

☪ Truth, Beauty and Goodness ☪

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury Newsletter

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197 Urana Street Jindera, NSW, 2642

Week 2, Term 3, 2020
Friday 31st July



Dates for your Diary:

Term 3 2020

Tue 4th Aug – Primary
Parent/Teacher
Interviews (**By
Appointment Only**)

Sat 8th Aug – Feast of St
Mary MacKillop

Thur 13th Aug – Elective
Information Evening

Mon 17th – Fri 21st Aug –
Science ICAS

Mon 17th – Friday 21st
Aug – Yr 12 Trial Exams

Mon 24th – Fri 28th Aug –
Digital Tech and English
ICAS

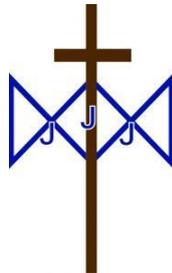
Mon 31st Aug – Thurs 3rd
Sept – Spelling and
Maths ICAS

Fri 11th to Thurs 17th Sept
– Yr 11 Exams

Fri 25th Sept – Last Day
of T3

Dear parents,

Have you ever noticed the Australian Broadcasting Corporation logo worn on the front of the traditional Sisters of St Joseph habit? I don't know who can lay claim to it first, but I wonder what ABC journalists would think if they knew that their workplace emblem honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary. There may be hope for the ABC after all!



The Josephite seal has its origins in a Marist design that brings together the letters "A" and "M": *Ave Maria*. It is the greeting of the angel at the Annunciation. The *Ave Maria* is then branded with three Js for Jesus, St Joseph and St John the Baptist.

In the first rule of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, written with St Mary MacKillop by Fr Julian Tenison Woods, its meaning is explained:

"The professed Sisters shall wear upon their hearts a large blue monogram of the Blessed Virgin between three letters J in honour of Jesus, Joseph and John the Baptist thus typifying the Holy Family. This monogram shall be made of plain blue woollen braid."

The monogram is set behind and in front of the Holy Cross, the emblem of our redemption.

It is a fitting connection to SMMC that St Mary would choose to emphasise family in her mission. Family is everywhere at SMMC. Students can often be seen in the playground with linked arms, looking more like conjoined twins than cousins. The teachers are family, the school was established by a family, the volunteers are family. Through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, may we take the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as our model.

The feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is Saturday 8th August.

Warm Regards,
Ian Smith
Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews – By Appointment Only

Parent teacher interviews for primary will take place on **Tuesday 4th August**. If you would like to make an appointment to see your child/children's teacher please email them directly.

2020 Enrolments

Saint Mary MacKillop College is now open for 2021 enrolments. If you wish to enrol your child for next year, please register your interest with the office by telephone or email. Thank you.

Covid – 19 Guidelines

In response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, please make note of the following guidelines:

- 1. Adhere to relevant hygiene, distancing and safety protocols, including**
 - ❖ Stay at home when unwell
 - ❖ Maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m) including teachers, support staff and parents
 - ❖ Avoid handshaking; adopt non-contact greetings
 - ❖ Cover coughs and sneezes; wash your hands

- 2. Please sign in and use the hand sanitiser on arrival**

Thank you for your support of these protocols.

Subject Information Session

Every year, our *Elective Information Evening* assists students and parents in the transition from Year 8 into Stage 5 (Year 9/10), and Year 10 into Stage 6 and the HSC (Year 11 and 12). The session is also essential for current Year 9 students considering changes to their electives for Year 10. This year will be no exception, with information about the process, structure and options available in subject selection for 2021.

Due to current regulations around COVID 19 and school events, this year's *Elective Information Evening* will be facilitated in a live streamed session via Zoom on the **13th August**.

The session for current Year 8s and Year 9s will commence at 5:30pm; and the session for Year 10s moving into Year 11 will commence at 6:00pm. A link to the live stream will be sent out closer to the date. Should you have any queries in the meantime, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Excellence in Writing

Congratulations to Catherine O'Brien who received a certificate for Excellence in Writing over the holidays, for her short story "Witch Weather". Catherine's entry into the 2020 Schools Poetry & Short Story Writing Competition was one of 7,000 with only 323 receiving a certificate. "Witch Weather" will be published in "The inside Story" book along with other poems and short stories.

Working Bee

Thank you to all the families who helped to prune all the rose bushes before school began. We appreciate all the time and effort you have put in.



Concert Auditions

The school concert will be held this term with consideration of the COVID-19 restrictions. It will be held during school hours for students to attend.

Mrs Horsfall and Miss Maclean will be holding student auditions for the concert in the hall during lunch time next **Wednesday 5th August**. More details about the scheduling of the concert will be given in the next newsletter.

Yrs. 4, 5 & 6 Sport

Please make note that the Year 4, 5 and 6 Classes now all have their sport day on Mondays. If your child/children are in these years, they are to wear their sport uniforms on Mondays not Wednesdays. Thank you.

Gala Dinner

Due to changes with regulations around the COVID-19 situation, we have unfortunately had to cancel the Gala Dinner. Refunds have been processed for those who had already booked tickets for the event.

Photographer on Site

Next **Tuesday 4th August** we will have a professional photographer at the school. They will be taking photos to be used for school publication and advertising purposes.

Uniforms

School scarves and jackets are now available to order through the school uniform shop. Please note that the jacket does not replace school jumpers or blazers and is an optional addition to the uniform. The jacket is to be worn over the top of school uniform during recess and lunch times on colder days. See attached flyer for more information.

Friday Mass Student Sign In

A reminder that all students must report to their class/homeroom teacher to be marked off on the roll before the start of Friday Mass. If for any reason your child/children are late, they will need to report to the school office before joining their class.

Curriculum Corner - Mrs Mary McGrath



Yr 11 Chemistry students constructing galvanic cells.



LIVING OUT THE FAITH IN FAMILY LIFE

Saint Mary MacKillop

Saint Mary MacKillop celebrates her feast day next Saturday. She is the patron saint for our school and also the patron of Australia. She who faithfully carried her earthly cross is now glorified in heaven.

"I have glorified Thee on earth, I have finished my work Thou gavest me to do; and now glorify Thou Me, O Father, with Thyself." (John 17,4)

Mary was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne on 15th January 1842 and was the oldest of eight children. Her father was a well-educated man who had studied in the seminary before leaving to marry. Mary's father educated her and by the age of sixteen she had become the main provider for the family. She was employed first as a governess, later as a shop assistant and eventually as a school teacher. Her crosses were evident in her childhood years. She had much sorrow as a child as her grandfather died in a drowning accident and soon after this, her baby brother also died. At one stage she was very homesick whilst staying at her Aunt's house in Melbourne. It is believed the Virgin Mother appeared to her as later in life she wrote a prayer: "Ah, my Mother, think of the day when I knelt as but a child to ask you to be my mother and to let me love no other mother but you, and I remember your gentle whisper when you said you had marked me as your child since my birth....."

Mary had a tender heart for those who suffered hardship, she herself having experienced this in family life herself. She was sympathetic to the plight of many families living in poverty as a result of the gold rush. She worked with Father Woods to establish a teaching order of nuns to work in Australian conditions which were very different from European conditions. It is thought that the first school, opened in January 1866, was in a stable converted into a schoolhouse. Only those who could afford to were expected to payfees. This was the beginning of the Josephite mission to provide equal education for all. The schools were run on providence.

The cross was also evident in her religious life. She wrote; "The Cross is my portion -it is also my sweet rest and support. I could not be happy without the cross... with the cross I am happy, without it I would be lost." She had many crosses including excommunication and the disbandment of her order. There were allegations that she was an alcoholic and an embezzler. Her life was marked with crosses. Despite these she produced much fruit. The Josephites educated generations of young Catholics from one end of Australia to the other.

Mary exemplifies the very suffering and trials of life that test our character to the limits and define who we are as people. Let us pray that, like Mary MacKillop, we too will give glory to God by the heroic living out of our daily life.



Virtue for the Month of July - Honesty

“Keep your heart with all vigilance; for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Take heed to the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.” (Proverbs 4:23-27)

Saints for the Month- Saints Francisco and Jacinta, Saint Kateri Tekawitha, Saint Anthonis, Saint Anthonis, Saint Anthonis,

Honesty- To be trustworthy and true

Parenting Tips

For K-2 children

1. Be careful! Encourage younger children to be truthful but that doesn't mean that it OK to say something hurtful. One tip is to say something that is true that is a compliment to someone each day for a week.
2. Discuss and practise respectful ways to tell the truth about how you feel when you are unhappy with someone or something. Sometimes we can tell Jesus the truth in our hearts without saying it out loud and offering it as a sacrifice.
3. Tell stories to your children that are about truth and the effect of telling lies. Stories such as “Pinocchio” or “The Boy Who Cried Wolf.”

Upper primary students

1. Play Chinese Whispers and talk about the damage that can come from spreading rumours, even if they are true. Once it is passed along and changed a little it can mean something totally different.
2. Analyse some advertisements with your children either on television, on the internet or in the newspaper.

Teens

1. Discuss what it means that the truth sets us free (John 8:32). Look for movies with examples and watch one together. (“The Lion King” is a good example of a family movie that deals in truth vs lies)
2. Discuss feelings of guilt and common forms of dishonesty such as copying pirated movies.
- 3 Look up the definitions of calumny, rash judgement and detraction. Discuss the impact these sins have on the reputation of others. For this month make a decision to be true, kind and helpful and to guard the good reputation of others.

