for gifts and services done, do less until they remember how to show gratitude again.

In our family prayer life we need to thank God for his generosity to us. Telling children how much He has done for us helps children to be grateful to God. Even in suffering we need to teach children to be thankful. Even though we may not fully comprehend what the meaning of the suffering is at the time, we know that God in his infinite mercy has sent some particular suffering such as death or sickness for a reason. We have to be like the leper who was healed and returned to thank Our Lord, whilst the other nine went away without thanking Him.

One day we will not be there to direct them. How would you like them to treat Our Lord?

So next time someone goes out of their way to do something for your child or sends them a gift make sure they say, "Thank you". Not only will you be teaching them virtue but you will be spreading "loveliness".

Virtue for the month of June - Prudence

"Right reasoning about people, events, ourselves; the ability to make the great distinctions in life - truth from falsehood, good from evil, the beautiful and noble from squalid."

James Stenson