

St Mary MacKillop

Dignity: The Year of St Joseph
"Treat everyone you meet with dignity." (1 Peter 2:17)

NEWS

INSIDE

Vision

As partners in Catholic education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

Mission

At St Mary MacKillop College we are people who affirm the dignity of every person, who act with respect and compassion, who reverence relationships, who have hearts for generosity and forgiveness.

We celebrate our Catholic identity.

We respect the unique dignity, faith and gifts of each person.

We value learning, aspiration and connectedness and we work together to create a positive future.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Welcome to the 2021 school year. It has been great to see everyone at school this week. On Monday morning we met for the first time as a whole school community since March 2020. It was a fantastic feeling.

This year we have welcomed 80 new Year 7 students, as well as the following students in Years 8 to 12:

Year 12 – Ben

Year 11 – Bryce and Zhane

Year 10 – Colby and Danielle

Year 9 – Jack, James and Josie

Year 8 – Marie and Cade

Although we do not have any new staff members this year we do welcome back Ms Casey Simmonds in the LRC and Ms Yvonne Guthrie to our LSO team. Later in the term Mrs Catherine Smith will begin Parental Leave and we will welcome back Mrs Brenda Meinhold, as her replacement for the remainder of the year.

We are excited to be able to take part in the Victorian Governments initiative: Tutor Learning Program. We have advertised for interested tutors and are currently completing a process to ensure that the program that we arrange and the tutors that we provide, meet the needs of our students. The program will focus on Literacy and Numeracy and will be available to invited students that have been identified through reports, PAT data and teacher feedback. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

Friday, 5 February, 2021

- Faith Matters
- From the Deputy Principal
- Wellbeing
- Year 7 Basket Tea

ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

PH: 5032 9771

Press 2

FUTURE EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Wed 10th – Fri 12th

Year 12 Retreat

Mon 15th

Year 7 Basket Tea at 6:30pm

Wed 17th

Ash Wednesday

Thurs 18th

Swimming Carnival

Tues 23rd

Swan Hill Region Swimming Sports

Wed 24th – Fri 26th

Year 7 Camp

Thurs 25th

Science & Engineering Challenge 2021

MARCH

Wed 3rd

Beginning of Year Mass

Thurs 4th

Swan Hill Region Summer Sports



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I congratulate our students on the way that they have accepted the change again this week as we have been required to wear masks inside again. These restrictions are out of our control, and as frustrating as it can be, I am grateful that our students comply and do not make this a difficult situation for the staff or other students.

The St Mary MacKillop College Beginning of Year Mass will be held on Wednesday 3rd March at 12:00pm. Due to restrictions around density limits, we will hold the Mass this term in our Jubilee Centre. There will be an opportunity for some parents to attend the Mass. Parents of students being commissioned into Leadership Positions will be provided with the first offer of attendance. We will communicate more information in regard to this in the next newsletter.

All the best to our Year 12 students who venture off to the Grampians on their Retreat next week.

Child Safety

St Mary MacKillop College is a Child Safe and OHS compliant school. This means that all visitors, volunteers and contractors must sign into the school at the front office, wear the visitor's sticker whilst on the school grounds, and sign out on leaving.

It is important that we keep all of the member of our school safe, and appreciate your support in following this procedure.

We discourage parents/guardians from meeting students at the front gate or fence, or any other area around the school to deliver forgotten equipment or lunches. Please come into the Front Office and we will gladly ensure that the items are delivered safely to your child.

Australian Democratic Principles Statement

At St Mary MacKillop College we are thankful that we are able to prosper under the principles and practices of a democratic nation and the policy frameworks of both its Federal and State Governments.

We acknowledge that we have the freedom to pursue our religious beliefs and to follow a religious worldwide view that is founded upon those beliefs.

We honour and commit to the fundamental freedoms of speech and association for all Australians so long as those freedoms are not used to subvert the rule of law.

We accept the right of our elected Government and their officers to prescribe certain conditions pertaining to the programs and teaching practices of schools, provided those conditions do not diminish or remove our right to teach in a manner consistent with our declared religious beliefs around which our College operates.

We acknowledge that all persons are entitled to be treated equally before the law and, as far as it lies within our capacity to do so, we will endeavour to treat the members of our community with equity and fairness.

We are committed to living in peace with our fellow Australians irrespective of differences in faith, race or culture. We are committed to the social value of respect for all persons.

The 'Education and Reform Act 2006' requires all education providers to operate in a manner consistent with this set of Australian democratic principles.

In accordance with the Act we will deliver our programs and teaching in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy.

This includes a commitment to:

- Elected government
- The rule of law
- Equal rights for all before the law
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech and association
- The values of openness and tolerance

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The following processes and resources assist our school to support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy in our programs and teaching:

1. School review and principal review processes require our school to present a published vision and mission statement based on the mission or purpose of a Catholic school. By the very nature of Catholic schools, which seek to develop the whole person and to assist students to become active members of the Catholic Church and contributors to the common good of society, these statements acknowledge Australian democratic values.
2. Our school displays a poster of democratic values as required by the Australian Government within the school.
3. The Civics and Citizenship domain of the Victorian Curriculum, which are required to be taught in all Catholic schools, provide students with knowledge, skills and opportunities to understand and practise what it means to be a citizen in a democracy. All students are required to work through the two dimensions of the Civics and Citizen domain:
 - Civic knowledge and understanding
 - Community engagement

Allergy Awareness

St Mary MacKillop College has enrolled a number of students that have the potential to have an anaphylactic reaction to nuts, therefore we would prefer that nut products are not brought into the school.

Students that require an Epipen as part of their anaphylaxis treatment plan, must have provided an Epipen to the school, with the students' name clearly marked on the Epipen.

Asthma is also considered an allergy, and parents need to ensure that the school has been provided with an up to date Asthma plan. Phone calls home will be made in the coming weeks to parents of students that have been identified as having Asthma, that have not yet provided a plan to the school.

FOOD ALLERGY ALERT!



Someone in this area has food allergies.
Please do your part to keep them safe.

School Injuries and Insurance

Please note that Parents, Guardians and Carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. We would encourage families to obtain their own health insurance or personal accident insurance, to be covered if a serious injury were to occur.

In the event of an injury at school, or a school event, an ambulance will be called if deemed necessary by the staff members in charge. Please ensure that you have current ambulance cover, as the cost of an ambulance, if called, is the responsibility of the Parents, Guardians or Carers.

Please Keep Your Records Up To Date

If you have moved through the holidays, or changed your phone number or email address please contact the Front Office on 5032 9771 or email office@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au to update your records.

Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website <https://smmc.vic.edu.au/our-community/policies/>.

For more information about privacy, please see our Privacy Policy, also available online at <https://smmc.vic.edu.au/our-community/policies/>.

Regards

Michelle Haeusler
Principal

A warm welcome back to everyone this year.

Our faith proclaims us to respect the dignity of all people. This is a foundational moral principle in our society and indeed, our world. Our school theme this year of Dignity calls us to be people who acknowledge and respect the dignity of all people. Drawing on our school value of dignity, we have the opportunity to express, celebrate and live out our faith. Through prayer, liturgical celebrations and our day-day actions, this year, we all need to work together to live out our theme of Dignity.

Ash Wednesday is on February 17. We will join together for a short service in homerooms. This year, due to COVID restrictions, the ashes will be sprinkled on top of the head, rather than a mark on our foreheads. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time where, for forty days, we commit ourselves to fasting, prayer and good works.

Next week our Year 12 students will attend a Retreat in Halls Gap. As their final year at our college begins, it is an opportunity for them all to 'retreat' from normal life and focus within. Retreat is a time for them to reflect spiritually on their journey so far and prepare for the year ahead. My thanks, in advance, to the staff attending.

God, give us your gifts so that we may live and work according to your vision for humanity, a vision where all are treated with respect and love because of their great worth in your eyes. May we answer your call to treat all as we ourselves wish to be treated.

Amen.

Jesus light of the world, guide us.

St Joseph, journey with us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Alison Wright

Director of Mission



Little Free Library

We've had an amazing response from the public and our college community in regards to the usage of our Little Free Library. We are extremely excited, proud and grateful for all the donations we've received. We have recently restocked it with some exciting new reads, so get in quick because these goodies won't last. Don't forget to utilise this resource and to share it with your friends and family.

TAKE A BOOK * READ A BOOK * LEAVE A BOOK

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Welcome to both our new and returning students, families and staff. We begin our 2021 school year with a spirit of optimism, seeking to grasp the opportunity to try new things, to learn a little more about our world, others and ourselves and to do all this in an environment that allows us all to grow and flourish. While we hope that we are able to do this face to face through the four terms, our experience from 2020 has taught us that we need to be flexible and agile.

In 2021 our school theme is Dignity, one of the values of St Mary MacKillop College.

Catholic Social Teaching states that each and every person has value and is worthy of great respect. We are created in the image of God and as such have an innate dignity. All of us, students and staff alike, have responsibilities to each other to recognise the dignity of every person. At St Mary MacKillop College this means that we treat every person with respect, we acknowledge their dignity in the way that we speak to them, the way we speak about them and through our actions towards them.



Our College Community Expectations are framed around positive behaviour and if we all strive to uphold these expectations, our community is sure to flourish and the dignity of every member of our community will be acknowledged.

- We are on time and ready to learn
- We always follow staff instructions
- We all use appropriate language
- We respect ourselves, others and our learning environment
- We are responsible for our own behaviour.

Working together

I encourage all parents to feel very welcome in making contact with staff. Sometimes the new school year can cause anxiety, even for returning students, and a quick phone call or email may alleviate undue stress and worry. If you are concerned that your student is having difficulties at school, please do not hesitate to make contact. From a school perspective, problems seem to be much easier to address when we are aware of them. Each of our students has a Homeroom Teacher and they are the first point of call if you have a concern that is not subject specific. It is accepted that good communication between families and teachers has improved outcomes for students, everyone is invested in the learning of the child and we work together to make things happen.

Personal Presentation

We have a very clear standard of personal presentation expectations at this school. Rather than being merely an arbitrary rule, the insistence on students wearing school uniforms has purpose. A school uniform creates an identity for a school and shows that students are part of a community, not only having a sense of belonging to a community from within but also a sense of identity as a community within Swan Hill. Wearing a uniform also means that there is no division amongst students based on what they wear – peer pressure is hard enough to handle without having to worry about how our fashion choices are assessed by others each day. It certainly means there are not too many decisions to be made each school day in terms of what to wear. Thank you to the students in our community who always wear their uniform correctly and with pride. In the first few days of school this year we have been checking to see that all students are wearing the correct uniform. If they are not, we will be making contact with parents to discuss why this is the case.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

In particular, it is worth noting the following uniform requirements:

- The summer dress length is to be no more than 10cm above the knee.
- Black socks are not part of our uniform.
- School shoes should be black, polishable, heeled shoes not runners.
- Students in Year 7 and 8 may wear correct PE uniform to the College on days they have PE.
- Students in Years 9 to 12 are not allowed to wear their PE uniform to school unless they have two PE classes in the one school day.
- Students whose hair is longer than the bottom of the collar, regardless of gender, should tie their hair back.
- During Terms 1 and 4 students should be wearing the school hat at recess and lunchtime, and while participating in outside activities during class times.

As a school, we seek high standards in everything we do and this includes maintaining a consistent approach with the uniform. We are seeking your support in ensuring that students are correctly attired. We have a wonderful school community and our students should wear their uniform well and with pride.

Student Leadership

Next week our Student Leadership will begin their formal meeting calendar. Our school has Student Leadership groups that focus on specific areas. The Activities, Arts, Academic, Faith and Mission, Environment, LRC and Wellbeing Committees all work throughout the year to contribute in a meaningful way to the life of our school with both a local and a global focus. These committees are open for any student to join and become actively engaged in our school community and the students will soon begin their membership drive.

I hope all our students and families have had an enjoyable and positive start to 2021, I am sure it will be a wonderful year.

Catherine Howison

Deputy Principal

TRANSITION

The 2021 class of Year 7s have adjusted extremely successfully to secondary school life. They have had many changes to cope with such as locks, lockers and room changes each lesson and they have done this in an extremely positive manner. All students have been very resilient and have managed well with these challenges.

Thank you to all families and staff for making the Year 7's transition run smoothly. We congratulate all Year 7s for their mature approach in beginning this new phase in their lives.

We encourage families who have not yet registered on Operoo to ensure they are registered and that their child's details are all up to date.

A big welcome also to the 10 new students who have enrolled between Years 8 and 12. This can be a nerve-racking time for them however, all have managed to settle in well and it is wonderful to see them making new friends and becoming part of the school community.

Damien Hirst

Transition Coordinator



STAY INFORMED



www.facebook.com/SMMCSwanhill



<https://twitter.com/SMMCSwanHill>



Parent Access Module

<https://pam.mackillopsh.vic.edu.au/Login/Default.aspx>

	Solomon House Leader: Mr Chris Joyce cjoyce@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au		Woods House Leader: Mr Joel Murphy jmurphy@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Solomon 1	Ms Rianne Quaife / Mr Nathan Lane rquaife@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au nlane@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Woods 1	Mr Rob Waterson / Ms Lyndal Robinson rwatson@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au lrobinson@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Solomon 2	Ms Sheelagh Leary sleary@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Woods 2	Ms Jennifer Salvo jsalvo@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Solomon 3	Ms Sally Op't Hoog sopthoog@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Woods 3	Ms Emma Doherty edoherty@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Solomon 4	Mr Mark Leary mleary@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Woods 4	Mr Jeremy Wood jwood@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Solomon 5	Mr Jesse McDonald jemcdonald@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Woods 5	Mr Damian Howison dhowison@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
	Tenison House Leader: Ms Jessica Curtis jcurtis@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au		Xavier House Leader: Ms Ebonee Gurnett egurnett@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Tenison 1	Mr Luke Crow lucrow@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 1	Mr Damien Hirst dhirst@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Tenison 2	Mr Geoff Hickmott ghickmott@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 2	Ms Francesca Gomez fgomez@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Tenison 3	Ms Jaclyn Clark / Mrs Catherine Smith jclark@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au csmith@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 3	Mr Tony Haley thaley@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Tenison 4	Ms Laura Crow lcrow@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 4	Ms Jane Alderuccio jalderuccio@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au
Tenison 5	Mr Eddie Scholtens escholtens@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au	Xavier 5	Ms Suzy Haley shaley@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Welcome back to the 2021 school year! I hope everyone in our community had a most relaxing holiday break. Holidays provide a wonderful opportunity to relax and reenergise. I hope our students are recharged for another exciting year of learning, and I wish everyone a successful year. I extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families. It has been pleasing to see our Year 7 students have made a positive start to their learning at the College. As we start another school year, we ask God to bless us, our work and everyone in our College community. I look forward to working with all members of our community throughout 2021.

Congratulations to the class of 2020

The class of 2020 approached last year with great commitment and endeavour, and they were richly rewarded for their efforts when the VCE and VCAL results were released on Wednesday 30 December.

We congratulate all of our students for the results they achieved. I hope you spent some time reflecting on the year that was and what you accomplished throughout the year. We are conscious that an ATAR score is just one aspect of a student's education, and the class of 2020 is well equipped for a bright future in whatever field they choose to pursue. This year begins a new and exciting chapter for you, and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

To the class of 2021

I wish you all the very best as you begin your final year of secondary education. To all our students across Years 11 and 12 studying a Unit 3 and 4 subject this year, I wish you great success in your studies.

The Parents Website has some interesting articles to support senior secondary students. Two articles that may help parents support their child through their final year of secondary education are:

<https://theparentswebsite.com.au/vce-parents-childs-cheerleader-tips/>

<https://theparentswebsite.com.au/atar-surprise-tips-and-advice-on-what-to-do/>

International Day of Education – Sunday 24th January

Sunday 24th January was the International Day of Education. Education is a human right, and it supports peace and global development. We are truly blessed to have amazing educators and support staff at the College who instil in our young learners a love of lifelong learning. As American author Parker J Palmer says, 'Good teachers possess a capacity for connectedness. They are able to weave a complex web of connections among themselves, their subjects, and their students so that students can learn to weave a world for themselves'. I think this summarises the work our wonderful staff do each day to make a difference in the lives of our students. For further information on the International Day of Education, please go to: <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/educationday>

Staff Professional Learning Day – Thursday 28th January

Our staff professional learning for 2021 commenced with a full day program on Thursday 28th January focussing on teaching and learning. In the morning staff attended sessions on how to use Edrolo, ClickView and Education Perfect. In the afternoon we listened to an external presenter, Dr Jared Cooney-Horvath. Jared shared his insights into the learning trajectory and how people move from surface, to deep, and to transfer learning. Jared's presentation will influence our work in teaching and learning throughout the year. I think it is always great to start the year with professional learning that focuses on teaching and learning as it sets the scene for the exciting work that we will do this year.

Tutor Learning Initiative

Victorian schools are engaging approximately 4100 teaching professionals to work as tutors in 2021 to support students to catch up on learning they may have missed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is part of the largest initiative in the state's history to provide students with additional targeted support, with \$250 million being invested in this initiative. (source: Victorian Department of Education and Training)

We are currently employing staff and working out how we will implement the program at school. We will provide further information to our community when it becomes available.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Home Study Guidelines

At St Mary MacKillop College it is believed that home study provides the opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Home study complements and reinforces classroom learning; it fosters life-long learning, self-discipline, concentration and effective study habits and routines.

Home study should require a reasonable commitment, but it should not be too onerous. Students should plan their home study to take into account their family, sporting and work commitments. Throughout a student's secondary education, they must prepare for a very competitive educational climate.

At St Mary MacKillop College, the time and frequency of home study is different for each year level. In Years 7 – 9, home study may include regular English and Mathematics homework tasks, revising for assessment tasks, reading of newspapers, watching the news, physical skills training or assignment and project completion. Home study also includes completion of formal reflection activities such as mind maps and a summary of the day's learning. In Years 10 – 12 home study is determined more by the specific subject requirements.

Year 7

Students should be completing an **average of 2 hours of home study educational learning per week.**

Year 8

Students should be completing an **average of 2.5 hours of home study educational learning per week.**

Year 9

Students should be completing an **average of 3 hours of home study educational learning per week.**

Year 10

Monday – Thursday night, students should be completing a **minimum of 45 minutes** of home study.

Unit 1 & 2 VCE, VET & VCAL

Students should be completing a minimum of **two hours home study**, per week, **for each subject** that they study.

Unit 3 & 4 VCE

Students should be completing a minimum of **three hours home study**, per week, **for each subject** that they study.

All Year 12 and some Year 11 students have study lessons in their timetable. Students should maximise the use of this time.

After School Homework and Study Help in the Learning Resource Centre (Library)

In an effort to assist students with their homework and develop sound study skills, the staff at St Mary MacKillop College have been rostered into the Learning Resource Centre every Monday – Wednesday from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. We strongly encourage students to utilise this excellent facility, where students can stay after school any day until 4:30pm (except Friday when the Learning Resource Centre closes at 4:00pm).

After School Homework and SAC Supervision

Week	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday
2 08/02	Jessica Curtis		Luke Crow		Laura Crow
3 15/02	Emma Doherty		Francesca Gomez		Ebonee Gurnett
4 22/02	Suzy Haley		Michelle Haeusler		Catherine Smith

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Spotlight on our Amazing Staff



Name: Joel Murphy

How long have you been at SMMC? Since 2004

What is your role at SMMC? Wood House Leader, Maths and PE teacher

What makes SMMC special? The amazing support our staff have for our students and each other. I also love seeing new students from long-time 'MacKillop families' coming into the school each year (Where is the next Caccaviello?!).

Which is your House? The mighty Woods Warriors

What do you enjoy doing outside of school? Playing golf or clowning around with Layla (8) and Lexi (3)



Name: Sally Op't Hoog

How long have you been at SMMC? Since 2004

What is your role at SMMC? I am the Learning Diversity Leader. I get to work with lots of families and anyone who needs a little extra support at school. I make sure everyone can participate at school.

What makes SMMC special? It is like a great big family. We are all a little different but we look out for each other, encourage each other and spur each other on to greatness!

Which is your House? Solomon Saints. I am so one-eyed! Our house is amazing!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school? I am obsessed with patchwork and quilting. I make quilts on my machine, but also lots of hand-pieced quilts. I love walking my dog. I love reading. When COVID is not around, I love to travel the world. I love going to new countries, seeing the sights and trying the food. Since 2020, I have travelled to new places around Australia. We are blessed to live in a spectacular country.



Name: Rianne Quaife

How long have you been at SMMC? I have been teaching at MacKillop since May 2020. I started right in the middle of online learning.

What is your role at SMMC? I am the Choir and Band coordinator and I teach Music, Italian and Humanities.

What makes SMMC special? At MacKillop I feel like I am part of a family and everyone (staff and students) are equally supported and included throughout our time here.

Which is your House? I am a Solomon Saint! GO SOLOMON!

What do you enjoy doing outside of school? Outside of school I am a part of the Swan Hill Theatre Group and I love teaching singing.



Mr Leary's Creative Writing and Film Studies class discussing their writing



Ms Miceli's Year 9 Pathways class investigating their future careers

TEACHING AND LEARNING

What I learnt today at SMMC...

Mrs Crow's Peer Support Class

In this unit, students will undertake the training and implementation of the Peer Support program here at the college. This involves planning, instructing and evaluating sessions for our Year 7 students in Term 1 to help them transition into the college.

The students are currently training to be leaders where they will focus on establishing relationships, leadership, empathy, acknowledging self, communication, affirmation and co-leading in their classes.

Nathan Lane

Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning



Mrs Crow's Year 10 Peer Support Class



Mrs McCallum and Mr Daly demonstrating to the VET Hospitality class how to use the equipment in our industrial kitchen



Mr Crow's Year 7 Humanities class learning about the geography of Australia



Ms Gurnett's Anatomy of Sport class are learning about bones inside the body



The Year 10 Project Based Learning class involved in a problem solving activity in small groups.

WELLBEING

The Wellbeing Team would like to welcome you to 2021. We are hoping that this year brings with it many positives for our students. We are very fortunate to have Josie Rovere and Leonie Gleeson here as our counsellors, both ladies have a wealth of experience and are available to support your child with any personal issues they may be experiencing. If you feel that your child would benefit from some Wellbeing assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or email me at mmccallum@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

There are many online resources available to parents who may need some guidance when raising teenagers. Two that I highly recommend are:

<https://au.reachout.com/>

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Mandy McCallum
Director of Wellbeing



QUICKSMART VOLUNTEERS

The QuickSmart Maths program has been running at our school for ten years and has shown dramatic results for the students who have participated. Our program has had such success because the actual course is well set up, our instructors are dedicated and because of wonderful volunteers from our school community. The program will be running again this year and we would love to hear from any interested people who have a spare hour in their week. Training is offered and we are very flexible about times for volunteers to come in.

If you are interested, please call Sally Op't Hoog on 5032 9771 or email sopthoog@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

Sally Op't Hoog
Learning Diversity Leader



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The College Swimming Carnival is scheduled for Thursday 18th February. This is always an exciting day on the College calendar, and is a fantastic opportunity for students to display House spirit and involve themselves in a healthy competitive environment.

Swimming events begin at 10:00am and conclude at approximately 2:30pm with the final event of the day the Staff vs. Students relay.

It would be terrific to see as many parents, friends and other family members come along to support the students on this exciting College day.

Chris Joyce
Sports Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Murray Mallee Training has the following vacancies available in Swan Hill

- Certificate III Business (SBAT)
- Spare Parts Interpreter
- Apprentice Plasterer



Please contact Jason Gilbert on 5031216 or email jgilbert@mmtc.com.au to find out more information.

Part-time Employment

Big 4 Riverside Caravan Park have vacancies for casual weekend workers in their Cafe. Interested students can either drop off their resume' directly to Big4 Riverside or email Ainsley on:

ainsley@big4riversideswanhill.com.au

Cotton On Swan Hill are looking casual team members to open their brand new store - Opening Early March. Click the link below to find out more info:

<https://ekxm.fa.ap1.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX/requisitions?latitude=-35.35841&longitude=143.49968&mode=zipcode&radius=25&radiusUnit=MI&workLocationCountryCode=AU&zipcode=3585>

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND

If you are a valid means tested concession card holder or a temporary foster parent you may be eligible to apply for the Camp, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF). Cards are to be current as of 27 January 2021 or 19 April 2021.

The allowance of \$225 (for eligible secondary school students) will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes, the CSEF helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities that exist beyond the classroom.

If you applied for the Camp, Sports & Excursions Fund last year at St Mary MacKillop College, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. You only need to complete an application form if circumstances have changed – e.g. there has been a change in the care arrangement of the student, a change of name or CRN, or a new sibling has commenced at the school and the parent/carer wishes to apply for the CSEF payment for the new sibling.

For more information, or to request an application form please contact the Front Office on 03 5032 9771, or go to www.education.vic.gov.au/csef to download an application form. Applications must be signed and returned to the Front Office as soon as possible.

BUS INFORMATION

Bus Passes

These are only given in extenuating circumstances. (An example of this would be if the child's parents are away from home and consequently the child is staying at a friend's or relatives home).

If needed, a bus pass can be obtained from the district school bus coordinator at Swan Hill College. Students from St Mary MacKillop College should contact the Bus Coordinator, Mrs Henson in the Front Office, who will request the pass on their behalf. Parent/Guardian contact should be made with the school, in person, by phone or by a dated and signed note, stating the date/s and the reason for the pass.

Passes will not be given to students for recreational purposes such as birthday parties or sporting activities. It is the parents' responsibility to transport children for these activities. Bus numbers are often near capacity and excess numbers could cause overcrowding. Passes will be issued at the discretion of the district school bus coordinator at Swan Hill College, after consultation with the attending school.

No bus passes will be issued after the end of recess, unless in extreme emergency. Passes are to be handed to the bus driver at the time of travel. Bus drivers will not allow a student on the bus without a current appropriate pass.

Bus Safety and Good Behaviour

All students who travel to or from school by bus are reminded of the following:

You are representing St Mary MacKillop College and your best behaviour is required at all times. This includes being seated on buses, not throwing objects, not using inappropriate language and caring for the smaller group of students that may be travelling with you. These requests are all safety issues.

No bullying or fighting is ever accepted at the Bus Changeover or on buses. Students who do not adhere to this request can be removed from the buses for between one to ten weeks. This policy is for all schools that use the Government buses in the region and a Principal cannot change this. Once again it is a safety issue and it respects the rights of the majority to travel in a safe environment. Likewise, it is the responsibility of schools to continue to remind all parties of these arrangements.

STUDENT CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2021

Private Car Travel

For a student attending a mainstream school to be granted a conveyance allowance a number of criteria must be met.

1. The campus of the school attended must be located outside the Conveyance Allowance.
2. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance a student must be attending their nearest government school or campus appropriate to their year level.
3. Reside 4.8km or more from the school.
4. Be of school age and reside in Victoria.
5. Be enrolled in a school for three or more days a week.

Before completing an application form please read the information about the Conveyance Allowance Program at

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/space/safety/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

Please return completed forms to the Front Office by Friday 19th February.

NSW Transport Save time. Apply online

You can now apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW instead of using paper forms.

This means you only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one bus company.

It's also easier for schools and bus companies, as Transport for NSW now handles the applications.

Who can apply

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)

There's no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before.

However, you need to update student details online if the student:

- is moving from Year 2 to Year 3
- is moving from Year 6 to Year 7
- is changing schools or campuses
- is changing address

How to update your details

If the student has already been approved for school travel and they change addresses, schools or their name changes, or if the student is going into Year 3 or Year 7, you will need to update your details at apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/update/details

How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online at transport.nsw.info/school-students giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school.

Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX WEEK 7-13 FEBRUARY 2021

Healthy Lunchbox Week is a Nutrition Australia initiative that aims to inspire parents and carers across Australia to create healthy lunchboxes their children will enjoy. Did you know children consume around 30% of their daily food intake at school? Most of this comes from the contents of their lunchbox. What children eat during their day at school plays a crucial role in their learning and development.

Be sure to get on board with Nutrition Australia's three top tips for lunchboxes in 2021:

1. Smart swaps

Make the switch from highly processed, convenience foods to healthier alternatives. It can be as simple as swapping white bread for wholegrain, chips for popcorn or biscuits for a carrot. Buying less processed foods can save you money and reduces packaging.

2. Fuel their day

Kids who eat well are better fuelled to listen, learn and play. Including food from each of the five food groups will help children meet their nutritional needs and support their long-term health.

3. Safe and simple

Keeping food safe and fresh between the home kitchen and school playground can have its challenges, especially during a hot Aussie summer. Be sure to keep lunchboxes cool using insulated bags and cool packs. Try not to get too caught up in insta-worthy lunchboxes. Keep it simple with a healthy snack, a piece of fruit or vegetable and an easy lunch dish.

Lunchbox Competition

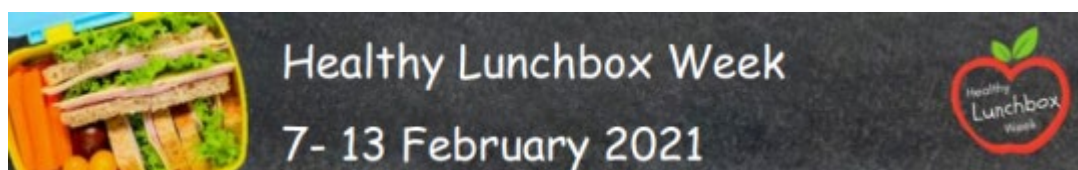
Do you think you have Australia's healthiest lunchbox? Nutrition Australia have joined forces with Life Education in the search for Australia's healthiest lunchbox. Upload your photo on Life Education website and you'll be in the running to WIN one of three prize packs consisting of a \$250 Woolworths e-Gift card and a Healthy Harold lunch pack. Submissions close Thursday 11th February.

Tips to help create a balanced lunchbox:

- Get your child/ren involved. Have your child/ren pick foods from each of the 5 core food groups. You may like to involve them in the shopping process. Children who are involved in preparing and choosing their food, are more likely to eat and enjoy it.
- Use the Cancer Council website for inspiration. There are 20 different lunchbox examples and they include recipes.
- Think about how the lunchbox is packed. Does it need an ice block to keep it cold? Is the sandwich getting squashed? Or does the fruit need to be cut? Often kids can leave food if it's not manageable and easy to eat.
- And don't forget to choose water as the drink.



For more lunchbox inspiration, visit Nutrition Australia's Healthy Lunchbox Week website www.healthylunchboxweek.org



eat. move. smile.
fruit & veg more often together



Swan Hill District Health
Connected Care. Best Experience.

*All Year 7 students
and their families are*



**MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY
6:30PM**

JUBILEE CENTRE

A BBQ tea will be provided on the night.

The evening will give all families the opportunity to meet our Principal and Deputy Principals, your child's House Leader and their Homeroom Teacher.

Access information for our Parent Access Module (PAM) will also be provided on this night.

We look forward to seeing you at the Basket Tea.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) 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 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**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 Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET 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 DHS and provide it to DET 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 DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to 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 / /

CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is 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 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.
- a) 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
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

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 17 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 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, 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 on the first day of either term one (27th January 2021) or term two (19th April 2021).

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.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see:

www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary 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

1. 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.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2021 closes on 25th June 2021.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

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

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



YOUNG WRITERS AWARD

SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIBRARY



The Young Writers Award Writing Competition is an exciting opportunity for Prep to Year 10 and multi-class school children across the Swan Hill district.

The competition is devised to inspire pupils to write a narrative piece of no more than 500 words for primary students and 800 words for secondary students. Typed entries are to be submitted on a single A4 piece of paper. Simple illustrations are allowed.

This year's theme is 'Move'. A writing prompt is printed overleaf if needed.

Schools are invited to submit up to five entries for each category listed below, based on a set criteria. Multi-class entries are unlimited.

Categories include: **Grade Prep, Grade 1/2, Grade 3/4, Grade 5/6, Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Multi-class (those students who receive PSD funding).**

Prizes will be awarded to shortlisted entries and the winner in each of the seven categories.

Students from the Swan Hill Secondary College senior literature class will shortlist entries in each section.

Winners will be announced at a presentation to be held at the library during Children's Week (week four of term four), on Wednesday, 27 October 2021 at 7pm.

Shortlisted entries will be on display at Swan Hill library during November and Robinvale library during December.

Entries must include students name, grade and school and be delivered to Swan Hill Regional Library no later than Friday, 27 August 2021.

For more information, please contact Kellie at kcarlo@swanhill.vic.gov.au or phone the library on 5036 2480.



ALL SCHOOLS

SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday 19th February, 2021

Swan Hill Outdoor Pool

at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start

*Try competitive swimming in a
FUN and RELAXED atmosphere*

**This event is open to all full time students of Primary and Secondary Schools.
Swimmers do not need to be registered with Swimming Victoria to take part.**

Entering is easy

- Complete the individual entry form, pay a \$5 entry fee in cash or cheque made out to Nyah Two Bays ASC and return it to school by Wednesday 17th Feb.
- Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly events over 50 meters.
- Multi Class Events in both Freestyle and Backstroke 50 meters.
- Students wishing to swim in a relay should indicate so on the entry form
- A BBQ dinner, tea and coffee will be available for purchase on the night.
- Bring along your family, grandparents and friends.



ALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On Friday 19th February, 2021

Swan Hill Outdoor Pool at 5.00pm for 5.30pm start

Entry Fee is **\$5.00 per swimmer**.

All individual events are over a 50m distance.

Relay events (4 x 50m) arranged of students to represent your school. See Relay Entry form.

Order of events.

Event No			Event No		
M	F		M	F	
1	2	Backstroke - 8 years & under	31	32	Freestyle - 9 years
3	4	Backstroke - 9 years	33	34	Freestyle - 10 years
5	6	Backstroke - 10 & 11 years	35	36	Freestyle - 11 years
7	8	Backstroke - 12 & 13 years	37	38	Freestyle - 12 years
9	10	Backstroke - 14 & 15 years	39	40	Freestyle - 13 years
11	12	Backstroke - 16 years & over	41	42	Freestyle - 14 years
13	14	Backstroke Multi Class Open	43	44	Freestyle - 15 years
15	16	Breaststroke - 9 years & under	45	46	Freestyle - 16 yrs & over
17	18	Breaststroke - 10 & 11 years	47	48	Freestyle Multi Class Open
19	20	Breaststroke - 12 & 13 years	49	50	Butterfly - 11 years & under
21	22	Breaststroke - 14 & 15 years	51	52	Butterfly - 12 & 13 years
23	24	Breaststroke - 16 years & over	53	54	Butterfly - 14 & 15 years
25	Mixed Freestyle Relay 9 yrs & under		55	56	Butterfly - 16 years & over
26	Mixed Freestyle Relay - 10 & 11 yrs		57	Mixed Freestyle Relay - 12 & 13 years	
27	28	Freestyle - 7 years & under	58	Mixed Freestyle Relay - 14 & 15 years	
29	30	Freestyle - 8 years	59	Mixed Freestyle Relay - 16 years & over	

Age of the competitor is as at **19/2/2021**. Entry is restricted to the competitor's age group only.

Return entry form and money to the school by Wednesday 17th February.

ALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS **ENTRY FORM**

NAME: _____

AGE: _____ DOB: _____ School: _____

Backstroke

Breaststroke

Freestyle

Butterfly

Event No.	TIME	Event No.	TIME	Event No.	TIME	Event No.	TIME

(Time : Competitors best time over 50 m distance, if available)

I wish to swim in the relay for my age, or an age group above my age, if needed? Yes / No

Entry Fee Included - \$ 5.00

Cash

Cheque: (Cheques made payable to Nyah Two Bays ASC.)



Jordyn Elford Mackenzie Kelly

Solomon House



Amalie Bell Parker Condely



Lachlan Burns Mena Keighran

Xavier House



Remi Alderuccio Jai Robinson



Tegan Bruton Hope Fitzpatrick

Activities Committee



Erica Glowrey Khushnaseeb Kaur

Faith & Mission Committee



Brahe Lorimer Hannah Storer

Arts Committee



Madeleine McGowan Grace Scott

Academic Committee

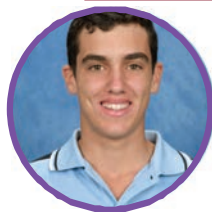


Hayden Everett Milla Wilcox

Tenison House



Lauren Cordingley Otto Conlan



Campbell Kelly



Nyathor Nhial



Toni Mia Scalora

School Captains



Lily Seymour



Olivia Closter



Tulsi Jenkins-Jaiswal

Woods House



Ruby Scott



Natalia Smith

Environment Committee



Kate Gillingham



Mia Hawkins

Wellbeing Committee



Harrison Kelly



Trinity Sutton



ACTION CALENDAR: FRIENDLY FEBRUARY 2021



MONDAY

1 Send someone a message to say how much they mean to you

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

15 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

TUESDAY

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

WEDNESDAY

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone else

10 Look for the good in people, even when they frustrate you

17 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

24 Tell a loved one about their strengths that you value most

THURSDAY

4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with colleagues or friends

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

18 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

FRIDAY

5 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

19 Share a video or message you find inspiring or helpful

26 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today

SATURDAY

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

13 Send a friendly message of support to a local business

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

SUNDAY

7 Make an effort to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

14 Tell your loved ones why they are special to you

21 Actively listen to what people say, without judging them

28 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones



"The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up" - Mark Twain



"The only way to have a friend is to be one" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february

Happier · Kinder · Together