

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 3, 07 March, 2025

Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent

As we step into the season of Lent, our journey begins with **Ash Wednesday**, a time of **reflection**. This day marks the start of the 40-day Lenten season, a time of prayer, fasting, and giving as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of **Easter**.

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. This powerful symbol serves as a reminder of our human mortality and the need for repentance. The priest or minister typically says, "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,**" or "**Repent and believe in the Gospel.**" These words call us to reflect on our spiritual lives and seek a deeper connection with God.

The ashes used in the service come from the burned palm branches from the previous year's **Palm Sunday**, linking the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the beginning of His journey to the Cross.

I have talked to the children at Assembly, and in particular our Year Six children, about Lent being a time when we can grow in our friendship with Jesus. We talk to our friends and we listen to our friends; so, it makes sense that we talk to Jesus and listen to him. My words to the children are very much an invitation to prayer, so that they may seek a deeper connection to Jesus.



Lent is a season of spiritual preparation, lasting **40 days**, mirroring Jesus' time of fasting and prayer in the desert. It is a time for us to **grow in faith, strengthen our relationship with God, and focus on self-discipline**.

Christians observe Lent through three key practices:

1. **Pray** – Deepening our faith through reflection, reading Scripture, and spending more time in prayer.
2. **Fast** – Giving up certain luxuries or habits as a way of drawing closer to God and focusing on spiritual nourishment rather than material comforts.
3. **Give** – Performing acts of charity, such as helping those in need, donating to good causes, or simply showing kindness to others.



How Can We Observe Lent as a School Community?

As a school, we are encouraged to **walk this Lenten journey together** by incorporating these values into our daily lives. Here are a few ways we can embrace the spirit of Lent:

- **Participating in school-wide prayer services and Masses-**
- *We celebrated Mass and the distribution of Ashes on Wednesday.*
- **Committing to acts of kindness and service**
- **Encouraging personal prayer and reflection**

Lent is not just about giving something up; it is about **becoming closer to God and growing in love, faith, and compassion**. As we begin this season, let us take this opportunity to reflect, renew, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual renewal and grace for all in our school community!

St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.



Have a wonderful week everybody

Anthony McCluskey
Principal

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

In my work with the Year Six children as their Faith and Life Coach; we have been exploring the concept of kindness. Through reading books with the class around the topic of kindness, through discussion, reflection and feedback we have come to understand the place of kindness in making our world a better place.

The Year Six children have constructed a poster listing a series of **Random Acts of Kindness**, which they are encouraged to live out each day. This poster is to be published and displayed around the school to remind all of us to be kind!

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



INCLUDE OTHERS



MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH



TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO SOMEONE



PICK SOMETHING UP FOR SOMEONE IF THEY'VE DROPPED IT



HELP SOMEONE FIND THEIR FRIEND



ASK SOMEONE HOW THEIR DAY WAS



DONATE THINGS YOU NO LONGER NEED



GIVE SOMEONE A COMPLIMENT



OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE



LET SOMEONE BORROW SOMETHING



GREET SOMEONE WITH A SMILE



LET SOMEONE ELSE GO FIRST

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



PLAY WITH OTHERS



ENCOURAGE OTHERS



ACCEPT OTHERS



COMFORT OTHERS



TALK TO SOMEONE WHO YOU DON'T KNOW WELL



CARE FOR OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY



HELP SOMEONE WHEN THEY ARE HURT



DO A CHORE FOR A NEIGHBOUR



HELP YOUR PARENTS WITHOUT BEING ASKED



EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE FOR SOMETHING



CALL SOMEONE TO SAY HELLO



OPEN THE DOOR FOR SOMEONE

United in Prayer



Lifting Up Pope Francis

Pope Francis challenges us to live with real hope – not just in words, but in action. He speaks out for justice, cares for the poor, and reminds us that faith is about loving, serving, and making the world a better place.

As we pray for his health, and wellbeing, we ask ourselves:

*How can we bring hope into our own lives, our schools,
and the wider world?*



www.hopehq.com.au

hopeHQ is a ministry of
Liturgy Ritual Prayer

Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you...

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions. The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the passion alive. No group sharing required. The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: Our next weekend is: 25-27 April 2025 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL – REMINDER

Please note that all of the Junior and Senior Adventure Playgrounds are **not to be used before school.**



This is the Junior Adventure playground.
It is only for use by students from Prep to Year 2.



The climbing frames can be used by all students.

This is the Senior Adventure Playground.
It is only for students in Years 3 – 6.



Parents are required to actively watch their children when using the equipment after school.



PRINCIPALS AWARDS 2025



Parliament Incursion



The Grade 6 students were fortunate to have people from Parliament House come to school to run a Parliamentary Role Play with them. The students were able to experience the law-making process firsthand by taking on the roles of Speaker, Clerk, Serjeant-at-Arms, Premier, Leader of the Opposition and other members of Parliament.



YEAR 6 UPP INCURSION

Unleashing Personal Potential



On Monday 10th February the Grade 6 students participated in the UPP Leadership program where they focused on using their leadership skills to positively influence those around them. They discussed the importance of leading through example, influence and kindness. Students also participated in activities where they were able to understand their strengths and the strengths of those around them.



LEADERSHIP
is the ability to
influence
the way in which others
THINK & BEHAVE

REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas. The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the **artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways**. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.



- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
- The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am.** If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
- St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.'
Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds.

- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the school website.
- As there is no supervision on the playground area and the oval are in the morning, these areas are out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground or the oval before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must **use the back car park area.** There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.

2025 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-04 April 2025
(Good Friday 18 April-Easter Monday 21 April)
Term 2: 22 April-04 July 2025
Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025
Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025
(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)

Meet our Jubilee Ambassadors

At Monday's Assembly (Week 5), our school community were introduced to our Jubilee Ambassadors.
This is what they had to say:

My name is **Sierra Borg** and I am your Student Jubilee Ambassador. My role is to bring the Year of Jubilee to life for you. I will be finding different ways to celebrate hope in our school.



Mary MacKillop was always generous and kind. She gave people hope. She showed others the light of Jesus in the world that she lived in. Now our Church calls YOU to shine the light of Jesus and be like Mary MacKillop!



One of the ways that I would like to highlight how kids at our school show and give hope to others, is by capturing kids being like Mary MacKillop.

I want to show our parents and school community how amazing kids at our school are! I am going to start a report in our newsletter a few times a term, that will show how kids in our school are Mary Mac Kids.

Watch out for our pictures and commentary in the newsletter!

My name is **Mrs Aprile** and this year I teach Year 6. You might be asking What is Jubilee? I will tell you a little about it today but I'm sure your teachers can tell you some more in your classrooms throughout the coming weeks and months.

A Jubilee Year is a special opportunity for all Catholics to grow their connection with God. This special year has not been named by Mr McCluskey or even by our parish priest, it has been named by the Pope himself. All Catholics all over the world have been asked to pray more, go to church more or be more like Jesus. For this Jubilee Year, the Pope wants us to be **"Pilgrims of Hope."**

Throughout this year our school will be taking part in events associated with this important message of Hope. In your classroom, we invite you to start thinking about what hope means to you, what hope means to our community, and what we can do to bring hope to others.



Student Representative Council 2025

Hello parents, guardians and school community,

This week we had our first SRC meeting. We discussed the process of the SRC meetings and how it works. We talked about the different charities and causes we are interested in and what we could do to raise money to donate to them. We learned that caring for others in society is called Social Justice. We linked this to our discussion about the Jubilee year being a year of hope and discovered a Jubilee year happens every 25th year.

In the week leading to Lent, we gave each class their **Project Compassion** boxes, in preparation for this special Season. Caritas is a Catholic organisation that helps people around the world escape poverty and provides basic things like food and water to communities. During Lent and this Jubilee Year, we are called to give generously to the poor. There is no limit to how much money we can donate.

On **Shrove Tuesday** we made pancakes in our classes. We wore casual clothes and brought in a gold coin (or more!) donation to start off the class Project Compassion collection.

On **Ash Wednesday** we celebrated the beginning of Lent with a Mass. We were marked with a cross of ashes to remind us to turn away from bad attitudes and actions and remember the message of the Gospel.

Article by The School Captains Year Six SRC representatives, on behalf of the SRC.



Student Representative Council Report: Week 6

Today the SRC met to reflect on the first half of this school term. We are using the Pope's Jubilee prayer to begin our meetings and thinking about how we can be charitable to others and bring hope in our interactions.

We were excited to run our Casual Clothes day to launch Lent. We decided that we would run a Crazy Socks Day to raise awareness for, and celebrate our peers with Down Syndrome on Friday 21st March.

Here are some things our classes have told us are going well at this time in Term 1:

- people are enjoying the new shelter
- people enjoying the sprinklers on hot days
- Godly Play is a fun and interesting way to hear and think about sacred stories
- people are enjoying opportunities to go to Mass often
- Year 5 and 6 students are excited about interschool sports
- People are happy to be helping the younger studnets (Preps mostly)
- We are enjoying Sport and wearing PE uniforms
- Many of us are looking forward to the Colour Run
- We are happy to be donating to charities and are thinking about causes like the Royal children's Hospital Appeal, Cancer, Hospitals and Caritas.

Here are some of the ideas for consideration and school improvement that our peers have brought to us:

- add more soccer goals
- movie day/ night on the oval
- more footy goals
- better grass on the oval
- netball courts on the asphalt
- icy-poles in summer
- maintenance of playground floor
- more sport equipment in the classroom sports baskets: skipping ropes, elastics
- running track on the oval
- music classes as a Specialist class
- improve senior toilets
- tennis courts on the asphalt
- lunch time bake sale
- Sport Fun Day
- PJ day
- more sport events for juniors

Article by The School Captains Year Six SRC representatives, on behalf of the SRC.



YEAR 7 2027 Information Evening Thursday 20 March at 7pm

Discover What Our School Has to Offer!

We invite families to join us for an information session with our College Principal Mr Tullio Zavattiero and members of our College Leadership Team to learn about:

- Our Vision and Mission
- Curriculum Offerings
- Wellbeing
- Enrichment & Immersion Opportunities
- Sports Academy
- The Year 7 2027 Enrolment Process & Timeline



At CRCNK we are committed to creating a welcoming, respectful and safe school environment. Everyone is known, loved, challenged to grow and contribute to our learning community.

Come along and discover the North Keilor difference!



Register online via the enrolments page on our College website
crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2027



1C Santa Monica Drive
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900

2025 Year of Respect

"We must build bridges, not walls, to respect the dignity of every human being."

Pope Francis



www.crcnk.com.au



MARIAN COLLEGE



DISCOVERY DAY 2025

To book get in touch with our Transition and Community Participation Leader
Shelley Smith at ssmith@mariansw.vic.edu.au
or contact on 9363 1711



Step into a world of discovery, and embark on an adventure at Marian College's Discovery Day!

Join us for a day filled with exciting experiences that will ignite your passion for all things that our girls secondary college has to offer. Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage, create, and explore!



A Kildare Education Ministries Catholic School for
Girls in the Brigidine Tradition
196 Glengala Road, Sunshine West VIC 3020
0393631711
mariansw.catholic.edu.au

STRONG FUTURES
gentle hearts



Choosing a Secondary School: *Finding the right fit.*

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College invites families with students in Grade 4 or 5 to join our information session.

Choosing a secondary school for your child can be overwhelming. This session aims to assist families exploring secondary school options about what to consider when selecting a secondary school.

Thursday, 27 March 2025 | 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Quin Auditorium, Caroline Chisholm Catholic College

Enter via Gate 3 on the corner of Churchill Avenue and Darnley Street, Braybrook

Secure your seats by scanning the QR code.

For any questions, please email registrar@cccc.vic.edu.au or call 03 9296 5311.



Taylors Lakes
SECONDARY COLLEGE



LEARN



ACHIEVE



EXCEL



EXPERIENCE



*'every child,
every classroom,
every opportunity'*

COLLEGE TOURS 2025

ONSITE TOURS: February 26th, March 5th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st & 26th; April 2nd, 23rd & 30th; May 7th, 14th & 21st 9:30am - 11:00am

REGISTER AT THE COLLEGE ON 9390 3130 FOR DETAILS

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vladgym1@gmail.com



0410 651 155



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

Camps, Sports and Excursions fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one; or
 - on the first day of Term two.
- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; or
 - Be a temporary foster parent; and
 - Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](#)

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and seventeen years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and eighteen years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students' attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)).

Payment amounts

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

The CSEF is paid directly the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the policy for the current rates.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](#)

Foundation and Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

How to complete the application form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

- Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
- Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
- Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

Scholastic Book Club

This week your child will be receiving Scholastic Book Club issue Number 2. Should you wish to purchase a book, please remember all orders are to be completed and paid for online via Book Club LOOP, we **Do Not** take orders or payments at school. **Closing date** for this issue is **10am Wednesday, 12/3/25**. Thank you for supporting the school as 15% of every purchase on Book Club goes back to our school in Scholastic Rewards to buy valuable educational resources that benefit your child.

Upcoming Events 2025

Term 1: 31 January-04 April

Monday 10 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 12 March to Monday 24 March

Year 3 and 5 Naplan

Tuesday 01 April and Wednesday 02 April

School Photos

Thursday 03 April

Year 3 Reconciliation-more details to come

Friday 04 April

Last day of Term 1-All Students finish @ 1pm