



## NEWSLETTER No. 20

Friday, 4th December 2020



### DIARY DATES

#### TERM 4

#### DECEMBER

Monday 7th	Swimming Years 2-6
Tuesday 8th	Mini Bump Up Day 8.40am Maffra SC Orientation Day
Wednesday 9th	Swimming Years 2-6 Dental Van
Thursday 10th	Swimming Years 2-6 Mary MacKillop Award Morning Tea for recipients Board/P&F Dinner 7pm
Friday 11th	ALPHA Award Day Swimming Years 2-6
Monday 14th	Camp Day Program 3-6 Junior Big Day In
Tuesday 15th	Year 6 Graduation Day Whole School Mass & Nativity
Wednesday 16th	Reports sent home
<b>Wednesday 16th</b>	<b>Last Day for Students - 3pm dismissal</b>
Thursday 17th	Staff planning for 2021
Friday 18th	Last day for staff

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This is our second last newsletter for the year. I will send out a short newsletter at the end of the last week with any information I have missed between now and then and will be in touch prior to the start of term 1 next year.

All of a sudden we seem to be at the end of the year and everything is happening at once. As the restrictions have eased with COVID-19, we are gradually being allowed to do a few more things. One of the best things has been that parents are able to attend Graduation. It would have been so disappointing not being able to celebrate the end of our Year Six students primary school years with their families and be able to farewell the families who are finishing up at



TERM 4 - 5 October - 18 December

**Last day for Students**  
Wednesday, 16th December

St Michael's. It may not be quite the same as other years but it will be special. It is also going to be lovely being able to share a few more events with families in these last couple of weeks. Even though parents still have to stop at the front office and can't come through as they usually would, we are allowed to have some whole school celebrations as long as they are approved by DOSCEL. As a Catholic School, it is special to be able to celebrate Mass together. We will be having an end of year Mass on Tuesday, 15th December, and then our wonderful Junior classes have been practicing the Nativity and will perform this for everyone. Parents are invited to attend the Mass and Nativity—it's always a warm and fuzzy moment watching their re-enactment.

### SCHOOL CAPTAINS' MESSAGE

We'd like to thank everyone for having such a good year although it has been hard at times. We'd like to thank the staff for all the hard work they have put in to make it such a good year.

We'd also like to acknowledge what all the parents and families have done to support everyone, especially in remote learning. We'd also like to thank all the students for getting along and making our school a fantastic place to be at.

It's been a fun year being your school captains and we wish next year's school captains all the best in their leadership. We also wish all the families a safe and happy Christmas and a terrific New Year.



St Michael's Primary School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gunaikurnai people, traditional custodians of the land on which the school is built. As a school community, we commit to walk alongside our First Nations people for reconciliation, truth and justice.



## GRADUATION

Graduation invitations have been sent out to our Year 6 Parents to attend Graduation formalities at school on Tuesday, 15th December at 7pm. Although we won't be sharing a meal with everyone, we will have the opportunity to hear from our students as they reminisce about their primary school years. I know they have been working on their speeches and have planned an amazing day for themselves during the day. Even though it will be a different celebration it should be a time that they will remember.



## BUMP UP DAY

As our new students coming for next year were unable to participate in our Bump Up Day due to COVID restrictions, we are going to have a 'mini' Bump Up day on Tuesday 8th December from 8.40am—10.40am. This will enable them to meet the other children in their grade and their teacher so that it is not so daunting when they start school next year. We will be welcoming Emmagen and Mitchell into Grade 2, Jacob, Chloe, Noah and Tayla into Grade 3 and Shelby, Lahni and Mikayla into Grade 5. We look forward to welcoming them and their families into our school community.



## REPORTS

Reports will be sent home with students on the last Wednesday of term. If there is anything you would like to discuss with your child's teacher please contact the school. They will be available on the Thursday if there are any concerns or if you need clarification on what was written.



## FAREWELL

It is with sadness that we are farewelling two staff members at the end of this year.



Jane McInnes has worked in the office on a Friday for quite some years now and has been a much loved member of our staff. She has decided to finish up and devote more time to her growing family. We are going to miss Jane's cheery personality and easygoing nature; I couldn't count the number of times she has made us laugh and brightened up our day (especially good on a Friday when everyone is tired). Tina McGill will be swapping the classroom for the office on a Friday and will be taking over Jane's role.

Tina Verstedden is also leaving us to try her hand at other things. Tina had a very tough introduction to our school with the COVID year we have had but she has become a much respected and valued staff member who will be missed by everyone. We have loved working and laughing alongside Tina and are truly sorry to see her go.

We wish both Jane and Tina lots of joy and happiness in their new endeavours.

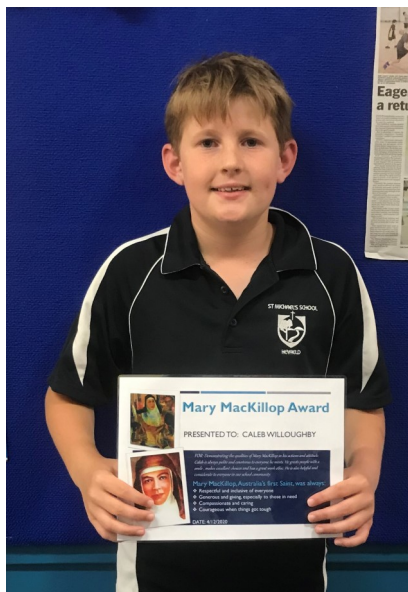
## WELCOME

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Anika Duncan to our school next year as the 5/6 teacher. Anika comes from St Patrick's Primary School in Stratford, where she has worked for some time and has been a much valued member of their school community. We are very fortunate to have Anika on our staff as she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will enrich our school community. She is excited about coming to our school and plans to visit before the students finish so that they can put a face to the name and get to know her a little bit.



## ON TRACK WITH MARY MAC!

Congratulations to Caleb for receiving the Mary MacKillop Award this week. Caleb has demonstrated the qualities of Mary MacKillop through his attitude and actions and is a terrific role model for everyone.



This year we want to be on track with Mary Mac and...  
*"Never see a need without doing something about it"*



### 27th NOVEMBER

**Poppy** – for her excellent work in Mathematics especially regrouping.

**Alex & Arthur** – for being helpful in the playground and playing cooperatively.

**The SRC** – for great teamwork on the Fairy bread day. Your attitude and cooperation was impressive!

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

We have been informed that the school photos are with the courier and should be at school very soon. We expect them to arrive on Monday or Tuesday. As soon as they arrive, they will be sent home to families.



Thank you to Miriama and Ruby for taking the initiative to think about making our school environment a better place for everyone. They have written me a letter which I have included here. It is a terrific example of persuasive writing as well as citizenship! They have also included designs for the bird feeder and come up with solutions for how it can be installed.

Dear Mrs Miller,

There are many birds in the big tree next to the Oval and even though there are bugs and seeds in the tree, we will like a bird feeder hanging from a branch on the big tree.

The birds in the tree are beautiful, and we would like to see them enjoying the food in the bird feeder.

And the school might be happy to see birds at the bird feeder, close to people.

I know another class has a bird feeder and they all like to see the birds eating. But maybe people want to see birds at recess and lunch.

From Miriama and Ruby  
MIR  
Ruby

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following people who celebrated their birthday or will be celebrating in December.

Indyrose	30th November
Noah	12th December
Kristie	22nd December





## CHRISTMAS COOKING

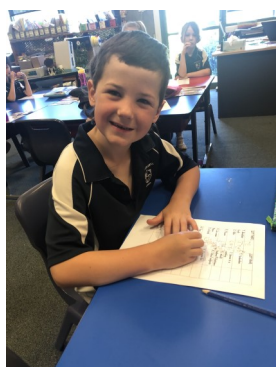
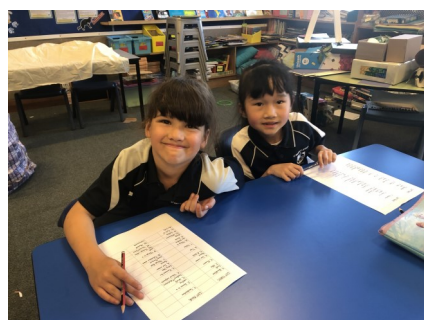
The Prep/1 class had a great time making gingerbread today. The smell wafting through the school as it cooked was amazing. They came up with some very creative gingerbread boys and girls and some interesting Christmas cookies which I'm sure families will enjoy if they get home in one piece! The school aprons were very handy as it was a messy activity, as you can see from the photos.





## BUMP UP DAY

We had a very successful 'Bump Up' day and I know that all the students enjoyed being in their new class up until lunch time. Our current preps and Year 6 students managed to get in a little 'buddy' time as well, which was a nice way to finish the year. As you can see, we have some budding builders in our new preps.



## FAIRY BREAD DAY

Thanks SRC for organising a great Fairy Bread snack for everyone. SRC worked as a team and I was impressed by the way they all contributed and did their fair share of the work. They also worked out a fair system when dividing up the jobs so that everyone had a turn doing the sprinkling. Their teamwork was impressive.—all Mrs Miller had to do was sit back and watch!



## ALPHA AWARD

We have nominated Friday 11th December as our day to celebrate all those students who achieved their ALPHA award points through being highly effective learners and self managers.

- ⇒ All children will be able to wear casual clothes on this day.
- ⇒ Children who earned the middle range points will have extended play.
- ⇒ Those students who earned the top points will also be able to make their own Cold Rock icecreams as well as having the extra play.

## CHOIR

Thank you to Louise Cheshire for continuing to work around the challenges with COVID and make sure that the choir have an opportunity to perform. The choir are going to be recorded singing the songs they have been rehearsing and we will share their wonderful singing with Laurina Lodge residents and Stretton Park residents. I hear them singing down the passageway and they sound very professional. The choir will wear the special choir vests that Louise made for them with a few tinselly, Christmas bits thrown in there as well!



## YOU'RE INVITED

We will be celebrating the end of the year with a whole school Mass on Tuesday, 15th December. The children will be helping Father Siju and participating in the Mass. Afterwards, the Junior students will be acting out the Nativity for everyone to remind us what Christmas means. They have been busy rehearsing and singing. Parents and families are welcome to attend. Mass is at 9.15am at the church.



The Dental Health Van will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 9th December, 2020.

## NIPPERS AT SEASPRAY SURF CLUB FOR SEASON 2020-21

Want to be part of the Nippers program at Seaspray Surf Life Saving Club this summer?

If so, it's time to get registered and get along to Aqua Energy to have your swimming ability assessed.

Nippers is a beach education program for children aged between 6 and 13 that introduces participants to life saving. They learn valuable water safety and life saving skills and gain confidence in the surf. Sessions are held on Sunday mornings at Seaspray over summer.

All participants must have their swimming ability assessed by a qualified swimming instructor. Assessments will be done on Sunday 6 December at the outdoor pool at Aqua Energy. Children in the Under Six age group do not need to be assessed.

The assessment times are:

<b>9am</b>	<b>Under Sevens and Under Eights</b>
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Under Nines and Under Tens</b>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Under Elevens and Under Twelves</b>
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Under Thirteens and Under Fourteens</b>

Please enter from the outdoor pool entrance on Guthridge Parade. Those who are not Aqua Energy members may be asked to pay the entrance fee. If you are an Aqua Energy member, please tell the gate attendant.

Before assessment day, please make sure your child or family is registered and the appropriate Seaspray Surf Club membership is paid.